

YAIY



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Tabernacles The Third Harvest Season

YAIY



Beacon



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STATEMENT

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

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



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



Fax:
573-642-4104



Email:
beacon@yaiy.org



Internet:
www.yaiy.org

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Yah Will Make A Way

“See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut,”
Rev 3:8

This article is intended for the encouragement of persons who have earnestly committed their lives and their services to pleasing and obeying Yahweh, yet experience devastating tests. It assumes that the readers are in pursuit of Yahweh's agenda and not their own, and that Yahweh, who sees the heart, calls them “His people.” Nothing said in the article is to be taken as being applicable to persons who do not come within this criterion.

The Bible tells us “*We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of Yahweh,*” Acts 14:22. The pilgrim pathway will not be easy. Temptations will come from Satan to defeat you. Trials will come from Yahweh to refine you. One thing is sure - you will be tested one way or another, but great victories are the outcome of great battles.

When faced with serious setbacks, severe challenges or harrowing circumstances, the shock or pain can prevent you from seeing beyond the distressing present into a bright future. It is easy at such times to dwell on the difficulty, asking many angry or self-pitying questions that focus upon and are expressive of the deep and overwhelming feelings you are experiencing.

However, such focus will not by itself enable you to progress beyond your suffering. As long as your thoughts remain self-centred in this way, you cannot move forward. Before, and especially when you encounter distress, you need to be buttressed by a firm foundation of beliefs in Yahweh, built upon a rock of evidences of His intervention, which emphasize that Yahweh will make a way to bring you to the light beyond the tunnel. This will help to give you

hope, assist you in coping, cushion and shorten your anguish, and motivate you to rise beyond the present.

The article is divided into the following four sections:

- **Building a Foundation** sets out some of the basic principles in the Bible that emphasize Yahweh's commitment to us and His ability, and dependability to help us in times of our greatest needs. It seeks to build the readers' focus, confidence and trust in Yahweh.

- **Biblical evidences** give examples when Yahweh intervened for His people and shows the lessons we could learn.

- **Your past experiences** encourage a reflection of those times in your own life when Yahweh had made a way for you.

- **Summary and Conclusion**

Quotations are from the New King James Version, with the Holy names inserted where applicable.

Building a Firm Foundation

A study of Yahweh's Word reveals many pivotal foundational blocks for your faith. Some of these principles are included under this heading. Never allow any suffering to obliterate these from your mind. Keep them always before you especially when you are going through difficult times.

1) Yahweh Loves His People... You!

Firstly, you must know beyond any shadow of doubt that Yahweh loves His people, and that He loves you. Paul expressed it well in Romans 8:35, 37-39. He first asked,

Who shall separate us from the love of the Messiah? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Then he answered:

In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of Yahweh which is in the Messiah Yahshua our Saviour.

If you are Yahweh's child, His love for you will never fail. He demonstrated this time and again with Israel and will say to you now,

Thus says Yahweh, who created you, ... and He who formed you, ... “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine,” Isaiah 43:1.

Time and again the Bible has given the assurance that Yahweh will not forsake His people. In Deut 31:6 He told Israel through Moses:

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for Yahweh your Elohim, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.

Hebrews 13:5-6 repeats the same promise:

He Himself has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you. So we may boldly say: “Yahweh is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”

He is with you every step of the way in spite of what you are going through, or how you may feel. The love of many will grow cold. His love never fades. Whatever you may doubt, never doubt Yahweh's love for you. It is a vital rock on which to build an unwavering faith that will withstand the winds of doubts and floods of testing.

2) Yahweh Loves His Work

The work of Yahweh is not exempt from severe attack. From the beginning, Satan has been trying to wreck Yahweh's work. In the Garden of Eden he tempted Adam and Eve and caused them to disobey Yahweh. Since then he has not given up. He attempted to have our Saviour killed at His birth; and not succeeding, he had the audacity to seek to destroy His relationship with Yahweh and ruin His work through temptations. In all these, Yahweh's plans have not been blown off course.

Yet, the adversary is still at work, turning up wherever he thinks he can find persons who will carry out his disruptive schemes. When others yield to his will, it will seem for a while that Yahweh's work is threatened. Do not despair if from being at the centre of Yahweh's work you should feel like an innocent spectator witnessing the demise of your role in Yahweh's work.

At such times it is important to know that Yahweh loves and is protective of His work. He sent His only Son into the world in order to bring back the fallen human race to Him, and allow them eternal life with Him. For this purpose Yahshua's precious blood was shed and Yahshua gathered and trained a team of disciples who would continue His work. Before returning to His Father, He passed the baton on to His disciples and followers of all ages with the command to "*Go into all the world and preach the (evangel) to every creature,*" Mark 16:15 .

This work is vital to the fulfilment of Yahshua's purpose in coming to the earth. It is so important that He said it would not fail:

I will build My (ecclesia), and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it, Matt16: 18.

The timing of His final return hangs upon the completion of this work.

This (evangel) of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come, Matt 24:14.

Yahweh will not allow His work to be hindered or derailed. Anyone called and chosen of Yahweh, who is obedient to Him and is genuinely and honestly committed to fulfilling this commission and not their personal agenda, is engaged in the continuation of Yahshua's work, and their work cannot fail.

Yahweh's work, like His people, will go through trying times. But while Satan's strategy is to cause Yahweh's work and His people to fail, Yahweh uses those same circumstances as a refiner, to remove the dross in you or His work:

Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing

happened to you ... For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of Yahweh, 1Pet 4:12,17.

When your work undergoes severe testing, you can use these tests and experiences as stepping-stones to take it to a higher level. Remember, Yahweh has not planned defeats for you or His work. You are not defeated by circumstances but by your attitude to them. Your edifice may be shaken but it will not crumble.

Those who trust in Yahweh are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever, Psalms 125:1.

Yahweh will not stand by and allow the obliteration of any of His commissioned work. He will make a way to keep it on course.

3) Yahweh is Sovereign

Yahweh is above all of your circumstances and foes. The combined forces of all the demons of hell, your circumstances and enemies,

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

Mini - Study

Worship Today

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

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

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

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

The Corban Offering

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

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

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

Mini - Study

Man Can't Choose His Own Day of Worship

A look at the meaning behind Romans 14:5. Does it allow us to make our own decision about which day to keep holy?

IN REJECTING THE OBSERVANCE of the weekly (Saturday) Sabbath, a number of groups rely heavily upon Romans 14 as a "proof text."

Indeed, verse 5 certainly has the appearance of allowing each individual the liberty to choose whatever day he wishes to worship:

"One man esteems one day above another: another esteems every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."

If this verse really teaches that man may ignore the law and select any day he wishes in worship of Almighty Yahweh, then it runs counter to the other teachings of Paul in this same letter. Note that he quoted the Tenth Commandment, which is against coveting, Romans 7:7. And in verse 12 Paul writes that the law is holy and the commandment "holy, and just, and good."

Paul Kept and Taught the Law

In Romans 7:22 Paul says that he delights in the law of Elohim after the inward man. Paul held the law in high regard and admits that he was taught according to the perfect manner of the law, Acts 22:3. He further states:

"This I confess unto you, that after the way

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in short, the whole universe, cannot prevail against Him. He plants and uproots, He exalts the humble and brings down the proud. His power is awesome. No one and nothing can withstand or hinder Him.

Indeed before the day was, I am He; and there is no one who can deliver out of My hand; I work, and who will reverse it? (Isaiah 43:13)

Yours, O Yahweh, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Yahweh, and You are exalted as head over all. Both riches and honor come from You, and You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all, 1Chron 29:11-12.

The sovereign of the entire universe is also ruler of your life. He knows best what is best for you. Whatever happens, there is no need

to fear. You could not be in a safer pair of hands. The best arms of flesh can and often will fail you. He cannot fail. Put your trust in Him even when your world has turned upside down. Submit to His will. At all times let your prayer be *"Thy will be done."* Seek His guidance, for His way is always right. He never makes a mistake.

What then shall we say to these things? If Yahweh is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)

Cast all your cares and fears on Him, trust and obey Him, wait patiently upon Him and He will make a way for you.

4) Do Not Focus on Circumstances

Many times it will seem that you have arrived at the end of your road. You cannot see if there is a way ahead. Darkness surrounds you, despair grips you, doubts possess you, and you are overwhelmed with disappointment, anguish, anxiety and fear.

At such times, do not focus on what you are going through but on the One who is with you.

Do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen.

For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal, 2 Cor 4:18.

When in the midst of similar gloom David cried,

How long, O Yahweh? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? (Psalms 13:1)

He did not stay in that state for he had already learned to put his trust in Yahweh in spite of what he was going through. With confidence, defying his circumstances, he was able to rise above them with renewed determination saying:

I have trusted in Your mercy; my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. I will sing to Yahweh, because He has dealt bountifully with me, Psalms 13:5-6.

It requires no trust when you can see clearly. But you need trust when you have come to your wits' end, and you cannot see, but only feel the loneliness and dread of dismal desolation. You need to know and

firmly believe that with Yahweh the road never ends. What appears to be the end of the road is only a bend in the road. Someone has said that if Yahweh has brought you to it, He will bring you through it. Your battle leads to victory; your night is the passage to day; your mourning will turn to gladness. Even though you go *"through the valley of the shadow of death"* you *"will fear no evil,"* for death is only the gateway to resurrection when He is with you.

Milk your troubles to the last drop of benefit. Your experiences are too valuable to be wasted. Go beyond the outer wrapper of pain to the gift of gain that is inside. Let the tests you are experiencing drive you to concentrate your thoughts much more on Yahweh.

Fill your mind with scriptural verses, hymns and spiritual songs that are edifying.

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Mini - Study



Does Paul in 1Corinthians 16:2 Teach Sunday Worship?

It was in early January when I finally went along with my neighbor to worship services on Sunday. After listening to the liturgy and hearing a simple sermon on faith and belief, all members were asked to go by a table in the rear of the sanctuary and pick up their box of envelopes for the new year. These were easy enough to find, all arranged alphabetically.

Enroute home in their auto, one of the youngsters tugged at my sleeve and handing me a pastel envelope from the box, asked, "Aren't these pretty?" They were indeed colorful. Written in bold letters were the words, "Stewardship Envelopes for Every Sunday of the Year."

Obviously they were offering envelopes intended for each Sunday's collection plate. On each envelope was written the following verse: "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as [Yahweh] has prospered him, that there be no collections when I come, 1Corinthians 16:2."

Upon noting my examination of the envelope, my friend quipped, "That makes it pretty plain, doesn't it, that we are to gather on the first day of the week?" With that my friend stopped at the curb and upon exchanging pleasantries, let me out.

As he drove away I pondered the meaning of the verse. It did not establish the first day of the week as the day of worship at all. Yet, many churches assert that because this verse seemingly commands that an offering be given on the first day of the week, that Sunday is to be a day of worship.

Here is an example of "proof-texting," where a doctrine is first established and then after a search, a verse is presented to prove the hypothesis. Let us proceed to examine this passage that is used to show Sunday as the New Testament Sabbath.

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

Mini - Study



Does Acts 20:7 Teach

Sunday Worship?

Was Paul really preaching on Sunday in Acts 20:7? A close look dispels this popular belief and discloses important days for observing today.

A MOST CONTROVERSIAL AND DEBATED passage in the entire New Testament is found in Acts 20:7: "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight."

Often cited as proof that the early disciples had been instructed by the Savior to observe Sunday, this verse supposedly shows that they were indeed now keeping the first day of the week instead of observing the day we know as Saturday.

Certain translations of this passage render it the same as the King James Version, namely, "the first day of the week." However, other translations render it Saturday night (New English Bible, Good News for Modern Man). How are we to understand this enigmatic passage?

Christianity's understanding of this passage is divided. Those who worship on Sunday insist this is a powerful passage in support of Sunday-keeping, and is a paramount verse used to show that the Apostle Paul was now keeping Sunday as a day of worship.

But Sabbath-keepers contend that it is indeed a Saturday evening message Paul preached that lasted into the night, into the first day of the week that begins at sunset (known to us as Sunday). They cite verses 8 and 9 to substantiate that it was evening and that there were many lights in the upper chamber. The evidence indicates that this latter understanding provides a clearer explanation. Biblical days end with sunset as well as start at sunset.

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Sing to Him, Sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works! (1Chron 16:9)

Speak freely to Him from your heart, in your own words, of His greatness, His unfailing faithfulness and love, and of the hope that awaits you. Let your worship, adoration, praise and thanksgiving flow incessantly to Him. He is always worthy to be exalted and thanked regardless of your situation. Remind yourself that this present world is not your home and that your treasure is stored up for you.

When you do not feel the motivation inside you to do these things, make a more earnest effort to draw near to Yahweh in prayer. It is most important that your relationship with Yahweh is not restricted to how you feel.

You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart, Jer 29:13.

This promise is repeated in Jas 4:8:

Draw near to Yahweh and He will draw near to you.

He is always there, patiently waiting for you to reach out to Him. Do not allow your circumstances to distract and hinder you. Do not give up until you take hold of Him.

Reinforce these efforts with external stimuli. Let the work of others inspire you. While driving, performing chores in or around the house, wherever you can salvage an opportunity, listen to inspiring recorded messages and songs to create a Yahweh-filled environment around you until you become an active participant and not merely a listener. The writer is continually benefiting from these methods in addition to personal Bible study and meditating on Yahweh's word, in order to maintain a sharp focus on Yahweh and Yahshua, and rise above the many problems and potential distractions that come his way.

You can be assured that when Yahweh, and not your circumstances, is at the centre of your thoughts and heart, He will bring you through, and you will be much stronger from the experience of putting Him first in your difficult times. Let your problems motivate you to find the way to His light out of your darkness.

5) He Wants to Bless You

The Bible is filled with blessings that Yahweh gives to those who trust and obey Him. Be always confident, especially when it seems otherwise, that Yahweh wants to give you only what is good for you.

For Yahweh Elohim is a sun and shield; Yahweh will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly, Psalms 84:11.

When you are going through difficult times, check your walk. Is your

stance upright according to His word? Ask Him to search you and create in you a clean heart that is pleasing to Him. Give Him first place in your life and leave Him to act on your behalf.

The eyes of Yahweh run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him, 2Chron 16:9.

Yahweh wants to bless you, but His blessings are conditional. If it seems that Yahweh is not showing Himself strong on your behalf, check the loyalty of your heart towards Him. (Incidentally, be very wary of those preachers who give the impression that they are the controllers of Yahweh's blessings, which will be released when you subscribe to their causes. Loyalty to Yahweh is paramount. Loyalty to and trust in man's manipulative schemes is another matter.)

Make sure that you are putting Yahweh first, and not His blessings. He knows the difference, and cannot be deceived. Yahweh blesses at the times and in the manner that He knows is best. They come in many different forms, but they will come when you seek after Him with all your heart.

Seek first the kingdom of Yahweh and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you, Matt 6:33.

Do not be discouraged when it seems that you have done your best in obedience to Yahweh, but nevertheless, things are going wrong. Trust Him. He will make a way out of your difficulties, or bless you with the strength to carry on. Whatever happens, when you are totally yielded to Yahweh you cannot fail to see His blessings. Nevertheless remember that the greatest blessings are internal and eternal. The peace and confidence He

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*Our Savior
Spoke
the Sacred Name*

“יהוה”

gives by trusting Him, the joy of His salvation, the freshness of His purity, the assurance of His abiding presence, and the hope of everlasting life, are all more excellent blessings than the mere removal of temporal hindrances or even a deluge of the choicest material benefits.

6) It Will Work Out Right

With faith in Yahweh there is never a good reason to worry about the outcome. The result is in His hands. Because of His love for you and His unlimited power, He will work out things just right - better than you could have thought or planned. His solutions may not be what you had hoped for or expected, but in time you will know that they were the best for you.

We know that all things work together for good to those who love Yahweh, to those who are called according to His purpose, Romans 8:28.

Remember, "Your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him". Matt 6:8.

He knew of your difficulty before you got to it, and had already planned your best passage through it, so trust Him.

7) Yahweh Will Do the Impossible

Yahweh has the whole universe, the host of heaven, and His Almighty power at His disposal to use when and as He chooses in order to achieve His plans and purposes. He will use the most effective method to bring victory to His people and His work. There is no difficulty you can face that Yahweh cannot and will not solve, in accordance with His eternal purposes.

There is no limitation to His power or to the range of solutions available to Him, which

He can apply in His time. He has promised to "bring the blind by a way they did not know"; to "lead them in paths they have not known", to "make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight," Isaiah 42:16. Yahweh can make a way for you, any time, anyhow and anywhere.

Behold, I am Yahweh, the Elohim of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me? (Jer 32:27)

Knowing these things there is no need to fear. You cannot be defeated. The raging storms must yield to His command and strong winds cannot destroy the building that rests upon Him.

The things which are impossible with men are possible with Yahweh, Luke 18:27.

Your enemies, including the demons of hell, will know that there is

no need to rejoice over you for when you fall you

Will arise; When (you) sit in darkness, Yahweh will be a light to (you), Micah 7:8.

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? (Romans 8:32)

Yahweh will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways, Deut 28:7.

For with Yahweh nothing will be impossible, Luke 1:37.

8) Trust in Yahweh, Not Solutions

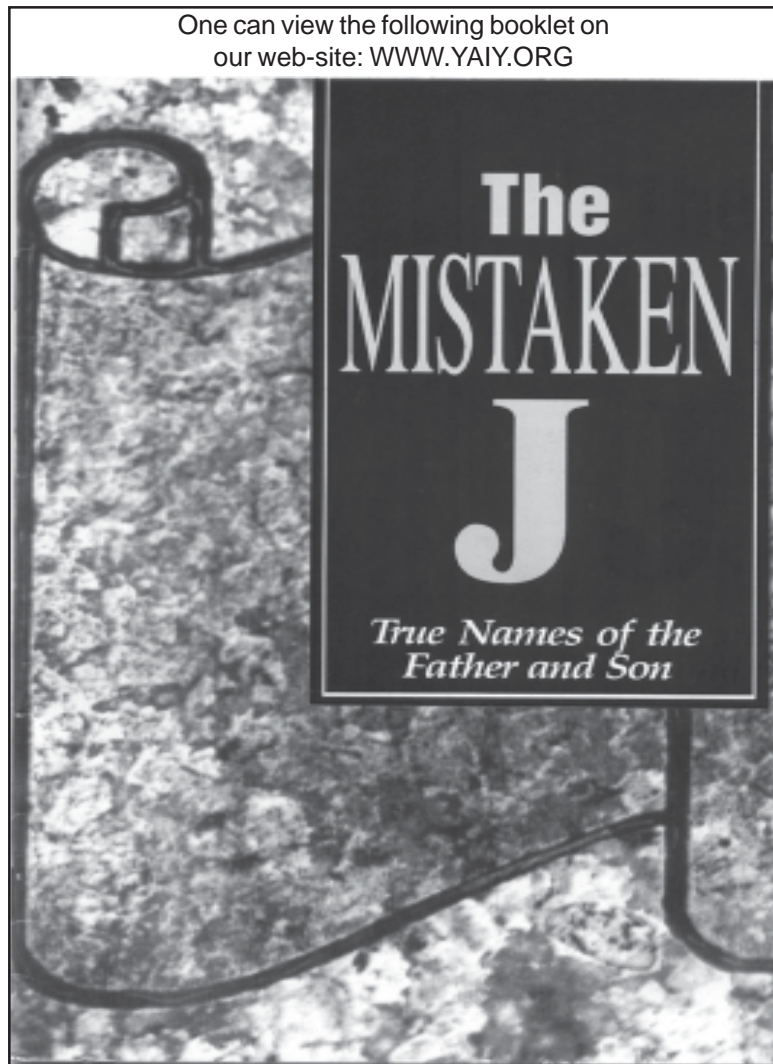
In spite of your confidence in knowing that you will be victorious in one way or another, you must be very clear in your mind that your trust is not in a change or resolution of your

circumstances but in Yahweh Himself. There is a big difference. If your eyes of faith are fixed upon things changing, then any delay will cause doubt. However, when your faith is fixed totally upon Yahweh, you will be more concerned to see Yahweh's Will done in your life. You will be submissive to Him. Through the storms and uncertainties, you will not be fighting or doubting Yahweh. You will be confident in spite of the circumstances that:

The eternal Elohim is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms, Deut 33:27.

Abraham was taken to the brink when he was asked to offer up his only son. Yet, though Abraham could not have known what Yahweh would have done,

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nevertheless, he was quite prepared to obey Yahweh's most stringent demand.

Job, in the midst of severe trial, had no inkling why things were going from bad to worst. Yet, with no end in sight, He said,

Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him, Job 13:15.

Daniel did not know if or how Yahweh would have delivered him, yet his commitment to Yahweh was firm, and non-negotiable, even in the face of being thrown into the lion's den. Daniel did not consider the possibility of deliverance from the lions. He was merely taking his stand for Yahweh to the ultimate limit. He was willing to do his best for Yahweh, expecting nothing in return.

It always pays dividends to put Yahweh first before our wishes or desires. Focus on Yahweh, and He will always find the solutions. Focus on solutions and you will never find Yahweh. Also, we must be aware that Yahweh's way may not lead us to the change we would like, but far more importantly, it will lead us to the manifestation of His glory. May our prayer through every test be:

Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Matt 6:13.

Biblical Evidences

You need to remind yourself of the humbling thought that your problem is not the first or the most difficult that Yahweh has had to solve. Bring to mind the many instances in the Bible where Yahweh made a way

for His chosen people through tremendous obstacles.

1) He Made a Way Through the Red Sea

Yahweh mysteriously reversed the dread of His people Israel at the Red Sea and placed it instead upon their enemies. (See Exodus 14) It seemed that His people were trapped, with the Egyptian army in hot pursuit, mountains on both sides and the Red Sea before them. They cried to Yahweh, and vented their anger on Moses for having brought them into this seeming trap of death. Moses cried to Yahweh. Yahweh spoke, then

The Angel of Yahweh, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them ... between the

camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel, (Ex 14:19-20), causing darkness to the Egyptians, but giving light by night to the Israelites.

Then Moses, in obedience to Yahweh,

Stretched out his hand over the sea; and Yahweh caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left, Ex 14:21 -22.

When the Egyptians continued to chase after them, Yahweh intervened, and stopped their advancement by taking off their chariot wheels, causing much pandemonium amongst them. They wanted to flee in panic, saying,

Let us flee from the face of Israel, for Yahweh fights for them against the Egyptians, Ex 14:25.

Again Yahweh hindered them. He commanded Moses saying:

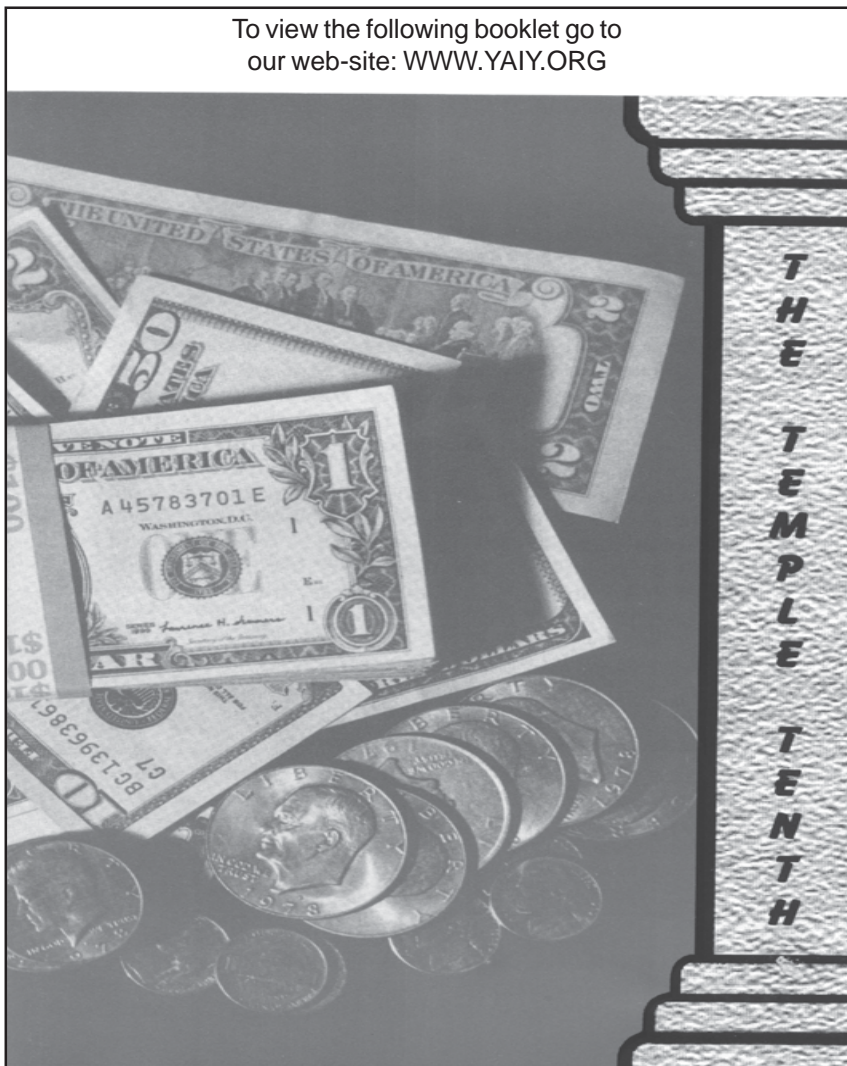
Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen, Ex 14:26.

Moses did. They were now the trapped ones!

The sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it... and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained, Ex 14:27-28.

The mighty force of Egypt perished at the hand

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of the Almighty Yahweh when they dared to try to destroy or recapture Yahweh's chosen people.

So Yahweh saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore, Ex 14:30.

The One who made a way through the Red Sea is quite capable of making a way for you through your difficulties. He works in ways we cannot see. Long before the children of Israel had come to the critical and dramatic point of their exodus, Yahweh had been working behind the scenes, with meticulous care in preparing their exit. It started with the birth and life of Moses, in the way he was groomed in Pharaoh's house, then continued his emergence as the Hebrew leader, and Yahweh's negotiator, until the stubborn heart of Pharaoh bowed to Yahweh's plan. It continued with Yahweh carefully selecting the safest path they would take for their exodus. It was a path no human strategist would have chosen. The Red Sea was the point at which anyone would have accepted the inevitable total destruction. But Yahweh always has extra weapons in His armoury.

Though the path ahead may seem dark and dismal, and you may feel insecure, threatened or overwhelmed because of what you are going through, know this that Yahweh was at this point long before you got there. If you are His child He has your exit strategy and onward journey carefully planned and His plan will not fail.

Yahweh saw in advance the trying circumstances you would experience; He saw the traps, hurts, frustrations, anxieties and disappointments. In His wisdom He decided how they should be tempered so that you could endure them. You may not see the benefit while you are going through the trials. At that time all you can

see is that things are going from bad to worse. When this happens take courage. Stand with faith in Yahweh. The night of darkness will pass, and your new day will dawn. It may not happen according to your time schedule or in the way you would like, but it will come to pass.

Remember that before the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, they accused Moses of bringing them out of Egypt for them to be slaughtered. Do not accuse Yahweh. Just maintain your trust in Him. Wait patiently for His deliverance,

He is the one who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed, Deut 31:8.

Remember that He has made ways in the past when it seemed there was no way, and He is doing it for you now, for He is "a very present help in trouble," Psalms 46:1.

2) The Hebrew Boys

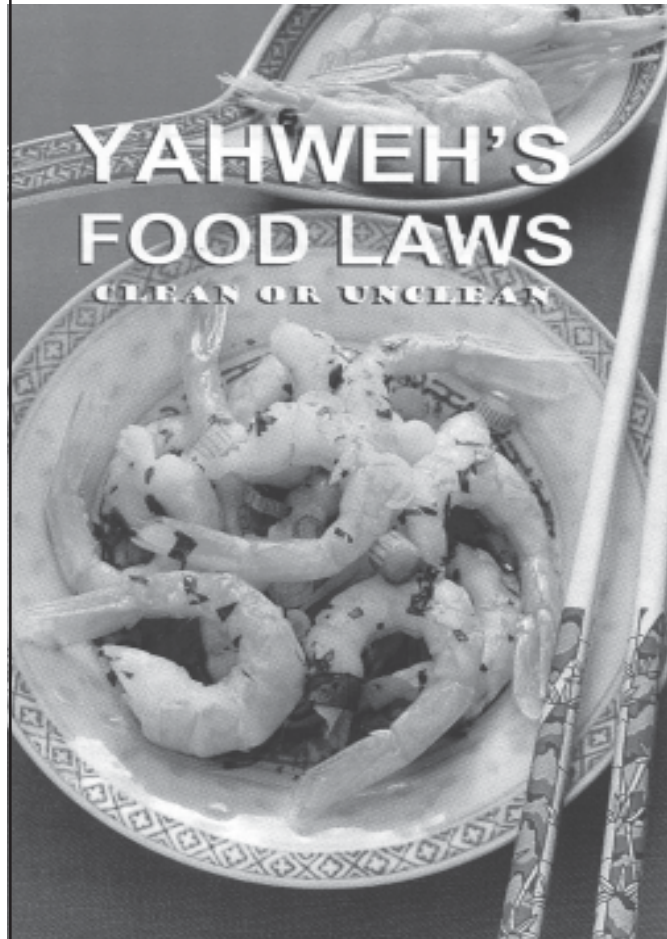
Consider the Hebrew boys Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego (Daniel 3), who were thrown into a fiery furnace because of obedience to the word of Yahweh. They refused to bow down and worship the golden image that the king Nebuchadnezzar had made. To match the king's fury, the furnace was heated seven times more than was normal, and killed those who threw the Hebrews into the fire. But Yahweh intervened. Man's heat is no match for Yahweh's Spirit when He fights for His chosen people. The flames did not touch their bodies or their minds.

Miraculously, they were walking freely in the overheated furnace, for the Son of Yahweh Himself had entered the arena. The king was astonished and bade them to come out of the furnace. Shadrach, Meshach and

Abed-Nego walked freely to hear the rapturous praises of the king, glorifying their Elohim who had rescued them. Yahweh had made a way that His chosen representatives could walk out unharmed from a furnace that had been stoked to guarantee the end of their lives. Of greater importance, He caused the organizer of their planned execution to publicly repent of his folly, and glorify Yahweh. What a turn around! Halleluyah!

Yahweh could have delivered these young men from having to go into the furnace, but this was His path to the double victory. Yahweh cares about us, but He never misses the opportunity to enhance His eternal purposes. May we in our quest for deliverance in our circumstances be more concerned for His Will to be done. We only see part of the picture. His vision is comprehensive. Through one action He can provide many solutions.

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There is no situation so intricate, difficult or intense that Yahweh cannot find a way of deliverance, or of revealing Himself to you and others, and at the same time, bring glory and honour to His matchless Name and almighty, invincible power.

3) Joseph

For some time in his life it seemed that Joseph had hit a bad patch. He was thrown into a pit and sold into slavery by his own brothers, then wrongfully imprisoned for not yielding to the temptation of Potiphar's wife, and forgotten in prison by the chief butler whose dream he had interpreted. But Yahweh was with Joseph and eased him from each of his sufferings, gave him favour where it mattered on his way to the most spectacular and incredible promotion possible for a former slave and prisoner in a foreign country. At the right moment Yahweh delivered the big prize that placed Joseph in the unique position of being able to feed his envious and devious brothers.

Once again, as in the case of the Hebrew young men, when deliverance came, it had a rippling effect. Yahweh not only provided deliverance for Joseph, but also food for his entire family and the nation of Egypt. In addition He brought about the fulfilment of Joseph's dream, gave Joseph's brothers many lessons including love and forgiveness, and established Joseph's family in Egypt, which was a vital start to the subsequent history of Israel.

Yahweh works in mysterious ways. His way of deliverance for you will have offshoots to His other purposes. He will take you from the pit of rejection and humiliation, the dungeon of isolation, and the conspiracy of those who want to have their own way, and cause you to succeed and to rise above your foes. But behind the scenes, there is far more than your situation interwoven in the tapestry of His eternal plan. What a mighty Elohim we serve who can bring together and repair many different strands of a problems in one stitch!

O that you could begin to see and comprehend Yahweh's bigger picture,

and rid yourselves of the obsession with your own struggles. When that happens you would have found the route to being liberated from yourself and the negative effects of your troubles.

4) Yahweh Likes Challenges

The Bible shows that Yahweh revels in challenges, and wins battles when defeat was the most likely outcome. He put the lad David against the giant Goliath, and the small nation of Israel against the combined armies of stronger nations. He reduced Gideon's army to a mere three hundred to face the vast combined forces of the well-equipped Midianites, Amalekites and all the children of the east who were "as numerous as locusts" (Judges 7). Gideon's men won with only trumpets as their weapons, demonstrating that it is neither by might nor by power but by Yahweh's

Spirit that your obstacle will be removed and your pathway cleared.

If you are one of Yahweh's chosen people, Yahweh will intervene even though you are weak, and will crush the opposition however organized, strong or numerous they may seem to be, for the battle is not yours but Yahweh's. He never fails to enter the fight when His people's work or purpose is at stake.

Let the weak say, "I am strong,"
Joel 3:10.

His help is sufficient for you, for His strength is at its best when you are at your weakest (excluding sinning!), 2 Cor 12:9.

Your Past Experiences

As you look back into your own life, you will find many instances when Yahweh had made a way for you. You will find that He never failed you, and that He fulfilled His word of never leaving or forsaking you. So do not think He is about to change and desert you now. No person or situation is so important as to cause Yahweh to withdraw His promises. As He delivered you in the past, He will do the same again for you, and continue to do so, whatever you may face. His mercies are unailing. He is faithful. The work He has begun in you will be completed. He has not brought you this far to leave you now.

I am Yahweh, I do not change,
Malachi 3:6.

Summary and Conclusion

- Whether from Yahweh or Satan, tests in this life are inevitable. You need a firm and immovable foundation of Bible based beliefs that can see you through the storms of life, and will enable you to build and move on to victory from the jaws of defeat. As a soldier must be trained and equipped to fight, so you too must be prepared for the inevitable battles you will face.

- It is impossible to apply knowledge that you do not have. You need to know and regularly practice the survival strategy that the Bible gives to us before the difficult times come. Draw heavily and frequently from the many

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

Mini - Study

Scripturally Clean Food

Many believe that all food is now okay to eat. They point to what Yahshua said and what Peter saw. Here is what the Bible says.

Not only does the Bible reveal what our behavior should be in this world, but we also are told what foods are appropriate to maintain proper health and vigor.

"A sound mind in a sound body," is an ancient cry of the Greeks that holds true today. If our body is in good health, we feel good, our vigor is improved, our thinking is clearer, and our disposition more pleasant.

Food has a direct bearing on our health and well-being.

The food we eat is the fuel needed to keep us going just as gasoline is needed to fuel the engine of an automobile and provide needed power. Water, kerosene, milk, or orange juice, won't work in a car. The human body also requires the right foods for good health.

Good Nutrients Removed

Food processors have educated many through their advertising programs of the better nourishment in eating whole grains. White bread sales continue to fall as shoppers become aware of the wholesome virtues of whole grains. In the past the wheat germ was removed from the flour because it

instances in the Bible where Yahweh had made a way for His chosen people, and be encouraged that He will do the same for you because of His un failing and unchanging love. Be strengthened and confident by the inspiring promises in the Bible.

- When you are in the midst of your testing, you cannot afford to focus on the people, circumstances or things that cause disquiet, but on the unseen hand of your Almighty Elohim. If the heroes to whom reference has been made had focused on their situations they would have lost courage and so will you unless you have a firm unmovable trust in Yahweh that He is on your side that He will withhold no good thing from you if you walk uprightly (Psalm 84:11).

Learn from and use the invaluable experiences in your own life when Yahweh never failed to make a way for you, and understand that He is not about to change now.

- Never allow difficult situations to disrupt your focus on Yahweh or your trust in Him. Instead, use every possible opportunity to build a Yahweh-filled environment by praising, worshipping, singing, praying, Bible study with meditation, and recorded sermons and uplifting religious songs.

- Remember that nothing is too hard or is too much trouble for Yahweh. He will close the lions' mouths, exalt the despised, bring down the haughty, scatter enemies, ease or remove your pain, bring healing, or calm the troubled seas. Like Abraham and Sarah in the Old Testament, and Mary, Yahshua's mother in the New, you may wonder how this will be, but Yahweh is not limited by the boundaries and probabilities of our finite minds.

- Yahweh does not lie.

His promises will come to pass in the lives of those who fear Him. No one and nothing can hinder Him, and none can over-ride what He proposes.

- Yahweh is anxious to bless you and to make a way for you. Give Yahweh first place. Honor Him, love Him and serve Him with all your heart, obey Him and watch how He will inter-vene on your behalf. Remember to fo-cus on the giver rather than the gift.

- The best preparation, however, will not prevent the immediate impact of a traumatic experience, but it will lessen the effect of the blow, shorten the in-terval of your despondency and develop a stronger faith in Yahweh.

- Above all, understand that the strategy on its own is not what will bring victory. If we are to defeat our Goliaths, walk free from our fiery fur-naces, cross our Red Seas, and bring glory to Yahweh, we must have a con-stant intimate relationship with Yahweh and Yahshua. Yahshua said we must abide in Him, for without Him we can do nothing (John 15:4-5). It is

Yahweh's Spirit working in, through and for us that will make us victorious. Use the times of your agonizing experience to deepen and enhance your personal relationship with Yahweh.

- Your problems are always inter-connected with other situations. Yahweh is working on all fronts to bring together the related strands for He takes a comprehensive view, unlike our tunnel vision that only allows us to see our immediate difficulty.

- Put your case in the hands of the Almighty sovereign who sees and knows everything and will do anything to bring you through. Develop an un-swerving trust and uncompromising loy-alty to Yahweh. Fully accept His sov-ereignty and fear no evil, knowing that nothing can happen, which He did not foreknow.

Therefore be bold, for Yahweh your Elohim is with you and will hold your right hand, saying to you,

Fear not, I will help you, Isaiah 41:13.

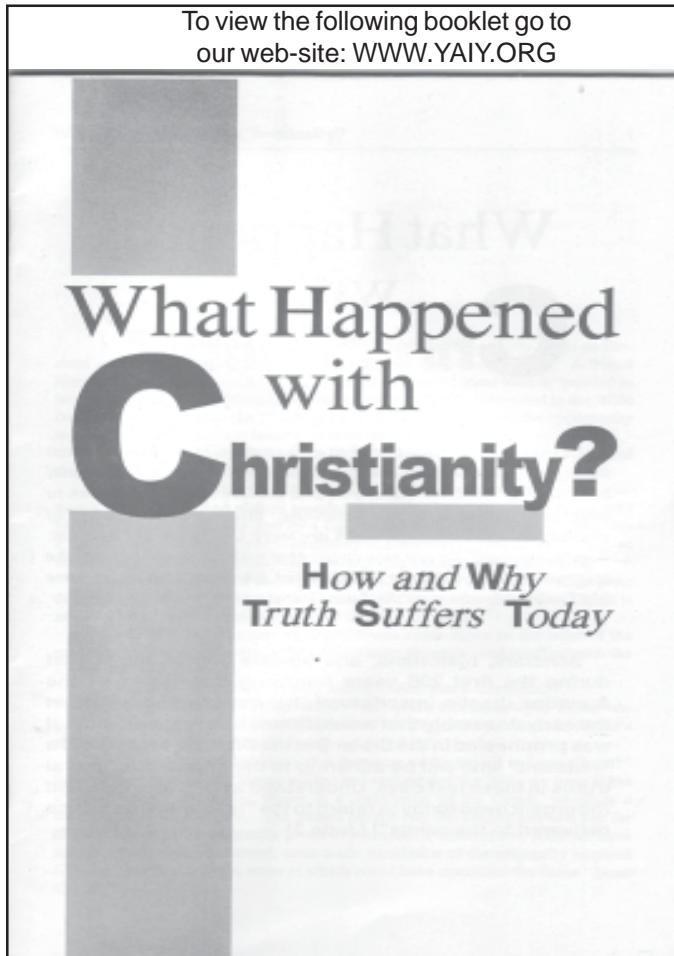
Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your Elohim. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand, Isaiah 41:10.

With His help there will be no mountains you cannot climb, no rivers you cannot cross, and no foe you cannot defeat. Though you may fall, you will rise again. Even through the gates of death, Yahweh will make a way for you to rise triumphantly, defying death to live eternally.

Death and Satan would have lost their sting. Trials, temptations and sufferings would be no more. Until then utilize the might and help of Yahweh to come through victorious in every battle, for

He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world, 1John 4:4.

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Elder Buel Hallpike

Hallowe'en

History has recorded for us the origin of Halloween. It all begins with a people known as the Celts. These people dominated much of western and central Europe in the first millennium BC. It is believed they settled in the British Isles about the seventh century BC. Their economy was pastoral and agricultural, and they had no rural life. Each tribe was headed by a king and was divided by class into Druids (priests), warrior nobles and commoners.

In general, the Celts believed that the sinful souls of those who died during the year had been transferred to the bodies of animals. They believed that their sins could be expiated by gifts and offerings and that their souls would be freed to claim a heavenly reward. At this time of the year the days are short and the Celts simulated the light and heat of the sun by building large bonfires.

From Celtic and Anglo-Saxon times, October 31 was observed as the eve of the new year and a time of death and renewal.

Druids

Druidism is a religious faith of ancient Celtic inhabitants of Gaul and the British Isles from the second century BC to the second century AD. This religion included the belief in the immortal soul, which at death was believed to pass into the body of a newborn child.

The observances connected with Halloween are thought to have originated among the ancient Druids, who believed on that evening (October 31) Saman (Samhain), the lord of the dead, called forth hosts of evil spirits. The Druids customarily lit great fires on Halloween, apparently for the purpose of warding off all these spirits. Common to both the Druids and other pagan beliefs, it was a time when the dead came back to life to mingle with the living. Samhain was thought to be the judge of the souls who determined their future.

Celebrations, The Complete Book of American Holidays, p. 258, says that at this time the Druids offered sacrifices

to their sun god and that "it was common for horses to be sacrificed since they were sacred to the Sun God. There were also human sacrifices. Men, mostly criminals, were imprisoned in wicker and thatch cages shaped like animals or giants. The Druid priests set fire to the tindery cages and the men were burned to death. In the Middle Ages in Europe, black cats were still being thrown to the flames in wicker cages, for they were thought to be the friends of witches or even transformed witches."

What we now call Halloween was not so-called by the Druids. They celebrated what was called the Feast of Samhain. When the feast was over, villagers donned masks and costumes to represent the souls of the dead and paraded to the outskirts of town to lead the ghosts away

In some areas, food was set outside for the spirits so that they would leave the house untouched. The trick-or-treat custom of today only re-enacts this ancient superstition.

Catholic Church Involvement

The celebration in the Roman Catholic Church, which would later merge with the Feast of Samhain, was known as All Saints' Day. This celebration "originated in the 7th century when the Pantheon at Rome was wrested from the barbarians, made into a cathedral, and renamed the Church of the Blessed Virgin and All Martyrs. Thus, from honoring all gods (which is the meaning of the Greek word 'pantheon') the Pantheon became the center for glorifying all saints," Funk and Wagnalls Encyclopedia, Vol. 1, p. 363.

To increase the popularity of catholicism (increase their membership) the Catholic Church merely incorporated these pagan beliefs into the catholic beliefs.

Even though this day to honor all "the holy saints" was originally observed on the eve of May 13, Pope Gregory IV, in 835, decreed that November 1 should be universally



observed as the day to honor the dead and to call it the Roman Catholic All Saints Day. This is why October 31 is called "Halloween". It is the evening before the day when one was to hallow all the saints.

Pumpkins

The use of large, or small, pumpkins, with a somewhat grotesque face carved on it, is representative of Samhain, the god of the dead, who would ward off evil spirits that night.

The phrase "jack-o-lantern" comes from an old Irish tale. It seems an Irishman by the name of Jack was fond of playing tricks on the devil. Being annoyed by this, the devil threw Jack a live coal from hell and with this coal in a carved out pumpkin Jack was forced to walk the earth forever.

Witches

The word "witch" comes from the Anglo-Saxon "wicce" meaning "wise one." Witches are said to use living talismans through which they derive their mystical powers. Witch hunting during "Halloween" became almost a national pastime in the early colonial times.

The ABC's of Witchcraft, pp. 48, report that the broomstick is a symbol of the male organ on which the witch mounts and leaps high around the fields to "teach" the crops how high to grow.

The skeleton is called the witches' "horned god." Under "skull," the *Dictionary of Lore and Legend* says, "symbol of death, often with crossed bones beneath." Like the head of Osiris in Egypt, the skulls of ancestors are worshipped in order to establish connections with the spirits of the dead.

But the scriptures give a strong warning about this.

When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their Elohim? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? (Isa. 8:19-20, NIV)

Halloween

Webster defines Halloween as "the evening of October 31; the eve of All Saints' Day; All hallows Eve: observed especially by children in costumes who solicit treats, often by threatening minor pranks." Have not most of us heard the phrase "trick or treat" uttered by children on this day? One can easily observe parents driving their children from block to block so they can go door to door uttering this phrase in hopes of receiving candy and goodies from people.

Webster places the following definition on the phrase "trick or treat": "A children's Halloween custom, in which they call on neighbors, using this phrase, and threaten to play a trick if a treat is not given." Is it children only who follow this custom? If one is truly observant, one will see young adults doing the same. Is this not extortion?

Webster defines extortion as an act or instance of wresting or wringing

(money, information, etc.) from a person by violence, intimidation, or abuse of authority.

On this day when a homeowner opens the front door and hears the chant "trick-or-treat" doesn't he quickly reach for the bowl of prepared treats to give away? The homeowner may simply believe no harm will be done if he gives free gifts. But, by doing so he only promotes the celebration of the pagan beliefs of setting out gifts to ward off the evil spirits.

Let The Scriptures Be Our Guide

Many parents will say to let their children go out on Halloween night and enjoy some innocent fun. They're not hurting anyone. Can the origins of Halloween be anything but pagan? Allowing children to participate is nothing short of saying pagan ways are all right. But doesn't Yahweh say in Jer. 10:2,

Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

Yahweh further says in Deut. 18:12-13:

For all that do these things are an abomination unto Yahweh: and because of these abominations Yahweh your Elohim does drive them out from before you. You shall be perfect with Yahweh your Elohim.

We are to strive towards perfection. We shall not achieve perfection until Yahshua returns to set up the Kingdom. Matthew 5:48 says,

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Just because an act seems innocent in no way guarantees Yahweh's approval. Halloween is just another occasion enshrouded with pagan connections.

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

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 tilly 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.

Elder Roger G. Meyer

The Day of Atonement

In the midst of the Feast days of Yahweh during the Scriptural Seventh Month



Sound the Alarm Time of Cleansing The Millennium

We gather together on the Day of Atonement, and we fast as a symbol of our affliction, knowing the awesome redeeming AND destructive power of Yahweh, that He is a just Elohim, issuing mercy to the righteous and condemnation to the unrighteous – and (pointing to the fulfillment of this Day) knowing that “**then**, we SHALL know that His name is ‘Yahweh’.”

At Onement

We acknowledge this 5th Appointed Time in Yahweh’s Plan of Salvation by meeting together in obedience to His commandment to “afflict our souls” on this day. While working to understand the nature of this set apart day, its significance to our lives and its place in Yahweh’s Plan of Salvation, I learned that William Tyndale, while laboring to translate the 1526 English Bible, had recognized that there was no word to convey the doctrine of Yahshua’s sacrifice, which accomplished both the **remission of sin** and the **reconciliation of man to Elohim**. So, he coined a word that would encompass both actions. He wanted to overcome the inherent limitations of the word “reconciliation” while incorporating the aspects of “propitiation” (appeasement through sacrifice) and forgiveness. His proposed word was comprised of two parts, “at” and “onement,” which also means reconciliation; but, since he was creating a new word, he could define it as he wished, so he included the concept of a “covering”. Reconciliation comes from Latin roots “re” meaning “again”; “con” meaning “with”, and “sella” meaning “seat”. Re/con/ciliation, therefore, literally, and simply, means “to sit again with.” It does not contain the aspect of forgiveness in response to self affliction. (A picture of reconciliation might be when my wife and I return home from work. When we both get there, we are “reconciled”. However, “atonement” occurs when she and I sacrifice our minds, hearts and bodies to each other in that place of “sitting again with each other.”) In the Jewish holiday title of Yom Kippur, the Hebrew word is ‘kaper’ ing ... ‘a covering’,

which, like the word “reconcile”, does not fully convey the idea of affliction and forgiveness, in and of itself. Tyndale defined his word to include the idea of affliction and forgiveness, not just forgiveness.

*On exactly the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a Day of Atonements [Yom HaKipurim, meaning the “Day of the Coverings”]: it shall be an holy convocation [a qodesh miqra] unto you; and ye shall afflict [anah – to look down upon self, abase self, deal harshly with, defile, force down, humble, hurt, ravish, submit self, and weaken] your souls [nephesh – your vitality; your body, heart, mind, lust, pleasure and appetite], and offer an offering made by fire [ishshah – a sacrifice] unto Yahweh. And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make **an atonement for you** [lakapeer alechem] before Yahweh your Elohim. “If there is any person who will not humble himself on this same day, he shall be cut off from his people. As for any person who does any work on this same day, that person I will destroy from among his people. You shall do no work at all. It is to be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwelling places. It is to be a Sabbath of complete rest to you, and you shall humble your souls; on the ninth of the month at evening, from evening until evening you shall keep your Sabbath,”* Leviticus 23:27-32.

*And Aaron shall make an atonement [w’kiper] upon the horns of it once in a year with the blood of the sin offering of **atonements** [Yom HaKipurim]: once in the year shall he make atonement [y’kapeer] upon it throughout your generations: it is most holy unto Yahweh, Ex 30:10 NKJV.*

All Scripture referred to in this article is from the New King James Version.

Here is an interesting thing. What we call “the Day of Atonement” is actually misnamed. It is the “Day of Atonements”, plural! In Ex. 30:10, quoted above, the word “atonements” is the translation of the Hebrew *kippur*, and Strong’s concordance shows the plurality of the word:

“OT:3725 kippur (kip-poor’); from OT:3722; expiation (only in plural): - atonement.” (Biblesoft’s New Exhaustive Strong’s Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

Yahweh’s word clearly delineates the fact that there is to be a complete abasement of ourselves due to our moral frailty, our flesh, our sinfulness. In response to our genuine display of humiliation to Yahweh, He then provides a covering for us. Here, in this life of trial and tribulation, His covering hides our weaknesses and fallibilities. But this Day of Atonement is the foreshadowing of the REAL Day of Atonements, when we shall have incorruptible bodies, wherein there are no corruptible thoughts, corruptible feelings or corruptible actions. THAT is the Day that THIS day is preparing us for.

Yahshua’s Return

If the Day of Trumpets is the day in which Yahshua comes down from heaven riding a white horse, wearing a garment baptized in blood, “trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored”, then the Day of Atonement must be a picture of being “covered” or hidden from such heavenly wrath. It is the final day of 10 days of tribulation and hardship; but, it is also a day of deliverance. Yahshua will be setting up His government. He will destroy the works of man’s government and institute a regime that is ruled by the Laws He once established. He will rule with an iron rod; and, He will usher in those whom He covered, through the 12 gates bearing the names of the 12 tribes of Israel and Yahshua’s 12 Apostles, into His Millennial Reign. Until then, we wait, preparing for the day Yahshua returns, the days of tribulation, the day of redemption, the Thousand Year Reign, and the day upon which Yahweh will cast out all evil. We will do this by immersing ourselves into the

Word of Yahweh, teaching righteousness and living daily in obedience to His will.

Atonement is a promise made by Yahweh to those who are obedient to His word. There are two such atonements made among the Appointed Times of Yahweh. The day of affliction, as described above, is the second promise of Atonement, which is for the *spiritual nation* of Israel. The first promise is the atonement made for all of us, *en masse*, by Yahshua the Messiah. It is called “Passover” – and it celebrates the atonement Yahshua made for each of us. He suffered the stripes meant for us and died for our sins; and He became the propitiation for our sins, wiping away the “ordinances written against us.”

And you, being dead in your trespasses [according to the law of sin and death: if you sin, you die] and the uncircumcision of your flesh [meaning ignorance of your sinful nature], He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it [the charges against us] out of the way, having nailed it to the torture

*stake. Having disarmed principalities and powers [of this evil world], He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. So let no one judge you in food [that is, as you abstain from eating unclean foods] or in drink [as you abstain from drunkenness], or regarding the Appointed Times, the new moon [either the act of determining months by the new moon, or a new moon celebration] or Sabbaths, which are a shadow [not a mere shadow, as some versions render it, because “mere” is NOT found in the Greek! Instead, “shadow” means a **covering**, something that is hidden or protected] of things to come, the substance [of which covering] is the Messiah. Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels [heathen practices], intruding into those things which he has not seen [that is, the Word of Yahweh], vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from Yahweh. Therefore, if you died with the Messiah from the basic [from **base**, dishonorable, improper, sordid, vile or immoral] principles of the world, why,*

*as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations [dogma], “Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,” which all concern things which perish with the using — according to the commandments and doctrines of MEN? These things [the false doctrines of men] indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed [man-made] religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh [in other words, these false doctrines do not speak out against **sin**], Colossians 2:13-23.*

In these verses, Paul (Shaul) is reflecting on the words of Isaiah.

Then the Sovereign said, “Because this people draw near with their words and honor Me

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

Biblical Holy Days



Yesterday Today Forever

with their lip service, but they remove their hearts far from Me, and their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote [doctrines taught by man], Therefore behold, I will once again deal marvelously with this people, wondrously marvelous; and the wisdom of their wise men will perish, and the discernment of their discerning men will be concealed." Woe to those who deeply hide their plans from Yahweh, and whose deeds are done in a dark place, and they say, "Who sees us?" or "Who knows us?" You turn things around! Shall the potter be considered as equal with the clay, that what is made would say to its maker, "He did not make me"; or what is formed say to Him who formed it, "He has no understanding"? Is it not yet just a little while before Lebanon will be turned into a fertile field, and the fertile field will be considered as a forest? On that day the deaf will hear

words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see. The afflicted also will increase their gladness in Yahweh, and the needy of mankind will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. For the ruthless will come to an end and the scorner will be finished, indeed all who are intent on doing evil will be cut off; who cause a person to be indicted by a word, and ensnare him who adjudicates at the gate, and defraud the one in the right with meaningless arguments. Therefore thus says Yahweh, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob: Jacob shall not now be ashamed, nor shall his face now turn pale; but when he sees his children, the work of My hands, in his midst, they will sanctify My name; indeed, they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob and will stand in awe of the Elohim of Israel. Those who err in mind will know the truth, and those who criticize will accept instruction, Isaiah 29:13-24.

The real name of James is Ya'aqob. James is a translation of the Greek Iakobos, which, by Strong's concordance, is the same as the Greek Iakob. Also, by Strong's concordance, this Greek word is derived from the Hebrew Ya'aqob.

Is it not true that those who have been **granted** compassion for others have only received it through their grief, mourning and wailing – crying because of the evil that exists in the world? We grieve because we KNOW that there is hope for a **living** rest, for a **living** peace, and for a **living** love; and we know that few see it. The laughter-turned-to-mourning and the joy-turned-to-gloom that Ya'aqob is speaking about is not heavenly laughter and joy, but the pleasures of this world that ensnares even the compassionate. Being "lifted up" is the true joy of knowing that there is an Authority who rules from on high, and Who will

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Mini-Study

Yahweh's Appointed Feast Days

Now YOU Can Afford to Attend!

The Bible reveals as far back as the days of creation that Almighty Yahweh established certain appointed times that were specially chosen by Him for His called-out people. These are unique times when He would meet with His True Worshipers:

"And Elohim said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night, and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years" (Gen. 1:14). The word *seasons* is Strong's Hebrew No. 4150 *mo'ed*, and literally means "appointed times." It is a term used for the annual gatherings of Yahweh and His people.

A number of scholars understand that the first *mo'ed* took place in Genesis 4:3-7, where Abel correctly kept the Passover by offering a lamb, and Cain brought an offering more suitable for the Feast of Tabernacles, the work of His hands. Abel's offering was accepted, Cain's was not.

Tradition has it that Abraham left Ur of the Chaldees on Passover, and the Feast days can be traced through his journeys and stopping places in Genesis 12. Certainly the appearance of the three celestial beings in Genesis 18 took place in the spring as Abraham fed his guests unleavened cakes (v. 7, margin); and later Lot did likewise, Genesis 19:3. Likely this was also a special time of *mo'ed*.

It is apparent that Abraham kept all Yahweh's Sabbaths and Feast days: "Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws" (Gen. 26:5). The Feast days were again given to Israel after they came out of Egypt, when they agreed to the Covenant. These are

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Redemption Awaits

It's interesting to me how frequent the idea of hiddenness or covering is used in Scripture. Yahweh says if we cover ourselves from Him, we shall be destroyed. If we humble ourselves by recognizing our faults, He will hide us from tribulation. He will redeem those of a humble and contrite heart.

Submit yourselves, then, to the Almighty. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to Yahweh and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before Yahweh, and He will lift you up, James 4:7-10.

Here, in the book of James, is the picture of submission to the ONE authority, above all. James tells us in Chapter 1:27,

Pure religion and undefiled before Elohim and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

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Mini-Study

YAHWEH'S FEASTS

What should you do when you learn that there are Biblical holy days that you should be observing now? How do you know when they should be kept and where do you keep them? These and other important questions are answered here. There are scriptural holy days that the True Worshiper is commanded to keep, rather than the paganistic ones most of the world indulges in today.

Thoughtful people who study their Bible in earnest soon raise the question should not we also be observing the annual Feast days today in addition to the weekly Sabbath?

Are these days indeed still binding on Yahweh's people in today's modern age? If we are to observe these times, where do we gather to keep them? What do we do at the Feasts? What time of the year are we to observe them? How long are they?

ABRAHAM, FATHER OF THE FAITHFUL

All who have entered into the New Covenant with Yahweh are to have the same attitude of faithful Abraham who did not flinch from doing Yahweh's will, for "Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws," Genesis 26:5.

Abraham departed Ur of the Chaldees, the pagan moon-city, journeyed to Palestine and to Bethel; from there to Egypt and back to Bethel. (Some Bible scholars perceive his travels and stop-overs a foreshadowing of the Feast days. His travels could

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destroy evil when evil's course has ended, and will bring the righteous-minded into His fold.

Learning Compassion

Until then, we are here to learn compassion for others – in the face of evil. Compassion is the most powerful lesson we can learn, because compassion is the **primary** power of Yahweh, as demonstrated through His Son, Yahshua. As we humble ourselves to forgive others of their acts of evil toward us, Yahweh will humble Himself to forgive us.

Then Moses pleaded with the Yahweh his Elohim, and said: "Yahweh, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, 'He brought them out to harm them, to kill

them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" So Yahweh relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people, Ex 32:11-14 NKJV.

The word "relented" in verse 14 is Strong's #5162, *nacham*, meaning to sigh, i.e. breathe strongly; by implication, to be sorry, i.e. (in a favorable sense) to pity, console or (reflexively) rue. It is used in the KJV as the words "comfort, ease and repent." (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, Biblesoft and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

Yes, He will *relent* of the judgment against us for **our** acts of unkindness or evil, when we, out of humility, repent of our disobedience to Yahweh – that is, our rejection of Him, in our lives.


Ultimately, "forgiveness" means, "I will not avenge others' acts of destruction toward me, but will continue to show compassion". The phrase in Matthew 6:12, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors," means "We know that You, Heavenly Father, will forgive us of our transgressions against You in the SAME manner that we forgive those who have transgressed against us." Most people don't know the personal power contained within this verse, the *absolute* power that the Creator has placed in our hands for our own redemption. WE are essentially in control of our redemption. All we have to do is learn compassion. How do we do that? Through humility, understanding that we have no power, except that it be given to us by Yahweh.

Something tells me we have a long way to go, but the reward will be so

amazing that ANYthing we find "joyful" here on this planet, now, will pale in comparison to the empowered Joy of living amongst compassionate people, **none** of whom will be evil-minded, none of whom will hurt us. THAT is the hope that I see for all of us. That is my personal hope, too. And this is how I know that compassion is in us. Because we **grieve** that this empowered, heavenly Joy is not here now ... that there is evil in the world ... and, we know that evil is still present ... within *us* ... **all** of us.

THAT is why we needed a perfect Lamb to die for our sins, because all mankind was born incapable of purity. That's the way it *is*. But, Yahshua changed all that. We are not yet perfected; we are not yet redeemed or "born again". But, the promise of our redemption is offered to us with a condition – that we act with compassion toward Yahweh and His

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Mini - Study 

DO YOU HAVE AN IMMORTAL SOUL?

Is there a part of us that is immortal—a soul that never dies? Many believe so. At funerals for the "dead," we hear that the person's soul has departed the body and is now up in heaven watching the proceedings down below. Exactly what is a soul? Do animals have souls? In this study we will examine what the world believes about the soul, and then what the Bible reveals.


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

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

NO IMMORTAL SOUL IN SCRIPTURE

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

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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?

Son, Yahshua (“If you love Me, you will obey My Commandments”), and that we have compassion for our fellow, as-yet-unperfected, family of Mankind.

Proper Goals

In my secular work, I facilitate therapy groups for mentally ill criminals on how to create compassion for others. I teach a worldly understanding of how all of us get to a place of evil-doing; that is, why we all have (at one time or another) acted out our anger toward others. And then, I work to assist them in how to correct those destructive beliefs that lead us to destructive acts of anger. But, this worldly understanding is only a rung on the ladder of deeper understanding – a ladder that we (Believers in Yahweh) have been called to climb. In the story of Ya’acob’s ladder, he said, in Genesis 32:30, “I have seen Elohim face to face, and my life is preserved.”

I dedicate my life to seeking “the lost sheep of the House of Israel,” as Yahshua explained about Himself in Matthew 15:24, and as He told His disciples to do in Matthew 10:6. I follow the Shepherd, as one of the Lost Sheep of the House of Israel. You, who are reading this article and are not familiar with these ideas, are invited by the Shepherd to follow Him. He is a Good Master, because He serves the Mighty One of Israel, Yahweh Elohim, who is perfect in compassion. Here, let me have Isaiah tell you about Him:

Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of Yahweh been revealed? For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of Elohim, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for

our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but Yahweh has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth. By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due? His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man in His death, because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth. But Yahweh was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; if He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, and the good pleasure of Yahweh will prosper in His hand. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; by His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as

He will bear their iniquities. Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, and He will divide the booty with the strong; because He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors, Isaiah 53:1-12.

Atonement’s Fulfillment

Is the work of Atonement finished? Are we free now to make up our own rules, since the Son of the Father has reconciled all sins to Himself? No. There is much good work to be done. We must endure to the end and, through self-atonement (denying ourselves worldly, evil pleasures), honor Yahweh and His Son who have lifted the veils over our eyes that we may see the promised land.

But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Sovereign so that we will not be condemned along with the world, 1 Corinthians 11:31-32.

When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. Selah. I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to Yahweh”; and You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah, Psalms 32:3-5.

I have surely heard Ephraim grieving, “You have chastised me, and I was chastised, like an untrained calf; bring me back that I may be restored, for You are Yahweh my Elohim. For after I turned back, I repented; and after I was instructed, I smote on my thigh; I was ashamed and also humiliated because I bore the reproach of my youth. Is Ephraim My dear son? Is he a delightful child? Indeed, as often as I have spoken against him, I certainly still remember him; therefore My heart yearns for him; I will surely have mercy on him,” declares Yahweh, Jeremiah 31:18-20.

But when he came to his senses, he said, “How many of my father’s hired men have more than enough bread,

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The Truth About the TRINITY



but I am dying here with hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.'" So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been

found." And they began to celebrate, Luke 15:17-24.

Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your Menorah out of its place – unless you repent. Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the called-out ones. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of Yahweh, Revelation 2:5-7.

For indeed He was [impaled] because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of Elohim. For we also are weak in Him, yet we will live with Him because of the power of Yahweh directed toward you. Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Yahshua HaMashiach is in you— unless indeed you fail the test? (2 Corinthians 13:4-5 NASB)


We were created by Yahweh to be His Sons and Daughters in One Family. As our Heavenly Father, He gave us His instructions for living, and offered us a covenant. If we will obey His instructions (fundamentally called "the Ten Commandments"), He will bless us. Years later, Yahweh sent His Son, Yahshua, to validate His Father's Laws and explain the depth of Yahweh's blessings. This perfect lamb of Yahweh shed His blood as a propitiation for our sins, so that the blessing of eternal life might be revealed – in the Resurrection. It is out of Yahweh's compassion – the compassion of a father for an only child – that He makes known to us His Plan of Salvation.

Yahweh's Plan of Salvation

1. Yahweh has provided for us a propitiation for our sins, the Sacrificial Lamb, Yahweh's own Son, Yahshua (whose name means "the Salvation of Yahweh"), who was beaten and killed for our sins, shedding His blood in our place so that we may have eternal life with the Father;

2. Our portion of the Plan of Salvation is to **walk** away from our sins and to **walk** within the guidelines set forth in His Law. We are to repent of our violation of His Law;
3. If we are willing to make the commitment He asks of us and publicly "**die**" to iniquity, sin and lawlessness, and be immersed in the name of Yahweh's Son, Yahshua, then He will provide His **Spirit**, His **Set-apart mind and heart** – in other words, His **Character** – within us, by way of the laying on of hands of the Elders, so that we may learn to completely obey His Law;
4. There will be only a **few**, called and chosen by Elohim, who commit, honor and fulfill their covenant with Yahweh. When every soul has had the opportunity

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

Mini - Study 

How to Be 'Born Again'

Few really understand this commonly used, evangelical expression.

It was President Jimmy Carter who help popularize the term "born again." The expression is misleading, however, in view of the way it is typically applied.

In common parlance, born again is understood to mean an experience of conversion, usually emotional, and associated with long sieges of prayer, preaching, and stirring music. For those undergoing the experience, born again means to be reborn in this life, with the implication that salvation is now assured.

A proper understanding of the concept, however, will lead to a significant truth in the way Yahweh is calling out a people for His Name.

The Meaning Behind 'Born Again'


The concept of being "born again" is taken from chapter 3 of the Evangel of John in Yahshua's response to the Pharisee Nicodemus:

"Yahshua answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of Elohim" (John 3:3).

"Born again" in the King James Version should more properly have been rendered, "begotten from above." "Boen" here is the Greek *gennao*, meaning the birth process — from begettal to birth. *Gennao* is the same word used in Matthew 1:20, where the angel told Joseph that that which is conceived (*gennao*, begotten) in Mary was of the Holy Spirit.

One must be begotten before one is born. The process of birth begins with a gestation period. It doesn't happen instantaneously. This whole concept relates to the spiritual begettal that Yahshua was speaking of in John 3.

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

Mini - Study 

Civic Responsibility

In a world out of step with the Bible, how far should a True Worshiper go—or not go—in becoming involved in the "system"?

WE LIVE UNDER the influence of an increasingly evil and satanic world. We as followers of the Bible dislike much of what goes on around us.

The government is pledged to aid the weakest or smallest elements of society to ensure that democratic principles and individual rights are upheld. These rights and principles then become the standard imposed upon the rest, who must learn to adjust.

Here are some examples: prayer or references to the Bible in public schools are prohibited; work on the Sabbath is often mandated, and by gaining governmental acceptance of immoral lifestyles, certain groups are gradually forcing the public into condoning behavior the Bible soundly condemns.

Activities of anti-religious groups are carefully guarded by the courts, which uphold their freedom and rights.

What is the Believer's Role?

At times we may sympathize and even empathize with many who are demonstrating for the homeless or women's rights or against abortions, against wage cut-backs, crime, unfairness, and a host of causes. Yet, should a believer in the Bible get involved in social causes?

We in the United States and other democracies have a right to protest. So, should we spend our time attempting to change the downward plunge of our society? Is it our job to change the world? What does Scripture say?

The question is not whether abortion is wrong. It is wrong. The question is not whether alcohol

in this life to choose eternal life through obedience to the Law and through belief in the Messiah Yahshua, the time will come for an end to wickedness and to those who have chosen to rebel against the Law of Yahweh. That time will be heralded by the sound of the Trumpet of Yahweh and the return of His Anointed One, Yahshua, wearing garments baptized in blood. Upon that Day, the Day of Yahweh, a horrible day of wrath – a day of the beginning of affliction – those who are living in rebellion against Yahweh will sacrifice their own blood for their sins. The Righteous dead, resting in peace, will be resurrected unto eternal life in this, the First Resurrection;

5. Those who have guarded their covenant with Yahweh, and are

therefore **covered** by the Redeeming blood of Yahshua Messiah, will be saved from that destruction. They will pass through the devastation that Yahweh's wrath has had on those around them. Quietly. Tearfully. Trembling. They will awaken to the prophesied blessing that they have survived the destruction heralded by the trump 10 days prior, by the saving grace of Yahweh in Yahshua Messiah. Five days later comes a new era;

6. The Redeemed of Yahweh, His Elect, will enter into a Thousand-year reign with Yahshua, King of kings on earth. His Law shall be taught and His elect shall govern those born in that Kingdom. The Tempter (and Accuser of those who submit to his temptations) shall be restrained at that time until the end of that age, when he will be freed, and those unrighteous or untaught souls who died prior to this Reign will be resurrected, taught and subjected to temptation; and

7. At the end of the Millennial Reign of Yahshua the Messiah, those who rejected the Law and Yahshua the Messiah, or who never received the Law or the Messiah, will be raised from the grave in the second resurrection, and will be judged according to their willingness to accept Yahshua as their redeemer and walk in the way of Truth. Those who reject Yahweh and His son, Yahshua, will, along with Satan and his devils, be tossed into the Lake of Fire. This will end all wickedness, pain and death. Those who "believe and do" will merit eternal life. This is the beginning of eternal life with the Father and His Son, the glory of which no man can imagine.

This is an awesome plan! Where is it written? Why does hardly anyone KNOW about the Plan of Salvation of the Creator of the Universe!?

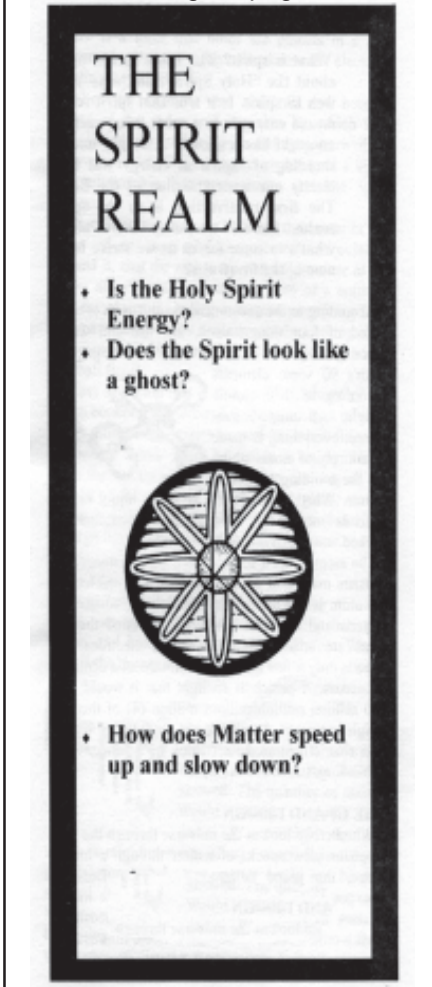
Conclusion

If you were to buy a study Bible that describes the prophecies by Yahshua

the Messiah, written by either a Christian or a Jew, will you find this plan so defined? Probably not! Why not!? The simple answer is that the Jewish editor has likely been taught, through tradition, not to accept Yahshua as his personal Savior. Consequently, he rejects the teachings of the New Testament, in which the fulfillment of the prophecy of Yahweh's Plan of Salvation is revealed. The Christian editor, being taught by tradition that the Law of Moses is dead, rejects the Old Testament, wherein the Plan of Salvation is most simply prophecy – in the 23rd Chapter of Leviticus. Here, Yahweh's Plan of Salvation is described, step by step and detail by detail. They are His Appointed Times, which we refer to as the "Feasts of Yahweh."

He appointed to us the seventh day of the week as His Sabbath Day to <Day see page 22>

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

Mini - Study

NEW MOONS AND JERUSALEM TIME

Isaiah tells us the entire world will be honoring the New Moons and the Sabbaths as they worship Yahweh in the coming Kingdom. As students of Yahweh's word, we should be observing them now, becoming knowledgeable about New Moons as well as the Sabbaths that we might be able to help others along the way. Both New Moons and Sabbaths are to be observed in the Kingdom as we note in the following:

And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith Yahweh. (Isaiah 66:23 AV)

Likewise the people of the land shall worship at the door of this gate before Yahweh in the Sabbaths and in the new moons. (Ezekiel 46:3 AV)

The time may come that we will be isolated from the body of Messiah, but we are still obligated to keep His set times as an act of obedience. We are also told in the New Testament they are prophetic (Col. 2:16-17), that is, they foreshadow future events. The greater our understanding the greater is our responsibility to walk in His ways.

ANCIENT NEW MOON OBSERVANCES
 In anticipation of the New Moon, Jewish moon watchers anciently were stationed on high prominences around Israel. When the moon was sighted, they would light a bright fire signaling to waiting Temple priesthood the New Moon had been seen and the new month has started. However, both the Samaritans and Botheans began lighting fires on other days to confuse the Jews. Runners were then

MARRIAGE

In recent times there have been many questions about marriage and what is the belief of our organization. I believe we have to look to scripture to get the answers.

What is marriage?

Marriage is the union of a man (the husband) and a woman (the wife). These two become the foundation of the family, and the home.

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh, Gen 2:23-24 NASU.

This suggests that it was Yahweh's ideal for a man to be the husband of one wife and that it was to be a permanent situation. They leave their father and mother and cleave to one another. They become one flesh and should not be torn apart. I was blessed with 48 years of marriage to the same woman and the only thing that could sever our relationship was death. This is the way that Yahweh created marriage. It is a sad fact that over 50 percent of the marriages today end in divorce and that 1 in 4 children were born out of wedlock last year. That figure came from the news program on television.

It was Yahweh's desire that His people should only marry within their own body of Believers. The Mosaic Law made this very plain when it stated that the Israelites were not to marry Canaanites. This was so they would not be tempted to worship their spouse's pagan deity. Likewise, the apostle Paul commanded the assembly at Corinth not to be "unequally yoked together with unbelievers," 2 Cor.6:14. Marriage was directed by law and all incest was outlawed. Priests were forbidden to marry prostitutes and divorced women. This is found in Lev.21:7, 13-14.

Choosing the Bride

In Old Testament times, the parents chose the mate for their son. The reason that this was done was because the bride became part of the tribe and clan. Even though the bride and groom became one flesh, they lived under the authority of the husband's father. The parents therefore picked a mate for their son that would work and live in harmony with the mother-in-law and the other women in the clan. This system is still active in some parts of the world today. Love and romance before a couple was married was unheard of in those times, it just played a very minor role. Love started at marriage. Scripture tells us that when Isaac married Rebekah "she became his wife, and he loved her," Gen. 24:67.

Marriage customs

There were a number of customs and steps involved in the marriage process. They first had to agree on a price to be paid to the father of the bride-to-be. It could be in terms of money or services rendered as was the case when Jacob worked seven years for Rachel as stated in Gen.29:18-20. The giving and receiving of money or services was likely accompanied with a written agreement. From this time forward the couple was considered engaged. This was a binding agreement and the only way to end it was by death or divorce.

The bridegroom had certain privileges during the engagement period. If war broke out, he was exempt from military duty, Deut.20:7. He also knew that his bride-to-be was protected by Mosaic Law. In the event that she was raped by another man, it was considered adultery and the punishment was accordingly. It was much more serious crime than the rape of a girl not yet betrothed, Deut. 22:23-29. This puts to rest the teaching of some, that sexual intercourse was instant marriage. If this were the case, then there could have been no rapes, just a lot of unauthorized marriages and adultery cases. The length of the engagement varied and the couple was sometimes married on the same day. Most often a period of time went by between the engagement and the wedding. The groom prepared a place for his bride in the house of his father while the bride prepared herself for the marriage. There was no ceremony as there is today. On the day of the wedding, the groom and his friends went to the home of the bride and took her back to the home of the groom. There was singing and dancing on the way back by the friends. When they arrived they went to the bridal chamber and consummated the marriage while the guests waited outside. Once it was announced the festivities continued usually for at least a week. There was food and wine for all.

The New Testament does not contradict the Old Testament teachings on marriage. Yahshua's first miracle was changing the water to wine at a wedding in Cana in Galilee.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Yahshua was there; and both Yahshua and His disciples were invited to the wedding. When the wine ran out, the mother of Yahshua said to Him, "They have no wine." And Yahshua said to her, "Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." Now there were six stone water pots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each. Yahshua said to them, "Fill the water pots

with water." So they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it to him. When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom, and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when the people have drunk freely, then he serves the poorer wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." This beginning of His signs Yahshua did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him. After this He went down to Capernaum, He and His mother and His brothers and His disciples; and they stayed there a few days, John 2:1-12. NASU.

We believe that He gave His blessing on the institution of marriage at this time. He also quoted Gen.1:27; 2:24; and 5:2 in Matthew chapter 19 while speaking about divorce.

Some Pharisees came to Yahshua, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?" And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore Elohim has joined together let no man separate," Matt 19:3-7 NASH.

The apostle Paul also taught on marriage in the 7th chapter of 1st Corinthians and the 5th chapter of Ephesians, none of which contradicts the Old Testament teachings.

Polygamy

Polygamy is first mentioned in Gen.4:19. Lamech, a decendent of Cain, married two wives. This seems to have continued for some time in those times. The jealousies of Abraham's and Elkanah's wives illustrate the evils of polygamy.

Monogamy took the place of polygamy subsequent to the return from Babylon. There are many scriptures that recommends and commends monogamy.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine. Within your house, Ps 128:3.

Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice in the wife of your youth, Prov 5:18.

He who finds a wife finds a good thing. And obtains favor from YAHWEH, Prov 18:22.

House and wealth are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from YAHWEH, Prov 19:14 NASU.

I would recommend reading the entire 5th chapter of Proverbs along with chapter 31, verses 10-29.

Summary

In brief summery, we find that Yahweh created Adam and then Eve for him to have as a mate. When man and woman are joined in marriage, they become one. Yahweh did not want them to be separated. Death was the only way to end a marriage. Then a Writ of Divorce could be given for adultery. It was not Yahweh's original intent for a man to put away or divorce his mate for any other reason. Because of the hardness of heart of mankind it was allowed. Today it is common place to get married and divorced. Very few people take their marriage vows as a

sacred vow or promise before Yahweh. There are pre-nuptial agreements that seem to predict a divorce. If you marry for life, what do you need the agreement for? Perhaps they should reconsider the reason for getting married.

Elder Dick Vaow

<Day from page 20>

separate ourselves from the sinful world. He appointed to us His Memorial Passover, a Day to honor the sacrifice of His Son, Yahshua. He appointed to us the Seven Annual Feast Days: the 1st and last days of Unleavened Bread to call us to repentance from a sinful life, the Feast of Weeks (or Pentecost) to give us the wisdom and strength through the Holy Spirit to fulfill our commitment to Him, the Day of Trumpets (the Day of Alarm, because it is the Day of Yahweh) to announce the Coming of the Messiah, the Day of Atonements in which (from the previous 10 days) evidence is seen that the world of evil has been cleansed, the Feast of Tabernacles to prepare for a Holy eternal life with Yahweh, and the Last Great Day to rid forever the existence of evil. These are the weigh-stations (as it were) on the Pathway to Eternal Life with Yahweh. This is His Plan to Redeem us.

May we strive to live humble, yes, afflicted lives by removing the leaven of greed, pride, self-righteousness, hate, envy, lust, willfulness, disrespect and false rulership from within our hearts. Instead, Heavenly Father, Almighty Yahweh, may You teach us to give to others, to serve others, to be slow to argue and complain, to see beyond others' malfeasance and into their troubled hearts; and may You forgive us of our transgressions in the light of our grief and sorrow for leaving "home", believing that we can manage our lives without You.

HalleluYah!

Elder John Fisher

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LETTERS

I want to encourage all of you to stand steadfast in Yahweh and Yahshua. They know we have to fight in what we believe and stand up and be strong in them. I am missing the literature as I share it with others and have them calling so they could grow in wisdom and knowledge. I am going to keep on praying for the assembly. — **CS, DE**

May Yahweh be praised for the prayers that have been answered concerning the conflict over the property of the assembly. May all of our prayers for a prosperous and joyful success of “Yahweh’s Assembly in Yahshua” be answered. I am sorry that all I can offer are my sincere prayers for our new beginning with “Yahweh’s Assembly in Yahshua.” — **GG, CA**

“I really appreciate your teachings a lot that I cannot afford missing an issue. Please keep on feeding me with some information.” — Email from **OA, Ghana, West Africa**

“Dear YAIY, thank you for all the information that I have received...May Yahweh bless you all.” — **NB, AL**

“To Yahweh be the glory! I am writing on the behalf of your magazine...We find the magazine to be very educating; we love it! We would count this to be a true blessing if the both of us could also receive this glorious magazine to further us as a group in our walk with Yahshua and our Heavenly Father Yahweh. We will be in constant prayer for your Assembly as well as you and your families. Thank you.” — **CD, CA**

“Shalom Sisters and Brothers in Yahshua’s Name. Enclosed is a donation for the continued work of our Great Heavenly Father, Yahweh Elohim. I support your continued efforts and faith in Yahweh’s Word, for His word is truth. May He bless you greatly” — **BD, OH**

“Recently I received a nice YAIY [Newsletter] for my study and records and sharing, it is for everybody, elderly, youth, sisters and good recipes simply wonderful and exquisite. Thank you. I congratulate all Elders, Deacons, Staff...” — **YP, INDIA (e-mail)**

“Dear Precious folks, Yes! I would like to receive the new issue of YAIY Beacon magazine. I’m ‘starving’ for the Word and you all seem to be able to fill my soul with the right ‘food’...I ask our dear Father Yahweh to multiply my small mite, so it can be used to further your good work. Bless you all—let’s get crackin’, huh?” — **FT, DE**

“Thank you very much for your premier issue of your magazine. I enjoyed its creativity....” — **LP, Canada**

“O’ Magnify Yahweh indeed!...Greetings in the esteemed Name of Father Yahweh and Yahshua. I truly praise Yahweh for seeing us through the difficult waiting period, for equipping you and the rest of the saints with the fruit of the spirit and bringing about justice for His Name’s sake. He truly is a wonder. Bless His Name...” — **DL, NY**

“Blessings in the name of our Father Yahweh. In Yahshua’s Name I want to thank you for all the support and endless contribution to my spiritual growth...Again may the Holy Spirit guide in wisdom the whole congregation.” — **RN, OH**

“Thanks a million for the great magazine!” — **TQ, NY**

“Greetings to all of you brethren in the USA but especially in your area in Yahweh’s great and wonderful Name and in Yahshua the Messiah, our great Savior. Surprisingly and gladly we were when or upon reading the good news....We were so much touch[ed] that tears were rolling down our cheeks unnoticeable. Yahweh heard and granted our heartfelt prayers....in order to proclaim much better Yahweh’s truth. Many are yet to harvest...Therefore we will resume Yahweh’s work in our new name which is Yahweh’s Assembly in Yahshua.”

— **Elder Santiago Ortiguero, Philippines**

Dear brothers and sisters in Yahshua,

Many thanks for your excellent newsletters and websites! I pray that many more people will be reached and blessed through the work that you do in teaching about Yahweh’s Name and Esteem. My family and I certainly find it an invaluable resource.

For one, the arrival of each “Kids for Yah” newsletter always leads to great excitement with my two children and the new website no doubt will be equally enjoyed. We have been looking at the tabernacle with them in recent weeks, so this month’s Kids for Yah piece comes in good time.

As a matter of interest, I have noticed that the third paragraph of the tabernacle story on page 1 of the electronic version seems to have been transposed from the Noah story – trust this is easily fixed.

Many thanks again and shalom to all.

— **Pieter du Preez and family, South Africa**

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