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Yes, when does a day begin?

At sunset, at sunrise, at midnight?

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Lesson From King Saul

Don't Go Along With Negative Changes

A Guide To The Truths Of Scripture

YAIY

July-August 2007



Beacon



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MISSION
STATEMENT

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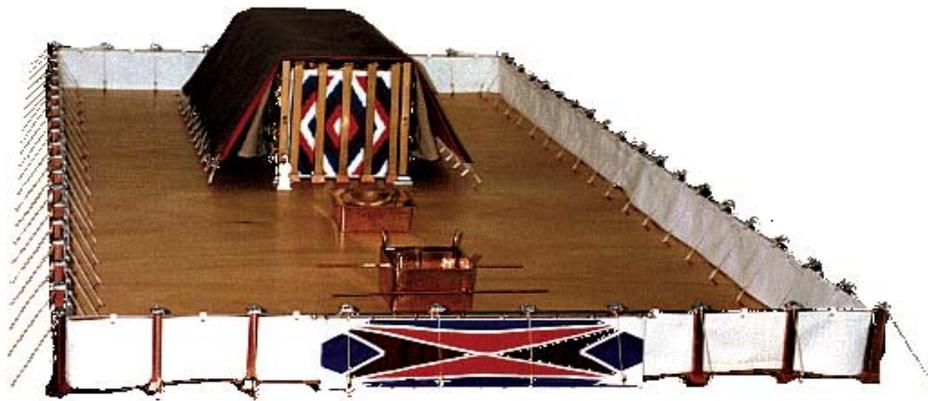


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A sample miniature of a tabernacle corresponding to the tabernacle which the Israelites carried with them during their 40 year trek through the wilderness. It should act as a reminder that we are to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. Don't forget to send in your reservation form to YAIY for the Feast of Tabernacles 2007 near St. Claire, MO. If you haven't received a reservation form, contact YAIY today. Don't delay.

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

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



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



Fax:
573-642-4104



Email:
beacon@yaiy.org



Internet:
www.yaiy.org

Cover: setting sun



A Guide to the Truths of Scripture

One morning as I was waking up, I was somehow imagining giving colleagues at work a gift as a way of bringing to their awareness the beginning of Yahweh's beginning of months. In years past, I've entertained the thought of making up a basket of items to give to people I know before Passover and Unleavened Bread in order to bring Yahweh's ways into their awareness. The basket might have included a small box of matzos or a bundle of homemade unleavened bread, a small bottle of grape juice, a bottle of water, a washrag (you know, for a ready-made foot-washing) and a small stuffed lamb plus some other stuff. But, I've never acted on it, questioning whether or not it was appropriate, beneficial or even if it would be in keeping with what Yahweh would have me do.

One of my fellow social workers gave me a present a couple of months ago, in spite of the fact that she knows that I don't celebrate Christmas – and furthermore she understands WHY I don't celebrate it. Nevertheless, because she and I have had a number of discussions about Scripture while eating lunch in the break room, she gave me a book of daily Scripture and commentary that focused on how to apply the Scripture to one's life. I accepted the book, telling her that I am not accepting this as a Christmas present, but to honor the fact that she was aware of my devotion to Scripture and to its Author. She accepted that. And, of course, I had fun reading the commentary ... and editing the writer's comments, injecting notes as if I were actually speaking to the author and suggesting alternate understandings of what the Word of Yahweh says.

So, this heightened my interest in giving friends or colleagues a gift that would, in some way, honor Yahweh. It then struck me that the best "gift" that one could give would be the knowledge that is contained in Scripture; and I thought of giving a Bible, but not just a Bible, but a Bible that pointed the way, so to speak. I thought, "Why not give people a Bible that is highlighted with notes written in the margins as a tour through it, beginning at Genesis 1, with instructions about where to look next ... a kind of a "Guide to the Truths of Scripture ... with commentary." So, here is the progression of verses that I would mark in such a Bible.

In the Beginning

In the beginning Elohim created the heavens and the earth, Genesis 1:1 NKJV.

I would write a note in the margin explaining that the title G-o-d is the English translation of the original Hebrew title *Elohim*, meaning "Mighty Ones" or "Almighty," which explains why the Scripture says,

Then Elohim said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness," Genesis 1:26.

In the margin, I would note: "Who is the Scripture referring to, when it says, 'Our image according to Our likeness'?" I would then direct the reader to Proverbs 30:4, *Who has ascended to heaven and come down? Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has wrapped up the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is His Son's name? Surely you know! (RSV)*

What is the Father's Name?

The commentary here would read, "**So, what IS the name of the Father?**" The reader would be directed to read Exodus 3:13-15,

Moses said to Elohim, "Suppose I go to the Israelites [back in Egypt] and say to them, 'The Elohim of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is His name?' Then what shall I tell them?" Elohim said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" Elohim also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'Yahweh, the Elohim of your fathers – the Elohim of Abraham, the Elohim of Isaac and the Elohim of Jacob – has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation," (NIV)

The commentary here would read, "The Angel of Yahweh [see verse 2], speaking as Elohim, told Moses that His Name is 'I AM.' In Hebrew, 'I Am' is the word *h'Yah*." It is interesting that the English translators chose to "define" His Name here, instead of "transliterating" it, like every other name in Scripture. In the Hebrew text and to the Hebrew ear, there is no definition here. To someone fluent in Hebrew, it says, "Say to the Israelites that *h'Yah* has sent you."

In verse 15, the Angel of Yahweh says, "This is My Name ... forever." This Messenger comes to Moses "in the name of Yah." Notice that "Elohim," the Messenger, is speaking to Moses and uses the full name of The Creator, Yahweh. He tells Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'Yahweh, the Elohim

of your fathers – the Elohim of Abraham, the Elohim of Isaac and the Elohim of Jacob – has sent me to you.”

Here is written the full name of *Yahweh*, comprised of two Hebrew words, *hayah* and *haweh*. *Hayah* (#1961) means to exist, to be, to become, to come or bring to pass; and *haweh* (#1933) means to breathe or to be (in the sense of existence). Considering this, the name of the Creator, *Yahweh*, carries with it the meaning, “He who breathes existence into being.” Our existence as human “beings” is ONLY by the will of our Heavenly Father, whose name is *Yahweh*,

This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that Yahweh Elohim made the earth and the heavens, Genesis 2:4.

Here is another verse that is amazing in this context:

And Yahweh Elohim formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul, Genesis 2:7.

Names Have Meanings

Isn't it awe-inspiring to understand the meaning of Hebrew names? Think about this: What if the translators defined **every** name in the Bible instead of transliterating them?

“It came to pass in those days that The Salvation of *Yahweh* came from The Guarded One of The Path and was entirely covered by The Mercy of *Yahweh* against the Judgment Coming Down From Heaven.”

Does anyone recognize this verse?

It came to pass in those days that Yahshua came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan, Mark 1:9 (also in Matthew 3:13).

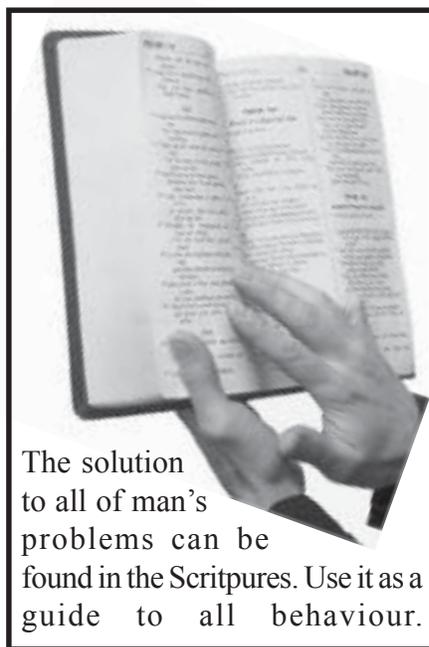
Defining the names in the Bible brings a deeper understanding of the text, doesn't it? Still, *Yahweh* should be honored by using His name, and not by a definition of His name or by a title of His authority.

Let me ask you a question. How important is it to honor the Name of *Yahweh*?

Honor His Name

“If you will not hear, and if you will not take it to heart, to give glory to My name,” says Yahweh Sabaoth (Yahweh of hosts), “I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have cursed them already, because you do not take it to heart, Malachi 2:2 NKJV.

Any questions about how important it is to use His name? Lest anyone think that “giving glory to *Yahweh*”



The solution to all of man's problems can be found in the Scriptures. Use it as a guide to all behaviour.

means “not speaking His name,” just read the following Scripture:

I am Yahweh, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images. Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them. Sing to Yahweh a new song, and His praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you coastlands and you inhabitants of them! Let the wilderness and its cities Kedar inhabits. (Kedar is the second son of Ishmael and it refers to Arab nomads; so, Isaiah is calling out to

the Gentiles to Praise *Yahweh* with a united voice!). *Let the inhabitants of Sela sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains. Let them give glory to Yahweh, and declare His praise in the coastlands, Isaiah 42:8-12 NKJV.*

Who are we to praise? *Yahweh*, our Heavenly Father! Is it not clear that we are to call out His name in praise? In fact, every time we, and the Scripture, say, “HalleluYah,” we are literally saying “Praise *Yahweh*.” The liturgy in both Judaism and Christianity use the word, HalleluYah. Brothers and sisters, there is absolutely no justification for denying the name of *Yahweh*. Think about it. What does it MEAN if someone says they don't do something, and therefore neither should we; and then they do it ... regularly? What does that make them, whether they know it or not?

What is the Son's Name?

Next in this tour of Scriptural Truth would be to answer the question, “**What is the name of *Yahweh*'s Son?**” The reader would be directed to read the following:

And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, Yahweh is with you; blessed are you among women!” But when she saw him [that is, the angel Gabriel, an archangel whose name means “the Strength of El” – so, we know by his name that this was not some puny messenger], she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Miriam, for you have found favor with Elohim. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name YAHSHUA. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and Yahweh Almighty will give Him the throne of His father [meaning ancestor] David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end,” Luke 1:28-33 NKJV.

The commentary here might read, “The name of the Messiah, given in the English translations, is J-e-s-u-s, though the Greek is I-e-s-o-u-s,

walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

The Hebrew word for “light” is *owr*, meaning literal light as in lightning, or figuratively as in the concept of enlightenment.

Then Elohim said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years,” Genesis 1:14 NKJV.

The Hebrew word for “sign” is *oth* – in the sense of appearing; a signal (literally or figuratively), as a flag,

proclaim as sacred [or holy] assemblies,” Leviticus 23:1-2 NIV.

Notice that Yahweh is not saying that these are Holy Feasts of the Jews, or of the Israelites; these are **His** Holy, Set-apart, Clean, Consecrated and Proclaimed Appointments. In four places Yahweh has declared that these Appointed Times are forever. (See verses 14, 21, 31 and 41).

What is the first Appointed Time that Yahweh has set to meet with us? In response to this question, one might wonder how all of this applies to “us,” the “Gentiles,” when Yahweh clearly

live, it is a Sabbath to Yahweh, Leviticus 23:3 NIV.

Again, it is not a day made just for Jews or Israelites; the day of Sabbath belongs to Yahweh. Now, Yahshua proclaims that He is the Sovereign, the Master of what day? The Sabbath! Yahshua is the Master of the Sabbath Day.

For the Son of Man [another Hebrew title for the Messiah] is Master of the Sabbath, Matthew 12:8 NIV.

Webster’s Dictionary defines “Saturday” as “the seventh day of the week.” The day has not changed since



beacon, mark, miracle, token, monument, omen or evidence.

The Hebrew word for “seasons” is *mow’-ed*, meaning a “set appointment,” a Feast, a yearly assembly of the congregation; and a “signal” appointed beforehand.

The Appointed Feasts

Yahweh said to Moses, “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘These are My Appointed Feasts, the Appointed Feasts of Yahweh, which you are to

makes these Appointed Times for the “Israelites.” This is an excellent question, and the answer is foundational to our doctrines and worship. The answer is somewhat complicated, but it is primarily founded upon the words of Yahshua, who commissioned His disciples to “Go only to the Lost Sheep of the House of Israel.”

There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you

the time the Bible was written. Today, the day over which Yahshua remains the sovereign is the day we call Saturday. It is the day that Yahweh has made an appointment to meet with us. When does that day begin and end?

The Beginning of a Day

Genesis 1:5 – So the evening and the morning were the first day.

Genesis 1:8 – So the evening and the morning were the second day.

Genesis 1:13 – So the evening and the morning were the third day.

Genesis 1:19 – So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

Genesis 1:23 – So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

Genesis 1:31 – So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

The pattern here is that evening is the beginning of each day. Every day begins, as Elohim designed it, at the time of sunset.

In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre, Matthew 28:1 KJV.

In this verse, we have the picture of two women, both named Miriam, going to the sepulchre in which Yahshua had been laid, having died three days earlier. It was at the end of Sabbath, at sundown, that they

ventured there. Remember, when the sun goes down, a new day begins. The word “dawn” used in the King James means “light,” literally, but remember, and this holds true for the Greek word *epiphosko*, “light” is rooted in the concept of “enlightenment,” to “draw on” or “become known,” according to Strong’s Concordance. Here, the word “dawn” does not refer to the sun coming up, it refers to the sun going down, as the first day of the week, known to us today as Sunday, becomes “known.” At the sepulchre, an angel appeared to the women, who apparently were afraid:

But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Yahshua who was impaled on a stake. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Sovereign lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you,” Matthew 28:5-7 NKJV.

Now, wait a minute. How could the Messiah have risen at sunrise on Sunday, as is commonly believed, if the two women went to the sepulchre BEFORE sundown on Saturday – on the Sabbath!

Here, I would direct the reader to the Scripture in which Yahshua is confronted by Scribes who asked Him to prove that He is, indeed, the long-awaited-for Messiah. We would cover the “Three Days and Three Nights” sign and prophecy of Jonah that Yahshua gave them. Namely, that He would lay three days and three nights in the earth before being resurrected.

Let us take a look at John 19:31,

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

This would then lead back to Leviticus 23, where the “High Sabbath,” the Appointed Times of Yahweh, could be explored. The unfolding of the meanings ascribed to each of the Feasts would provide a continuing

adventure throughout the Scripture, examining the meaning of the New Covenant, as described in Jeremiah 31:31; the House of Judah and the House of Israel, the Law and the Spirit, the prophecies waiting to be fulfilled, and on and on until the Scriptures are referenced and demonstrated to be one continuous teaching of Yahweh and His Son, Yahshua.

We should praise Yahweh for this vision. We should be excited to be guided by His Spirit to do His will. Now, we should pray, “Father, give me more, more of Your truth, more of Your wisdom, more of Your strength, and more of Your patience. You bless us, Father, and we kneel at Your feet, in the name of Yahshua Ha Mashiach. HalleluYah!”

Elder John Fisher

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

Mini - Study

Yahweh's Appointed Feast Days

Now YOU Can Afford to Attend!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mini - Study

YAHWEH'S FEASTS

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

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

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

ABRAHAM, FATHER OF THE FAITHFUL

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

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

-1-

Don't Go Along With NEGATIVE CHANGES

Now in my 70's, I am a living witness to the appalling changes in human values and behavior that happened in less than a generation of time. In the Philippines before World War II, traditional moral, cultural and social values held a tight grip on society. Honesty and integrity was held in high esteem. Parents and teachers alike consistently emphasized the adage "Honesty is the best policy."

Community life was relaxed and leisurely. Even in the cities, one could walk alone without apprehension or fear in dark alleys at night. Throughout the Asian region, chastity before marriage was the norm. A broken family was as rare as the white water buffalo. And PARENTAL AUTHORITY WAS SUPREME.

People were generally honest, law-abiding and very hospitable even to strangers. Admirably, an atmosphere of peace and camaraderie prevailed during those days; and in times of emergencies, cultural and religious differences disappear as families rushed to help each other.

Reminiscing on the days of my youth, I cringed in horror as I compared it to the modern society we humans now live in. During fine weather it was customary then to go to bed and sleep with the windows wide open. Not anymore. Such practice in modern times is an invitation to crime and violence. So before I go to bed, I see to it that the windows and doors are securely closed and locked.

Meanwhile, TV Newscasts show scenes of terror-bombings, murders or homicides, armed robberies and rapes with murder, kidnappings for ransom, etc. Indeed, how times have changed. And it happened in less than the average lifespan.

Let's see what change is all about. There are two realities of change. Either it's a positive or negative change. Respectively, the latter is the root cause of mankind's continuing troubles, and there seems to be no relief in sight. There are many negative changes in a man's life, and to discuss them all requires the writing of a book. So space constraint limits this study to the following three negative changes, and the adverse effects that plunged mankind into the quagmire of spiritual decadence and lawlessness.

The Father's Holy Name-Changed.

Unbiased scholarship as attested by encyclopedias, commentaries, Bible dictionaries and other references

reveals that the true name of the Supreme Being Is YAHWEH. That is why many of the new translations of the Bible have restored the sacred Name Yahweh into the texts, where it was supplanted by the title LORD, GOD or the name JEHOVAH. Now the question is: Are these titles or names appropriate for the Most High? Consider the origin of these two titles.

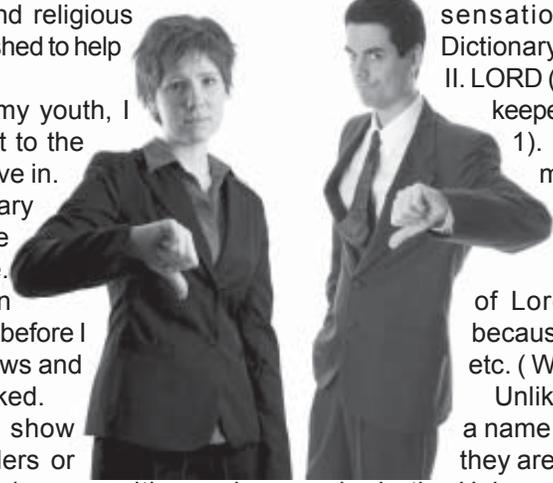
I. 1). GOD, God, god. Way back In the 5th century A.D. the Anglo-Saxons, a gentile white member of the several Germanic tribes, moved to England. This tribe worshipped an image, an idol they call "god." (Webster's New World Dictionary, Concise Edition p. 327). It is clear then, that god, capitalized or not, is of pagan origin. Worst, god is a cognate word of 'giddy'.

2). Giddy [<AS. gydig , insane <base of AS. god (i.e., "possessed by a god")], having a whirling, dazed sensation: dizzy (Webster's New World Dictionary p. 316).

II. LORD (Lord). [<AS. hlaford < hlaf, loaf+weard, keeper,

1). a person having great power: ruler; master; 2). the head of a feudal state'; 3). in Great Britain, a) a nobleman holding the rank of baron, viscount, earl, or marquis; member of the House of Lords; b) a man who by courtesy or because of his office is given the title of Lord, etc. (Webster's New World Dictionary p.443)

Unlike today, calling anyone or a thing with a name or title that is truly descriptive of what they are is customary in ancient times. That's why in the Hebrew or Greek language, a name or title corresponds with their meaning. Accordingly, it is quite clear that the title Lord, capitalized or not, befits more a human ruler, e.g., the Lords of the British Empire who have limited powers. So, ascribing this title to the Omniscient or Omnipotent Being is tantamount to relegating Almighty Yahweh down to the level of human lords. Furthermore, as if to add insult to injury, the name of the Canaanite deity Baal is translated Lord in English. This brings to mind the name Baal-gad. Incidentally, Gad is also a pagan deity worshipped by the Canaanites. And surprisingly, Gad is a euphemism for god, (Webster's New World Dictionary p. 305). Hence, translated into English the name Baal-gad virtually becomes Lord-god. Coincidentally, Gad is the name of one of Jacob's sons, whose tribe, along with the other nine tribes that became the northern Kingdom of Israel under Jeroboam, deserted Yahweh and drifted into pagan ways.



What about the name Jehovah? The hard fact is that this name is nowhere to be found in the Hebrew Scriptures. And even in the original Septuagint Version, the four sacred letters (Tetragrammaton) was retained in Hebrew script within the Greek texts. So the question is: Where did the name Jehovah come from?

The Hebrew alphabet has no vowels, which means that the Hebrew Bible was written only with consonant letters. But, around 600 A.D. Jewish scribes known as the Masoretes developed a system of vowel-points, designed as an aid to pronunciation. So in line with the prohibition strictly enforced in Judea not to enunciate the sacred name since the return from the Babylonian exile, the Masoretic scribes vowel-pointed the four sacred letters with the vowels of Elohim and Adonai to caution or warn the reader not to utter the name. Thenceforth,

whenever the Jews see the sacred letters, they change the reading to Adonai or Elohim.

During the Middle Ages, a Christian scholar named Petrus Galatinus (circa 1520), in transliterating the four sacred letters into Latin letters came up with IHVH. Seeing the vowel-points, he mistakenly mixed them with the letters and the result was leHoVaH. This name was carried over into the original 1611 King James Bible. Later, after the invention of the letter J (the last letter added to the English alphabet), this name became the modern Jehovah. The question now is: "what's wrong with the name Jehovah?"

Bible scholar Joseph Bryant Rotherham, in the introduction to his translation (Emphasized Bible) p. 24, rejected the form Jehovah because "it is too heavily burdened with merited critical condemnation as modern, as a compromise, as a "mongrel" word, "hybrid," "fantastic," and "monstrous." More shocking is the following revelation.

Author Errol Mueller, in the introduction to his book, "The Mystical Rites of Our Creator," p. XV, wrote,

"Jehovah is a modern mispronunciation of the sacred name, introduced by Christian theologians during the middle ages. Until 1565 C.E. there was no letter J in the alphabet. Jehovah is a hybrid name; the suffix 'hovah' in Strong's Hebrew Dictionary is #1943 and means ruin, mischief. 'Havvah' is another form of hovah #1942 which means ruin, calamity, iniquity, mischief, mischievous, perverse, very wicked. In the Bible, names, to put it simply, become a type of job description of the person to whom the name is given, and Jehovah is more the definition of Satan than Yahweh."

These are the shocking truths about the name Jehovah. Nonetheless, a well-known religious organization claiming to have more than nine million members worldwide, continues to call and sing praises to this name whose meaning, based on Strong's Hebrew Dictionary, is more descriptive of the attributes of Satan.

Amazingly, the top leadership of this religious group knew the truth

about the sacred name. In the introduction to their New Testament translation p. 25, we find this admission:

"While inclining to view the pronunciation Yahweh as the MORE CORRECT way, we have retained the form Jehovah because of people's familiarity with it since the 14th century."

Still, they resort to other clever arguments to circumvent the importance and use of the true name Yahweh, obviously to justify and perpetuate their obstinate adoration of the hybrid name Jehovah, which was a mere invention of the Catholic priest Galatinus.

The Messiah's Name - Hellenized

Strange as it may seem, Christians believe in a Jewish Messiah; but one with a Latinized Greek name, i.e.,

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

Mini - Study

Jehovah or Yahweh?

The Christian translators of the Bible unknowingly followed the Jewish Scribes and disguised the Name of the Creator. Now learn the truth about the Heavenly Father's revealed, personal Name!

ASK MOST BIBLE BELIEVERS what the name of the Heavenly Father is and they probably will say Jehovah. Ask them for some proof of this and they will either point to traditional usage or refer you to some Old Testament English Bible version.

Surprisingly, the name of the Heavenly Father is not Jehovah, and never was. The history of "Jehovah," which some encyclopedias call erroneous and which many Bible scholars agree is not accurate, is quite eye-opening.

In the oldest text of the Bible, the ancient Hebrew script, the sacred Name is represented by four Hebrew letters, יהוה. These four letters are called the *Tetragrammaton*, appearing in English as YHWH.

The ancient Hebrew alphabet had no vowels. To indicate vowels, scribes or copyists used diacritical marks or points above or below the letters. Jewish law experts decided to hide this Name to make certain it would not be taken in vain or blasphemed. Therefore, when the four letters of the Tetragrammaton appeared in the text, scribes "pointed" it with substitution vowels for the Hebrew word *adonai* (meaning "lord") which was then read "adonai" instead of the sacred Name "Yahweh."

One of the most widely known words in the world is "halleluYah," an imperative meaning "Praise you Yah." Notice that the short or poetic

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

Mini - Study

How the Savior's Name Was Changed

Superstition, ignorance, and the dynamics of language led to a change in the Savior's Name, to a name He never had!

THE SAVIOR WAS BORN in Bethlehem of Judea of a Jewish virgin who spoke Hebrew (or perhaps Aramaic), a Semitic dialect. He was born into a society where Hebrew was the common language. The angel Gabriel had announced to Miriam (Mary) the mother that the Child about to be born would save His people Israel from their sins. His Name, therefore, would literally reflect this meaning and mission.

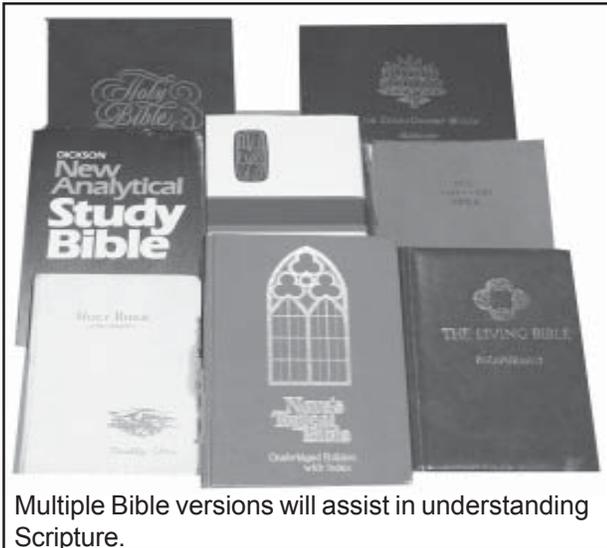
The Bible shows that whenever people were spoken to from On High, it was always to those who were familiar with or spoke the Hebrew language. Hebrew no doubt was spoken in the Garden of Eden. The Bible is a Hebrew book, given to spirit-filled Hebrew writers. The only language spoken for the first 1757 years until the Tower of Babel incident was Hebrew. We must conclude, therefore, that Hebrew is the heavenly language.

Genesis 10:30 reveals that the tribes of Shem did not join the project at the plains of Shinar (Genesis 11:2) where the tower of Babel was built. According to Genesis 10, they dwelled at Meshah, in the foothills of Mount Sephar. Their Hebrew language was not changed.

With all those facts before us, we must ask, why do our Bibles call the Savior by the name *Jesus* which is neither Jewish nor Hebrew? *Jesus* has no translation in any language.

Why would a Jewish maiden, whose native tongue was Hebrew, living in a Jewish community of Hebrews, who had been addressed by the celestial messenger Gabriel, give her newborn a hybrid Latin-Greek name that carries no such meaning as Savior in either lan-

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Multiple Bible versions will assist in understanding Scripture.

Jesus. Amazingly, even the so-called intellectuals have taken this name for granted. No wonder, then, that the name Jesus is enshrined not only in adoring religious songs, but in the hearts and minds of Christian devotees. But wait, is the name of the Messiah really Jesus? The apostle Paul reminds us,

“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good,” 1 Th. 5:21.

Thanks to diligent scholarship, the etymology of the name Jesus is well documented. Encyclopedias, Bible dictionaries, concordances, Webster’s, etc., reveal that the name Jesus was taken from the Greek name Iesous. In fact, in the original 1611 King James Bible, the name was printed either Iesvs or Iesus - dropping the letter O. Evidently, this form of the Savior’s name was taken from Jerome’s Latin Vulgate Bible. You see, Jerome (Eusebius Hieronymus 340-420 A.D.) never knew the letter J which only appeared in the alphabet more than a thousand years later.

One thing that is largely ignored by Christianity is the fact that the Messiah was born amidst Hebrew culture and customs. This being the case, isn’t it inconsistent and bizarre that the Jewish Messiah should have a Greek name? Doesn’t common sense and logic demand that the Messiah should have a Hebrew name?

For the sake of truth, let’s probe a bit deeper. All Christian scholars admit the Greek nature of the name Jesus - equating it with the Aramaic name

Yeshua. Well, Aramaic is a variant Semitic dialect commonly spoken along with Hebrew during that time in Palestine. And the scholars say that Yeshua is the name of the Savior in Judea. An interesting question is: What name did Pilate really write on the sign placed above the impaled Savior?

The records say that Pilate wrote the sign in three languages i.e. Hebrew, Latin, and

Greek. Well, we now know that Jesus is the Latin name; and in Greek it’s Iesous. What about the other name? Except for the New International Version (NIV), we read it’s in Hebrew. With due respect to the translators, I believe it’s a simple case of generalization. In Strong’s Greek Dictionary the word for Hebrew in John 19:20 is #1447, Hebraisti; from #1446, Hebrais, the Hebraistic (i.e., Hebrew) or Jewish (Chaldean) language. Specifically, the word for Hebrew (Php. 3:5) is #1445 Hebraios .

From the SDA Bible Dictionary p. 68, and the insight on the Scriptures p. 144, Aramaic is formerly called Chaldee or Chaldaic. So the NIV is right.

“Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where (?) was impaled was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek,” John 19:20 NIV.

That means Pilate wrote the Aramaic name Yeshua. This makes sense - considering the strict prohibition prevailing at the time against enunciating even the short or poetic form of the Father’s name Yah. Note also that the Jews’ protest to Pilate concerns only the

title “King of the Jews” and has nothing to do with the name. Now we have come closer to the Savior’s true name.

Regardless of what mankind chose to call Him, the Savior Himself is the real authority when it comes to His Name. In one of His encounters with the religious leaders He rebuked them, saying,

“I am come in my Father’s name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive,” John 5:43.

Here the Savior hinted as to what His real name is. Another clue is in the Savior’s prayer for His disciples.

“... Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name - the name you gave me - so that they may be one as we are one,” Jn 17:11 NIV.

Compare this with an Old Testament Scripture.

“See, I am sending an Angel ahead of you to guard you along the way, and to bring you to the place I have prepared. Pay attention to him and listen to what he says. Do not rebel against him; he will not forgive your rebellion, since my name is in him,” Ex. 23:20-21.



Reference books will be an aid to understanding Bible truths.

It is the heavenly Father speaking. And who is the Angel? Adam Clarke and Matthew Henry in their commentary point out that since this Angel has the power to forgive and pardon sins, it could refer only to the Messiah in his preincarnate existence. This is corroborated by the International Bible Commentary.

Consider also Philippians 2:9, "Wherefore Elohim also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name."

No other name could be above the name YAHWEH. Clearly, the Savior carries His Father's Name, as is the custom among us humans.

Now let's take another look at the name Jesus. Try shifting the five letters any way, but there is no possible way or combination that reflects the name YAHWEH. Maybe that's why the eminent French scholar Ernest Renan writes that the Savior was never called

Jesus during His lifetime. Since Yeshua, is Aramaic, what is the Savior's Hebrew name?

In the Emphatic Diaglott, an interlineary word for word translation from the Greek manuscripts, Bible translator Benjamin Wilson resolved the issue. In the Appendix, p. 397, Mr. Wilson clarifies that the Savior's Name is composed of YAH, and SHUA, i.e., YAHSHUA. There it is! For Yahshua means Yahweh saves (salvation).

"Yah is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation," Ex. 15:2 TSS.

"And she shall bring forth a son, and you shall call His name YAHSHUA; for he shall save his people from their sins," Matt. 1:21 TSS.

Regrettably, Christians prefer to call him Jesus - in effect placing their hopes and aspirations on a Greek Savior. What a tragic choice!

A neatly dressed man in his 30's sitting beside me discourteously interrupted, and said,

"You mean to say your Pastor still teaches you to obey the Ten Commandment?" the young man asked derisively.

"We don't have a Pastor," I replied.

"Is that so? Then who is feeding you - I mean, teaching you?"

"Well, in our Assembly, we have an Elder."

"Oh, I see. What a stupid elder you have. Why - the Ten Commandments have been abolished long ago. Doesn't your elder know that?"

"Dong," (counterpart of Day), "I think it's my turn to ask you a question. Please don't be offended. Suppose your wife gets attracted to another guy, then has sexual relations with him. Isn't that adultery? If adultery, along with the other nine commandments, has been abolished, does that mean

Yahweh's Perfect Law - Rejected

Most of mankind, especially Christians, vehemently oppose the keeping of the Decalogue. Typical of this attitude is depicted in the following scene.

With no more vacant seats in the jampacked bus many passengers have to endure standing. But as an elderly, I was privileged to be seated at the rear. As the bus was speeding along the highway, two women in their 40's began talking about the series of horrible crimes being shown on TV newscasts.

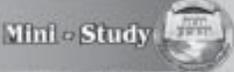
"It seems that no one is safe anymore," one woman said, "even in the privacy of our homes. It's frightening. I can't understand why so much wickedness is happening nowadays."

In the Visayan dialect, it's common to address a woman Day (i.e., Dai) if you don't know her name. Politely, I volunteered an opinion.

"Day, it's easy to understand why. You see, most religious leaders today continue teaching that there's no more need to comply with the Ten Commandments. If only..."

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



Yahweh's Name at the End of the Age

His people will know His Name.

SINCE THE EARLY 1930s the sacred Name of the Heavenly Father, Yahweh, has been proclaimed in earnest. The earliest Sacred Name pioneers realized that most readers of the Bible were ignorant of Yahweh's great Name. The omission of His Name and substitutes for it can be traced to early Bible translators who followed superstitious Jewish traditions against using the sacred Name Yahweh.

Few translators were conversant in Hebrew, and detested anything Hebrew or Jewish, just as many do today. They could neither read nor speak Hebrew fluently and resorted to the Greek translation of the Old Testament known as the Septuagint, bypassing the original Hebrew texts.

From the Greek Septuagint was made the Latin version of the Old Testament. From the Latin came our English Bibles.

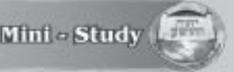
Septuagint Had Yahweh's Name

The original Greek Septuagint of the Old Testament had Yahweh's Name (known as the Tetragrammaton—meaning four letters) inscribed in gold letters in Hebrew: יהוה. Later copyists, being ignorant of Hebrew, substituted the Greek words Kyrios and Theos with the excuse that if the Tetragrammaton were sacred in the Hebrew, Kyrios and Theos were sacred in the Greek.

The translators of the 1611 English Bible, the highly revered King James "authorized" version, followed the custom of earlier Bible translators in supplanting the sacred Name Yahweh with the

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



YAHWEH: Known by the Patriarchs

Does Exodus 6:3 tell us that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob never knew Yahweh's Name? Understand what this passage is really saying!

A PUZZLING BIBLE VERSE for many who are aware of the sacred Name Yahweh is found in Exodus 6:3, which reads:

"And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of G-d Almighty [El Shaddai] but by my name [YAHWEH] was I not known to them"

Some Bible expositors contend that this passage shows that Yahweh had not revealed His Name to the patriarchs. That even Moses did not know that His Name was Yahweh, but knew Him only as Elohim or El Shaddai. This notion is false, as we see from the events three chapters prior to this verse.

The Memorial Name Yahweh

When conscripted by Yahweh to be the leader for His people Israel, Moses wondered what he should say when presenting himself before Israel. Moses asked, "The Elohim of your fathers has sent me unto you: and they shall say to me 'What is His Name?' what shall I say unto them?" Exodus 3:13. From His response it is clear Yahweh invoked His personal Name and revealed it to Moses:

"Elohim said unto Moses, 'I AM THAT I AM:' and He said, Thus shall you say unto the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me unto you.'

"And Elohim said moreover unto Moses, Thus shall you say unto the children of Israel, 'YAHWEH, the Elohim of your fathers, the Elohim of Abraham, the Elohim of Isaac, and the Elohim of

you or your wife can also commit murder, steal, or dishonor your parents and still remain sinless?"

Red-faced, the young man's cockiness melts down; and instead of answering my question, he placed his left arm on my upper back then slightly hugged me and blurted,

"Tay," (Tai, i.e., Pop), "I wish we are still friends," eliciting uproarious laughter among the other passengers listening around us. It turned out the young man is a Christian religious worker.

For quite a long time the "no law" doctrine has been reverberating from the pulpits, radio and TV programs all over the world. Regrettably, most people believed it - leading to the continuous deterioration of the old moral, spiritual and social values.

The popular concept that the commandments have been abolished after the death of Yahshua has lulled the Christian world. Therefore, it behooves Yahweh's people today, who know the truth, to unmask the great deception. That is the very purpose, mission or calling of this publication, YAIY Beacon, to proclaim to the whole world only the truths, that Yahshua Messiah did not abolish His Father's commandments.

Consider carefully Yahshua's words,

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commandments will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that until your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven," Matt. 5:17-20 NIV .

Why can't Christianity believe Him?

"They made their hearts as hard as flint (stone) and would not listen to the law..." Zechariah 7:12 NIV.

Sadly, Yahweh's perfect law (Ps. 19:7) or perfect law of liberty (James 1:25) is rejected by mankind. Man chose to make his own law - laws that caters to man's whims and carnal desires. No wonder lawlessness abounds on earth.

Go For Positive Change

When Yahshua did nothing to liberate Israel from Roman rule, the Jewish leaders did not recognize Him as their promised Messiah. Instead, they treated Him with contempt.

"Then said they unto him, 'Where is thy Father?' Yahshua answered, 'Ye neither know me, nor my Father: If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also,'" John 8:19.

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

Mini - Study



Why Biblical Law?

A lesson from the Potter

THE POTTER stretched his wetted hand over the lump of clay as he started rotating the large stone wheel. Turning it slowly with his feet, he formed the revolving mass until a rounded shape began rising from the miry clump.

Adding water from time to time, the potter skillfully smoothed out the softened clay, eliminating minor imperfections.

What was once a shapeless blob on the wheel soon became a sleek, pliant jar in the deft hands of the potter.

Next would come the firing of the kiln to bake permanently the shaped clay into a usable jar.

We in the Hands of the Maker

Have you ever considered looking at mankind through our Creator's eyes? He evidently sees humans as vessels of clay that can eventually be transformed into something wonderful and precious.

Paul addresses this concept in Romans 9:21, "Has not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor, and another unto dishonor?"

We are clay in the hands of the Master Potter. He can mold of us whatever He wills. We are all individuals, each different from all others. We are unique beings on this earth,

Throughout the centuries mankind neither really knew the Father Yahweh, nor Yahshua the true Messiah. Likewise, mankind was kept ignorant of Yahweh's laws and commandments - believing that upon the Savior's death there's no more need to comply with the law. How did it happen? Several years back, I read something like this: "Even a lie, often repeated, appears to be the truth."

Shrewd businessmen knew this very well. And so there is "fraudulent advertising" to promote even inferior products. Or, astute politicians resort to "black propaganda" to undermine their opponents.

The author and pioneer of this technique is no other than the greatest propagandist of all time, i.e., Satan, the "father of lies," John 8:44.

Today, Satan has thousands of agents who appears as "ministers of righteousness" (Col. 11:15), speaking from the pulpits, on radio and TV programs exhorting people to forget about the law, and sing praises to Jehovah and Jesus.

Dear reader, if you were a victim of this satanic deception, your time has come for a positive change in your life. As the saying goes - "better late than never." Think it over, rationalize, weigh the facts you have just learned, and make use of your Yahweh given faculties to do what is right.

Begin to ascribe honor, glory and praises to the Most High, calling on Yahweh's awesome, majestic and wonderful Name. And you'd better begin to obey and observe Yahweh's laws and commandments. Acknowledge and have FAITH in Yahshua the true Messiah.

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved," Acts 4:12.

Go for a positive change and enjoy a restored right and happy relationship with your Creator.

HalleluYAH.

Elder A. S. Untalan, Sr.

LESSONS FROM KING SAUL



There was not much known about the man from the town of Gibeah when he was taken and anointed as the first king over Israel. He was of the line of Benjamin, and his father was a “mighty man of power.”

His physical appearance was impressive to those who saw him. Saul probably could have made it well in Hollywood if he were here today. He may have looked like Tom Selleck, with a youthful beard.

We have the following account that tells us he was tall and handsome, evidently getting some help from his father’s genetic makeup:

There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power. And he had a choice and handsome son whose name was Saul. There was not a more handsome person than he among the children of Israel. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people, 1 Sam 9:1-2.

The term “A mighty man of power” may lead one to think that he looked quite muscular, like Fabio or even like Schwarzenegger in his prime, but young David, before he was anointed king of Israel, was described with the same phrase (1 Sam 16:18), evidently due to his acts of heroism in overcoming wild animals in the fields while tending the flocks, 1 Sam 17:34-36. This still means there was a reason for Saul to be described this way and it may indeed mean that he had a muscular frame, but more importantly, he had good character.

Man of Character

From day one Saul showed he had not only good looks but also good character. He followed his father’s instructions

without arguing when asked to go look for some lost animals (verse 3) and even considered his father’s feelings when out looking for them, verse 5.

Saul, who soon would be anointed, considered his servant’s request of going to see the Prophet Samuel to help find his father’s animals. He even considered what should be given as a gift:

Then said Saul to his servant, But, behold, if we go, what shall we bring the man? for the bread is spent in our vessels, and there is not a present to bring to the man of Elohim: what have we? And the servant answered Saul again, and said, Behold, I have here at hand the fourth part of a shekel of silver: that will I give to the man of Elohim, to tell us our way. (Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to enquire of Elohim, thus he spake, Come, and let us go to the seer: for he that is now called a Prophet was beforetime called a Seer.) Then said Saul to his servant, Well said; come, let us go. So they went unto the city where the man of Elohim was, 1 Sam 9:7-10.

Before Saul reaches the city, Yahweh the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is already calling him to Samuel the prophet and identifying him as the one to be anointed king over all of Israel. Samuel the prophet gives a little hint to Saul of what is about to take place by saying,

“...I am here to tell you that you and your family are the focus of all Israel’s hopes,” 1 Sam 9:20 NLT.

Saul is Humble and Exalted

Not fully knowing that Yahweh has chosen him to be king over His people, Saul shows his humbleness by replying to Samuel saying,

“...But I’m only from the tribe of Benjamin, the smallest tribe in Israel, and my family is the least important of all the families of that tribe! Why are you talking like this to me?” (1 Sam 9:21 NLT)

It is a well known concept in Scripture that the humble will be exalted (Luke 1:52; James 4:10; Acts 5:32), and this is the case with Saul.

Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because YAHWEH hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance? (1 Sam 10:1)

If this weren’t enough, Yahweh provides His Spirit that comes upon King Saul in such a way as to make him prophesy and to be “changed into another man,” verse 6, 10.

After all this Saul still kept on being humble and even kept the matters to himself for a time.

When Saul finished prophesying, he entered the place of worship. Saul’s uncle asked him and his servant, “Where have you been?” Saul said, “We were looking for the donkeys. When we couldn’t find them, we went to talk to Samuel.” Saul’s uncle asked, “Please tell me.

What did Samuel say to you?” Saul answered, “He told us the donkeys had already been found.” But Saul did not tell his uncle what Samuel had said about his becoming king, 1 Sam 10:13-16 NCV.

Saul, after experiencing all of this, hid himself among some items being stored, 1 Sam 10:22. Although a bit comical, it must have seemed a bit overwhelming to him to have experienced these things and he evidently needed to get away from everyone to be alone with his own thoughts. He may have decided not to face reality at the moment.

Though this may be a mark against him, showing that he didn’t have perfect character, the humbleness of Saul cannot be denied. He knew when to speak as well as when not to speak, as in the following example after being brought out from hiding:

Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see the man Yahweh has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people.” Then the people shouted, “Long live the king!” Samuel explained to the people the regulations of the kingship. He wrote them down on a scroll and deposited it before Yahweh. Then Samuel dismissed the people, each to his own home. Saul also went to his home in Gibeah, accompanied



The path to follow is that which is found in the Scriptures and not that which is found in the world

by valiant men whose hearts Elohim had touched. But some troublemakers said, “How can this fellow save us?” They despised him and brought him no gifts. But Saul kept silent, 1 Sam 10:24-27 NIV.

The People Speak Up

King Saul is given the opportunity to do away with troublesome and divisive Israelites that are against him, but we find that when given the opportunity to be proud and revengeful, he stays humble, merciful, and grateful to Yahweh:

And the people said unto Samuel, Who is he that said, Shall Saul reign

over us? bring the men, that we may put them to death. And Saul said, There shall not a man be put to death this day: for today Yahweh hath wrought salvation in Israel. Then said Samuel to the people, Come, and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there. And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before Yahweh in Gilgal; and there they sacrificed sacrifices of peace offerings before Yahweh; and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly, 1 Sam 11:12-15.

The children of Israel have their desire though, in that they wanted a king. They had rejected Yahweh by not trusting in Him and allowing His timing in matters.

Previously, the account of chapter 8 does tell us that Samuel had set his sons Joel and Abijah as judges over Israel, but they were corrupt and the elders therefore wanted a king rather than these disobedient misfits.

The elders’ underlying motive, however, was clearly to have a monarchy as we’re not told that they prayed that Yahweh would take care of the lawless judges. No, they wanted a king “like all the nations,” 1 Sam 8:5, 20.

Yahweh granted their desire to have a monarchy by providing Saul. However, it was with a warning that they would be oppressed and would suffer with things that they had not experienced before as the nation of Israel.

And he (Samuel) said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots. And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to plow his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments

of his chariots. And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers. And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants. And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work. He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants. And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and Yahweh will not hear you in that day. Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our

battles. And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of Yahweh. And Yahweh said to Samuel, Harken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city, 1 Sam 8:11-22.

It's interesting that Yahweh had already promised to set a king over all of Israel in the book of Deuteronomy chapter 17. It may have been King David that Yahweh had in mind all along, but the elders pushed for a king before David was raised up.

The New American Commentary, by Broadman & Holman Publishers, gives the following insight:

"Biblical narrative accounts give no suggestion that any of the judges prior to Samuel ministered to all Israel. Samuel's influence as both prophet and judge exceeded his regional boundaries, suggesting that he was a transitional figure, preparing Israel for more formal national leadership."

Samuel, as directed by Yahweh, anointed David king, but not before the Israelites got a taste of the fruit of their impatience. The elders subverted Yahweh's timing and regrettably paid for it along with the people not long thereafter.

King Saul Changes

Over the course of time, all of Saul's good character of being respectful, considerate, humble, merciful, and giving glory to Yahweh seems to disappear overnight as he starts to take glory for himself and becomes proud and arrogant.

Given the opportunity to give honor where honor is due, King Saul it seems takes it for himself in the following account where Jonathan, Saul's son and military leader, overran and successfully routed a military post of the Philistines:

Jonathan attacked the Philistine outpost at Geba, and the Philistines heard about it. Then Saul had the trumpet blown throughout the land and said, "Let the Hebrews hear!" So all Israel heard the news: "Saul has attacked the Philistine outpost, and now Israel has become a stench to

the Philistines." And the people were summoned to join Saul at Gilgal, 1 Sam 13:3-4 NIV.

Soon after this the Philistines gathered in such a great number that they are described as "soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore," verse 5. This puts fear in the hearts of the Israelites and those that didn't hide and were with Saul trembled with great fear.

King Saul then makes a wrong move and sins against Yahweh by not waiting for Samuel to offer a burnt offering to Yahweh in seeking His intervention, 1 Sam 10:8; 13:8-9. Samuel then confronts Saul,

And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash; Therefore said

To obtain a printout of the following mini-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 charchianity 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.")

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Before
And
After
Baptism



I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto Yahweh: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering. And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of Yahweh thy Elohim, which he commanded thee: for now would Yahweh have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. But now thy kingdom shall not continue: Yahweh hath sought him a man after his own heart, and Yahweh hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which Yahweh commanded thee, 1 Sam 13:11-14.

King Saul's Vow

King Saul somehow felt the need to motivate, or rather enslave the Israelites, to do his will, and therefore proclaimed a curse on all who would

eat anything before Saul's enemies (Philistines) were destroyed before him by evening,

And the men of Israel were distressed that day: for Saul had adjured the people, saying, Cursed be the man that eateth any food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies. So none of the people tasted any food, 1 Sam 14:24.

His son Jonathan had not heard of the vow that his father had made, so he ate some honey that was in the land. When he did hear of the vow, he said, "My father has troubled the land," 1 Sam 14:29. Indeed he had, and the Philistine army was not destroyed due to the weakness of the people from not eating, as Jonathan pointed out, verse 30.

After the battle, they were famished to the point of slaughtering sheep and oxen which the Philistines left behind and ate them without bleeding them. So, they ate the blood, too, in disobedience (Lev 7:26) to Yahweh.

Lots were cast to find out why they had sinned like this and the lot eventually fell to Jonathan. Saul then found out he had eaten honey during the day and wanted to kill him for it because of his own words, verse 39, but the people praised Jonathan for leading the battle to a victorious routing of the Philistines. Saul listened and didn't kill his son because the people reasoned with him not to kill Jonathan, verse 45. In a sense, they actually rebuked him.

Another Sin

In the continuing downward spiral of Saul's good character, he yet sins again by allowing the Israelites to take the best of the oxen and sheep from a battle with the Amalekites, in which he was told not to take any spoil from but rather he was to destroy it all.

Yahweh said, *Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey, 1 Sam 15:3 NKJV.*

King Saul, to add injury to insult, actually bragged about being obedient, And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of Yahweh: I have performed the commandment of Yahweh, 1 Sam 15:13.

Had Saul forgotten what Yahweh had said? Prophet Samuel reminded him that he didn't carry out what was commanded, but Saul argued that he had actually obeyed rather than sinned.

It was clear that Saul was becoming a dictator rather than a servant. Not even calling Yahweh his Elohim anymore, but saying "your" Elohim when speaking to Samuel, verses 15, 21.

Punishment Severe

No longer would the kingdom of Israel be in Saul's hands, but rather it would be taken from him. It would not even

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

Mini - Study

Scriptural Age of Accountability

Is child baptism Scriptural? At what age does the Bible consider one an adult, and a candidate for immersion?

What is the minimum age for baptism into Yahshua's Name? The Apostle Peter clearly showed that one should be old enough to repent.

When the Jews were convicted of their sin, they asked what they should do. Peter responded in Acts 2:38, "Repent and be immersed every one of you in the Name of Yahshua the Messiah for the remission of sin, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Obviously a person should be old enough to understand repentance before being baptized.

What does the Bible mean by "repent?" Briefly, to turn completely from our wicked ways, stop doing those things that Yahweh condemns, and obediently follow in the footsteps of Yahshua. We are to be totally broken up over our past sins and vow not to repeat those things we know are wrong and sinful. When we do sin, we are to confess our sin and ask forgiveness through Yahshua.

Jews Hold Bar-Mitzvah at 13

Luke chapter 2 relates how Yahshua was left behind by His parents in Jerusalem following the Passover and the days of Unleavened Bread. He was about age 13, and even today Jewish boys have a ceremony known as "Bar-Mitzvah," meaning Son of the Covenant, when they are accepted into the congregation. Is 13 the age of accountability, the age when one can with complete understanding repent and then be immersed?

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Mini - Study

Civic Responsibility

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

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

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

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

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

What is the Believer's Role?

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

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

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

be given to one of his sons, though he had three, 1 Sam 14:49.

Even though Saul admitted the wrong and pleaded for forgiveness, he suffered the consequences of his actions:

Then Saul admitted to Samuel, "Yes, I have sinned. I have disobeyed your instructions and Yahweh's command, for I was afraid of the people and did what they demanded. But now, please forgive my sin and come back with me so that I may worship Yahweh." But Samuel replied, "I will not go back with you! Since you have rejected Yahweh's command, he has rejected you as king of Israel." As Samuel turned to go, Saul tried to hold him back and tore the hem of his robe. And Samuel said to him, "Yahweh has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to someone else—one who is better than you. And he who is the Glory of Israel will not lie, nor will he change his mind, for he

is not human that he should change his mind!" (1 Sam 15:24-29 NLT)

Yes, King Saul suffered along with his family of whom Jonathan, we are informed, had lost respect and trust for him. He even went to war without telling his father, 1 Sam 14:1.

If a man cannot lead his family well, he cannot lead Yahweh's people, 1 Tim 3:2-5; Titus 1:6.

It's All About Me!

Immediately after King Saul is told of his punishment — as outrageous as it may seem — he seeks to look good in front of others. In the same sentence when he says, "I have sinned," he says, "but please honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel." (1 Sam 15:30 NASU)

Both Yahweh and His Prophet Samuel grieved over King Saul because of his actions and ways of doing things.

And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and Yahweh repented that he had made Saul king over Israel, 1 Sam 15:35. (see also verse 11)

Saul had started out with good fruit in his thoughts and actions, but the fruit that was now being produced was spoiled and rotten. You wouldn't think it could get worse, but indeed it does.

Spiritual Forces

Samuel went and found young David and anointed him the new King of Israel, and immediately afterwards the Spirit of Yahweh that had been with Saul was removed. An evil spirit soon came that tormented him. He eventually tries to kill his own son and the new king that Yahweh has said will rule His people.

There are some important lessons from King Saul for those that Yahweh is calling and who have actually taken the steps to get in line with His will and way of life shown to us in Scripture.

Yahweh's Spirit — the good spiritual force that is guiding, helping and directing certain brethren today — will be taken away unless it is taken

to heart that one cannot just decide for himself or herself what is right and wrong, Prov 3:1-7; Ezek 18:31; 36:26-27. We are to follow Yahweh through Yahshua wholeheartedly.

If you are baptized in Yahshua's name, and have Yahweh's Spirit, or even understand that you should seek these things, listen up. It is Yahweh's right to tell us how we should live.

When, for just one example, He says that we are not to commit adultery, He means it. When His Son comes and magnifies His Father's instruction on this and tells us to not even think about the opposite gender in a sexual way, it means just that. Yes, this means you too, Gal 3:28; 5:19-21. We are also likewise commanded to teach our children to live by Yahweh's word, Deut 8:3; 11:1, 19; Matt 4:4.

Yahweh calls out of this world certain people by revealing Himself and His Son and Their names. He does

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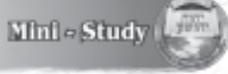
THE SPIRIT REALM

- Is the Holy Spirit Energy?
- Does the Spirit look like a ghost?



- How does Matter speed up and slow down?

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



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-sus," 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.

it by His spiritual might and power. He is in control of all things, but allows us to choose, Deut 30:19. He even tells us to choose life!

King Saul chose to sin, and by sinning lost the anointing and the Spirit that Yahweh had given him. He took it away! He gives the breath of life, and He can take it away also. We are given so many breaths to live, learn, and to obey our Heavenly Father.

Satan would love to deceive you into thinking you can live your life the way you want. It is especially a wicked thing to do so after Yahweh reveals to you that you are to live your life according to the words that He speaks.

What spiritual force will rule in your life? What you do now affects things later. How will you spend eternity? We can start out doing good, but if we end up doing bad when we are called out of this world, all will be lost,

But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die, Ezek 18:24.

Saul Starts Losing His Mind

It didn't take long for the jealousy and wrongful thinking of Saul to further manifest itself into irreprehensible actions. Young David had killed Goliath, the giant Philistine man that taunted the armies of Israel. Saul, still in the seat of leadership as king, placed him as a type of commander over the armies. As time passed, David gained further respect from the people. It was soon that Israel started praising David for victory and placing him above King Saul in the overall picture:

When the victorious Israelite army was returning home after David had killed the Philistine, women from all the towns of Israel came out to meet King Saul. They sang and danced for joy with tambourines and cymbals. This was their song: "Saul has killed his

thousands, and David his ten thousands!" This made Saul very angry. "What's this?" he said. "They credit David with ten thousands and me with only thousands. Next they'll be making him their king!" So from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David. The very next day a tormenting spirit from Elohim overwhelmed Saul, and he began to rave in his house like a madman. David was playing the harp, as he did each day. But Saul had a spear in his hand, and he suddenly hurled it at David, intending to pin him to the wall. But David escaped him twice. Saul was then afraid of David, for Yahweh was with David and had turned away from Saul, 1 Sam 18:6-12 NLT.

Saul's Lying and Murderous Heart

Saul starts to lie, even sacrificing his daughter in a sense, so as to get the upper hand on David.

And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be my son in law in the one of the twain. And Saul commanded his servants, saying, Commune with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore be the king's son in law, 1 Sam 18:21-22.

When things didn't work out the way Saul had planned, he took matters into his own hands and again tried to kill David:

And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin; but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he smote the javelin into the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night. Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning: and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life to night, to morrow thou shalt be slain, 1 Sam 19:10-11.

He even tried to kill his own son Jonathan when Saul knew Jonathan was on David's side, 1 Sam 20:33. The priests that provided help for David and his men were also killed by Saul's command, along with their families and flocks, 1 Sam 22:16-19. These priests were priests of Yahweh. Only one had escaped. Saul truly had lost his mind and it wouldn't be too long before he lost even more.

As time went on Saul continued to pursue David, but never could get the upper hand against him. It was all because Yahweh was with David. Saul finally came to see the error of his way (1 Sam 26: 21, 25), but it didn't change his heart.

David also committed egregious sins against Yahweh later in his life. The difference was that he fully repented and changed. He stopped sinning as he was doing. The hope there is that we can, too.

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Mini - Study

Is 'Elohim' A Pagan Title?

The Hebrews referred to Yahweh as El. The Canaanites did the same to their mighty one. So who has rights to it—Yahweh or an idol?

It is no secret that the Sacred Name Yahweh has been disguised, supplanted, and removed from our English Bibles. This gross mistake lies with the translators who through ignorance or by design substituted Kyrios and Theos for Yahweh's Name in the Greek texts.

They also translated the Hebrew titles "El" and "Elohim" into English as "god" and "God." Some believe that one must not use the terms El and Elohim in reference to the Heavenly Majesty because they are considered pagan.

But is the Hebrew word "El" or its plural "Elohim" so evil and wrong that we are condemned for employing it as a title to refer to Yahweh? If so, then why does the first verse in the oldest Hebrew manuscripts available refer to our Creator as "Elohim"? "In the beginning G-d [אֱלֹהִים = Elohim] created the heaven and the earth." (Gen. 1:1)

'Elohim' A Word Given by Yahweh

If Yahweh refers to Himself as Elohim in the very Book He inspired Moses to write, then is not Elohim a term sanctioned by Yahweh Himself? If the inspired texts—breathed from Yahweh's very own mouth—occasionally refer to Yahweh as "Elohim" (meaning "Mighty One"), how can it be wrong for us to refer to Yahweh as an Elohim?

How can one arrive, then, at such an absurd conclusion that it is wrong to use "Elohim"? One

Comparatively, as we've seen, Saul just got worse after he first started sinning. We now jump forward to the final state of Saul, at the end of the book of I Samuel.

Saul Loses His Life

Saul once again finds himself in a battle with the Philistines. The significant verses we see concerning Saul's death in this particular battle are 1 Sam 32:3-4 which says, in the NASU,

The battle went heavily against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was badly wounded by the archers. Then Saul said to his armor bearer, "Draw your sword and pierce me through with it, otherwise these uncircumcised will come and pierce me through and make sport of me." But his armor bearer would not, for he was greatly afraid. So Saul took his sword and fell on it. (Emphasis mine)

In verse 3 the NASU version says, "he was badly wounded." Concerning this we have the Greek Septuagint (LXX) and the Hebrew Masoretic Text (MT) saying two different things. Notice the following:

"The LXX asserts that Saul was 'wounded in the belly,' but the MT states only that 'he writhed in fear of the archers'" – *Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary*, by Smyth & Helwys Publishing.

Believing the Greek is not as reliable as the Hebrew in this instance, since the Greek is a translation from the Hebrew, we find that Saul was fearful more than he was wounded.

It seems to be emphasized by verse 4 in which he wants to die because they'll "make sport of me," showing that he was fearful of what they might do.

The main Strong's word in the section of verse 4 is #1627 Hebrew *alal*, meaning, "to act severely," or "make a fool of someone." The NLT uses the word "humiliate." In the KJV, the word used is "abuse," but E.W. Bullinger notes the word "insult" as maybe a better choice.

In Saul's character, though he had become proud and arrogant, he had within himself a fear, especially at the

end of his life. No longer described as a "man of valor or strength," but rather his character showed he was a cowardly man. Even though dead, what he feared happened to him...he was hanged in humiliation on a wall by the Philistine army for all to see,

And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen in mount Gilboa. And they cut off his head, and stripped off his armour, and sent into the land of the Philistines round about, to publish it in the house of their idols, and among the people. And they put his armour in the house of Ashtaroth: and they fastened his body to the wall of Bethshan, 1 Sam 31:8-10.

His own last act was to kill himself, and indeed by his former actions of sin and taking things upon himself, he had already been killing himself, whether or not he had realized it. Let's learn from his mistakes.

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

Mini - Study

DO YOU HAVE AN IMMORTAL SOUL?

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

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

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

NO IMMORTAL SOUL IN SCRIPTURE

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

Events Take Time

Not always are we able to see the lives of individuals as clearly as we see Saul's. He was king of Israel for over 30 years. We are able to get a snapshot of some of the places, people, and events that make up the life of Saul, King Saul, as so many will remember him. It's just a few chapters in I Samuel, but it's nearly a lifetime sketch.

What will be remembered most is the downward spiral that he took, from being a man of character, to being a man of the likes of Judas Iscariot, who you'll remember also killed himself. Saul was even beheaded (1 Sam 31:9) like the pagan giant Goliath of the Philistine armies.

Events take time, and we can learn to do better than Saul did. We can learn from his mistakes and not repeat them. We can have a better end than he had. We can stop and think. "What if I start doing my own thing, my own will?" "What happened to Saul?" "Why did Saul die?"

So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against Yahweh, even against the word of Yahweh, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit (witch of Endor, 1Sam 28:7), to enquire of it (forbidden, Lev 19:31); And enquired not of Yahweh: therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse, 1 Chron 10:13-14.

We can remember Saul and realize we must build good character by being obedient to Yahweh. It is still against Yahweh's law to seek out mediums and to sin in such ways, 1 John 3:4. Seek to serve Yahweh through Yahshua the Messiah, rather than seeking to serve ourselves by doing what we want to do.

The lessons from the former King Saul can help encourage us to stay steadfast on the road that leads to everlasting life, because as was Saul's example, there are roads that we can take that lead to death. Let's do what Yahweh says, and by doing so, choose life!

Elder David Brett



When Does A Day Begin?

The Beginnings of all Things

The law of first discovery, simply stated, is that a Bible topic when first mentioned is the starting place to begin our study. Everything, first revealed about that subject, must be in harmony with all future findings. We cannot start our discovery in the middle of a topic and then work toward both ends. Our introduction to the topic is the basic truth upon which all additional discoveries must conform. The Sabbath first appears in the Old Testament which makes it our guide, 1Cor. 10:6.

The Day Begins at Creation

There are many lessons we learn from the creation account. An important fact that is discussed elsewhere deals with why the term "Elohim" (in lieu of Yahweh) is used here in describing the creation account. All matter, all substance or material, space and time began with creation. The Heavenly Father Yahweh dwells in the spirit realm where time and space do not exist. There was nothing material or substance such as matter before creation existed. Prior to creation, time did not exist. Space and time do not exist where there is no matter. Only when Elohim began to create did He bring into existence that which could be called earth, air or water. The earth, and the universe itself, was indeed created from nothing visible, but through the spirit energy emanating from Yahweh Himself and shared by His Son. From converting His omnipotent energy into matter, Elohim was able to produce the mass from which the earth was formed. Time then had a beginning.

Note the earth was without form and void (Hebrew *tohu* & *bohu*). It was a shapeless mass of water, mud, rocks sand, loam, etc.; a soupy glob.

In the beginning Elohim created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of Elohim moved upon the face of the waters, Gen 1:1-2.

The creation of the earth began as a formless mass. When first formed, it was not the spherical ball it now is but was without form, void, and shapeless. It was a fluid soup-like matter with the water mixed in with the earth all blended together. It was without life, empty with no grass, trees, herbs or plants. The earth was a dark, gloomy mix of rocks, mud, sand, loam and silt. Within this murky chaos were the nutrients needed for sustaining plant growth such as

trace elements, and organic matter. Once the fluid, turbid earth was created, only then did the Spirit of Elohim move upon the face of the waters.

Spirit Moved, Hovered

The word "moved" in Gen. 1:2 is *rachaph*, #7363 in Hebrew, and means to brood over, to hover with a gentle wavering of fluttering motion as a bird over her young, Deut. 32:11 (Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies). Strong's #7363 says *rachaph* is a prime root: To brood, by implication to be relaxed: flutter-move-shake. The RYRIE Bible says "moved upon in the sense of protecting and participating in the creative work." Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius says "hovering over face of waters, or perh. (v.syr.) brooding (and fertilizing), so Jerome." The JPS Torah Commentary says "The basic idea of the stem is vibration, movement. Hitherto all is static, lifeless, immobile. Motion, which is the essential element in change, originates with [Elohim's] dynamic presence."

The Spirit of Elohim moved in darkness upon the face of the murky, turbid waters, which covered the earth. The principle of all life, the Spirit energy force of Yahweh, began separating, preparing, brooding upon and animating the earth, filling the earth with vitality needed for life. There was no light or motion until the agitation of the Spirit stirred the earthy particles, of which the heaviest sunk lower, and waters being lighter rose above the solids. Peter describes the earth as covered with water, some standing out of the water not yet fully organized or prepared for growth of vegetation:

For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the Word of Elohim the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water, 2 Peter 3:5 AV.

The Spirit of Elohim continued to move (brooded, fluttered, shook, hovered) over the newly created earth. Through His Spirit, Elohim separated the waters from the land and formed the earth into its present oval shape. The earth was formed with rocks and stones beneath the waters with sands and soil atop the earth, which was fertilized and energized by Yahweh's Spirit.

Light of the World

And the Spirit of Elohim moved upon the face of the waters. And Elohim said, Let there be light: and there was light.

And Elohim saw the light, that it was good: and Elohim divided the light from the darkness. And Elohim called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day, Genesis 1:1-5 AV.

Once Yahweh had formed the earth into its present rounded, global shape by His Spirit, He then started the earth revolving on its axis. As the earth turned away from Him, the far side would be in darkness, for the source of light would be from the Creator Himself:

Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain, Psalms 104:2 AV.

And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of Yahweh before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy. And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live, Exodus 33:18-20 AV.

We read of many places where the Mighty One of the Old Testament was a bright, blinding light. (Exodus 33:23; 34:5-7) The Creator was the LIGHT of the world.

O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles, Psalms 43:3 AV.

Then spake Yahshua again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life, John 8:12.

The sun and celestial planets had not yet been created, but the Creator Himself was His own bright, blazing light (Exodus 3:2-3; 33:20 and 19:21). As the newly created earth revolved, a 12 hour period of daylight and darkness prevailed. Yahweh's Spirit went forth and cast light on His handiwork. Unfettered spirit energy is a glistening, bright light. Both Yahweh and Yahshua will be the LIGHT of the new Jerusalem in the Kingdom:

And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in

it: for the glory of Elohim did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof, Revelation 21:23 AV.

On the second day the atmosphere (firmament) was created, which gave the earth the clouds of water vapor and ice crystals above much like a greenhouse effect which Yahweh called heaven. Evening came and the second day ended. Not until the fourth day were the sun and moon created.

Twelve Hour Day and Night

How long did Yahweh's Spirit hover or move upon the face of the waters? Many reputable scholars feel it was likely 12 hours. The revolving earth obviously started its spin at that time and has continued to bring us a 24-hour day. Yahweh begins with darkness and is the master of darkness, because He is the light of the world.

Yahshua answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world, John 11:9 AV.

It is clear from the above that Elohim began the 24-hour day with darkness. He starts with a 12-hour period of night, and then brings the daylight. Although man is not expected to work in the darkness, Yahweh continues to monitor His creation and His work is not hindered by darkness as is puny mankind.

But Yahshua answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work, John 5:17 AV.

In each of the days of creation, Elohim's creation account begins with evening, then comes morning. An interesting point made by scholars is that by giving something a name, one has control over that which one has named. Thus, Yahweh named the light day and darkness He called night. He named the atmosphere heaven; the dry land earth; the waters seas. Mankind was given dominion over sea life, animals, birds on this earth, Genesis 1:26. Adam was created and then named the animals and birds over which he was given dominion, Genesis 2:19-20. Adam named every living creature and called them by name, by

which he established his dominion over the earth.

Day Has Several Meanings

In our society the word "day" has several meanings:

- It can mean a 24-hour period of time, including night and day;

- Daylight, the period between the rising and setting of the sun;

- Extended time, such as "Abraham's day," or "The Day of Yahweh."

The Egyptians and Babylonians reckoned their 24-hour day from sunrise to sunrise, the Umbrians from noon to noon. The Greeks and Romans began their day at midnight. We find the Bible starts the days with the setting sun. For proof, we go back to Genesis 1:5:

And Elohim called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

Days Begin at Sunrise? Sunset!

The day (as opposed to night) indeed begins at sunrise and ends at sunset when the sun sets and daylight ends. But in reference to a day of the week, the 24-hour day begins when the sun has set and twilight comes on. The evening begins each day of the week and the night lasts for some 12 hours, and then the sun rises and we have daylight for some 12 hours.

There are groups that begin their 24-hour day with sunrise, just as did the Egyptians and Babylonians. The Bible, however, shows that Yahweh's day ends and begins with sunset, not our present midnight. Let us examine the following verses:

In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even, Exodus 12:18.

It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath, Leviticus 23:32 AV.

It is Yahweh's command that we begin our day with sunset. As the sun sets, one day ends and another begins. We still have some 30 minutes of twilight before total darkness to prepare for nightfall. In Nehemiah's time the setting sun began to cast long shadows, darkening the gates of Jerusalem, signaling the approaching sunset, which brought on the weekly Sabbath. The gates were then shut at sunset:

And it came to pass, that when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the sabbath, I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened till after the sabbath: and some of my servants set I at the gates, that there should no burden be brought in on the sabbath day, Nehemiah 13:19 AV.

Samson offered a riddle to the Philistines to be solved in seven days. They had no answer but appealed to Samson's wife who deceitfully (but successfully) pleaded with Samson for the answer. On the seventh and last day, just before the day ended at sunset, they solved the riddle:

And the men of the city said unto him on the seventh day before the sun went down, What is sweeter than honey? and what is stronger than a lion? And he said unto them, If ye had not plowed with my heifer, you had not found out my riddle, Judges 14:18 AV.

Had the Philistines solved the riddle AFTER sunset, the seventh day would have been over, and they would have lost the wager for another day had started.

Yahshua's Example

Certainly Yahshua knew which day was the Sabbath. On that day Yahshua was teaching:

And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught, Mark 1:21.

While in Capernaum, Yahshua responded to an appeal for healing of a man with an unclean spirit. He did not ordinarily heal on the Sabbath, but He did here in Mark 1:23-28 in response to a special request. Leaving

the synagogue on the Sabbath, He went to Simon's house and there healed Simon Peter's mother-in-law, verses 29-31. Take note that Yahshua did heal a few as He encountered them on His way, but did not have a healing campaign until the Sabbath was over. Notice that He waited until the sun did set ending the Sabbath, then healed many and cast out demons:

And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils. And all the city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him, Mark 1:32-34.

Interestingly, Luke's account mentions that when the sun was setting (bringing on a new day) the sick and infirm were moved closer to the Savior Who healed each of them:

Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them, Luke 4:40.

Luke explains Yahshua waited until the sun had set ending the Sabbath

before He began His healing campaign. It was the contention of the rulers of the synagogue that any healing is work, and Yahshua was therefore breaking the Sabbath.

He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath, Luke 13:10, and healed a woman, verse 13.

And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Yahshua had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day, Luke 13:14.

Except in extreme cases, the Savior waited for the sun to set which ended the Sabbath day before He set out to heal the sick and infirm.

There are those who choose verses having to do with the twelve hours of daylight and attribute this to mean a 24-hour day begins at sunrise. Our Creator began His day with the evening darkness and ended it with the daylight's setting sun. Each day has one evening which begins at sunset. Yahweh takes the weakest of things (such as Israel, Deut. 7:7) and you and me, and promises to make us into His sons and daughters if we are faithful. Thus we are reminded of His handiwork every day. He takes darkness and replaces it with light. Yahshua said He is the Light of the world, John 8:12; 9:6.

There was a man sent from Yahweh, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not, John 1:6-10 AV.

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Elder Donald R. Mansager

Question & Answer

Q At the second resurrection will there be found people worthy to enter the kingdom, after tasting 1,000 peaceful rule of Yahshua, or will some who change be received into the Kingdom during the 1,000 rule?

A Those who are in the first resurrection will be no more physical, but will be made spirit beings when Yahshua resurrects them into immortality at the last trump. They are called the “firstfruits” which means the grand harvest of humans will be when they all keep His laws as a way of life. Just when the grand body of believers who come up in the second resurrection will be made spirit beings is not clear. However, because those in the first resurrection are termed the “FIRSTFRUITS” indicates there will be more (second) “fruits” to follow. Be determined to be in that first resurrection. It is the best one!

Q Gen. 4:11-15 seems to indicate Cain did not repent. He is hidden from the face of Yahweh. Do we have Cain generation in the world today? What was the sign that Yahweh put on Cain to avoid his being killed?

A The Cain generation died out in Noah’s flood where all wicked humans died, except for the eight in the ark. Interestingly, the Hebrew does not say the mark or sign was put “upon” Cain, but put “for” Cain —like a cloud or something over him.

Q Can a baptized person with the Holy Spirit be forgiven if he/she was out of control accidentally?

A Certainly Yahweh understands our frailties and weaknesses. As long as we do not deliberately flout His laws and way of life, His tender mercies will prevail. But we cannot expect Yahweh to tolerate sin. Yahshua paid the price for our sin if we repent and accept His sacrifice and do not revert back to wickedness.

Q Rev. 20:6 says Yahshua will be ruling for 1,000 years. Does the Bible give time limits for how long man will rule himself before Yahshua begins the rule?

A We understand that Yahshua will begin His rule when He returns and sets His foot on the earth as in Zech 14:1-4. Just when that will be we don’t know. It is one of the next big events. Just how others will be made immortal we are not told. We are to keep about His work — “occupy until He comes.”

Q Why did Eli allow his sons to be priests in Shiloh, knowing they were “vile” and “knew not Yahweh” (1Samuel 2:12; and 3:13.)

A Obviously Eli allowed the bringing up of these two sons to spin out of control. Even other sons of Eli were not fully mindful of their position in the priesthood. The alternative to the priesthood was to have a king over Israel, but neither Saul nor David was ready or old enough to fit into Yahweh’s plans. Notice the judgment that falls on the house of Eli, verse 14 onward, in which chapter two already warns Eli. Finally Saul is chosen as the leader. Eli was a priest and was to teach the word! Deut 21:18-23 is very clear what should have been done!

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