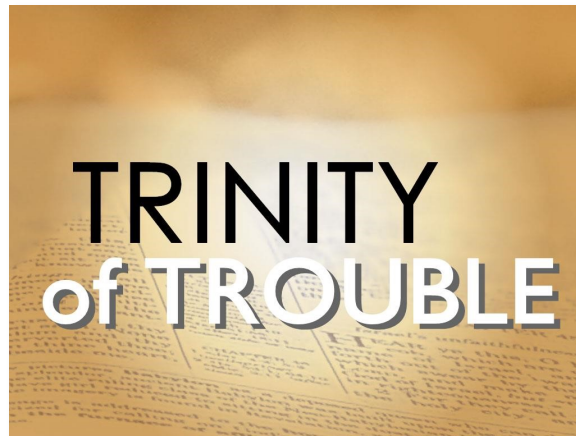


Sisters for Yah

Trinity of Trouble

(By Sister Debbie Reed)

The old adage that “troubles always come in threes” is uncannily accurate, it seems. If, in the space of a few days, our car’s battery goes belly-up and the toilet gets clogged, it’s a sure bet that the cat will get sick, the honeybees will swarm, or a calf will wiggle through the fence and end up running down the road. These problems, although not life-threatening, can wear us down and have a significant impact upon our mental, emotional and even our spiritual health.



In a similar manner, our national health is also subject to fatigue from the onslaught of a variety of moral and ethical problems. A cultural divide, an earthquake-sized crack in the unity of our nation, and all of humanity, is daily widening, further separating those on either side of the division. Our national political, moral and religious conflicts, it seems, are rooted in and growing out of three major arenas: wealth/

power (greed/war), illicit sex (promiscuity/homosexuality) and infant sacrifice (abortion).

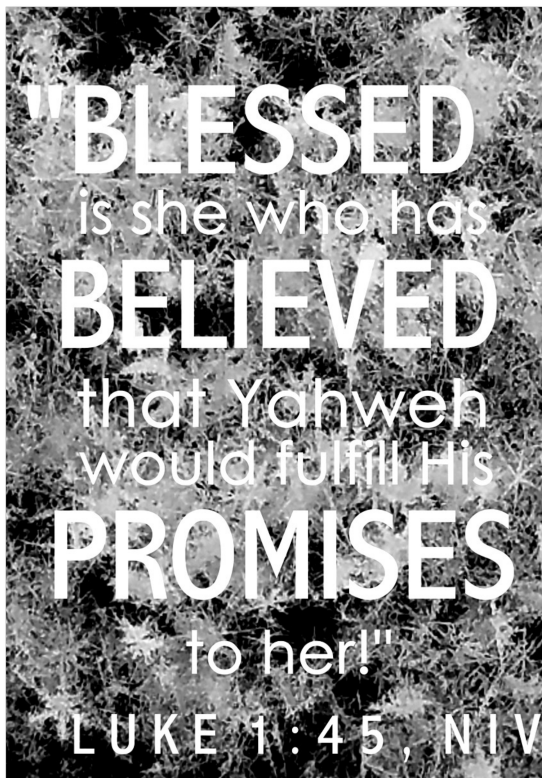
If you think all of these controversies and conflicts are new, think again. These troubles have plagued mankind since the beginning of civilization. When the ancient Israelites first entered the Promised Land, they found the native Canaanites worshipping three major deities: Baal, Astarte and Moloch. Baal, who was known as “Prince, Lord of the Earth”, was the overseer of all things relating to commerce, wealth and power. As the supreme god, it was he who controlled the sun, storms, and agriculture. His lightning bolt defeated enemies as well as producing crops and children. As such, Baal worship was rooted in sensuality and war and often required human sacrifice. Yahshua called Satan “Beelzebub” linking the devil to Baal (Matthew 12:27) Astarte, the Hellenized form of the Middle Eastern goddess, Ishtar (pronounced *Easter*), was the goddess of fertility and sexuality. Also known as the *Queen of Heaven*, the worship of Astarte included ritual prostitution. The female and male shrine prostitutes, known as *temple holy ones*, were highly respected in their roles of performing these “sacred” acts, which also included homosexuality.

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Astarte, called *Ashtorah* in the Hebrew scriptures, was referred to as the consort of Baal or, in other regions, she was designated as the consort of *Moloch*, the most gruesome of the triad. Moloch, whose name is interpreted in Hebrew as “the personified ruler of shameful sacrifice,” included sexual rituals along with child sacrifice. Moloch was usually portrayed in the form of a giant metal statue of a man with a bull’s head. The statue had outstretched arms that served as a ramp to a hole in the abdomen. A fire was lighted in and around the statue and firstborn babies were placed on the outstretched arms or directly in the hole to agonizingly burn to death. Drums were played during the spectacle to drown out the screams of the child. This sacrifice was to ensure financial prosperity and future children for the family. The worship of these ancient deities is alive and well in modern society today. The economy, sex and war make up the larger part of the headlines in the media. The illegal or obsessive accumulation of wealth, the rising crime rate, the promotion of promiscuity, the addiction to pornography and the approximately 3,000 abortions performed each day in our nation speak volumes on the spiritual decay within. Just as the roles of Baal, Astarte and Moloch were dependent upon and intertwined together in a circle of greed, carnality and death, so do we see this played out each and every day in the virtual and the real world. *What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun, Ecclesiastes 1:9.* The first commandment given to mankind was, *I am Yahweh your Elohim, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other elohim before me, Exodus 20:2-3.* He brought us out of slavery to sin and told us not to worship other mighty ones. Each day we do battle against forces we can neither see nor completely understand, and it is only through seeking Him and His Will that we can overcome the desires that will lead to eternal death. *Whatever is has already been before; and Yahweh will call the past to account, Ecclesiastes 3:15.*



Not One Word Has Failed

Joshua 28:14 tells us, *And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which Yahweh your Elohim spoke concerning you.” All has come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed.*

Near the end of his life, Joshua took time with the Israelites to review all that Yahweh had done for them since they first began following Him. Yahweh had given them a very difficult assignment: to conquer a foreign and hostile land with fortified cities and armies more powerful than their own.

The Israelites were to go forward with nothing more than Yahweh’s promise that He would go with them and take care of them. Now Joshua looked back over their experience and reminded the Israelites that Yahweh had kept every promise. They had experienced numerous victories and had enjoyed Yahweh’s provision for every need.

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Sometimes, hindsight gives us a clear picture of how faithful Yahweh has been. We are tempted during a crisis to wonder if Yahweh will be faithful to His promises. We focus on our problems, and our trust in Yahweh begins to waver. Twenty-four years after Yahweh promised Abraham and Sarah a son, they were still waiting on Him to fulfill His promise. But in the twenty-fifth year, Abraham and Sarah could look back and see that Yahweh had been faithful. As David was fleeing for his life, he may not have been certain how Yahweh would keep His promise to make him a king. But at the end of his long and prosperous reign, David could review how Yahweh had kept every promise.

We, also, can rely on Yahweh's faithfulness. Are you in a crisis? Hold to the promises of Yahweh! He will not forget you. And do look back over your life. Every one of us can recount the many ways in which Yahweh has been faithful to His Word.



Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread is next month!



FOR EVEN
Messiah
OUR PASSOVER
IS SACRIFICED *for us.*

1 CORINTHIANS 5:7, KJV

It's hard to believe that in a few short weeks, we'll be keeping the spring Holy Days. We encourage everyone to start planning and preparing their hearts and minds for this most important and set apart time. Start looking through your kitchen cabinets, refrigerators, freezers to use up or discard leavening agents and leavened products, such as bread, rolls, pancake mixes, most store-bought cookies, cakes, rolls, buns, and most store-bought flour tortillas. Read ingredient lists very carefully! Shockingly, even some ice creams contain baking soda. Below is a list of common leavening agents:

- Active dried yeast
- Brewer's yeast
- Monocalcium phosphate
- Baking powder
- Baking soda
- Cake flour
- Self-rising flour
- Sourdough yeast or starter
- Baker's yeast
- Ammonium carbonate
- Ammonium bicarbonate
- Potassium carbonate
- Potassium bicarbonate
- Dipotassium carbonate



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Fast and Easy Tuna Casserole

- 3 cups cooked macaroni
- 1 can tuna, drained
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 1/2 cups French Fried onions
- Salt and pepper to taste



Mix the first 4 ingredients. Season with salt and pepper. Top with the French Fried onions.

Decadent Three-layer Mint Chocolate Brownies

Bottom Layer:

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup butter
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups flour
- 5 T. unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/8 t. salt

Middle layer:

- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 t. peppermint extract
- 1.2 cup butter, softened

Top glaze:

- 6 ounces dark chocolate chips
- 6 T. butter



Grease a 9 by 13 inch baking pan. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Mix first 5 ingredients. Pour into pan and bake about 25 minutes until center comes out clean. Cool completely. Mix the "middle layer" ingredients and spread over top. Finally, heat the top glaze ingredients and pour over top.