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What
connection
can there
be between
a statue
and a
pagan
belief?

YAIY



Beacon



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MISSION STATEMENT

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

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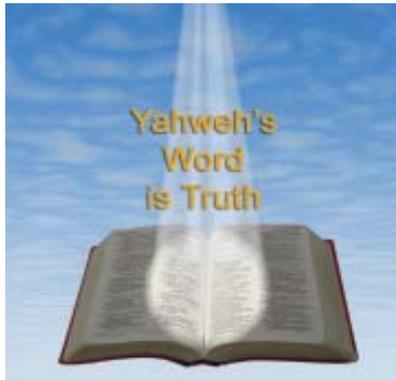
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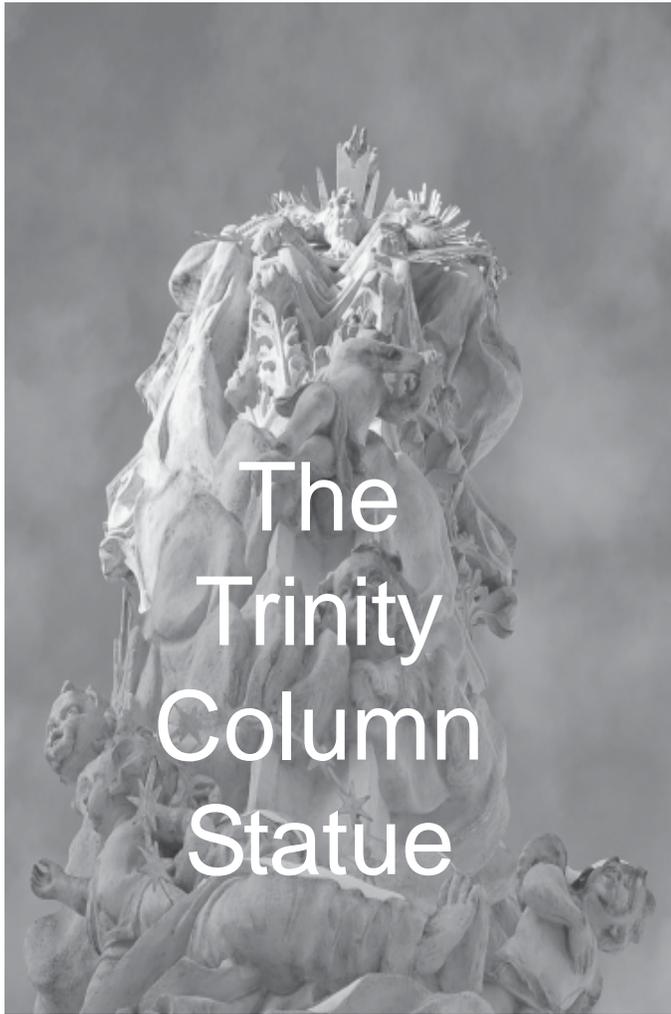


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Cover: Baroque trinity column statue in Zwettl, Austria.
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The Trinity Controversy

Solved!

The Doctrine of the trinity has been a highly controversial and sensitive topic ever since its formation by the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. Nowhere in our Bible does the word “trinity” appear. Some have argued that the words “omnipotent” and “omniscient” don’t either but are used to describe the extraordinary attribute of our Heavenly Father. Truth is, these expressions are in fact synonymous in meaning for such terms as “Almighty” and “infinite understanding” which are found in Scripture, Isaiah 6:3 and Psalm 147:5. By contrast, the word “trinity” nor its corresponding concept or any synonymous meaning can be found in Scripture anywhere from an inspired perspective.

The fact that we find the listing of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in the Bible does not in anyway imply the existence of a trinity. For what constitutes a trinity lies in the definition thereof and agreed upon by the Council of Nicea, who were a group of misguided Christian bishops influenced by the pagan cultures of their time. They did not base their findings entirely on inspired Scripture as the Jerusalem Council did in Acts 15 in their letter to instruct gentile believers what was required of them as new believers, Acts 15: 20-21.

Instead, the Council of Nicea woefully erred by embracing an entirely pagan perspective, scripturally forbidden in consideration of Bible-based truth. Theirs was a case of leaning on their own understanding (Proverbs 3:5) and having “zeal without knowledge,” which has led many to “miss the way,” Proverbs 19:2 NIV.

The Council of Nicea

So where did the Trinitarian concept come from? And how did it become such a popular teaching in man’s system of religion today?

The contemporary belief in the trinity stems from a 4th century decision rendered by a group of men called the Nicean Council. King Flavius Valerius Arealius Constantine I, a Roman Emperor and professed “sun god worshipper” at the time, presided over the Council proceedings. His main purpose was to gain universal support of Christianity to advance defeat of other Roman emperors; and it worked. He ultimately became sole emperor of the Roman world.

Shortly thereafter, a conflict arose that threatened to split the Christian Church into two camps. To settle the matter, Constantine himself called together an ecumenical, or worldwide, council of bishops at Nicea in northwestern

Asia Minor. As the Council proceeded, there were two distinct sides. Archdeacon Athanasius of Alexandria, Egypt, upheld the trinity concept (anciently known for describing some idol deities). He claimed that the Father and Son, though distinct, were equal, and of the same substance. For the opposition, a noble student of the Scripture named Arius argued that the Father is Almighty and there is none equal to Him. He further argued that the Son was a creation of the Father Himself as the firstborn Spirit Being over all creation and second in authority in the Heavenly family. After long weeks of debate, Constantine, the sun god worshipper, ruled in favor of the Trinitarian argument of Athanasius, the Egyptian. But the Trinitarian did not become church doctrine until the year 379 when Roman Emperor Theodosius established Christianity as the state religion.

As a side note, let's consider what some may already know about Egyptian religion. Egypt is one of the oldest civilizations in the world. It had long before the Council of Nicea adopted the pagan belief in the trinity. One of the most famous Egyptian trinities was that of Horus, Isis, and Seb, (HIS), a trinity that consisted of equality among father, mother, and son, and a concept which also traces back to Babylon. As ironic as it may seem, there is a movement now by those who no longer pray to their Heavenly Father, but to a Heavenly mother. The letters (HIS) appear on the altars in most Catholic and Protestant churches today, being erroneously explained as standing for various Latin phrases.

The Nicene Creed's Effect

History teaches that much later, after instituting a mandatory belief in the trinity, Constantine tried to be more tender and merciful with the decision; but it was too late. The Nicene Creed had appeared to be written in stone. All who did not believe in the trinity doctrine were persecuted and killed. Every conceivable instrument of torture (from being burnt at the stake to being thrown to lions) was used on the so-

called nonbeliever. The Nicene Creed has since been amended, but it is still read today in many of the Protestant and Catholic churches. Belief in the trinity is now required by those churches who associate themselves with the World Council of Churches .

At no time during Yahshua's ministry did He ever sanction persecution or violence against anyone rejecting His teachings. Such actions have always been a natural trait of the counterfeit ministry of Satan, John 16:2-4 and Revelation 17:6.

Even after the Council's decision, not much change appeared to be in Constantine himself. The same year he convened the Council of Nicea. There, in a fit of rage he killed his innocent son Crispus, and then afterwards he had his second wife, Fausta, strangled to death. Ultimately, Constantine did become a

Constantine chose the doctrine of the trinity instead of the doctrine which stated that Yahweh created Yahshua as the firstborn of all creation and second in authority in the Heavenly Father.

baptized Christian, but not until his death bed, at a time he was preparing for war against the Persians.

Another point of interest overlooked by the masses is that the Apostolic New Testament Scriptures, as we have it canonized today, was only about 15 years old when the Nicean Council rendered its "rush-to-judgment" decision. No wonder the doctrine of the trinity is so easily dismantled under the litmus testing of inspired Scripture.

Defining the Nicene Trinity

Trinitarians teach that there are 3 persons, but one essence—all equal. The most distinctive doctrine of the trinity is that of the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit. The term "trinity" is a man made concoction.

To believe in the trinity is to believe that there is a unity of the heavenly

beings; that is, they are co-eternal, co-equal persons, the same substance, but different in individuality.

It is said there are 3 persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Now, these 3 are truly distinct one from another, and yet they are all believed to be one. The Nicene Creed reads that the Father and the Son are both Gods and are "one substance," and that the Holy [Spirit] is the "Lord and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified."

Quite confusing, isn't it? This appraisal of the trinity has led to many mistaken beliefs and doctrinal views based on this formula alone. It caused those of the "Oneness Movement" to think that the Son Himself was also the Father, all in the same Being, and Holy Spirit, the third entity, is equal to the first two, the three being one, yet different. Trinitarians conclude this explanation with the famous phrase: "It's a great mystery of Faith." Well, that may be so but to the Father's glory true believers should be grateful that the Father is a "revealer of mysteries," according to Daniel 2:29 NIV,

As you were lying there, O king, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealer of mysteries showed you what is going to happen.

Christianity Baptizes Paganism

Nearly all pagan religions believe in more than one deity—the Babylonians, the Egyptians, the Hindus, the Buddhists. It is a documented historical fact that Christianity merged many of its teachings (against all Scripture) with a paganistic religion, making it more widely acceptable to its members. Pagan ideas, in many forms, have been accepted and baptized into Christianity. This fact is clearly admitted in Cardinal John Henry Newman's book entitled "Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine," published in 1878. Reading in chapter 8, pages 355, 371, and 373:

"The rulers of the church from early times were prepared, should the

occasion arise, to adopt, to imitate, or sanctify the existing rites and customs of the populous, as well as the philosophy of the educated class. The use of temples and those dedicated to particular saints, and ornamented on occasion with branches of trees, incense, lamps and candles, votive offerings on recovering from illnesses, holy water, days and seasons, use of calendars, processions, blessing on the fields,...the ring, chants, the Kyrie Eleison, are all of pagan origin and sanctified by the adoption into the church."

Therefore, it goes without saying, that the Nicene Creed's influence reached down the annals of time and changed true worship forever. For instance, with the establishment of the Universal Roman Catholic Church, Constantine I circulated a letter in reference to the Council's Creed of 325 A.D. He wrote:

"We would have nothing in common with that most hostile people, the Jews. For we have received from the Redeemer another way of honoring God, and harmoniously adopting this method we would withdraw ourselves from the evil fellowship of the Jews. It is our duty to have nothing in common with the murderers of the Lord."

In that vein, we must beg to question two things: Is not salvation "of the Jews"? (John 4:22) And, does not the gates leading into the Holy City, New Jerusalem, have written on them "the names of the 12 tribes of Israel"? (Revelation 21:9-12) Clearly, the Scriptures answer these questions with a resounding affirmative. So, as a resulting consequence, to follow Constantine's Roman Catholic doctrines would constitute spiritual adultery on the part of a professed Believer against the Spiritual Husband of the Body of Messiah.

If that isn't enough, after Constantine's initial legislation, both emperors and popes in the centuries that followed added more laws to uphold Sunday observance.

"What began, however, as a pagan ordinance, ended up as a Christian regulation; and a long series of

imperial decrees, during the fourth, fifth, and sixth centuries, enjoined with increasing stringency abstinence from labor on Sunday," Hutton Webster, Rest Days, p. 270.

Moreover, in 363 A.D., the Council of Laodicea forbade Christians from observing the true Sabbath. As we see, the observance of Sunday instead of the seventh-day Sabbath came from the Roman Catholic Church in the fourth century as well. Catholic spokesmen have challenged Protestantism by boldly stating that there is no command anywhere in the Bible to observe Sunday, that the Catholic Church changed the day of obligation to Sunday, and the world follows in locked step obedience to her command. D.B. Ray wrote in the Papal Controversy, p. 179, stating,

"From this same Catholic Church you had accepted your Sunday, and that Sunday, as the Lord's Day. She has handed it down as a tradition and the entire Protestant world has accepted it as a tradition, for you have not an iota of scripture to establish it. Therefore, that which you have accepted as your rule of faith, inadequate as it of course is, as well as your Sunday, you have accepted on the authority of the Roman Catholic Church."

If you add the fact that they adopted Sunday observance from Constantine's Roman's sun worship, Easter from the Egyptians, and Christmas from the Babylonians, that doesn't leave Christianity with much that is truly original, does it? All these beliefs came from pagan religions and introduced through pagan Rome, attempting to make Christianity appealing to the masses. It's all well-documented as a matter of factual history. However, Yahweh has commanded His people not to do as the others do, nor worship Him in their way, everyone as they see fit. See Deuteronomy 12:4, 8; 1 Corinthians 4:6. He says "See that you do all I command you; do not add to it or take away from it," Deuteronomy 12:32.

Pagan Doctrines or Biblical Truths

So what does the Bible say about the ways, customs and religions of the world? What did Father Yahweh warn Israel concerning them? He said in Jeremiah 10:1-3,

Hear what Yahweh says to you o house of Israel, This is what Yahweh says: "Do not learn the ways of the nations...for the customs of the peoples are worthless". (See also Psalm 106:35, 39)

In Deuteronomy 12:31-32, He says,

You must not worship Yahweh your Mighty One in their way, because in worshipping their idols, they do all kinds of detestable things Yahweh hates...See that you do all I command you; do not add to it or take away from it.

The Master Yahshua, in the apostolic Scriptures, reminds us in Revelation that His Father has not changed His position on borrowed pagan doctrines such as the trinity. He so warned the Congregation of Pergamum who held to the "doctrines of the Nicolaitans" right in the midst of the Body of Messiah. See Revelation 2: 14-15. So, it behooves us to ponder the question of Amos 3:3: "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

As children of the most High, we must agree to believe and obey what Yahweh commands. Anything "almighty" man gives us that has no foundation in inspired Scripture must be unequivocally rejected as "false doctrine,"

As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer, 1 Timothy 1:3 NIV.

So, does inspired Scripture teach that the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit is a trinity divine being as defined by the Nicene Council? Does the Scripture uphold the teaching that the Son is equal to the Father, or the Holy Spirit as a person is equal to both the Son and the Father? Does Scripture say that anyone or anything is equal

to the Father? Definitely not! The Scriptures teach the exact opposite.

Let's divide the study of this matter into separate categories. We will first consider what the Father tells about Himself exclusively. Secondly, we'll read and discuss what the Master Yahshua said. Then, we'll look directly at the Holy Spirit and understand what the Bible says about the "Comforter." Furthermore, the writings of the Apostle Paul will shine some often ignored light on this subject.

The Father

The Heavenly Father Yahweh is the Grand Architect over all His creation. He sits enthroned in the highest Heaven,

Who is like unto Yahweh our Elohim, who dwelleth on high, Psalm 113:5.

He lives in "unapproachable light," whom no man has seen nor can see; nor has anyone heard His voice or seen His form.

I give thee charge in the sight of Yahweh, who quickeneth all things, and before Messiah Yahshua, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Master Yahshua Messiah: Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Sovereign of sovereigns; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting, 1 Tim 6:13-16.

See also John 1:18, 5:37, 6:46, 1 John 4:12.

Few understand that the Father has never entered the physical realm of mankind. His Son Yahshua, prior to His human birth and experience on earth, pre-existed with the Father in the beginning as the manifested "Word" of Yahweh, and correspondingly existed as an individual celestial Being, John 1:1; Genesis 1:26, 3:22 and 11:6-7. Together they constitute the kingdom of Elohim which to some lesser degree includes the angels and other celestial beings having

subordinate authority. The word "Elohim" is a plural Hebrew term which is erroneously translated "God", a singular word, in our English Bibles. There are singular forms of Elohim, such as "El, Eloah, or Elah," which means "Mighty One." Elohim means "Mighty One(s)" oftentimes depending on the context of the passage in Scripture. It is very important to ultimately understand that the Kingdom of Elohim (Yahweh) constitutes a family,

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Master Yahshua Messiah, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, Ephesians 3:14-15.

Most denominations of Christianity do not understand that Yahshua, the Son of Yahweh, has always represented His Father as a "mediator" between Elohim and man. Prior to His fleshly birth He often appeared as the "Angel of Yahweh," standing in the very place of and speaking as Yahweh the Father, Himself, to mankind. See 1 Timothy 2:5; Gal 3: 19-20; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4; Exodus 23:20-21, Acts 7:35-38, Judges 13:17-18; compare Joshua 5:13-15 with Revelation 22:8-9; also compare Genesis 32:24-30 with Hosea 12:2-4. Now we should all understand why the religious leaders of Yahshua's day could not understand His words when He told them "You have neither heard His [the Father's] voice nor seen His form," John 5:37.

Yahweh created all things and mankind through the Son,

Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds, Hebrews 1:2.

The Apostle Paul describes this relationship between the Father and the Son, before the compilation of our New Testament Scriptures, in 1 Corinthians 8:4b-7 NIV, as follows:

There is no Elohim but one. For even if there are so-called elohims whether in heaven and earth (as indeed there are many "elohims" and many "masters"), yet for us there is but one Elohim, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and

there is but one Master, Yahshua Messiah, through whom all things came and through whom we live. But not everyone knows this. (Emphasis added)

What a telling and most profound statement of inspired Scripture! Not everyone knows this indeed. Ideally, Paul's writings seem to set the Father apart into a class all by Himself. Ephesians 4:6 says Yahweh is "One Elohim and Father of all, who is above all, and through all and in you all." Yahshua Himself did not differ in this regard. See Mark 12:29-34.

Let's read about what the Father has said of Himself through the inspiration of His Holy prophets, as follows:

For who in the heavens is comparable to Yahweh? Who among the sons of the mighty is like Yahweh? El is greatly feared in the company of the set-apart ones, and awesome above all those around Him, Psalm 89:6-7 (The Scriptures translation).

To whom will you compare me or count me equal? To who will you liken me that we may be compared? (Isaiah 46: 5 NIV)

"To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One, Isaiah 40:25 NIV.

As a side note, the Hebrew word translated "equal" in the last two passages is "shavah," #7737 in Strong's Bible concordance. It is used only 3 times in the entire Old Testament Hebrew Scriptures. Incidentally, it has one of the strongest connotations that indicates no one is equal to the Father. Consider its meaning as follows:

Shavah #7737 (Heb.) Shaw-vaw; a prim root; prop. To LEVEL; i.e. EQUALIZE; fig. to resemble: by impl. To ADJUST (i.e. COUNTERBALANCE, be suitable, composed, place, yield, etc.) (emphasis supplied.)

The English definition of equalize is: to make equal, uniform, or constant. The English definition of level is: a horizontal position or condition. Hence, there is no one existing in horizontal position and authority, nor in equality or counterbalance with Almighty Yahweh, the Father.

This is what Yahweh says—Israel's King and Redeemer, Yahweh Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no Elohim. Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my ancient people, and what is yet to come—yes, let him foretell what will come, Isaiah: 44:6-7 NIV.

This passage shows the Father is “Almighty” or Omnipotent, and He is All-knowing or Omniscient. See also Isaiah 46: 8-10.

Yahweh is the everlasting Elohim...and His understanding no one can fathom...and increases the strength of the weak, Isaiah 40:28b-29 NIV.

This passage indicates His understanding is unfathomable or Omniscient and He is the very source of all “strength”—Almighty or Omnipotent.

Yes, and from ancient days I am He. No one can deliver out of my hand. When I act, who can reverse it? (Isaiah 43:13 NIV)

This passage states essentially that no one can change or overpower any act of the Father, and therefore He is Omnipotent.

For the eyes of Yahweh range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him, 2 Chronicles 16:9 NIV.

His presence spans throughout the earth, which means He's Omnipresent. See also Proverbs 15:3.

King David says,

Yahweh is in His holy temple; Yahweh is on His heavenly throne, Psalm 11:4 NIV.

The throne is a symbol of supreme power and authority.

Revelation 4:8-11 NIV/ The Scriptures translation says,

Each of the four living creatures have six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “Holy, holy, holy is Yahweh El-Shaddai [Almighty] who was, and is to come.” Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to Him who sits on the throne and who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall

down and worship Him who lives forever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: “You are worthy, O Yahweh to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they were created and have their being.”

Again, “El Shaddai” is the singular Hebrew term for our English words “God Almighty.” In the last two passages, together, King David and the Apostle John, reveal that it is He who sits on the throne and who is Supreme and Almighty. In Revelation 5:6-7, we learn that Yahshua, the “Lamb,” receives His orders and authority from the right hand of “Him who sat on the throne.” (verse 7 NIV)

Even in the Holy City, the New Jerusalem to come, the Father is depicted as being the “Almighty” by comparison to the “Lamb.” Revelation 21:22; also compare Psalms 83:18.

In Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, the prophet Daniel appears to draw the same conclusion as John. He says:

As I looked, “thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took His seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of His head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before Him. Thousands upon thousands attended Him; ten thousands times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened...In my vision at night I looked, and then before me was One like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into His presence. He was given authority, glory, and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worship Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”

So we see that Yahshua's “authority, glory, and sovereign power” is “given” to Him by the Father, the “Ancient of Days,” according to Daniel.

David the Psalmist emphatically indicates there is none equal to Father Yahweh in Psalms 97:9 NIV,

For you, O Yahweh, are the Most High over all the earth; you are exalted far above all mighty ones.

So, can we rely on these scriptures? Proverbs 30:5-6 says “every word of Eloah is flawless...Do not add to His words or He will rebuke you and prove you a liar.”

The Son

Did Yahshua ever say He was equal to the Father? Did any of His inspired apostles teach that Yahshua is equal to His Father? And where did the Messiah get His knowledge? We will address these questions and more.

The King James Version of the Scriptures says, as the apostle Paul writes, in Philippians 2:5-6 NIV,

Your attitude should be the same as that of Messiah Yahshua: Who, being in very nature Elohim, did not consider equality with Yahweh something to be grasped.

The passage seems to imply that Yahshua is “equal with” the Father. Let's take a closer look at the word “equal”—its English and Greek meaning.

The **Merriam Webster Dictionary** states the English word equal means: “Of the same measure, quantity, value, quality, number, degree, or status as another; to be identical in value to.” This seems to be a good boiler plate definition of the word “equal.”

However, we should all be mindful that the Hebrew New Testament of our day comes to us through the Greek language by translation into English. So let's take a look at the Greek word which was actually used to convey “equal” in this passage and as well as other available words in the Greek that would have been used. They are as follows:

Equal #2470 isos, ee'-sos, prob from 1492 (though the idea of seeming); SIMILAR (in amount and kind).

Equal #2471 isotes, ee-sot'-ace; LIKENESS (in condition or proportion); by impl. Equity.

Equal #4915 moshel, mo'-shel; PARALLEL.

Which of the 3 words do you think best supports a claim of equality between the Father and the Son? If you are a Trinitarian, you would probably say the word "moshel (#4915) better defines a trinity divine being. However, it is "isos (#2470) that was used in Philippians 2:6 which generally means "similar".

So, the passage in the KJV was actually inspired to read as follows:

Messiah Yahshua, who being in the form of Elohim thought it not robbery to be similar to Elohim, Philippians 2:6.

The same Greek word, isos, was also used in John 5:18, where Yahshua was accused of "making himself equal with [similar to] Elohim." It therefore goes without saying, "that kills two birds with one stone."

Yahshua is certainly similar to the Father in many ways. He said, "If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well: From now on, you do know Him and have seen [horao, hor-ah'-o, GK #3708, to discern clearly; Hebrew to experience] Him," John 14:7 NIV. He went on to also say, "*Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing His work.*"(v.10) He further comments, "*...for everything that I learn from my Father, I have made known to you,*" John 15:15 NIV. Yahshua passes on the knowledge He learned from the Father to His disciples.

Yahshua refers to His Father as His supreme motivation and authority. He never equates the Father as His partner or co-worker. His relationship with the Father is one that best represents wholehearted submission to His Father's will. Yahshua is likened to any obedient son who loves his father.

If Yahshua was equal to the Father, He would know all that His Father knows. But instead, He said,

The Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father

does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement He will show him even greater things than these, John 5:19-20 NIV.

He says His Father has shown Him all He knows and will show Him even greater works that all might stand at awe.

Arguably, Scripture can be somewhat confusing regarding the Son's role as Savior. However, when considering the whole counsel of the Word, it all fits perfectly together. Many are misguided because they're unteachable and lack knowledge of various mistranslations of Scripture. The most lethal way of approaching Scripture is with preconceived notions based on unscriptural, traditional beliefs. We must allow the Word to stand alone.

One such confusion seems to surface regarding the "mystery of piety [godliness, KJV]: "*Elohim was manifest in the flesh...*" I Timothy 3:16. The word "manifest" GK #5319, "phaneroo", Fan-er-o-o, means "to render apparent." ("Apparent" is defined as follows: Appearing as such but not necessarily so: seeming). Compared with how this word is used in 2 Corinthians 4:10-11, we find that Yahshua is "manifested in our mortal body." Does that make us equal to "Yahshua"? Of course not! But through this manifestation, we experience the Father through the Son. Others experience the Son through the lives of His people. (The net result establishes relational bridges that Yahshua can walk across from one heart to another.)

More pointedly, the word "manifest" is also synonymous in meaning to the word "reveal." Therefore, Yahshua is the "revelation" or "manifestation" of His Father—not the equivalent to His Father. This is an ironclad truth which has been twisted by those who have believed Satan's counterfeit gospel. Paul called it "another gospel." See Galatians 1:6, 8.

Some proponents of the trinity doctrine of equality teach that not only Yahshua is literally equal to His Father, but that He was "100% God and 100%

man" all at once during His human experience. If He was in fact 100% Elohim, meaning just as much as His Father, then what are we to make of the testimony He gave when He said "*...the Father is greater than I?*" (John 14:28 NIV)

After His resurrection, Yahshua told Mary Magdalene to tell His brothers "*...I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my Elohim and your Elohim,*" John 20:17. He actually calls the Father HIS ELOHIM. Even after Yahshua's return to heaven, He refers to the Father as "my Elohim" in Revelation 3:12. Four times in that single verse. Keep in mind that He made these statements after the Father had granted Him "the glory which [He] had with [Him] before the world was."

These last four passages alone clearly undermines any argument one might make claiming that the Father and the Son's relationship of alleged equality changed only as a result of Yahshua's birth as a man. In truth, at every phase of Yahshua's existence, He's portrayed as living in total submission to His Father—who Scripture says is His Elohim, Ephesians 1:3.

At this juncture, another important matter is worthy of brief discussion: the Father and the Son are One, which means they are united. The Greek word "hen" #1520 is used, indicating one in cooperation and purpose—unity. See John 17:21-23. This also agrees with Deuteronomy 6:4: "*Hear O Israel, Yahweh our Elohim is One Yahweh.*"

The Hebrew word in this passage is "echad" #259, "one" indicating family "unity". Scripture does bear out a sense of order and headship in the Kingdom of Yahweh, with the Father's will being carried out through His Messiah—"*...and the head of Messiah is Elohim,*" I Corinthians 11:3. So we see the **celestial or Heavenly Family** is teaching all mankind that there should be unity in the **human family** structure; not equality, headship, in that "*...the head of the woman is the man.*" (Same verse) It is not uncharacteristic that the Father and the Son would lead by the

example of practicing headship and family unity - Oneness. In Matthew 19:4-6, Yahshua illustrates further that the husband and wife become "one flesh" at marriage. Does that mean they literally become "equal" or even one human being? Of course not. They become united in purpose and cooperation as family. This is how we are to understand the **Heavenly Family**.

Now consider this: at this very moment, Yahshua is preparing for His 2nd coming and He doesn't even know when that day will be. He said in Matthew 24:36,

No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

So there are things the Father has reserved to His own prerogative—only He knows—which indicates Yahshua is subject to the Father and is in no wise equal to Him.

The Apostle Paul gives some vital insight which shows even in **The World to Come**, there will be no equality between the Father and Son. In I Corinthians 15:24-25, he writes:

Then the end will come, when he [Yahshua] hands over the kingdom to Elohim the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority, and power. For he [Yahshua] must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For He [Yahweh] has put everything under his feet.

Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include Elohim Himself, who put everything under Messiah. When He has done this, then the Son Himself will be made subject to Him who put everything under Him that Elohim may be all in all.

Here, Paul shows that it should be clear to all that Father Yahweh is the center of all worship and adoration. Even the meaning of His Son's Name, Yahshua, reflects this truth. For "Yahshua" means "Yahweh is Salvation." Even so, the prophecy of Isaiah 42 describes Yahshua as Yahweh's deliverer and "servant."

If we fail to believe the inspired word of Elohim, then obviously we believe a

lie. In John 17:3, Yahshua's Intercessional High Priestly Prayer, He appears to make knowing the Father and the Son's true relation both a foundational and salvational issue. Yahshua prayed:

And this is eternal life, that they might know you, the one true Elohim and Yahshua the Messiah, the one whom you have sent.

Note that Yahshua was careful to point out the crystal fact that His Father is "the One True Elohim," again elevating Him to a class all by Himself.

Paul echoes the same thought in I Timothy 2:5.

For there is One Elohim and One Mediator between Elohim and men, the man Messiah Yahshua, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time.

Further, someone is bound to raise the stale question: "Why is Yahshua called 'Everlasting Father' in Isaiah 9:6 if He shares no equality with the Father?" First, being mindful that the Hebrew language doesn't use "capital letters" (for whatever that might mean to some), and Yahshua was the first to rise from the dead to everlasting life, the title "everlasting father" is quite telling and most appropriate for the One who claimed to be "The Resurrection and the Life" in John 11:25. The Complete Jewish Bible refers this as the "Father of Eternity."

In the same way, the Patriarch Abraham is called "father of us all" who believe, "Father of the circumcision" and "Father of many nations." See Romans 4:11-12, 16, and 18.

Thus, it should be obvious that Isaiah 9:6 lists many titles which, of course, could be easily related to various aspects of Yahshua's position in His Father's household and kingdom.

Furthermore, Paul was called "Father" to the Corinthians through the Evangel (I Corinthians 4:15), and Joseph was made "Father" to Pharaoh, Genesis 45:8. But unmistakably, Yahshua clearly told His disciples that "...you have One Father, and He is in heaven," Matthew 23:9. Therefore, this understanding leaves no room for the title "everlasting father" to imply

Yahshua as being equal to His Father in any way. On the contrary, He said, "I am the Way...No one comes to the Father except through me," John 14:6. He is our Path-finder to the Father and the kingdom to come.

Finally, there is one last contention worthy of consideration. At the great debate of the council of Nicea, Arius argued a rather interesting claim that most people will not even bother to entertain today. But unlike any other unturned rock, we must look under it to see if any truth lies beneath it.

Arius argued that the Son was the Father's first creation before all His works. Ideally, there is adequate Scripture that many have failed to offer any reasonable commentary on which suggest otherwise. As Colossian 1:15 states, Yahshua is "the firstborn of every creature," not to be confused with "firstborn from the dead" in verse 18. Then there's Revelation 3:14 where he is called "the beginning of the creation of Elohim."

Comparing I Corinthians 1:24 and Proverbs 8:12-36, the Corinthians passage says "Messiah, the power of Elohim and the wisdom of Elohim," where Proverbs 8:22, 24, 25, and 30 strongly suggests Yahshua is the figurative "Wisdom" represented in the passage that the Father "brought forth" as the first of His Works.

All things considered, there is no teaching of inspired scripture that should lead Yahweh's people to believe in a "coequal" triune divine being. However, keep in mind that whatever we are convinced of must resonate with "every word that comes from the mouth of Elohim" (Matthew 4:4) and "every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses." See 2 Corinthians 13:1, Deuteronomy 19:15, and John 8:17-18.

The Holy Spirit

What is the Holy Spirit? Is the Holy Spirit equal to the Father and the Son? Is the Holy Spirit the third person in the divine being? What does the whole counsel of Scripture teach us concerning the Holy Spirit?

As a resourceful help to this phase of our study, **Yahweh's Assembly in**

Yahshua has published an awesome treatise entitled **“The Truth about the Trinity.”** It contains a well-rounded overview of what the apostolic scriptures teach about the Holy Spirit. It is also recommended reading to the student of the Bible. However, I have chosen to include in this section many quotations from this work because the level of research and scholarship is absolutely phenomenal as you will see.

From the onset, let’s reiterate a biblical principle mentioned at the close of our discussion regarding the Son. “Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses,” Deuteronomy 19:15, 2 Corinthians 13:1, and John 8:17-18. Without looking any further, we can conclude that Scripture contains at least three witnesses to the fact that the Holy Spirit is not a person. Apostle Peter, Paul and Luke all referred to the Holy Spirit as being neuter in gender in the King James Version Bible. See 1 Peter 1:11; Romans 8:16, 26; and Acts 2:3. They referred to the Holy Spirit as “it” or “itself” rather than “He” or “Him”.

Some have argued in Acts 13:2 that the Holy Spirit actually spoke to the Apostle Paul and therefore is a third person deity. The fact that Yahweh caused Balaam’s donkey to speak to him doesn’t make his donkey a person nor god anymore than the Holy Spirit can be said to be a person because Yahweh causes it to speak. See Numbers 22:28.

Now let’s consider some of the excerpts taken from **Yahweh’s Assembly in Yahshua** aforementioned exposition entitled **“The Truth about the Trinity.”**

Under subtitle, p. 7, **“Spirit is a Force[:]** Spirit is translated from the Hebrew ruach and occurs 389 times in the Old Testament. It is rendered spirit 237 times in the King James Version. The Companion Bible says that the basic idea running through all the passages is ‘invisible force.’ In whatever sense the word ruach is used, it means an unseen force except by its manifestations. It can be compared to a physical force like magnetism, gravity, and in our modern age,

electricity and radioactivity. The Bible likens spirit to wind.

“In the New Testament Greek text spirit is pneuma and carries the same meaning—in Greek it means to breathe. ...Is it any wonder that following His resurrection, Yahshua gave the Holy Spirit to His disciples when ‘he breathed on them,’ John 20:22? Heavenly power came from His nostrils, not a person! Both ruach and pneuma mean ‘wind.’ They can also mean the invisible, vital force in living creatures, or a dominant feeling, attitude or disposition. Spirit can refer to the invisible world, including Yahweh and His angelic creatures, as well as the evil, satanic realm. It can also refer to Yahweh’s holy, active, or life-giving force or power.

“All of these meanings have the sense of an active vitality that is invisible to human eyes. We cannot see spirit just as we cannot ‘see’ wind, gravity, radio waves, electricity, or magnetism. But we can see what it does, the results of its activity. We can often see the effects of the special power of Yahweh’s Holy Spirit, too.”

Under subtitle, p. 15, **“The Holy Spirit’s Nonperson, Inanimate Attributes [:]** The invisible power or force which flows from Yahweh is unseen, and is often treated as a material substance. The spirit is **POURED** out (Isaiah 32:15, 44:3; Acts 2:17); **SHED** (Titus 3:5-6; Acts 2:33); **BREATHED** (John 20:22); and it **FILLED** people (Acts 2:2-4; Ephesians 5:18). Yahshua Himself was **ANOINTED** with the Spirit (Acts 10:38) and men were **BAPTIZED** with it (Matthew 3:11).

“Is it possible for a person to be ‘poured out’ on other people? If the Spirit is properly recognized as a force or energy, then the correct sense of the Spirit’s empowering the people to abide by Yahweh’s Law is understood, especially if they are filled with that spirit poured out on them.

“We read that Yahweh anointed Yahshua of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit in Acts 10:38. This act is incomprehensible if we accept the pagan teaching that the Holy Spirit is a person equal to the Father and the

Son. Why and how could this co-equal, in-power person be poured upon the Son who was equal in power?

“If we properly understand the Spirit to be force or energy, (power) poured upon the Son, saturating Him as with oil, then we truly grasp the Biblical meaning of ‘spirit’ and see why Yahshua is called the Messiah, Yahweh’s ‘anointed’ (anointed means to rub with oil).”

Under subtitle, p. 16, **“Holy Spirit Symbolized Yahweh’s Attributes [:]** The Holy Spirit is an invisible, holy, flowing energy coming from the Heavenly Father and shared by His Son, Yahshua. The Spirit, force or power accomplishes their will.

“At times Yahweh refers to His Spirit as power, an attitude, a pervading force, a powerful vitality, a dynamic influence that comes from Him. His Spirit, emanating from Himself, helps us reach a standard of righteousness and so influences behavior that at times it is seen as almost a living vitality, as evident from the following verses:

“‘And Yahweh said, My Spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also [is] flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.’ (Genesis 6:3)

“‘But Peter, said, Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back [part] of the price of the land?’ (Acts 5:3)

“‘The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of Elohim.’ (Romans 8:16)

“Those who don’t understand this metaphoric usage, as simply an extension of Yahweh Himself, leap to the conclusion that He is talking of another Being.

“The New Schaff-Herzog Religious Encyclopedia explains that although Scripture uses terms like *grieved* in reference to the Holy Spirit, the terminology should not be taken for a separate person. ‘A similar concept underlines the Johannine terms teaching, reproving, and declaring, as applied to the personal Paraclete. Nonetheless, to interpret these passages as implying a person distinct from G-d and Chr-st, whose

Spirit he is called, is not warranted.' (Trinity, Doctrine of, p.19)"

Under subtitle, p. 9, "**Proof Texts to Support Trinity** [:] An attempt to 'prove' a Trinity is I John 5:7. However, newer Bible translations have corrected this spurious verse. The Catholic **Jerusalem Bible** says in a footnote to I John 5:7, 'Not in any of the early Greek manuscripts, or any of the early translations, or in the best manuscripts of the **Vulgate** itself.' This bogus text reads: '*For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit: these three are one.*'

"**The Companion Bible** states that this verse was not found in any Greek manuscripts before the 16th century but was first seen in the margins of some of the Latin copies: from there it crept into the text. Modern translations do not include this verse in the main body of their text but may have a footnote stating that this verse is spurious. It is plainly a forgery inserted by some Trinitarian zealot during the Dark Ages."

Under the subtitle, p. 12, "**Grammatical gender Mistaken for the Literal** [:] Another so-called 'proof' often presented to show that the Holy Spirit is a sentient being is that the personal pronouns He, Him or His often refer to the spirit in the English Scriptures. John 14:17 is misused to force a personality aspect on the Holy Spirit: '*[Even] the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees HIM not, neither knows HIM: but you know HIM; for HE dwells with you, and shall be in you*' (John 14:17).

"The use of the personal pronoun WHOM in this text is unwarranted, reflecting simply the translator's prejudice. WHICH better renders the Greek neuter form. The Greek pronoun in auto, and refers back to Comforter (Greek=Parakletos), which is a noun of masculine gender, and apparently the reason translators provided the 'Him' and 'He' pronouns.

"Understand that nouns in most European languages have gender. To English-speaking peoples this is a rather peculiar characteristic of their languages. For example, in German

'plate' and 'fork' are feminine. In French 'knife' is masculine and 'fork' feminine. It would be as logical to insist that 'fork' is a person—because fork is feminine in German and French—as it would be to claim that the comforter is a person because Parakletos (comforter) is masculine in Greek. Pronouns must agree in number, case, and gender. English is not nearly so sophisticated in its grammar.

"The Greek word for spirit (pneuma) is neuter in gender and properly should be translated *it*. Some translations do not follow the King James in referring to the spirit as *He* but more properly *it*. These Bibles are the **Diaglott** (a literal translation from the Greek), **Rotherham, Literal Concordant**, and **Goodspeed**, among others. Pronouns referring to spirit are also neuter. But those referring to the Father and the Son are masculine.

"In contrast to the Greek, Hebrew nouns have no neuter gender. In Hebrew, nouns are either masculine or feminine. Therefore, while *ruach* (spirit) is masculine in gender, according to rules of Hebrew grammar, the religion of Judaism does NOT look upon *ruach* as a person, but as a POWER or FORCE."

Finally, under the subtitle, p. 17, '**Scriptural Synopsis of Holy Spirit Facts** [:] Not all the following statements have been explained fully within this brief booklet, yet are important to consider in regard to a Trinity doctrine supposedly supported by the Scriptures:

"*The Greek philosopher Plato and the Alexandrine Platonists are the source of the modern trinity doctrine.

"Author Alvan Lamson elaborates on the doctrine of the Trinity on page 34 of **The Church of the First Three Centuries**: '...we must look, not to the Jewish Scriptures, nor to the teachings of [Yahshua] and his apostles, but to Philo [the Jewish philosopher of the first century C. E.] and the Alexandrine Platonists. In consistency with this view, we maintain that the doctrine of the Trinity was a gradual and comparatively late formation; that it had its origin in a

source entirely foreign from that of Jewish and Christian Scriptures; that it grew up, and was engrafted on Christianity, through the hands of the Platonizing fathers...'

"*The apostate church about the fourth century accepted the Trinity, which was then passed on to her daughters. Acceptance of a Triune deity was influenced by the polytheistic ('having many deities') worship everywhere extant among heathen peoples.

"*Neither the term trinity nor its doctrine is found in either the Old or New Testaments.

"*The Holy Spirit (erroneous "Ghost") is not a person.

"***Ruach** (Hebrew) and **pneuma** (Greek) are the Hebrew and Greek from which we get **Holy Spirit** in our Bibles. They have as their root meaning 'wind or breath' in both the Hebrew and Greek.

"*The Holy Spirit is that invisible force of energy flowing from the Father and Son. It might be likened to the rays of the sun that give us light and heat. The rays are not the sun, but are the power from the sun.

"*Personal pronouns referring to the Holy Spirit do not make it a person any more than Yahshua's telling Peter to put the sword back into 'HIS' place makes the sword a male person (Matthew 26:52).

"*The Spirit can be 'shed' (Acts 2:33), 'poured' (Acts 2:17), 'breathed' (John 20:22), 'stirred up' (2 Timothy 1:6), 'quenched' (1 Thes. 5:19), 'renewed' (2 Cor. 4:16)—all of which are literally incompatible with a person or being.

"*The Father and Son converse with each other, but do not talk to the Spirit.

"*Nowhere is the spirit prayed to. If the Holy Spirit were a person, then the Holy Spirit would be Yahshua's father and not Yahweh. Notice how Yahshua was conceived in the flesh:

"*But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of Yahweh appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, you son of David, fear not to take unto you Mary your wife: for that

<**Trinity** see page 14>



VALENTINE'S DAY

Fact or Fiction?

What is its Basis?

Every February, not only in this country, but in many countries around the world, candy, flowers and gifts of all kinds are given in the name of love. This is because many years ago someone, in the name of love, it is rumored, did that same thing. It seems that the origin of St. Valentine's Day is shrouded in a little bit of mystery. What we do know is that this day contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. Today, the Roman Catholic Church does recognize different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. Each of their stories honored these men with feasts on February 14. Over time their stories were all combined into one story about St. Valentine.

St. Valentine

The story which evolved was about a Roman Catholic priest, bishop of Interamma, who lived during the third century under the reign of Emperor Claudius II. During his reign, Claudius was involved in many wars. Recognizing his need for young men to serve in his army, Claudius forbade men to marry. The reason for this was the fact that the men would refuse to join the army because of being married.

Valentine thought this to be totally unfair and he began to secretly marry couples in spite of the emperor's orders. When Valentine was found out, he was arrested, placed in prison and sentenced to die. During his imprisonment he

wrote letters to those of his parish and signed them "From your valentine." Is this not being carried on today – sending cards on Valentine's Day?

Pagan Connection 1 – Lupercalia

Lupercalia was known in Roman mythology as an ancient Roman fertility rite called the Feast of Lupercus, which was celebrated on February 15 and named after the Roman god Lupercus who was to protect flocks from being attacked by wolves at night.

A Latin word for wolf is *lupus* and someone once wrote, "Today, we still refer to one who fancies himself as the ladies man as something of a 'wolf,' and when a pretty girl walks down the street young men give a 'wolf whistle,' which shows that the spirit of Lupercalia is still with us."

What else is associated with wolves in Roman mythology?

Pagan Connection 2 – Romulus and Remus

Lupercalia is also a celebration to honor the mythical founders of Rome, Romulus and Remus, who were supposedly suckled by the wolf Lupa in a cave named Lupercal. Further, in this celebration of Lupercalia, the priests (called Luperci), dressed in goatskins, would sacrifice a goat (a symbol of fertility) and a dog (a symbol of protection),



Romulus and Remus

anoint themselves with the blood of the sacrifices and then run through the streets whipping onlookers with a thong made from the goat's skin. Women would desire to be whipped with these goatskins because it meant fertility and easy childbirth.

Interestingly enough, these thongs were called *februa* and the lashing the *februatio*, both stemming from a Latin word *Februarius* (February) meaning to purify through sacrificial offerings.

Pagan Connection 3 – Juno and Faunus

Another part of this Lupercalia celebration was to honor Juno, the Roman goddess of women and marriage (somewhat connected with what St. Valentine did which caused imprisonment for him), and Faunus (associated with Pan), the god of nature. In this part of the annual celebration women would put their names in a box and teenage men would draw a name and the two of them would be paired up for one year until next year's celebration of Lupercalia.

Over time this lost favor with the populace and young men began a

custom of offering women they admired and wished to court handwritten greetings of affection on February 14. Thus began the idea of Valentine's Day cards.

Faun (Faunus) is defined as a class of rural deities represented as men with ears, horns, tail, and later also with the hind legs of a goat.

Syncretism

All these are nice stories! Even so, they are examples of the ongoing efforts of religious leaders of the Christian church to appease their members and new converts through syncretism. By definition, syncretism is "a combination, reconciliation or coalescence of varying, often mutually opposed beliefs, principles of practices into the new conglomerate whole typically marked by internal inconsistencies." Most people today could remember the story of St. Valentine, but not so with the different celebrations noted here. Mostly, mythological stories are soon forgotten.

Pan

Pan was an Arcadian deity of light and, as evil, was equivalent to the Sun deity of Baal, also spelled B-A-L or B-E-L. Baal, which is mentioned often in the Holy Scriptures, was a title given to Nimrod, the hunter who was against Yahweh. We read about Nimrod in Genesis 10:9,

He was a mighty hunter before Yahweh; wherefore it is said, even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before Yahweh.

The hunter, Nimrod, it is said, pursued wolves in the Apennine Mountains

of Italy, and acquired the title of Lupercus – wolf hunter or hunter of valor. Remember, the word *valens* means to be strong, powerful, mighty.

Nimrod, the Baal-Lord-Sun God of the ancients, is the basis for all mythology worldwide. His exploits are well noted in a book entitled "The Two Babylons" by Alexander Hislop. The symbols associated with Valentine's Day are not simple and meaningless.

Cupid

The symbol which is almost a Valentine entity itself is Cupid, the Roman mythological son of Venus, the goddess of love. Some view him, along with his mother, as the "Madonna and the child."

In Greek he is called Eros, the god of love, and son of Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty. Cupid has always played a role in the celebrations of love and lovers, including those of a mischievous, naked, winged child carrying a bow and a quiver of arrows. Because of this visionary picture he is sometimes regarded as taking aim with his gold-tipped shafts at the heart of mankind.



Cupid

Birds and Valentine's Day

One popular custom associated with Valentine's Day in England and France was that it was the time of the year for birds to pair up. Thus, in Chaucer's *Parliament of Fowles*, we read:

"For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day

Whan every foul cometh there to chose his mate."

Both the French and English literatures of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries contain references to the practice of writing love letters and sending lover's tokens. In the *Paston Letters*, Dame Elizabeth Brews writes about a match she hopes to make for her daughter (spelling modernized), while addressing a favoured suitor:

"And, cousin mine, upon Monday is Saint Valentine's Day and every bird chooses himself a mate, and if it like you to come on Thursday night, and make provision that you may abide till then, I trust to [Yahweh] that ye shall speak to my husband and I shall pray that we may bring the matter to a conclusion."

Embracing Pagan Customs

Even though Christian missionaries took the pagan festivals as they were and gradually grafted their observance into their festivals, with all their rites and customs, they are still abominations in the sight of Yahweh. Read what He says in Deut. 12:29-32:

When Yahweh thy Elohim shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land; Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou inquire not after their idols, saying, How did these nations serve their idols? even so will I do likewise.

Thou shalt not do so unto Yahweh thy Elohim: for every abomination to Yahweh, which he hateth, have they done unto their idols; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their idols. What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

What does Yahweh say about the leaders who lead people to follow such pagan beliefs?

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Messiah. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works, 2 Cor 11:13-15.

Besides North American countries celebrating Valentine's Day, one can easily go on the internet and find out how this day is celebrated in many countries in Europe, Asia, South America, etc.

What To Do

Yahweh, quite clearly, said that we are to come out of this pagan system. If we choose not to do this, we have made our choice and will be identified with it. Consider the following Scripture,

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues, Rev 18:4.

Once one has decided not to participate in this world's holiday celebrations, but to learn and keep Yahweh's Sabbaths, a feeling of accomplishment will definitely be felt and a desire to do His Will will lighten one's burden.

Elder Roger G. Meyer

<Trinity from page 11>

which is conceived in her is **of the Holy Spirit'** (Matthew 1:20). Yet Yahshua called Yahweh His Father, not the Holy Spirit. He was conceived by and through the power of Yahweh—making Yahweh His Father.

"*Scripture never calls the Holy Spirit the 'third person'.

"*Salutations found in the first verse of two of the Epistles by Paul, Peter, and John mention Father and Son, but not Spirit.

"In his Epistles Paul greets the brethren in the name of Yahweh and Yahshua. Never in the opening of his letters does Paul ever greet anyone 'in the Name of the Holy Spirit.' Not a person, the Holy Spirit has no name as do Yahweh and Yahshua. For example, Ephesians 1:2 reads, 'Grace [be] to you, and peace, from Yahweh our Father, and from the Savior Yahshua the Messiah.'

"*The Biblical meaning of being 'one' means being in accord, harmony, of like mind, united in goals. Not being one personage.

"*Elohim, used for the Heavenly Majesty, is a collective noun, and does not specifically mean "three." It simply means more than one, a plurality.

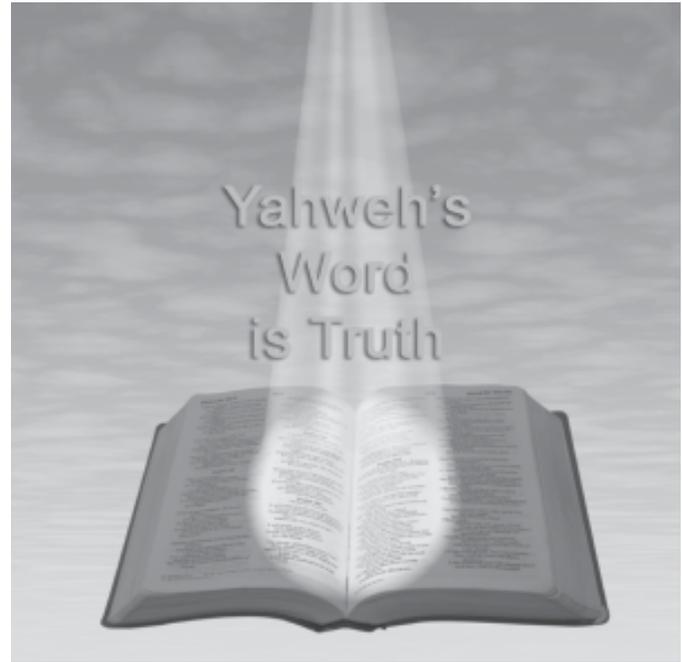
"*Examples given in the Bible show the Father on a throne: Ezekiel 1:26; Daniel 7:9; Acts 7:55-56; Rev. 4:2; 5:1, 7; 20:11, etc... The Holy Spirit is not given a throne (but indwells us, as it did Stephen, Acts 7:55).

David Jones Jr.

The last sentence in the first paragraph in the first answer on page 21 of the Nov-Dec 2008 issue of the Beacon should have been omitted or entered as follows for clarification: "The Jubilee year is the 50th year when counting starts at the end of the seventh Sab-batical year as is described in Lev. 25:1-10."

Be Not Deceived!

Part 2 The 'Grace' Deception



(Note: Except where otherwise stated, Bible references are taken from the New King James Version – NKJV with the Holy Names inserted. The author for emphasis has sometimes shown parts of quotations in bold or block capitals.)

Introduction

In Part 1 of this series, we showed how the tempter succeeded in seducing Eve who thought she knew the word of Yahweh, but instead of acting upon that word, she chose to do that which promised satisfaction, without giving any thought to the consequences that Yahweh had said would follow disobedience. By contrast it was demonstrated that Yahshua, though very hungry, did not give in to the demands of His body or to Satan's suggestion for appeasing His appetite or of gaining instant worldly acclaim. Yahshua not only knew the word of Yahweh but also acted accordingly and finally drove Satan from His presence.

Yahshua warned us in Matt 24:11 and 12: *"many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold"*. The days of gross deception on a global scale are here. True believers, that is, those who know and are genuinely willing to walk in ALL of Yahweh's ways, do not have to be deceived.

Anyone is deluded who thinks he/she is pleasing Yahweh but does not do what Yahweh says. Indeed, the Scriptures make it clear that such persons are liars, do not know the truth or the truth is not in them, and they neither really love nor are true followers of Yahshua. In the end they will be like the foolish virgins who all along thought they were ready for the Bridegroom but were finally barred from His presence.

In this part of the series we shall consider one reason why many who claim to believe in Yahshua are ignoring His words. It is intended to remind us all that lip service and a passive belief are not enough to get us into the kingdom. We are required to be *doers of the word, and not*

hearers only, James 1:22. The challenge that Moses gave to the children of the Israel are applicable to us all: *"What does Yahweh your Elohim require of you, but to fear Yahweh your Elohim, to **WALK IN ALL HIS WAYS** and to love Him, to serve Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul,"* Deut 10:12.

Grace Without Law

The majority of Christendom maintains that in order to have eternal life we need only to accept the grace or unmerited favour that Yahweh freely offered to the human race when Yahshua His Son died for all. They affirm that there is nothing we need to do. Just believe (have faith) in Yahshua's finished work and we shall inherit eternal life. They combine this with saying that Yahweh's laws are abolished. It follows from such a misguided doctrine that a practicing liar, murderer, adulterer, thief or homosexual, for example, only needs to have faith in Yahshua's finished work, do nothing, and continue to live as before for there is absolutely nothing he/she needs to do. 'Grace' has done it all for them. When grace came in Yahweh's laws went out. No human effort is required. Yahweh's laws are irrelevant or totally obsolete.

In other words, they believe in a lawless salvation. Now compare this with Yahshua's words that in the last days *lawlessness will abound* or as Weymouth renders it there will be a *prevalent disregard of [Yahweh's] laws*, and ask yourself if this 'grace only' theology is not the direct fulfilment of Yahshua's prophecy in Matthew 24:11, 12, of the lawless deception that would be prevalent.

Christendom at large thinks that their stance is a reasonable inference from John 3:16, which says *"Yahweh*

so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Yahweh's gift is indeed free. As Isaiah said:

Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price, Isaiah 55:1.

Salvation is freely available to all who will accept Yahweh's free gift. It cannot be earned. Yahshua has paid the price. But the Bible is very clear in many places that by receiving the gift, one is committed to accepting the responsibility that comes with it. If a car manufacturer gave you the gift of a new car, you would have paid nothing for it, but with accepting the gift would come the responsibility to use the car in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If you did not, you would be abusing the free gift and this could lead to unnecessary risks or damages that would quickly cause the free gift to be useless. On the other hand by taking care of it, you are not attempting to earn the gift. It has been already given to you. Similarly the free gift (grace) of Yahweh is given to you. You did not and cannot earn it but you have a duty to value it and obey the 'Manual.' This simple fact is incomprehensible to those who prefer a carefree lawless salvation and ignore large sections of the Bible. John, in his first epistle, wrote:

By this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of Yahweh is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked, 1 John 2:3-6.

Belief in Yahshua is much more than an affirmation of who He is and what He did. It also entails an unswerving acceptance and obedience of all that He said. Yahshua said, *"If you love Me, keep My commandments,"* John 14:15. To say

we love Him, yet treat lightly or ignore what He says, is contrary to the teachings of Yahshua and demonstrates a lack of faith in Him.

Yahshua warned us of the need to be careful to ensure that we are travelling on His road and not following the large crowd on the easy road to damnation. He said,

*Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and **difficult** is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it,* Matt 7:13, 14.

Make no mistake about it, a lawless person, organization, society or nation is recklessly heading for disaster. Life's experiences teach us that the absence of laws leads to chaos, anarchy and confusion. At home, in sports, the workplace, our neighbourhoods and while driving for example, except we adhere to some accepted standard of behaviour we can only expect danger, confusion, disappointment, hardship and suffering for ourselves and others. Even nature obeys Yahweh's commands:

He assigned to the sea its limit, So that the waters would not transgress His command, Prov 8:29.

Again, Psalm 148:8 refers to *"Fire and hail, snow and clouds; Stormy wind, fulfilling His word."*

Can you begin to imagine what would happen if every element in nature were uncontrolled and allowed to do as they pleased? Yahweh in His wisdom gave boundaries to all of His creation, and made laws to guide humanity in the right paths. Satan, the deceiver, has fed and spread delusive doctrines that the laws of Yahweh are not applicable to our age or to Gentile people, thus excluding this age and Gentiles from the guiding and controlling wisdom of Yahweh, and releasing them from the need to obey Yahweh. Like Eve in the Garden of Eden, the majority of worshippers in Christendom prefer to heed Satan's lies than to obey the truths that were *"once for all delivered to the saints,"* Jude 1:3. The very places that should be bastions of truth and shining examples

of uprightness have accepted and are propagating a theory that is not only contrary to the Bible but also defies the overwhelming evidence in all areas of life, including nature.

While Yahshua did not condemn the woman caught in adultery, He said to her *"sin no more,"* John 8:11. This woman was told in effect to make an effort from that time onwards to stop her sinning. After healing the infirmed man who had been at the pool of Bethesda, Yahshua said to him, *"See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you,"* John 5:14. His newly found freedom from his infirmity was not to be a license for him to continue to sin.

There can be no doubt that we are saved by the favour (grace) of Yahweh and not as a payment for any work we have done or can do. It is incorrect to deduce that there is therefore nothing we need to do. Yahweh has not forgiven our sins so that we can continue to break or ignore His commands. We are saved by His grace so that we can follow Him in spirit and in truth. As an expression and evidence of our appreciation for what He has done we are obliged to obey Him. Obeying Yahweh is the proof that we are His followers.

He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 1 John 2:4.

Yahshua said, *"If you love Me, keep My commandments,"* John 14:15. In John 15:14 He said, *"You are My friends if you do whatever I command you."* John, in his first epistle, said: *"By this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments,"* 1 John 2:3. At the end of his discourse in Ecclesiastes on the purposes of man's life, Solomon concluded that *"the whole duty of man"* was to *"fear Yahweh, and **keep his commandments,**"* Eccl 12:13 KJV. His laws will continue to the end. In Rev 22:14, we are told,

Blessed are those who do His commandments that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

The theory that there is no need to keep Yahweh's laws is unscriptural, untrue and irrational.

Yahshua and Paul

Yahshua taught that

- We must build upon the rock of His words, Matt 7:24;
- His way is the right way. *I am the way, the truth, and the life*, John 14:6;
- Doing what He says is the proof that we love Him. *If you love Me, keep My commandments*, John 14:15;
- The right way is unpopular, *because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it*, Matt 7:14;
- He did not come to abolish the law: *"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfil,"* Matt 5:17; and
- He would disown any who practiced lawlessness by not keeping the commandments. *"Many will say to Me in that day, 'Rabbi Rabbi, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"* Matt 7:22, 23.

All of these signify the importance and necessity of obeying His word and not becoming lawless by doing whatever is fashionable, convenient or sounds good. Nevertheless, many so-called 'believers' have chosen to put aside the consistent teachings of Yahshua in preference to some of Paul's misunderstood writings. In doing so they convey the impression that they are elevating Paul above the One who brought them grace. *"Was Paul [impaled] for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?"* (1 Cor 1:13) Yahweh's Son Yahshua, who is the Messiah, our Saviour and the highest authority who ever walked this earth, taught quite clearly that the law

is not abolished. Nevertheless, using only some of Paul's writings, the lawless majority have built up a worldwide doctrine that grace replaces the law, and by this have implied that the words of Paul are of more significance than those of Yahshua. This is most unfortunate, for Paul never sought to put himself on par with Yahshua, far less would he have considered his teaching to be of greater import than that of Yahshua. Paul said, *"Imitate me, just as I also imitate the Messiah,"* 1 Cor 11:1. Here Paul was clearly giving to Yahshua His rightful place of authority. Yahshua's teaching has not once conveyed the impression that grace has abolished the laws. On the contrary, He said,

Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven, Matt 5:20.

Yahshua illustrated what He meant by the examples in Matt 5:21-29, which were all taken from the law. He introduced each concept with the expression: *"You have heard that it was said ... but I say."* In each case, rather than taking away anything from the law, He added a more stringent clause that struck right at the heart of the matter. Yahshua did not come to abolish the old but to bring out its true meaning and take the law to a new dimension. He wanted obedience to the law to begin in the heart and work its way outward. This is why He was so critical of the Pharisaic hypocrisy that focused only on external shows of righteousness to impress others and completely missed the deeper intent of the law.

Yahshua said to the Pharisees, *Woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe the mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of Yahweh. **These you ought to have done**, without leaving the others undone,* Luke 11:42.

"Yes," Yahshua was saying, "you ought to keep the law of tithing as commanded in the Old Testament, but you should also *do justly, ... love mercy, and walk humbly with your*

Elohim (Micah 6:8). Yahshua was so much in support of adhering to the law that He cautioned

Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven, Matt 5:19.

When Yahshua was asked by the rich young man *"what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"* (Matt 19:16) Yahshua replied, *"If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments,"* Matt 19:17.

These are not the words of someone who was getting rid of the law. On the evidence of these and many other consistent sayings by our Teacher, it is clear that if we are to be obedient to Him we cannot follow and promote a lawless doctrine and fall into the end-time snare of lawlessness that Yahshua said we are to avoid.

The adherents of a lawless religion have chosen to overwork some of Paul's writings to prove that the law is abolished, when many distinctly opposite evidences could also be cited from Paul's own statements to prove that he upheld and kept the law. Paul said:

- *This I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the Elohim of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets,* Acts 24:14;
- *We know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully,* 1 Tim 1:8;
- *The law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good,* Rom 7:12;
- *Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet,"* Rom 7:7; and
- *I delight in the law of Yahweh according to the inward man,* Rom 7:22.

'Grace only' is an unbalanced doctrine that is based solely on some statements of Paul and ignore his other sayings as well as the abundant evidences in support of the law that are found in Yahshua's teachings and throughout the rest of the Bible. Those who intend to disobey Yahweh need no excuse for doing so. Disobedience begins in the heart and takes hold of any opportunity to further its purpose. By building their theology on only one side of Paul's teachings and ignoring Paul's other sayings, and the rest of the Bible, many have been ensnared in the manner to which the apostle Peter had alluded. In 2 Peter 3:15-17 he wrote:

Our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked.

We do not have to try to explain or reconcile the sayings of Paul that are "hard to understand." For now it is good enough to obey him in the manner and to the extent that he himself advocated by following him where his message is aligned with Yahshua's. We can put seeming contradictions on hold for discussion with Paul when we see him. This stance is far better and safer than to brush aside Yahshua's message and the rest of the Bible and be "led away with the error of the wicked."

Supremacy of Yahshua

In John 7:16 Yahshua said to the Jews who were perplexed by His profound knowledge, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me." He also said in John 10:30, "I and My Father are one." At Yahshua's transfiguration "suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!'" Unlike anyone else, Yahshua "[came] down

from heaven, not to do [His] own will, but the will of Him who sent Him," John 6:38, and Yahweh Himself gave His personal stamp of approval on Yahshua's words.

"He who comes from above is above all," John 3:31. Above all words of all mortals, Yahshua's words are supreme. When Yahshua spoke, He carried the force and authority of Yahweh. His was and still is the voice of Yahweh on the earth. We can get no higher than this. Yahshua is the ultimate authority on any subject that He discussed. Yahshua told us that if we want to build a solid and sure foundation, we must build upon His words (Matt 7:24-27). No other words are as sure as His. You do not have to be deceived. When there is doubt you can find safe refuge by seeking to know what Yahshua had to say on the topic. Yahshua said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away," Luke 21:33.

He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of Yahweh abides on him, John 3:36.

You do not really believe in Yahshua if you treat His words with contempt and ignore Him as if He had never spoken. Without active belief in what He said, you will be barred from His presence, and you will not be able to use Paul as the excuse for your disobedience. Yahshua said to the Jews: "if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?" (John 8:46) Why is it so difficult for those who claim that Yahshua speaks the truth, to believe His words?

Yahweh, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds, Hebrews 1:1, 2.

Since Yahshua, who is Yahweh's spokesman, has taught that the law still stands, then those who genuinely love Him and believe in Him will not accept that the law is finished and superseded by grace. To dismiss Yahshua's words is to disregard the

words of Yahweh. There is no greater error possible.

Homosexual 'Priests'

Because of the grace-overthrowing-law fallacy, many have taken grace to be the license for their licentious behaviour and to avoid obeying Yahweh. Thus we have the scandalous contradiction of practicing homosexual 'priests', who break the Old Testament law as stated in Lev 18:22,

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.

This they do because they think that this law is now obsolete. In doing so, they also ignore the words of Paul whom they revere and whom they regard as giving them freedom from the law. Paul came out very strongly against any misconception that practicing sinners would enter Yahweh's kingdom. He said:

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of Yahweh? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of Yahweh, 1 Cor 6:9-10.

These so called 'priests' are deceived. They listen to the voices of Satan and of their passions, lusts and depraved minds, but follow neither the directives of the Old nor the New Testaments.

There is no section of the Bible that condones homosexuality. Homosexuality is not only a detestable sin that Yahweh hates and punishes except one repents, but is itself a punishment for sin. Romans 1:18-31 shows that as a result of man's failure to acknowledge the power and deity of Yahweh,

He gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, Rom 1:26, 27.

Homosexuality is a symptom of the degradation to which man has plummeted. As man has turned away from and despised Yahweh, so the incidence of the insidious and abhorrent aberration of homosexuality has skyrocketed. As it was indicative of the sinful state of Sodom and Gomorrah, so its prevalence today is a measure of how far our society has turned from Yahweh.

Yahweh sent His angels on a destructive mission *“because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah [was] great, and because their sin [was] very grave,”* Gen 18:20. Sodom and Gomorrah had gone beyond the point of cleansing. In the midst of their depravity they were totally destroyed. The outcry against our cities and nations has risen to Yahweh. His end-time work of punishing our evil world has begun, yet mankind continues to multiply its iniquities. The preponderance of lawlessness (sin) tells us the end cannot be far away. The day of *a new heaven and new earth* is fast approaching.

Like Sodom and Gomorrah, our world will not repent and will therefore be finally obliterated. Nevertheless, Yahweh will forgive the sins of any penitent sinner, but when He forgives, He also says, *“Go and sin no more,”* John 8:11. Yahshua’s forgiveness is grace. Sinning no more involves adherence to Yahweh’s laws, for *“Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness,”* 1 John 3:4. We need grace - the favour of Yahweh in forgiving our sins. But we also need to obey all the commands of Yahweh to keep us from straying away from His paths into our ways of unrighteousness. Grace is no license for anyone to keep on sinning. Satan has beguiled genuine worshippers of Yahweh into thinking the choice is between ‘grace’ and the law. This is a lie. It is not ‘either, or’ but BOTH!

Homosexual ‘priests’ are victims of Satan’s lies and deception. Just like Eve, they believe the word of the adversary rather than the word of Yahweh. They prefer to yield to their passions and lusts than to *“present*

[their] bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to Yahweh,” Rom 12:1. This is bad enough, but to wear what is conceived to be the righteous garb and to use their respected positions to lead others astray is a scandalous example of delusion and *“spiritual wickedness in high places,”* Eph 6:12. They are reminiscent of the ignorant, arrogant and lying prophets of Jeremiah’s day who prophesied lies in the name of Yahweh. These are some of today’s true Pharisees who are *“like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness,”* Matt 23:27. Homosexual ‘priests’ and those who support or condone their actions do disservice to Yahweh’s cause. As Peter said, *“Many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed,”* 2 Pet 2:2.

The degradation and example of practicing homosexual ‘priests’ should be an eye-opener to those who believe they can flout the commands of Yahweh and still serve Him. It is one of many examples that could be given to show how far mankind has strayed and will stray when they are deluded and replace Yahweh’s thoughts and words with those of the adversary and their evil hearts. Nevertheless, we must not allow the repugnance that we feel towards homosexual ‘priests’ to cause us to experience and develop a secure and smug sense of self-righteousness. Homosexuality is the symptom of man’s disobedience of Yahweh. Deception comes in many different forms. Anytime we flout Yahweh’s laws we are no better than those ‘priests’. Sin is sin. To transgress Yahweh’s laws in one area is as bad as in any other area. *“For He who said, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ also said, ‘Do not murder,’”* James 2:1. Putting self-interest before Yahweh’s commands is idolatry, for He is His word and vice versa. To dishonour His word is to dishonour Him. Yahshua said that if we build upon His word we are building upon a rock. Any other foundation for our belief is just the same as if we built a house on sand.

When the final time of testing comes at the end of the age, no relic of false doctrines will be able to stand. Instead **all** law-breakers, (including *fornicators, ... idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, sodomites, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, and extortioners*) will be told, *“I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”* (Matt 7:23)

The Sabbath

Perhaps the most popular way in which Christendom has chosen to disobey Yahweh’s commands, is with regard to the fourth commandment, given in Exod 20:8-11 for the observance of the seventh day Sabbath. Without hesitation the majority accept nine of the Ten Commandments to be applicable for all times and peoples, but insist that the fourth commandment is only ‘for the Jews.’ For some inexplicable reason ‘grace’ has done away with this one commandment, but has retained the other nine! The Bible makes no such distinction. The Ten Commandments are the basis for man’s relationship with Yahweh and his fellow man. It is an indivisible package of basic instructions that Yahweh gave to mankind. Yahweh’s word says that the seventh day is holy, so that is the day He has set aside above all others, including Sunday. Man cannot make any day holy.

Sunday worship is the result of a delusion that

- a) Yahshua was impaled on a Friday and arose on a Sunday, and that
- b) Because of this, the Sabbath was changed from the seventh day to the first day of the week.

On both counts the deceiver has caused Christendom to question the authenticity and significance of Yahweh and Yahshua’s words. In the case of the day on which Yahshua arose, this error could be removed if one simply started with a firm belief in Yahshua’s words. If we do not have confidence in what Yahshua said, then we are open to accept any theory of man, in just the same way as Eve,

without hesitation accepted the words of Satan rather than those of Yahweh. When the scribes and Pharisees asked Yahshua for a sign that He was who He claimed to be,

He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth," Matt 12:38-40.

Yahshua specifically said that He would remain in His grave for **three days and three nights**. Friday evening to Sunday morning is neither three full days nor three full nights. Therefore, if Yahshua's body were placed in the tomb on Friday, near the beginning of Sabbath but was resurrected early on Sunday morning, then His one promised sign did not come to pass as He had said, and there is no proof that He was really the Messiah. If He were not the Messiah then He was a false prophet and our belief in Him is misplaced!

We cannot accept the popular theory of the interval within which He remained in the earth as well as the words of Yahshua. There is a distinct irreconcilable disparity between the two that cannot be brushed aside. If, instead of totally ignoring Yahshua's words, we started with the premise that His word is infallible, then rather than accepting the Friday to Sunday theory, we would seek to find out why this popular notion that is conveniently used to bolster Sunday worship is fundamentally flawed. *"Let Yahweh be true but every man a liar," Rom 3:4.* When we delve into this we discover within the Bible itself vital clues that lead to the revelation of the truth.

John records that on the day on which Yahshua was impaled that it was the Preparation Day for the Sabbath, but adds the invaluable information that *that Sabbath was a high day*, John 19:31. The weekly Sabbath was only one of many Sabbaths that Yahweh had instituted on which no work should be done. (See Leviticus 23) Since creation, the

weekly Sabbath has always fallen on the seventh day (Gen 2:3), whereas His special Feast Days or Holy Days occurred at His appointed times and were not tied to a particular day except for the day of Pentecost, which was always on the first day of the week. Many Bibles correctly cross-reference the 'high day' mentioned in John 19:31 to Exod 12:16 or 18, which refers specifically to the First day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and is a Holy day or annual Sabbath. Leviticus 23:5-8 gives the following information on that day and the Feast,

On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is Yahweh's Passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to Yahweh; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it. But you shall offer an offering made by fire to Yahweh for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.

If we accept, as we ought, the infallibility of Yahshua's actions as well as of His words, the evening before His death, when He ate the Passover Feast with His disciples, would have been at the beginning of the fourteenth day of the month of Abib. He was put to death on Passover Day, which is not a holy day. On the evening after His death was the beginning of the fifteenth day, which was the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and is a Holy Day. It was to this day John was referring when he wrote:

Because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the [tree] on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away, John 19:31.

Yahshua's prophecy concerning the length of His entombment, as well as the accounts in the evangels, make it clear that this Holy Day could not have coincided with the weekly Sabbath, for, counting three days and three nights from Friday evening, the resurrection could not have taken

place before Monday evening. This would have been contrary to all records in the evangels of Matthew-John. Therefore, the first day of Unleavened Bread that began the evening of Yahshua's death had to be on a day of the week other than Friday evening.

Matthew records:

In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of Yahweh descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Yahshua, which was [impaled]. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where Yahshua lay, Matt 28:1-6 KJV.

The Darby Version of Mathew 28:1, 2 states,

Late on sabbath, as it was the dusk of the next day after sabbath, came Mary of Magdala and the other Mary to look at the sepulchre. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of Yahweh, descending out of heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it, Matt 28:1, 2 Dby.

This is rendered in the American Standard Version as follows:

Now late on the sabbath day, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of Yahweh descended from heaven, and came and rolled away the stone, and sat upon it, Matt 28:1, 2 ASV.

As the Jewish and Yahweh's days begin at sunset, the expression, *as it began to dawn* is not referring to the early morning but rather to the commencement of that day, which began at *the end of the sabbath* (KJV), after the sun was set, or at *dusk* ...

after Sabbath, according to the Darby version.

These and other translations make it clear that the two Marys came to the tomb after the Sabbath as it was getting dark, when the first day of the week (according to Jewish and Yahweh's method of determining days) was just beginning. On that evening the angel told them

Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Yahshua who was [impaled]. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where [Yahshua] lay, Matt 28:5, 6.

Combining this verse with other evidences in Matthew to John, it is clear that He was resurrected at the end of the weekly Sabbath, that is, on a Saturday at dusk.

Counting backwards for three days and three nights we can find out when He was put into the tomb. Three full nights preceding Saturday evening would have been Friday, Thursday and Wednesday. Three full days from that Saturday evening would have been Saturday, Friday and Thursday. This suggests the following order of things: Yahshua had the Passover meal with His disciples on the Tuesday evening, was impaled on the Wednesday, and buried that evening just before the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. He remained in the tomb for three days and three nights and arose at dusk on Saturday, as the new day was about to begin. This vital conclusion is derived simply by taking as the starting position a firm belief in the authenticity of Yahshua's words, and working backwards from the known evidence of the time of His resurrection.

A verse that is often used to prove that Yahshua rose on Sunday morning is Mark 16:9, which states:

Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons, Mark 16:9.

There are two objections to this verse being used as evidence of a Sunday resurrection. Firstly, the NU-Text brackets this verse together with verses 10-20 in this chapter as having not been in the original as they are

lacking in the Codex Sinaiticus and Codex Vaticanus. The NU is an acronym for the twenty-sixth edition of the Nestle Aland Greek New Testament (N) and third edition of the United Bible Society (U).

Secondly, even if it had been in the original, the manuscripts did not have punctuation marks. They were added at some time later. If the comma were placed after the word 'rose,' the verse would read: "Now when He rose, early on the first day of the week He appeared first to Mary Magdalene," This is not doing injustice to the Scripture since originally there had not been any punctuation. In the light of the very strong evidence that proves Yahshua arose at the end of Sabbath at dusk, it would be a very flimsy position to insist on the Sunday morning resurrection, based only on the position of a comma that had not been in the original manuscript, and at the same time discard Yahshua's words of the length of time He said He would have remained entombed. If, however, we accepted the possible alternative punctuation, then the last shred of evidence that He arose on a Sunday is removed and there is no Scriptural basis whatsoever for believing that Yahshua rose on the Sunday morning.

Since Yahshua arose at the end of Sabbath, which is known as Saturday evening, then the case for observing Sunday as the day on which He arose is no longer valid. It is important to bear in mind that this conclusion is deduced mainly as a result of believing the words of Yahshua.

The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple, Psa 119:130.

Here, an implicit belief in Yahshua's words has dispelled the darkness and removed the confusion, mathematical impossibility and implications of a Sunday resurrection. It is inconsistent to express a belief in Yahshua and at the same time pay no attention to what He says. Yahshua said:

Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him

to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall, Matt 7:24-27.

Man's theology will be always warped, confusing and erroneous as long as they ignore Yahshua's words. Yahshua said,

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

Therefore, if once again we believe His words, He has not abolished the fourth commandment of Yahweh. Yahshua was not resurrected on a Sunday and the Sabbath is not changed. It is still the seventh day as Yahweh had declared at Creation. Grace has not displaced the Sabbath law. If you seek to align all of your beliefs with the authentic words of the Bible, you shall discover for yourself the truth and the truth shall set you free from false teachings. "Let Yahweh be true but every man a liar," Romans 3:4. **Be not deceived!**

Stand Firm

The contrasting examples of Eve and Yahshua teach us that the sure way to avoid being deceived is by standing firmly on Yahweh's word. There can be no room for compromise. With sin and deception on the increase and the genuine love of Yahweh's truths on the decline, Bible end-time prophecies are being fulfilled. The spiritual barometers of our time all indicate that the end is almost here. Now is not the time to modernize our beliefs, play around with experimental theology or to seek a comfortable pathway to the kingdom. Party time is over. The shaking has begun. Everything that can be shaken is being shaken. Now more than ever we must be firmly rooted and unshakable by standing firmly upon Yahweh's truths. Other religions are

gaining a foothold right in our midst with a clear vision and purpose while most of Christendom remains apathetic, uncertain of its beliefs and strays from its foundational doctrines.

Let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous, 1 John 3:7.

If we are to be true followers of Yahshua, then we cannot, at the same time, be participants in the lies and deluded doctrines of the majority in Christendom or in our society, which are at variance with Yahshua's words. Since Yahshua has said that the laws are still valid, they have not been superseded by grace or replaced by any popular beliefs. When it comes to the truths of Yahweh there is no room for a majority vote. Yahweh's words win every time. Whenever His commands are violated or compromised, there is no limit to how far this will lead. Eve may have thought that her decision was only related to eating one fruit, but that one act of disobedience brought about all the evils and sufferings that have plagued mankind ever since. The world is still reeling from the aftershocks of her folly. It is our responsibility in this lawless age to stand firm upon Yahweh's word, without giving in to any suggestions for diluting what He has said. The indecisive attitude of Christendom has only served over the ages to fuel the raging fire of false doctrines that is threatening to destroy our basic rights, moral standards and, above all, our freedom to worship and obey Yahweh. It is time to be willing to be the solitary light on a hill and dispel the darkness around us. It is time to boldly defy the lies and deception of Satan and declare with an authoritative voice "Thus says Yahweh!" This is only possible when we are quite clear in our minds of what Yahweh's word says, willingly obey it ourselves, and accept that "*the word of our Elohim stands forever,*" Isa 40:8.

If we cannot stand firmly on Yahweh's words at the present time when we are generally allowed freedom of worship, how will we obey Him and defy all opposition when our freedom and lives are threatened

because of our beliefs? Now is the time to practice obedience or we will never survive when the heat of the 'furnace' is intensified.

Conclusion

The examples of homosexual 'priests' and the replacement of the Sabbath represent a minuscule percentage of the myriad of instances in which 'believers' have been led astray by thinking that Grace replaces the Law, and have dishonoured Yahweh by substituting His commands with their own. Whenever we say, do, or believe anything that is contrary to what Yahweh has said, we have fallen into Satan's traps, and are deceived. The words of Yahweh and of Yahshua have precedence over all others and are always trustworthy. Yahshua said,

I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life, John 8:12.

The majority in Christendom have not been walking in the light of Yahshua's words but have been led astray and are leading others off course by failing to follow, heed and obey Him. When the words of Yahweh and of Yahshua are no longer the bedrock of our beliefs then our profession is false, empty and futile.

We are saved when we accept the grace (favour or gift) of Yahshua. But it is a lie to teach that we therefore do not need to walk in obedience to the law, when the law is upheld throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation with the exception of some misunderstood sayings of Paul. Grace does not replace the Law and neither can the Law take the place of grace. They serve two distinctly different purposes and are neither in conflict nor in competition with each other. 'Grace' displacing the law is a deception on a global scale, which fulfils Yahshua's prophecy in Matt 24:12 that, "*lawlessness [or disregard of Yahweh's law] will abound.*" Those who should be the citadels of truth and leaders by example are themselves playing leading roles in defying and undermining the words of Yahweh and

of Yahshua, and are causing many to be led astray,

But woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had never been born, Mark 14:21.

Without exception, we all need to be vigilant and to cry out regularly with all of our heart to Yahweh, asking Him to reveal the extent of our blindness, to open our eyes to His truths, to forgive us for the many callous ways in which we have shown contempt of Him and, then, to give us a heart that is determined to obey Him. When we meet Yahshua, we will not be pardoned by using either Adam's excuse that someone else caused us to disobey, or Eve's that we were beguiled by Satan. We each have a personal responsibility to ensure that our beliefs are based solely upon His doctrines. Any other basis for our beliefs emanate from Satan. There is only ONE safe way that is guaranteed to take us into the kingdom. It is the narrow and unpopular way that Yahshua taught and was practiced by His earliest followers. It involves more than a mental or emotional acknowledgement of Yahshua, but, more importantly, a steadfast compliance with all that He said. No endearment of Him can take the place of obeying Him. Demons believe Him and tremble, but disobey Him just the same. Eve claimed to know what Yahweh had said but obeyed Satan instead.

Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? (Romans 6:16)

Accept the grace of Yahweh and keep His commandments, for

The law of Yahweh is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of Yahweh is sure, making wise the simple, Psa 19:7.

BE NOT DECEIVED!

Elder Buel Hallpike



I really appreciate your website, and also congratulate you on your deep knowledge of the set apart Scriptures. Your ministry is more or less a research institute, please kindly include my name among the would be beneficiaries of your correspondence courses when completed. I believe they will be beneficial to my spiritual growth. It will be good to see you and all like-minded assemblies reaping the benefits of your hard works in leading many to righteousness in the world tomorrow. May the good Yahweh continue to shower his blessings on you.
— **C.U.I., Nigeria**

I really like your site and am interested in learning more. I would love to have REAL Bible teachings in the Correct way of Yahshua and Yahweh.
— **E.W., MN**

Hi, just wanted you all to know I loved the Beacon magazine this month. I have to read it all at once when I get it. Yahweh bless you all with the truth that you all work hard to send to us out in this messed up world.
— **S.K., TN**

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

I am grateful that you subscribed me to your Beacon publication. Your magazine is an excellent support and encouragement in educating and re-educating those whom Yahweh is calling into the understanding of His awe-inspiring Torah.
— **R.A., Georgia**

I wanted to thank you for the beautiful Beacon Magazine and for always being there.
— **J.A., Pennsylvania**

I was convicted and encouraged by your teaching on tithing...until I find a local congregation, please use the enclosed for the work of your ministry. I have learned much from your teachings!
— **R.B., New York**

Thank you so much for the information that you sent me. I have listened to a number of sermons in the past from various ministries and have settled for the apparent truth...Keep up the good work of Yahshua.
— **D.B., Michigan**

Thank you very much for your magazine. I enjoyed its creativity....
— **L.P., Canada**

Thanks a million for the great magazine! — **T.Q., NY**

I am writing to say thank you for the Beacon; it is as inspiring as ever... Thank you again for your well-researched articles, and for the spreading of the Word of Yahweh.
— **C.D., Georgia**

Greetings in the mighty Name of Yahweh! I'm writing you to thank you for all the hard work you do in devotion to our Savior's commission. The YAIY Beacon was very inspiring.
— **G.D., Pennsylvania**

I study with some brethren here...and had the chance to read your magazine, and I find it to be quite fulfilling and rewarding...I would be blessed to receive it.
— **C.D., California**

Many, many thanks for feeding the sheep in these difficult and uncertain times...please use the enclosed, as good stewards, to further the Work set out before us.
— **R.M., New York**

I received my issue of the Sept./Oct. YAIY Beacon, of which I was truly blessed and fed by the Word-filled articles. And I want to say that from behind these prison bars, I thank you and appreciate you very much.
— **T.N., Texas**

I believe we are to use the Holy Sacred Names. So I was really pleased when I heard you have a magazine that has this kind of teaching. Can you add me to your mailing list? Thank you for your help.
— **J.G., Texas**

I thank you for your fellowship of Yahshua. I praise Yah for your correspondence...Please continue to send the beautiful articles.
— **C.G., California**

I'd like to receive your free offers of the YAIY Beacon magazine...I will use them for the edification of the congregation and for others outside too. We do need as much resources from you.
— **I.M., Myanmar**

I love the information and the studies and the DVD's. You are doing a wonderful job. I will pray for your continued success in promoting the work of Yahweh—HalleluYah!
— **N.M., Missouri**

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