

YAIY



Beacon



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How sweet are Thy words
unto my taste! Yea, sweeter
than honey to my mouth!
(Ps. 119:103).

YAIY Beacon



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MISSION

STATEMENT

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

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To Ask For Mercy

A long time ago I got a speeding ticket, and in preparing to go to traffic court, I remembered something my dad had taught me. He said, “If you ever find yourself in court, and you’re guilty, ask to be tried by the judge; if you’re not guilty, ask for a jury trial.” He added, “If you are before the judge, guilty, say, “I plead guilty, your honor, and place myself at the mercy of the court.” I thought this would be as a good strategy as any, so I planned to say just those words. I mean, what did I have to lose?

My day in court came, and I watched many people try to convince the judge that they were not guilty. I was guilty of speeding, so when the judge asked how I plead, I said, “Guilty, your honor; and I place myself at the mercy of the court.” Inside I smiled, thinking I may have won myself a lesser penalty by acting with humility – the key word, here, being “acting.” I thought I would stand out amongst the common rabble, that I would win mercy for my simple declaration of guilt and my feeble attempt to portray a “willing subject.” That is, until he asked me, “Is there any reason the court should grant you mercy?” I hadn’t planned on his retort. So, I began to nervously explain myself, immediately putting myself into the same category of those who had whined about their plight before my turn came. After listening to my rationale for a few minutes, he interrupted me with a brief summary of my defense, and I agreed with his extremely abridged version of my story, uttering a simple, “Yes, your honor.” He reduced my fine by one half.

At that time, some 30 odd years ago, I’m certain that I did not have the “big picture” about the nature of mercy and judgment, or that this issue is, in itself, an historical, Biblical ... and eternal matter. I revisited that old faded scene recently, and I considered how I might otherwise have answered the judge’s question, “Is there any reason why I should grant you mercy?”

What Could Have Been Said?

The conversing continues:

“Yes, your honor, there is. As you know, mercy, by definition, is not something that is deserved. On the other hand, a verdict of Not Guilty, based upon competent evidence, is not merciful, but simply, just. Mercy is the prerogative of the one who has the **authority** and **duty** to condemn in the light of evidence proving guilt; but, instead, exercises compassion

upon the accused-found-guilty. Further, that prerogative **cannot** have anything to do with the depth or the nature of the crime having been committed. In fact, the greater the crime, the greater the depth of mercy. Rather, mercy is a function of a judge’s ability to discern the depth of **sincerity** of the accused to genuinely repent of that unlawful action and make an oath in his heart that he will not violate that law again. Mercy is the ability to see into one’s heart.

“Ultimately, mercy is an act reserved for the Creator of the Universe; yet, we are commanded to imitate Him; therefore, there can be no guilt in a man appointed to authority who chooses to grant mercy, even if he is wrong in his judgment. Rather, the burden lies on the heart of the man who committed the infraction. It is what comes out of our own mouths that condemn us, not the verdict of other men. The **accused** takes on the burden of the court by asking for mercy.

“Your honor, it would be much easier for me to pay the fine, have my infraction ‘concealed’ or ‘cleansed,’ and be free to continue in such illegal behavior, unburdened by an oath to ‘go and sin no more.’ By asking for mercy, I am saying to you that I will never violate this law again. I am aware of the consequences for having contempt for the court by bearing false witness. I am also aware that other consequences are well beyond the power of **this** court of **this** land. The consequences of my request for mercy are, in fact, eternal.

“May I remind the court that it has been said, ‘We shall be judged – as we judge others?’ I understand the enormity of the responsibility that you have taken upon your shoulders, and I shall abide in your judgment whether merciful or harsh. It is said that enduring the punishment for a wrong-doing has no credit; but that enduring punishment when one has committed no wrong is comparable to what the Savior did for us, and is therefore credible. I am guilty of wrong-doing, and there is therefore no honor for me even though I endure my punishment. But, consider how honorable it would be for a judge to grant mercy in the face of guilt! Certainly, this must be what is referred to as storing up treasures in Heaven. Thank you, your honor, for hearing my plea.”

Higher Decision Making Time!

Having written this defense, I found myself shak-

ing in my boots at the thought of ever offering it, considering the consequences should I ever exceed the speed limit! I will have broken an oath that I made with my own mouth! How in the world could I actually do what I promised to do? If you were the accused in this scenario, would **you** make such a plea? Or, would you simply pay the fine? If you were the **judge**, how would you have ruled? Would you laugh at my presumption and grandiosity, recognizing the true condemnation found in the words, "Mercy granted! Case dismissed," and thereby passing the matter to a Higher Court? Or, would you exercise **true** mercy by throwing my **plea** for mercy out the window, knowing that my inevitable failure at obeying the law would invoke a worse judgment upon me? Are you ready to be a judge in the Kingdom?

I have to admit, writing this fantasy defense was fun. It was an exercise in attempting to "win in court," perhaps a reflection of my hope in our upcoming real court battle. However, it served to point out to me the commitment that I am making to the Judge of all Judges, the King of all Kings and the Lawgiver of all Lawgivers, Yahweh, my Elohim, Savior and Shepherd. Having been immersed in the name of Yahshua, I have asked for His mercy to be applied to my sins. Have I not, in a sense, taken on His burden, in that I am vowing to abandon sinful behavior, in exchange for His forgiveness of my past sins?

*Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is easy and My **burden** is light, Matthew 11:28 - 30.*

How Can a "Burden" Be Light?

*Thus says Yahweh, Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; and you will find **rest for your souls**. But they said, "We will not walk in it." And I set watchmen over you, saying, "Listen to the sound of the trumpet!" But they said, "We will not listen." Therefore hear, O nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. Hear, O earth: behold, I am bringing disaster on this people, the fruit of their plans, because they have not listened to My words, and as for My law, they have rejected it also, Jeremiah 6:16 - 19.*

When Yahshua invited us to take His yoke upon us, He was not just uttering poetic words, taken from the Book of Jeremiah, whose

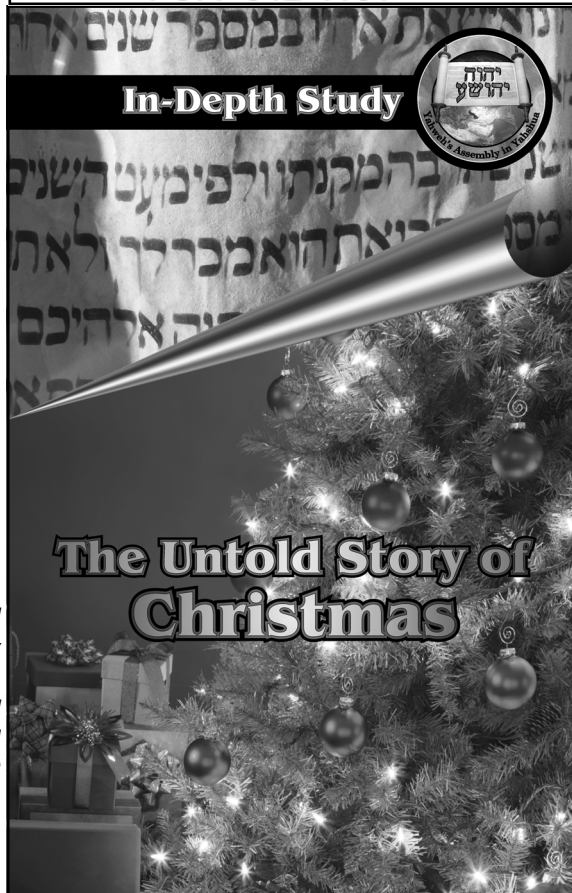
name in Hebrew, *YermeYah*, means "Yah Will Rise." Does Jeremiah's name not point to the One Who shall rise, Who came in the name of *Yah, Yahshua Ha Mashiach? HalleluYah!* By referencing this verse in Jeremiah's writings, Yahshua is encouraging **us**, the "Congregation" in the "Nations" of Earth, to "Ask for the ancient paths," to "Listen to My words," and to not "Reject My Law."

In essence, Yahweh is saying to us, "Look what I've done to My people who have disobeyed Me!" By pointing to the Israelites of old, He is proving that no one, on their own, can obey His Law. He sent His anointed Son, Yahshua, to prove that only a Perfect One can refrain from sin. In other words, we, in ourselves, are without hope for eternal life. Only Yahweh's mercy can save us from eternal condemnation and death. And, again, it is by virtue of His mercy that He has shown us His lawful means in which we **will** obtain mercy. He has offered us a New Covenant, a one-way covenant that HE writes upon our minds and our hearts.

The English name, John, is the Hebrew name, *Yahchanan*, which means the Mercy of Yah. It was the "**Mercy** of Yah" who cried in the wilderness, "Prepare the **way** of Yahweh; make straight in the desert a highway for our Elohim!" John the Immerser thus fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, whose name is *YeshaYah* and means "Yahweh Saves."

"Yah" is the translation of the Hebrew **Yah**; OT:3050 is a contraction for OT:3068, Yahweh the existing One, and meaning the same; Jah, the sacred name: KJV - Jah, the Sovereign, most vehement. Compare names ending in "-iah," "-jah."

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"Saves" is the translation of the Hebrew **yasha`** (yaw-shah'); OT:3467 meaning a primitive root; properly, to be open, wide or free, i.e. (by implication) to be safe; causatively, to free or succor: KJV - at all, avenging, defend, deliver (-er), help, preserve, rescue, be safe, bring (having) salvation, save (saviour), get victory.

"Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" says your Elohim. "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from Yahweh's hand double for all her sins." The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of Yahweh; make straight in the desert a highway for our Elohim. Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; the glory of Yahweh shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of Yahweh has spoken," Isaiah 40:1 - 5 NKJV.

Prepare for the Revealing, the Revelation, the Coming of the Salvation of Yahweh. All of mankind shall see Yahshua, the Anointed Redeemer from Yahweh.

In reading Hebrews 8:7 - 12, we find reference to the first covenant.

For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. Because finding fault with them, He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says Yahweh, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah -- not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says Yahweh. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says Yahweh: I will put My laws in their mind and write

them on their hearts; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know Yahweh,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more," Hebrews 8:7 - 12 NKJV.

This is a quote from Jeremiah 31:31 - 34.

One should take note that the author of the book of Hebrews (and Jeremiah!) do not find fault in the Law, itself, but the covenant made with the ancient Israelites. The fault was in their breaking the Covenant through disobedience to the Law of Yahweh.

It is interesting to note that the author of the book of Hebrews, two chapters later, clarifies for us the depth of Yahweh's will in the keeping of His Law.

This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says Yahweh: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them, Hebrews 10:16 NKJV.

The First Covenant was broken because Israel abandoned their oath to follow Yahweh. The New Covenant is made BY Yahweh, Who places the Law in our minds and writes the Law on our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit. It is the gift of the Holy Spirit that allows us to understand the importance of the Law of Yahweh and which empowers us to abide in it. The "burden" that Yahshua asks us to place upon our shoulders is "light" and "easy" to bear, not because it represents an easier, lighter burden, but because the burden is supported by the strength of the Holy Spirit. How strong is the Holy Spirit?

I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, "Move from here to there" and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you, Matthew 17:20 NIV.

Yet, for all the strength that the Holy Spirit affords those who abide in Yahweh, the physical manifestation of that strength is literally nothing compared to something much more powerful.

If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have **a faith that can move mountains**, but have not **love**, I am nothing, 1 Corinthians 13:2 NIV.

Is not the greatest strength that Yahweh manifests toward us, at least as far as our eternal salvation is concerned, is His willingness to forgive us? He is full of mercy; He is longsuffering; and He is loving-kindness.

Knowing this, how can it be said that keeping the Law of Yahweh is impossible? Scripture says that keeping the Law of Yahweh is easy, that it is not a burden. In fact, Yahshua sets a higher standard on keeping the Law for those who **receive** the New Covenant signed in HIS blood! He is willing to grant **mercy** to those who are willing to **ask** for mercy and who know full well the obligations they are taking on.

You have heard that the ancients were told, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER" and "Whoever commits murder shall be liable to judgment." But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be in danger of judgment; and whoever says to his brother, "You good-for-nothing," shall be guilty before the Sanhedrin; but whoever says, "[Shut up, you idiot!]," shall be guilty enough to go into Gehenna, [the Lake] of fire, Matthew 5:21 - 22 NIV.

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Yahshua, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the House of Yahweh, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil

conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He Who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching or if we sin **willfully** after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. **Anyone** who has **rejected Moses' law** dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much **worse punishment**, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of Yahweh underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing and insulted the Spirit of Mercy? For we **know** Him Who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says Yahweh. And again, "Yahweh will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living Elohim, Hebrews 10:19 - 31.

Now, what could be **worse** than being **killed**! How about being killed again? The "second death" is mentioned four times in the Book of the Revealing of Yahshua Ha Mashiach:

*Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the **second death**, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire, Revelation 20:14 - 15 NASU.*

Going back to the Book of Hebrews, starting at verse 32 in chapter 10, we read:

But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became compan-

ions of those who were so treated; for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward, for you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of Elohim, you may receive the promise: "For yet a little while, and He Who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." But we are not of those who draw back to destruction, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul, Hebrews 10:32 - 39.

Conclusion

I began this article with refer-

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Mini - Study

Let's Pull the Mask from HALLOWEEN

Every October 31 children across the land learn how extortion works through one of the most popular of ancient, pagan festivals. We know it as Halloween, which is a shortened combination of the words "Hallowed" and "evening." But there is nothing holy about this night.

"Trick or treat!" the bantam, masked marauders cry as they go from door to door coercing goodies from mostly compliant residents. Along with blackmail, the chance to deface private property and get away with it is also a big part of the "hallowed evening." Shaving cream, soap, and toilet paper are essential in the bag of tricks some of the mischievous have prepared especially for this weird, annual rite.

Imagine trying to explain the whole thing to a visitor from another planet!

Not Just for Youth Anymore

Visit many offices and department stores on October 31 and you'll see adult employees dressed in silly or grotesque costumes, perhaps with painted faces and fluorescent green hair.

They are psyching up for the Halloween party that night — when they'll get the chance to act foolishly without embarrassment. It seems that as our world sinks deeper into New Age paganism, this heathen, high holy day of the occult has zoomed to the top of the holiday charts. In fact, among adults Halloween is becoming as popular as Christmas.

But is Halloween just a harmless time of fun for the whole family, where they can practice their pumpkin-carving skills and then head for their store's costume department to try on the latest in the grotesque?

It's time to rip the mask from Halloween and expose it for what it is. What we find underneath should concern anyone who professes a belief or faith in the Bible.

ence to a court hearing, hypothetical as it was. Allow me to conclude in the same setting, but maybe now speaking in general terms of being involved in a court case.

The question for us is this, "Is losing the court case Yahweh's way of punishing us, or is it, rather, His way to provide discipline for us?" If the former, then we need to take stock of His Set-Apart Word and examine the sins that we have committed that have stirred His wrath against us. If this defeat is, instead, His way of taking us away from a place from which He has removed His name ... and His way of leading us to a new place where He will place His name, then we need to gird the loins of our wisdom, strength and faith and follow His fire by night and His mist in the day to the destination that He is making for His flock.

Whenever we are confronted with a difficult task and feel a great need for assurance, the reading of Psalm 23 will not only help, if read before the task begins, but also after, for comfort.

YAHWEH is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the House of YAHWEH for ever.

HalleluYah!

Elder John Fisher (deceased)



New Moons 101

Ask any Bible believer in the world what the Scriptural new moon is and you'll have few answers as to what it might be and also many blank looks, as most people don't have any idea.

We were all in this category at one point in our lives, but as Yahweh calls us out, our understanding of His Word was deepened. The purpose is so we would come closer to Him in observing and acknowledging His ways and His purpose for our lives.

Some Basics

There are some basic facts we can look at today about the new moon, and so this article is entitled as what one might find listed as a beginning course at a college on the subject.

The first visible sliver of light (on the right side of the moon) from the rebuilding phase of the moon in the western sky, after sunset, is a new moon. This new phase of the moon is technically called the waxing crescent. It will always be in the western sky after sunset, and the timing will be regularly at 29 or 30 day intervals. If it is not confirmed by two or three witnesses, then we would automatically declare it to be a 30 day month. Concerning when a day starts, please see our mini-study entitled: ***When Does The Scriptural Day Begin?***

A question that came in not too long ago was, "Is there a Scriptural commandment to look for the new moon?" Looking into the book of Deuteronomy which has been termed by some as the "Constitution for the coming Kingdom," and also more readily known as "The second giving of the law," we find the answer is an emphatic "Yes!"

What the Law Says

Observe the month of Abib and keep the Passover to Yahweh your Elohim, for in the month of Abib Yahweh your Elohim brought you out of Egypt by

night, Deuteronomy 16:1 ESV.

The word "observe" (Strong's Hebrew word *shamar* #8104) can have the meaning of "watch," "to look" and/or "take note of and keep." The word "shamar" appears some 468 times in the OT (5 times as "watch") and has numerous translations to the English words: keep, watch (***Vine's Expository Dictionary***); keep, watch, observe, watch for, wait for and others (***BDB Hebrew Lexicon***).

In Deut. 16:1, "Observe the month of Abib..." could easily read "Watch for the new moon of Abib..." "To watch for" means one must make a visual sighting.

When Yahweh took the people out of Egypt, He obviously pointed out the new moon, after the new growth from the springtime. He said to Moses: *This month (new moon) shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month (new moon) of the year for you, Exodus 12:2 ESV.*

It's the only Biblical way to determine the new year (Hebrew: *rosh hoshana*) and the appointed times (Hebrew: *moedim*) of Yahweh (Lev. 23). This would include Passover, which is on the 14th day of Abib.

Hence, the reason that it is so important is to get it right. In the New Testament we observe Passover, in Messiah, and partake of His body and blood (i.e., emblems thereof). How important is that for us? This appointed time, as well as the other appointed times specified for us today, are indeed relevant.

In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight is YAHWEH'S Passover. Then on the fifteenth day of the same month there is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to YAHWEH; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not do any laborious work, Leviticus 23:5 - 7 NASB.

What Historians Say

Historical information by Jewish scholars (such as, Edersheim, Spier, and others) also shows that the practice of observing the new moons for each new month was done. For example:

- “The beginnings of the months were determined by direct observation of the new moon...witnesses had testified that they had seen the new crescent.” **The Comprehensive Hebrew Calendar**, by Arthur Spier.
- “...with what care and anxiety its appearance was ascertained from witnesses who had actually seen it; also, how the tidings were afterwards communicated to those at a distance. For the new moon was reckoned by actual personal observation, not by astronomical calculation.” **The Temple, its ministry and services as they were at the time of [Yahshua Messiah]**, by Alfred Edersheim (2003, page 289).

It appears that since Egypt had three different calendars, and, historical records do confirm this, Yahweh wanted no mistake about when His Biblical New Year started.

Again we read, *This month (new moon) shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month (new moon) of the year for you*, Exodus 12:2 ESV.

Deeper Into the Hebrew

The Hebrew root words for the moon, when researched, have the meaning of "light" brought out. One must then watch/look/note/observe the first visible crescent light presented to be able to confirm a new moon. It would then be kept and noted as a new moon (new

month).

Harper's Bible Dictionary, page 652, has this to say:

“Hebrew has two terms for moon: *yareakh* and *levonah*. The first is a common Semitic term, appearing as *yrkh* in Phoenician and as *arkhu* in Akkadian, where it is also the usual word for ‘month’ or one lunation. *Yerakh* also means month in Hebrew.

“*Levonah* is a derivative of ‘white.’ In most biblical references, *levonah* is used in parallelism to *shemesh*, ‘sun,’ to describe the brilliant luminosity of the moon (Song of Sol. 6:10; Isa. 30:26). But in Isa. 24:23, *levonah* is used in parallelism to *bosh*, ‘shame,’ to evoke an image of colorlessness accompanying embarrassment.

“In referring to the new month, the biblical author uses the term ‘new, renewal’ (Heb. *khodesh*),

rather than either of the standard terms for moon.”

What we find here is the Hebrew words used for moon do not indicate “dark” or “night.” The first possible sign for the newness or renewal of a moon would be the first visible “light.”

No Moon or New Moon?

The scientific astronomical viewpoint (with Yahweh and the Bible removed) gives the new moon as essentially a no moon (conjunction), because there is nothing to observe, since there is no light.

The other thing to consider is an astronomical conjunction (scientist's new moon) cannot be pinpointed by visual observation, since it can last for upwards of three nights. This means there is no singular conjunction event that will confirm a singular event. They are nights (plural) in which no moon can be observed. To say that one of those is to be a witness of the new moon is in error of Yahweh's Word.

Some time ago we witnessed one of the thinnest new moons we've ever seen. There will normally be 1% - 2% illumination, but this may have been 1%. It was also the lowest on the horizon any of us has ever seen, but the fact is it was still seen and confirmed. It would not have been possible in a conjunction state.

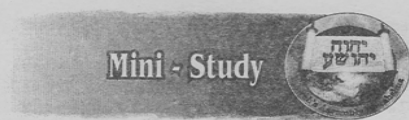
Moon for Appointed Times

He made the moon for appointed times; the sun knows its going down, Psalm 104:19 TS.

Many translations use the term “seasons” instead of “appointed times,” but *moedim* (#4150) is the plural form of the Hebrew word that is used to describe the Feasts of Yahweh, the Holy Days that He set-apart.

On the fourth day of creation we also find the same Hebrew word used:

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When Does the Scriptural Day Begin?

Midnight? Sunrise? Sunset? Which starts the day and how can we know Scripturally?

Most countries in our industrialized world have accepted midnight as the beginning of our 24-hour “day.” Although 12:00 p.m. is in the middle of the night, our society dictates that the night or dark period before midnight ends one day. The remainder of the night or dark period after midnight is the beginning of the next 24-hour day.

The present worldly calendar begins the counting of “days” with about six hours of darkness first, followed by twelve hours of light, and ends with six hours of darkness. The midnight-to-midnight system came from pagan Rome, along with many other heathen customs of today.

Other cultures determined the start of their day in various ways. The Babylonians and Egyptians reckoned it from sunrise to sunrise; the Umbrians from noon to noon; the Athenians, Numidians, and Phoenicians reckoned a day from evening to evening (sunset to sunset). The Hebrews also started their day at sunset (*Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature*, Vol. 2, p. 702).

The following excerpt from *Eerdman's Bible Dictionary* explains how the Israelites determined their day:

“The Israelites, who divided the year

Then Elohim said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for **seasons** and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so, Genesis 1:14 - 15 NASB.

The other thing to notice here is that light is emphasized, at least three times, not the darkness.

"Originally, the New Moon was not fixed by astronomical calculations, but was solemnly proclaimed after witnesses had testified to the reappearance of the crescent of the moon. On the [29 -] 30th of each month, the members of the High Court assembled in a courtyard in Jerusalem, named *Beit Ya'azek*, where they waited to receive the testimony of two reliable witnesses; they then sanctified the New Moon," *Encyclopaedia Judaica*.

This quote sounds as if the Temple would need to be standing for us to even attempt to affirm the new moon, but we understand that while some laws are in abeyance with no standing Temple, it doesn't negate the fact we are to worship Yahweh the way He chooses. It should also be noted that those, in Messiah, are a standing Temple (2 Cor. 6:16).

Fulfillment In Our Day

The following Scripture describes Yahshua talking to the Samaritan woman and essentially explaining that neither the Temple in Jerusalem, nor the place she worshipped at, would be the places of wor-

ship:

But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. Yahweh is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth, John 4:23 - 24 NKJV.

So a place to worship is where you are, and we (members of the body of Messiah) are in this country (and others), now worshipping based on a similar format as the synagogues were in the 1st century.

When it comes to the Feast of Tabernacles, we do travel to (as it is one of the commanded sojourning Feasts) an accommodating location for worship which is chosen by the eldership. Other sojourning Feasts are listed in Exodus 23:14 - 17 and Deuteronomy 16:16 - 17. We do the best we can to worship Yahweh in His Spirit and in His Truth, until He sends His Son back to gather us together.

The new moons are a critical part of the Biblical calendar that we keep track of so we can keep the proper days of worship that our heavenly Father has for us. His

Son kept them, and we are to do so also, as He set the example, as we are also to be obedient children to the Father. See our in-depth study on *Biblical Holy Days*.

Jerusalem Time?

The question still comes up about using the new moon from Jerusalem only. Are we to look to Jerusalem for the new moon?

What obedience or truth is there to ignore a clear command in our own area? When we see the sun set on the 6th day, do we wait until we get reports that the sun has set in Israel before keeping the Sabbath in our area?

Do we recognize the new days in our area when the sun goes down, without recognizing the new months in our area when the new moon is shown? Jerusalem time would be recognized if one went there for the Sabbath or for a Feast. And, the lesson is that when the people went into the land they were to observe the appointed times of Yahweh. However, today we are in a different land, and are now obedient in Spirit and Truth here, just as the Messiah prophesied would happen (John 4:21 - 24).

The prophecy for the coming Kingdom is that all will go there (Isa. 66:23; Zech. 14:16-19). But, that time is not now. The time now is what Yahshua proclaimed, but many refuse to listen even though we are to prepare ourselves now for the wedding to come and to be co-rulers with Yahshua in the coming Kingdom.

The question

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for those on the fence is, what are you waiting for? For others in the faith, the question is, are you still committed? Where will you attend the Feasts this year?

Not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching, Hebrews 10:25.

History Comparison Today?

Yahweh warned the people not to be polytheistic like so many of the pagan nations were:

And when you look up to the sky and see the sun, the moon and the stars — all the heavenly array — do not be enticed into bowing down to them and worshipping things Yahweh your Elohim has apportioned to all the nations under heaven, Deuteronomy 4:19

NIV.

So what did the people do and what do many still do today?

Under Josiah, a good King of Judah, we hear of him paying attention to Yahweh's Word and clearing the Temple area of false idols of every kind that were evidently brought in by Manasseh. Manasseh was one of the worst kings Judah ever had. What made him so bad was all the false worship he brought in.

In 2 Kings 21:2 - 3 KJV, we read,

And he did that which was evil in the sight of YAHWEH, after the abominations of the heathen, whom YAHWEH cast out before the children of Israel. For he built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel; and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them.

We sometimes need to look at history to make sure we're not bringing in false ways of worship. Josiah had to have this all corrected, according to Yahweh's Word which he read to the people.

Then he (Josiah) removed the idolatrous priests whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense on the high places in the cities of Judah and in the places all around Jerusalem, and those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun, to the moon, to the constellations, and to all the host of heaven. 2 Kings 23:5 - 6 KJV.

Interestingly enough, sometimes it is brought up that we're somehow keeping pagan practices by looking for the new moon. But, what we're essentially doing is what the good king Josiah did. He read the Bible and accepted it for what it said, not for what was occurring by those committing false worship.

It doesn't say Josiah had opposition. But, then again, he was the king and opposing the king was a death sentence.


New Testament verses (specifically the Apostle Paul's writings) are often shown by well meaning, but deceived, individuals, to show we are somehow committing false worship, when, in reality, they can't seem to see their own disobedience. This type of disobedience caused those of the age of accountability in the exodus to die in the wilderness (Heb. 3:12 - 19).

Putting Paul in Context

An example is where Paul is saying, *You observe days and months and seasons and years. I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain,* Galatians 4:10 - 11 NKJV.

This looks to be speaking out of context of what we're doing. But one thing we've learned is you have to take Scripture in context, not out. Let's read the verses just

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Mini - Study 

Is Christmas a Biblical Observance?

"Put the Savior back in Christmas," people cry. But was He ever there in the first place?

By far the most important celebration in the Western world today is Christmas. Billions of dollars will be spent this year on gifts, gift wrapping, candy, decorations, and greeting cards in a gigantic, annual spending spree that starts in earnest right after Halloween—and shifts into overdrive the day after Thanksgiving.


Merchants hinging their hopes for the entire sales year on Christmas profits keep the momentum at a fever pitch. A nonstop flood of advertisements and promotions entice an exploitable public to continue spending themselves into debt at this time each year.

The more religiously disposed object to the commercialization of the "Savior's birthday." They can see that this annual celebration has little in common with any Biblical observance. On the contrary, Christmas today is little more than a mandatory ritual of gift exchanging done under the guise of family togetherness and pleasing children.

But the Bible believer must stop to ask himself, am I pleasing my Heavenly Father by my Christmas observance? If this is what He wants me to do, then surely I can find in His very Word—the Bible—at least one passage telling me to keep this holiday.

Shocking as it may be, you cannot find even one command in the entire Bible to keep this supposed birthday of the Savior! Furthermore, nowhere in the New Testament is there a single instance where someone observed Christmas. Not one of the Apostles observed December 25, nor did any of them ever in the Savior's 33 years on this earth throw Him a birthday party. Nowhere do we find His disciples giving a gift to Him on December 25. Nor did anyone else. Not even to one another.

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Mini - Study 

Colossians 2 and the Law

Does Colossians 2:14 negate Yahweh's law?

A POPULAR CHURCH DOCTRINE says that we are no longer required to obey the Ten Commandments or any law found in the Old Testament. Some preachers even call their message "New Testament Christianity," implying that theirs is a modern creed that leaves behind those archaic, Old Testament laws that bring mankind into such bondage.

The message from many pulpits today is not one of obedience to Yahweh's laws, but rather an emphasis on our Creator's love and the grace made available through His Son. Parishioners are told, "Feel good about yourself" or "The best things in life can be yours for the asking, so just believe." Messages based in human psychology and inspirational double-talk are common fare. But where have decades of no-law teachings led? To a society that knows little about standards of right and wrong and believes in no absolutes. The resultant toll in human suffering has risen proportionate to the success of anti-law doctrines.

Almost without exception Biblical passages often quoted as doing away with Yahweh's law are in a context teaching OBEDIENCE to His laws. His laws and statutes have a purpose: they are given to mold us into the image of His pattern Son, Psalm 19:7, Matthew 12:50. With such a sublime and important role, why the opposition to His laws—His way of life?

We all should strive to be open to understanding Bible truth and be as the noble Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

What About Colossians Chapter 2?

For some, Colossians 2 poses a huge obstacle in their way to observance of Yahweh's law. Does this chapter do away with the need for law? Or is that a forced interpretation? Understanding the situation prevailing

before it:

But then, indeed, when you did not know Elohim, you served those which by nature are not gods. But now after you have known Elohim, or rather are known by Elohim, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? (Galatians 4:8 - 10 NKJV).

This is speaking to former gentiles who worshiped false "gods" who were nothing. But, these false "gods" had days and months and seasons and years, which were to be honored. That is what Paul is addressing in this short statement.

Again, let's highlight Galatians 4:8 - 10 NKJV and see what he is focusing on:

*But then, indeed, when you did not know Elohim, **you served those which by nature are not gods**. But now after you have known Elohim, or rather are known by Elohim, how is it that you turn again to **the weak and beggarly elements**, to which **you desire again** to be in bondage?*

In the greater context, of the letter to the Galatians, Paul speaks against those who were saying the people had to be circumcised; the same issue is also addressed in Acts chapter 15.

We have to understand not only the context of what is being spoken of and addressed, but what the nature the society was in at that time. It was a polytheistic society with every imaginable deity and way of worship one could imagine. These people

were used to worshiping multiple deities at the same time. It was hard for them to stay monotheistic.

Paul is not preaching to the Jews who came back from the Babylonian captivity, who knew very well to keep Yahweh's appointed times and worship on the Holy Days Yahweh designated, such as the 7th day Sabbath.

Paul is specifically addressing uncircumcised gentile converts to Messiah who are being pulled in every direction from former pagan worship, and the days associated with them, such as December 25th. See our mini-study, **Is Christmas A Biblical Observation?**

In Galatians, some of the Jews, now seeing gentiles having faith in Abba Yahweh and Messiah Yahshua, are trying to convert them to the Abrahamic covenant with the token of that specific covenant, which, for those in Messiah, was/is of the heart only in a New Covenant. It provided all the previous covenant promises and more. In that sense, it is a renewed covenant, but in Messiah's blood.

The non-Messianic Jews, most likely, according to the law that was added "because of transgressions" (Gal. 3:19), were trying to

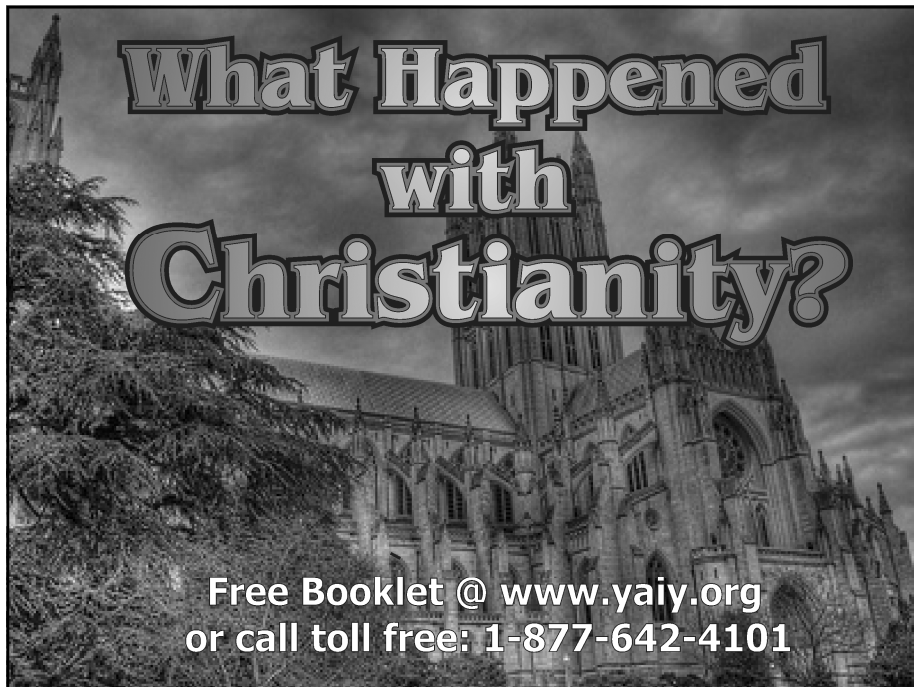
get them to do other animal sacrifices in "obedience" to the law. Specifically, Levitical order vs. Melchizedekan order. See the In-Depth study, **Orthodox Believers**.

That aspect of the law is not for us today, because there is a change in the law (*For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law*, Hebrews 7:12 NKJV). As adults, we do not need to take a blood token from our flesh as in the earlier covenant with Abraham. Today, it is our heart that is circumcised (Col. 2:11). We do not need to offer up bloody sacrifices to Yahweh to be right with Him. Yahshua's blood is the covering for us, not other animals. We are justified by His sacrifice in the New Covenant.

Here is another one of Paul's writings which is often used to try to teach that Yahweh's commandments are somehow done away in Messiah. And this one does mention the new moon.

Let no one therefore judge you in eating or in drinking, or in respect of a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths — which are a shadow of what is to come — but the Body of the Messiah, Colossians 2:16 - 17 TS.

In context, this is the exact opposite of what we've just looked at in the letter to the brethren in Galatia. We are now talking about the things we ARE to pay attention to, but not letting those who would say we don't need to bother with them, bother us. In other words, don't let them condemn you for the



right ways of worship which you are doing correctly.

In Colossae, we have a similar situation with former heathen brethren being bombarded by traditions and teachings of men, rather than the teachings from Yahweh's Sacred Scriptures.

Out of context, from both before and after these two verses, it appears to be saying "We can eat any kind of unclean food that we want, and we certainly don't have to keep those old Mosaic laws such as observing the new moons to determine when Yahweh's Sabbath's are to be kept, like the 7 annual Sabbaths each year."

Proof texting these two verses in Colossians, chapter 2, can present to someone, who is new or untrained in Scripture, an image in the mind of everything being done away with in Messiah.

We would encourage everyone to take a look at the mini-study we have on this very chapter, entitled **Colossians Chapter 2 and the Law**. In context of Scripture, both before and after Colossians 2:16 - 17, is the idea of traditions, doctrines and commandments of men. Not of Yahweh, but of men. The word used to describe such things in the Greek is "dogma." But, in the body of Messiah, we can discern Yahweh's Word and discuss it and come to be on the same page, whether it is about food, drink, new moons, or anything else from Yahweh's Word.

Let us read again the same passage, but with the proper view point, in context.

Let no one therefore judge you in eating or in drinking, or in respect of a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths — which are a shadow of what is to come — but the Body of the Messiah, Colossians 2:16 - 17 TS.

The shadow of

these things point to what will be found in the Kingdom. It will have no end. We must keep them now as they keep us in line with Yahweh's Word and give us insight as to what is coming.

Crescent Moons and Shiny Things

Speaking of crescent moons and man-made things and thinking of worshipping the Creator with pagan ways, there are jewelry images of crescent moons even mentioned in Scripture that were associated with Midianites, which were then taken by the Israelites and used.

There are Assyrian artifacts and other pagan artifacts which show ancient crescent moons with the horns in an upright position, which we even see on Islamic mosques today and in locations around the world, like Dubai, Russia, and China. Many of the Islamic nation's flags are, in fact, with a crescent moon. Please note, though, that they are waning moons, a direct opposite of Yahweh's Scriptural new moon.

As already mentioned, when we look for the new moon, scripturally, we are looking for the waxing or newness of light being once again formed on the moon because it indicates a new Biblical month for us and designates when to keep

Yahweh's appointed times.

In Conclusion

Syncretism, the mixing of pagan worship with other pagan worship and taking all of that and mixing it with true worship, as we find in many Christian Churches, is a problem we are faced with today. See the In-Depth study on **What Happened to Christianity?**

Mixing or compromising, and even outright doing away with the law, is also being found among some of those who proclaim the Sacred Names. And, quite frankly, some of those so-called "Sacred Names" are nothing more than man-made fantasies, along with their other false doctrines, such as proclaiming the earth is flat, a lunar Sabbath, the sunrise starts a Biblical day, etc.

We also see a problem with Judaism, in that they still hold many pharisaical traditions. And the Islamic Edomites and Ishmaelites are out of the ballpark completely with their worship of Allah, who is clearly different from Yahweh of Scripture.

It's going to take the return of Yahweh's only begotten Son, Yahshua, the true Messiah, to correct the whole mess we see with false religions and the syncretism with true worship.

In the meantime, we are being called out and are preparing for the coming Kingdom in which Yahweh's law will go forth and all who find themselves there will finally submit to Him fully.

"And it shall be from new moon to new moon and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all mankind will come to bow down before Me," says Yahweh, Isaiah 66:23 NASB.

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Prudence

Stories From Proverbs Chapters 10 - 29

Introduction

The book of Proverbs, beginning with chapter 10, now takes on a new appearance, beginning with chapter 10. With few exceptions, two consecutive verses speak on two different topics. Each verse generally consists of two lines where the second line is:

- (1) in contrast to the first:

*The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life:
But violence covereth the mouth of the wicked,* Proverbs 10:11;

- (2) used to complete a single thought:

*In the way of righteousness is life;
And in the pathway thereof there is no death,* Proverbs 12:28; or

- (3) compared to the first:

*He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favor
Than he that flattereth with the tongue,* Proverbs 28:23.

No matter which of the above it is, each verse should be of vital importance to each of us. Wisdom has built her house and if we are to live in it, then we should let these chapters tell us how to conduct our lives.

If one considers each verse as a thread of a certain color (that is, dealing with a certain subject), one can go through these chapters and find many threads of the same color, which, when woven together, make a strong rope. We shall find what is said concerning our conduct in relation to our friends and neighbors, to our parents and children, to our superiors and subordinates, to the foolish. In essence they will show us the relation of righteousness to unrighteousness, of law-abiding to law-abusing, of law-keeping to lawbreaking — and the results of each. Remember, in reading the Scriptures and applying them to our lives, that

The eyes of Yahweh are in every place, beholding (taking note of) the evil and the good, Proverbs 15:3.

For Yahweh shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret (hidden) thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil, Ecclesiastes 12:14.

The Scriptures are full of such observations. As examples see Gen. 3:8, 9 with respect to Adam; Gen. 22:11, 15 - 18 with respect to Abraham; Gen. 39:21 with respect to Joseph; and Ps. 139:7 - 13 with respect to David.

Wisdom Dwells With Prudence

I Wisdom dwell with prudence and find out knowledge of witty inventions, Proverbs 8:12. Strong's Concordance has reworded the first part as follows:

I Wisdom have made subtlety my dwelling.

Subtlety, Webster's Dictionary says, is the ability to make fine distinctions in meanings necessitating a need of mental keenness; while prudence is the capability of exercising sound judgment in practical matters — to be discreet in conduct.

One should not confuse a prude with being prudent. A prude is a person who is overly modest or proper such that his conduct annoys others.

All of the words translated prudence have an underlying meaning of intelligence and understanding when allied with Wisdom. Thus, to dwell in the house of Wisdom one must be prudent as the two of them virtually walk hand-in-hand:

In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found: But the rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding, Proverbs 10:13.

It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: But to exercise wisdom (is as sport) to a man of understanding, Proverbs 10:23.

Wisdom is before (is the goal of) him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth, Proverbs 17:24.

When wisdom entereth into thine heart and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee, Proverbs 2:10 - 11.

And for what good?

To deliver you from the ways of evil men ... to walk in the ways of good men and keep the paths of the righteous, Proverbs 2:12, 20.

Are You Prudent?

It is no stretch of the imagination to consider Wisdom without prudence (understanding and discernment) as a "day without sunshine" — a truly unhappy situation for then this wisdom is nothing more than man's wisdom and not that which comes from above. We are told to "keep sound wisdom and discretion (Proverbs 3:21)" for "the discretion of a man defereth his anger and it is his glory to pass over a transgression (Proverbs 19:11)." See also 1 Peter 2:19 - 21.

For examples, we read in Genesis 40:14 - 15 about Joseph being taken captive into Egypt and being falsely imprisoned,

But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house: For indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon.

Also, in 1 Samuel chapter 24, we read of how King Saul sought after David.

The Scriptures definitely speak out very strongly when it says if we are wronged that we should not render evil with evil. The following three Scriptures speak of this:

Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing, 1 Peter 3:9.

See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men, 1 Thesalonians 5:15.

Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men, Romans 12:17.

By rereading these same three Scriptures, the answer is given as to what one should do.

Romans 12:14 and 21 tell us of overcoming evil with good.

Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not ... Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good, Romans 12:14, 21.

If we are who we say we are then Proverbs 11:23 tells what it is we must exhibit.

The desire of the righteous is only good: but the expectation of the wicked is wrath.

Here are more Scriptures saying not to retaliate.

But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also, Matthew 5:39.

And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also, Luke 6:29.

The Boundary of Man

Yahweh's mind is infinite (*Great is Yahweh, and of great power: His understanding is infinite, Psalm 147:5*), while man's is only finite. Man can see many of the heavenly bodies created by Yahweh but it is Yahweh Who knows their number as well as their names.

He telleth the number of the stars; He calleth them all by their names, Psalm 147:4.

Lift up your eyes on high, and behold Who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: He calleth them all by names by the greatness of His might, for that He is strong in power; not one faileth, Isaiah 40:26.

With modern scientific advances, man can peer into his own body, but Yahweh can look into man's heart (mind) and can see what really makes him tick.

Shall not Yahweh search this out? For He knoweth the secrets of the heart, Psalm 44:21.

When a child is born into this world, his sphere is restricted to his immediate surroundings. As he grows older he must learn to cope with many new situations. He needs help.

The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame, Proverbs 29:15.

This is where the parents must perform their duty as fathers and mothers.

Now listen and harken to the words of Yahweh which were spoken to the Israelites of old, but are for us today also.

Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which Yahweh your Elohim commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it ... And these

words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up, Deuteronomy 6:1,6, 7.

The word translated "teach" in the phrase "thou shalt teach them diligently" in verse seven, means to inculcate, to rub in by repetition. The commandments, statutes and judgments referred to in verse one basically speak on the subject of our relation to others and to Yahweh. Parents are to instill these into the hearts and minds of their children. They are commanded to do so.

Discipline

More often than not, in order to bring up children in the nurture and admonition of the Messiah, it takes discipline. Webster's Dictionary defines discipline as training that develops self-control, character, or orderliness and efficiency or treatment that corrects or punishes. But to bring up a child correctly in the eyes of Yahweh, discipline (punishment or chastisement) alone is not enough. Chastisement without love will only breed hatred.

Ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Messiah, Ephesians 6:4.

Nurture means discipline. A child needs to be disciplined to know which actions are acceptable and which are not. A child is filled with careless habits in mind and body and these must be dealt with.

Foolishness is bound In the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him, Proverbs 22:15.

Foolishness here means careless habits. Ruling out child abuse, which is chastisement without love, the goal of discipline should not only be an immediate arrestment of the undesirable action, but saving of his life so that he may obtain

his spiritual reward of everlasting life.

Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying, Proverbs 19:18.

Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell, Proverbs 23:13 - 14.

Yes, parents,

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it, Proverbs 22:6.

The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame, Proverbs 29:15.

He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes, Proverbs 13:24.

Instruction — Take It Or Leave It

Much has just been said about the parents' role in their relationship with their children concerning discipline with love. But what about the other side of the fence? Are the children to sit back and take the lumps or should they fight back? Let us find out what Yahweh says about this.

Children, obey your parents ... Honor your father and mother:

Children, obey your parents in Yahweh: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;), Ephesians 6:1 - 2.

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which Yahweh thy Elohim giveth thee, Exodus 20:12.

Your obedience to your parents is commanded of you. When your parents discipline you (*He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes,* Proverbs 13:24.), they are trying to help you — to show you the correct way to live even though it may not be apparent to

you at the time because you are more concerned with your immediate surroundings.

Scriptures on Correction

On this subject of correction, Yahweh speaks to us concerning both sides of the ledger.

On the One Hand

Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die, Proverbs 15:10.

He that refuseth instructions despiseth his own soul, Proverbs 15:32a.

He that refuseth reproof erreth, Proverbs 10:17b.

He that hateth reproof is brutish, Proverbs 12:1b.

Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction, Proverbs 13:18a.

On the Other Hand

A wise son heareth his father's instruction, Proverbs 13:1a.

He that regardeth reproof shall be honored, Proverbs 13:18b.

The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise, Proverbs 15: 31.

He that heareth reproof getteth understanding, Proverbs 15: 32b.

He is in the way of life that keepeth instruction, Proverbs 10:17a.

Whoso loveth instruction (correction or discipline) loveth knowledge, Proverbs 12:1a.

He that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise, Proverbs 12:15b.

A reproof entereth more into a wise man, than an hundred stripes into a fool, Proverbs 17:10.

Here, then, we have Scriptures relating to instruction, whether it be for correction or discipline. It is up to you to take it or leave it. The choice should be obvious if you desire everlasting life in the coming Kingdom.

These chapters in Proverbs also relate other characteristics in the parent-child relationship but

these will be treated under other subject areas in future articles. However, one really can not leave this subject without quoting two more scriptures concerning the relationship of a child to his parents:

He that wasteth (preyeth upon) his father, and chaseth away his mother, is a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach, Proverbs 19:26.

Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, It is no transgression; the same is the companion of a destroyer, Proverbs 28:24.

Being Prudent

A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent, Proverbs 15:5.

Being prudent is the underlying theme of Proverbs 10 - 29. A few characteristics of a prudent person are as follows:

1. Public disgrace: *A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame,* Proverbs 12:16. Here covereth shame means to have sense enough to prevent public disgrace;

2. Meddling: *The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit,* Proverbs 14:8. Here, "to understand his way," means "is not to pry into other peoples affairs";

3. Gullibility: *The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going,* Proverbs 14:15. Here, one should not accept all things on someone's say, but should prove all things, as I Thessalonians. 5:21, says: *Prove all things; hold fast that which is good;*

4 Wise in heart: *The wise in heart shall be called prudent,* Proverbs 16:21a. Here, one should have understanding; and

5. Foresee evil and forsake it: *A prudent man foreseeth the evil and hideth himself,* Proverbs 22:3a. An example of this is someone trying to prov you into an ar-

<see **Prudence** page 20>

Subdue and Dominion

And Yahweh blessed them, and Yahweh said to them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and SUBDUE it: and have DOMINION over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth, Genesis 1:28.

In this verse there are TWO key words: SUBDUE and DOMINION.

And we get the importance of these words from reading the next chapter where Yahweh presents to Adam all living creatures to be named:

And out of the ground Yahweh Elohim formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air which He had formed out of the ground, to see what Adam would call them, and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof, Genesis 2:19.

Nevertheless, what was in the beginning, in Eden, was forfeited by the first Adam because of sin. Now, the last Adam (Yahshua ha Mashiah) has recovered for those who overcome, and DOMINION takes on a new and different character.

Benefits Given to Those Who Overcome

- To eat of the tree of life which is in the midst of the paradise of Yahweh, Rev. 2:7;
- Not be hurt by the second death, Rev. 2:11;
- To eat of the hidden Manna and be given a white stone and in the stone, a name written which no man knows save he who receives it, Rev. 2:17;
- To receive power over the nations to rule with a rod of iron, Rev. 2:26;
- To be clothed in white raiment; his name not blotted out of the Book of Life, but confessed his name before the Father and the angels, Rev. 3:5;
- To become a pillar in the temple of Yahshua's El, and receive the Name of His El, and the name of the city of His El, Rev. 3:12; and
- To be granted to sit with Yahshua in His throne, even as He overcame and is set down with His Father in His throne, Rev. 3:21.

And the first of these seven promises to them who overcome, to eat of the tree of life, which was in

the midst of the paradise of Yahweh and proximate to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil which was in the midst of the garden, and was withheld from the first Adam. Why was it withheld? Because Adam made the wrong choice between the two parallel paths: the broad way that leads to death and the narrow way that leads to life; each parallel, one to the other, until a choice is made, one over the other, and the two paths split, each to its eternal destination.

The Dominion Seeker

Enter the serpent: afterward, to be known severally, as the tempter, the god and the prince of this world and the power of the air, the father of lies, and a murderer from the beginning. He was, and is, "more subtle than any beast of the field" and came, but for one purpose: to steal THE DOMINION, through a lie to accomplish this treachery.

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which Yahweh Elohim had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath Yahweh said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? (Genesis 3:1).

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Good News of Messiah, Who is the image of Yahweh, should shine unto them, 2 Corinthians 4:4.

And when the tempter came to Him, he said, If Thou be the Son of Yahweh, command that these stones be made bread. But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of Yahweh. Then the devil taketh Him up into the holy city, and setteth Him on a pinnacle of the temple, and saith unto Him, If thou be the Son of Yahweh, cast Thyself down: for it is written, He shall give His angels charge concerning Thee: and in their hands they shall bear Thee up, lest at any time Thou dash Thy foot against a stone. Yahshua said unto him, It is written again, thou shalt not tempt Yahweh Elohim. Again, the devil taketh Him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and saith unto Him, All these things will I give Thee, if Thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Yahshua unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, thou shalt worship Yahweh Elohim, and Him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth Him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto Him, Matthew 4:3 - 11.

Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me,

John 14:30.

Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience, Ephesians 2:2.

Incidentally, his minions have titles too: spiritual wickedness in high places and the rulers of the darkness of this world:

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places, Ephesians 6:12.

Diminution's Ownership Changed

And before proceeding further, we note here, that Adam and Eve's surrender of THE Dominion, affected ecosystems to fall into imbalance. Whereas before, every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree yielding seed, were meat for Adam, but now cursed is the ground. (Gen. 1:29, 3:17).

We get the picture of this from a reading in Mark, chapter 4:

A sower goes out to sow seed: some falls by the wayside where the fowls of the air (representative of spiritual wickedness in high places) come and devour; other seeds fall on stony ground (hearts that are hard-shelled against the Truth); still some falls upon thorns and thistles and becomes choked (representing the toil and the labor with which men labor in the sweat of their face): only a little finds its way into good ground, where the yield is mostly divided into parts, 30 or 60 or 100, suggesting that but few will be saved.

Whereas before, "every green herb for meat" had been provided every creature under Adam and Eve's DOMINION; now, divisions were made among every beast of the field, among every fowl of the air, and among every thing that creepeth upon the earth. (Genesis

1:30). Now, a food chain was advanced, with some creatures transformed into carnivores and others, herbivores, which became prey for the carnivores!

And from that time, until two millennia ago, the tempter, the god and the prince of this world and the power of the air, the father of lies, a murderer from the beginning, "hath blinded men's minds" so that they "lived, and moved, and had their being" under a curse! (2 Cor. 4:4; Acts 17:28).

But in the millennial kingdom, "The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock...and the wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and calf and the young lion and the fatling together and a little child will lead them," Isaiah 65:24 - 25, Isaiah 11:6 - 8.

Heretofore, we have subscribed to ha satan, "the father of lies," among many others, nevertheless, there is one truth credited to him:

He, Satan

Takes Yahshua up into an exceeding high mountain, and he shews Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time...and says to Him, all these things, all this power will I give to You, and the glory of them; for that is delivered to me, and to whomsoever I will give it. if you will fall down and worship me, all shall be Yours, Matthew 4:8 - 9; Luke 4:5 - 7.

In this, "For that is delivered to me," and only in this, the tempter, the god and the prince of this world and the power of the air, the father of lies, a murderer from the beginning spoke the truth. And the reason we know this is true is because all humanity is subdued by:

- The kingdoms of the world, Matthew 4:8;
- All this power, Luke 4:6;
- The glory of them, Mark 4:19;
- The deceitfulness of riches, 2 Timothy 2:4;
- The cares and affairs

of this life, 1 John 2:16; and

- The lust of other things entering in as all that is in the world: the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life which parallel forbidden fruit causing many jams and appearing as good, pleasant, and desired to make one wise, Genesis 3:6.

Six bullet points, conveniently enumerated as the number of man, and presented by the tempter, the god and the prince of this world and the power of the air, the father of lies, a murderer from the beginning who, incidentally, had nothing in Yahshua.

Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me, John 14:30.

So, here we have Yahshua upon an exceeding high mountain overlooking all the dominion that had been stolen. And try as the tempter did, as the god and the prince of this world and as the power of the air, as the father of lies, as a murderer from the beginning might, however, for forty days tempting Yahshua, he had met One Who would not be subdued because His kingdom was not of this world!

Yahshua answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if My kingdom were of this world, then would My servants fight, John 18:36a.

Yahshua simply did not have an itch which the devil could scratch, and neither should we!

This Last Adam was purposed to recover for all what the sons of Adam had had, which, through disobedience, was SUBDUED by the tempter, the god and the prince of this world and the power of the air, the father of lies, a murderer from the beginning, but that time was, and is not yet! And the proof of this is that presently, the whole creation groans and travails in pain

together, waiting for the adoption, for the manifestation of the sons of Yahweh, to be delivered from the bondage of corruption. (Romans 8:22, 23, 19, 21).

Inheritance

Now, there is a lot said today about INHERITANCE, as if already, sons of Adam were 'living, and moving, and having their being'...

- ...in a time when Yahshua had already delivered up the Kingdom to Yahweh;
- ...in a time when Yahshua had already put down all rule and authority and power;
- ...in a time when Yahshua had already put all things and all enemies, even the last enemy (death), under His feet;
- ...in a time when all things are SUBDUED unto Him; and
- ...in that time when the seventh angel has already sounded, and great voices in heaven said, "The Kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Sovereign, and of His anointed; and He shall reign forever and ever. (1 Corinthians 15:24 - 28; Revelation 11:15).

But look around. We don't yet "live, and move, and have our being" in that time but rather, among a fallen people and in a fallen world where there is still death, sorrow, and crying, and pain: those consequences which men yielded to, overcome by, and brought into bondage to one who shakes kingdoms, makes the world a wilderness, and who opens not the house of prisoners! (Acts 17:28; 1 Corinthians 15:24 - 28; Revelation 11:15, 21:4; Romans

6:13, 16; 2 Peter 2:19; Isaiah 14:16-17).

In *Minute Meditations*, a daily devotional published by (1) *The Hidden Manna* (December 2016) and in the January 2017 issue of (2) *Turning Points*, appeared perspectives by this author and David Jeremiah of the world in which we live. We are living in a world that has:

- rejected its Creator, by diminishing the glory of the uncorruptable Elohim and worshipping the creation more than the Creator (1);
- hastened the fashion of this world passing away, by, not only, abusing the stewardship, but also abusing the environment instead of responsibly exercising stewardship of its resources (1);
- Babylonized its core institutions (2);
- bankrupted its values (2);
- coarsened its culture, by giving place to diversity and tolerance (1);
- modified traditional family structures (1);
- changed the natural use into that which is against nature, through modifying its gender identity (1);
- pornified its entertainment (2);
- desensitized respect for human life (1);
- aborted its babies (2);
- euthanized its elderly and disabled (1)
- terrorized its peoples (1);
- rekindled its racism (2);
- overspent its money (2);
- disparaged its house of worship and turned

its eye from the persecution of believers (2); and

- placed its confidence in the worlds' princes to resolve issues of grave importance to the survival of the planet and its inhabitants (2).

Indeed, even though there has already been the death of the Testator; and even though we have an INHERITANCE incorruptible, undefiled, and that fades not away, subscribed to in the Book of Life and reserved in Heaven for us, that which is RESERVED is, for now, sealed by that Set-Apart Spirit of promise which is the earnest of our inheritance, until the redemption of the purchased possession —...yes, we did say, sealed by that Set-Apart Spirit of promise which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession. (Hebrews 9:16; Revelation 3:5; 1 Peter 1:4; Ephesians 1:13 - 14).

Yes, it is RESERVED, "To him that overcometh" and affirmed, we say, seven times —... corresponding to Yahshua's revelation to the seven assemblies: "He that overcometh shall inherit all things." (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 21:7).

So let's read the conclusion of the whole matter:

We spend our time here, as pilgrims sojourning in, and as strangers to, a fallen world and among a fallen people SUBDUED by ha satan but, in this present time, given time to "work out our own salvation with fear and trembling; and to give diligence to make our calling and election as more than conquerors, sure." (Philippians 2:12; 2 Peter 1:10; Romans 8:37).

Brother John Reece



What Happens After Death?

Does death mean death, or immediate life in some other form?

At some funerals you'll hear the minister say: "He is now up in heaven looking down at us." Do you believe him? If you do, then would you also believe him if he said, "He is now down in hell looking up at us?"

Each of these statements is a judgment made by man. We are enjoined not to judge others, Romans 14:3. We shall be judged by the same rules we use to judge others, Matthew 7:1 - 2.

The popular notions conveyed by these opening statements concerning the dead are totally unscriptural. Then why do some continually advance lies by using such erroneous statements? Either they want to comfort the mourners by the first or would use the second as a scare tactic. But what does the Bible say?

The creation story in Genesis tells us that we are made of dust. The elements that compose our bodies are also found in the earth. When Yahweh "breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life," a living soul came into existence. It was not alive before that time. James 2:26 says: "For the body without the spirit is dead." Just before Yahshua the Messiah expired, as is found in Luke 23:46, He said: "Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit."

The spirit referred to in each of these Scriptures, which is given to us from Yahweh at birth, is the force that allows us to become a living soul. Without it we are dead.

In Luke 8:49 - 56 Yahshua overheard someone saying that a woman had died. Yahshua went into the house where the dead woman was and said: "Maid arise." Immediately this woman's spirit returned and she arose. Without the spirit she was dead; with it she was alive.

This "breath of life" we received causes blood to be transported to all parts of our body, providing nourishment and removing impurities. But when this breath of life is removed the flow of blood ceases.

We are forbidden to eat or drink blood because "the life of the flesh is in the blood," Leviticus 17:11, 14. This is true of all members of the animal kingdom, including man.

How Final Is Death?

Besides the ceasing of normal body functions at death, the Scriptures tell us the following about death: the dead know nothing, Ecclesiastes 9:5,10; the dead have no thoughts, Psalms 146:4; the dead cannot love, hate or envy, Ecclesiastes 9:6; and the dead cannot work nor possess wisdom, Ecclesiastes 9:10.

Death, then, is a state of total unconsciousness. But, you might ask, what about Lazarus and the rich man or the other Scriptures indicating that dead people talk? The account of Lazarus and the rich man, given in Luke 16, is a parable used solely to convey the meaning expressed in verse 31: unless we accept the truth there is no hope of eternal life.

The accounts in the Scriptures indicating that the dead speak are as symbolic in nature as the accounts like Judges 9 where different forms of vegetation are speaking.

The Bible never says one thing and then contradicts itself later. The dead are dead. The first irrefutable action that takes place upon death is that the spirit — the breath of life — returns to Yahweh Who gave it to us, Ecclesiastes 12:7. All body and mind

functions stop. We do not live again until the resurrection. If we didn't really die, but floated off like spirits, there would be no need of a resurrection, would there? Yet the Bible promises a resurrection from the dead, John 5:28 - 29.

The version of Lazarus and the rich man, given in Luke 16:19 - 31, also brings out another important fact. Some religions and denominations believe in baptism for the dead as well as in performing righteous acts for the dead so that the dead person's heart can be made pure. However, in Luke 16:26, we read that nothing can be done for a dead person to change his or her final judgment — either everlasting life or damnation.

After one dies that person's future status cannot be changed by anyone. Yahshua judges us on what we do, and not on what others do for us (See Prov. 24:2; Matt. 16:27; and Rev. 20:13). Paul equates death to falling asleep, being unconscious of what is going on around us.

The Scriptures say that when death occurs the dead go to the grave and not to heaven or to hell or to a state in which their hearts are purified. Why? In 1 Corinthians 15:17 - 18, we read that if Yahshua had not been raised from the dead all would perish. Paul wrote in Hebrews 11:39 that even our illustrious forefathers, Abel, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, died "not yet receiving the promise."

So why do some people believe something else occurs between death and the resurrection? They perhaps want to believe it just as much as Adam and Eve did when the father of all liars, Satan, told Eve, "You shall not surely die," Genesis 3:4.

Born to Die, For Now

The second irrefutable fact about death is that nothing else occurs to us between death and the resurrection. No one, including ourselves, can do anything to alter our future status. This definitely

rules out man's having an immortal soul. Man was born mortal and remains mortal until he dies, or until the Messiah returns. The account given in 1 Corinthians 15 tells us that mortal shall be made immortal and "corruption shall put on incorruption" — when Yahshua returns to set up His Kingdom and not before.

As Genesis 2:7 says, we are formed from the dust of the earth. When we are born, the process of dying begins. Cells in our body die but are replaced by new ones. When we die, this process stops. When all the cells die, our body decomposes back to its original state — that of dust — as Ecclesiastes 12:7 indicates.

This is the third irrefutable fact that occurs when someone dies — his body returns to the earth.

The final irrefutable fact about death concerns what occurs at the time Yahshua returns for judgment. Hebrews 9:27 reads: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Yahweh has given to Yahshua the Savior the task of judging all mankind, John 5:22. We shall all stand before the judgment seat of the Messiah (Romans 14:10) to receive either the resurrection unto everlasting life or unto everlasting damnation. See John 5:28 - 29 and Daniel 12:2.

One of man's basic instincts is self-preservation. Man wants to hold onto life until it is impossible to do so. Because of this he tends to fear death. No one really knows how he or she will handle the situation until it happens.

Because we do not know when we shall die, all we can do now is set our lives aright and have faith and assurance that when Yahshua returns He will say unto us: "Well done, good and faithful servant ... enter into the joy of your Master," Matthew 25:21.

Prepare for a resurrection to life by following Biblical precepts. That is man's only hope for life.

Elder Roger G. Meyer


<Prudence from page 15>

gument. Don't slip by arguing with him but listen to him and then walk away without any rebuttle.

By now you should realize the importance of Wisdom and Prudence coexisting together. To say you have Wisdom from above but are without understanding is to put Yahweh's word to shame. Solomon received Wisdom and understanding. Pray that you may have them also because each of these characteristics will make you a better person — a person capable of conducting Yahweh's work which He has commissioned His chosen people to do.

Elder Roger G. Meyer

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

Mini Study 

A Matter of Death and Life

Do we really die when we pass away or does our soul live on in heavenly bliss while our loved ones mourn us down here on earth?

Most of my early life I had been bothered by a nagging question. If when we die our souls waft off to a joyful eternity in heaven, then why so much mourning at funerals?

If the popular teaching and belief is that man has an immortal soul, then why do ministers talk about "death" when administering last rites?

And if our soul lives on after we die, what's the point of a resurrection of the "dead," which the Bible speaks of?

We hear people say that good ol' Uncle Ben has died. Is Ben really dead? Or do we go to his funeral just to mourn his lifeless body, while our uncle lives on, rolling around heaven, playing his harp and testing the aerodynamics of his wings?

There he is, lounging serenely, propped up by one arm as he peeks over a cloud's edge and smiles down at those glumly carrying his corpse in a casket. Or at least that's what so many think. They want to believe that the dead aren't actually gone, we just can't see them anymore.

Let's face it. Most people don't like to talk about this subject. They're too into the present: too busy trying to get ahead, raising a family, getting a promotion, working for retirement — going for the gusto of life. The seriousness of the subject weighs heavily on the conscience, and we'd rather not be reminded of our own mortality.

The philosophy is, why worry about it? Just live a decent life, be an honest citizen, do your share, and it will all work out in the end. You'll get to heaven, they believe. But is that true?

QUESTION & ANSWER

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

A Read in Exodus 9:3:
Behold, the hand of YAHWEH is upon thy cattle which [is] in the field, upon the horses, upon the asses, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep: [there shall be] a very grievous murrain.

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

The murrain fell upon not only humans but on those animals that previously had been protected.. Some scholars allege the Pharaoh whose chariots later chased after Israel had his army horses quartered in caves or barns of some kind, and these were protected from the soot and ashes.

Q In Exodus 33:20, we learn that no man can see Yahweh’s face and live. Therefore, Moses was shielded by Yahweh in the cleft of the rock. In Deut. 4:12, we

learn that Yahweh spoke to the children of Israel, but they heard His voice only. Yet in Exodus 24:10-11, it states, “and they saw the Elohim of Israel; and there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and as it were the very heaven for clearness, and upon the nobles of the children of Israel He laid not His hand: and they beheld Elohim, and ate and drank.” In Numbers 14:14 it states: “for they have heard that thou, Yahweh, art among this people, that thou Yahweh art seen face to face...” KJV. Do these statements seem contradictory?

A They do indeed seem puzzling. Yahweh of the Old Testament “spoke” to certain ones such as Adam, Eve, Cain, Noah, who may not have seen His physical presence.

Moving through the Bible, in Revelation, we are given added insight or clarification of His appearance. To Abram “He appeared,” Genesis 12:7. To Hagar He appeared as an angel (Genesis 16:7-13). A well was there called Beer-lahai-roi (Do I live after seeing Elohim?) With Jacob He appeared with human features. “And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen Elohim face to face, and my life is preserved.” (Gen 32:30).

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

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

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

Yahshua saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He

that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou [then], Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of Myself: but the Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works, John 14:9 - 10 AV.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q Are the Palestinians in Jerusalem today the Jebusites mentioned in Joshua 15:63 and Judges 1:21? Or rather, are the Palestinians of today the Philistines of old?

In Exodus 23:32 - 33, Yahweh states not to make a covenant with the Philistines nor let them dwell in their land. Does this hold true today with the Palestinians?

A When Israel crossed the Jordan, they were told to kill off the seven vile nations in the land and let none survive, nor were they to marry or have any social contact with them. They were to destroy their idols and images, burn their altars and rid the land of paganism:

When Yahweh thy Elohim shall bring thee into

the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou; And when Yahweh thy Elohim shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, [and] utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them, Deuteronomy 7:1 - 2 AV.

Israel never did cleanse the land of these seven heathen nations, for they are still a problem described in the book of Judges. The offspring of these nations may well be there even today and are the ones Yahshua fights with even before He attends the wedding supper, where His garments are stained with blood. Revelation 19:13:

And He [was] clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of Yahweh." He comes from Edom (Esau), Isaiah 63:1 - 7.

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

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

We are told in Scripture *"For many are called, but few [are] chosen.*[Those chosen have been selected beforehand]"...*"According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Yahshua Messiah to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,"* Matthew 22:14; Ephesians 1:4 - 5 AV.

The Holy Spirit is given at baptism and each baptized believer is a child of Yahweh who is given a spiritual gift (Rom. 12 and 1 Cor. 12), which Paul describes is to guide the assembly: *"And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Messiah,"* Ephesians 4:11 - 12 AV.

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



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