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Yahshua,
the Son of Yahweh,
sacrificed His life
for you

YAIY



Beacon



Volume 2

Number 2

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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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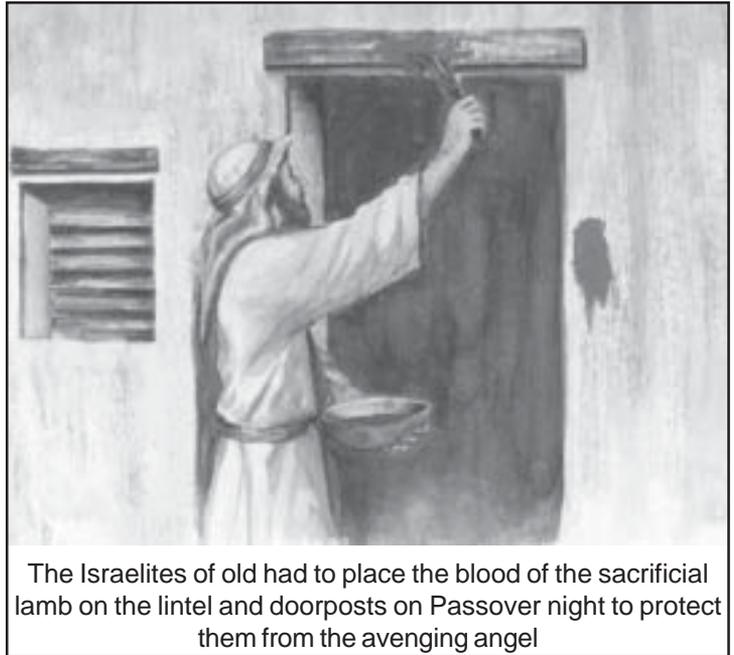


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Cover: put together by Elder Roger G. Meyer

Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread



The Israelites of old had to place the blood of the sacrificial lamb on the lintel and doorposts on Passover night to protect them from the avenging angel

In ancient times there were three harvest seasons – spring, summer and fall. One of the major crops in the spring was barley. In early summer it was wheat and in the fall it was many other field crops. It is true that other crops are harvested during each of these times, mainly because of the advances made in agriculture. It is interesting to note that these three times in a year coincide with the three times we are commanded to gather together to celebrate some of Yahweh's annual Holy Days.

Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year. Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:) And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field. Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before Yahweh Elohim, Ex. 23:14-17.

During these three times there are five of the seven annual feasts we are commanded to keep. The two that are not included, but still required to keep, are the Feast of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement. Each of Yahweh's Holy Days point directly or indirectly to our Savior, Yahshua our Messiah.

Passover - Precedes Unleavened Bread

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

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

The word *memorial* comes from the Hebrew (Strong's #OT:2146) *zikrown* (zik-rone'); from OT:2142; a memento

(or memorable thing, day or writing); and is translated memorial or record in the King James Version of the Bible. The root word of *zikrown* is Strong's #2142, *zakar* (zawkar'). *Zakar* has numerous translations in the KJV, among them being remember or to make to be remembered.

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

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

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

Passover – A Vigil to be Kept

Ex. 12:42 reads,

It [is] a night to be much observed unto Yahweh for bringing them out of the land of Egypt: this [is] that night of Yahweh to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations.

The Jewish Tanakh gives the following reading for this verse:

That was for [Yahweh] a night of vigil to bring them out of the land of Egypt; that same night is [Yahweh's], one of vigil for all the children of Israel throughout the ages.

The word translated "observed" is Strong's #8107 (*shimmur*), from #8104 (*shamar*), meaning an observance. On #8104 Strong says "A primitive root; properly to hedge about (as with thorns), i.e. guard; gen. To protect, attend to, etc.: beware, be circumspect, take heed, keep, mark,



Moses at the burning bush where he is told that he will lead the Israelites out of the land of Egypt

look narrowly, observe, preserve, regard, reserve, save, sure, wait, watch." Clearly the meaning is watchings.

The Greek word translated "watch" is Strong's #1453, *gregoreo*, and means to be vigilant and wide-awake; to be alert: be or stay awake, to keep awake, be alert, i.e. watch.

Passover – A Night to be Remembered

Can we fathom in our minds what the Israelites were feeling during the night of the Passover? It seems reasonable that they could not sleep because they knew that the destroying angel would be coming to kill the firstborn. They were told to place the blood of the sacrificial lamb on the doorposts and lintels. They were warned to remain within the protection of their blood-marked houses the entire evening. Ps. 30:5 is referring to this:

Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

The Israelites did leave Egypt by night – the night after Passover:

Observe the month of Abib, and keep the passover unto the Yahweh thy Elohim: for in the month of Abib Yahweh thy Elohim brought thee forth out of Egypt by night, Deut. 16:1.

Some believe Deut. 16:1 says that the Israelites left the land of Egypt to start their trek to the Promised Land.

However, the Israelites kept the Passover after the sun set beginning the 14th of Abib as recorded in the Scriptures.

Passover Day – Israel Prepares To Leave Egypt

During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship Yahweh as you have requested. Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me." The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. "For otherwise," they said, "we will all die!" So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing. The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. Yahweh had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians, Ex. 12:31-36 NIV.

After the Israelites spent the entire night portion of Passover in their houses they did as they were instructed to do by Moses.

The events of the day portion of Passover are relatively easy to reconstruct. On the morning of the 14th the remains of the sacrificial lamb were taken out, the people began gathering their family, flocks, and herds and assembled at Rameses, some 30 miles from Goshen (Num. 33:3). They also proceeded to spoil the Egyptians as Ex. 12:35 says.

First High Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread

On the first High Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread was the time when the Israelites left Egypt,

The Israelites set out from Rameses on the fifteenth day of the first month, the day after the Passover. They marched out boldly in full view of all the Egyptians, who were burying all their firstborn, whom Yahweh had



Moses before the Pharaoh of Egypt telling him to let Yahweh's People go

struck down among them; for Yahweh had brought judgment on their elohims, Num. 33:3-4 NIV.

The first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread is then a memorial for the time when the Israelites left Egypt.

Last High Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread

Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years, Ex. 12:40.

We learn that the Israelites spent 430 years in Egypt before they left to return to the Promised Land. How did they know where to go?

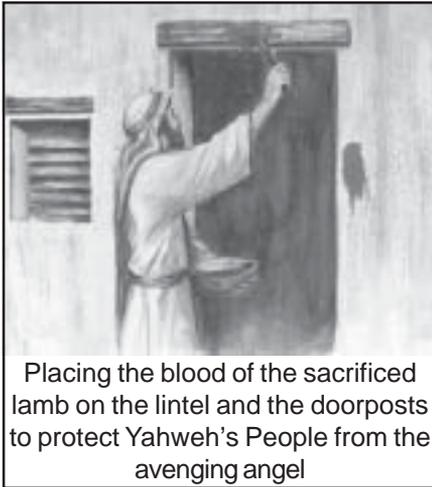
And Yahweh went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people, Ex. 13:21-22.

When the Israelites left Egypt, where did they head?

So Yahweh led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt armed for battle, Ex. 13:18 NIV.

In the parting of the waters of the Red Sea we find that Israel became completely free of Egyptian influence because Yahweh caused all of the Egyptians who followed Israel to die.

Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea, Ex. 15:4.



Placing the blood of the sacrificed lamb on the lintel and the doorposts to protect Yahweh's People from the avenging angel

Passover – Yahshua Kept it

Yahshua kept the Passover at the right time and thus fulfilled all righteousness up to the time of His death. His disciples did not have any difficulty keeping Passover at the right time (Luke 22:8-14).

After Yahshua celebrated Passover with His disciples they went to the garden of Gethsemane to pray. Here Yahshua told them to be alert and watchful, just as the Israelites were told to do on the night of Passover.

And when they had sung a Psalm, they went out into the mount of Olives...My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with Me...And when He came unto the disciples, and found them asleep, and said unto Peter, What, could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, that you enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh is weak, Matt. 26:30, 38, 40-41.

Shortly, Yahshua was taken prisoner at night and then impaled the following day before the Jews had celebrated their late Passover.

Since Yahshua kept the law perfectly, should we not also keep Passover on the beginning of Abib 14?

Passover – Paul Kept It

Paul was of the tribe of Benjamin, a Pharisee. He was an apostle to the Gentiles and he taught them to observe what some call the "Feasts of the Jews."

Corinth was a Hellenistic, metropolitan community and a crossroads of trade and commerce. In 1 Cor. 5:7-8 Paul tells the people of Corinth that Yahshua is the Passover Lamb sacrificed for us:

Purge out therefore the old leaven that you may be a new lump as you are unleavened. For even the Messiah our Passover is sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast...

For Paul to write this it is quite evident that these days are not done away with by Yahshua's death. It is obvious that Passover and the feast days referred to are still obligatory.

Passover – Preparation for Unleavened

Passover, Abib 14, is the day preceding the first High Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The King James Version of Scriptures describes Passover as the preparation day, the



Egyptian army chasing the Israelites into the Red Sea

day Yahshua was put to death for the sins of mankind.

It is indeed a preparation day. It is a day when one is to prepare for the days of unleavened bread by cleansing their houses of all leaven. The day following Passover is a High Sabbath. So the followers of Yahshua wanted to take His body down before the first day of Unleavened Bread began:

The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the [tree] on the Sabbath day, (for that Sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away, John 19:31.

Feast of Unleavened Bread

Yahweh had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians. The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Succoth. There were about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. Many other people went up with them, as well as large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds. With the dough they had brought from Egypt, they baked cakes of unleavened bread. The dough was without yeast because they had been driven out of Egypt and

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

He Arose!
...But When?

A YAIY Publication

did not have time to prepare food for themselves, Ex. 12:36-39 NIV.

When the Israelites left the bondage of Egypt they did not have time to prepare leavened bread. From the time of their departure (first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread) until they crossed over the Red Sea (the seventh day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread) they ate unleavened bread.

Celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day. For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And whoever eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel, whether he is an alien or native-born. Eat nothing made



Unleavened bread and a cup containing grape juice, the two emblems representing the body and the blood of our sacrificed Messiah

with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread, Ex. 12:17-20 NIV.

The first day and the last day of the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread are two of Yahweh's seven annual Holy Days. During this period of time no leaven is to be found within the house nor is to be eaten. Any product containing leaven is also not to be found within the house nor eaten. Actually, these verses also state that one is to eat unleavened bread at this time.

Spiritual Housecleaning

To properly keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread we must do so both physically and spiritually. Physically, we are to remove all leaven products from our homes. Spiritually, we are to remove any and all things that may cause us to be led astray.

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Messiah our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth, 1 Cor. 5:7-8.

Leaven – Physical

Physically, leaven is that which produces fermentation in a mass of dough.

A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump, Gal 5:9.

The word *leaveneth* is the translation of the Greek *zumoo* meaning to cause to ferment.

Leaven breaks down flour, causing decay in the dough.

On the other side, there are two verses, Lev. 7:13 and Lev. 23:17, which shows that the showbread and a praise offering to Yahweh both contained leaven, which sweetened the bread.

Where leaven is the translation in the Old Testament of the King James Version it refers to the physical usage (yeast).

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

Mini-Study

Why Passover Is NOT A High Day

Perhaps because some Jews eventually and wrongfully combined the Passover with the first high day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, some believe that Passover on the fourteenth of Abib is also the high day, the first day of Unleavened Bread. But is it?

If these two observances don't stand on their own as distinct observances, why do they each have their own designation: "Passover" and "Feast of Unleavened Bread"? Similarly, the seven-day Feast of Tabernacles is separate from the last Great Day on the eighth, each having its own identification and meaning, even as one comes immediately after the other.

Overwhelming evidence in both Old and New Testaments shows that Passover was never considered a high day or kept as a Sabbath. The Passover was, however, a memorial of a certain event, and it was that particular event that was to be remembered in its own distinctive way separate from the Feast that follows.

Originally the Jews kept two separate observances, just as Yahweh had commanded in Exodus 12 and Leviticus 23. But at the time of their exile in Babylon the Jews began to keep the two as a combined observance. It is this later, unscriptural practice that has contributed to much of the confusion, especially for New Testament readers who are forced to follow translators who allowed later Jewish practice to influence their translations.

Noteworthy, however, are the more Scriptural Karaite Jews and Samaritans who still observe Passover on the 14th and the Feast of Unleavened Bread beginning the 15th (see *Which Day Is the Passover?* by Phinehas Ben Zadock).

This is what the *Encyclopedia Judaica* says: "The feast of Passover consists of two parts: The Passover

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

Mini-Study

The Passover Cup Should It Contain Wine or Grape Juice?

Many assume from their experience with "communion" that wine is the proper liquid to represent the memorial shedding of the Savior's blood. But is it? Have you ever really investigated the meaning of the cup and its symbolic contents?

Blood Atones for Sin

A basic principle in the Bible is that the only possible atonement for the act of sin is a giving up of life. And the only way we can be free of sin's death penalty, which we have all earned because of our sin, is through blood, which contains life, Leviticus 17:11.

Israel's sins were covered under an elaborate system of sacrifice in which animal blood was shed. That system gave way to a better sacrifice in the New Testament. Yahshua shed His blood on the stone table as the perfect sacrifice. His blood paid the death penalty for our sin, just as the blood of animals was shed under the Old Covenant merely to cover Israel's sin (but not take them away, Heb. 9:13-15).

Contrary to what many believe, the principle of sacrifice remains, only now it is the sacrifice of the Savior and the shedding of His blood that we trust in.

What Represents Blood?

Our Savior instituted a new symbol at that New Covenant Passover—the cup. This symbol represented the blood of the perfect Lamb, which was Himself.

The question is, what was the liquid in that Passover cup which represented His pure, sinless life? Wine? Grape juice? Water? Is there any way we can know? Yes, there is! Does it really matter? It certainly does!

Leaven – Spiritual

Where leaven is the translation in the New Testament of the King James Version it may refer to the physical usage at times, but it usually will have a spiritual meaning also.

Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees, Matt. 16:12.

And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod, Mark 8:15.

In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy, Luke 12:1.

From the first two Scriptures we learn that there are three groups of people that Yahshua tells His disciples to watch out for: the Pharisees, the Sadducees and the Herodians.

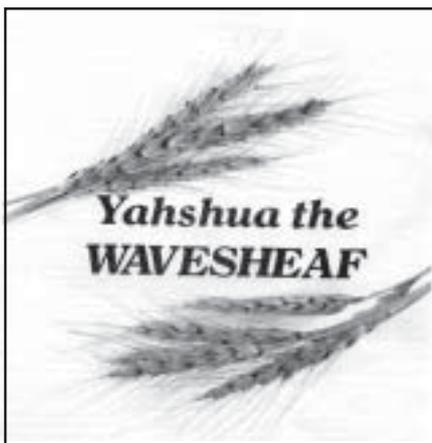
Luke 12:1 speaks to the leaven of the Pharisees as the religious hypocrisy exhibited in their external ceremonialism. The leaven of the Sadducees was their disbelief in an afterlife and the coming of the Messiah. The leaven of the Herodians dealt with a political family who opposed Yahshua.

Matt. 16:12 specifies that the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees is their doctrine while Luke 12:1 says the same thing about the Pharisees.

Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth, 1 Cor. 5:8.

In the last two Scriptures there are three words of interest: hypocrisy, malice and wickedness. Through examination we will find that they are related to unhealthy attitudes.

Hypocrisy is a translation of the Greek "Hupokrisis" (Strong's #5272), whose root word means to play a part, deceitful pretending.



Malice is a translation of the Greek "Kakia" (Strong's #2549), whose root word means to have ill will, desire to injure.

Wickedness comes from the Greek "Poneria" (Strong's 4189), whose root word means to be hurtful or evil.

1 Cor. 5:8 then says that one must avoid those activities which center on deceiving others or which have evil purposes directed towards others.

Sincerity is a translation of the Greek "Eilikrineia" (Strong's #1505), whose root word means to be genuine.

Truth comes from the Greek "Aletheia" (Strong's #225), whose root words mean not concealing.

Our actions then, at the time of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, should be genuinely truthful.

Wave Sheaf

That part of the Passover/Unleavened Bread season that is overlooked deals with the wave sheaf offering.

Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before Yahweh, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it, Lev. 23:10-11.

The Sabbath spoken of here is the Hebrew "Shabbath" and speaks of the weekly Sabbath. The harvest spoken of here is barley. This wave sheaf was not offered until the Israelites entry into the Promised Land and raised a crop

as it was not possible for them to raise crops during their sojourn in the Wilderness of Zin after leaving Egypt. This wave sheaf offering was to be made on the day after the weekly Sabbath, on Sunday.

The Feast of Firstfruits is also called the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Harvest in the Old Testament, and Pentecost in the New Testament. The grain harvested at this time was wheat. The harvest spoken of in Lev. 23:10 is barley. This sheaf is often referred to as the first of the firstfruits.

Pentecost points ahead to the time when the firstfruits will be gathered. Yahshua, Himself, is referred to as the first of the firstfruits because He arose during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

And thou shalt observe the feast of weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the feast of ingathering at the year's end, Ex 34:22.

But every man in his own order: Messiah the firstfruits; afterward they that are Messiah's at his coming, 1 Cor. 15:23.

Just as the wave sheaf had to be presented unto Yahweh (Lev. 23:10-11) on the first day of the week, Yahshua could not let Mariam cling to Him until He had presented Himself unto His Father as an acceptable sacrifice,

Yahshua saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my Elohim, and your Elohim, John 20:17.

Conclusion

Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread are not celebrated by the Christian world today. Instead, they celebrate Easter, which has its pagan origins. The Christian world is more interested in Easter eggs, Easter bunnies and hot cross buns. Yahweh's Word tells us to remember Yahshua's death, not His resurrection. Without the sacrifice of Yahshua we would not have any hope for a future in the Kingdom. To be part of the coming Kingdom, Scriptures tell us that we are to be faithful to the end.

Elder Roger G. Meyer

From The Inside Out

(Note: Except where otherwise stated all Bible references are taken from the New King James Version – NKJV with the Holy Names inserted.)

Introduction

It is not the trials, temptations or challenges we face that are the real problems, but our attitudes to them. The same situation that defeats you can be the stepping-stone for someone else. The knees and faith of the Hebrew boys could have buckled when confronted with sure death in a fiery furnace. Daniel could have chosen the easy way out rather than the prospect of being food for hungry lions. The youth David could have avoided conflict with the giant Goliath from whom older men had fled in fear. These heroes acted as if they were oblivious of the dangers they faced. There was something inside of them that was far greater than their challenges. They had a cause they would not forsake and a faith that could not be compromised. The circumstances around them merely provided the catalyst for their inner dynamic fortitude to be manifested. Their extraordinary external challenges met with astonishing internal attitudes of strength and defiance, which brought about conclusive amazing victories. Their battles were not won in the external arena amid the public gaze of weak-willed spectators. No, it was won in the privacy of their hearts and minds, where, long before these events, they had been nurturing a living embryo filled with the power of faith in Yahweh.

How About You?

Daniel did not face Goliath, David the fiery furnace, or the three Hebrew boys the lion's den. Yet each test was as stringent as any of the others. Your battleground may not resemble these arenas. But sooner or later you will be in your own affray. Problems of one kind or another will find you whoever and wherever you are. What do you have within you for the trial, temptation or challenge that will surely come? Do not deceive yourself. It is from the things stored up in our hearts that we speak, act, react and are motivated. Yahshua said in Luke 6:45, *"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."*

Temptations, tests or challenges are nothing more than favourable environments for the embryo within you to burst

forth. Whatever you have within, will come out under pressure. Faith and fear, hope and doubt, love and hate are examples of the myriads and ranges of feelings that lie dormant within you patiently waiting the right moment for them to manifest themselves and show who you really are.

Yahshua said, *"From within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man."* (Mark 7:21-23)

You are not necessarily the person you would like to be, or the one you would like others to think you are. The real you is on the inside often quietly concealed until the appropriate time. So what do you have stored up within you? If you do not know, then start to pay more attention to the words you utter, the things you look at or listen to, the emotions you feel or express, the use of your time and money, your reactions to the words and deeds of others, the things that 'get you going' whether good or bad, and your priorities. By looking at these things you may meet a stranger you had never met before ... YOU!

You need to build on a solid rock so that when the storms and winds come, you will not be shaken. On what are you anchored? Can it withstand the battering winds and driving rains of life? Will your anchor hold? It will not hold if your inner strength comes from the world, your flesh and the devil. Doubts and fears, your tendency to sin, self-centred desires and emotions, succumbing to your weaknesses, or relying on your own strength will only bring you defeat. Your natural self is no match for the violent storms of life. You need a power that is far greater than anything that can assail you.

The Sure Antidote

Yahshua said in Matt 7:24, *"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."*

Trials, temptations and stresses will come like torrential floods or devastating winds, and we cannot survive except we are firmly anchored in His word.



Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats, Ex 12:5

Plant and Reap

The psalmist said in Ps 119:11, "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You."

We need the word deeply embedded in us like yeast, spreading and filling all areas of our hearts and lives that there will be no room left for sin.

Proverbs advises us to "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life," Prov 4:23.

Planting the word of Yahweh in our minds and hearts is our only means of surviving the spiritual bombardment that will come daily. Whether or not you like the word, or can find the time to read it, you must get into the word and make sure the word gets into you. The Scripture guarantees that it will bring results. Isa 55:10-11 affirms that,

"As the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it".

In addition to Bible study, the writer has found much benefit by listening regularly throughout each day to readings directly from the Bible. Use whatever method is best for you, but keep on planting the raw pure seeds of the word, and watch how they will grow and bear fruit in your life.

Know It or Find It and Use It

Yahshua, in His temptation, gave us a good example of how we can apply the word when we are tempted. Satan tried his best but could find no weakness in Him. Why? The word was in Yahshua before the adversary got there, for Yahshua is the Word. He responded to each temptation with a quotation from the Torah. Even so you need to know and be so strong in the word that wherever in you Satan seeks to strike, he will keep on finding the word, the word, the word - a relevant one for each temptation! Let him be the one to get frustrated and irritated, not you. Just make sure that when he returns, as he will, that once again he will get much more of the same ... Yahweh's word.

In order to do this you will need a word of Yahweh to counteract every testing circumstance you face. For example, when you are in conflict, remember Yahshua's words: "Blessed



Rabbits, hot cross buns and eggs have nothing to do with Easter and certainly nothing to do with Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread



are the peacemakers", then act accordingly. Let these words be the basis of your response. Pray for strength that the "peace of Yahweh [will] rule in your hearts," Col 3:15.

When you are tempted to sin, speak with determination and stand upon the word that says "sin shall not have dominion over [me]," Rom 6:14.

Cry out to Yahweh as David did, using, if necessary, the words he used in Psalm 51. If tempted like David, remind yourself of and act upon the words, "Flee sexual immorality," 1Cor 6:18 and "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness," 2Tim 2:22.

Before 'giving someone a bit of your mind' check your heart against the word, that you have "the mind of the Messiah," 1Cor 2:16.

When stressing circumstances threaten to overwhelm you, never forget Isa 26:3, "You will keep him in

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A YAIY PUBLICATION



The fruit of the vine (juice) - the emblem representing the blood of our Messiah at Passover

perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You." Then fill your mind with Yahweh and faith-producing words.

The word is your sure weapon. Use it in every circumstance you face. *"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart,"* (that is, the word of faith) Rom 10:8. Apply it. *"Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves,"* Jas 1:22.

There is never a problem that requires you to act without Yahweh's word, which is your strength. If you do not know the Scripture you need, then find it with the help of a concordance. But get it inside of you quickly or else you will yield to your natural impulses and please the adversary. It is best to be equipped before the battle. Soldiers do not wait until the battle begins to look for weapons they had never used, or to acquire training and skills they never had. Memorise useful verses beforehand, so that like Yahshua, you can defeat the enemy on the spot.

Power-packed Punch

There is nothing we have that is more powerful than the word, *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in Yahweh for pulling down strongholds,"* 2 Cor 10:4.

"The word of Yahweh is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart," Heb 4:12.

The word was the power that Yahweh used to create the universe,

"The worlds were framed by the word of Yahweh, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible" Heb 11:3.

That creative power of Yahweh's word, when activated in our lives, can equip, change, strengthen, and encourage us, in spite of the circumstances we may face. Nothing else in the world can take us safely through the "fiery trials", "the sin that easily ensnares us", and "the wiles of the devil."

This is why we are encouraged to take "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of Yahweh" wherever we go, Eph 6:17. Without the word we are utterly defenseless, going into our daily battles without the strength and ammunition we need.

Jer 23:29 asks: *"Is not My word like a fire?"* says Yahweh, *"and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"* The word of Yahweh, with its melting or breaking processes, can change hard and cold hearts, responses and attitudes. We need it to bring victory in our lives when circumstances seem to be unyielding or impenetrable.

Let It Shine

Ps 119:105 tells us, *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."*

We need a lamp through the dark tunnels of life to see the way we should go. Amidst the unpredictable twists and turns we need the light of the word to guide us into Yahweh's straight paths. Through dangerous seas we need a lighthouse and compass. Now more than ever, as the darkness in the world deepens and in the midst of the ever increasing folly of the worldly-wise, we need the light of the word to shine in us and light the way for others.

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

When you have Yahweh's word in you and obey it, *"Then your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily, and your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of Yahweh shall be your rear guard,"* Isa 58:8.



Unleavened bread - the emblem representing the body of our Messiah at Passover

Fear Nothing - Not Even Death

Many in whom the word has taken root will prove to be too strong for the enemy, who will be unable to break into their defenses. In Rev 6:9 we are told of those *"who had been slain for the word of Yahweh and for the testimony which they held."* Satan knew that with the power of the word in them he could not gain entrance to their hearts. They were slain. Yes, they were slain, but that did not and could not remove the word that had become part of them. These saints endured to the end and each received a white robe. (Rev 6:11)

When we have the word deeply entrenched in us we will fear nothing and no one, not even the outraged demons, for at the worst they can destroy our bodies, but the word that will remain in us is indestructible and will last forever.

"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of Yahweh stands forever," Isa 40:8.

May the word of Yahweh in your heart have full sway in your life until you breathe your last breath.

If Sin Enters

In spite of practicing all you know, Satan will keep on looking for some crack in your armoury, some unguarded area of your life, or a weakness that has become a part of you or is too dear for you to give up. A gap in the wall of your house, or an unlocked window is as much of an entry to the thief as an opened door. Even David, a man after Yahweh's own

heart, did not guard his eyes, which are an entry to the heart. Like Eve in the Garden of Eden, his eyes stirred his appetite and he feasted on that which was forbidden. So will you, except you *“Keep your heart [and the entrances to it] with all diligence,”* Prov 4:23.

After sinning with Bathsheba and murdering her husband, David was made aware of his sinful state by the prophet Nathan (2 Sam 11:2-12:7). Notice that because sin had such a hold on him, David did not see his true state and the wrong he had done until Nathan figuratively held a ‘mirror’ before him, and in effect said, “this is the man you are”. It was only when Yahweh’s word was spoken to him, through the

prophet, that he was convicted. It is only when dead consciences are aroused through Yahweh’s word, that there is hope for a change.

When the enormity of his offense registered in his heart, David cried out to Yahweh in a prayer of repentance (Psalm 51). Here is some of what he had to say: *“Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.”*

David knew the problem was not Bathsheba. She had been merely doing what she had to do. The problem was within him. The sinful nature with which he was born had no respect for his anointing as king. It was a far greater enemy than anything he had encountered before – more menacing than Goliath, a bear or a lion. Those things were on the outside. A more formidable foe had been within him since birth. It was part of his nature. This badly needed to be eradicated. He knew that Yahweh desired purity on the inside. With inner cleanliness, the right responses would flow forth.

The guilt of David’s sin against Yahweh bore heavily upon him. He said: *“I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me,”* Ps 51:3. There was only one way to deal with this internal destructive monster. The inner sinful nature had to be removed. He needed a powerful deep cleaning that he himself was incapable of carrying out. Therefore he cried out to Yahweh: *“Have mercy upon me, O Yahweh, according to Your loving-kindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin...Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow...Create in me a clean heart, O Yahweh, and renew a steadfast spirit within me,”* Ps 51:1, 2, 7, 10.

David desired for the filthy heart to be completely removed and a new heart created in him, so that he would be steadfast in obeying and pleasing Yahweh rather than his passions. He

wanted no more for sin to *“have dominion over [him],”* Rom 6:14, but that Yahweh’s righteousness would prevail. Yahweh accepted his brokenness and David received inner cleansing. *“A broken and a contrite heart—These, O Yahweh, You will not despise.”* (Verse 17) The record of David’s life would have been quite different if he had not accepted Nathan’s reproof. It is essential for us to submit to Yahweh’s words.

The Heart of the Matter

David’s choice was simple: either defeat the inner fiend or allow it to defeat him. You know the beast that lies within you. You may conceal it for a time, but eventually it will turn upon

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

Mini-Study

Our Savior’s Resurrection

Try as you may, you simply cannot fit three days and three nights into a Friday afternoon impalement to Sunday morning resurrection. Yet, the three days and nights are the only sign given that the Savior was the true Messiah (Matt. 12:40). Here’s the answer to this paradox!

One of the most perplexing problems faced by many Bible students is the question of how Friday could be the day our Savior was put to death. Let us check carefully what the Bible teaches. Note the following Bible passage:

“Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered saying, Master, we would see a sign from You.

“But He answered and said unto them, an evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah:

“For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the fish’s belly, so shall the Son of man be three day and three nights in the heart of the earth.” Matthew 12:38-40.

Note carefully the “as” and “so” in verse 40. Yahshua definitely states, “Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.” In no way can three full days and three full nights be squeezed into a period from Friday afternoon until Sunday morning. (Yahshua was quoting Jonah 1:17.)

Yet, the argument by those contending for a Friday-Sunday teaching is that the Jews counted a part of a day as a whole day. This supposedly allows “three days and three nights” to somehow be sandwiched into the time period from Friday to Sunday.

Those arguing the point show certain examples in the Old Testament where parts of days are counted as whole days. In Hebrew idiom this may be true. But in Hebrew, when the word “nights” is

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Mini-Study

JUST ONE RESURRECTION?

How many resurrections does the Bible teach?

The general message of the churches is that a big battle is taking place for control of the minds of mankind. The churches are striving to teach the Bible and trying to save humankind, but Satan is busy leading them astray. If such a struggle be the true situation of what is going on today, Satan is the big winner. It appears he is gaining ground as the growing population outstrips the converts to churchianity. The ratio of “unsaved” continues to grow faster than those being “saved!” Is Satan really outwitting and outmaneuvering Yahweh today?

Lacking a proper understanding of Yahweh’s plan for redeeming mankind, the churches insist they must convert everyone now! This results in a last ditch effort to save those about to die who have not publicly confessed they believe in the Bible’s promise and accepted the Savior. If one has stated even on the deathbed that he or she accepts the salvation extended by “J-hus,” churchianity believes this person will be taken to heaven immediately upon death. Is this really true? Is everyone to accept the Savior before dying, and if he/she does not, is he/she doomed to eternal torment in the place called “hell” as they say? Among those just starting to comprehend deeper truth, a nagging uncertainty arises. What will happen to them?

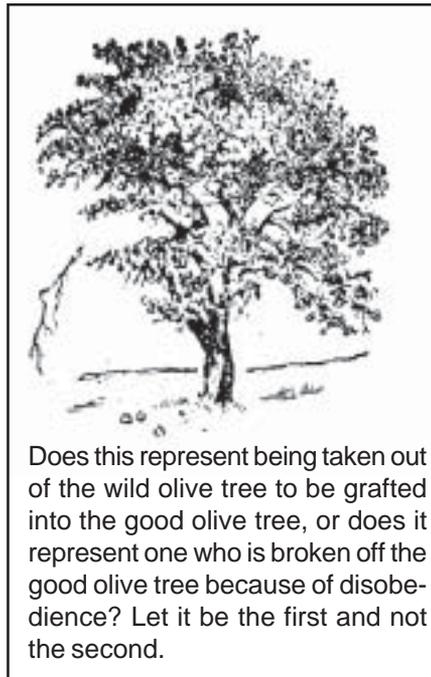
The question concerns the many truths which were not understood nor practiced by parents, relatives or loved ones during their lifetime,

you and destroy you except if it is eradicated. You are no match for it. You cannot change it, or tame it.

“Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil,” Jer 13:23.

Until you have dealt with the evil within you, circumstances will continually arise that will cause you to react in the same way you have always done. Again and again, you will cry out: *“O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?”* (Rom 7:24) The awareness of the inner problem is only the first stage to cleansing. Remaining at this stage only leads to frustration and more sin. You need desperately to see the extent of the dilemma, and cry out to Yahweh as David did. Yahweh has promised:

“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though



Does this represent being taken out of the wild olive tree to be grafted into the good olive tree, or does it represent one who is broken off the good olive tree because of disobedience? Let it be the first and not the second.

they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool,” Isa 1:18.

The resolution of your problem must begin within you. You must be equipped within, before you can face the circumstances on the outside. Your Bathsheba will always test what is on your inside. Wrong attitudes or responses will come to the fore when the right circumstances present themselves. Be ready, for in such an hour as you think not, you will be tested. Cry out with all your heart to Yahweh, as David did, to be forgiven, cleansed and rescued now from the enemy that is within you before it is too late.

Do not allow sin to remain in you and drive you away from Yahweh. Satan is launching an all-out attack for the control of your heart and mind, and to separate you from Yahweh. If you sin, quickly return to Yahweh in penitence as David did, seeking earnestly to have your heart purged from the filth of sin, then work hard to restore your relationship with Yahweh.

Strive to be clean inside. Inner purity is not optional if we are to win in our daily battles and please Yahweh. Except we are pure on the inside, we will not see Yahweh now or in the life to come. Yahshua said, *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see Yahweh.”* Matt 5:8. The ‘Message’ puts this verse this way: *“You’re blessed*

when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see [Yahweh] in the outside world”.

If Yahweh is to be revealed to and through you, then He must be on the center stage of your life, visible to you and to others and not obscured by the barrier of sin.

Persons whose heart is without contamination (like crystal clear water not having pollution of any kind) will see Yahweh at work in their lives here and now, and will see Him when He comes to tabernacle among men.

Psalm 24:3-4 asks, then answers, a vitally important question: *“Who may ascend into the hill of Yahweh? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart”.*

Yahshua denounced the Scribes and Pharisees who were only clean on the outside:

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Before And After Baptism



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

Mini Study **BAPTISM'S DEEPER MEANING**

Baptism is undoubtedly the most important decision one can make on this earth. Because our future is determined by it, we should be alert to all its conditions and significance. In the following study we will seek a deeper meaning of baptism according to Yahweh's word. We should comprehend what baptism accomplishes and seek to ensure our baptism is approved by Yahweh. Furthermore, we should know what to expect upon being baptized, for it is the foundation-stone of the promised salvation given us through our Savior Yahshua.

From time to time we all have realized how far we have fallen from the high expectations of Yahweh's word, and felt we were the lost generation much like those Peter was preaching to. When the Jews in Acts chapter two realized it was their sins which put the Savior to death, they asked, "What can we do?"

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Yahshua Messiah for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as Yahweh our Elohim shall call. (Acts 2:38-39 AV)

BAPTISM IN THE ONLY NAME

Most baptisms done throughout churchianity are done according to Matthew 28:19, "In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." However, not one of these is a name, but only a title. There are many "fathers" on this earth, and all of us have a human father. Fathers are also sons, as are all males. The Holy Spirit is the power emanating from Yahweh, and shared by the Son. A number of scholars believe this verse is spurious, including the Catholic Jerusalem Bible. (For a deeper study of this verse, request your copy of our mini-study, "Trinitarian Baptism And Matthew 28:19.")

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness,” Matt 23:27-28.

It is better to be spotless on the inside than to be gaudy on the outside.

Romans 2:28-29 tells us:

“he is not a Jew who is one outwardly ... but he is a Jew who is one inwardly.” (The same could be said of a believer.) *“He is not a believer who is one outwardly...but he is a believer who is one inwardly.”*

“Yahweh does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but Yahweh looks at the heart,” 1 Sam 16:7.

Without Yahweh, *“the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked,”* Jer 17:9. It is only when our hearts are cleansed that we can live in victory above sin and it is only when we are connected to Yahweh that we can triumph over the world, our flesh and the devil. As long as you harbour sin in your heart you set up yourself for sure defeat in this life and for damnation in the life to come.

Other Challenges

Trials

As we draw nearer to the end of the age, tests of one kind or another will come to each of us with increasing frequency and intensity. When this happens we should not be alarmed.

“Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you,” 1Pet 4:12.

We will be tried but we do not have to be defeated. The battle is already won. Yahshua said,

“In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world,” John 16:33.

Trials are the essential processes through which the believer’s strength, character and allegiance are tested. They cannot be bypassed, but Yahweh has promised in Isa 43:2,

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.”

How you come through trials will depend on the state of your heart and your relationship with Yahweh.

Most persons may be able to exhibit lovely attitudes and admirable qualities when they are not under pressure of any kind. It is under heat that the quality of metal is tested; dross is removed and gold refined until it can reflect the image of the refiner. Trials can bring lasting benefits in moulding our character and increasing our dependence on Yahweh but they also have the potential of diverting our minds from Yahweh. We need to have the word of Yahweh as a buffer within us that will enable us to withstand the intense heat of fiery trials, reflect the beauty and glory of Yahweh and take our stand for Him.

Before the trials come we must be firmly decided in our minds that NOTHING shall separate us from the Messiah – no *“tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword”* – **NOTHING!** (Rom 8:35)

When Peter’s severest moment of testing came, He denied Yahshua. When Daniel and the Hebrew boys came face to face with death for their obedience to Yahweh, they chose to please Yahweh rather than an earthly sovereign. That is what trials are all about. Will you hold fast in the rain as well as in the sunshine? Will your conviction and commitment be washed away by the floods and be burned up by the heat? The answer will depend on what you have within you.

Stresses

Stress may be defined as the demand made on physical, mental or spiritual energy. Any weight-bearing device will collapse if more weight is applied to it than it was designed to carry. We ought to be careful as much as lies in our power to avoid putting unnecessary burdens on ourselves, but we cannot

isolate and insulate ourselves from all the perplexing pressures that will come our way.

The center of stress is within us. A problem that does not penetrate our defenses is manageable. When it gets to the core of our being, however, we may feel helpless, frustrated, irritated, angered, panic-stricken, anxious, aggrieved, self-pitying and revengeful, or any other component of a host of negative responses. Such reactions are evidences that the stress has hit and wounded us within.

What Can We Do?

If we feel inadequate to cope, but at the same time think that the resolution of a difficult problem is entirely dependent on our own strength, this only exacerbates and does not relieve the pressure placed upon us. On the other hand, it is not a normal natural reaction to respond to troubling experiences with tranquillity. When we are cut emotionally, we will bleed. Stresses cannot be ignored or wished away. The external difficulty may require to be tackled, but sometimes it cannot be changed—for example bereavement. At all times, our responses are to the predicament matter more than the circumstances themselves. In the same storm, the disciples panicked while Yahshua was asleep.

The believer’s situation does not need to be one of helplessness and hopelessness. The loins of our hearts and minds must be girded at all times with Yahweh’s words in advance of and especially during the pressures. Only the power of Yahweh’s word and Spirit in us will replace our deep-seated weaknesses with spiritual strength and equip us for unexpected struggles. Only His everlasting arms can carry us through difficult times. Only He can ease the pain, calm our fears and dry our tears.

With Him we can be strong in spite of our circumstances. We can draw upon supernatural divine help in times of need by looking up to Yahweh instead of looking out at our situation. The reality of and dependence on Yahweh’s abiding presence must be

greater than the intense heaviness we are experiencing.

The believer has the Burden Bearer who invites us to cast *"all [our] care upon Him, for He cares for [us]."* 1 Peter 5:7. When we do this, we, too, will experience that as the songwriters Ike Davis and Ray Heady wrote:

There is peace in the time of trouble
There is peace in the midst of the storm,
There is peace though the world be raging
In the shelter of His arms.

The Quiet Place

Just as a motor requires intervals of fuel and rest, we cannot function effectively if we overlook these basic physical and spiritual necessities. When these are neglected, tension is created; we overheat and will be burnt out, after displaying some undesirable qualities. Yahshua recognised this and has given us a good example that we must follow. He taught that *"men always ought to pray and not lose heart,"* Luke 18:1. In His ministry He was constantly giving of Himself to others, but He found the time to be alone from the thronging crowds or even His disciples in order to pray and re-connect with His Father. Mark records that *"in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed,"* Mark 1:35. On another occasion, after feeding the five thousand, He found a quiet place and prayed, *"When He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there,"* Matt 14:23.

Yahshua also encouraged His disciples to retreat and refresh themselves.

"He said to them, 'Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.' For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat," Mark 6:31.

Excessive pressures can cause us to neglect ourselves, furthering to increase our stresses and reduce our effectiveness. Like Yahshua, we must find the time to recharge our inner

batteries, as continuous output without input will eventually lead to emptiness. We cannot afford to be at a low level of spiritual energy. Do not ignore the signals of tension or tiredness. Resort to a quiet place where you can be alone and speak to our Father in secret and meditate upon His words,

"For thus says Yahweh Elohim, the Holy One of Israel: 'In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength,'" Isa 30:15.

Without this frequent connection we will not be able to meet the demanding challenges of life.

Even when we are resting in Yahweh, stresses will come into our lives and we will need to ensure that, like a soldier prepared for battle, we maintain a high level of spiritual fitness.

Faith Fitness

The natural cry when in distress is "I cannot cope." Here lies the problem and the solution. For as long as we think that we must carry these heavy burdens and can find no burden bearer, we will always be overwhelmed and crushed by the weight. This does not have to be the case for the person who really believes in Yahweh and Yahshua.

'Faith' is not synonymous with 'playing tough.' It is not about putting on a bold front. Who would have the strength, when shattered and battered by suffering, to make this effort? No, faith is not what you do or can do, but rather it is all about who Yahweh is, what He has done, and will do for you if you trust and obey Him. The Scripture teaches us *"he who comes to Yahweh must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him,"* Heb 11: 6.

The things you may need to do in order to relieve your situation can be beneficial only after you have built up an impregnable fortress of confidence in, and reliance on, Yahweh. Works of faith do not precede but come after faith in Yahweh is riveted in you. The application of knowledge cannot go before the acquisition of knowledge.

Long before the hammering blows of life strike, you must know and be confident beyond any doubt that

"The everlasting Elohim, Yahweh, The Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on Yahweh shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint," Isa 40:28-31.

This is a knowing faith—a deep-seated, unshakeable confidence in who Yahweh is. When we are absolutely and resolutely certain in our own minds of Yahweh's power, dependability, wisdom, and unfailing loving care and concern, we will trust Him through all circumstances of our lives.

Yahweh says to those who really know Him:

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

Promises like these must be immovably fixed in you and become part of your survival kit, which you instantly apply the moment fear approaches. It is of no use to pride yourself in knowing Scriptures if you do not apply them to your heart, mind and circumstances, but seek other solutions when in difficulty. You will need confidence to believe that even if the worst thing happened it would be for the best. Paul's shipwreck caused the evangel to get to Malta. Joseph rose from the pit, slavery and prison to the second highest position in Egypt. Lazarus' death was the gateway to his resurrection and the reason why *"Many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Yahshua did, believed in Him,"* John 11:45. You do not know Yahweh's plans for using your trying experiences. Look to Him and not at your circumstances. He knows best and is in control. Yahweh is ahead of every situation you face, and will bring glory to Himself every time. Trust Him.

Except you really believe in the ability, reliability and sovereignty of Yahweh, you are not prepared for troubles when they come. The believer's immediate response to any problem ought to be confidence in the One who has never lost and can never lose a battle.

It is possible for you to develop an unnatural courage when you know and have an intimate relationship with the Almighty One who takes on projects of all sizes. He who created the universe also feeds the sparrows and clothes the grass of the field. He cares for you and is by your side, to cushion each blow, and to say to you "I, Yahweh your Elohim, will hold your right hand, Saying to you, 'Fear not, I will help you'," Isa 41:13. These promises, however, will remain mere words until the truth of the meaning of who Yahweh is, takes hold of you and fills your innermost being.

Faith in Yahweh will cause you to commit your ways unto Him, knowing that He will direct your paths (Prov 3:6). Your storms in life will reveal how well you are resting in Yahweh. Remember, not only to keep Yahshua in the boat of your heart and mind, but to have also the confidence that because He is there you will survive the storm. All will be well.

When faith in Yahweh and His word gets into us before the stress, it activates an unwavering strength that dispels fear, hopelessness and gloom, for "Yahweh Elohim is a sun and shield; Yahweh will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly," Ps 84:11. This promise is only applicable if we are walking uprightly in obedience to Him.

Obedience

Faith is the uncompromising stubborn confidence that the everlasting sovereign Elohim whose name is Yahweh, will always be on our side, if we obey Him. Especially at times of greatest difficulties we need to know that Yahshua is our friend. Yahshua said "you are my friends if you do whatever I command you," John 15:14. But how can we know He is our friend and sing songs like, 'What a friend we have in Yahshua, all our sins and griefs to bear', when we doubt our relationship and question our obedience to Him? If we are not obeying Him, we have no reason to trust that He is our friend.

When the children of Israel disobeyed Yahweh, their enemies always troubled and defeated them. You cannot reduce your stress levels if you are thinking that the things you are going through are coming to you as a punishment for disobedience. You need to have that possibility out of the way by walking in His ways, obeying Him and drawing closer to Him. This is confirmed in 1John 3:22:

"Whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight."

When your communication lines to Yahweh are clear and your prayers are not hindered because of your iniquities

(Isa 59:2), you can have a firm trust in Him that He is on your side, and that His promises belong to you. This awareness will in itself relieve stress and will give you confidence during your troubles while you patiently await the unveiling of the 'good' that is intricately woven into the fabric of your distress. (Rom 8:28) But remember it all begins on the inside and depends on who and what fills your heart and mind.

Since we are in a battle, we must do what the general says, if we hope to be victorious. Soldiers who defy their commander's instructions are not confident in his leadership or of victory. We cannot expect to reap Yahweh's blessings when we do not do what He says. When we are in difficulties we desperately need to know that there is nothing we are doing to displease Him and that we are not reacting in the wrong manner to our circumstances.

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

Mini - Study 

Scripturally Clean Food

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

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

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

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

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

Good Nutrients Removed

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

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

Mini - Study 

Is That in the Bible?

When I was a boy, my family belonged to a large church denomination. I went faithfully with them to church every Sunday. In Sunday school class we studied church history and church doctrines. We were not encouraged to go very deeply into the Scriptures, but were expected to be content with the accepted church literature and the 20-minute sermons each week.

Yes, even at the young age of 12 there were questions that truly puzzled me. One that especially bothered me was this: how could the Savior be in the grave three days and three nights, as He promised in Matthew 12:40, if He were buried late Friday afternoon only to rise the following Sunday morning? I never was given a satisfactory answer.

My sister was struggling with another problem. If Sunday is the Sabbath (Biblically the 7th), as the church taught, then why did her wall calendar show that Sunday as the 1st day of the week?

My parents had been struggling with these and other inconsistencies between what the denominational was teaching and what the Bible plainly said. They brought these questions to the attention of Wednesday night Bible studies. He no doubt was hoping they would stop raising all these discrepancies that he was having such a difficult time explaining.

We eventually left the church and finally found the answers to our questions after a long search and thorough study of the Scriptures.

Maybe you, too, are bothered by certain teachings that just don't harmonize with Scripture, or even contradict what you read in the Bible. No one you ask seems to have the answers. Your members' best responses were only half right and difficult to prove from the Word. You are left with nagging doubts.

Rest assured that you aren't alone. Many anxious seekers of truth are wrestling with the same dilemma. Much of what is passed off as Scriptural is, in fact, a gradual development from centuries of human tradition and not what the Bible teaches at all. The Apostle, not to mention the Savior Himself, would be shocked to see how few clear statements have been retained in His tradition.

The "faith once delivered to the saints," spoken of in Jude 3, is quite different from what is preached today. Jude speaks of a small number adhering to the true faith in those latter days. The majority of churches had been teaching correct doctrine, then this prophetic verse would be unnecessary! Yet the Scripture says the true faith would be taught and established again just before the

Obedience and trust take time to be developed in us. We cannot reap from trees on the day their seeds were first planted. We cannot handle the stresses that come our way if we have not developed a confidence in Yahweh to assist us, and an assurance that we are in a close relationship with Him.

Our Weaknesses

In addition to sin, trials and stresses, the believer can be hampered by their own inherent weaknesses. You may for example be of a nervous disposition, and easily frightened and overwhelmed by anything that is beyond your control; or, you could be quickly angered when frustrated; or, you may be of a hasty or restless nature. These and many other shortcomings will always make you vulnerable to attack. What is more you will find that you keep on getting more similar testing experiences that expose and exploit your weaknesses. Your weaknesses, like a light substance in water, will be the first to rise to the surface and manifest itself. This is serious, as you will never make real spiritual progress while they remain with the potential of diverting your focus on Yahweh, disrupting your relationship with Him and your service for Him. It is vitally necessary for your sanity and spiritual survival that these enemies within are dealt with and destroyed. They can and will be smashed by the power of Yahweh's Spirit, when you continually yield yourself to Yahweh, trusting and obeying Him and praying unceasingly with a determination that these things will no longer have dominion over you.

It will take some time. Habits and characteristics developed over a lifetime are not instantly removed by one resolution. But if you admit the weakness, confess it to Yahweh, earnestly desire its removal, and use the tools Yahweh has provided, it will go.

"If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you," Matt 17:20.

Be assured by the large number of Yahweh's commands to *"be strong"* that He does not want us to be hindered by our shortcomings. It is His will for these hindrances to our growth to be removed so that we will be transformed more into the image of Yahshua. Your mountain of weaknesses will have to go! Ask and keep on asking, knock and keep on knocking and as long as your faith and determination do not waver that stubborn door will have to budge. You WILL become strong where you were once weak. Your day WILL come when you will recognise the tests before they cause the old familiar responses. Like Paul you WILL be able to say: *"Thanks be to Yahweh, who gives [me] the victory through our Saviour Yahshua the Messiah,"* 1Cor 15:57.

Summary and Conclusion

The battlefield is not your circumstances, however severe they may seem to be. It is in your heart and mind. That is where the enemy attacks. That is what you must defend, and that is where you must be victorious. From the overflow of your heart you speak, act and react. Start with Yahweh's help to uproot the weeds and plant the seeds of His word in your heart and mind. Every testing is an opportunity to demonstrate what is within you. Make sure it reveals more and more of Yahweh.

Inner strength is paramount. All entrances to your heart and mind must be always protected (for example your eyes, ears, touch, appetites and emotions), with the knowledge and application of the word (the sword) of Yahweh. Yahshua has given us the supreme example of how to cope with the enemy, in whatever form he, she or it may come. He had the word of Yahweh. Be diligent to use it and you, too, will be strong and victorious. Let the word stand like a watchman at every possible entry to your heart.

The Bible has given us all the equipment we need for battle, and what is more the battle is already won through the work of Yahshua. By faith believe this: be strong and courageous.

Yahweh has planned no defeats for you. You are without excuse for fear or failure.

"No weapon formed against you [externally or internally] shall prosper;:" Isa 54:1.

"You are of Yahweh, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world," 1John 4:4.

When your responses to temptations, fiery trials, stresses, and innate weaknesses appear like Goliaths threatening to defeat you and rob you of your freedom in Yahweh, do not give in, give up, or be intimidated. Filled with Yahweh's word and His Spirit, say to your weak will that is ready to yield "be strong!" Defy that insubordinate nature. Advance toward it. Let Yahweh's cause burn passionately and His Spirit rise up within you like a sling to propel the three stones - the word, prayer and faith in Yahweh - to their target. Do not attempt to fight spiritual battles with carnal weaponry. You will be defeated every time. Do not give the foe space or time to gain ground. Deny that mean, threatening monster the first strike at your heart. Get in there first, equipped with the word, prayer and a resolute faith in, and obedience to, Yahweh. Advance, release the darts and witness the victory, for the battle is not yours but Yahweh's. Apply this every time the wrong attitudes or reactions want to manifest themselves. Accept no defeats or compromises, for *"Yahweh your Elohim will deliver [the enemy] over to you, and will inflict defeat upon them until they are destroyed,"* Deut 7:23. Finally, trample the thing that seemed so daunting, and wave its severed powerless head in jubilation and thanksgiving to Yahweh who alone has caused you to triumph!

Elder Buel Hallpike



Barley

the First Harvest Season

Each spring those living in the Northern Hemisphere look forward with eager anticipation to the warming sun and the coming growing season.

To sincere Bible students, spring brings to mind much more, however. Spring means the month of Abib (meaning “green ears”), heralding the beginning of the new year, Ex. 12:2. Life starts anew with the warming sun and longer days.

Barley, which has been planted in the fall, responds quickly. It will be one of the first cereal crops to be harvested. Wheat will follow some seven weeks later.

True Bible-believers cannot help seeing the correlation between the earth’s coming to life after a dormant winter and the rejuvenation of our spiritual growth which we renew each spring at Passover.

Feasts for the Truly Obedient

In Yahweh’s wisdom, He has given us seven annual holy times to remind us just why we were born. These annual Sabbaths also bring us into a closer spiritual relationship with Yahweh and the working out of His purpose here on earth.

A deeper, blessed spiritual experience is ours as we participate in the commanded Feast Days given us in the pages of the Bible. These Feast Days were in existence and given long before Moses, being observed back in Genesis, as we will show.

Passover is fairly well known to Bible readers. It took place when the Israelites were slaves of the Egyptians, and it was the final plague whereby Pharaoh let Israel go. Passover occurred in the midst of the Egyptians, which is a type of the world. All other convocations took place outside of Egypt.

The lambs were killed; the blood was sprinkled upon the doorposts and lintels of the houses; and the flesh was eaten with unleavened bread and shared among the family of believers.

Passover is still observed by Jews around the world. However, they do not slay a lamb, for there is neither a temple nor an altar upon which this can be done. Because they rejected Yahshua’s sacrifice, the Jews have no sacrifice, no blood atonement, and no real Passover. There are the unleavened cakes, the herbs, the drink, but the Passover lamb is not present.

The Jews also practice reclining on couches, the white gown (kittel) and the four cups of wine which they have added – all are the “commandments of men.”

The Passover was taught to the patriarchs long before the Messiah’s day, and can be seen after Adam and his progeny were barred from Eden. Notice Genesis 4:3,

And in the process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto Yahweh. The Hebrew reads, “at the end of days.”

Thus, Cain and Abel were counting days and Cain brought an offering of his crops, the fruit of the ground. Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock.

It has been pointed out that Cain brought of the Tabernacles offering and his offering was rejected. Abel brought an offering of the flock (Passover lamb) and his was accepted. They both apparently brought their offering at the same time.

Abel’s was the proper offering; he came through the blood of the lamb. Cain brought of the labors of his hands, the fruit of the land, which was the wrong offering at the wrong time.

The lesson is, we cannot approach Yahweh through our own works, our own ideas. We come through the atoning work of the Redeemer of Israel, the Lamb of Yahweh which takes away the sins of the world, John 1:29. Abel brought a sacrifice of a lamb, and Hebrews 9:22 tells us, “without the shedding of blood there is no remission” of sins. Cain, by his own reasoning, brought the works of his hands, and it was rejected.

Jude 11 indicates that Cain's religion is man's natural religion, which Yahweh condemns, while Abel brought the firstlings, and the fattest ones, too (margin).

Passover is mentioned in Leviticus 23 along with the seven annual festivals. It is to be kept annually, at the beginning of the year (Ex. 12:2), which is in the spring, usually March or April. Deuteronomy 16:1 commands us to keep the month of Abib, meaning "green ears" (of grain).

The Messiah kept all of Yahweh's laws perfectly, which included the Passover and all other annual Sabbaths. We read in Matthew 26:17-19, Mark 14:12-18 and Luke 22:8-15 that Yahshua desired to keep "the Passover at your house with My disciples."

Matthew 26:26-29 shows that He did indeed keep the Passover with unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine. He said He would drink of the fruit of the vine new with the disciples in the Father's Kingdom. He Himself was offered as the "Passover Lamb."

Beware of Imitations

There is no Biblical precedent for taking the fruit of the vine and the unleavened bread at any other time than the time of the Passover. Those who partake of the so-called "eucharist," "mass," or "L-rd's Supper" are not abiding within Scripture.

Some even take what they call "the L-rd's Supper" in the morning before or after breakfast! The only Passover memorial authorized in Scripture is to be taken after sunset as the 14th of Abib begins.

To take this "memorial supper" every three months, monthly, every Sunday or daily is unbiblical and not sanctioned by Yahweh, thus doing violence to the Scriptures. We are told in the Bible to partake of these emblems at the time of Passover, in the spring of the year, which is when our Savior gave us the example – "the same night in which he was betrayed."

There is a passage which is supposed justification for partaking of "the cup and the

bread" at one's inclination. The portion reads as follows:

... this do as oft as you drink it in remembrance of Me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you do show the Master's death until He comes, I Corinthians 11:25b, 26.

Other translations read differently, instead of "oft" and "often," **whenever** is used. In no way does it mean to partake of it whenever we **please!** If we are told, "Be sure to serve turkey whenever you observe Thanksgiving," are we free to observe the Thanksgiving holiday monthly, weekly or daily? Passover is observed at a specific time of year, as stipulated in the law (Ex. 12, Lev. 23 and Deut. 16).

In the New Covenant era we do not sacrifice a lamb when we partake of Passover. Paul shows in I Corinthians 5:6-7 that the Messiah is considered the Passover Lamb for us.

In the original Passover observance there was no mention of drinking of wine in the law of Yahweh. The morsel of unleavened bread signifies Yahshua's body. The partaking of the cup signifies His blood. Nowhere in the Bible is the cup said to contain wine. The Savior called it "the fruit of the vine," thus it could not have been water. It was the *gehnama* (Strong's #1081) meaning product of the grape that could be drunk, the squeezed-out juice.

Paul Observed Passover

Passover from early Bible times looked forward to the greater Passover Lamb, our Savior who was to die for the sins of the world. We are to remember His death by observing the Passover. Then follow with the seven days of Unleavened Bread.

Notice that Paul kept the Passover. He was of the tribe of Benjamin, a Pharisee. He was the Apostle to the Gentiles, and he taught them to observe what are erroneously called the "Feasts of the Jews."

Corinth was a metropolitan community, quite Hellenistic, and a crossroads of trade and commerce. If Passover and Unleavened Bread were done away, why did Paul write to the Corinthians,

*Purge out therefore the old leaven that you may be a new lump as you are unleavened. For even the Messiah our Passover is sacrificed for us. Therefore **let us keep the feast...***, I Corinthians 5:7-8?

Why would Paul write to the Corinthian brethren about Yahshua being the Passover Lamb if these days were done away at Yahshua's death and not necessary for Gentiles? Why did he further say, "Let us keep the feast!"?

Obviously these feast days were still obligatory some 25 years after the death and resurrection of the Savior. And the record is preserved in the Bible for you and me to follow in our days as well.

We know that the Savior told the disciples, "This do in remembrance of Me," Luke 22:19. He also promised He would partake of the Passover anew in the Father's Kingdom, Matthew 26:29. Leviticus 23:14 says this is a statute forever, throughout **all** generations.

We show our love for the Savior when we keep His commandments, John 14:21.

Biblical Holy Days
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Biblical Holy Days

January 1998 Edition

Elder Donald R. Mansager



Easter

Traditions

The internet has an abundant supply of websites to go to find out (1) the origin of Easter, (2) how to date Easter, (3) the traditions associated with Easter, and (4) its association with Passover. Anything appearing here without a direct reference noted comes off the internet when using a search engine, with Sacred Names used in place of pagan ones.

The Name Easter

From an article by Larry Boemler "Asterah and Easter," Biblical Archaeology Review, Vol. 18, Number 3, 1992 – May/June, the following appeared:

"The name "Easter" originated with the names of an ancient Goddess and God. The Venerable Bede (672-735 CE.), a Christian scholar, first asserted in his book *De Ratione Temporum* that Easter was named after Eostre (a.k.a. Eastre). She was the Great Mother Goddess of the Saxon people in Northern Europe. Similarity, The "Teutonic dawn goddess of fertility [was] known variously as Ostare, Ostara, Ostern, Eostra, Eostre, Eostur, Eastr, Eastur, Astron and Ausos." Her name was derived from the ancient word for spring: "eastre." Similar Goddesses were known by other names in ancient cultures around the Mediterranean, and were celebrated in the springtime. Some were:

1. Aphrodite from ancient Cyprus,
2. Ashtoreth from ancient Israel,
3. Astarte from ancient Greece,
4. Demeter from Mycenae,
5. Hathor from ancient Egypt,
6. Ishtar from Assyria,
7. Kali from India, and
8. Ostara a Norse Goddess of fertility.

An alternate explanation has been suggested. The name given by the Frankish church to [Yahshua's] resurrection festival included the Latin word "alba" which

means "white." (This was as reference to the white robes that were worn during the festival.)

Pagan Origins of Easter

Many, perhaps most, pagan religions in the Mediterranean area had a major seasonal day of religious celebration at or following the spring equinox. Cybele, the Phrygian fertility goddess, had a fictional consort who was believed to have been born via a virgin birth. He was Attis, who was believed to have died and been resurrected each year during the period March 22 to March 25. "About 200 B.C. mystery clubs began to appear in Rome just as they had earlier in Greece. Most notable was the Cybele cult centered on Vatican hill ...Associated with the Cybele cult was that of her lover, Attis (the older Tammuz, Osiris, Dionysus, or Orpheus under a new name). He was a god of every-reviving vegetation. Born of a virgin, he died and was reborn annually. The festival began as a day of blood on black Friday and culminated after three days in a day of rejoicing over the resurrection." (Gerald L. Berry, "Religions of the World," Barnes & Noble, (1956).)

Wherever Christian worship of our Savior and pagan worship of Attis were active in the same geographical area in ancient times, Christians "used to celebrate the death and resurrection of our Savior on the same date and pagans and Christians used to quarrel bitterly about which of their gods was the true prototype and which the imitation."

Many religious historians believe that the death and resurrection legends were first associated with Attis, many centuries before the birth of [Yahshua]. They were simply grafted onto stories of [Yahshua's] life in order to make Christian theology more acceptable to pagans. Others suggest that many of the events of [Yahshua's] life that were recorded in the gospels were lifted from the life of Krishna, the second person of the Hindu trinity. Ancient Christians have an alternative explanation; they claimed

that Satan had created counterfeit deities in advance of the coming of [the Messiah] in order to confuse humanity. (J. Farrar & S. Farrar, "Eight Sabbats for Witches," Phoenix, Custer, WA, (1988).) Modern-day Christians generally regard the Attis legend as being a pagan myth of little value. They regard [Yahshua's] death and resurrection account as being true, and unrelated to the earlier tradition.

Spring Equinox, Pagan Celebrations and Easter

Since the worship of the before mentioned Cybele, the Phrygian fertility goddess, was brought to Rome in 204 BCE, about 250 years before Christianity, it is obvious that if any copying occurred, it was the Christians that copied the traditions of the pagans.

Among the Roman Catholic church and Protestant denominations, Easter Sunday falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after March 20, the nominal date of the Spring Equinox. Its ancient linkages to sun and moon worship are obvious. Many sources incorrectly state that the starting date of the calculation is the actual day of the Equinox rather than the nominal date of March 20. Other sources use an incorrect reference date of March 21. Easter Sunday can fall on any date from March 22 to April 25.

The year-to-year sequence is so complicated that it takes 5.7 million years to repeat. Eastern Orthodox churches sometimes celebrate Easter on the same day as the Roman Catholic and Protestants. However, if that date does not follow Passover, then the Orthodox churches delay their Easter – sometimes by over a month.

Ancient and Modern Spring Celebrations

Ancient Britain

Both the solstices and equinoxes "were the highly sophisticated preoccupation of the mysterious Megalithic peoples who pre-dated Celt, Roman and Saxon on Europe's Atlantic fringe by thousands of years." The

equinoxes were not otherwise celebrated in ancient Britain until recent years.

Ancient Ireland

The spring and fall equinox were celebrated in ancient times. A cluster of megalithic cairns are scattered through the hills at Loughcrew, about 55 miles northwest of Dublin in Ireland. Loughcrew Carin T is a passage tomb which is designated so that the light from the rising sun on the spring and summer equinoxes penetrates a long corridor and illuminates a backstone, which is decorated with astronomical symbols.

Ancient Germans

Ostara, the Germanic fertility Goddess, was associated with human and crop fertility. On the spring equinox, she mated with the solar god and conceived a child that would be born 9 months later on Dec-21: Yule, the winter solstice.

Ancient Mayans

The indigenous Mayan people in Central America have celebrated a spring equinox festival for ten centuries. As the sun sets on the day of the equinox on the great ceremonial pyramid, El Castillo, Mexico, its "western face...is bathed in the late afternoon sunlight. The lengthening shadows appear to run from the top of the pyramid's northern staircase to the bottom, giving the illusion of a diamond-backed snake in descent." This has been called "The return of the Sun Serpent" since ancient times.

Ancient Greeks

The god-man Dionysos was a major deity among the ancient Greeks. "As a god of the spring rites, of the flowering plants and fruitful vines, Dionysos was said to be in terrible pain during winter, when most living things sicken and die, or hibernate." Persephone, a daughter of Demeter, descended into the Otherworld and returned near the time of the spring equinox. This story has close parallels to various Goddess legends, stories

of the life of King Arthur, and of [Yahshua Messiah].

Ancient Persia

ZOROASTRIANISM: Various ancient civilizations (Mesopotamia, Sumeria, Babylonia, Elam) circa 3000 to 2000 BCE celebrated new years at the time of the spring equinox. "No Rus," the new day or New Year has been celebrated in the area of modern-day Iran since the Achaemenian (Hakhamaneshi) period over 2500 years ago. It survived because of Zoroastrianism which was the religion of Ancient Persia before the advent of Islam 1400 years ago. Many religious historians trace the Judeo-Christian concepts of Hell, Heaven, Resurrection, the arrival of the Messiah, and the last judgment to Zoroastrianism. In that faith, the "Lord of Wisdom created all that was good and became God. The Hostile Spirit, Angra Mainyu (Ahriman), residing in the eternal darkness created all that was bad and became the Hostile Spirit." This dualistic God/Satan concept is surprisingly close to the views of conservative Christianity today.

Ancient Romans

In "about 200 B.C., mystery cults began to appear in Rome just as they had earlier in Greece. Most notable was the Cybele cult centered on Vatican hill...Associated with the Cybele cult was that of her lover, Attis (the older Tammuz, Osiris, Dionysus, or Orpheus under a new name)...The festival began as a day of blood on Black Friday and culminated after three days in a day of rejoicing over the resurrection." Attis was born of a human woman, a virgin named Nana. He "grew up to become a sacrificial victim and Savior, slain to bring salvation to mankind. His body was eaten by his worshipers in the form of bread...[He was] crucified on a pine tree, whence his hold blood poured down to redeem the earth." (B. G. Walker, "The Woman's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets," Harper & Row, San Francisco DA (1983), pages 77

to 79.) The celebration was held on Mar 25, 9 months before his birth on Dec 25. In Rome, the rituals took place where St. Peter's now stands in Vatican City. (Janet & Stewart Farrar, "Eight Sabbats for Witches," Phoenix Publishing, (1981), page 14; pages 72 to 79.) The similarities between the stories of Attis and [Yahshua] are obvious.

Ancient Saxons

Eostre was the Saxon version of the Germanic lunar goddess Ostara. She gave her name to the Christian Easter and to the female hormone estrogen. Her feast day was held on the full moon following the vernal equinox – almost the identical calculation as for the Christian Easter in the west. One delightful legend associated with Eostre was that she found an injured bird on the ground one winter. To save its life, she transformed it into a hare. But *"the transformation was not a complete one. The bird took the appearance of a hare but retained the ability to lay eggs. ...the hare would decorate these eggs and leave them as gifts to Eostre."*

Baha'i Faith

Naw-Ruz is an ancient Iranian New years day festival which occurs near the Spring Equinox. It is now a world holiday of the Baha'i faith. If the equinox occurs before sunset, then New Year's Day is celebrated on that day in the Middle East; otherwise it is delayed until the following day. In the rest of the world, it is always on Mar-21. It is celebrated with many symbols indicating regrowth and renewal – much like the Christian Easter.

Christianity

The record of the Roman Army's execution date of [Yahshua] of Nazareth (later

known as Jesus Christ) has been lost. Dates linked to the Jewish Passover celebration in the years 29 to 33 CE have been suggested. Easter commemorates [Yahshua's] execution, visit to Hell, and resurrection. Easter Sunday is a moveable holy day, being celebrated from late March to late April. It is named after the *"Teutonic goddess Eostre, whose name is probably yet another variant of Istar, Astarte and Aset..."* (Janet and Stewart Farrar, "Eight Sabbats for Witches," Phoenix Publishing, (1981), page 14; pages 72 to 79.)

Judaism

"In its origin, the Passover dinner itself was a spring fertility festival – the unleavened bread coming from the agricultural past of the people and the paschal lamb from its more distant pastoral years."

Easter Traditions

Traditions associated with the festival survive in the Easter rabbit, a symbol of fertility, and in colored Easter eggs, originally painted with bright colors to represent the sunlight of spring and used in Easter-egg rolling contests or given as gifts.

The Christian celebration of Easter embodies a number of traditions with emphasis on the relation of Easter to the Jewish festival of Passover, or Pesach, from which is derived Pasch, another name used by Europeans for Easter. After Passover is an important feast in the Jewish calendar, which is celebrated for 7 days and commemorates the flight and freedom of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

Easter is observed by the churches of the West on the first Sunday following the full moon that occurs on or following the spring equinox (March 21). So Easter became a 'movable' feast, which can occur as early as March 22 or as late as April 25.

Christian churches in the East, which were closer to the birthplace of the new religion and in which old traditions were strong, observe Easter according to the date of the Passover festival.

Easter is at the end of the Lenten season, which covers a forty-six-day period that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter. The Lenten season itself comprises forty days, as the six Sundays in Lent are not actually a part of Lent. Sundays are considered a commemoration of Easter Sunday and have always been excluded from the Lenten fast. The Lenten season is a period of penitence in preparation for the highest festival of the church year, Easter Holy Week, the last week of Lent, which begins with the observance of Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday takes its name from Yahshua's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, where the crowds laid the branches

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

Our Savior Spoke the Sacred Name

“ יְהוָה ”

from palm trees at His feet. Holy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper, which was held the evening before the Crucifixion. Friday, in the Holy Week, is the anniversary of the Crucifixion, the day that the Messiah was crucified and died on the [stake].

Christian tradition indicate that the Holy week and the Lenten season end with Easter Sunday, the day celebrated as the resurrection of Messiah Yahshua.

One big question needs to be answered: "Does the Bible instruct us to observe Ash Wednesday, the forty-six days of Lent, Holy Week, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday?" Are these days spoken of in the Bible as days of religious worship by Yahweh's people? Or, are these days and events borrowed from springtime pagan events that Yahweh actually condemns in the Bible? Read on!!!

Easter Eggs

While the gaily-colored cardboard ones and rich chocolate ones that some enjoy are quite recent in origin, the real egg, decorated with colors or gilt, has been acknowledged as a symbol of continuing life and resurrection since pre-Christian spring celebrations.

"History records that eggs were given as gifts by the ancient Greeks, Persians, and Chinese at their spring festivals. The egg also appears in pagan mythology, where we read of the SunBird being hatched from the World Egg. In some pagan customs the Heaven and Earth were thought to have been formed from two halves of an egg. As the egg was an obvious symbol to early Christians of [Yahshua's] resurrection, it was felt to be a most appropriate and holy part of the Eastertide celebration. Even as early as the Middle Ages, eggs were colored to be given as gifts at Easter. In the 17th century, Pope Paul V blessed the humble egg in a prayer to be used in England, Scotland, and Ireland: 'Bless, O L-rd, we beseech Thee, this Thy creature of eggs, that it may become a wholesome sustenance to Thy faithful servants, eating in thankfulness

to Thee, on account of the Resurrection of Our L-rd.' Forbidden during the solemn fast of Lent, eggs were reintroduced on Easter Sunday, both as part of the feasting and as gifts for family, friends, and servants." (Anonymous 1913)

We now hear of many accounts where notable figures have introduced having annual Easteregg hunts, where children scramble to get as many colored eggs as possible to gain some insignificant prize.

Hot Cross Buns

On the first day of Lent, and during the six weeks that follow, many bakeries and homes bake hot cross buns. They are generally only served during the Lenten season, preserving their Christian significance. Yet, they are probably the outgrowth of the ancient pagan sacramental cakes eaten by Anglo-Saxons in honor of their goddess "Eastore." Supposedly, the early clergy tried to stop the use of the sacramental cakes but as they could not, they gave them Christian meaning by blessing them and decorating them with the cross. The Italian Tortona is a twist of dough baked around a colored egg. Similar breads are found in many other countries.

Easter Bunnies

"As one of the nation's largest ethnic group, German Americans have deeply

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influenced the culture of the United States. Many examples of this influence are now considered basic ingredients of American life. The celebration of Christmas in the United States, for example, reflects German Christmas customs. German Americans introduced Christmas trees and gift giving. A German American artist, Thomas Nast, created the traditional image of Santa Claus. German Americans also introduced the Easter Bunny." ("German Americans", Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2000)

Easter Bonfires

"In ancient Greece the deities of the sun were Helios and Apollo. The worship of Helios was widespread; temples were built in Corinth, Argos, Troezen (no longer in existence), and many other cities, but the principal seat was on the island of Rhodes, in the Dodecanese, where four white horses were sacrificed annually to the god. A similar sacrifice was offered on the summit of Mount Hagios Elias, in the Taiyetos Mountains, in Laconia. In time virtually all the functions of Helios were transferred to the god Apollo, in his identity as Phoebus. Sun worship persisted in Europe even after the introduction of Christianity, as is evidenced by its disguised survival in such traditional Christian practices as the Easter bonfire and the Yule log on Christmas." ("Sun Worship", Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2000)

What Say You?

Now that you have read many ideas concerning the false and pagan background of celebrating Easter, are you willing to believe the Scriptures and follow the truths given to us in those Scriptures? Study the Scriptures because what is contained in the Scriptures will set you free.

Elder Roger G. Meyer

QUESTION & ANSWER

Q Is it okay to travel on Sabbath? What about the Sabbath day's journey in Acts 1:12?

A In the Greek, Acts 1:12 literally reads, "having a Sabbath's way." The expression "Sabbath's day's journey" springs from rabbinical usage to indicate the distance a Jew might travel on the Sabbath without transgressing the Sabbath commandment.

It was about three-fifths of a mile, roughly the distance from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem, as in Acts 1: 12. The rabbis based it on Joshua 3:4, the distance between the tents of Israel and the Ark in the wilderness or 2,000 cubits-the allowable distance Israel would travel to worship at the tabernacles.

Soon, some found a way to increase the distance by depositing food at the 2,000-cubit limit before the Sabbath, and declaring that new point a "temporary domicile." They could then proceed another 2,000 cubits beyond this point without breaking the law.

Others went further. If one were on a trip, just prior to the Sabbath one could declare a tree or other distant point a temporary domicile and could then venture 2,000 cubits beyond that. Another scheme was to declare a whole town as a domicile and therefore one could venture 2,000 cubits beyond the town on the Sabbath and still be within the law.

As in other areas of obedience, keeping the spirit of the law is what truly counts. No sooner do we impose limits than the mind of man creates a way to circumvent them. The Sabbath is to be a time when we focus on our Heavenly Father and not to work, seek our own pleasure or speak our own words. It is devoted to worship. Traveling for business or vacation on the Sabbath day would violate the spirit of the Sabbath law. Traveling to Sabbath worship services on the Sabbath would not. But in doing so we should also avoid buying gasoline or food, Nehemiah 10:31.

Q I have never quite felt right about going out to eat on the Sabbath with my church friends. Does the Bible allow doing such business on the Sabbath day?

A Notice what the nation of Judah vowed to do once they returned to True Worship of Yahweh under Nehemiah:

"They clave to their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse, and into an oath, to walk in Yahweh's

law, which was given by Moses the servant of Elohim, and to observe and do all the commandments of Yahweh our Yahweh, and his judgments and His statutes; And that we would not give our daughters unto the people of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons: And if the people of the land bring ware or victuals [food] on the Sabbath day to sell, that we would not buy it of them on the Sabbath, or on the holy day..." Nehemiah 10:29-31.

Later Nehemiah had to deal with some backsliders in Judah who broke Yahweh's laws by conducting such business on the Sabbath. *"In those days I saw in Judah some treading wine presses on the Sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses; as also wines, grapes, figs, and all manner of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day: and I testified against them in the day wherein they sold victuals [food]. There dwelt men of Tyre also therein, which brought fish, and all manner of ware, and sold on the Sabbath unto the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem. Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them, 'What thing is this that you do, and PROFANE the Sabbath day?'" (Nehemiah 13:15-17)* In the rest of the account we find that Nehemiah threatened the merchants with physical action if they came again to Jerusalem to sell to Judah on the Sabbath. So they came no more on the Sabbath.

Yahshua had to contend as well with the merchants who were buying and selling in the Temple (Mark 11:15-16). Although this was probably not on the Sabbath, the desecration of what was considered a sanctified place is a direct parallel to defiling through worldly business the Sabbath day that is also sanctified.

In the NIV Study Bible note on Mark 11:17 we read, *"Isa. 56:7 assured [righteous] non-Jews that they would be allowed to worship [Yahweh] in the temple. By allowing the court of the Gentiles to become a noisy, smelly marketplace, the Jewish religious leaders were interfering with [Yahweh's] provision. 'A den of robbers': Not only because they took financial advantage of the people but because they robbed the temple of its sanctity."*

When we do business on Yahweh's holy Sabbath, we also rob his worship day of its sanctity and violate the Fourth Commandment that sets this day apart from a normal day of work and worldly endeavors. We are also prohibited from doing our own pleasure on the Sabbath, which going to restaurants would violate as well, and force our culinary "servant" to work for us on Yahweh's rest day.

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