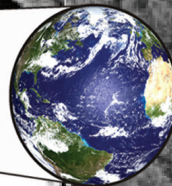


YAIY



Beacon



May-June 2011 - Spreading the Word throughout the world - yaiy.org



Holocaust Monument



YAIY **Beacon**



Volume 5
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Number 3
MISSION
STATEMENT



Yahshua Came to Restore 3
by Elder John Fisher



Wilderness Complaints 8
by Elder David Brett



Pentecost 16
by Elder Roger G. Meyer



Lesson and Truths From the Past 20
Idolatry and the Thriving Worship of Images Today
by Elder Ralph Henrie (deceased)

Revealing the Truth TV Broadcast Schedule 23

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

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

This magazine is sent free of charge, made possible through the tithes and offerings of those who desire to see the light of truth shine in our day.
© 2011 Yahweh's Assembly in Yahshua

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



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



Fax:
1-573-642-4104



Email:
beacon@yaiy.org



Internet:
www.yaiy.org

Cover: Courtesy of dreamstime.com

Yahshua Came to Restore

This article is about one important verse of Scripture ... actually, one word in that verse ... a word so significant that its misinterpretation essentially led to the Holocaust. The misinterpretation continues to this day. Here is the verse:

Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill, Matthew 5:17.

What Yahshua “Fulfilled”

And, here is the word: Fulfill. The Greek word *plerosai* translated “fulfill” here has many definitions: to make replete (that is, to fill up), to supply, imbue, diffuse, influence, satisfy and to verify or validate.

Yahshua came to fulfill the Law of Yahweh and what the Prophets of Yahweh said about Messiah Yahshua. “To fulfill” here does NOT mean, as many have interpreted it, “To put an end to the Law and the Prophets.” To think of it this way is simply evidence of false doctrinal programming; for, doesn’t the phrase to PUT AN END TO something mean to DESTROY something? Now, to see what I am asserting, simply insert this false doctrine into Matthew 5:17 - “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to destroy.”

No! I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. I did not come to destroy but to destroy? This is what is being taught out there, that Yahshua came to fulfill the Law of Yahweh – so that WE DON’T HAVE TO. Don’t have to ... what? OBEY! Really? This doctrine of the “blind leading the blind” is perpetuated by two oftentimes quoted phrases, “The Law is Dead” (meaning, “It is destroyed”), and “The Law was nailed to the cross.” What are they REALLY saying? That, “the Law was nailed to the cross and is as dead as our Christ.” No. The Law was NOT nailed to the tree ... what was nailed to the tree were the infractions we earned by disobedience TO the Law! Without the Law there is no sin. People will confess they are sinners. How can this be if the Law is dead? It is a circular argument that is explained away by saying “It’s a mystery.” It is NOT a mystery. The Law is alive,

and it still applies to all mankind. Yahshua OBEYED His Father; so, now, we don’t have to obey?! Yahshua says, “Abide in Me,” “Follow Me,” and “If you love Me, obey My commandments.”

Whose Commandments?

Yahshua said in John 5:37,

And the Father Himself, which hath sent Me, hath borne witness of Me. Ye have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His shape.

Well, then WHO was speaking to Adam, Noah or Moses? Who, exactly, spoke to the Prophets? Who speaks to YOU? It is Yahshua! So, which commandments was He referring to when He used the phrase, “Obey My commandments”? I submit to you that He was referring to everything written in the Torah, the Prophets and the Writings. He is the Angel, the Messenger, of Yahweh, who spoke to Moses in the burning bush and elsewhere. He is the Messenger who calls us out, according to the will of His Father, the Almighty Yahweh.

To understand what Yahshua is truly saying in Matthew 5:17, we need to know what the opposite of “destroy” is, because it’s absolutely clear that He is referring to its antithesis. Does this make sense? Listen to the heart of Yahshua. “I did not come to judge, I came to forgive.” “I did not come to be served, I came to serve.” “I did not come to change My Father’s Will, I came to restore My Father’s Will.” The thesaurus defines the antonym of “destroy” as “build.” To “destroy” means to tear down. The opposite is to “build up.” To build up also means to “put together,” to “assemble” and to “encourage.” What was Yahshua’s purpose in His first appearance? To put together the two houses of Israel, the “stick” of Judah and the “stick” of Ephraim, to create an assembly, with Him as High Priest, to honor Yahweh and to strengthen this Body of Believers.

Purpose of Laws

In the same manner that the laws of this land, the civil and criminal statutes, are designed to protect and prosper the innocent, so, too, are the Laws,

commandments, statutes, judgments and ordinances of Yahweh designed to protect and prosper the innocent. Who are the innocent? They are those who obey these laws – these instructions – and understand the strengths, blessings, freedoms afforded them. They are those who are “not under” the Law. In this world, who is under the law? Well, that’s why we have prisons. This is what Paul was trying to teach in Galatians 5:18,

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

So, I ask you, if you are led by the Spirit, will you transgress the Law of Yahweh? Yahweh forbid!

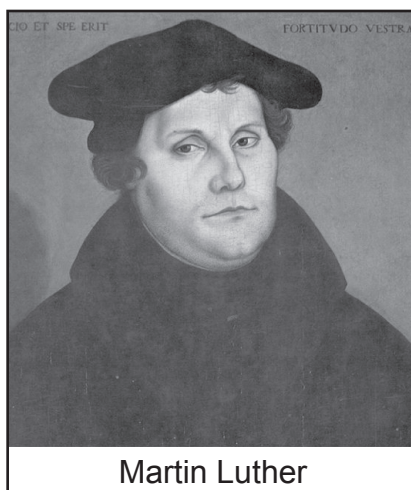
Law Stands Forever

We should all be familiar with Matthew 5:17 for a number of reasons. Primarily, we should understand that out of Yahshua’s mouth comes the indisputable and undisputable, irrefutable and conclusive proclamation that the Law (that is, the Instruction of Yahweh) is forever! We shall see that this proclamation was foretold by Yahweh, through Moses, in the Torah.

What Yahshua fulfilled was not simply the Law of Yahweh – He fulfilled the WILL of Yahweh, showing us how we, too, must fulfill Yahweh’s Will. The Law is forever. Yahshua fulfilled the sacrifice of animals. He has also fulfilled Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Sheafwave Offering and Pentecost. He has yet to fulfill the day of Trumpets, the day of Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day. He will return to the blast of the Trumpet of Yahweh. He will gather Israel from out of all peoples. He will lead the worshippers of Yahweh into the Kingdom of Yahweh. And He will put an end to all evil, forever. Everything has not yet been fulfilled.

Misleading Version

In the Bible version I quoted above, the title given to the section



that begins with Matthew 5:17 is this, “Christ Fulfills the Law.” This is a deceptive, ambiguous phrase that is used by the editors of the Bible to teach their doctrine that “The Law has been Fulfilled – and remains fulfilled” – in short, that the Law of Yahweh is dead. The truth is that the Messiah showed us 2,000 years ago how we are to fulfill the Law of Yahweh now. This is yet another important reason for us to clearly understand what Yahshua is telling us here.

Now, notice, also, that the subject of this section title is not “Messiah,” but “Christ,” the Greek and Latin alternative title, used to avoid referencing anything Hebrew or Jewish. We cannot ignore that the “Universal Church’s Christ” bears a stronger resemblance to the pantheon of Greek and Latin sun deities than to the description of the Hebrew Messiah written in the Scriptures. Who, but a pagan deity would be assigned the same birth date as Mythra, Zeus, Tammuz and others on the fourth day after the winter solstices (December 21)? Who, but a pagan deity would be determined to have been raised from the grave on a day dedicated to the goddess of fertility, Ishtar, or Easter, at sun rise; and who, but a pagan deity, would be worshipped on the “venerable day of the sun”?

Have those who seek to know Yahweh and His Son, Yahshua, set

aside the false doctrines of this Universal religion? In truth, yes, some have, but the vast majority remain entrenched in the subtle – and obvious – hatred of anything Hebrew, in large part due to historical writings of so-called “holy men” and “scholars” to perpetuate hatred for anything “Jewish.” Truly, we have inherited lies from our fathers.

Martin Luther, the Great Reformer?

It may surprise you to know that Martin Luther, the so-called “Great Reformer,” was one of those writers who perpetuated (nay, advanced) anti-semitism. Certainly, Luther interpreted the word “fulfill” in Matthew 5:17 to mean “put an end to” the Law and the Prophets. He believed with passion that the “Christ” came to put an end to Israel and anything associated with Israel, including their Law. He published a pamphlet entitled, *On the Jews and Their Lies*. I want to quote a few excerpts from his writings (excluding the more vile and reprehensible excerpts), not to belabor his obvious anti-Semitic values, nor his rebellion against certain principles of the Roman Catholic Church for which he is primarily known, but to emphasize how his notoriety has influenced Protestantism against anything resembling Jewishness or Hebraic, and, perhaps more importantly, how his prejudice has taken people away from Scripture itself.

Martin Luther seems to completely lack the understanding that Yahweh will “save all Israel,” that He will “raise up a Savior for Israel,” that “through the Messiah [we] have been brought near to the Commonwealth of Israel” and that Yahweh will restore the House of Judah and the House of Israel (Ephraim) to Himself. As it turns out, Luther is NOT a great reformer, but rather, and this out of his own mouth, a great Destroyer. Listen to his words, in quotes:



Synagogues being burned down



Jewish religious books being burned

The Great Destroyer

“Therefore a Christian should be content and not argue with the Jews. But if you have to, or want to talk with them, do not say any more than this: “Listen, Jew, are you aware that Jerusalem and your sovereignty, together with your temple and priesthood, have been destroyed for over 1,460 years? For this year, which we Christians write as the year 1542 since the birth of Christ, is exactly 1,468 years, going on fifteen hundred years, since Vespasian and Titus destroyed Jerusalem and expelled the Jews from the city. Let the Jews bite on this nut and dispute this question as long as they wish.” (Emphasis is mine throughout.)

Notice that he is proclaiming destruction upon Jerusalem, the sovereignty of Israel (whom he refers to as the “Jews”), the temple (the House of Yahweh) and the Levitical priesthood.

“For such ruthless wrath of God is sufficient evidence that they assuredly have erred and gone astray. Even a child can comprehend this. For one dare not regard God as so cruel that He would punish His own people so long, so terribly, so unmercifully, and in addition keep silent, comforting them neither with words nor with deeds, and fixing no time limit and no end to it. Who would have faith, hope, or love toward such a God? Therefore this work of wrath is proof that the

Jews, surely rejected by God, are no longer His people, and neither is He any longer their God. This is in accord with Hosea 1:9 RSV, ‘Call His name Not My people, for you are not My people and I am not your God.’ Yes, unfortunately, this is their lot, truly a terrible one. They may interpret this as they will; we see the facts before our eyes, and these do not deceive us.”

Now, I have to step in here, because Luther is clearly performing “proof texting.” It’s the same as the old adage, “Statistics never lie ... but liars use statistics.” Scripture never lies, but liars use the Bible to advance their own doctrines of demons. Luther is either incredibly naïve or a boldface liar. If he had but read the verses preceeding or following verse nine, he would have known, first of all, that these passages are NOT about the “Jews,” the House of Judah. Yahweh, through Hosea, is speaking to the House of Israel, the ten tribes. Yahweh divorced the House of Israel, but He did not divorce the House of Judah. Guess what the verses after Hosea 1:9 say.

Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, “You are not My people,” there it shall be said to them, “You are sons of the living Elohim.” Then the children of Judah and the chil-

dren of Israel shall be gathered together, and appoint for themselves one head; and they shall come up out of the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel! (Hosea 1:10-11)

How can any man, much less a reputed scholar, make such errant, foolish and abominable accusations! One wonders if he has even read the Scripture. Certainly, he does not understand the Bible – can anyone who makes such a claim indeed have the Spirit of Yahweh in him? Many pastors and priests today say that Israel is no longer Yahweh’s people, or “We are no longer of the dispensation of the Law but of the dispensation of grace.” If they do, they are following the anti-Israel, anti-Yahweh and anti-Messiah doctrine of Satan. Let’s continue reading Luther’s pamphlet:

“Accordingly, it must ... not be considered a trifling matter but a most serious one to seek counsel ... to save our souls from the Jews, that is, from the devil and from eternal death. My advice, as I said earlier, is: First, that their synagogues be burned down, and that all who are able, toss sulphur and pitch; it would be good if someone could also throw in some hellfire ... Second, that all their books – their prayer books, their Talmudic writings, also the entire Bible – be taken from them, not leaving them one leaf, and that these be preserved for those who may be converted



Jews died because they praised and gave thanks to Yahweh

... Third, that they be forbidden on pain of death to praise God, to give thanks, to pray, and to teach publicly among us and in our country ... Fourth, that they be forbidden to utter the name of God within our hearing. For we cannot with a good conscience listen to this or tolerate it ...”

Notice that Luther has reduced “the Jews” to devils who lead people to eternal death. He further advocates burning their houses of worship, forbidding free speech, taking away their literature until they submit to the doctrines of a religion contrary to their own, issuing threats of execution, and even denying citizenship. Now, WHO IN THE WORLD WOULD ACTUALLY CARRY OUT LUTHER’S PROCLAMATIONS? I hope you don’t have to search for an answer – it should be obvious. Luther ends his pamphlet with these incomprehensible, if not confusing, words:

“The merciless punishment of the wicked is not being carried out just to punish the wicked and make them atone for the evil desires that are in their blood, but to protect the righteous and to maintain peace and safety. And beyond all doubt, these are precious works of mercy, love, and kindness.”

Luther refers to the Jews as being naturally wicked (it’s “in their blood”), and he advocates “punish-

ment without mercy.” Now, what is punishment without mercy ... but death? Are you beginning to understand the perverse rationalization he is using to advocate killing “the Jews”? But, it gets worse. THEN, Luther proclaims that these works, i.e., destruction, abuse and murder, are “precious works of mercy, love, and kindness!” Notice that he describes “merciless punishment” as “works of ... mercy!” As a licensed mental health professional, I have case-managed people who are clinically sadistic and antisocial, and if you were to associate with these individuals, without their medications and unconfined, your life and well-being would be at risk. Luther was not simply sadistic and antisocial. He may be, in my opinion, psychopathic, currently being considered as a separate diagnosis for individuals who cannot be treated with medication or psychotherapy, could not ethically be released into the general population, and informally defined as “intraspecies predators.” (Note that Hitler was such an “intraspecies predator.” He would not eat meat and would hide his eyes from a movie depicting cruelty to animals. He also enacted the most stringent animal protection laws to date.)

I ask you, “How twisted and perverse can an individual like Martin Luther be to use his notoriety to in-

fluence others to violate the Word of Yahweh, judging one’s fellow man and condemning people to death because of their religious beliefs?”

Usury

Additionally, Martin Luther condemned the Jews for their ability to make money by usury. Truth known, it is written in the Torah and in the New Testament that Israel is allowed to charge interest to those outside the faith. Hear this clearly: no one forces an individual to take out a loan, knowing that there is a fee for such service. Ultimately, “the Jews,” or anyone of Israel, is within the bounds of the Law by lending money at interest to those outside the faith, while those who borrow money at interest could easily be accused of foolishly wasting the “talent” given to them.

To a foreigner you may charge interest [usury], but to your brother you shall not charge interest, that Yahweh your Elohim may bless you in all to which you set your hand in the land which you are entering to possess, Deuteronomy 23:20.

In the parable of the talents, especially for the one who received one talent, Yahshua teaches us a hard lesson of what we are to do with the gifts we are given and written for us in Matthew 25:26-27:

But his master answered and said to him, “You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest [usury].”

Vengeance is Yahweh’s (Romans 12:19)

Is killing Jews to avenge the death of the Messiah correct?

Luther goes so far as to proclaim: “We are at fault in not slaying them, for avenging the death of

Jesus Christ.”

In an article by Jim Walker entitled, *Martin Luther's Dirty Little Book*, he writes:

“Daniel Jonah Goldhagen wrote a book entitled, ‘Hitler’s Willing Executioners,’ and in the foreword to the volume, he applauded the burning of the synagogues and the coincidence of the day: ‘On November 10, 1938, on Luther’s birthday, the synagogues are burning in Germany.’ The German people, he urged, ought to heed these words of the greatest anti-Semite of his time, the warner of his people against the Jews.

“In *Mein Kampf*, Hitler listed Martin Luther as one of the greatest reformers. And similar to Luther in the 1500s, Hitler spoke against the Jews. The Nazi plan to create a German Reich Church laid its bases on the ‘Spirit of Dr. Martin Luther.’ The first physical violence against the Jews came on November 9-10 on Kristallnacht (Crystal Night) where the Nazis killed Jews, shattered glass windows, and destroyed hundreds of synagogues, just as Luther had proposed.”

Is it a coincidence that Kristallnacht occurred on Martin Luther’s birthday? No, I think not. Rather, I suggest that this was the planned beginning of the Holocaust ... and, that it was done on this day specifically to honor Martin Luther.

Now, back to Matthew.

I Came to Restore

In Matthew 5:17 NKJV, it is written,

Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to restore.

Yahweh Eloheka [Eloheka means “your El,” or “your Mighty One”] will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear [and obey], according to all you desired of Yahweh Eloheka in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, “Let me not hear again the



Continued persecution of the Jews

voice of Yahweh Eloheka, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.” And Yahweh said to me: “What they have spoken is good. I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him,” Deuteronomy 18:15-19 NKJV.

Philip found Nathanael and said to him,

“We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Yahshua of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” And Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” Yahshua saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!” (John 1:45-47 NKJV)

Yahweh will raise up a Prophet like Moses, who spoke face-to-face to Elohim.

So Yahweh spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle. Then Moses said to Yahweh, “See, You say to me, ‘Bring up

this people.’ But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.’ Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people.” And He said, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest,” Exodus 33:11-14.

Moses wanted to see the Way of Yahweh, because he wanted to KNOW Yahweh.

Yahshua answered, “If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father Who honors Me, of Whom you say that He is your Elohim. Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, ‘I do not know Him,’ I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” Yahshua said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM,” John 8:54-58.

Thomas said to Him, “Master, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the

<see **Restore** page 15>



Sinai Wilderness

Wilderness Complaints

Lessons and Applications

Note: NASB used throughout

Ten times Israel tested Yahweh. They sinned because they did not listen to His voice, His word, or His commandments. We're going to apply some lessons for our own day and see the applications for our own lives. We're going to do this based upon the ten times Israel tested Yahweh.

It's interesting to note that survivalists sometimes point out that what is needed the most to survive in the wilderness is not just fire, shelter, water and food, but also a positive attitude. This is something the majority of Israel lacked, even though they saw firsthand the power of the Almighty in their midst.

What Yahweh told them is a warning for all of us today. He said,

Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet have put Me to the test these ten times and have not listened to My voice, shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it, Numbers 14:22–23.

Stand Still

At the Red Sea, Israel was brought to a point when it looked like there was no hope. In fear they regretted their decision to leave Egypt and pointed backward, not forward.

Then they said to Moses, "Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us in this way, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness," Exodus 14:11-12.

Even with this complaint they were blessed and escaped from any harm even though the enemy pur-

sued them. Notice the positive confidence that Moses had which he expressed to the people, and Yahweh's simple command to move forward.

Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of Yahweh which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. 'Yahweh will fight for you while you keep silent.' Then Yahweh said to Moses, 'Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the sons of Israel to go forward,'" Exodus 14:13–15.

What are the lessons and applications for us today? Do we get unsettled because of problems that arise within our lives? Does it ever feel like we're under attack? Do we struggle with family, work issues or something else? We're not to worry about the situation.

In other words, we're not to lose hope. Realize, especially, if you're newly baptized or seeking to be baptized in Yahshua's name, that the enemy (Satan) has you in his sights (in the crosshairs). Keep moving forward and Yahweh will help you, if you seek His help.

In general, Satan would like to destroy the whole assembly and have it crumble into nothingness. Yahweh is not going to allow that to happen. Yahshua Himself has promised the gates of Hades will not overpower us. Satan cannot overpower you, especially, if you have Yahweh's Spirit within, because the power of Yahweh's Spirit in you is stronger than Satan's spirit.

This is why we don't need to worry. Move forward, don't give up. Look past the problems and focus on the future. Pull up your bootstraps, soldier! Man your position and stand fast! Be courageous! Yahweh promises not to forsake us nor leave us.

A weight lifter will have a spotter; Yahweh is that spotter. He is allowing certain things in our lives to help us to grow spiritually. It is a sure thing, too, that

He'll sometimes test us, to see if we will trust Him as the Spotter in our lives.

Bitter Waters

One of the first things a survivalist will tell you is that we cannot live very long without water. This is something the Israelites must have known, especially in the dry barren desert area that they were in. From the Red Sea where they had been, they now came to an area called Marah after being without water for three days.

Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. When they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter; therefore it was named Marah. So the people grumbled at Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" Then he cried out to Yahweh, and Yahweh showed him a tree; and he threw it into the waters, and the waters became sweet. There He made for them a statute and regulation, and there He tested them. And He said, "If you will give earnest heed to the voice of Yahweh your Elohim, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, Yahweh, am your Healer," Exodus 15:22-26.

In all of these situations, the people grumbled and basically didn't trust Yahweh. If they had, they would have acknowledged His will for their lives and trusted Him so their needs would be met. Indeed, even though they complained and didn't show trust to-

ward Him, but rather tested Him, they were nevertheless blessed again and again.

The bitter water was made sweet, and they were able to be refreshed at Elim (pronounced Eelim) with date trees.

Then they came to Elim where there were twelve springs of water and seventy date palms, and they camped there beside the waters, Exodus 15:27.

Though Yahweh is longsuffering, we know the end from the beginning, as the Exodus (that is, leaving Egypt) account is not new to us. If we think of the parallel of us today, coming out of a symbolic Egypt (the world), compared to them coming out of physical Egypt, we'll gain a much deeper appreciation and understanding of what is happening to those who are called out by Yahweh today.

Not Always Easy

Do we sometimes feel exhausted and distraught, not knowing when relief will come? Do we feel like giving up when our expectation

sometimes turns out to be more of a burden for us than the relief we had hoped for?

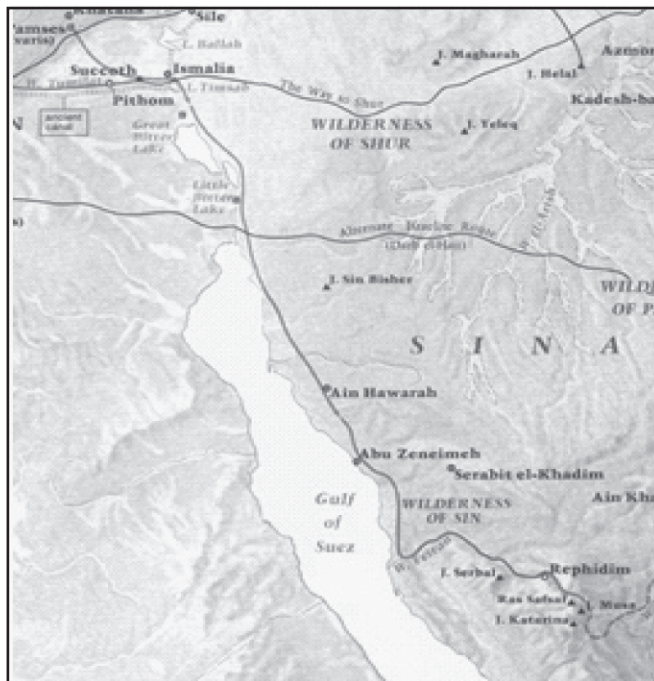
For example, you get your motor fixed in the car, but then the transmission goes out. Or, you get a job that turns out to be worse than the previous one you left. You get sick, but rather than getting better you get worse.

The test in the Exodus for the people, though, was to obey Yahweh's word. Has anything changed? It's a test for us, too, especially knowing that we have to strive to do better than just keeping Sabbath holy or not stealing, but also the weightier matters as well (justice, mercy, faithfulness).

To Extend your hand to help someone in need; to being the good Samaritan. To love in action, while being obedient to the law. It's not easy at times, but guaranteed it is a process of growth that we have to go through. Does Yahweh promise to help us? Yes, He is still spotting us, protecting us, healing us at times, and not allowing us to go through more than we can handle.

There is a man who was born without arms and without legs, a thalidomide baby who was born into this world. Today, he preaches the best he can about overcoming tragedy and difficulties in life that we all face. He sees the hope that someday he will be made whole, by a loving and merciful Father.

He realizes that any trial and trouble that we face today will not always be with us. His own situation and good attitude in life shames a lot of people as they see that their own problems are nowhere near the magnitude or scope that this individual has lived his whole life in. Though



Depicts the path the Israelites took in the Wilderness of Sin at the time of the Exodus

thirsty, we are promised that our thirst will be quenched.

Further from Marah, the Israelites found themselves in an area called the Wilderness of Sin (ciyn), in which they tested Yahweh a third time. Though Israel's thirst was satisfied they found reason to grumble because of their hunger.

Then they set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the sons of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departure from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The sons of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by Yahweh's hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then Yahweh said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction," Exodus 16:1-4.

This time Yahweh had blessed them with something they had not seen before, with manna from heaven. They said, "What is it?" (manna), "because they had never seen it before." It seems that Yahweh wanted to get their attention, and to look up, rather than down, as they had the tendency to do.

Stop Complaining

If we haven't already gotten the message, it's the following: "Don't complain, because we will be provided for." This is a trial; we are being tested. Yahweh is giving instruction to Israel and they are expected to follow it. We are given instruction, both by Yahweh's word and by His Spirit. We are not to ignore them, but rather rely on them. We don't always understand, but

we are not to rely on our own understanding.

Are you having difficulty with a spouse or an employer? Are you growing resentful because of his or her treatment of you? Be an example of love to them; let them see how the Messiah acts and reacts in such situations. Put your best foot forward, not a condescending kick toward them, but a sincere attitude of cooperation and love.

Ask yourself, what would Yahshua do? He was peaceful, kind, gentle, at times kept His peace. He didn't show His disgust all the time for the foolishness of others. And we are all foolish at times; and we sometimes even hurt those that we love. We need forgiveness just as much as we need to extend forgiveness to others.

As we progress into the wilderness complaints, we see a fourth time of testing Yahweh. It came with the disobedience concerning the manna and instructions thereof. Those that didn't listen to Moses had worms and stench to deal with.

This is what Yahweh has commanded, "Gather of it every man as much as he should eat; you shall

take an omer apiece according to the number of persons each of you has in his tent." The sons of Israel did so, and some gathered much and some little. When they measured it with an omer, he who had gathered much had no excess, and he who had gathered little had no lack; every man gathered as much as he should eat. Moses said to them, "Let no man leave any of it until morning." But they did not listen to Moses, and some left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and became foul; and Moses was angry with them, Exodus 16:16-20.

Even with this, there were blessings. However, this time Yahweh specifically blessed those who obeyed. Those that obeyed did not have worms and stench to deal with. It's a cause and effect many times when Yahweh instructs us how to live.

Don't we suffer the consequences of our own actions? Are there lessons to be learned, like, don't do what is wrong? Isn't it Yahweh who decides what is right and what is wrong? Why would we ignore His commandments then? In this section of Scripture we see a distinction of those that obey compared to those who don't. Isn't that a lesson for us?

Is Yahweh holy?

Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, "You shall be holy, for I Yahweh your Elohim am holy. Every one of you shall reverence his mother and his father, and you shall keep My sabbaths; I am Yahweh your Elohim," Leviticus 19:2-3.

Yahweh says be holy and then shows we are to follow His word, given from His Spirit.

In Spirit and Word

We'll want to recognize the correct Spirit within us, and not push past it to do our own will, which would be against His word. We have a conscience, unless we sear



it. We have Yahweh's Spirit, active in our lives, unless we quench it. For those baptized in Yahshua, Yahweh has given a portion of His Spirit, a heart to follow Yahweh, and spiritual eyes to see.

Israel of the past did not have the Spirit within them as Yahweh's people do today. In thinking about being sensitive to Yahweh's Spirit, we have to realize there are deceiving spirits in the world. What do deceiving spirits do? They go out to deceive people. How do we discern a deceiving spirit? By testing it against Yahweh's word.

The parable of the wheat and tares says when the wheat becomes evident then the tares will show up also. While seeing a resurgence of truth in the times we live in, do we also see an increase of doctrines of demons?

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, 1 Timothy 4:1.

Do we hear of any strange doctrines today? Any that you've heard? They are out there, and I'm not talking about the obvious ones, such as the so-called Sunday Sabbath, Trinity, and Pre-trib Rapture.

There are those today, for example, teaching Paul was a heretic and that his word cannot be trusted. They have basically thrown most of the New Testament out. We've seen people do this before and it isn't too long before they throw the whole New Testament out and go straight into Judaism with its many traditions.

Deceitful spirits and false doctrines lead to more doubt and more trouble. Remember how Satan influenced Adam and Eve by causing doubt. He said, "Indeed, has Elohim said?" Doubt can cause us to lose the battle, but if we submit to Yahweh's Spirit and His holy word, then we will not lose. Eternal life is for those that overcome by doing His will.

7th Day Sabbath

The fifth time Israel tested Yahweh was concerning the Sabbath. It's interesting to note that it was at this juncture we find Yahweh getting angry. Yahweh is a jealous El we read in Scripture, and it looks as though He is jealous for His Sabbath. He wants His holy people to keep the 7th day holy.

Now on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one. When all the leaders of the congregation came and told Moses, then he said to them, "This is what Yahweh meant: Tomorrow is a Sabbath observance, a holy Sabbath to Yahweh. Bake what you will bake and boil what you will boil, and all that is left over put aside to be kept until morning." So they put it aside until morning, as Moses had ordered, and it did

not become foul nor was there any worm in it. Moses said, "Eat it today, for today is a Sabbath to Yahweh; today you will not find it in the field. Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none. It came about on the seventh day that some of the people went out to gather, but they found none. Then Yahweh said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My instructions? See, Yahweh has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you bread for two days on the sixth day. Remain every man in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day." So the people rested on the seventh day, Exodus 16:22-30.

We notice that there was a blessing of a double portion on the 6th day, so they could keep the Sabbath. This same principle of blessing exists in the Sabbaticals as well, with crops yielding more in the sixth year.

In thinking about the manna portions provided on the sixth day, and how Israel went out on the Sabbath looking for more, do we ever think Yahweh doesn't give us our fair share?

Our Fair Share

We know that there are people starving in the world with the kind of starvation that causes you to put the fist of your hand up into the stomach to try and stop the starvation pain of hunger and thirst. It has been related by some who survived the holocaust, that this was exactly what they had to do.

Some use this area of Exodus chapter 16 to show that we are not to go out of our dwellings on the Sabbath, but this was a unique situation that required unique steps at that specific time. Because they could not follow simple steps, they were given more restrictions to prevent them from sinning. It's like Nehemiah telling the people to keep the gates shut, because they were

To view this mini-study go to our web site at www.yaiy.org or phone 1-877-642-4101

Mini - Study



Is the First Day of the Week Holy?

Here's a look at each of the passages where "first day of the week" is found in the New Testament

Only eight passages in the entire New Testament speak of the first day of the week. Or at least they seem to. In contrast, no fewer than 60 references to the Sabbath are scattered throughout the New Testament.

Astoundingly, when the case is made for Sunday worship, these 60 Sabbath references are completely ignored, while those few that seem to refer to Sunday are seen as confirming Sunday over the Sabbath.

Of these eight passages cited to support Sunday worship, most focus on the time of the Savior's resurrection. Using His resurrection as the rationale for a worship day is groundless in the Bible. Nowhere do we find that the day of worship was to change because of His resurrection day. What's more, we will show that our Savior had already risen by Saturday night. Therefore, He arose on the Saturday Sabbath, not Sunday!

Let's now take a look at these eight passages in question. Do they support worship on the first day of the week? You decide. Here is a verse-by-verse look at each of the eight instances where the first "day" of the week is found in the New Testament.

MATTHEW 28:1: "In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first [day] of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre."

Analysis: These women were Sabbath keepers. They waited until the Sabbath was past — which

buying and selling on the Sabbath.

Our restricter today is the Holy Spirit of Yahweh. If you push past it, nothing else written in Scripture is going to help. It is our gate. It's our hedge, so to speak, that keeps us from the worldly ways of doing things. It's the Spirit of Yahweh that keeps us focused on His will and on His ways. It quickens our spirit to study His word and to be in alignment with the commandments on a higher level, just as the Messiah taught.

It's something that Israel did not have abiding within themselves. Today, a portion is granted to stay with us each individually. It's our fair share, so to speak, until the fullness comes at the first resurrection.

Thirst At Rephidim

While our thirst is quenched today both physically and spiritually at Rephidim (root meaning: "spread out" or "refresh"), the ancient Israelites were again thirsty and were getting upset to the point of wanting to stone Moses.

Then all the congregation of the sons of Israel journeyed by stages from the wilderness of Sin, according to the command of Yahweh, and camped at Rephidim, and there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water that we may drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test Yahweh?" But the people thirsted there for water; and they grumbled against Moses and said, "Why, now, have you brought us up from Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to Yahweh, saying, "What shall I do to this people? A little more and they will stone me." Exodus 17:1-4 .

Forgetful Israel

Do we get forgetful of what Yahweh has done for us in the past?

It's interesting that they complained about not having water again. They knew Yahweh provided before. Shouldn't they have realized He would provide again?

Yahweh's longsuffering can be seen in the blessing granted Israel's children. They were given water from the rock and, in addition, another enemy was again destroyed before them.

Then Amalek came and fought against Israel at Rephidim. So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose men for us and go out, fight against Amalek. Tomorrow I will station myself on the top of the hill with the staff of Elohim in my hand." Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought against Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. So it came about when Moses held his hand up, that Israel prevailed, and when he let his hand

down, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands were heavy. Then they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other. Thus his hands were steady until the sun set. So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword, Exodus 17:8-13.

Yahweh has an interesting way of dealing with us at times. For the Israelites at this time, they were ready to stone Moses, so Yahweh provided a way to get their frustration out with an enemy, the Amalekites.

Horrible At Horeb

The seventh time Israel tested Yahweh is a time when Yahweh starts to seriously punish the Israelites for their disobedience. They became utterly corrupt with idol worship, Egyptian style. This occurred at the mountain range that Mount Sinai was a part of.

Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, "Go down at once, for your people, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. They have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them. They have made for themselves a molten calf, and have worshiped it and have sacrificed to it and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!'" Yahweh said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, they are an obstinate people. Now then let Me alone, that My anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them; and I will make of you a great nation," Exodus 32:7-10.

Yahweh relented after Moses reasoned with Him. Moses took a strong leadership role and told those who were on Yahweh's side to come to his side.

Now when Moses saw that the people were out of control—for Aaron had let them get out of control to be a derision among their

To view this mini-study go to our web site at www.yaiy.org or phone 1-877-642-4101

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 it's 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."

enemies—then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, “Whoever is for Yahweh, come to me!” And all the sons of Levi gathered together to him. He said to them, “Thus says Yahweh, the Elohim of Israel, Every man of you put his sword upon his thigh, and go back and forth from gate to gate in the camp, and kill every man his brother, and every man his friend, and every man his neighbor.” So the sons of Levi did as Moses instructed, and about three thousand men of the people fell that day, Exodus 32:25–28.

All of Levi came to Moses’ side (Yahweh’s side) and they were allowed to live and serve. They were dedicated to Yahweh’s work:

Then Moses said, “Dedicate yourselves today to Yahweh—for every man has been against his son and against his brother—in order that He may bestow a blessing upon you today,” Exodus 32:29.

Parallel For Today

When we heard Yahweh’s calling, we readily accepted it. Just like the Levites did when Moses called the people to Yahweh’s side.

Levites:

They came over to Yahweh,

They took up the sword (his brother, friend, neighbor),

They were given the right to directly be involved in the work of Yahweh.

Those in Messiah today:

We came over to Yahweh,

We took up the symbolic Sword (the Bible) with our brothers, friends, and neighbors,

We are given the right to directly be involved in the work of Yahweh.

We’ve made changes in our lives to be in line with Yahweh’s way of living by being obedient to His commandments. We’ve repented of our past errors against Yahweh and we are moving forward sharing

the Good News with others, so that they may also receive mercy and forgiveness.

While there are parallels to the Levites, we are also likened to Moses telling people to come to Yahweh’s side. With Yahweh’s Spirit working within us, it is, in a sense, actually Yahweh calling out and proclaiming His word to others. Not only the word from Scripture, but the Word incarnate, Yahshua the Messiah.

Taberah (Burning)

Moving further along, we find again the ancient Israelites complaining and testing an eighth time. This time Yahweh’s anger literally burned among them.

Now the people became like those who complain of adversity in the hearing of Yahweh; and when Yahweh heard it, His anger was kindled, and the fire of Yahweh burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp. The people therefore cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to Yahweh and the fire died out. So the name of that place was called Taberah, because the fire of Yahweh burned among them, Numbers 11:1–3.

Moses here again intervenes on behalf of the people, and again Yahweh relented from any further calamity. Indeed, the prayer of a righteous man avails much.

When we make mistakes, and we will, what should our first reaction be? We need to turn to Yahweh, through His Righteous Son, Yahshua. He is at the right hand of Yahweh and is the High Priest and Mediator for us today.

Israelites Not Alone

The Israelites were not alone when they came out of Egypt. There were also some of Egypt that actually came, referred to as rabble (the foreign element).

The rabble who were among them had greedy desires; and also

the sons of Israel wept again and said, “Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish which we used to eat free in Egypt, the cucumbers and the melons and the leeks and the onions and the garlic, but now our appetite is gone. There is nothing at all to look at except this manna,” Numbers 11: 4–6.

A little leaven leavens the whole lump. The rabble’s greed seemed to affect the Israelites. Today, we get bombarded with commercials on TV, radio ads, ads in the paper, and signs on the major freeways while we are driving.

Sometimes it’s the influence around us that we need to be on the alert about. Doesn’t Scripture say, “Don’t be deceived, bad company corrupts good character”? We need to limit our exposure to as much as we can.

The Israelites and the rabble were blessed with quail for meat, though. Yahweh was not happy with them and their lack of trust that He would provide.

Say to the people, “Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept in the ears of Yahweh, saying, ‘Oh that someone would give us meat to eat! For we were well-off in Egypt.’ Therefore Yahweh will give you meat and you shall eat. ‘You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days, but a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you; because you have rejected Yahweh who is among you and have wept before Him, saying, “Why did we ever leave Egypt?”” (Numbers 11:18–20)

Three things come to mind: 1) The people kept looking to the physical, rather than the spiritual; 2) They kept looking back to Egypt, rather than to the promised land; and 3) They were given so much quail it made them sick, so let’s be careful what we ask for as we might just get it!

Kadesh Barnea

The tenth time we find in Scripture of Israel testing Yahweh in the wilderness, before entering into the promised land, is at Kadesh Barnea (meaning "consecrated"). They spied the land, but lost faith as they still kept looking at the physical circumstances around them. They kept forgetting Who was leading them and that nothing is impossible for Him. Still the people wept, not trusting Yahweh. Yet, there were a precious few who did.

Then all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. All the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron; and the whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! Why is Yahweh bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder; would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" So they said to one another, "Let us appoint a leader and return to Egypt." Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces in the presence of all the assembly of the congregation of the sons of Israel. Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, of those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; and they spoke to all the congregation of the sons of Israel, saying, "The land which we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. If Yahweh is pleased with us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us—a land which flows with milk and honey. Only do not rebel against Yahweh; and do not fear the people of the land, for they will be our prey. Their protection has been removed from them, and Yahweh is with us; do not fear them." But all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Then the glory of Yahweh appeared in the tent of meeting to all the sons of Israel. Moses pleads for the people. Yahweh said to

Moses, "How long will this people spurn Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, despite all the signs which I have performed in their midst? I will smite them with pestilence and dispossess them, and I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they," Numbers 14:1–12.

Enough Is Enough

At this point Yahweh had had enough.

Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet have put Me to the test these ten times and have not listened to My voice, shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it. But My servant Caleb, because he has had a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land which he entered, and his descendants shall take possession of it, Numbers 14:22–24.

Certain ones who followed Yahweh, and all those who were not of the age of accountability (age of 20), were able to enter the promised land.

Our life can be spent on thinking and worrying that things won't work out. We can wish it were better. We can wish it were different. Is this the attitude we are to have? Or, alternatively, can we have the hope and courage of the likes of Joshua and Caleb? Yes, of course we can. The lesson and application for us is clear. We, with Yahweh's Spirit, can have a patient and loving attitude toward others. We, with Yahweh's Spirit, can be joyful and happy. We, with Yahweh's Spirit, can trust in Yahweh to work out whatever severe situation we find ourselves in.

But what if we don't trust Yahweh and turn away from Him? All we have to do is look at what happened to Israel of old. It's the same thing that will happen to us if we

don't learn from it.

Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet have put Me to the test these ten times and have not listened to My voice, shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it, Numbers 14:22–23.

While this had physical consequences for ancient Israel, the consequences for those in Messiah today are indeed eternal. Don't give up hope, don't complain and test Yahweh as Israel did in the past. Be like Joshua and Caleb. Take courage and have courage that Yahweh will not leave nor forsake you.

Disobedience = Unbelief

We are to believe.

Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that Yahweh, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe, Jude 1:5.

Yahweh destroyed those who didn't believe, but the understanding of just what that means goes deeper in thought. We hear so much today about believing, but little about obeying.

What is unbelief? Is it just complaining? Can complaining lead to disobedience? It sure did for the Israelites. Their attitude was one of complacency when Yahweh instructed them. They had a bad attitude that led them right into sin. Unbelief is related to disobedience.

We may not think that we test Yahweh with how we sometimes think, but that is an example we see with the Israelites and those with them. Yahweh, Himself, says, they tested Him with their attitude toward His leaders, toward His instructions, and tested Him with their attitude toward Him.

Do we ever do the same? It's a road best gotten off of, if we ever

find ourselves on it. Notice carefully the following Scripture that is quoting the Old Testament in part:

Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS, WHERE YOUR FATHERS TRIED ME BY TESTING ME, AND SAW MY WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS. THEREFORE I WAS ANGRY WITH THIS GENERATION, AND SAID, THEY ALWAYS GO ASTRAY IN THEIR HEART, AND THEY DID NOT KNOW MY WAYS"; AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, "THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST." Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living Elohim. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Messiah, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end, while it is said, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME." For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see [understand] that they were not able to enter because of unbelief, Hebrews 3:7-19.

Did you notice especially the last part, "...those who were disobedient...were not able to enter because of unbelief." This is not saying you can sin if you believe. It's saying that if you sin you are as an unbeliever. Unbelievers will not inherit the Kingdom, just as ancient

Israel was not able to enter into the promised land.

This entire section of the New Testament is addressing the brethren, those in Messiah, who have Yahweh's Spirit. The message from Israel's example for us is not to sin, that is, stop breaking the Father's laws; rather, do them. If you are doing them, then you will be obedient and believing children of the Most High.

The Promised Land

We are the children of Israel having come out of symbolic Egypt and are now sojourning in the wilderness, looking forward to a promised land. The Spirit imparts the ability to be in the right attitude toward Yahweh. Let's not forget what happened to those who turned their hearts back to Egypt.

On the way to the promised land, do we complain about our finances, the weather, other people, our boss? Do we ever consider we may very well be complaining against our Creator? Let's not put Him to the test as ancient Israel did. There are better things for Yahweh's people today.

Look up, look forward, look toward Yahweh and the coming Kingdom. But never look back nor yearn to go back to Egypt. There is nothing there for us, for our home is a heavenly home in the coming New Jerusalem. It is for all those who love Yahweh and do His will in Yahshua the Messiah.

This is the lesson and application for us today. We are to learn from ancient Israel and be the Israel today that Yahweh expects us to be: an obedient and faithful people.

Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of Yahweh and their faith in Yahshua. And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Master from now on!'", "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from

their labors, for their deeds follow with them," Revelation 14:12-13.

Elder David Brett

<Restore from page 7>

way?" Yahshua said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." Philip said to Him, "Master, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." Yahshua said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father Who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves," John 14:5-11

Yahweh also told Moses,
My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest, Ex. 33:14.

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was the Messiah, 1 Corinthians 10:1-5.

Can you see how Yahshua has fulfilled the Will of Yahweh? He continues to fulfill the Way of Yahweh through the Spirit of Yahweh; and with His Spirit, we shall assist in restoring the Law of Yahweh. We will honor the WILL and the TEACHINGS of Yahweh. HalleluYah!

Elder John Fisher



PENTECOST

FEAST OF

WEEKS

Pentecost, which means to count fifty, is the term used in the New Covenant era and is to be celebrated at the same prescribed time as the Feast of Weeks or the Feast of First-Fruits is described for us in Lev. 23.

After Yahshua's resurrection He spent some forty days with the apostles and spoke of those things pertaining to the Kingdom of Yahweh, Acts 1:3. They, as others who wanted to know, asked Yahshua if He was going to restore (establish, set up) the kingdom to Israel, Acts 1:6. Yahshua told them,

It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power, Acts 1:7.

But, Yahshua told them to remain in Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Father.

And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you, John 14:16-17.

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you, John 14:26.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth, Acts 1:8.

After saying this, Yahshua ascended into heaven and, eventually, the apostles returned to Jerusalem. And the reason for returning to Jerusalem was to keep the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost.

Selection Time

In an upper room the eleven apostles met, along with some women, including Mary, the mother of Yahshua, and His brethren, some one-hundred twenty people, Acts 1:13-15:

And when they were come in, they went up

into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Yahshua, and with His brethren. And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty).

At this time the major discussion centered on selecting a man to replace Judas Iscariot. The end result is given in Acts 1:23-26:

And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed, and said, Thou, Yahweh, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, that he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

That Day – Old Covenant Era

Pentecost has always been counted as fifty days following the weekly Sabbath which occurs during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The first day after that weekly Sabbath is the day in which the sheaf wave offering was made. Yahshua told Mary not to touch Him since He first must go to His Father, Yahweh, to present Himself as the sheaf wave offering (first of the first-fruits), John 20:16 and 17.

Pentecost has been remembered since Old Testament times as the day when Yahweh presented all His laws to His People at Mount Sinai. Yahweh's power, which struck the Israelites with fear, was demonstrated at this time.

And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that [were] in the camp trembled, Ex. 19:16.

And all the people saw the thunderings, and

the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off, Ex. 20:18.

That Day – New Covenant Era

There are many stories in the Old Testament witnessing the Holy Spirit being given to someone in order that a special task could be done. When that task was completed the Holy Spirit was withdrawn. Pentecost, in the New Covenant era, is considered the time when Yahweh allowed His Holy Spirit to indwell in people.

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance, Acts 2:1-4.

From the descent of the Holy Spirit at the beginning of this day, we may learn something concerning the operations of the Holy Spirit at the present time. Remember, from the very beginning of time, whatever the Holy Spirit was at the first, it is now also, for as Yahweh is, the Holy Spirit remains forever the same, as its power is by no means diminished. We would most certainly grieve if Yahweh's Holy Spirit diminished one iota from the beginning of time until today.

Yahweh's gift of the Comforter is not temporary. The gift came in accordance with Yahshua's prayer to remain forever. One must remember, as the promise of the gift of a token of the Holy Spirit is given to us when the elders lay hands on us after baptism, in no way guarantees it will remain within us. We

must continue in the truth and keep the commandments to show our love of Yahshua.

Instructional Symbols

Let's look at Acts 2:1-4 once again.

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance, Acts 2:1-4.

Two times we find that the Holy Spirit is symbolized in Acts 2:2. There was a sound as of a rushing

mighty wind, and there were cloven tongues as it were of fire.

John describes for us what a characteristic is of the wind in John 3:8 where Yahshua is speaking to Nicodemus,

The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit, NIV.

Here are other examples of a wind being associated with the Holy Spirit.

Yahweh is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: Yahweh hath His way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet, Nah. 1:3.

Then Yahweh answered Job out of the whirlwind, Job 38:1.

And Elohim remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and Elohim made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters assuaged, Gen. 8:1

Hence, wind cannot be seen, but can be audible. A wind is felt when air flows between two points which are close enough but have different air pressures.

The Greek word translated wind in John 3:8 is *pneuma* (Strong's #4151), meaning a breeze, and figuratively a spirit, namely the Holy Spirit.

Consider the following concerning a fire that does not burn.

There the angel of Yahweh appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight — why the bush does not burn up," Ex. 3:2-3 NIV.

On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with Elohim, and

To view this mini-study go to our web site at www.yaiy.org or phone 1-877-642-4101

Mini Study



The New Covenant WHAT IS IT?

A covenant is often described as "An agreement between two or more parties outlining mutual rights and responsibilities." The Old Testament lists several covenants between individuals such as David and Jonathan; King David and Abner; King Solomon and Shemei, one of his subjects, but our interest is in the Covenant with Yahweh. The common word for covenant in Hebrew is *berith*; in Greek it is *diateke*, meaning "last will and testament," both are understood as covenants.

It is Yahweh Who initiates His covenants; first with Noah, (Gen. 9:8-17), then Abram (Gen. 15 and 17), and later with Abraham's descendants, the Israelites of Exodus (19-24). It is this covenant which holds our interest, for it is the same covenant Yahweh made years ago with ancient Israel which the present-day Jews give lip-service, but do not fully keep. Yahweh emphasizes He will make a new Covenant with the house of Israel (10 tribes) and the house of Judah, (2 tribes). Note that in giving the house of Israel the law at Sinai, Yahweh considered Himself Israel's husband (Ezek. 16:8).

THE NEW COVENANT

The book of Hebrews has the most to say about the New Covenant:

"For if that first covenant had been faultless, then would no place have been sought for a second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith Yahweh, when I will make a New Covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith Yahweh." (Heb. 8:7-9 AV)

Comprehending Israel's failure at Mt. Sinai is the key to knowing what the New Covenant was to correct. History provides a record of Israel's failure in keeping the Old Covenant. Within 40 days Israel broke the Covenant they had

they stood at the foot of the mountain. Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because Yahweh descended on it in fire, Ex. 19:16-18 NIV.

Thus, in Ex. 3:2-3 Elohim is said to have manifested Himself to Moses in a bush which was burning, yet not consumed. In Ex. 19:16-20, He descended on Mount Sinai in the midst of thunders, and lightnings, and smoke, and fire, striking emblems of His presence and power.

Heaven

The word "heaven" in Acts 2:1 comes from the Greek *ouranoú* NT:3772 meaning, by extension, heaven, as the abode of Elohim. This is thought of as the third heaven. Barnes' Notes gives the following explanation about the third (and all three) heavens spoken of in 2 Cor. 12:2:

"The Jews sometimes speak of seven heavens, and Muhammed has borrowed this idea from the Jews. But the Bible speaks of but three heavens, and among the Jews in the apostolic ages also the heavens were divided into three:

(1) The aerial, including the clouds and the atmosphere, the heavens above us, until we come to the stars.

(2) The starry heavens, the heavens in which the sun, moon, and stars appear to be situated.

(3) The heavens beyond the stars. That heaven was supposed to be the residence of [Elohim], of angels, and of holy spirits. It was this upper heaven, the dwelling-place of [Elohim], to which Paul was taken, and whose wonders he was permitted to behold-this region where [Elohim] dwelt; where [Messiah] was seated at the right hand of the Father. The fanciful opinions of the Jews about seven heavens may be seen detailed in Schoettgen or in Wetstein, by whom the principal passages from the Jewish writings relating to the subject have been collected. As their opinions

throw no light on this passage, it is unnecessary to detail them here." (from Barnes' Notes, Electronic Database Copyright © 1997, 2003, 2005, 2006 by BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)

Effects of the Coming of the Holy Spirit

One of the effects of the Holy Spirit coming from heaven was that it filled the entire house, including everyone who was there, Acts 2:2-4. What effect did this have on the people? Because of the Holy Spirit indwelling in them, they ended "speaking in different languages," verse 4. This was the second effect of the Holy Spirit coming at this time.

As soon as the Spirit of Yahweh

filled them, they began to speak at once. It seems that they began to speak before the people had come together. Maybe they just could not help it. Maybe they felt they just had to speak. So, when the Spirit of Yahweh really comes upon a man, he does not wait till he has gathered an audience of the size which he desires, but he seizes the next opportunity. He speaks to one person, he speaks to two, he speaks to three, to anybody: he must speak, just as these men did as they filled with the Holy Spirit and felt they just had to vent their feelings.

When the Spirit of Yahweh fills a man, does he speak unintelligently? No, he will speak so he will be understood. Here, the crowd spoke in different languages, and these Spirit-taught men spoke to them in the language of the country in which they were born.

Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language, Acts 2:6.

Word must have spread quickly as these men were speaking in different languages and people were very likely curious to find out why a group of people just started to speak in different languages. So, the multitude came. But, what was the native tongue of those doing the talking?

And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? (Acts 2:7)

What background were all these people who heard these Galilaeans?

And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and

To view this mini-study go to our web site at www.yaiy.org or phone 1-877-642-4101

Mini - Study



The Spirit Realm

What is spirit? The Bible speaks often about the "Holy Spirit", and says Yahweh IS spirit. Is it true that spirit really means energy? Is a spirit being such as an angel like a ghost? A deeper understanding of spirit as energy will help clarify our understanding of the Bible. The first resurrection is to the spirit realm. Should we know more about what's in store for us as we strive to be among the firstfruits?

According to the ancient Greeks the earth is composed of four things; earth, air, fire and water. Since then science's advances now catalogue the earth's 90 some elements according to their atomic weight. All matter, substance, everything is made up entirely of atoms which are the building blocks of matter. Whether something is solid, liquid or gas depends merely on how closely the atoms are packed.

The atom is not a solid, indivisible substance, but consists mainly of space. The center or nucleus of the atom is the main mass. The center consists of protons and neutrons. Circulating around the nucleus are smaller particles called electrons. An atom is only a few hundred millionths of a centimeter across. A proton is so light that it would take 160 million million million million (4) of them to weigh one gram. An electron is 1800 times lighter than this, (Illustrated Fact Book of Science, Arco Publishing, Inc. New York.)

THE GRAND DESIGN

Whether we look at the universe through the telescope or view specks of matter through a microscope, the grand pattern of a Great Designer emerges. The planets circling the sun, the moons rotating around the planets are a macrocosm of what would be seen through an atomic microscope. Rotating around the nucleus of the atom are the

Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of Elohim, Acts 2:8-11.

What reason did some give for the people speaking all these languages?

And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine, Acts 2:12-13.

Did the apostle Peter allow this thought to spread? NO!

Major Subject Spoken Of

Peter felt he must place emphasis on and continue to speak of the "wonderful works of Yahweh." This is what verse 11 says about what the people were hearing.

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: for these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; and it shall come to pass in the last days, saith Elohim, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: and on My servants and on My handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy: and I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of Yahweh come: and it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of Yahweh shall be saved, Acts 2:14-21.

The blood of Yahshua Messiah His Son cleanseth us from all sin, 1 John 1:7. This is one of the wonderful works of Yahweh of which we can never make too frequent mention.

Surely, the men were not drunk, but filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. Remember, the power of the Holy Spirit is not only physical strength but also the ability to do Yahweh's will. One should read the remainder of Acts chapter 2 to get the full impact of all what the Apostle Peter said to the people.

And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need, Acts 2:43-45.

Acts chapter 2 indicates that many unusual things happened this day because of the coming of the Holy Spirit. The people realized the importance and significance of what the events of that day meant. The events of this day illustrate what can happen when Yahweh's Holy Spirit dwells within us.

Remain Steadfast

Even when Peter spoke to the people telling them about the events of the latter days, we must be aware of those events and must remember to be prepared for Yahshua's return.

Paul tells us in 1 Cor. 15:58 to remain firm in our commitment, firm in our faith and duly resolved,

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Master, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Master.

Paul also tells us in Rom. 8:7-14,

Because the carnal mind is enmity against Yahweh: for it is not subject to the law of Yahweh, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please Yahweh. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of Yahweh dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Messiah, he is none of His. And

if Messiah be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Yahshua from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Messiah from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of Yahweh, they are the sons of Yahweh, Rom. 8:7-14.

Start Today

We must now become a child of Yahweh. That illustrious position is not automatically given to all. We must first commit ourselves. We must, by our faith and works, show we are worthy of becoming a child of Yahweh.

Upon hearing what words were being spoken that day the people replied,

Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? (Acts 2:37)

Peter tells us in Acts 2:38,

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.

Repent is the translation of the Greek *metanoeo* NT:3340 meaning to think differently, now and afterward, and to take heed. (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003, 2006 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

The words spoken by Peter were well received as Acts 2:41 says,

Then they that gladly received

<see **Pentecost** page 22>



Idolatry and the Thriving Worship of Images Today

Most Christians who profess to believe in and love Yahweh and His Messiah pride themselves in obeying the commandments that forbid lying, cheating, and stealing. They exult in charities and doing good works, yet do not feel the slightest tinge of guilt about disobeying all other commandments and laws in Yahweh's Word.

Yahweh is Spirit and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth, John 4:24. Is True Worship possible without spirit or without truth? Yahweh's Word is truth, John 17:17. The words Yahshua spoke are spirit, John 6:63. The Spirit gives (eternal) life to the believer who follows its lead into all truth, John 16:13.

Yahweh is Spirit and He is also love, 1 John 4:8. Does the truth - Yahweh's Word - tell us that Yahweh so loves the believer that He will give eternal life to a believer in His Messiah who willfully, with perverse stubbornness, refuses to follow the Spirit's lead?

Disobedience to Yahweh's commandments indicates that we either do not love Him or that we do not even know Him, 1 John 5:3 and 4:8.

Most Christians are at least partly sincere in their desire to worship in spirit and in truth, yet are blind to truth. They are so committed to following blind leaders that they reject the truth and believe lies that pervert worship.

Anti-idolatry Commandment

People who have allowed the Spirit to open their eyes to the truth about the Third and Fourth Commandments and have turned to obey them may yet be unwittingly continuing in transgression of the Second Commandment. Therefore, people who use Yahweh's Name and people who don't, and people who keep Yahweh's Sabbaths and people who don't, should think about how they may be unknowingly continuing in idolatry and breaking the Second Commandment.

Exodus 20:4-6 tells us what the Second Commandment is:

You shall not make yourself a graven image [idol, NIV], or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I Yahweh your Elohim am a jealous Elohim, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands of them that love Me and keep My commandments.

Jeremiah 11:6-8 NIV reads,

Yahweh said to me, "Proclaim all these words in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem: 'Listen to the terms of this covenant and follow them. From the time I brought your forefathers up from Egypt until today, I warned them again and again, saying, 'Obey Me.' But they did not listen or pay attention; instead they followed the stubbornness of their hearts. So I brought on them all the curses of the covenant I had commanded them to follow but they did not keep.'"

Most Bible believers concede that the Ten Commandments are applicable to the New Covenant, but believe the warning about disobedience to the terms of the covenant is relevant only to Old Covenant Israel.

They know that the northern kingdom of the House of Israel was punished by being cut off from the covenant because of persistence in idolatry. They know the house of Judah was cut off and cast out because the Jews rejected Yahweh's Messiah and the terms of the New Covenant.

Many limit themselves to a misunderstanding of the New Testament and just cannot believe they merit punishment for idol worship, rejecting the Messiah or the New Covenant. In their eyes they don't engage in idolatry, but in Yahweh's eyes they do.

In their thinking they don't disobey the terms of the New Covenant, but most don't even understand New Covenant terms, let alone obey them.

Christians who may read Zechariah 13 probably do

not believe the prophecy pertains to them in the last days. Zechariah is saying that the one-third who survive the calamities that will come upon the earth in the last days will be refined in fire like silver and gold.

Symbolic language! Yahweh is saying He is going to punish idolaters and purge all sin from His people in the last days. It will probably be during the calamities that the prophecy in Psalm 91:58 will come to pass. But, likening cleansing of sin and impurities from His people to refining in fire implies more than a mild, "Don't do it anymore. I won't like it if you do."

A Man on a Cross

"You shall not make a graven image, or any likeness of anything," the Second Commandment begins. Is the image of a man hanging on a cross "anything"? Does human rationalization justify this transgression of the law - sin? Isn't bowing down and worshiping before an image a form of idolatry?

Those who do this probably reassure their feelings of righteousness by thinking the image doesn't represent a pagan deity but that it represents the Messiah Who was Spirit in the image of man before becoming man. Besides, we don't worship the image, we worship the Spirit the image represents - Yahweh's Messiah and our Savior, they say. Such thinking is based, no doubt, on Scriptures like Genesis 1:27, John 1:1 and 1:14.

Regardless of how it is rationalized, the crucifix and cross, without the image hanging on it, is as much an idol as a stone image of Baal. The Babylonians, if questioned about worshiping before their idol, no doubt would insist that they didn't worship the idol either, but the spirit represented by the idol, Baal.

In Deuteronomy 12:4, 30-31 Yahweh emphatically forbids His people to worship Him in the way

the pagans worshiped their gods. There isn't one Scripture in the entire Bible that countermands this commandment. Neither is there any Scripture that implies Yahweh will condone worshiping His Son in the way of the Baals.

Some may be thinking, we don't sacrifice children to idols and that is what really angered Yahweh about idol worship. So, who is the blind guide straining out gnats and swallowing camels?

The horrible practice of sacrificing children to idols cannot be ascribed merely to ignorant superstitions. In a case uncovered recently in Mexico, human sacrifices were performed in Satan worship. Were those lives sacrificed because of superstitions or because of demon possession?

Is inflicting the consequences

of a father's lawlessness upon children unto the third and fourth generation worse than throwing a child into a fire? Or is such a thought just choking on a camel?

Shocking Origins of the Cross

Veneration of the cross as a sacred emblem and symbol of a pagan deity is found in many pagan religions and traces back to the mystic "Tau" of the Chaldeans of Babylon. The Tau (letter "T" in English) was the first letter in the name of the Babylonian Baal Tammuz.

Tammuz is mentioned in Ezekiel 8:14. He was identified with the sun and worshiped by the Babylonians as the messiah and giver of life.

The Tau (cross) was considered a symbol of life and was probably held up in homage during prayers to Tammuz. The Tau was inscribed on foreheads during baptism; used as an amulet over the heart and woven into priest's garments. The cross was also carried in the hands of priests and kings as a symbol of "divinely conferred authority." (Two Babylons, pp. 197-199)

How did this ancient pagan symbol come into Christianity? Vine tells us in his discussion of the cross in Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, "By the middle of the 3rd cent. [C.E.] the churches had either departed from, or had travestied, certain doctrines of the Christian faith. In order to increase the prestige of the apostate ecclesiastical system pagans were received into the churches apart from regeneration by faith, and were permitted largely to retain their pagan signs and symbols. Hence the Tau or T, in its most frequent form, with the crosspiece lowered, was adopted to stand for the cross of Christ."

Use of the crucifix and cross certainly did not come into Christianity through the influence of Yahweh's Holy Spirit or through apostolic preaching of the truth. There

To view this mini-study go to our web site at www.yaiy.org or phone 1-877-642-4101

Mini-Study



Worship Today

Direct parallels exist between the Old Testament sacrificial system and modern worship. As Israel was to come before Yahweh, we are to appear in worship before Him now.

Bible commentators have pointed out that Yahweh took only six days to create this world, but took 30 days to reveal to mankind His prescribed and proper worship, Ex. 40:17-Nu. 1:1.

The worship Yahweh expects and desires of us is very precise, and building the proper spiritual character within mankind requires much time. Even getting His attention is prescribed for us in His word, and we must diligently seek Him.

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that comes to Yahweh must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him," Heb. 11:6.

The Corban Offering

Notice Lev. 1:2: "...If any man of you bring an offering unto Yahweh, you shall bring your offering of the cattle, even of the herd, and of the flock." This voluntary offering is known as the "corban," an admittance or approach offering.

To approach a monarch or superior in the East, a gift is brought to secure an audience with him. It is often referred to as "the face-offering." After the "corban" was accepted and admittance gained, then the real offering or present was given.

can be only one spirit behind the propagation of this form of idolatry. Only a demonic spirit would deceive people into ignoring Paul's admonishment to flee from idolatry, 1 Corinthians 10:14.

People influenced by this spirit of disobedience, Ephesians 2:2, are unable to distinguish good from evil. Even though priests, ministers, theologians, and scholarly writers know where the cross came from, they and their followers do not see the evil in its use.

Many who no longer use these emblems or even keep them in their possession could be wondering how they may still be transgressing Yahweh's commandment against idolatry. In giving this question a little thought, let's pray that Yahweh will open our eyes to the evil we may still be involved in.

Idols of Eyes and Heart

Because Israel's immorality mattered so little to her, she defiled the land and committed adultery with stone and wood, Jeremiah 3:9.

Is Yahweh talking about literally committing adultery with stone and wood? No, and neither is He talking about temple prostitution. He is referring to worshiping pagan deities represented by graven images. He calls this spiritual adultery immoral and even rebellion, Jeremiah 3:13. The arrogance (as self-righteousness) that goes with this form of rebellion is said to be like the evil of idolatry, 1 Samuel 15:23.

This is what the sovereign Yahweh says: When any Israelite sets up idols in his heart and puts a wicked stumbling block before his face and then goes to a prophet [religious leader?], I Yahweh will answer him Myself in keeping with his great idolatry, Ezekiel 14:4 NIV.

What is an idol in the heart? It can't be a molten image like a golden calf and it can't be carved from stone or wood. Therefore, Yahweh must be referring to an invisible, immaterial something that comes

into the mind when a visible, material object (a stumblingblock like maybe a crucifix or cross) is held up before a person's eyes.

A visible idol creates in the mind of a worshiper an invisible image of the spirit being worshiped. A mental image is an idol because it fosters worship of the spirit pictured in the mind.

In the Bible idols are always associated with demons. Luke 8:2 makes it plain that demons are evil spirits. Any mental visualization of a spirit opens the door to deceptions and demon possession. A satanic cunning involved with mental images tricks the worshiper into becoming influenced by an evil spirit believed to be Yahweh's Holy Spirit.

How do you visualize Yahweh's Messiah? Do you see Him as a dark-complexioned, sad-eyed man with a beard and long hair? Do you see Him as a light-complexioned fellow with a halo over His head and standing in the clouds with arms extended in welcome? Or as a mutilated body hanging on a cross and bleeding from a crown of thorns?

Artists have painted many different portraits representing some aspect of the Messiah's earthly life. These images bear no resemblance to the real Messiah and produce an image in the mind that is no more like the real Messiah than the pictures.

The pictures and mental images become idols if used as an aid to worship. This visualized Messiah is no more than an idol of the heart and it cannot be acceptable to Yahweh just because it is believed to be a representation of His Son.

As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts higher than your thoughts, Isaiah 55:9.

No matter how much we really love Yahweh and His Messiah or how sincere we are in our desire

to worship in spirit and in truth, we cannot visualize Yahweh or His Messiah without reducing them to our level.

When we try to visualize them we see them in our mind's eye, not as they really are, but as we think they are. When we pray and worship with mental pictures in our minds we are bowing down to idols.

Insofar as these mental images fail to convey the truth to our minds, we fail to worship in spirit and in truth.

Elder Ralph Henrie (deceased)

<Pentecost from page 19>

his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

What did these people do once they were baptized?

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers, Acts 2:42.

Repentance is not something to do in a carefree manner when desiring to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Repentance means to take a different path in one's actions. Repentance means to be sorry for your past sins. Repentance means to be willing and to desire to change one's life around to conform to Yahweh's will. Then, when you plead with Yahweh to forgive you for your past actions, it is time to be baptized in Yahshua's name to not only have those past sins forgiven, but to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit as Peter says in Acts 2:38.

As exemplified on this first Pentecost, Yahweh has His way of doing things. He shows us in Acts 2:1-4 we are to gather with others on this day, if possible, having one frame of mind – to do Yahweh's will and to keep the second harvest season.

Elder Roger G. Meyer



Revealing the Truth

Yahweh's Assembly in Yahshua's television program is on the air in the cities listed below. Visit www.yaiy.org for the latest information and to download select programs.

New locations are added regularly. Become a local sponsor to get Revealing the Truth on the air in areas not listed. Contact us by calling toll free: 1-877-642-4101

USA, California, San Diego
Cox Cable Community Access, Channel 23
Saturdays (Sabbath), 1:00 pm

USA, Delaware, Dagsboro
Ocean 60 Broadcasting, WEWETV, Channel 24
Sundays, 8:30 am and 9:30 am

USA, Delaware, Millsboro
WRBG 107.9 FM (radio)
Check local listings for air times

USA, Illinois, Urbana
Urbana Public Television, UPT, Channel 6
Check local listings for air times

USA, Hawaii, Honolulu
Oleo Community Television, Channel Focus 49
Check local listings for air times

USA, Kentucky, Highland Heights
Campbell County Community Media, Channel 17
Wednesdays, 5:30 pm; Fridays, 10:00 pm

USA, Massachusetts, Cape Cod
Cape Cod Community Media Center, Channel 17
Saturdays (Sabbath), 9:30 am

USA, Massachusetts, Mashpee
Mashpee Public Access, Channel 17
Fridays - Sundays, 2:00 pm

USA, Massachusetts, Sandwich
Sandwich Public Broadcasting, Channel 13
Saturdays (Sabbath), 3:00 pm

USA, Missouri, Columbia
Columbia Access Television, Channel 3
Sundays, 8:30 pm; Mondays, Wednesdays, 2:00 pm

USA, Missouri, Jefferson City
Jefferson City Access Television, Channel 3
Mondays, 11:30 am; Fridays, 8:30 pm

USA, New Mexico, Albuquerque
Quote...Unquote, Inc., Channel 27
Sundays, 5:00 pm

USA, New Mexico, Los Alamos
Public Access Channel, Channel 8
Check local listings for air times

USA, New York, Fairport
Fairport Area Community Television, Channel 15
Sundays, 10:00 pm

USA, New York, Rotterdam (Upstate New York)
Time Warner Cable, Channel 18
Mondays, 7:30 pm

USA, New York, Schenectady
Schenectady Public Access, Channel 16
Tuedays, 7:00 pm

USA, Oregon, Ashland
Rogue Valley Community Television, Channel 15
Saturdays (Sabbath), 5:00 pm

USA, Oregon, Portland
Portland Community Media
Channel 22; Tuesdays, 10:00 am
Channel 23; Sundays, 8:30 am

USA, Oregon, Salem
CCTV, Channel 23 - Thursdays, 5:00 pm;
Fridays, 1:30 pm; Sundays, 2:30 pm

USA, Oregon, Salem
KPJC 1220 AM (radio)
Tuesdays, 4:30 pm

USA, Washington, Vancouver
FVTV, Channel 11
Sundays, 10:00 am and 4:30 pm;
Mondays, 2:30 pm; Wednesdays, 9:30 am;
Thursdays, 5:00 pm and 8:30 pm

HOLY BIBL

YAHWEH'S ASSEMBLY IN YAHSHUA
2963 CO. RD. 233
KINGDOM CITY, MO 65262

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
KINGDOM CITY, MO
PERMIT NO. 7

MOVING?

Help us save 50¢ per issue by
sending us your new address!

Me?
Study the Bible?
Why?

