

YAIY



# Beacon



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## wheat

the Firstfruits of the  
Second Harvest Season

# YAIY Beacon

Volume 2 Number 3



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

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# Pentecost

## means to count 50

Yahweh's promises and instructions to His people of Israel concerning what He expected from Israel were clearly given in the Old Testament. The New Testament makes these verses more binding because the Holy (set-apart) Spirit was sent on Pentecost to remain on earth. We now seek the deeper spiritual sense and applications of His word and obey from the heart. Yahweh teaches spiritual truth and understanding from physical lessons. This is especially true of Pentecost and the Feast days.

Yahweh's initial Covenant (agreement) took place with Israel after they left Egypt and came to Mount Sinai. The ratifying of the Covenant by Israel took place on Pentecost or "Feast of Weeks:"

*And all the people answered together, and said, All that Yahweh hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto Yahweh. (Ex 19:8 AV)*

[Chapter 20 lays out the Ten Commandments]

*And Moses came and told the people all the words of Yahweh, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which Yahweh hath said will we do. (Ex 24:3 AV)*

Three requirements for Yahweh's appearance were the cleansing of the body and clothing (Ex 19:10), confining Israel to the camp and limited freedom with sexual abstention (Ex 19:15). [Example see 1Sam 21:4-5] This precaution shows the seriousness and holiness of allowing the Spirit of Yahweh to remain on earth in Acts chapter two.

The New Testament was built on the Old Testament often with direct quotes for proof that these indeed are Yahweh's Words. Having been given the Holy Spirit through our baptism, we find the New Testament opens our spiritual understanding to a higher level, allowing us to have Yahweh's point of view and see things from His vantage point. If every human kept the Commandments, what a great world this would be! We are in training now to live our lives in obedience to Yahweh's laws.

Pentecost brought with it a big difference in the New Testament. In the Old Testament the Holy (Set-apart) Spirit

was given when needed, but was taken back to Yahweh when it had accomplished the task. Now, Yahweh's Spirit became available to Yahweh's baptized people and remains on earth (Act 1:4-5). Since Calvary the Holy Spirit is indwelling Yahweh's obedient people and helps us keep the Law:

*This [is] the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith Yahweh, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them. (Heb 10:16 AV)*

See also Heb 8:8-10.

The Old Testament teaches that a year old male lamb and a grain and drink offering were a part of the Pentecost service and the burnt offering and two loaves according to Leviticus 23:9-21 were a special offering on Pentecost:

*And he sent young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto Yahweh. (Ex 24:5 AV; etc.)*

The New Testament says we can have Yahweh's attention at anytime and address Yahweh if we sincerely seek Him and no animal sacrifice is required for we now have faith in Yahshua now to put into practice what we have learned:

*By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh. (Heb 10:20 AV)*

*But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. Elohim [is] Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [Him] in spirit and in truth. (Joh 4:23-24 AV)*

## Circumcision

Circumcision is a physical sign of faith in an agreement or covenant that Yahweh and Abraham agreed upon:

*This [is] my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. (Gen 17:10 AV)*

<see Pentecost page 10>

# Exit

## To Where?



(Note: All Bible references are taken from the New King James Version – NKJV with the Holy Names inserted.)

### Prelude - The Entry and the Exit

William Shakespeare in the play 'As You Like It' wrote, "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players: They have their exits and their entrances." There is some truth in this statement, except that we are not **'merely players'** on the world's stage. Living is real, serious, and has everlasting consequences. We all make one entry from the womb of our respective mother into the world. With one exception that will be explained later, we will all make one exit through the womb of the earth. Your life is only a small section of a huge drama that has been unfolding over thousands of years since creation and is heading for the final culmination of the ages. When you were born your role in this colossal drama began. At some point that is unknown to you, you will be ushered off of the stage of life, but that will not be the end. That is because there is life after death. It is this fact that makes life and death so very serious. Death is the interval that leads to the final Act, which will have a happy or sad ending for you depending on decisions you made in this life. The drama of life for you, as well as for all people, can be aborted at any time. No one but the 'Producer' knows when it will end. For this reason we must be always ready for the finale.

### The Evidence

You may ask how can one be so sure that there is life after death, when, to quote Shakespeare once again, death is "the undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveller returns"?

Life after death is not an imaginary add-on to the short span of human life. It was not conceived by some overactive, overzealous, inquisitive or presumptuous mind. The only Person who had thorough infallible knowledge on this subject, Yahshua, the Son of Yahweh, stated that there would be a resurrection of all people. Indeed He Himself proved this and became the forerunner of all who will be

resurrected when, after three days, He arose from the grave. He who is 'Truth' stated, "*the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His [The Son of Man's – Yahshua's] voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation,*" John 5:28-29.

There has never been and will never be a higher authority on this subject than Yahshua. He is the only 'traveller' who has returned from death and still lives, to prove there will be life after death. The evidence of others may be questionable. His proof is impeccable, reliable and overwhelming. To question the teaching of life after death is to disbelieve Yahshua's experience and His words. If these are flawed then nothing whatsoever in the world is true.

*If the dead do not rise, then the Messiah is not risen and if the Messiah is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then, also those who have fallen asleep in the Messiah have perished. If in this life only we have hope in the Messiah, we are of all men the most pitiable. But now, the Messiah is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep,* 1Cor 15:16-20.

Many divinely inspired writers of the Bible have consistently made similar pronouncements. Any contradicting opinions are from lesser persons who have neither been divinely inspired like these writers nor have returned from 'the undiscovered country' like Yahshua. They are unauthentic, speculative and unimpressive beside the proof, statements and prophecies contained in the Bible. Therefore you had better believe the assertions of the most reliable witnesses to be true.

### Why death?

Man had the potential at creation to have everlasting life. He did not have to die. Death entered as a result of man's disobedience.



Adam and Eve being forced to leave the Garden of Eden

Adam and Eve, the first couple to have lived, were placed by their Creator Yahweh in the Garden of Eden, with instructions that they could eat of any tree except one that was in the middle of the garden, for if they ate of that tree they would die (Read Gen 2:15-17; 3:1-19). A cunning smooth-talking, lying serpent later known as the devil, appeared in the Garden and spoke to Eve. By carefully entwining his seductive words subtly, stealthily, firmly and deadly around Eve's fragile innocent mind, he managed to convince her that he knew the truth, which Yahweh was hiding from them, and that if they ate of the tree they would not die. Thus the serpent was calling Yahweh a liar! Adam and Eve succumbed to the serpent's deceptive strategy. They ate of the forbidden fruit, and by doing so rebelled against their Creator. Like a harmful drug injected into the body, sin (rebellion to Yahweh) entered into them with a host of adverse chain reactions. They were changed. Their pure minds became warped as a result of bending to intense satanic impulses. For the first time since their creation they went to hide from their Maker, and experienced guilt and shame. Then they were banished from the garden and cursed with death, pain, suffering and hard

labour. Even the ground was cursed because of their heinous disobedience. They had set in motion forces they could not control and consequences that would go far beyond their own experiences to permeate every fabric and crevice of human existence for as long as time would last.

*Yahweh is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation, Num 14:18.*

Sin and its penalty passed on like a DNA to all of Adam and Eve's offspring. Since then, man, having been denied the automatic right to eternal life by his first parents, has had to die.

*Therefore, through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned, Romans 5:12.*

Death became, and has continued to be, the exit door of life,

*For dust you are, and to dust you shall return, Gen 3:19b.*

There is no escaping this event that will befall us all.

*To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven - a time to be born, and a time to die, Eccl 3:1-2a.*

Everyone can expect to die.

*No one has power over the spirit to retain the spirit. And no one has power in the day of death, Eccl 8:8a.*

None of us has the authority to say to death when it comes "go away, choose a more convenient time or go to someone else!" When death calls, whether or not we wish to answer, we are compelled to surrender to its overpowering force.

## Why Life after Death?

Throughout man's history he has proved that he is naturally bent towards disobeying Yahweh. Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots?

*Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil, Jer 13:23.*

Yahweh knew this even before creation; therefore, He planned a way to rescue man from himself, redeem our fallen race to Him, and enable us to regain the potential heritage of eternal life that was forfeited by Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. He achieved all this by sending His only Son to die in our place.

*For Yahweh so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life, John 3:16.*

His death in our place was not to nullify the penalty of death that Adam and Eve had already earned for the whole human race. He died that through His death and resurrection we would not need to die a second time as a punishment after we were resurrected. Those persons, who

To obtain a printout of the following booklet go to page 22

*He Arose!*

*...But When?*

A YAIY Publication

accept this substitutionary provision and obey Yahweh, will be resurrected and rewarded with the gift of eternal life. All others will be punished by a second death.

Life after death will be the necessary setting for the fulfilment of Yahweh's eternal plans and purposes.

Death is the interlude between two Acts of a drama when the scene and costume are changed. It is the comma in the eternal sentence. It is the gateway that leads to man's final destination. It is the sleep before the happy or sad awaking. In order that the good and the bad may be recompensed for the choices they had made during their lifetime, there must

and will be a resurrection after death, for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of the Messiah, Rom 14:10b.

### He is Coming Again!

At Yahshua's final appearance on earth, in the presence of His disciples,

*He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Yahshua, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven," Acts 1: 9b-11.*

Yahshua has not yet returned but He is coming again - this time not as a babe in the manger but as The King of Kings.

*At His return, Yahshua Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of Yahweh, 1Thess 4:16a.*

The Bible is replete with many verses that emphasize this fact. Yahshua is coming again to:

- Fulfil His promise, John 14:3
- Gather the elect, Matt 24:31
- Raise the dead, 1Thess 4:13-18
- Judge the world, Matt 25:32-46
- Establish His Kingdom on earth, Isa 9:7, Rev 11:15
- Destroy Death, 1Cor 15:25-26, Rev 20:14
- Destroy the influence of Satan, Rev 20:10
- Reward His followers, Matt 16:27
- Punish the unrighteous, Rev 20:15, Psalm 9:17

*Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work, Rev 22:12.*

An inescapable appointment with Yahshua awaits us all, whether we are dead or alive.

*The hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the*

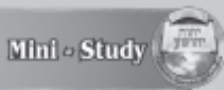
*resurrection of condemnation, John 5:28-29.*

*For Yahweh will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil, Eccl 12:14.*

*We must all appear before the judgment seat of the Messiah, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad, 2 Cor 5:10.*

Such repetition compels us to heed the warning. The day of reckoning is coming when our thoughts, deeds, words, actions, motives and choices will be weighed in the balance, and our eternal destiny determined. This will be a day of gloom for many; but for others, the realisation of a glorious hope.

To obtain a printout of the following mini-study go to page 22



## Our Savior's Resurrection

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

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

*"Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered saying, Master, we would see a sign from You. But He answered and said unto them, an evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:*

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

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

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

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

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## JUST ONE RESURRECTION?

How many resurrections does the Bible teach?

The general message of the churches is that a big battle is taking place for control of the minds of mankind. The churches are striving to teach the Bible and trying to save humankind, but Satan is busy leading them astray. If such a struggle be the true situation of what is going on today, Satan is the big winner. It appears he is gaining ground as the growing population outstrips the converts to churchianity. The ratio of "unsaved" continues to grow faster than those being "saved!" Is Satan really outwitting and outmaneuvering Yahweh today?

Lacking a proper understanding of Yahweh's plan for redeeming mankind, the churches insist they must convert everyone now! This results in a last ditch effort to save those about to die who have not publicly confessed they believe in the Bible's promise and accepted the Savior. If one has stated even on the deathbed that he or she accepts the salvation extended by "J-sus," churchianity believes this person will be taken to heaven immediately upon death. Is this really true? Is everyone to accept the Savior before dying, and if he/she does not, is he/she doomed to eternal torment in the place called "hell" as they say? Among those just starting to comprehend deeper truth, a nagging uncertainty arises. What will happen to them?

The question concerns the many truths which were not understood nor practiced by parents, relatives or loved ones during their lifetime,

## The Finale For the Believer

At Yahshua's second coming,

*The dead in the Messiah will rise first, Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet Yahshua in the air. And thus we shall always be with [Him],* 1Thess 4:16b-17.

(Note: Believers who are alive at Yahshua's second coming are the persons to whom reference was made at the beginning of this article, who would not have experienced death).

Yahshua is coming to reward His saints who believe in Him and have done what He said.

*Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may*

*enter through the gates into the city,* Rev 22:14.

The gift awaiting Yahshua's followers, who are faithful to the end in spite of the trials and temptations of this world, will far exceed any sacrifice they had made for the sufferings of this present time and are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us, Rom 8:18.

*Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life,* Rev 2:10.

As it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which Yahweh has prepared for those who love Him," 1Cor 2:9.

*Beloved, now we are children of Yahweh; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure,* 1 John 3:2-3.

Clothed in immortality, those of us who are ready at His appearing will inherit everlasting life.

*Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality,* 1 Cor 15:51-53.

Everlasting joy and thanksgiving will fill our hearts. Sickness, pain, suffering, tears, sorrow, and death – in short, all human frailties and limitations will come to an end.

*Yahweh will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away,* Rev 21:4.

As one songwriter wrote: "It will be worth it all when we see Yahshua."

## The Finale For the Unbeliever

For the unbeliever the situation will be quite different.

*These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of Yahweh and from the glory of His power,* 2Thess 1:9.

*I saw the dead, small and great, standing before Yahweh, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each*

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### Mini - Study



## Sabbath Keepers: Why Not Keep ALL The Commandments?

Many acknowledge the Bible as the Book of books, which contains the very words of our great Creator. But few fully pursue the deeper truth of His Word. Many are like the puzzling, would-be treasure hunter who was satisfied with just knowing which mountain contained the gold vein, but would not dig down to get the precious mineral it held.

Just as difficult to understand are those who are satisfied to stop short of digging out of Scripture the great treasure of salvation truths, believing that somehow these truths will all be given to them eventually, without any effort on their part. Yet the Bible tells us in Ephesians 4 that each of us is personally responsible to develop into a "perfect" (meaning complete and full-grown) individual in truth.

The Savior forewarned us in Luke 13:24: "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able" (Luke 13:24).

Stopping short of less than a sincere, complete effort is unacceptable to our Heavenly Father. He tells the lukewarm person, "I will spue you out of My mouth" (Rev. 3:16).

When it comes to the Ten Commandments, many will acknowledge a complete obedience. Pressing the issue, we discover otherwise.

Accepting the Fourth Commandment and Saturday as the Bible's true seventh-day Sabbath brings us into deeper Bible truth. Beyond that, though, how many understand, let alone take to heart, the commands of the preceding Third Commandment? This Commandment deals with our Creator's personal, revealed Name:

*"Thou shalt not take the name of the Yahweh your Elohim in vain; for Yahweh will not hold him guiltless that takes his name in vain" (Ex. 20:7).*

The most common interpretation of the Third Commandment is that one must not curse using the Father's Name. That is part of what the commandment enjoins, but its the lesser part. If we examine the Hebrew for the word "take" in this commandment, we find the word *nasa*, meaning to "lift" or "bring to."

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### Mini - Study



## Is the KINGDOM Here Now?

*A popular televangelist, as well as many others, proclaims that the "church" is the Kingdom. Is this true? Is the body of called-out ones the same as the Kingdom? Does Scripture tell us?*

In the study of end-time events, the rulership of Yahshua upon His return to this earth is often referred to as the millennium. Several forms of millennialism or millenarianism (also known as chiliasm) are widely believed. These are found in three major views of the future thousand-year reign of the Savior. Variations are also found within each view.

**POSTMILLENNIALISM** The teaching that the Second Advent of the Savior will occur after the thousand-year millennium. As a result of the preaching of the evangel by the "church," a period of righteousness would be established upon earth. Since World War II, many have become disillusioned with society's moral and spiritual decline. The day when the knowledge of Yahweh will fill the earth as water covers the sea has been but a dream.

**PREMILLENNIALISM** The most popular view held by many evangelicals wherein the Savior will literally rule over the earth. This concept dictates that Yahshua must appear before the millennial kingdom is set up. Premillennialists believe in the literal interpretation of Revelation and Old Testament related verses.

**AMILLENNIALISM** A symbolical interpretation of Revelation 20. It says Yahshua will return to set up His reign after the present earth is destroyed in judgment and a new heaven and earth is established. Rulership of Yahshua takes place upon

one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire, Rev 20:12-15.

*The cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death, Rev 21:8.*

*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of Yahweh? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of Yahweh, 1Cor 6:9-10.*

The unbelievers shall receive the payment they would have justly earned for their rebellion against and rejection of Yahweh,

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of Yahweh is eternal life in the Messiah Yahshua our Saviour, Rom 6:23.*

## Time For a Change

The road on which you are now travelling is taking you to a definite destination—either eternal life or death. There is nothing in between. Except you are constantly checking your 'location' against the 'Road Map', which is the Bible, you are bound to stray. Straying from Yahweh is part of man's inherent nature.

Like the prodigal son (Read Luke 15:11-24), the human race is prone to choose whatever it fancies in preference to the safety and security of abiding in Father's house. It is pulled as if by magnetic waves to a life that promises satisfaction but only delivers remorse, guilt, shame and emptiness now, and death in the life to come. Mankind accepts, does, says and believes anything just to show their independence of their Father who created them. Like sheep going astray they have wandered into their ways.

*The prodigal son thought he was right, for every way of a man is right in his own eyes, Prov 21:2.*

If you are straying from your Father after some illusive attraction, STOP! You are going the wrong way! The things after which you are craving will be of no benefit to you at or after death. Like a vapour they will evaporate into nothingness, and will not be with you when you meet Yahshua.

Whether you have deliberately made a choice to go your own way, or you are just straying aimlessly, the result is the same. You are moving away from your Creator. Adam and Eve did not set out to disobey Yahweh. They simply looked too long on that which was tempting, listened too attentively to a stranger, touched what they ought not to touch, and finally ate that which was forbidden. In a series of steps, you, too, may have moved away from Yahweh. It is time to turn around and change direction before it is too late.

Like the prodigal son you must awaken now to the precious opportunity you are squandering by being away from your Father. When the prodigal son came to his senses, he said

*I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you," Luke 15:18.*

If you do not have the relationship with Yahweh that promises eternal life, it is time to make the prodigal son's admission and start walking in the opposite direction from where you are at present.

*Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to Yahweh, And He will have mercy on him; And to our Elohim, For He will abundantly pardon, Isa 55:7.*

Life even at its best is very unsure. We plan for tomorrow, but do not know what today will bring. You do not know when you will die, or when you will be required to stand before the Judge for the things you have done in this life. Death and Yahshua's return are certain events that no one can evade or predict. When you see Yahshua, you

will be either rewarded or punished. Either way, His decision will be final. The time to change is now. The only moment of which you can be certain is the present. The only worthwhile direction is towards Yahweh. The only person who can hinder you is YOU.

## What Can You Do Now?

On the day of Pentecost those who were persuaded by Peter's sermon,

*Said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Yahshua the Messiah for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit," Acts 2:37b-38.*

The account of the prodigal son is a good example of what it means to repent:

- 1) He became aware of his destitute and miserable position, and that his choice had brought him to a level he had never intended or anticipated,
- 2) He knew that there was a better place than where he was, and
- 3) He decided to do something about it by
  - a) Walking away from where he was,
  - b) Going to his father,
  - c) Admitting his wrong and asking for forgiveness, and
  - d) Although not stated, it can be safely assumed that thereafter he remained in the safety and comfort of his father's house.

That, in a nutshell, is what repentance is all about. Learning from the prodigal son, we can summarise the main points as follows:

- 1) Become aware of your dangerous and hopeless position as a result of having been away from your heavenly Father Yahweh and sinning against Him,



- 2) Know that His way is far better than yours,
- 3) Make a genuine commitment to change,
- 4) Pray, asking His forgiveness of all your past wrong doings,
- 5) Make a conscious and determined effort to turn away from your previous habits, and
- 6) Dedicate the rest of your life to staying with Him, obeying Him and pleasing Him.

This has been summarized much simpler in Psalm 37:27,

*Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell forevermore.*

## Ten Virgins

Repentance is the necessary preliminary step in order to inherit the kingdom of Yahweh. That was the main message of John the Baptizer, Yahshua and His disciples. But, being prepared involves much more than repentance. Preparing for the Kingdom requires vigilance in all areas of our relationship with Yahweh and our fellowmen in keeping with the teachings of the Bible.

Yahshua, in order to emphasize the necessity of being fully prepared for our final appointment with Him, gave to His disciples of all ages the parable of the

*Ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: "Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!" Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise answered, saying, "No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves." And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also,*

*saying, "Sir, Sir, open to us!" But he answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you." Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming, Matt 25:1b-13.*

All ten thought they were ready to meet the bridegroom, and slept while they were waiting. All had lamps, and knew that their lamps would be required when the bridegroom came. They all awoke to the clarion call announcing the bridegroom's arrival. At this last minute, five made a startling discovery. They were not ready to greet the bridegroom! Their lamps were flickering and they had brought no extra supply of oil with them. The wise virgins, from whom they tried to beg some oil, wisely declined. They had taken the trouble to make sure they would be ready, and they would not be deprived of their purpose in waiting by a last-minute folly. They valued their appointment at the wedding too highly to allow anything or anyone to hinder them. The foolish virgins went out to try to remedy their desperate situation. Alas, it was too late! When they eventually returned from purchasing oil they were barred from entering the wedding, and were told by the bridegroom "I do not know you".

Only one essential commodity hindered the five foolish virgins from entering the wedding - the lack of oil at the bridegroom's arrival. No one can confidently identify the oil in the parable of the virgins with any specific spiritual requirement. Suffice it to say that lack of preparation in any area can lead to rejection. The parable was simply given to emphasize the necessity of being fully prepared at all times.

It does not take many things to keep us out of the kingdom. Failure in just one quarter to prepare for our inescapable appointment as the foolish virgins did, can lead to final banishment from His presence. To the foolish virgins, the extra effort of the wise virgins may have seemed unnecessary, but in the end it paid dividends. Yahshua concluded the parable by admonishing us all to watch.

*Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming, Matt 25:13.*

Watching will entail, among other things, studying the Word and being vigilant to ensure that every aspect of our lives is in accordance with its teaching.

From the sleep of death we will be suddenly awakened to meet Yahshua. In whatever spiritual state of readiness we were when we died we shall be resurrected to stand before Him. Those of us who are ready will be with Him for eternity. All others will be barred from the reward of the righteous. There will be no time or place then to try to rectify any deficiency. The Master will not wait. The only time we have to prepare is **now**. Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation, 2Cor 6:2b. Make sure your lamp is burning and continues to burn brightly until your last breath.

## Conclusion

A fictitious drama is not being performed on the stage of your life. It is a real life episode with everlasting consequences, involving YOUR eternal destiny.

The first thing you will be aware of after you have died, will be a face-to-face meeting with the One whom you loved, worshipped and longed to meet, or whom you scorned and despised. Without a moment to make a plea, or change the judgement, you will be told your destiny. Your Judge will not be guided by your opinion of yourself, your procrastinated intentions, or your best excuses. The whistle would have blown. Time would have expired. Your payday would have come when you would justly reap the consequences of the decisions you made or failed to make, to follow Yahshua and put Him first in your life.

Because of Adam and Eve's sin, every person who has been born is on the road to damnation except he/she repents. There is no automatic right to eternal life. As it is written:

*There is none righteous, no, not one, Rom 3:10.*

Sin shall not be unpunished. Yahweh destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah and the whole world because of sin.

*I tell you, ... unless you repent you will ... likewise perish, Luke 13:5.*

Those who have not repented can expect to receive only the wrath of Yahweh when they see Yahshua. But it does not have to be this way. Just as the prodigal son was forgiven and welcomed into his father's house when he returned, so will you, if you will turn to Him in repentance. He has promised:

*Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool, Isa 1:18.*

*As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us, Ps 103:12.*

There is time at this moment to reverse the direction in which you are presently travelling, if you are not living as close to Yahweh as is possible. You do not know how much more time is left before you will make your exit. If you have not already repented, you need to repent to change your direction from walking away from your Creator and heavenly Father to surrendering your life to Him and obeying Him. You need to repent that your sinful nature will be replaced with a pure heart without which you cannot gain eternal life. You need to repent and accept the forgiveness of the One who died in your place or be damned for all eternity.

Let those of us, who think we are ready, search our hearts and pray and strive for the removal of every dross, so that none of us will be deluded in thinking we are ready when in fact we

are not. We cannot afford to be lulled into a state of complacency like the five foolish virgins, and fail to take that extra effort to ensure that we will make it into the kingdom. Make sure that nothing or no one stands in the way of your eternal heritage. Nothing in this world can in any way be compared with what you would forfeit if you fail to make it into the kingdom. While there is still time, choose for [yourself] this day whom you will serve Josh 24:15a.

*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 ...you ...may live, Deut 30:19.*

When you have made your exit from this world's stage, where will be your destination?

**Elder Buel Hallpike**

### <Pentecost from page 3>

The New Testament goes beyond the physical and shows the spiritual meaning of circumcision is that of an obedient and willing heart:

*But he [is] a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision [is that] of the heart, in the spirit, [and] not in the letter; whose praise [is] not of men, but of Elohim. (Ro 2:29 AV)*

Note that the New Testament emphasizes our attitude, our goals and aspirations. We are to live Yahweh's laws and make His laws our way of

life. We make Yahweh's instructions come to life as we learn to think like

Him, act like Him, walk like Him and love like Him. Meditate how we can bring His words into action now that we already have been given the Holy Spirit through baptism into Yahshua's Name. On Pentecost the Spirit of Yahweh came to earth to abide forever because of Calvary. We are now to

changes made in the New Covenant from the Old Covenant:

"O Yahweh, How great are thy works; and thy thoughts are very deep!" (Psa 92:5)

Amazing indeed is the program Yahweh has for those He has called out of this world for His special purpose. Many who have been called simply do not realize they are being given the opportunity for a special work that is out of this world. It all began with Abraham shortly after creation, and will continue to grow until the called and chosen are all selected and prepared. Then Yahshua returns.

OLD TESTAMENT	NEW AND LIVING WAY
Temple worship Jerusalem	Worship anywhere on earth, John 4:22-24
Circumcised 8 <sup>th</sup> day	Baptized into New Covenant, Act 2:38
High priest of Aaron	Melchisedek priesthood, Heb 8:6; 5:9,10
Males are circumcised	Men and women are baptized, Act 2:38; 8:12
Spirit active by priest	Yahweh's Spirit resides in ekklesia, 1Cor 3:16
Priests active in Temple	We are Living Temple - Living stones, 1Pet 2:5
Temple destroyed 70 CE	Believer's Body a Living Temple, 1Cor 6:19
Bring Sacrifice Victim	Exercise Spiritual gift, Rom 12, 1Cor 12

seek the spiritual meaning and understanding of His Word. Note the

**Elder Donald R. Mansager**

# Beware of False Teachers



We are warned in the Scriptures to beware of people who are a danger to the life of the assembly, to its growth, its prosperity, its purity and its testimony. Yahweh's assembly, His chosen people, is valuable to Him. He paid the highest price for it, and He wants it protected, especially from the devastating damage that is caused by division, conflict, and disharmony.

*I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Master Yahshua, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naïve people. Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil, Romans 16:17-19 NIV.*

Ever since the assembly was formed, she had been plagued by false teachers, troublemakers and even dangerous people. These people professed to know the Messiah but are not truly possessors of the true faith.

*They claim to know Yahweh, but by their actions they deny Him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good, Titus 1:16 NIV.*

After 2,000 years, dangerous people are still with us. That's right. There are still those from within and without the assembly who work against the plan of Yahweh, who seem to mold the assembly to their likeness and who do not care about the destructive effect on the whole membership. It is therefore expedient that we take heed of the warning in the Scriptures.

This study can be of twofold benefits. First, it can serve as preventive maintenance. It has been said that the best offense is a good defense! It will do us good to know what the Bible says about false teachers in the ministry and how to handle them so that when trouble arises we will be able to identify the problem and deal it a death blow before serious damage is done to the assembly of Yahweh. Second, we

will be aware of the strategies of the enemy and therefore avoid being used by the devil to cause trouble in the family of Yahweh.

False teachings could have a serious and damaging effect. Apostle Paul says in 2Timothy 2:17 "Their teaching will spread like gangrene..." J.B. Phillips Translation of the New Testament very expressively transliterates this by saying that these false teachers "are as dangerous as blood poisoning to the blood and spread like sepsis from a wound." False teaching in the assembly is like gangrene or a malignant tumor in the body. It eats away the healthy tissues, it spreads and it eventually kills. We need to be awake to this danger in our day.

It is important for us to recognize that there are two ways in which people can be a danger in any congregation: the first is by holding and propagating false doctrines, and the second is by carnal and undisciplined living.

## **The Characteristics of False Teachers**

The Bible gives us explicit signs about false teachers. False teachers appear to be preaching the Word of Yahweh but in reality they are not. And the painful truth is that these false teachers may come from the ranks of the assembly. In Acts 20:28-31 we are told

*Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the Assembly of Yahweh, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.*

How can we recognize false teachers in the assembly? Yahshua said in Matthew 7:20,

*Thus, by their fruit you will know them.*

The fruits or deeds of false teachers prove them to be just what they are.

### ***They are Disobedient***

*They profess to know Yahweh, but in their works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work, Titus 1:16 NKJV.*

Disobedient is the translation of Strong's # 545 of the Greek apeithes (ap-i-thace); unpersuadable; i.e. contumacious: - disobedience.

Verse 10 of Titus chapter 1 tells us that they were "insubordinate", "rebellious" in the NIV, which means that they refused to submit to authority, that is, the authority of the Scriptures, and they were insubordinate and ungoverned. If there is trouble in the assembly, or in the ministry, it is not primarily due to a clash of personalities, though it may include this. It is due to refusal on the part of somebody to submit to the authority of the Word of Yahweh.

True teachers must follow the Scriptures. They must not teach anything that cannot be supported by the Scriptures. They must use all the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments. They cannot take just one verse as the basis for establishing doctrine. They must use supporting verses from the entire Bible. They should not use any teaching material that is of man which cannot be supported by the Scriptures.

True teachers endeavor to be a good example of holy living to others. They display in their own life the truth they believe and teach. True teachers do not deny the true Names of the Heavenly Father and His Son.

### ***They are Divisive***

*Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offences, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them, Romans 16:17.*

Paul uses two words here that describe what the false teachers do in the assembly of Yahweh.

The first is the word "divisions". It is a translation of Strong's #1370 dichostasia (dee-khos-tas-ee'-ah); from a der. of NT 1364 and 4714; disunion, i.e. (fig.) dissension: - division, sedition. It means "to splinter or cause dissensions." The other word is "offences", which means "to lay a trap or snare in the path of another to cause them to stumble." "Offences" is Strong's # 4625, a translation of the Greek skandalon (skan'-dal-on) ("scandal"); prob. from a der. of 2578; a trap-stick (bent sapling), i.e. snare (fig. cause of displeasure or sin): - occasion to fall (of stumbling), offence, thing that offends, stumbling block.

How do they cause divisions and offences? How do they become a stumbling block? They deviate from the Word of Yahweh! They come in and begin to teach doctrines contrary to what the Bible says. They twist the Word of Yahweh to teach doctrines that are not biblical and thereby lead people astray. They teach doctrines that resemble what one finds in the Bible.

But, there are subtle differences! Differences that make all the difference! This is the tactic of the religions of our world. They teach doctrines that, on the surface, appear to be biblical and right, but which are, in truth, evil. These false teachers will blithely follow their own ideas and fanciful interpretations.

There are chemicals that look and smell just like water. But, if they are drunk like water, they will cause death. You had better know the difference. So it is in the assembly. Some things sound good and convincing on the surface, but you have better be so familiar with the real thing that you can tell the difference. The false doctrine will divide the assembly and will send souls to the lake of fire!

Since these false doctrines sound good and convincing, these will attract some and before long, there is a division in the assembly. Satan loves it when this happens! He loves to introduce something into the life of the assembly that will divide the flock. He will then run in and cause massive damage in the midst of Yahweh's people.

Watch out for these divisive people! Watch out for those who would teach things contrary to the truth of the Bible.

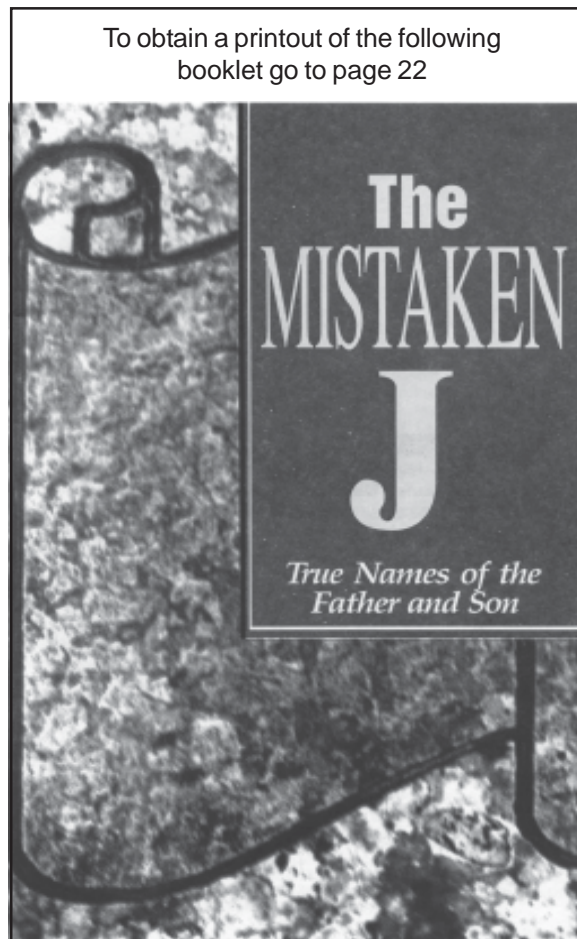
### ***They are Deceptive***

*For those who are such do not serve our Master the Messiah, but their own belly and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the minds of the simple, Romans 16:18 NKJV.*

These people may pretend to have pure motives and the good of the assembly at heart, but in reality they are not true believers. They don't care about the assembly but only about themselves, their power and their personal gain. These people love to amass a following. They want to be in a position of leadership and they crave prosperity.

These people have a way with words and they use their ability to twist the truth and deceive the

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“simple”. The word “simple” does not refer to stupid people. This word is Strong’s #172, a translation of the Greek akakos (ak-ak-os); not bad, i.e. (obj.) innocent or (subj.) unsuspecting: – harmless, simple. It would speak of those believers who have not matured enough to know that everything that sounds good isn’t always good. Many young believers are so eager to learn about the Word of Yahweh that they are easy marks for these false teachers and other dangerous people. They haven’t grown deep enough in the things of Yahweh to be able to recognize a counterfeit when it appears before them. Those people in the banks who study real money can recognize a counterfeit bill when presented to them. So the people of Yahweh should be so familiar with the truth that when a false doctrine appears, they can recognize it and expose it for what it is. There is therefore no substitute for a constant study of the Word of Yahweh to mature the believer and insulate him/her against the deceptive tactics of the false teachers.

*Do your best to present yourself to Yahweh as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth,* 2Timothy 2:15 NIV.

True teachers “renounced secret and shameful ways; do not use deception, nor distort the word of Yahweh. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly they commend themselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of Yahweh,” 2Cor. 4:2.

## How to Handle False Teachers

When false teachers appear in the assembly, what are we to do about them? Paul tells us in Romans 16:17:

*I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which you have learned; and avoid them.*

Paul says to “mark” them. This is Strong’s #4648 a

translation of the Greek skopeo (skop-eh-o); from 4649; to take aim at (spy), i.e. (fig.) regard: - consider, take heed, look at (on), mark. Obviously, we got our word “scope” from it. It means “to fix one’s eyes and attention upon someone or something.”

The idea here is that we have to watch the enemy lest he slip in on us and cause problems in the assembly. We are to keep our eyes open against those who would infiltrate the assembly!

Paul’s second command is very clear. He says that we are to “avoid them”. He is telling us that we are to have no fellowship with those who are dangerous to the life of the assembly. The word “avoid” is Strong’s # 1578 from the Greek ekklineo (ek-klee-no); from 1537 and 2827; to deviate, i.e. (absol.) to shun (lit. or fig.), or (rel.) to decline (from piety): - avoid, eschew, go out of the way.

Apostle Paul gives another course of action how to handle these dangerous people.

*Rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith,* Titus 1:13b NIV.

The rebuking was with a view to their restoration “that they will be sound in the faith.” It is possible that these people are not aware that they are already being used by Satan. They are duped into doing Satan’s work. Thus, it is necessary to rebuke and pray for those who teach false doctrine knowing that they are not the real enemy but Satan.

Imposition of disciplinary action is also proper. As a result of a severe discipline imposed on these dangerous people, they might be led to repentance and brought back into full fellowship with Yahshua and with His people.

But, if these people refuse to repent and amend their ways, if they are in their spiritual life where they are willing to destroy the assembly to get their own way, the assembly is better off without them. It is often better for an assembly when some people leave.

The goal here is to protect the assembly and to allow the Holy Spirit room to open the eyes of these people.

## The Defense Against False Teachers

The purveyors of false teaching are constantly trapping the unwary. This is their methodology.

*But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies,* 2Peter 2:1a.

The false teachers come into the assembly and they gradually indoctrinate Yahweh’s people. But there is a defense against the work of the false teachers in the assembly.

To avoid being led astray by false teaching, be committed and dwell deeply in the Word of Yahweh. If you do not study the Bible and meet with others of like mind and spirit, you can be

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The image shows the cover of a booklet titled "What Happened with Christianity? How and Why Truth Suffers Today". The title is prominently displayed in a large, bold, serif font. Below the title, the subtitle "How and Why Truth Suffers Today" is written in a smaller, italicized serif font. The background of the cover is light-colored with some faint, abstract shapes.

deceived by these false teachers. Always prove what they say by the Word of Yahweh. The surest defense against intrusions by false teachers and other people who would divide the assembly is a congregation that has grown strong in the Word of Yahweh. Our lives should be marked by a commitment to the Word of Yahweh. We should consider it as essential to our life as food. Job said,

*I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread, Job 23:12 NIV.*

We should be committed to spend some time in the study of the Scriptures and be imbued with the great doctrines of the faith. There are more Bibles in print today than ever before, but a Bible on the shelf is worthless. If you will determine in your heart that you will study the Bible, you will not be easy prey for those who would bring false doctrine into the assembly. They will have a hard time with you! You will be able to spot them early and to expose them easily.

To avoid being led astray by false teaching, be much in prayer. *Pray without ceasing, 2 Thessalonians 5:17.* All who have grown up in Yahshua and have become mighty for Him have known the importance of prayer. They have been men and women of prayer. The priority of prayer is brought before us in 1 Timothy 2:1,

*Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men.*

Here is something that must be done first of all. Paul is urging that prayer is a priority matter and that it should always come first. It is the most important spiritual exercise in which we can engage. We often fail in that we put prayer second or third. Instead of making prayer fundamental we make it supplemental. We add it on if there is time left, and when we do this, we are foolish and wrong. It is easy to crowd prayer out of our daily program. Whenever we do this, we suffer. Prayer will keep our soul fit and we can develop it unto holiness – that is, in order that we may

become a righteous person, grown into spiritual manhood and maturity, and one who is, above all, like our Savior Yahshua Messiah. Pray for spiritual guidance and ask Yahweh for His protection and help.

To avoid being led astray by false teaching, don't play with "poison"! – if any teaching is suspect, prove it to be true or false. If false, then run from it, avoid it, beware of it, and keep away from it. Don't give Satan a chance. Be skeptical of any new teaching that may come your way and carefully scrutinize it to see if such teaching is in line with sound doctrine. Hold to the truth. Be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the false teachers and fall from your secure position.

## The Destruction of False Teachers

Apostle Peter does not hesitate to tell us of the awful condemnation that awaits the false teacher in 2 Peter 2:1: "... and bring on themselves swift destruction"; in verse 3 "... and their destruction does not slumber"; and in verse 9 "... and to reserve the unjust (including false teachers) under punishment for the day of judgment."

All false teachers receive their energy from one source: Satan. Paul informs us that there is coming a day when the father of all false teachers will get what's coming to him. Romans 16:20 speaks of the destruction of the false teacher,

*And the Elohim of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.*

Of course, Satan knows his time is short, Revelation 12:12. He is trying to do as much damage as he can in the time he has left. He is trying to destroy homes and divide congregations. He will do anything to wreck and tear down the lives of people. He deceives the whole world with his false doctrines and employs false teachers who are unaware of his tricks and schemes.

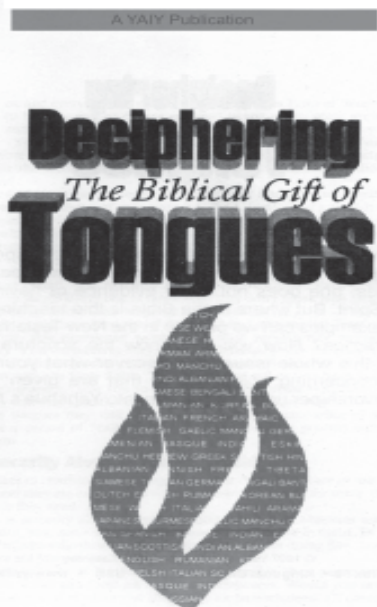
Have you been guilty of joining hands with the devil and causing trouble and division in the congregation of Yahweh? Repent and amend your ways that you may be able to escape the destruction that awaits the evildoers.

Are you living a life that insulates you against being caught up in the deception and wiles of the devil and his people? You need to be strong in Yahweh and in the power of His might so we will be able to withstand in these evil days.

We need to take our stand for Yahshua against the false teachers. Evil triumphs when Yahweh's people do nothing. We have to stand for the truth and contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to us. We are to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. We are to "grow in grace and knowledge." Yes, to grow is to build upon established true foundations – not throw them away!

To be able to do this, we need the grace of Yahshua in our lives and His grace is sufficient for us to make it day by day. He promised to be with His faithful servants (who teach ALL things which Yahshua has commanded) to the end of this age (Matt. 28:20). HalleluYAH!

To obtain a printout of the following booklet go to page 22



**Elder Eddie D. Tadea**

# Commandments



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## Something

## to do?

What is a command? “Silly question,” you might say. We all know what a command is...don't we? Isn't a command basically a law or dictate given by someone in authority?

I was always taught that if I was told to do something by an authority figure that I was indeed supposed to do it, especially if it had been my parents commanding me to do something. I might add, there was punishment waiting if I disobeyed them.

If you've been in the military, then you know that you're to do what your commanding officer tells you to do. If you refuse, you'll more than likely face some form of disciplinary action by that officer.

So when it comes to obeying the commands of our Heavenly Father Yahweh, doesn't He deserve even more respect than our fellow man does? Doesn't He even promise to discipline us if we disobey? Isn't there something to do?

### Ten Commandments

There are a number of commandments throughout the Bible. Most notably are the Ten Commandments (Ex 20:2-17).

Are they something we're to do? Are they an important part of Yahweh's will for us today? The Apostle James, a blood brother of Yahshua the Messiah (Mark 6:3), thought so. He says in James 2:10,

*For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*

How did he define what the law was? He goes on in the first part of verse 11 saying, in reference to the Ten Commandments,

*For He that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill.*

James made reference to the Ten Commandments, just as Yahshua the Messiah did at times in the New Testament.

When we take a close look at the Ten Commandments in particular, we find something very interesting. Notice in Ex 20:2-17 that the first five of these Ten Commandments are focused on our relationship with our Creator Yahweh, while the last five are focused on our relationship with our fellow man or neighbor.

Yahshua emphasized and magnified the law when asked in Matt 22:36,

*Teacher, which is the great [est] commandment in the law?*

And continuing in verse 37 through 40 Yahshua replies, *You shall love Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your mind. This is the first and great command. And the second is like it; you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commands hang all the law and prophets.*

Some would say, because of that last verse, we don't have to do any of those other Old Testament laws. But, He is simply showing that indeed if you do the former that you will do the latter automatically, because they all stem from these two things: serving Yahweh and your neighbor. The Ten Commandments, if boiled down, outlined, or if just plain “looked at closely,” give us these two greatest commands within its frame and they fit perfectly together. Would it be any other way? What a great foundation in which to work from!

Yahshua set the example for us by teaching and doing all of the commandments and having done them to the point of not even thinking any wrong (read all of Matthew chapter 5).

You'll notice in Matt 5:20 TS that Yahshua said, *For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the reign of the heavens.*

Even though the scribes and Pharisees had an outward appearance of righteousness, Yahshua still saw them as being lawless. We read in Rom 2:23 TS,

*You [Pharisees] who make your boast in the law, through the transgression of the law do you disrespect Elohim?*

Yahshua was in no uncertain terms strongly reprimanding them for transgressing the law...sinning! You'll find in 1 John 3:4 that sin is clearly defined as the transgression of the law. No wonder Yahshua called the Pharisees hypocrites. If the law was ever going to be "done away with," or ever was "done away with," then evidently no one told our Savior about it.

To make even clearer that indeed we are to do something, we find Yahshua again scolding those who claimed to be doing the law but were falling short. We read in Matt 23:23,

*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgement, mercy and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.*

Notice especially the very last part of verse 23.

Yahshua picked a point in the law that they would do very openly—paying tithes—which others would see their righteous acts. What a perfect point in the law to bring out, as I'm sure it touched a nerve with them, bringing them to shame, because they were in fact doing the one so flagrantly while ignoring other aspects of the law.

"The weightier matters of the law" was an interesting choice of words. If we look up the word "weightier" in *Strong's*, number 926, we find the Greek word "barus" (bar-ooce') which means "heavy" or "heaviness." The root word for "barus" is the word "baros" (bar'-os), *Strong's* number 922, meaning "burden" or "burden-some." Now with that in mind, what's easier to do, give a 10<sup>th</sup> of your paycheck to Yahweh for the work (i.e., your tithe) or give some time to the local shelter, say serving food or perhaps visiting

with the sick in the hospital? Even more important, would it not be to sit down with someone to help explain the Scriptures, if given the opportunity (read Acts 8:31)? Did you ever hear someone say, "it's easy to throw money at a problem?" It's easier to give a 10<sup>th</sup> of your income, in most cases, than it is to actually go and do something.

Matt 7:14 states,

*Because straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be who find it.*

The word "narrow" in *Strong's* is number 2346, the Greek word is "thlibo" (thlee'-bo), which would more accurately be translated "afflicted," "troubled," or "distressed." The straight and narrow path is what we are to choose, and it is not an easy one, it takes some effort to walk it.

But with everything there is balance that can be achieved. Yahweh's Spirit (a portion), when given upon repentance, immersion, and the laying on of hands (Acts 2:38), can and does provide strength and guidance for that person, unless that person refuses to yield to it. Refusal to obey Yahweh's laws, once having received the set apart Spirit, will mean a certain eternal death for that person (read Heb 6:4-6). This is not something to take lightly.

We are to run a race as the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Cor 9:24. Running takes effort, sweat and endurance. That is, if you're trying to win. We can't think that "it" was all done for us, that we don't have to do anything but just sit back in a rocking chair, or to put our feet up on the desk, or even just to sit on the side lines, so to speak. We are to run and run to win! The Apostle Paul said it, not me.

## Love

Can't we just love one another and have a good feeling in our hearts for Yahweh? More than in any other time in recent history the hippie culture of the late 60's and early 70's were full of what they thought was love for one another, and many felt they were even close to Yahweh at times. Certainly, if you take a mind-altering drug you may think and feel many things. But to what end was this kind of love, what were the fruits that came from such love? Children out of wedlock, destroyed minds, and bodies, to name a few.

Wouldn't Yahweh instruct us in His Word about love? In fact, He tells us exactly how to love one another and how to love Him. Notice in 1 John 5:3,

*For this is the love of Elohim, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous.*

And backing up a little, we read in chapter 4:21 of 1 John,

*And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth Elohim love his brother too.*

Remember how the first five of the Ten Commandments focus on Yahweh and the last five focus on our fellow man, brother or neighbor?

To obtain a printout of the following mini-study go to page 22

**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"



To love is not a passive thing, we are to obey and do not only the Ten Commandments but every word that proceeds out of His mouth (Deut 8:3), and in doing so we show our love.

## Legalistic

Going back a little to the quote of 1 John 5:3 you may have well noticed the term “not heavy.” Well, if we read in Matt 23:4 it says,

*For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.*

It was the Pharisees that had the heavy burdens. Notice the “grievous to be borne” is saying much more than just heavy, it's saying that they were hurting the people...period. Yahweh's laws do not hurt people, they help people. Without Yahweh's laws being obeyed, what is the effect? We see so much suffering and death today. And there is more coming, I'm sorry to say.

Thankfully, Yahweh won't let the sufferings in this world continue for much longer. He will put a stop to it, but not until this world learns a lesson. We must learn to do what our Eternal Father wants us to do. Man messes things up when trying to do things his own way and apart from Him.

Just look at the Pharisees. They added their own little self-righteous rules that twisted everything from the command of the Sabbath (read Matt 12:1-13 and John 5:8-16) to the washing of hands (read Matt 15:2-3 and also Mark 7:3-9). What they did was legalistic! Legalistic is what they made the law when they twisted it and added to it. This is not what Yahweh intended. They made themselves and the righteous laws of Yahweh, of which we are to obey, unbalanced and warped. How could they believe they were so right, when they were so wrong?

## Deceived

Rev 12:9 points out that Satan deceives the whole world. These men should have known better. They knew what

the Scriptures said, but were deceived anyway.

A word of warning for us today: Satan has since changed his strategy. Satan now tries to get people believing that there is nothing to do, but as we have been seeing, that line of thinking is incorrect. Now, today, again we find men (ministers) around the world versed and some not so versed in the Scriptures, and believing they are teaching truth when they say the law was done away with. They may sincerely believe that, but are in fact sincerely deceived.

We find Paul teaching at his residence that he had for a couple years, in Acts 28:23 NKJV,

*So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of Yahweh, persuading them concerning Yahshua from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.*

Paul taught from the Law of Moses and the Prophets. We find that the Law of Moses was indeed the Law of Yahweh. In 1 Kings 2:3 NKJV we read,

*And keep the charge of Yahweh your Elohim: to walk in His ways, to keep His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn.*

The Prophets we know spoke what Yahweh gave them to speak. We know they also kept the commands, laws, and precepts thereof. They did what we are to do today; we are to do something; we are to obey. In Eccl 12:13 we read,

*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear Elohim and keep His commands: for this is the whole duty of man.*

Do you believe what your Bible says?

## Believe

But can't I just do what I want to do as long as I believe? After all, doesn't Yahshua the Messiah say in the first part of John 11:26,

*And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die.*

Let's look at what he said a little earlier in John 10:27,

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*

To follow someone is to do what that person does; that person sets an example for those that follow. Yahshua followed the narrow path and so do His followers. He says, “I know them.” He recognizes that they are doing His will. What is Yahshua's will? In John 5:30 NKJV Yahshua says,

*I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I seek not My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.*

Let us believe what Yahshua Himself said and says for us today in Matt 7:21 TS,

*Not every one that says to Me, “Master, Master,” shall enter into the reign of the heavens, but he who is doing the desire of My Father in the heavens.*

He that is doing the will of Yahweh will be acceptable! Many claim to have faith today and will go up for an altar call calling upon Him, or when praying call out to Him, but they go about their day not giving thought to our heavenly Father's will or desire, His commands, laws, precepts, and statutes.

Many of today's religious bodies proclaim “grace covers all” and they'll take scripture out of context, such as Rom 6:14 ASV, which reads,

*For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under law but under grace.*

This is used to attempt to prove we don't need to do anything but believe. But if we read on we find that the Apostle Paul also said in the very next verse, verse 15,

*What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under law, but under grace? Yahweh forbid.*

Paul was very clear that even after we are baptized and receive forgiveness and grace, that we are to obey the commandments and laws of Yahweh.

Saul, whose name was changed to Paul, had been raised as a student in the law from his youth. He could have said anytime that what he was

taught was no longer necessary, and that we just need to believe in Yahshua, but he didn't. Notice that Rom 3:31 says basically what Rom 6:15 does; Paul was consistent in stating that even though we need to believe, we also need to obey. It's not one without the other, it's both. Read Rev 14:12,

*Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of Yahweh, and the faith of Yahshua.*

## Old and New Covenant

As with a quilt that is sewn together to make one piece, we have the Bible from the beginning of Genesis to the end of Revelation. There are those that would say, "the Old Covenant was done away with." Let's think for a moment: What if all law was done away with for just one day? I don't even need to list the possibilities. I'm sure you'd expire before the day's end, as there would be no stop signs and it would be a risk just to walk across the street. What about Yahweh's universal laws that keep the earth in orbit just close enough to the sun so we stay warm, but far enough away from it that we don't become toast. What about the law of gravity; without it we wouldn't have our two feet planted on the ground. It's then inconceivable that our Heavenly Father would give us laws to live by in His Scriptures, then have His Son come saying, "Nope, His will has changed."

According to Yahweh, He changes not. In Mal 3:6 we read,

*For I am Yahweh, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*

Yahweh continues on in Mal 4:4 and tells us,

*Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.*

As we continue to study, we find one of the first things Yahshua said in His ministry was,

*Do not think that I have come to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to complete, Matt 5:17 TS.*

Read also verse 18. He made it clear, very clear, that the law was not done away with. He again reinforces the law by saying in Matt 7:23 TS,

*And then I shall declare to them, I never knew you, depart from Me, you who work lawless-ness!*

It's interesting to note that those that the Savior is talking about in Matt 7:22-23 are evidently very religious, otherwise why would they be casting out demons and prophesying? This is all, of course, referring to a yet future judgement. Having said that, we might reflect and ask ourselves, how can judgment come without law in place? Judgment and law go hand in hand. You cannot have the one without the other.

Yahshua and Satan both know the Old Covenant was not done away with. In Matt 4 we read that Yahshua rebuked Satan three times, each time Scripture was taken from the Old

Covenant. Satan knew the Old Covenant was not done away with, otherwise he could have rebuked Yahshua, but Satan was unable to. Remember that Yahshua came in service of Yahweh and each time Satan was rebuked, both Yahweh's Name and will was brought forth. As we have already seen, Yahshua's will is that His Father's will be done.

The Prophets of the Old Covenant were for Yahweh's will also. Ezekiel, being one, knew better than to disobey Yahweh. Yahweh told Ezekiel that a yet future people, a New Covenant people, would be given His Spirit and that they would obey Him. Notice in Ezek 36:26-27 TS,

*And I shall give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you. And I shall take the heart of stone out of your flesh, and shall give you a heart of flesh, and put My Spirit within you. And I shall do this so that you walk in My laws and guard My right rulings and shall do them. And you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers. And you shall be My people, and I shall be your Elohim.*

Did you notice why His Spirit is now given? It is so we can do what He says to do. His Holy Spirit gives us the power and guidance that we need to fully obey His commands. Sure, we will slip and fall sometimes, but just as a runner will fall, he'll also get back up again to keep running. We need to do the same. His Spirit sets us apart as His people; we need to be dedicated to finish the race.

Keep in mind also that we are to be as obedient as we can, even before receiving His Spirit (read Acts 5:32).

All in all, we need to put into practice the commands that we find in the Scriptures. They're as valid now as they were back then. We do have something to do, and with Yahweh's help we can do it! HalleluYah!

(Note: I've covered just a little here, but there is much more. Please request our free mini-studies going into greater depth into subjects such as: Old and New Covenant, faith, law, kingdom, and many others.)

To obtain a printout of the following mini-study go to page 22

**Mini - Study** 

## Is That in the Bible?

**W**hen I was a boy, my family belonged to a large church denomination. I went faithfully with them to church every Sunday. In Sunday school class we studied church history and church doctrines. We were not encouraged to go very deeply into the Scriptures, but were expected to be content with the accepted church literature and the 20-minute sermon each week. Yet, even at the young age of 12 there were questions that truly puzzled me. One that especially bothered me was this: how could the Savior be in the grave three days and three nights, as He promised in Matthew 12:40, if He were buried late Friday afternoon only to rise the following Sunday morning? I never was given a satisfactory answer.

My sister was contending with another problem. If Sunday is the Sabbath (Biblically the 7th), as the church taught, then why did her wall calendar show that Sunday is the first day of the week?

My parents had been struggling with these and other inconsistencies between what the denomination was teaching and what the Bible plainly said. They brought these questions to the minister at Wednesday night Bible studies. He no doubt was hoping they would stop raising all these discrepancies that he was having such a difficult time explaining.

We eventually left the church and finally found the answers to our questions after a long search and thorough study of the Scriptures.

Maybe you, too, are bothered by certain teachings that just don't harmonize with Scripture, or even contradict what you read in the Bible. No one you ask seems to have the answers. Your minister's best responses seem only half right and difficult to prove from the Word. You are left with nagging doubts.

Rest assured that you aren't alone. Many serious seekers of truth are wrestling with the same dilemma. Much of what is passed off as Scriptural is, in fact, a gradual development from centuries of human tradition and not what the Bible teaches at all. The Apostles, not to mention the Savior Himself, would be shocked to see how their clear statements have been twisted to fit false conclusions.

The "faith once delivered to the saints," spoken of in Jude 3, is quite different from what is preached today. Jude speaks of a small number returning to the true faith in these latter days. If the majority of churches had been teaching correct doctrine, then this prophetic verse would be unnecessary! Yet the Scripture says the true faith would be taught and established again just before the

# Antonyms

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## What are they?



Webster's dictionary defines antonyms as words with opposite meanings. Numerous examples can be found in everyday living. Hot and cold, rough and smooth, black and white, and fast and slow are but a few examples. The Scriptures also contain antonyms such as righteous and unrighteous, believer and unbeliever, and point and counterpoint.

Have you every found yourself in a tense situation and feel all stressed out? Then someone comes along and calms the situation. Tense situations can be snuffed out. The Scriptures tell us how it can be done.

### Strife And Accord

Webster defines strife as bitter or sometimes violent conflict or dissension, or to exert or to strive for superiority. There are three Hebrew words which are roots of words translated strive (Strong's numbers 7378, 1777 and 4683). These words generally mean to wrangle, to grapple, to hold a controversy, to judge, to strive and to quarrel. There are four Greek words translated strife (Strong's numbers 485, 2052, 2054 and 5379). The meanings of these words include contradiction, gainsaying, strife, contention, variance, dispute, and quarrel. It is easy to see that anyone who commits such actions would dictate that strife is an attribute of the unrighteous.

Webster also defines accord as to bring into agreement or to fit harmoniously. There is one Hebrew word translated accord (Strong's number 6310, from primitive root number 6284). Its basic meaning is to use the mouth to puff or blow away – scatter into corners. The two Greek words fit better as antonym to strife. Their meanings are co-spirited, similar in sentiment (Strong's number 4861) and unanimously, as with one mind (Strong's number 3661). Such actions would indicate that being in accord is an attribute of the righteous.

### Causes Of Strife

The Old Testament gives us a long list of characteristics of a person who cause strife by their actions. This list includes

hatred, wrath, rage, transgression, seeker of destruction, arrogance, pride, contention, greed, anger, ridicule, slander and heavy drinking.

We must take a look at each of these in order to learn what the Scriptures say about them and how we, who profess to follow Yahweh, can avoid exhibiting those negative characteristics.

### Hatred

*"Hatred stirreth up strifes,"* Prov. 10:12a. Here the word hatred is a translation of the Hebrew *sinah* (Strong's number 8135, from the primitive root number 8130, *sane*). Together they read to hate someone as if an enemy.

In Gen. 21:9-14 we read of Ishmael, Abraham's son by the bondwoman Hagar, mocking. Sarah overheard him and asked Abraham to have Hagar and Ishmael sent away. Abraham does this grievous act because Yahweh told him to send them away, verse 12.

This act is also referred to in Gal. 4:29,

*But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuteth him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.*

In Gal. 5:20 we read that hatred is one of the works of the flesh. The Greek word used is *echthra*, meaning to show hostility, enmity or hatred. By nature *"the carnal mind is enmity against Yahweh,"* Romans 8:7.

### Countering Hatred

We have read that showing hatred is a characteristic of the carnal mind. So how should one react to such a feeling exhibited by someone else? Prov. 10:12b tells us how: *"But love covereth all sins."* Showing love is an action opposite to that of showing hatred.

An example of showing love, where hatred might have been the natural response, is in the story of Joseph. Joseph was sold into Egyptian bondage by his brothers. When there was famine in the land of Canaan his brothers made a few trips to Egypt for food over the span of time. Even on the second trip the brothers still did not recognize Joseph.

When Joseph finally told his brothers who he was he showed love and not hatred as we read in Gen. 45:5,

*Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for Yahweh did send me before you to preserve life.*

Joseph followed Prov. 19: 11,

*The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.*

By Prov. 19:11 we can understand that there is much wisdom (discretion) not to retaliate hatred with similar feelings. By I Cor. 13:4 we read "Charity (love) suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up."

## Wrath Or Rage

*"A wrathful man stirreth up strife,"* Prov. 15:18a. Wrathful is a translation of the Hebrew *chema*, Strong's number 2534. It has a variety of meanings, all negative. Among them are anger, poison, hot displeasure, furious and indignation.

An example of anger is the story of why Cain slew Abel found in Gen. 4:3-8, *"And in the process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto Yahweh. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And Yahweh had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering He had not respect. And Cain was very wrath, and his countenance fell. And Yahweh said unto Cain, 'Why art thou wrath? And why is thy countenance fallen? If thou does well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.'* And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against his brother, and slew him."

Another example can be found in the New Testament, Matt. 18:23-35. This is a story of a king who forgave one of his servants a large debt. But, when a debtor to this servant could not pay his debt to the servant, this servant cast the debtor into prison until the debt was paid. When the king found

out the story of what happened is found in verses 32-34,

*Then his master, after that he had called him, said unto him, "O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pit on thee?" And his master was wrath, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.*

By these examples it can be said that when a person shows wrath bad things can happen. Sometimes the end result is what happens to a person who mistreats another while other times it is a bad action taken by the one who shows wrath.

## Countering Wrath

Most definitely, the showing of wrath is a characteristic of the unrighteous; it is listed as a work of the flesh, Gal. 5:20. So what can one do if such a feeling is felt? Prov. 15:18b tells us what should be done:

*But he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.*

A characteristic of the righteous would most definitely be not to let anger or wrath get the best of us and not allow it to come to fruition. The word appeaseth is a translation of the Hebrew *shaqat*, Strong's number 8252, which means to be at rest or quiet.

Slow to anger means longsuffering. II Cor. 6 tells us that as the servants of Yahweh we must be slow to anger (longsuffering), verses 4 and 6. Longsuffering is listed as a fruit of the Spirit, Gal. 5:22. Paul tells the people of Ephesus to be *"worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering..."* (Eph. 4:1 and 2) He tells the people of Colosseae the same thing in Col. 1:10 and 11. Paul writes to Timothy in II Tim. 3:10 that it was his lifestyle to be "longsuffering." Paul also tells Timothy to proclaim Yahweh's Word, in season and out of season, with longsuffering, II Tim. 4:2.

Yes, most assuredly, it is much better to be slow to anger, to be longsuffering. This is pointed out in

Prov. 16:32a, *"He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty."* This same thought is repeated in Prov. 14:29, *"He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding (discernment)."*

## Transgressions

A transgression is defined as an infringement or violation of the law. When one transgresses Yahweh's law one commits sin.

*Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law,* I John 3:4.

Prov. 17:19a tells us that one who loves to cause strife loves to transgress (rebel or revolt) against lawful authority. Sin is an aftermath of anyone who loves to cause strife.

*That they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of Yahweh,* Gal. 5:21.

## Countering Transgressions

How can one counter the act of transgressing Yahweh's law? With the carnal mind that man has that is not possible. We need the help of Yahweh's Spirit to indwell in us so that His Spirit will lead us down that straight and narrow path which leads to everlasting life. It is not possible for us, by ourselves, to defeat satan. We must rely on the promises written in His Word. If we follow in the footsteps of Yahshua then we will be able to tell satan, as Yahshua did: "get thee behind me satan," Matt. 16:23, Mark 8:33 and Luke 4:8.

## Contention

Webster defines contention as an act or instance of contending. Webster further defines the verb *to contend* as striving in debate or to argue. A synonym for contention is discord. Putting them together it is easy to see that a person who is contentious loves to argue and cause discord through such actions.

The Scriptures, in Prov. 26:21, says *"As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife."* Contentious is a translation of the Hebrew *mardown* (Strong's number 4066) and means

quarrelsome, brawling, contentious, discord or strife.

The Scriptures are very clear as to how a contentious person is viewed:

*But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteous, indignation, and wrath, tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile,*” Rom. 2:8 and 9.

Titus 3:9 is also very clear in that we are to

*Avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.*

A froward man is one who is habitually disposed to disobedience and opposition (loves to argue, debate). Prov. 16:28 says that such a person sows strife:

*A froward man soweth (sendeth forth) strife.*

A contentious person does not belong in the body of the Messiah. I Cor. 11:16 verifies this:

*But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no custom, neither the assemblies of Yahweh.*

One should easily see that contention is an attribute of the unrighteous.

## Countering Contention

It is possible that each of us at some time in our lives have met a person who loves to argue. Sometimes it seems they argue just for the sake of arguing. But what can be done when one is confronted by such a person? The Scriptures are quite clear.

Prov. 17:14 gives us the answer to the above question: *“The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water: Therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.”*

The following is from the Jamieson, Fausset, Brown Commentary on this verse:

The first half of this verse is explained “as when, in a dam or mound raised to oppose a flood or the sea, there is ever so small an aperture, the water passing through is sure to make it larger and larger, until with one

mighty volume of water the whole embankment is swept.”

The second half of this verse is explained “leave off, instead of eagerly discussing most minute offences, and devising means of retaliation, with a pertinacious determination to conquer. ‘It is easier to abstain from a contest than to withdraw from it’ (Seneca). Oppose beginnings. ‘The mother of mischief is no bigger than a midge’s wing.’ Strife is compared to the two most merciless elements, *fire* and *water*.”

While wood is fuel for a fire, removing the wood will cause the fire to go out.

*Where no wood is there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth,* Prov. 26:20.

What we read here is that one must not argue with a contentious person because the argument will only gather greater volume, much to the satisfaction of the contentious person and to the dismay of the other person.

## Greed

*“He that is of a greedy spirit stirreth up strife,”* Prov. 28:25a RV. The KJV says “proud heart.” Webster defines proud as displaying excessive self-esteem. A synonym for proud is arrogant. Prov. 29:23a tells us what will happened to a person with pride: *“A man’s pride shall bring him low.”* Examples of this are Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:5,6) along with the fallen angels (2 Pet. 2:4).

Prov. 15:27a tells us *“He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house.”* This verse is self-explanatory in that a house ruled by a greedy or arrogant person will have problems.

Eph. 4:17-19 tells us of the greediness of the unrighteous:

*This I say therefore, and testify in the Messiah, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of Yahweh through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: who being past feeling have*

*given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*

*My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: for their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood. Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird. And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives. So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof,* Prov. 1:15-19.

It should now be easy to follow what a greedy person can cause and that uncleanness and lasciviousness are listed as works of the flesh in Gal. 5:19.

## Countering Greed

The Scriptures are very clear as to what one must do relative to greed. It can be found in Prov. 1:15 and in context reads *“My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path.”*

## Anger

Anger follows a pattern similar to that of wrath and rage. Specifically, Prov. 29:22 says *“An angry man stirreth up strife.”* Strife is a translation of the Hebrew ‘aph (Strong’s number 639) can also be translated *ire*. Whatever can be said for wrath and rage can also be repeated here, along with Prov. 14:17a, *“He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly.”*

## Countering Anger

Does anyone really like to be around someone who exhibits wrath, rage or anger? No. The Scriptures reverberates this. *“Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul,”* Prov. 22:24-25.

## Conquering Strife

Gen. 13 tells of the story of Abram and Lot leaving Egypt and traveling toward Jordan. When they reach Jordan a controversy (strife) came between the

herdsmen of Abram and the herdsman of Lot. It seems that the land could not support the two of them, along with their substance (cattle), for each was rich in cattle. Did they go to war to see who got what land? No. Abram had Lot choose either the land to the east or the land to the west. Whichever land Lot chose Abram went the other direction.

*And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between thee and me, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we are brethren,* Gen 13:8.

Abram exemplifies Prov. 20:3a,  
*It is an honour for a man to cease from strife.*

Strife destroys peace and happiness amongst friends and family members. Its unpleasant and repelling effect on other persons is repeatedly highlighted in the book of Proverbs:

*A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping,* Prov. 19:13.

On this verse Jamieson, Fausset and Brown's commentary says "A man cannot escape his wife, however contentious she may be. 'Continual' (literally *pushing*) means one drop pushing on another continually. How much need, therefore, marrying men have to use care and prayer in the choice of a good wife." This is because Prov. 19:14b says "a prudent wife is from Yahweh."

*A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike,* Prov. 27:15.

*It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a brawling woman in a wide house,* Prov. 21:9.

*It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman,* Prov. 21:19.

*It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house,* Prov. 25:24.

If we ever find ourselves in a situation that could cause strife, one must step back and consider the situation. There is no disgrace to walk away from a heated situation. *"It is an honour for a man to cease from strife,"* Prov. 20:3. James 3:14-16 is clear as to what might happen if one does not walk away from such situations,

*But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.*

Again, Prov. 15:18b is quite clear as to what one can do to alleviate stress,

*But he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.*

To appease means to cause to subside, to pacify or conciliate.

## Conclusion

Strife and accord is a pair of antonyms. One is said to produce controversy and the other harmony. The Scriptures are more than clear that one must not cause any stressful situation nor let strife be one of our characteristics.

*Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying,* Romans 13:13.

Elder Roger G. Meyer

To obtain a printout of the following mini-study see note on this page

**Mini - Study**

**BAPTISM'S DEEPER MEANING**

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

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

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

**BAPTISM IN THE ONLY NAME**

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

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**Mini - Study**

**Why Be Baptized Into the Name of Yahshua?**

*Is baptism just an initiation into a church, or is it truly important for salvation? Did you know that there is a proper method for it, and Name into which you must be baptized?*

The New Testament's basic message to mankind is that our salvation is anchored to Yahshua the Messiah, the One Yahweh sent to earth for a living example and the One Who died for the sins of the world. He became the Author of eternal salvation to all that obey Him, Hebrews. 5:9.

In Acts 10:48 we read, "And he commanded them to be baptized into the name of Yahshua," HNB. Some have rejected that simple command to be baptized into the saving Name of Yahshua, much as Naaman refused the prophet's command to dip in the Jordan River to be healed of leprosy. Naaman argued in his rebellion that other foreign rivers are just as good, 2Kings 5:1-14.

At times those claiming humbly to follow the Bible have "reasoned" as did Naaman initially that it is neither necessary nor logical to be immersed into Yahshua's Name when they already have been baptized in the name of "Jesus" or perhaps in the titles of Father, Son and Holy Ghost years ago while in the churches. But titles are not names. We find no power or promises in titles.



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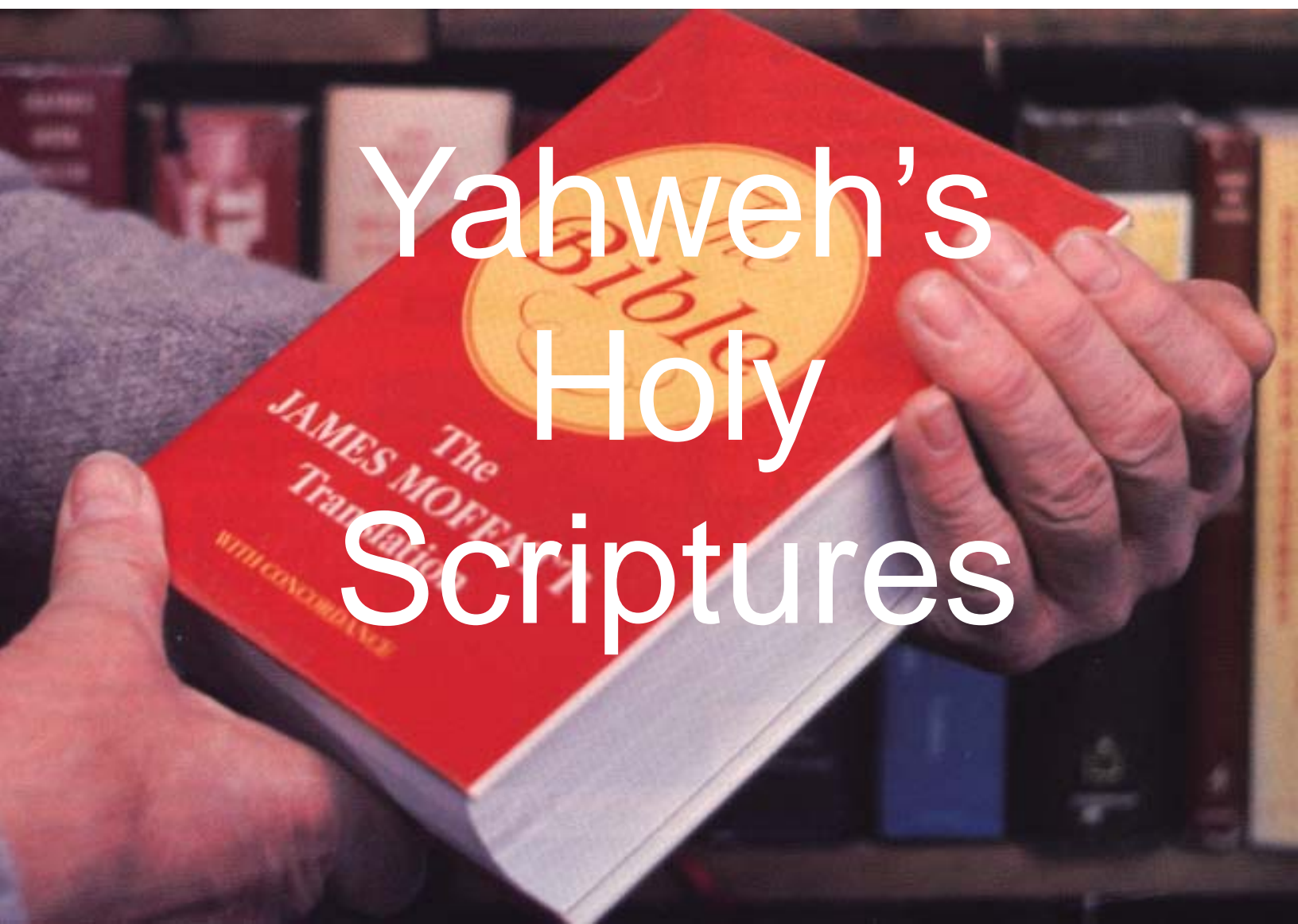
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