

# YAIY BEACON

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**From the Beginning, Significance  
Born of Him, From Above  
A Loving Family  
Abram to Abraham  
Good Works in the Light of Yahweh**

## INTRODUCTION

Churchianity in general has not been faithful in following the Bible. Surprisingly, many of today's popular teachings and customs are not based in Scripture. We strive to return to the old paths of truth that have largely been ignored, and obediently follow in the footsteps of the Redeemer of Israel, Jude 3.

We observe the weekly Sabbath (on the seventh day) known as Saturday, just as did the Savior, Luke 4:16, as well as Paul and the Apostles, Acts 13:42-46; 17:2; 18:4.

We also call our Heavenly Father by His revealed, personal Name Yahweh, which He says is His memorial Name forever, Exodus 3:15. Most pastors, Bible scholars, and seminary students will acknowledge that Yahweh is the correct Name of the Heavenly Father. The short form of His Name, Yah, can be seen in many words, including the most popular hallelujah ("halleluYAH," meaning, "praise you Yah"). It is also found in the suffix of Biblical names like IsaYAH, (Isaiah), JeremYAH (Jeremiah), NehemYAH (Nehemiah), and ObadYAH (Obadiah).

Our membership comes from nearly all denominations and all walks of life. Most began searching for deeper truth when they learned that their former affiliation was teaching another Evangel from what they found in Scripture. We continue to search the Bible for deeper understanding. We believe that the Bible teaches a way of life through the commandments in the Old Testament and from the same example of obedience given us by our Savior in the New Testament.

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### MISSION STATEMENT

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

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## FROM THE BEGINNING, SIGNIFICANCE

*In the beginning, Yahweh created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of Yahweh was hovering over the face of the waters. And Yahweh said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And Yahweh saw that the light was good. And Yahweh separated the light from the darkness. Yahweh called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And Yahweh said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." And Yahweh made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. And Yahweh called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And Yahweh said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. Yahweh called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together He called Seas. And Yahweh saw that it was good, Genesis 1:1-10. (**English Standard Version** used throughout, unless otherwise noted.)*

On December 24, 1968, the crew of Apollo 8 – Bill Anders, Jim Lovell, and Frank Borman, each in turn, read Verses 1-4, 5-8, and 9-10 as their spacecraft was orbiting the moon. It is estimated that a quarter of the earth's population of 4 billion people in 64 countries either heard, or had access, to that reading from outer space.

### **A Space Odyssey**

At the same time, on planet earth, and from living rooms everywhere, Gene Roddenberry's space play was unfolding with these words:

"Space, the final frontier – these are the voyages of the Starship Enterprise, its five-year mission, to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go where no man has gone before."

Captain James Kirk and his crew were charting new territories, discovering new life-forms which thrived in environments that would have been hostile to the existence of our species. It was science fiction at its best, or its worst. but the program spawned inventions of personal transmitters that could be activated by a touch to the chest – cellphones, personal computers, and biometric technologies. The one reference to the Sovereign of the Universe came in an episode in which Leonard Nimoy, the science officer Commander Spock, and whose signature gesture was the Hebrew letter, **מ** – yes, Nimoy like Shatner, were Jewish – read from the Book of Psalms:

"When I look at your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? ... You have given him dominion over the works of Your hands; you have put all things under his feet ... (Psa. 8:2-3, 6)

Yet, what inspired the Apollo 8 crew in beholding the Mystery of the Universe to read a portion of the Creation narrative, and moved the producers of *Star Trek* to include in one episode's script a reading from the Book of Psalms, did not at that time move the principal character in the short-running space play *Star Trek* to privately and publicly acknowledge the One Who had set His glory above the heavens..

In fact, more or less as a refutation of the crew Apollo 8's wonder that lay before them in their orbit about the moon, William Shatner stated in an earlier 1968 interview, in response to a question about whether he had religious beliefs or believes in an afterlife:

“No, I don't. Emotionally, I would like to believe there is a life after death. Intellectually ... I cannot accept the idea. ... As for myself, I have finally come to the conclusion, that life is here and now, and nothing more.” (*celebatheist.com*)

On March 9, 2006, Shatner, in an interview with *Associated Press* correspondent, David Germain, reasserted his position, adding moreover,

“I've always had a sort of ironic view of life. My belief system is that when this is over, it's over. You don't look down from heaven, and wait for your loved ones to join you. There may be some soul activity, but I'm not sure about that. But what I am sure about, is that your molecules continue and in due time become something else. That's science,” and to which we would append with words from the Apostle Paul: “... oppositions of science falsely so called” (1 Tim. 6:20, *KJV*).

### **Power ... Hope ... Grandeur ... Life ... Love**

In the December 2022/January 2023 issue of *AARP, The Magazine*, the first profile under the article entitled, “The Moment That CHANGED MY LIFE,” features a picture of Chris Boshuizen, Audrey Powers, Glen de Vries, and William Shatner attired in their Blue Origin uniforms, and the following excerpt from Shatner's 2022 copyrighted book, *Boldly Go*:

“I had thought that going into space would be the ultimate catharsis [that purification or purgation that brings about spiritual renewal] of that connection I had been looking for between all living things – that being up there would be the next beautiful step to understanding the harmony of the universe.

“In the film *Contact*, when Jodie Foster's character goes to space and looks out into the heavens she lets out an astonished whisper: “They should've sent a poet.” But when I finally arrived out there, the splendor was absent. The feeling wasn't the warmth or glow that required poetry to express it; it was ominous. It was the opposite of life. It was among the strongest feelings of grief I have ever encountered.

“It reinforced tenfold my own view [of] the **Power** of our beautiful, mysterious collective human entanglement, and eventually it returned a

feeling of **Hope** to my heart. In this insignificance we share, we have one gift that other species perhaps do not: We are aware – not only of our insignificance but of the **Grandeur** around us that makes us insignificant. That allows us perhaps a chance to rededicate ourselves to our planet, to each other, to **Life** and **Love** all around us – if we seize the chance.” (William Shatner, *Boldly Go*, © 2022)

At 91, we could hope that his and others on this 18th Blue Origin shuttle into space and a look into the heavens, might have produced an astonished whisper: “They should've sent a poet” and provided that ultimate catharsis [that purification or purgation that brings about spiritual renewal] of connection he and others have been looking for between all living things – that being up there would be the next beautiful step to understanding the harmony of the universe.

Nevertheless, five words from Shatner's musings come to mind: **Power ... Hope ... Grandeur ... Life ... Love**.

### **Insignificant? Far From It!**

We start now, with an observation: “We are aware – not only of our insignificance but of the Grandeur around us that makes us insignificant.”

Insignificant? far from it! “When I look at your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, “What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You care for him? ... You have given him dominion over the works of Your hands; you have put all things under his feet ...” (Psa. 8:2-3, 6).

And then we come to John 3:16: “And Eloha So Loved The World ...” (John 3:16) – yes, “... the everlasting Eloha, Yahweh, the Creator of the ends of the earth ... Eloha Himself that formed the earth and made it; He has established it, He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited ...” (Isa. 40:28, 45:18, *KJV*).

Insignificant? far from it! “Thus saith the Holy One ... ‘Ask Me of things to come concerning My sons, and concerning the work of My hands’” (Isa. 45:11, *KJV*).

Insignificant? far from it! Of one in particular, He declared, “Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee ...” (Jer. 1:5, *KJV*), and of others generally, *Thus says Yahweh, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: “I am Yahweh, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by Myself,* Isaiah 44:24.

Insignificant? far from it! “But know that Yahweh has set apart the righteous for Himself ... the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise” (Psa. 4:3; Isa. 43:21).

Yes, of some in particular, and of others generally, He would affirm, *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you,*” saith Yahweh, “*thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end,*” Jeremiah 29:11, **KJV**.

Insignificant? far from it! A brother and sister, on April 15-16, 2021, traveling from Houston, Texas, to Missouri, to be immersed in the Name Above Every Name ... yes, and not at all unlike other heroes of faith – Abraham, who by faith, when he was called to go out into a place, not knowing whither he went, sojourned as in a strange country – these two ... just like the rest of us, day by day being conformed into the Image of, and growing in grace and knowledge of, our Master and Savior, Yahshua.

Insignificant? far from it! He brought you today, to read this Message, entitled, “From the Beginning, Significant!”

Insignificant? far from it! Apollos, a certain Jew, born at Alexandria, in Egypt, an eloquent man, mighty in the Scriptures, but knowing only baptism unto repentance ... yet, seen afar off as one significant, and now in a synagogue at Ephesus noticed by two others who courteously entreated him, expounding the Way more perfectly, and who afterwards mightily convinced and much helped them which believed through grace.

Insignificant? far from it! This same Apollos was to share a significant ministry with another whom Yahweh regarded significant, while yet he was a blasphemer, a persecutor, and injurious to the Sect of the Nazarene – we’re speaking, of course, of the Apostle Paul.

Insignificant? far from it! “Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? ... Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before Yahweh? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows,” (Matt. 10:29; Luke 12:6-7, **KJV**).

Insignificant? far from it! *Therefore I tell you, “do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.*

*Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if Yahweh so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of Yahweh and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself...”* Matthew 6:25-34a.

### **That Which May Be Known of Yahweh, Is Manifest**

Now, the world is full of Shatners ... halt betwixt two opinions – “your molecules continue and in due time become something else. That’s science” and, “the ultimate catharsis [that purification or purgation that brings about spiritual renewal] of that connection ... look[ed] for between all living things ... the next beautiful step to understanding the harmony of the universe.”

We, too, at times, may halt ... like Job, who at once, in a time of sorrow of heart and grief of mind, mused, *Oh that I were as in months past, as [in] the days [when] Eloha preserved me; When His candle shined upon my head, [and when] by His light I walked [through] darkness,* Job 29:2-3, **KJV** and, “If I had called ... yet would I not believe that He had hearkened unto my voice (Job 9:16, **KJV**).

It is during these times – halt, when you may question whether there is that “connection between all living things, or ... there the next beautiful step to understanding the harmony of the universe” – that you need to awaken out of sleep and call upon Him Whose salvation is nearer than when you first believed (Rom. 13:11) and hear His Voice out of the whirlwind, saying, as He did to Job, *Who [or what is] this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?* (Job 38:2) and Who then proceeds through 4 chapters and 127 verses, transforming this man from his pity pot that has reduced and resigned him to insignificance, to agreeing with his Maker, “Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?

Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. ... I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted. ... therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:3, 2, 6).

Yes, it was only after Yahweh’s reproving him, and at this point of Job realizing how far he’d drifted from Yahweh’s regard of him as significant, “that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth Eloha, and escheweth evil” (Job 1: 8, *KJV*) – and by the way, Yahweh is no respecter of persons ... it’s the dEvil whom you permit to distract and draw you away which makes you feel insignificant – that he was made to feel significant that Yahweh should reveal, in the words of Shatner, “the **Power** of our beautiful, mysterious collective human entanglement, and eventually ... a feeling of **Hope** ... of the **Grandeur** around us.”

Yes, and no less to us, by His regard, significant ... to whom the secret and the mystery of this **Power** of our beautiful, mysterious collective human entanglement; this feeling of **Hope**; this living experience of the **Grandeur** around us – to us, we say who fear Him, who keep His commandment, who seek His kingdom, and who work His righteousness and whom, He will never leave or forsake.

So again, we ask, insignificant? far from it! We Are More Than Ugly Bags Of Mostly Water! Yahweh doesn’t make junk. He hasn’t created any of us without purpose. But very much of His purpose is left unfulfilled; and very many of His gifts and callings, left unclaimed; and very many of His answers, yet awaiting prayers unsaid.

And by whom? by them who regard this life, in this time, as insignificant, and who declare, “Emotionally, I would like to believe there is a life after death. Intellectually ... I cannot accept the idea. ... As for myself, I have finally come to the conclusion, that life is here and now, and nothing more. ... My belief system is that when this is over, it’s over. ... your molecules continue and in due time become something else. That’s science.”

Again, by whom? by them, who even after having been *up there*, couldn’t make that “connection between all living things”, and “with the next beautiful step to understanding the harmony of the universe; for whom the splendor was absent; for whom the feeling was ominous ... the opposite of life and among the strongest feelings of grief I have ever encountered.”

## Conclusion

But for them who know, they are significant ...

- > who believe in, and who take Him at His Word ... that is, the thoughts of peace He has for them, to bring them to an expected end of glory;
- > who know they are created with Divine purpose and are fulfilling it;
- > who have claimed their gifts and callings and are not now, negligent in their employment, but occupying until He comes;
- > who have through the answer to their prayers, been enlightened to His faithfulness and experienced, tasting of the powers of the world to come;
- > who believe in the significance of a just recompense from Him Who will render to every man according to his deeds: to them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but unto them that are contentious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish upon every soul of man that doeth evil;
- > who believe on Him, and His Word that He is preparing a place for them that is incorruptible, undefiled, and reserved in the heavens;
- > who are, now, and without reservation, able to sing the refrain,



O Yah, Most High, when I in awesome wonder,  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
The power throughout the universe displayed.

When through the woods and forest glades  
I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

Then sings my soul, my Savior Yah, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior Yah, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!  
HalleluYah! How great Thou art!



-Elder John W. Reece

# Born of Him, From Above



In looking at creation we know that there is a Creator Who knew what He was doing. And we can trust what He tells us through His Word, that we will fully know then what we but partially know now. With this said, we should live a life that reflects not only this knowledge, but also the Spirit that has been given to us – motivated to serve Yahweh through His righteous Son Who set the example for us.

## On Affections

Recently, we had a Bible study on the subject of “Affections.” Our lesson proceeded from *The New Topical Text Book*, Torrey, R. A. (2001), touted to be “a Scriptural textbook for the use of ministers, teachers, and all Christian workers,” and offered instruction in prioritizing our affections.

First and foremost, our affections should be set upon Yahweh, as it is written:

*One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, “What commandment is the foremost of all?” Yahshua answered, “The foremost is, ‘HEAR, O ISRAEL! YAHWEH OUR ELOHIM IS ONE; AND YOU SHALL LOVE YAHWEH YOUR ELOHIM WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH,’”* Mark 12:28-30. (The *New American Standard Bible* used throughout, unless noted)

Secondly, from Psalms 19:7-10, 119:20, 97, 103, and 167, we note our affections must be positioned upon His commandments. Let’s look at a couple of Scriptures regarding our love of the commandments of Yahweh:

*The precepts of Yahweh are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of Yahweh is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of Yahweh is clean, enduring forever,* Psalm 19:8–9.

*O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.* Psalm 119:97.

Thirdly, we should love Yahweh’s House, and love to worship Him. We read in 1 Chronicles 29:3, that King David gave abundantly of his substance, both of gold and silver ... “with all of his ability he provided,” besides other stores of gold, silver, brass, iron, wood, onyx stones and glistening stones of diverse colors, and marble stones in abundance – all for the preparation of his son Solomon’s construction of the house of Yahweh – and it was his delight to do so. King David said in Psalm 26:8, *O Yahweh, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your esteem dwells.* And in Psalm 27:4, he expresses his desire to dwell there, in Yahweh’s house, all the days of his life ... there, to behold the beauty of Yahweh, and to meditate and enquire. He’d rather spend a day in His courts as a doorkeeper, than a thousand elsewhere (Psa. 84:10).

Fourthly, we should be kindly affectioned toward the people of Yahweh. Again, the Psalmist writes, *As for the saints who are in the earth, they are the majestic ones in whom is all My delight,* Psalm 16:3, (**emphasis ours**).

The Apostle Paul wrote furthermore, *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Master; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse,* Romans 12:10–14, saying furthermore to the Assemblies at Corinth and Thessalonica,

*And I will very gladly spend, and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved ... Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the evangel*

of Elohim but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us. 2 Corinthians 12:15, **KJV**, 1 Thessalonians 2:8. (Read also, 2 Corinthians 7:13-15.)

*For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous, 1 John 3:11-12.*

Do we even need to be reminded that no greater love had a Man than this, that He lay down His life for His friends? (John 15:13).

The commandments of love, given by the Spirit, are purposed to moving us upward and toward Yahweh and our fellow man.

Lastly, we consider our love toward heavenly things.

*Therefore if you have been raised up with Messiah, keep seeking the things above, where Messiah is, seated at the right hand of Yahweh. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Messiah in Elohim. When Messiah, Who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of Elohim will come upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them, Colossians 3:1-7.*

*... even when we were dead in our transgressions, [Yahweh] made us alive together with Messiah (by grace you have been saved), and raised us with Him in the heavenly [places], in Messiah Yahshua, Ephesians 2:5-6.*

### **Born of Yahweh**

It is what comes out of the abundance of the heart that defiles a person – things, like immorality, impurity, passion, evil desires, and greed. These things are opposite of what we're called to be and do. Those who belong to Messiah Yahshua, have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires (Gal. 5:24), and put aside the old self with its evil practices, and put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other just as the Master forgave them (Col. 3:9, 12-13). These things bring glory to Yahweh, but cannot happen without a change in us, conforming us into His image, occurring first.

*If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him. See how great a love the Father has*

*bestowed on us, that we would be called children of Elohim; and [such] we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of Elohim, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is... No one who is born of Elohim practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of Elohim. By this the children of Elohim and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of Elohim, nor the one who does not love his brother, 1 John 2:29-3:2, 9-10.*

Becoming born of Him is best defined Scripturally: *Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Messiah was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with [Him] in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be [in the likeness of His resurrection], knowing this, that our old self was impaled with [Him], in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin, Romans 6:4-7.*

There is a process occurring in being called out of darkness into light, in being passed from death to life. Here, is where many become confused. They don't understand this process, this workmanship of Yahweh to create one in Messiah Yahshua and prepare him for doing good works (Eph. 2:10) – a workmanship that involves growing in grace and in knowledge, and accomplished by Body ministry.

*And He gave some [as] apostles, and some [as] prophets, and some [as] evangelists, and some [as] pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Messiah; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of Elohim, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Messiah. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all [aspects] into Him who is the head, [even] Messiah, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love, Ephesians 4:11-16.*

It is not just apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, but each of the members have gifts “the work of service” to help build up the body of Messiah. (See 1 Corinthians, chapter 12).

This “building up” of the body of Messiah first required us to be born of Yahweh, “from above” – **anōthen** (ἀνωθεν, *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*, G.509), “from above,” is used of place, (a) with the meaning “from the top,” Matt. 27:51; Mark 15:38, of the temple veil; in John 19:23, of the garment of [Messiah], lit., “from the upper parts” (plural); (b) of things which come from heaven, or from [Yahweh] in Heaven, John 3:31; 19:11; Jas. 1:17; 3:15, 17. It is also used in the sense of “again,” *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, (Vol. 2, p. 5), T. Nelson.

How are we born “from above,” and why must we? It’s a question Nicodemus posed to, and which was answered by, Yahshua.

“... Truly, truly I say to you, unless someone is **born from above**, he is not able to see the kingdom of Elohim.” Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is an old man? He is not able to enter into his mother’s womb for the second time and be born, can he?” Yahshua answered, “Truly, truly I say to you, unless someone is **born of water and spirit**, he is not able to enter into the kingdom of Elohim. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘It is necessary for you to be **born from above**,’” John 3:3-7, *The Lexham English Bible, TLEB*.

Being “born of water and of spirit” appears to be speaking of baptism into water and receiving a portion of Yahweh’s Spirit with the laying on of hands by the elders in Messiah. But the water is related to the flesh, and we know that flesh and blood cannot inherit the coming Kingdom of Yahweh, since that realm is spiritual (1 Cor. 15:50).

Through Messiah’s blood, we have redemption and the forgiveness of our trespasses and in Him, we have obtained an inheritance ... sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise which is given to us as a **pledge** of our inheritance until our full redemption as Yahweh’s purchased possession (Eph. 1:7, 11, 13, 14).

The Apostle Paul, affirms that those who die in Messiah will be fully born of Yahweh in the first resurrection and at Yahshua’s return, those who are alive will also be changed in a twinkling of an eye (1 Cor. 15). Now, we, along with the rest of creation, await Yahshua’s return. In Acts, chapter 2, we read of the initial outpouring of Yahweh’s

Spirit. And so, we eagerly wait ... meanwhile, patiently and diligently enduring, persevering, and overcoming with vigilance until His return.

*For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of Elohim. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of Elohim. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it, Romans 8:19–25.*

But this process toward Yahshua’s return, has already begun just like receiving a portion of Yahweh’s Spirit (even the calling by Yahweh, by the same Spirit) commences one’s being led by the Spirit to fully walk in the ordinances and commandments of Yahweh, as it is written:

*Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances, Ezekiel 36:26-27. (See also, Jeremiah 31:33.)*

### **What’s Next?**

*And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in [the likeness of] Elohim has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE [of you] with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. BE ANGRY, and [yet] DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity, Ephesians 4:23-27.*

Is that it? Not at all. We continue reading in the same passage, verses 28-32:

*He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have [something] to share with one who has need. Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such [a word] as is good for edification according to the need [of*

the moment], so that it will give grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of Elohim, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as Elohim in Messiah also has forgiven you.

It's a tall order, but in the next chapter, the list goes on. Ephesians 5:1-6, reads:

*Therefore be imitators of Elohim, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Messiah also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to Elohim as a fragrant aroma. But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and [there must be no] filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Messiah and Elohim. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of Elohim comes upon the sons of disobedience.*

We are further warned in Revelation, "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues; for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and Elohim has remembered her iniquities. Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back [to her] double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her. To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, "I SIT [as] A QUEEN AND I AM NOT A WIDOW, and will never see mourning," For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for Yahweh Elohim Who judges her is strong, Revelation 18:4-8.

Yahweh is merciful to those who are close to Him. But those who walk contrary to Him, will be punished.

Nevertheless, all these things which we've been talking about, and need to walk in as new creatures in Messiah, won't supply us with salvation. Yahshua saves us through His blood, and the Spirit of Yahweh helps us to grow so that our actions reflect the righteous character of both the Father and the Son. For *He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us*

*richly through Messiah Yahshua our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed Elohim will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men, Titus 3:5-8.*

Washing and renewing us from what? from this fallen world, unregenerate and dying in decay. The Spirit of Yahweh, however, gives life and helps us to walk in newness of life, no longer in spiritual decay. But if we don't allow the Spirit, as a seed, to grow in us and help us, we will die spiritually.

*Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in [your] moral excellence, knowledge, and in [your] knowledge, self-control, and in [your] self-control, perseverance, and in [your] perseverance, piety, and in [your] reverence [for Yahweh], piety, brotherly kindness, and in [your] brotherly kindness, love. For if these [qualities] are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Master Yahshua Messiah. For he who lacks these [qualities] is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten [his] purification from his former sins ... For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of [the] divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust, 2 Peter 1:5-9, 4.*

### **Yahweh's Will Within**

To reiterate what the Apostle Peter says, "For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Master Yahshua Messiah" (2 Pet. 1:8). His peer, the Apostle Paul, also encourages us, saying, *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Master; knowing that your toil is not in vain [in] the Master; 1 Corinthians 15:58.*

Yahshua's work, was to do the will of the Father, toward which our work should be... bringing honor and glory to the Father, our attitudes and our actions producing the good works of Yahweh. What Yahweh wants, is always the bottom line.

The Son came, not to do His own will but that of His Father. The question is, "How are we relating to Yahweh's will?" Maybe, we should reread the several Scripture references in this discourse.

## Conclusion

This writer was listening to soft music that accompanied a video presenting scenic views from around the world. The music, and the creation, were beautiful ... but not more so, than the Creator. The Psalmist declared, *One thing I have asked from Yahweh, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of Yahweh all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of Yahweh and to meditate in His Temple.* Psalm 27:4.

*For from days of old they have not heard or perceived by ear, nor has the eye seen an Elohim besides You, Who acts in behalf of the one who waits for Him,* Isaiah 64:4.

To think how we have been made partakers of His Spirit is awe-inspiring. To be born of Him, from Above, is something we just can't describe at this time.

All esteem and honor goes to Him, through Yahshua, His Messiah. His, is the first of our affections and foremost, a priority in our lives.

-Elder David Brett



# A Loving Family

What would parents like to have for their children?

To have happy children

To have children walk in the Truth

To have children who love their parents and who are good companions

What would children like to have from their parents?

To have parents who love and agree with each other

To have parents they can talk to easily

To have parents who love them and support them – emotionally, physically, spiritually

Let's learn about how some of these things can be accomplished. Young people should pay particular attention to these, because preparing the best conditions in their homes in which to rear children may take a long time.

A child-centered home is not in the best interest of the child. The best thing parents can do for their children is

- to love each other, precluding their children from playing one parent against the other;
- doing whatever is necessary to assure their love grows steadily through the years, by studying materials together aimed at improving their marriage;
- setting aside time to enhance the marriage bond between them, and affirming to each other how glad each is to be married to the other and having mutual appreciation for the contribution each makes toward creating a happy home;
- applying themselves toward getting along by settling differences intelligently, with forgiveness and love;
- and, talking over little problems in order to cut off the occasion of little problems becoming big problems.

## Security in Love

People often make decisions based on their needs, rather than on what they ought to do. Satisfying physical needs is a strong natural drive in each of us. The foremost thought of a person who has just fallen into the water, is to get to

the surface so he can breathe again. If one has not been able to eat for many days, she may scrounge for things she would not normally eat and maybe even, steal some food.

A child living in a home in which Mom and Dad love one another on a deep, basic level – best, conveyed by father and mother every day ... like, frequently hugging each other, every day – is a great source of security for children who know they can't play one parent against the other. And much of this security is supplied by the father who protects the family from harm; making and enforcing rules that provide for safety and peace; creating emotional stability in the family, by guiding its affairs – even difficult situations – with prudence and discernment. The most important emotional need a child has, is feeling his or her physical needs will be met. If the father is delinquent in, or neglects, providing this security, a family member may try to fill that need through the person of someone outside the family.

Older children need to know their parents love them, too. Knowing they are loved by father and mother gives them reason and the courage to do what is right, rather than what their peers “determine” is right. *There is a way which seems right unto a man, but the end thereof [are] the ways of death,* Proverbs 14:12.

An unhappy marriage, however, whose outcome is divorce between father and mother almost always negatively impacts children.

### **Love Makes for a Brighter World**

After security, the next emotional need we have, is to feel loved. When once our physical needs are met, and we feel they will continue to be met, then we may begin to concentrate on how people feel about us. Our world is a lot brighter if just one person we respect lets us know, that in some way he or she thinks we're really good.

Everyone has a need to know that he or she belongs and is loved. By nature, a person will love, respect and bond with those of his own family. If a young person has no friend, no close brother or sister, no loving father or mother, then her life is desperately empty and if this need is not fulfilled, she may accept second best – wherever it can be found.

In John 14 and 15, Yahshua tells His disciples about loving one another and about the great love He and the Father have for One Another and for them. Then in John 16:1, He says, “I have told you these things so that you would not be caused to stumble.”

So, what can a young person do to satisfy his need for love? Since Yahweh is love (1 John 4:16), becoming close to Him through reading His Word, through prayer, and through fellowship with other believers in one of Yahweh's congregations, is a good place to start.

Secondly, children can prompt father or mother by asking, “Do you love me?” and then, “Why do you love me?” Dad or Mom will know how to answer the first question, but may need some time to reply to the second. Children should be patient, allowing their parent(s) time to consider an answer to this very important, second question.

The Scriptures provide several examples of fathers blessing their children. One doesn't have to be an ordained minister, not even a man, to impart a blessing. Some fathers practice conferring a blessing upon their children as the Sabbath begins. Blessings can greatly strengthen the family and strongly bond children to their parents and to Yahweh. And children can request father or mother to impart to them a blessing without necessarily telling them why a blessing is asked. Dad or Mom can put their hands upon the child's head and pray to the Father above, to be with the child, to keep him strong, and to confer peace, wisdom, protection, and encouragement.

### **Chit Chat**

Let's look at a picture of an ideal home:

*These words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart. And you shall teach them diligently to your children. And you shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up,* Deuteronomy 6:6-7.

Parents should spend a lot of time chatting with their children ... about the Scriptures, and also about other things. When parents talk with, and listen with silent attention to, their children, good things happen. (And while we're on the subject of listening, a parent's full, respectful and undivided attention is one of the finest gifts a parent can give to a child. Listening costs nothing and nothing is a substitute for it. And children appreciate being listened to.) An exchange in listening to each other's conversation will result in each learning a lot about the other, too.

A listening parent might learn that his child is an interesting and pleasant person, and discover that her son or daughter can be a good friend with real value and personality. Perhaps more importantly, that personality a father may see in his child might

more closely be found having been genetically contributed by the child's mother who the father deeply loves.

Secondly, the child gains confidence in his parent. She comes to understand how the parent thinks and why he says and does the things he says and does. The parent's ideas make more sense because they've been explained and heard a number of times. But the parent also gains confidence in the child.

When people talk together, they naturally feel closer together. One reason for "the generation gap" is that people don't through oral speech communicate with each other. The rise of technology occupies a prominent place in peoples' lives today. Social media has made people to become less social. Fathers could make it a family rule that ANY TIME an actual human being within the family wants to talk, that PEOPLE ARE MUCH MORE IMPORTANT than TV or CELL PHONES.

They get to know each other as two people – actual individuals – rather than as a parent and a child. Childhood are very important years during which adult-to-adult relationships are developed and nurtured. Parents can have adult-to-adult conversations with children of any age – even with those very young children who are not yet talking.

A young child, needing to be told and taught everything, will occupy Dad and Mom's time, needing to be told and taught everything. Even when words are not said, the young child is still learning and it should be the goal of parents to prepare the child so well, that he and she can make wise choices and decisions as they continue to mature. If the parent has failed to nurture the child, he or she will not be adequately prepared to leave home and commence life as an adult and what will follow, is a hard time for a 'foolish' young adult who makes mistakes that will bring injury to him or her, and possibly to the family. Young men and women who were trained, nurtured, and admonished by their parents are prepared to avoid making foolish mistakes.

### Summary

We have talked about three basic needs:

- physical;
- security;
- love.

Other needs we have addressed are:

- nurturing a child's self-esteem;
- parents' encouraging their children's self-actualization, being the best, they can be.

Parents concentrate their energies toward growing love for one another, and for their children ... parents and children, mutually expressing love to each other through words, physical touch, and talking with, and listening attentively, to each other. Parents, and particularly fathers, should prepare their children to become wise adults.

Let us, therefore, resolve to make our homes more pleasing to every member of our families, but especially to Yahweh, the Father of us all.

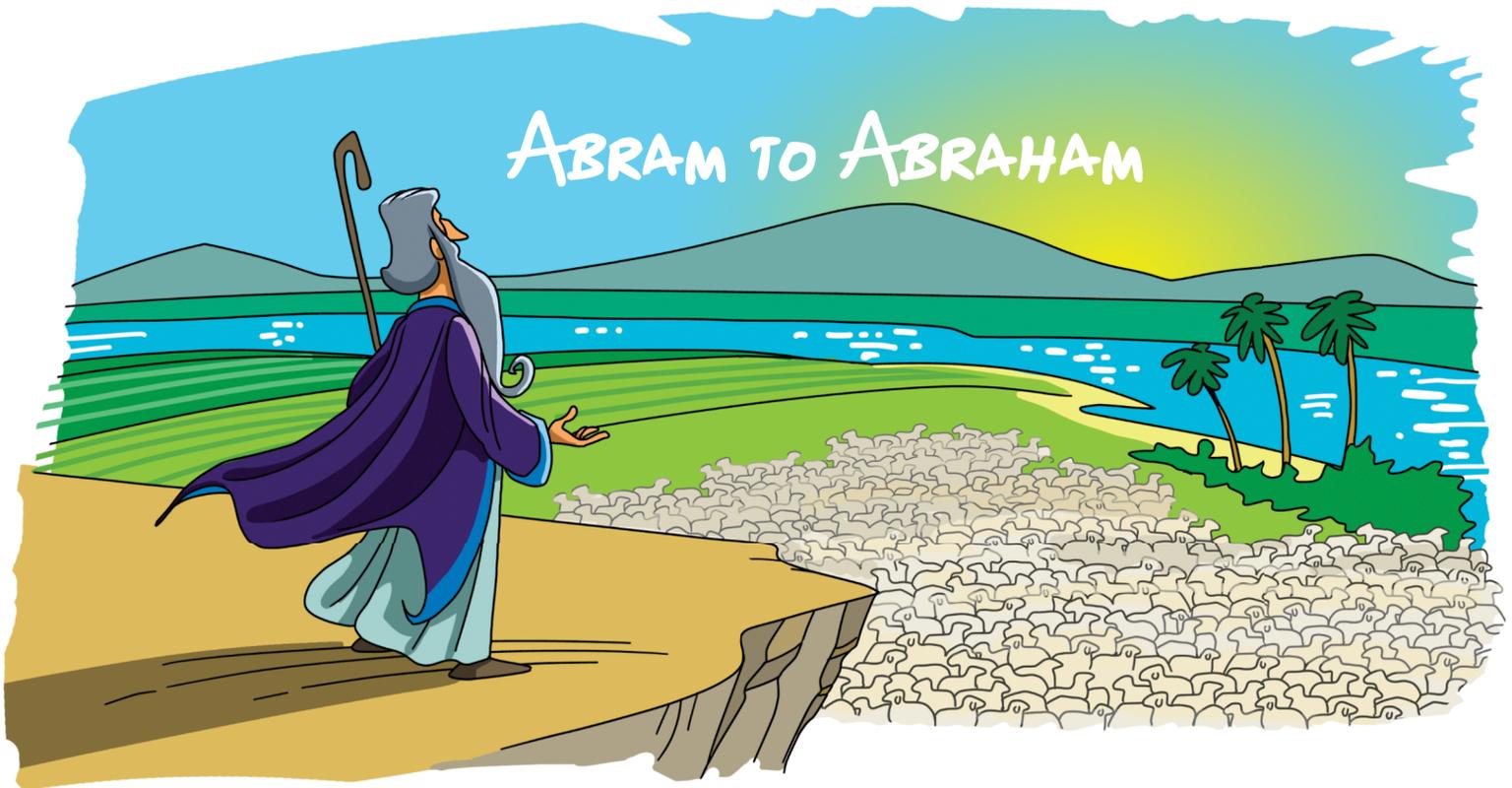
"Husbands, love your wives, even as the Messiah also loved the congregation and gave Himself for it. ... This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning the Messiah and the congregation. Nevertheless, let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she greatly respects her husband. Children, obey your parents in the Master: for this is right. Honor your father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with you and you may live on the earth. And you fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of Yahweh. ... Knowing that whatever good thing any man does, he shall receive the same of the Master, whether he be bond or free. ... Finally, my brethren, be strong in Yahweh, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of Yahweh, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of the world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. ... Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from Yahweh the Father and the Master Yahshua the Messiah. Amen" (Eph. 5:25, 32-6:4, 8, 10-12, 23-24).

-Elder Tom Schattke



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A minister told us recently in writing, “The Sabbath was only given to the Israelites and applies to no one today.” The question then arises, what does Abram to Abraham mean for those in Messiah? The promise to Abram still applies today, does it not? It’s essential that we understand what Yahweh is doing.

Current religious authorities think that the Father has done away with the law and also with Israel. Nothing could be farther from the truth, especially for those in the Messiah.

*Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind, 1 Samuel 15:29. (The **New American Standard Bible** used throughout, unless otherwise noted.)*

The Glory of Israel is Yahweh and He will keep His promises made to Abram. As it is clearly stated, He is not a man that He would lie (Num. 23:19).

### **What’s In a Name**

Abram means “exalted father,” but Yahweh changed his name to “Abraham,” meaning “exalted father of a great multitude.”

Abram is first mentioned as a descendant of the line of Shem, one of the sons of Noah.

*These are the records of the generations of Shem. Shem was one hundred years old, and became the father of Arpachshad two years after the flood, Genesis 11:10.*

The descendants afterward are Shelah, Eber, Peleg, Reu, Serug, Nahor, and Terah, who was Abram’s father.

*Terah lived seventy years, and became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. Now these are the records of the generations of Terah. Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran; and Haran became the father of Lot. Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans. Abram and Nahor took wives for themselves. The name of Abram’s wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor’s wife was Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah and Iscah. Sarai was barren; she had no child, Genesis 11:26–30.*

(An interesting piece of information about Sarai here is that she had no child which plays a significant role later when she is 90 years old.)

Yahweh calls whom He desires and gives blessings and insight. Noah, Abram, Job — all are mentioned in Scripture as having been called of Yahweh Who noted they were just and perfect and upright; foreknown by Yahweh to command their children to keep the way of justice and judgment (Gen. 6:9, 18:19; Job 1:1).

All of these callings were known ahead of time, just as our calling was known before our birth — just as He knew the prophet Jeremiah (Jer. 1:5). The Apostle Paul (Gal. 1:15). Before their birth, and before ours, He knew He would be calling us for His purpose and His will:

### **His Will and Purpose, a Mystery**

*Blessed be the Elohim and Father of our Master Yahshua Messiah, Who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Messiah, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Yahshua Messiah to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him, Ephesians 1:3–9.*

This mystery is that Yahweh is making a way for Israel to come back, through the Messiah. Through the death of a testator (Heb. 9:15-17) to re-establish a binding covenant with Yahweh. Those who were not a people could then become the people of Yahweh once again (Hos. 2:23).

*For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery — so that you will not be wise in your own estimation — that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, “THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNRIGHTEOUSNESS FROM JACOB. THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS,” Romans 11:25–27, (quotes from Isaiah 59:20 and Jeremiah 31:31).*

These Gentiles are part of the 12 tribes and commonwealth of Israel – the very ones, that Yahweh prophesied through Jeremiah that He will take one from a city and two from a family and bring them into Zion — not everyone all at once, but in a specific order, with a remnant being saved first. Yahweh will be dealing with the rest of Israel and

mankind after the millennial rule of the Messiah, as King of kings.

This phrase that Paul uses, the “fullness of the Gentiles” is named in Genesis 48:19, and in the Hebrew is “*malo ha goyim*” meaning “multitude of nations.” It’s the prophecy spoken by Israel (i.e., Jacob) when he was blessing the sons of Joseph (the 11th son of Israel).

We’re getting a little ahead of ourselves, but we want to make the point that the headship of Yahweh, down through the Messiah, and to us, is still the order of the day. The Messiah came to do Yahweh’s will and not His own. The Messiah came in service to Him Who calls us for His purpose. Yahshua didn’t come to negate the Father’s laws, but to magnify them and be a Way back for Israel from whom Yahweh was divorced because of their sins.

How outrageous it is to think we, once forgiven and brought back into good standing with the Father through His Son, are free to willfully forsake Yahweh’s Laws.

*Yours, O Yahweh, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O Yahweh, and You exalt Yourself as head over all, 1 Chronicles 29:11. Yes, He is even the Head of the Messiah.*

### **Covenant Law, before Sinai**

*Now Yahweh said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you; and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed,” Genesis 12:1-3.*

A great nation, a great name, blessings? Sounds good, but was Abram doing anything to receive such a blessing?

*By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going, Hebrews 11:8.*

Okay, he had faith, but we know faith without works is dead (James 2:17-26). Abraham obeyed the calling and went forward.



To his son, Isaac, Yahweh declared, *I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; because Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws*, Genesis 26:4–5.

This commendation preceded the giving of the Law at Mt. Sinai. How did Abraham know these things? Did Shem know about Yahweh's Commandments, Statutes, and Laws? Did Noah? How could Noah be called righteous in his generation and be blameless, walking with Yahweh (Gen. 6:9), if he didn't know the righteous standards of Yahweh.

The evidence is that he did know. By faith and continued obedience, the patriarch Abraham was granted the covenant that is called by his name: The Abrahamic Covenant.

Let's take a closer look at known laws.

*Then Noah built an altar to Yahweh, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar*, Genesis 8:11. Clean and unclean laws, for example, were clearly known.

This is the first time an altar is mentioned in Scripture, though it is implied with Adam and Eve after they sinned. Skins of animals (clean ones, no doubt) were provided for them. These animal skins represented a sacrifice having been made to atone for their sin of disobedience.

In Genesis, Chapter 4, we read the account of Cain slaying his brother Abel, probably on account of Yahweh preferring Abel's offering over Cain's. But how did Abel know what to present Yahweh? And if without law, there is no transgression, why should Yahweh have been displeased with Cain having slain his brother and made him to become a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth?

The devil told the first recorded lie in Genesis 3:4, and he was cursed. But why should the devil be cursed, if the law forbidding bearing false witness didn't already exist?

And, what was the testimony placed into the ark before Mt. Sinai, if not a basic structure of laws set apart at the beginning of creation?

Yet, there are arguments against the law – arguments proceeding mostly from disputations attending the Apostle Paul's writings. Here's an interesting one we normally don't look at.

*For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through*

*the Law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified; for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation. For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all*, Romans 4:13–16.

While Paul is hard to understand, we have clarification from Paul himself in this very Book that we don't nullify the law by grace, faith, or anything else (Rom. 6:1-3, 8, 14-16). And, there is no law against the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:23). So how is this area of Scripture understood?

We are not justified by the Law, but by Yahshua's sacrifice. But without question, trampling Yahshua's sacrifice after receiving justification equals an eternal death (Heb. 10:26), just as disobedience to the laws of Yahweh brings death, and not life. By faith, we believe and thus are we saved, just as Abraham had faith in Yahweh's promise to him and his descendants — not only to them but to others who will believe and come into the faith (Rom. 9:6-7). (Note well, that there is one law, standard instructions, for both those who are of the seed of Abraham and to them which are not, Exod. 12:49; Num. 15:15-16.)

Paul fully concurred with the law of Yahweh (Rom. 7:22). To disregard the law and think it can be forgotten, is to forget Who provided the Law and the Headship from Whom the Law proceeds, that is, from the top, down to us. The unilateral covenant agreement was made by Yahweh and promised to Abraham and His descendants, and it is brought into both the old and new covenants.

Paul, I believe, had a difficult time with the Jews who had a hard time understanding the Gentiles would be welcomed into the Covenant Promises and Commonwealth of Israel, even though they were not considered observant Jews (Eph. 2:12; Gal. 3:6-9). There were plenty of eternal laws ratified in the Mt. Sinai Covenant. The ordinances of sacrificial rites imposed under the Levitical order were added because of transgression (Gal. 3:19), though these did not annul the Covenant Promises (Gal. 3:17) but have served as a schoolmaster to bring all to Messiah, that all might be justified by faith (Gal. 3:24).

For this reason then, we must not be ignorant of the Law, else we should not learn what the will of the

Father is, even to the keeping of every word that proceeds from the mouth of Yahweh, as the Savior taught (Matt. 4:4). For seeing Yahweh will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil, man's whole duty is to fear Yahweh through keeping His commandments (Eccl. 12:14, 13).

And so, Paul is correct. The Abrahamic Covenant is granted by faith, not because the Law granted it, but because faith in the New Covenant, in which we find the Abrahamic Covenant and its promises, extended to us through the Messiah. Does that mean we can go on sinning against Yahweh's eternal laws since we have been saved by grace through faith? (Eph. 2:8). Paul would answer, *What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?* Romans 6:1-2.

Yahshua's sacrifice was for past sins — the same sins of which Israel was guilty. The same laws they broke, we have broken. Having those sins forgiven, brings us back to the right relationship with the Father, thereby partially fulfilling prophetic Scriptures which foretell the restoration of Yahweh's people, Israel.

For people to promote that Israel is no longer in Yahweh's plans, is to not understand what He is doing or what He wants from His people: obedience, from the heart. This is why the message from John the Immerser can be summed up in one word, "Repent." People need to turn back to Yahweh. And Paul knew this.

*From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the assembly. And when they had come to him, he said to them, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, serving the Master with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward Elohim and faith in our Master Yahshua Messiah,"* Acts 20:17-21.

Repentance toward Yahweh, and faith in Yahshua, through His shed blood and in His Name, we have forgiveness of sins and are brought back into a right relationship with Yahweh.

*Remember the law of Moses My servant, even the statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel. Behold, I am going to send you EliYah the prophet before the coming of the great*

*and terrible day of Yahweh,* Malachi 4:4-5. This would be an extremely odd statement, coming at the end of the Old Testament, if the laws of Yahweh were done away with.

We understand John the Immerser came in the Spirit of EliYah which means, "my El is Yah." This is the end-time message, that our El is Yahweh, and that mankind needs to repent or to *teshuvah* (in the Hebrew language, literally meaning to "turn around" or to "turn back," in this sense, turning back to Yahweh and His way of life and receiving forgiveness through the Sacrifice of His Son).

### **Abram's Family**

In Genesis 16:1-4, we read of a plan devised by Sarai to provide Abram with a child:

*Now Sarai, Abram's wife had borne him no children, and she had an Egyptian maid whose name was Hagar. So Sarai said to Abram, "Now behold, Yahweh has prevented me from bearing children. Please go in to my maid; perhaps I will obtain children through her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. After Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Abram's wife Sarai took Hagar the Egyptian, her maid, and gave her to her husband Abram as his wife. He went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her sight.*

(This is ten years past the time Yahweh visited Abram and said He would bless him and make a great nation out of him.)

Sarai evidently reasoned that she was too old and that Yahweh wouldn't use her for His purpose. Abram, too, thought that Ishmael was the one through whom these promises would come. But they were both wrong. Ishmael, born of the Egyptian handmaid, would present a problem for Israel in the future and still does, today.

A few more years passed, and then Yahweh explained what He would do in Genesis 17:1-5:

*Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, Yahweh appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am El Shaddai; walk before Me, and be blameless. I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and I will multiply you exceedingly." Abram fell on his face, and Elohim talked with him, saying, "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you will be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I will make you the father of a multitude of nations."*

Yahweh declares the whole land of Canaan a multitude of nations (“*malo ha goyim*”), is being given to him and his descendants — 4,000 years ago, and long before the Palestinians can prove the land in the Middle East is theirs.

*Then Elohim said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. “I will bless her, and indeed I will give you a son by her. Then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.” Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old? And will Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” And Abraham said to Elohim, “Oh that Ishmael might live before You!” But Elohim said, “No, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him, Genesis 17:15-19.*

Yahweh still blessed Ishmael, but nowhere approaching the blessings come through Isaac and to his descendants after him.

Then, and now, because Abraham and Sarah hadn’t waited for Yahweh to fulfill His promise, they burdened the family line through Isaac. Adding to the trouble, Esau (known also as, Edom) — Abraham’s grandson, Isaac’s son and Jacob’s brother — later married Mahalath his cousin and one of Ishmael’s daughters (Gen. 28:9) and a granddaughter of Abraham. So, Ishmael and Esau are tied by marriage and family history, and by similar interests and characteristics (Gen. 16:12, 21:20).

### **History from Adam and Eve**

Adam and Eve sinned, because of having yielded to temptation from Satan. We now live in a fallen world ruled by Satan. Afterward, Cain murdered his brother, righteous Abel, and incurred to himself, a curse. All the earth became filled with violence and every imagination of the hearts of men were only evil. But Noah was found in grace, walking with Yahweh and so he, his wife, and his sons, Japheth, Ham, and Shem and their wives, were delivered from the flood that destroyed all flesh wherein is

the breath of life.

Four generations later (Gen. 11), the people under the rule of Nimrod wanted to make a name for themselves by constructing a tower that should reach into heaven itself, rather than honoring Yahweh’s Name and His Commandment to “replenish the earth” (Gen. 1:28). Yahweh confused their language and the people were scattered. It is supposed that Shem’s lineage hadn’t joined their rebellion and therefore their language (Hebrew) — believed to have been the language from the beginning, given and spoken from Heaven to Adam and Eve in Eden — was not subject to the confusion of Babel. (Incidentally, Hebrew is likely derived from *Eber* (H.5677 [*regions*] *beyond [the river]*), the third generation from Shem, from which perhaps, the word “Semitic” is derived — was not subject to change.

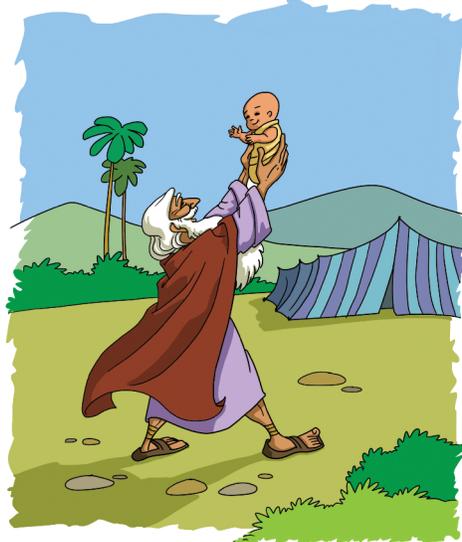
Abram (who was the first called a Hebrew, Gen. 14:13) was called out of the land of Ur of the Chaldees. He and his nephew Lot and their households went into Canaan, but famine drove them into Egypt for a time. Afterward, they returned to the region of the Negev valley from which they split up, because the land could not support all of them. Lot went southeast and Abram, farther into Canaan away from Lot whose possession stretched to the Dead Sea where archeology has identified the sites of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 13).

The blood-covenant of circumcision is made with Abraham, setting his seed apart from the nations among whom he sojourned in Canaan. Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed for their wickedness and sins – defined by Scripture as breaking Yahweh’s laws – but Lot and his daughters escape.

Abraham’s son Isaac marries Rachel. They have a son named Jacob. Jacob wrestles with the Angel of Yahweh till daybreak, overcoming Him and blessed by Him. Jacob is renamed Israel, which in this context means he overcomes with the help of El.

Israel has twelve sons through Leah, Rachel, and their handmaidens Zilpah and Bilhah. By birth order, the twelve tribes are: Rueben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph and Benjamin. Dinah, born to Leah, was Jacob’s only daughter.

Joseph has a falling out with his brothers and



is sold as a slave to a caravan of Ishmaelite merchants who took him to Egypt. After experiencing difficulty with his master's wife who falsely accused him of sexual misconduct, Joseph is imprisoned ... later released, when Pharaoh becomes troubled with dreams and Joseph is discovered as an interpreter of dreams. A world famine sends Israel's sons to Egypt to buy grain, and after excursions there, Israel's family is brought to Egypt ... to the best land, in Goshen.

Joseph has two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who are blessed by Israel before he dies. And blessed they were, but not in the order Joseph expected. Ephraim becomes a dominant name among Israel, later identifying the people of the 10 northern tribes of Israel (Ezek. 37:19).

After Joseph's death and the rise of a Pharaoh hostile toward Israel as a people, they are pressed into.

Moses is born, and raised up by Yahweh to remove His Covenant People from under bondage. Yahweh gives Moses a codified law ... not only for Israel, but for all mankind who would come to Yahweh to worship Him. The Levitical priesthood is instituted. Though animal sacrifices weren't something new, there were specific ordinances the priesthood were to execute with regard to sacrificial offerings which are presently in abeyance, owing to a change in the Levitical order to the Melchizedek priesthood over which Yahshua presides, and a lack of a physical temple.

After forty years wandering in the wilderness, Israel is admitted into the promised land, but Moses is denied because of his sin. Of the generation that left Egypt, only Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb, along with those under the age of twenty years — the age of accountability — were given leave to enter into the land.

Because of Israel continuing in sin, however, they were taken away into Assyrian captivity. Yahweh divorced the northern tribes, and they were eventually dispersed throughout the world. They have become the Gentiles (*goyim*, nations).

Judah, with Benjamin and Levi, are identified as the southern tribes, who are, two centuries later, exiled to Babylon for their sins, as well. However, they were allowed return to Israel after 70 years. Their descendants, too, have been dispersed among the nations, but are more easily identified.

## Prophecies Concerning a New Age

We believe Yahshua is Who He said He was — the Messiah — and that a number of Old and New Testament prophecies regarding the restoration of Israel and the Law declare what will be found in the Kingdom and in eternity. We, like Abram and Sarai, will be given new names if we overcome (Rev. 2:17).

Some think the 1000-year reign is not coming, but a remnant of Israel will come into it as well as other nations who will learn of His ways, path, and laws (Isa. 2; Mic. 4). For Yahweh is not done with Israel, neither with us:

*I will plant her for Myself in the land; I will show My love to the one I called "Not My loved one." I will say to those called "Not My people," "You are My people"; and they will say, "You are my Elohim,"* Hosea 2:23, **NIV**.

Isaiah 54:4-8 says, "*Fear not, for you will not be put to shame; and do not feel humiliated, for you will not be disgraced; but you will forget the shame of your youth, and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more. For your Husband is your Maker, Whose Name is Yahweh of hosts; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, Who is called the Elohim of all the earth. For Yahweh has called you, like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, even like a wife of one's youth when she is rejected," Says your Elohim. "For a brief moment I forsook you, but with great compassion I will gather you. In an outburst of anger I hid My face from you for a moment, but with everlasting lovingkindness I will have compassion on you," says Yahweh your Redeemer.*

This is at the heart of what Paul is bringing out in chapters 9-11 of Romans. He is quoting the prophets Hosea and Isaiah, and others like Jeremiah, for the purpose of showing that through Messiah, there is a restoration; that through the Messiah, there is a grafting back into the olive tree which is both houses of Israel, as noted in Jeremiah chapter 11.

So, what does the name change from Abram to Abraham mean for those in Messiah? It means Yahweh is keeping His promise to Abraham, that his descendants should become like the sands of the sea, and as the stars of heaven — both a physical, and spiritual people, ultimately come from him with Yahweh accomplishing these things through the Messiah.

“

*Fear not, for you will not be put to shame; and do not feel humiliated, for you will not be disgraced; but you will forget the shame of your youth, and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more,"* Isaiah 55:4

## Conclusion: Yahshua the Messiah, Redeemer and Law Keeper

*For this reason He is the Mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the One Who made it, Hebrews 9:15-16.*

And what did the Messiah point to, besides His Father in heaven? He pointed to the Law of His Father.

*“Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” And He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?” And he answered, “YOU SHALL LOVE YAHWEH YOUR ELOHIM WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” And He said to him, “You have answered correctly; DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE” (Luke 10:25-28).*

The writers of the New Testament understood that neither the weekly seventh-day Sabbath nor any other eternal laws were done away. Israel’s transgressions of the Sabbath and Yahweh’s other eternal statutes provoked His anger among them.

*Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living Elohim. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Messiah, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end, while it is said, “TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME,” Hebrews 3:12-15*

Yahshua Himself declares His attitude toward Yahweh and His Commandments:

*While He was still speaking to the crowds, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him. Someone said to Him, “Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You.” But Yahshua answered the one who was telling Him and said, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?” And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, “Behold My mother and My*

*brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father Who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother,” Matthew 12:46-50.*

Yahshua says in Matthew 5:17-20:

*Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.*

Besides these, there are many places in which Yahshua defaults to Yahweh and to the laws of Yahweh, even quoting Old Testament Scriptures, which were the only source extant at that time.

Later, New Testament letters were codified, testifying that their authors were knowledgeable of the Scriptures, as suggested by the following:

“  
*Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.*”  
-Matthew 5:17

*... from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Messiah Yahshua. All Scripture is inspired by Elohim and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of Elohim may be adequate, equipped for every good work, 2 Timothy 3:15-17.*

What we won’t find is Yahshua, or any authors of the New Testament, ever saying, “forget Israel and forget Yahweh’s law.” In fact, the Apostle Paul affirms that Israel has the advantage, chiefly because to them were committed the Oracles of Yahweh (Rom. 3:1-2) and the Covenants, and the giving of the Law, and the Service at the altar, and the Promises (Rom. 9:4).

And so, what does that say about someone who says, “The Law was only given to the Israelites and applies to no one today?” It’s a direct contradiction to what the Savior taught and such a person is in danger of being told, “I never knew you, depart from Me you who practice lawlessness” (Matt 7:23).

-Elder David Brett



# Good Works In the Light of Yahweh

Good works in the Light of Yahweh is going above and beyond the letter of the law. It is having a good attitude of servitude toward mankind, especially toward the household of faith. It is expressing the love of Yahweh through Messiah Yahshua Who gave His life for us so that we might be like Him expressing the same love from the Father of lights in heaven.

In no way does this negate the Law of Yahweh, but rather expresses it on a higher level.

There are many good deeds that one can perform. My dad used to say, after doing something good, “Well, that was my good deed for the day.” A family member, on one sheet of paper, outlined our itinerary for the last India trip: flight numbers, departure and arrival times, layover times between connecting flights, etc. Another itinerary that needed coordination was made for Philippine inter-island flights. And a second person, after seeing what we had done, fine-tuned our plan. It was all extremely helpful. Some good works have a domino effect, making you feel good while helping others.

## The Science

There are chemical reactions in our brains – also called “feel-good chemicals” – that can be quite beneficial. For example:

- *Dopamine* (when projects are being planned and then fulfilled after exercise or consuming chocolate);
- *Serotonin* (being elevated in status, shown respect or given compliments by others or speaking positive affirmations to one’s self, e.g., *I can do all things through Messiah Who strengthens me*, Philippians 4:13);
- *Endorphins* (hearing a funny joke and then laughing. It aids in physical healing, as well), and;
- *Oxytocin* (social connections: hugs, attending sporting events with others; associating with family and friends).

These hormone levels are often accentuated in love relationships, but become diminished as one ages. Let’s break these four hormonal chemical reactions into bite-size bits from the context of Scripture.

## Dopamine

*For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, "This man began to build and was not able to finish,"* Luke 14:28-30. (*New American Standard Bible* used throughout unless otherwise noted.)

When a person plans, builds, and completes a project, the dopamine levels (the feel-good chemicals) rise in that person.

## Serotonin

*In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Master Yahshua, that He Himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive,"* Acts 20:35.

There is more benefit of blessing accruing to the one giving, than to the one who receives. Assuming the receiver had a need, the one giving experienced an increase in serotonin levels because he knows that his gift to the other is the right thing to have done and, moreover, the esteem accorded him by the other can make him happy he did the right thing. Being elevated in status releases serotonin. Both now, and in the life to come, there are rewards given Yahweh's people for their good deeds – honor, in the presence of the King, Whose reward is with Him (Rev. 22:12).

Expressing kindness and mercy produces confidence, which in turn releases this feel-good hormone, called serotonin.

## Endorphins

*Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear Yahweh and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body, and refreshment to your bones. ... A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones,* Proverbs 3:7-8, 17:22.

Good medicine is taken for physical ailments.

And inferred here, is that without good medicine, physical health will deteriorate. This is true even in the bones which hold in store, elements – health-promoting compounds, including collagen, conjugated linoleic acid, glycine, and glucosamine – essential for the manufacture of blood (the life of the flesh is in the blood, Lev. 17:11). This all aids in decreased inflammation, better skin health, and improved joint function ([healthline.com](http://healthline.com)). Likewise, a joyful heart proceeds from departing from evil and fearing Yahweh.

Endorphins help reduce physical pain – released with intense exercise – which can contribute generally, to our happiness and wellness of being.

## Oxytocin

*Now it came about when he had finished speaking to Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as himself ... Then Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself,* 1 Samuel 18:1, 3.

This intense love which Jonathan felt toward his friend David was prompted by a release of hormonal oxytocin. Oxytocin is that agent which promotes how we feel toward family, friends, sporting events, or anything on anyone that is most favored.

Can we love Yahweh in this way? Yes, not only can we love Him in this way, but we can also love the deeds which are done in His Name, the outcome of His Spirit working in us.

*But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace,* James 3:17-18.

If our attitude is a reflection of the good deeds produced from us by His Spirit, we can appreciate the function of these hormonal expressions in something which the Apostle Paul wrote to the Assembly at Philippi:

[For I am] *confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Messiah Yahshua. For it is only right for me to*



*feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the evangel, you all are partakers of grace with me. For Elohim is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Messiah Yahshua. And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Messiah; having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which [comes] through Yahshua Messiah, to the glory and praise of Elohim, Philippians 1:6-11.*

Our prayer is often, that our lives bring honor and glory to Yahweh. His Name, magnified through His Son and, through us in good deeds, is not without benefit to us.

*For Elohim is not unjust so as to forget your work(s) and the love which you have shown toward His Name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises, Hebrews 6:10-12.*

Love, patience, and diligence toward Yahweh, drive our efforts toward doing His good pleasure are not without reward. Yet, the greater driving force within us to do His good pleasure is the Spirit of Yahweh, as it is written:

*For it is Elohim who is at work in you, both to will and to work for [His] good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of Elohim above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, Philippians 2:13-15.*

### **Light of, and in, Yahweh**

This light of ours, is not ours alone, but is of the same light which emanates from the Father through the Son.

*Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow, James 1:17.*

He is the Father of lights, and Light also describes Him. Psalm 36:9 emphasizes Yahweh, as Light: *For with You is the Fountain of Life; in Your Light we see Light.*

While we strive toward obedience—demonstrating the weightier matters of mercy, faith, and doing

justly – we are not yet perfect. But no one should be able to look at us and conclude that we are living in darkness.

*This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that Elohim is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and [yet] walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Yahshua His Son cleanses us from all sin, 1 John 1:5-7.*

Yahshua is identified as the Light of the world (John 8:12), and as having the Light of the Father within Himself. He dwells in the unapproachable Light of Yahweh (1 Tim. 6:16) which is provided to us, that we also, as lights of the world, may so shine before men that they may see our good works and have occasion to glorify our Father Who is in heaven (Matt. 5:14, 16).

### **Good Works in the Light**

*For you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Master; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), Ephesians 5:8-9.*

*But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR [Elohim's] OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous Light; for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF ELOHIM; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY. Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe [them], glorify Elohim in the day of visitation, 1 Peter 2:9-12.*

(As a side note, the prophet Hosea is cited here, Hos. 1:10, 2:23, in which he speaks of the northern tribes of Israel who were divorced but who are currently being restored through the Messiah.)

*For this reason also, since the day we heard [of it], we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Master, to please [Him] in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of Elohim; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness*

*and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light, Colossians 1:9-12.*

The evidence of Whom we serve will be reflected by our doing good deeds in service to others, and so fulfilling the deeds of the Law toward Yahweh and promote their praise toward Yahweh. If are in the Light of Yahweh which is expressed in His Son Yahshua, the express image and likeness of Yahweh, then we walk in that same Light, and are now called children of Yahweh, even children of Light, as we walk with Yahshua.

### **Good Works are Lawful**

*All Scripture is inspired by Elohim and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of Elohim may be adequate, equipped for every good work, 2 Timothy 3:16-17.*

*And whatever you do in word or deed, [do] all in the Name of the Master Yahshua, giving thanks through Him to Elohim the Father, Colossians 3:17.*

*For we are His workmanship, created in Messiah Yahshua for good works, which Elohim prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them, Ephesians 2:10.*

Okay, we've said through the Spirit, we are able to do good works. But now, we've incorporated the Word of Yahweh as that means by which we are prepared in the Name of the Master Yahshua, to perform good works. We live by the Word, as well, which is neither contrary to the Spirit as we know the Word is spiritual (Rom. 7:21). We cannot do lawless things and expect a warm welcome when Yahshua returns.

Whatever we do, therefore, should all be done with Messiah in mind and to the glory of His Father (1 Cor. 10:31), *looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great Elohim and Savior, Messiah Yahshua, Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds, Titus 2:13-14.*

Are we putting away lawless deeds? Are we zealous for good works? Are we thinking about helping others?

A lot of times we may think we're doing well, by keeping Sabbath, avoiding unclean food and not watching filthy movies. But, are we asking another how he is doing? Are we praying for one another? Or, are we focusing on ourselves and our own personal wants and needs?

### **Helping Each Other**

*So, as those who have been chosen of Elohim, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Master forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things [put on] love, which is the perfect bond of unity, Colossians 3:12-14.*

Sometimes, helping others involves listening or providing companionship; sometimes, helping others is supplying them with material things or, even money.

Yahweh's promise is that he who is gracious to the needy lends to Yahweh, and He shall richly repay him (Prov. 19:17). And the Father will give us what is needed so there is an abundance to give to others.

*Now this [I say], he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must [do] just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for Elohim loves a cheerful giver. And Elohim is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed. As it is written, "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER." Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to Elohim. For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to Elohim, 2 Corinthians 9:6-12.*

Our purpose for presenting this message is to nurture your awareness of reaching out to, and becoming concerned with others' wellbeing. And, yes, of course, in the process, to share the Good News, though sometimes our deeds testify to the Good News.

### **Obedient and Faithful Servants**

*Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to **be ready for every good deed**, to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, **showing every consideration for all men**. For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. But when the kindness of Elohim our*

Savior and [His] love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Yahshua Messiah our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to [the] hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, **so that those who have believed Elohim will be careful to engage in good deeds.** These things are good and profitable for [all] men, Titus 3:1-8.

Doing good works as an expression of love gives an indication to others of who we are as a people. There can be no separation between the two, for as with many other things, these work together to bring praise to our Heavenly Father and a great reward for those who live by them.

*Then the King will say to those on His right, "Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me [something] to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me." Then the righteous will answer Him, "Master, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?" The King will answer and say to them, "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, [even] the least [of them], you did it to Me," Matthew 25:34-40.*

This is something we should keep in mind as we move forward doing what we can for others without an attitude of what they can do for us.

### **In Conclusion**

*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging [one another]; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near, Hebrews 10:23-25.*

Be encouraged to stay the course and run the race, helping others along the way.

- Elder David Brett

## **PASSOVER – Not the First Day of The Days of Unleavened Bread**

Ancient Israel was told to keep Passover as a day of remembrance and to celebrate it as a feast in Yahweh's honor, pointing to Yahshua.

*And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to Yahweh throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever, Exodus 12:14.*

The word *memorial* comes from the Hebrew (**Strong's** #OT:2146) *zikrown* (zik-rone'); from OT:2142; a *memento* (or memorable thing, day or writing); and is translated memorial or record in the **King James** Version of the Bible. The root word of *zikrown* is **Strong's** #2142, *zakar* (zaw-kar'). *Zakar* has numerous translations in the **KJV**, among them being "remember or to make to be remembered."

*In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is Yahweh's passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto Yahweh: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread, Leviticus 23:5-6.*

The first and last days of these seven days are amongst those days Yahweh considers to be holy.

*In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto Yahweh seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein, Leviticus 23:7-8.*

Passover (day number 14 of the month *Abib*) and the Days of Unleavened Bread (days numbered 15 through 21) are two separate time periods.

Does Christianity today remember the day of Yahshua's death, Passover, once a year? No, certainly not. Instead, they celebrate the day of His birth as Christmas and the day of His resurrection as Easter. Each of these celebrated days has pagan origins. Celebrating these also counters Ecclesiastes 7:1, which tells us which day is more important.

*A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth, Ecclesiastes 7:1.*

The **Encyclopedia Judaica** tells us: "The Feast of Passover consists of two parts: the Passover Ceremony and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Originally, both parts existed separately, but at the beginning of the exile they were combined" (Vol. 13, "Passover," p. 169).



## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**Q** What can you tell me about the dispensation of covenants teaching?

**A** Dispensation of covenants is not much different from the teaching of “replacement theology.” They both point to the idea that Yahweh is doing something different with those under grace from the time of Messiah to today. However, the Messiah came to restore and recover Israel, not to allow grace to cover up them or the Law. There is so much evidence against these two ideas that there is not enough room in this response to hold it all, so please read our two booklets that should help: *Yahweh’s New Covenant* and *What Happened to Christianity?*

eat the fish they presented to Him (Luke 24:40-43)? Will Moses, EliYah, and other patriarchs like King David also be there as spirit beings? Physically, for sure. Will they be invited along with others (bridesmaids) to the wedding feast? One would think so.

The term “Kingdom of Heaven,” often used in the book of Matthew, is a term that the Jews would be encouraged by (promoting the idea of eternal life) and does fit with Abraham looking for the heavenly city of New Jerusalem (Heb. 11:10, 16). But there are steps that have to be taken before the spiritual can be achieved. See our booklets on *Resurrection Truths*, and *Rapture... Tribulation*.

**Q** I know that Paul’s writings are used to justify lawlessness. But how do I answer someone who uses Paul’s writings for that purpose?

**A** We do see Paul’s writings are often the main ones used to try and justify doing away with the Law (2 Pet. 3:16). We have a combined study of those areas often used by those who try to justify their lawless deeds called, *Paul and The Law*. We expose darkness with Light and answer questions with the Truth (Acts 8:30-31).



**Q** Is the Marriage Supper in Heaven, and when is it?

**A** The timing of the marriage supper is when Yahshua returns. That happens after the tribulation at the seventh Trumpet blast, and not before. Where is He going to be ruling? On earth (Zech. 14:4, 9; Rev. 5:9-10). After being transformed into spirit beings, the saints (now first fruits) will have access to both the physical and spiritual realms. Is the wedding feast going to only be with the spirit beings? If so, we could say the wedding feast will be in the heavenly Jerusalem. But, didn’t Yahshua, after ascending, return and manifest physically and

**Q** What is the mystery of lawlessness?

**A** The mystery of lawlessness is already at work, which will be fully manifested in the one whose coming is with the activity of Satan. Satan is able to broadcast like a radio since he is the prince and power of the air (Eph. 2:2), deceiving the world (Rev. 12:9), and he and his ministers appear as good (2 Cor. 11:13-15) to others. But when they counter the Word of Yahweh, they are exposed. Lawlessness is the keyword. We are not to be lawless, but lawful.



**Q** What do you think of mushrooms being kosher? Some rabbinic Jews think they are.

**A** It appears they are reasoning away Yahweh saying, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you” (Gen. 1:29a, *NASB*) Besides those things found in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14, this would preclude mushrooms from being a crop to grow for food. Fungus (e.g., mushrooms) is often associated with death and not life, growing on things like fallen trees which are naturally in the process of decomposition. Mushrooms are grown by various means today, but decades ago pig manure was a popular choice to use as fertilizer for them.



**Q** Reading Luke 17:1, “If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him,” and John 21:23, “Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained,” it would seem that forgiveness of another’s trespass is subject to one’s discretion. Comment please.

**A** In the Torah, we read: And if any man sin through ignorance, the priest shall make an atonement for him that sins ignorantly, and it shall be forgiven him. But he that sins presumptuously, the same reproaches Yahweh and that soul shall be cut off from the elect because he has despised the Word of Yahweh by breaking His commandment. His iniquity will be charged against him (Num. 15:22-31).

It can be argued that when Yahshua prayed, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34) and that Stephen’s entreaty, “Master, lay not this sin to their charge” (Acts 7: 60), that they for whom the Master and the Deacon Stephen prayed, sinned ignorantly, and that the prayers of the Intercessors might be effectual toward the forgiveness of their sins.

However, when once one comes into a knowledge of what constitutes sin, then according to Hebrews 10:26-27, *If we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.*

The presumption of Scripture is that when one is immersed in Yahshua, that ye has reckoned himself dead indeed to continuing in sin (Rom. 6:3-6, 11) and that he has mortified the deeds of the body (Rom. 8:13). The Scripture reads, furthermore, “And IF any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Yahshua the Messiah the righteous’ (1 John 2:1). Notice, the word, IF. The Scripture did not read, *when*.

We conclude, therefore, that one who willfully sins after coming into a knowledge of the Truth stands in jeopardy of tempting Yahweh, Who cannot be tempted (James 1:13) and Who is liable, moreover, to recompense to him that retribution owing to his error.

So, we should not think that we can continue in sin and that grace would commensurately abound (Rom. 6:1).

Because all judgment has been committed to Yahshua (John 5:24)... Whose judgment is according to Truth (Rom. 2:2), and because we might not be privy to one’s motivations of heart, it would be better to extend forgiveness of another’s trespass – forgiving from the heart (forgetting the transgression, as well) lest Yahshua should retain our sins and reward us accordingly.

**Q** What translation of the Scriptures does not violate Deuteronomy 4:2 and Revelation 22:19?

**A** Concerning not adding to and taking away from Scripture, the translations we have today are not perfect. We don’t have what



they call autograph (original) scrolls. The Dead Sea Scrolls show that there is great consistency in transmission overall, going back 1000 years older than anything we had previous to their discovery. However, there are still issues with vowel pointing done from the 9th century of our common era, which covered up Yahweh’s Name and did damage to other areas in which “Yah” is now “Yeh.” For example, Judah should be “Yahudah,” but shows up in Interlinears and other resources as “Yehudah.”

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More Questions and Answers and over 100 studies are available for viewing online @ [yaiy.org](http://yaiy.org).

Contact us if you have Biblical questions of your own.

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“In the first new moon, on the  
fourteenth day of the new moon,  
between the evenings, is the Pesah  
to Yahweh. And on the fifteenth day  
of this new moon is the Festival of  
Matzot to Yahweh - seven days you  
shall eat unleavened bread.”

-Leviticus 23:5-6