

Praise Him, skies above! Praise Him, vapors high above the clouds! (Ps. 148:4 NLT)





Overcoming This Present Darkness by Elder John Fisher

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QUESTION & ANSWER

Revealing The Truth TV Broadcast

STATEMENT

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

This magazine, YAIY Beacon, is published quarterly by Yahweh's Assembly in Yahshua, 2963 Co. Rd. 233, Kingdom City, MO 65262.

This magazine is sent free of charge, made possible through the tithes and offerings of those who desire to see the light of truth shine in our day.

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Overcoming

This Present

Darkness

Let me begin by reading from the book of Job. It's always tenuous to read from this book, and though many great quotes come from it, we have to remember that Job's friends are trying, themselves, to understand why these things are happening to him as well as trying to help him understand why he is being tormented. They are reiterating those concrete theological lessons they were taught, and in doing so, they missed the message that Yahweh is trying to send them in the example of Job. They are trying to convince Job that he MUST have done something wrong to deserve this discipline of Yahweh. In my simplistic way of thinking, and in contradiction to the beliefs of Job's friends, the moral of the story of Job is this, "Trust that Yahweh has a purpose in everything that happens in our lives."

Eliphaz Speaks

In Job 5:6-16 NIV, Job's friend, Eliphaz, who is a son of Esau, whose name means "Golden El" or "El of Gold," is speaking:

For hardship does not spring from the soil, nor does trouble sprout from the ground [In other words, they are trying to convince him that hardship is always a punishment for wrong-doing, and I'm sure you've heard this next familiar line.]. Yet man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward. "But if it were I, I would appeal to Elohim; I would lay my cause before Him. [He is suggesting that Job take his case to the Heavenly court, a useless endeavor because there is no cause, per se, since the Bible states that Job, in chapter 1:1, "was blameless and upright; he feared Elohim and shunned evil." Essentially, Job's case could not be heard, because there are no accusations against him! Eliphaz continues:] He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted. He bestows rain on the earth; He sends water upon the countryside. The lowly He sets on high, and those who mourn are lifted to safety. He thwarts the plans of the crafty [meaning "cunning, sneaky, shrewd or scheming"], so that their hands achieve no success. He catches the wise in their craftiness, and the schemes of the wily are swept away. Darkness comes upon them in the daytime; at noon they grope as in the night. He saves the needy from the sword in their mouth; he saves them from the clutches of the powerful. So the poor have hope, and injustice shuts its mouth."

When I first read these verses, I saw them in the light of vindication that Yahweh has brought to bear in our recent struggles, as a way to set aside this whole affair, once and for all. However, the phrase, "the sword in their mouth," caught my eye, so I examined several other versions which interpreted it as variations of, "saving the needy from the sword and from their mouth," or "saving the needy from the sword of the mighty." But nowhere did I read the translation as, "He saves the needy from starving to death." Now, how difficult is it to understand the simple meaning of, "He saves the needy from the sword in their mouth," as "He saves the needy from starving to death"?

Perhaps it was just as easy for the interpreters who wrote these various versions of Scripture to ignore the plague of starvation that existed in their times as it is for us in this present world. To me, worldwide hunger is a perfect reflection of the moral and spiritual starvation of this present darkness. James [or Ya'acob] states in Chapter 1:27, that "pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our Elohim and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world."

The distress he's describing must have been related to finding enough food to survive. Back then, a widow, without the income her husband could provide, couldn't just apply for welfare, get an educational grant due to her circumstances and find a good-paying job. They were dependent on the good will of those around them. More importantly in all this, perhaps, is the fact that the world ignores the last phrase in James' admonition, "keeping oneself unstained by the world." Certainly, we should act to prevent starvation, but not just physical starvation. Shouldn't we pay more atten-

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tion to the eternal consequences, or punishment, for allowing people to die of spiritual starvation?

Provide Spiritual Food

Yahshua said, "Feed My sheep." He wasn't telling them to go out, buy groceries, and give them to the starving. No! He was telling them to feed them spiritually with the good news that salvation is near at hand. He commands us to feed others with spiritual food. He and His disciples admonish us to go to the ends of the earth and teach truth, iustice and what ... and the American way? No. We are to teach the truth. We are not to teach lies, fables, traditions, or the teachings of man in the place of the teachings of Yahweh. Our truth is found in Scripture. It is the standard by which we are to discern that which is righteous and that which is evil.

So, we will not teach about putting the Messiah back into the celebration of His birthday through understanding the "real" meaning of cutting down a tree, nailing it

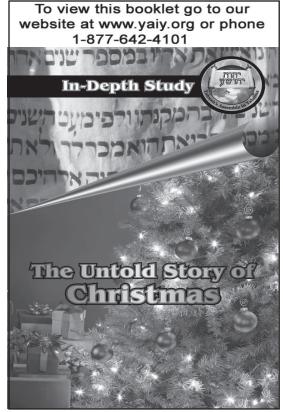
so it won't topple over and decorating it with gold and silver. We will not teach celebrating the Messiah's resurrection at sunrise on a day, and in the way, of pagan worship of the sun god. We will not honor the Queen of Heaven by putting candles on cakes and giving material gifts on our special day; or, celebrating All Hallowed's Eve by acknowledging and enjoying dressing up as evil spirits; worshiping the Creator on a day other than the day He blessed and consecrated for that purpose; confessing to a man for the forgiveness of sins; praying to anyone or anything other than Yahweh Himself; rearranging or changing Yahweh's Appointed Times for convenience sake; using names for the Creator that are themselves (or reflect

the) names of pagan deities. To do so would be to feed poison to those whom Yahweh has called to His House. Can preachers understand the serious consequences for teaching false doctrine? Apparently not.

Eliphaz Continues

Well, isn't it interesting how a small phrase like, "He saves the needy from the sword in their mouth" can lead to a whole sermon in itself. Let's continue with Job 5:17-27, where Eliphaz is lecturing and telling Job what he should do:

Blessed is the man whom Elohim corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. For He wounds, but He also binds up; He injures, but His hands also heal. From six calamities He will rescue you; in seven no harm will befall you. In famine He will ransom you from death, and in battle from the stroke of the sword. You will be protected from the lash of the tongue, and need not fear when destruction



comes. You will laugh at destruction and famine, and need not fear the beasts of the earth. For you will have a covenant with the stones of the field, and the wild animals will be at peace with you. You will know that your tent is secure; you will take stock of your property and find nothing missing. You will know that your children will be many, and your descendants like the grass of the earth. You will come to the grave in full vigor, like sheaves gathered in season. We have examined this, and it is true. So hear it and apply it to yourself.

Eliphaz Spoke to Job

In Job 5:6-27, a friend says to a man who has lost his wife, his children, his means of earning a living; who is covered with sores from head to toe, and who, if I'm not mistaken, is sitting in a dung heap to demonstrate the shame, worthlessness, hopelessness and the utter powerlessness of his condition. "So hear it and apply it to yourself,"

Eliphaz says. Whooo. Thanks, bro! Nice talkin' to you.

But, I'm not too sure that Eliphaz is so alone in his endeavor to help a friend in pain. Here, right here, is one of the tragedies of this life. All around us are people who are suffering, and the servants of Yahweh are few; and when we go out and try to teach salvation from the darkness of this world, from the pain and misery that inhabits our lives, we are rejected and ridiculed and ignored. And, our despair grows. And, we, as it were, sometimes sit in our dung heaps, casting all understanding aside, unable to lift ourselves up in light of the severity of our circumstances and knowing the tragedy that will befall those who reject Yahweh's will. I can relate to Job's friend. Sometimes, I just don't know what to say, so I preach. Maybe just helping others, comforting them ... or just being with them is sufficient, until Yahweh's spirit speaks to us and to the other. Maybe I need to learn more about patience.

Understanding Grows

Nevertheless, I think I understand a little more of Yahshua's words. In Matthew 11:28-30, He says,

Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

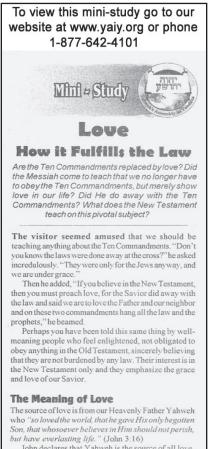
It's not that we have no yoke, nor is it that we have no burden. We have voked ourselves with the love that Father Yahweh and His Anointed One, Yahshua, have offered to us. It is light, because it is not we who are carrying the weight of enlightening others. It is the work of the Set-apart Spirit, the character of Yahweh Himself. Our burden is to understand that He will make all things as they once were: fresh, pure, clean and absent of any hint of evil. It is this good news that we are "burdened" with. If we did not care about others, if we were only concerned about ourselves, we would not sometimes sit in our own ash heap, desperately attempting to discover ways to reach others with this good news.

Those who are imbued with Yahweh's Spirit will shake off this fleshly despair by remembering the promises given to those who honor our Heavenly Father and His Son. We have been called and blessed by Yahweh. In that sense, we are like the Messiah.

In the days of His flesh [speaking of Yahshua], He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety [His humility]. Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, being designated by Yahweh as a High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek [the Righteous King], Hebrews 5:7-10.

Love Endures All

Yahshua came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets. That is, He came to act upon, perform, carry out, implement, do, and comply with the teachings of Moses and the Prophets in order to show us what we are to do and how we are to do it: with reverence and obedience to the Father, keeping His Law and knowing, through Yahweh's Prophetic teachings, His Plan of Salvation. It is an abomination and a direct af-



John declares that Yahweh is the source of all love, and also writes: "He that loves not knows not Yahweh; for Yahweh is love." (1 John 4:8)

Two distinct words for love appear in the Bible. The Greek word *phileo* means "to have ardent affection

front to our Creator to say that His Anointed One made it possible to set aside the Father's will and then do our own thing. Those who teach this have obviously confused the Messiah with the Accuser. It is Satan who would destroy Yahweh's Law and institute his own. Yahshua always points to His Father as He Who Was, Who Is and Is to Come. It was His obedience to Yahweh that proved His love for Him. And, it is our active and faithful obedience to Yahweh's Word that will prove our love for Him. Our reward is and will be to live with Father and Son in Eternity.

I want to know the Messiah and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Yahshua the Messiah took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which Yahweh has called me heavenward in Yahshua the Messiah. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too Yahweh will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained. Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the [sacrifice] of the Messiah. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there. the Sovereign, Yahshua the Messiah, Who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body, Philippians 3:10-21.

A Model For Us

Let me leave you with a detailed account from the book of the Acts of the Apostles that may serve as a model for our work here, in our remaining time to do His will.

Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed. Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy [Jealousy is the fear of losing one's entitlement notice the word "title" in the middle of "entitlement" – or privilege]. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. But during the night an angel of Yahweh opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life." At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people. When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin — the full assembly of the elders of Israel — and sent to the jail for the apostles. But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported, "We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside." On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were puzzled, wondering what would come of this. Then someone came and said, "Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people." At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the

people would stone them. Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us quilty of this man's blood." Peter [whose real name is Kepa] and the other apostles replied: "We must obey Elohim rather than men! The Elohim of our fathers raised Yahshua from the dead – Whom you had killed by hanging Him on a tree. Elohim exalted Him to His own right hand as Prince and Savior that He might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, which Elohim has given to those who obey Him." When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. Then he addressed them: "Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed. all his followers were dispersed. and it all came to nothing. After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from Elohim, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against Elohim." His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Yahshua, and let them go. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Yahshua is the Messiah, Acts 5:16-42 NIV.

Conclusion

So, here we are, descendants, if you will, of those whom Yahshua called. If our purpose or activity is of human origin, we will fail. If we remain obedient to Yahweh. then no one will be able to stop us in our endeavour to teach Yahweh's truth. I praise Yahweh for His strength which He granted to us to endure the hardships of times past. It seems to me that He has given us a message, and that message is this: "I have divided the chaff from the wheat. You have trusted Me, and I have blessed you to continue My work." And, like a father as another day closes. He is saying to us, "Now shoo, shoo, go do your homework and go to bed, and I'll see you in the morning. And, don't forget to say your prayers."

May we learn our lessons well and say our prayers faithfully ... and may we be woken up in the morning by our Father calling our names, lifting us up out of our beds and joyously welcoming us to a new day with the words, "Good morning, My child; today is Sabbath; and guess what I've got in store for you!"

Father, may it be so, in Yahshua's name, HalleluYah!

Elder John Fisher

What is a Paradox?

Whether one googles "paradox" or uses Webster's Dictionary to find the definitions of "paradox," the following list is a partial listing of what one can find:

1. Something (such as a situation) that is made up of two opposite things and that seems impossible but is actually true or possible.

2. Someone who does two things that seem to be opposite to each other or who has qualities that are opposite.

3. A statement that seems to say two opposite things that may be true.

4. A tenet contrary to received opinion.

5. A person, situation or action exhibiting inexplicable or contradictory aspects.

6. Those with spiritual eyes to see and with spiritual ears to hear.

Yahweh created the world we live in to be a paradox from the very foundation (beginning) of the world. It was created a paradox intentionally in order to separate those of the world (spiritually blind and deaf) from those (Nazarenes) who have spiritual eyes and ears.

The Paradox of Physical Life

And I was alive (not dead in sin) apart from the law once (ignorant like a child): but (as an adult) when the commandment came (law of Moses/the letter of the law) sin revived and I died (became a sinner). And the commandment which was to life (provided a path unto salvation) I found to be unto death (eternal damnation for sin), Romans 7:9-10.

This is a paradox. Why? Because Paul/Sha'ul could not obey the commandments as laws, and the fact that the flesh is weak and self-centered, though the commandments could provide eternal life. Eternal life was still out of reach—unobtainable. The letter of the law brings you to the door, "Yahshua." Then, after immersion in Yahshua's name, you are then given a portion of Yah's Spirit to conquer sin and to walk in righteousness.

For sin, finding occasion through the commandment, deceived me (because paradoxical dual nature — the letter condemns — the Spirit brings life) and through it, killed me. (I was condemned by the letter of the Torah/instructions because the flesh which is self-centered/weak and rebellious, prevents/corrupts obedience out of love to walk in righteousness to the instructions/law/Torah.) So the law is HOLY and JUST and GOOD. Did then that which is good become death to me? Yahweh forbid by no means but sin that it might be shown (revealed) as sin, working death (exposing

sin) to me through by that which is good (The Spirit of the Torah/instruction/law). So that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful (Obvious — plain as day — ignorance was no longer an excuse). For we know that the law (Torah) is spiritual (a marriage of love); but I am carnal (worldly, rebellious, self-centered), sold under sin. For (as a righteousness seeker with the faith/belief of Yahshua) that which I (fleshly/carnal man would) do (which is sin), I do not allow: for what I would do (as a fleshly man sinner) that I do not do: but (instead do that) what I (as a fleshly person) hate (which is spiritual obedience) that I do. But if what I would not do that I do (which is spiritual obedience, the spirit of the Torah/law/instructions) I consent unto (agree with) the law (selfless love ---denial of self) that it is good. So now it is no more that I do it but sin that dwells (still lingering) in me. (With Yah's Spirit I am now motivated to conquer/escape my sin as a seeker of righteousness.). For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, no good thing dwells: for to will (like Yah's mind/Spirit/heart) is present with me: but how to perform that which is good I (as a fleshly man) find not. For the good (righteousness) that I would do. I (in the flesh) do not: but the evil which I do not (no longer want/desire to) do, that I (with Yah's Spirit) do. Now if I do that (sin) which I would not (do not want to) do, it is no more that I that do it but sin that (still) dwells in me. I find then the law (a Paradoxical law-the letter of the law condemns-the spirit of the law gives life) that when I do good (seek righteousness) evil is (still) present with me. (We still have the thorn of sin with us but with Yah's Spirit-like mind we can overcome.) For I delight in the law (out of an obedience of love) of Yahweh after the inward (spiritual) man. But I see a different law (lust, sin, self) in my members warring against the law of my mind (a loving mindset-like mind of Yahweh) and bringing me into captivity under the law of sin which is (fleshly) in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me out of the body of this death? I thank Yahweh through Yahshua the Messiah our Master. So then I of myself with the mind, indeed, serve the law of Yahweh; but with the flesh the law of sin, Romans 7:11-25.

The Paradox of Spiritual Salvation

The Paradox of Spiritual Salvation can be seen through all the religions of mankind. Yahweh tells us in the word that it is His Holy Spirit that reveals spiritual knowledge and yet mankind invents colleges of theology, seminaries, monasteries or other institutions of so

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called "Higher Learning." (This is a Paradox — this "higher learning is truly 'lower' learning"). Mankind places his trust in his own abilities/ inventions and not in Yah's Spirit, which reveals the truth. Therefore, man is in great error and receives only the instructions of man's sinful self- centered nature as his reward. Truthfully, the chance of finding a true minister of Yahweh from one of mankind's seminaries or religious institutions is, for all practical purposes, equal to 0 (zero). Yahweh calls out and chooses His own teachers. All those seeking truth need to understand Yahweh has a deep love for mankind. So much so, that EL has made it possible for any human being, no matter how isolated from society they are, to be able to receive salvation/justification/redemption through faith, trust and a true genuine attempt of living an obedient (out of love) life through seeking the righteousness of Yahweh, by having the faith/belief of Yahshua and following His righteous example — with Yahshua and the commandments the Torah with all of one's heart /mind/soul and strength. For those that seek Him in such a manner are those that love (regard, cherish, protect) Him and those that love Him are the ones that find favor/ grace in His eyes. The meaning of the phrase, "to have the faith/belief of Messiah" is to have the "faith/belief as Messiah believed."

The King answered to Daniel, and said, of a truth your EL is the EL of Elohims and the King of Kings and a revealer of secrets seeing you have been able to reveal this secret, Daniel 2:47.

Parallels Between The Paradoxes — a Mystery?

But we (Nazarenes) speak Yahweh's wisdom in a mystery (parallels/parables or in Hebrew "mashal") even the wisdom that has been hidden, which Yahweh foreordained before the world to our glory, which none of the rulers of this world have known: for had they known it, they would not have impaled the Sovereign of Glory (Yahshua). But as it is written, "Things which (fleshly) eve didn't see, and (fleshly) ear did not hear, which did not enter into the heart of man, whatever things Yahweh prepared for those that Love Him." But to us (Nazarenes), Yahweh revealed them through the (Holy) Spirit. For the (Holy) Spirit searches all things. Yes, the deep things of Yahweh. For who among (carnal) men knows the things of a (carnal) man. except the (carnal) spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so, no one knows the things of Yahweh, except the (Holy) Spirit of Yahweh. (Nazarenes that have Yah's Holy Spirit or righteous mentality-like mind). But we (Nazarenes) received not the (carnal) spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from Yahweh, that we (Nazarenes) might know the things that were freely given to us by Yahweh, which thing also we (Nazarenes) speak not in words which man's wisdom (worldly schools of lower learning — fruitless though they be) teaches, but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual things. Now the natural (carnal) man does not receive the things (knowledge) of Yahweh's (Holy) Spirit (not in a school run by man) for they are foolishness to him and he cannot know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual (discerns) judges all things and he himself is (eternally) judged by no one. For who has known the mind of Yahweh that he should instruct him? But we have Messiah Yahshua's mind (Yahshua has Yah's righteousness-seeking mind.), 1 Corinthians 2:7-16.

Now, where is this leading us to?

The Picture of Salvation

For whoever will call on the name of Yahweh (righteous repu-

tation/supreme authority) shall be saved. How then will they call on Him in Whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him Whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher? And how will they preach, unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of them who preach the evangel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things?" But they did not listen to the Glad news. For Isaiah (Yesha-Yah) says, "Yahweh, who has believed our report?" So faith/belief comes by hearing and hearing by the (spoken) word (by messengers: the angels or children) of Yahweh, Romans 10:13-17.

Nowhere does it say that salvation can only come directly from hearing the word of Yahweh. It is not those who just hear the Torah, it is those who are DOERS, who live the Torah/instructions.

For the hearers of the Torah (instructions) are not just before Yahweh: but the DOERS of the Torah (instructions) shall be justified, Romans 2:13.

This is what it means to "believe in Messiah Yahshua" (Yahweh's Appointed firstborn Son), because to "believe in Yahshua" is to "believe as Yahshua believed" and Yahshua "believed in the righteousness of Yahweh." Yahshua lived His life by living the Torah/Instruction words in the flesh.

Also, the Apostle Sha'ul/Paul did not say that hearing a preacher with one's ears was the only way to receive "The word of Yahweh." One who reads "the word of Yahweh." One who reads "the word of Yahweh" with fear and trembling, Phillppians 2:12, in an attempt to be obedient to Yahweh, can be led by the Holy Spirit of Yahweh.

It is those who seek to be like Him (Yah) in righteousness and therefore obedient to Him that receive grace/favor. They are the ones who receive the Holy Spirit

<see Paradox page 14>

Kingdom and Church

Building the Assembly

"Upon this rock I will build My Assembly," said the Messiah to Peter in an interesting play on words in Matthew 16:18,

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church (Assembly); and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Peter had just confessed that Yahshua was the Messiah, the Son of the living Elohim. Then follows the discourse which has been used to promote a fallacious doctrine still extant in the world.

Notice how this translation is made from the Greek words.

I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter [petros, a stone, loose and movable as in John 1:42 where the Aramaic "Cephas" is used] and upon this rock [petra, large, immovable rock] *I* will build My Assembly, and the gates of hell [hades, the grave] shall not prevail against it.

It was upon the confession of "Cephas" [Peter] that Yahshua was the Son of the living Mighty One that Yahshua said He would build His Assembly.

Who Is The Rock — by Scripture?

That Rock or Cornerstone upon Whom the Assembly was prophesied to be built was, of course, Yahshua Himself,

As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed, Romans 9:33.

Unto you therefore which believe He is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner. And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed, 1 Peter 2:7-8.

Therefore thus saith Yahweh Elohim, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation, a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste, Isaiah 28:16.

Who Is The Rock — by Mankind?

Because of a misunderstanding of this verse, Peter was the supposed "rock" upon which the Assembly was to be built. To compound the error further, it was taught that the "church" would bring in righteousness to the world, and then the Messiah would return to rule this earth. This teaching of the Messiah to return only after the world has all been converted and righteousness prevails is known, in religious eschatology, as postmillennial doctrine.

According to these doctrinal beliefs, the Apostle Peter was the first Pope. Because he was given the keys, each Pope from that time to the present is said to have these keys. This doctrine also encompasses the belief that the promises made to Israel have been inherited by the Roman Catholic Church inasmuch as the Pope is called the Holy Father, Yahweh's representative on this earth to bring in the Kingdom. Therefore, Jerusalem and Mount Zion belong to His Holiness. This doctrine promoted the so-called Christian Crusades to wrest Jerusalem from the Moslems in the 12th and 13th centuries.

The Keys of the Kingdom

While it is true that the Heavenly Kingdom was given to Peter, the "church" and the Kingdom are not the same. The word "church" is from the Greek "ecclesia," and literally means "called out." It is better rendered "Assembly" or "Congregation," as the etymology of "church" can be shown to come from the Scottish "Kirk," which comes from Kuriakos, and ultimately from "worshippers of Kyrios," a heathen deity. Therefore, we will use the better translation "Assembly." But the Assembly is not the Kingdom.

As we go back to the promises given to Abraham [Gen. 12:1-7], we find that he was promised to become a great nation, and his name would become great: he would be a blessing; and to Abraham's seed would the land of Canaan be given. Then we read in Rom. 4:13 that this promise has been expanded to include the entire world!

The early apostles knew of this promise to Abraham, and asked the resurrected Savior, "Wilt Thou at this time restore again the Kingdom to Israel?" [Acts 1:6] Notice that Yahshua did not deny that the Kingdom would eventually be restored to Israel but He said that it was not for them to know the time when the Father would bring it to pass:

When they therefore were come together, they asked of Him, saying, Master, wilt Thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And He said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth, Acts 1:6-8.

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The mission of the Assembly or the Body of Messiah is different from that of the Kingdom. The house of Judah had collectively rejected the Messiah as their Savior:

But they cried out, Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priest answered, We have no king but Caesar, John 19:15.

Had they accepted Yahshua as the coming Messiah, John the Baptist would have been the EliYah prophesied:

Behold, I will send My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me: and the Master, Whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, Whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith Yahweh of hosts, Malachi 3:1.

Yahshua repeated this in Matthew 11:14 NKJV:

And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come.

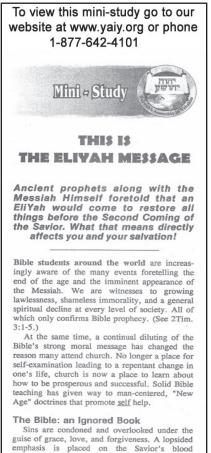
There will yet come a future Eli-Yah to prepare the people for the returning Messiah. Romans 11:26-27 tells us that all Israel after the flesh shall be saved according to the covenant made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and then the Kingdom will be restored unto them:

And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away unrighteousness from Jacob. For this is My covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

But before that happens, there are many things that must yet be fulfilled by the called out ones, the Assembly, the Body of Messiah. This special group is to play a key role in the bringing in of the Kingdom of the Heavens.

In our opening verse we read that Yahshua is building His Assembly. In verse 19 of Matthew 16, we read that the Apostle Peter was given the keys of the Kingdom. Peter was given the power to open the way into the Kingdom and he exercised this authority in Acts 2, where he preached a mighty sermon to the Jewish nation with 3,000 being added to the Assembly and again in Acts 10 where he saw in a vision that Yahweh accepts Gentiles into the Assembly. In Acts 15:7-9, Peter reviews this action of accepting Gentiles into the Assembly, along with Israelites:

And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago Elohim made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the Good News, and believe. And Yahweh which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Spirit, even as He did unto us; and put no difference between us and them,



Sins are condoned and overlooked under the guise of grace, love, and forgiveness. A lopsided emphasis is placed on the Savior's blood covering all sins when nothing is said about fruits worthy of repentance or making restitution for wrong.

Swept aside today is the Bible's clear message

When the Messiah returns the second time in the years just ahead of us, it will be with power and a rod of iron to rule over this world. Acts 5:31 shows us that He will yet give repentance unto Israel and forgiveness of sins as they bow to His rule:

Him hath Yahweh exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Those refusing to obey will be destroyed,

And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people, Acts 3:23.

It is the Assembly or the saints who will rise to meet the Master at His return and rule with Him on this earth, Rev. 20:6, 5:10; Dan. 7:18, 22, 27.

Before all this happens, however, there is a preparation taking place in this earth. A preparation of a people prepared to rule with Messiah when He sets up His Kingdom in Jerusalem. "I will build My Assembly," said the Messiah, and we read in 1 Cor. 3:11 that He Himself is the foundation and the chief cornerstone,

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Yahshua Messiah Himself being the chief corner stone, Ephesians 2:20.

Peter refers to the Messiah as a living stone,

To Whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of Yahweh, and precious, unto you therefore which believe He is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 1 Peter 2:4, 7.

This also refers to the Assembly as composed of living stones being built into a spiritual house, verse 5,

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy

priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to Yahweh by Yahshua Messiah.

The Assembly Began With Jews

Overlooked by so many in nominal churchianity is the fact that the Assembly Yahshua said He would build began with the Jews. Jews were called upon to save themselves from "this crooked generation,"

And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation, Acts 2:40.

The Assembly began as a called out group within the Jewish nation. The first converts to the Messiah were Jews. The first bishops and teachers of the early Assemblies were Jews. As more and more pagan converts entered into the Assemblies and brought many of their pagan doctrines and concepts with them, the Israelitish character of the original Assembly underwent a marked change. Man-made celebrations and holy days entered into the worship which have no basis in the Bible. Christmas, Easter, Halloween, Lent, Sunday, New Year's — all of these are of heathen origin and have become a part of the baptized paganism that masquerades as sanctimonious worship. All sorts of excuses are made to justify the keeping of these idolatrous practices, but your Bible plainly says that we should not learn the way of the heathen.

Thus saith Yahweh, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them, Jer. 10:2.

The Assembly's Mission

The present mission of the Body of Messiah, the Assembly, is the perfecting of the saints for the future role of administering the Law of Yahweh on an earth made new; to be Yahweh's witness to the world; and to prepare to be the kings and priests in the next age. Many Scriptures speak on this.

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Messiah, Ephesians 4:12.

And this evangel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come, Matthew 24:14.

And hath made us kings and priests unto Elohim and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever, Revelation 1:6.

Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of Yahweh and of Messiah, and shall reign with Him a thousand years,



command in the entire Bible to keep this supposed birthday of the Saviorl Furthermore, nowhere in the New Testament is there a single instance where someone observed Christmas. Notone of the Apostles observed December 25, nor did any of them ever in the Savior's 33 years on this earth throw Him a birthday party. Nowhere do we find His disciples giving a gift to Him on December 25. Nor did anyone else. Not even to one another. Revelation 20:6.

Your Bible continually emphasizes that this will be a small group, a remnant,

And Isaiah crieth concerning Israel, If the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, it is the remnant that shall be saved, Romans 9:27 ASV.

Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace, Romans 11:5 ASV.

Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom, Luke 12:32.

And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of Yahweh, and have the testimony of Yahshua Messiah, Revelation 12:17.

Fleshly Israel failed in the task set before it, namely, to obey Yahweh's laws and walk in His ways. Israel will yet be resurrected and returned to the land with King David ruling from Jerusalem,

Behold, the days come, saith Yahweh, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel. and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which My covenant they brake, although I was an Husband unto them, saith Yahweh: but this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel: after those days, saith Yahweh, I will put My law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts: and will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know Yahweh: for they shall all know Me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith Yahweh; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. Jeremiah 31:31-34.

It will be those who have qualified to stand before the Son of Man who will be accounted worthy for that first resurrection, where they will be made immortal,

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saving that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory, 1 Corinthians 15:51-54.

These resurrected saints, now made spirit beings, will be given power over the nations, NOT IS-RAEL!

And he that overcometh, and keepeth My works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations, Revelations 2:26.

The Scriptures make a difference between the Israel after the flesh and the Israel of Yahweh, [see 1 Cor. 10:18, Gal. 6:16]. Paul goes on to say that it is Israel who is adopted as sons; theirs is the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises,

Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of Yahweh, and the promises, Romans 9:4.

In verses 6-8, Paul goes on to say that not the children of the flesh, but those of the promise are the rightful Israel as he stated also in Galatians 3:6-7:

Even as Abraham believed Yahweh, and it was accounted to him for righteousness, know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

It is this little group, the rem-

nant according to the election of grace, that has obtained the position that salvation might come unto the olive branch into the good olive tree, verses 17-25. Any competent gardener knows that one does not graft a WILD branch to SELECT-ED trunks of trees, but rather it is the other way around. The GOOD STOCK BRANCHES are grafted into the trunk of the WILD tree, for it is the branches that do the bearing of fruit. Wild tree branches bring forth precious little as compared to the healthy, robust branches of cultivated trees. Yet, Paul goes on to show that this was done with the Abrahamic covenant to shame Israel into repentance.

We read in Rom. 3:1-2 that it was to the Jews that the sacred pronouncements of Yahweh were kept. But there is yet more truth revealed in the New Testament which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men,

Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men. as it is now revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Messiah by the evangel: whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of Yahweh given unto me by the effectual working of His power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Messiah: and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in Yahweh, Who created all things by Yahshua Messiah: to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the assembly the manifold wisdom of Yahweh, according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Messiah Yahshua our Master: in Whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of *Him*, Ephesians 3:5-12.

This new and glorious truth has to do with the role the Assembly is to play in Yahweh's divine plan. The Assembly, or the Body of Messiah, will help Yahshua, the Captain of their Salvation; they will help bring a rebellious world back to Him. We find that Peter wrote of this salvation in his first epistle,

Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Messiah which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Messiah, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the evangel unto you with the Holy Spirit sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into, 1 Peter 1:10-12.

The prophets of old enquired and searched diligently into the glory that should follow the suffering of the Messiah. The reason and purpose of the Body of Messiah and the good news of its role in establishing the Kingdom is something the very ANGELS OF HEAVEN desire to look into!

The original promises given to the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, concerning their seed, has grown and has been expanded to include dreams far and above what we might expect,

But as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which Yahweh hath prepared for them that love Him, 1 Corinthians 2:9.

The prophets simply could not grasp the glorious truth of the Body of Messiah, and the Kingdom of the Heavens. It might be noted here that the Kingdom of the Heavens as used by Matthew and the Kingdom of Elohim are basically the same thing. Simply stated, it is the domain of this earth ruled by the divine laws of the heavens, [Kingdom is the shortened King's do- main]. It is the time when all rebellion will be put down and the law of Yahweh will reign supreme,

For He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet, 1 Corinthians 15:25.

And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people, Acts 3:23.

The keys that Yahshua promised Peter were the keys of the Kingdom. They were to unlock the Kingdom of the Heavens. This Peter did by his stirring message to the Jews in Acts 2, where we learn that in that day there were added unto them about 3,000, verse 41. In Acts 10 we have the account of Cornelius, a Gentile convert who became a member of the Body of Messiah. So Peter did exercise the use of the keys by allowing Jew and Gentile to become baptized into the Name of Yahshua, the only name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved,

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.

Now, both groups of people, Jews and Gentiles alike, became members of Messiah's Body.

The Real Key — The Assembly

The key of the Kingdom is the Assembly. No man can approach the Father and His Kingdom except through His Son, Yahshua the Messiah, John 14:6.

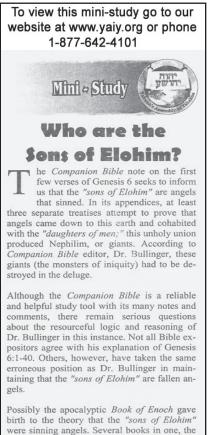
To inherit the Kingdom, one must become a part of the Body of Messiah. But we also read in 1 Corinthians 15:50 that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom,

Now this I say, brethren, that

flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of Yahweh; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

As long as you and I are flesh and blood, we cannot inherit the Kingdom! A change must take place. And that change comes at the return of the Messiah when the saints will be caught up to meet Him in the air and be changed to immortality and then descend with Him to set up His Kingdom on this earth.

There are many differences between the Kingdom and the "church" or Assembly. Those who feel that the two are synonymous should take special note of Scriptural references to each. For example, we read in 1 Cor. 6:9-10 that unrighteous, unregenerate mankind will not inherit the Kingdom. We find the same thought in Gal. 5:19-21,



rossibly the apocarphic book of *Elohari* gave birth to the theory that the "sons of *Elohari*" were siming angels. Several books in one, the *Book of Enoch* was written shortly after 200 B. C.E. The pseudonymous author undoubtedly got his idea from pagan mythology in which the pagan deities came down to earth, indulging their sensual appetites. Roman and Greek literature is filled with such fantasies. where the works of the flesh are listed and the warning given that those doing such things will not inherit the Kingdom. Nowhere do we read of anyone inheriting the Assembly. In Matthew 19:29 we read of those willing to pay the price for being one of Yahshua's people will inherit everlasting life:

And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

In fact, the rich young man asked how he might obtain everlasting life [verses 16-24]. Notice how the Messiah told him that it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom. Note how the Messiah associates everlasting life and the Kingdom. Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom, but those with immortality can, and the two are almost synonymous! It is to these who overcome the devil, the world and their carnal nature who will inherit all things and be called the sons of Yahweh,

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his Elohim, and he shall be My son, Revelation 21:7.

We read often of the "gospel" or good news of the Kingdom, or the good news of the Messiah. But nowhere do we read of the good news of the Assembly. The word gospel is more accurately the good news of the Kingdom of the Heavens being established on this earth. This good news was brought about by the death of the Savior and His resurrection and the opportunity awaiting those who will obey that good news. The term gospel as used by churchianity refers to the first four books of the New Testament, but more closely identifies with the life and activities of the Messiah and His disciples. Very little is ever taught about the coming of the Kingdom to this earth

and how we can be a part of the Kingdom of Yahweh and His Son. It is through accepting Yahshua, becoming a member of His Body, the Assembly, that we are given the power to become a part of His Kingdom, by qualifying in this life, and this is the true message of the glad tidings or good news.

We read of receiving a Kingdom, Heb. 12:28, or the Kingdom being given to the little flock, Luke 12:32. Nowhere do we read of the Assembly being given or received.

We read of there being elders, bishops, messengers, deacons, servants of the Assemblies, but never of the Kingdom having any of these offices.

The Kingdom is referred to as having "sons" or "children" but the Assembly does not have "sons,"

But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, Matthew 8:12.

The Assembly is referred to as "His Body" (Eph. 1:23), "building" and "holy temple" (Eph. 2::21), "whole body" (Eph. 4:16), "Yahweh's household" (I Tim. 3:15). The Kingdom has no such appellatives.

The Kingdom is the great theme running through the Bible. The Assembly, on the other hand, was a mystery until the New Testament was written,

Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints, Colossians 1:26.

The Assembly is here on this earth now, but the Kingdom awaits the coming of the King, Yahshua,

And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, Daniel 7:14.

May we all take heed to Paul's letter to the Assembly in his day,

Therefore, among Yahweh's Assemblies we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. All this is evidence that Yahweh's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the Kingdom of Yahweh for which you are suffering, 2 Thessalonians 2:4-5 NIV.

Elder Donald R. Mansager (deceased)

<from **Paradox** page 8>

of Yahweh and the instructions of Yahweh's mind. This is what it means to be as "like-minded." To be as like-minded with Yahweh you must first obey the letter of the Torah which brings you to the spirit of the Torah. The letter of the Torah/ instructions is an outward physical action. The spirit of the Torah/ instructions is intent to commit "a thought." A thought can be righteous or sinful.

Those who have Yah's Holy Spirit can conquer and subdue even the thought. Therefore, there is no intent to commit sin — break the Torah/instructions. This is the spirit of the Torah/instructions. Those who have Yahweh's Holy Spirit walk and think in righteousness!

He answered and said to them "To you (the like-minded) it is given to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven, but it is not given to them. For whoever has (the mind/Holy Spirit of Yahweh) to him shall be given (understanding) and he will have abundance, but (the worldly carnal man) whoever does not have (Yah's mind/spirit) from him shall be taken away even that which he has (his natural life and possessions). Therefore I speak to them in parables (mysteries) because seeing they do not see and hearing they do not hear, neither do

they understand, because they are carnal (worldly). In them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says, "by hearing you will hear and will in no way understand; seeing you will see, and will in no way perceive. For this people's heart (carnal/worldly mentality) has grown callous, their ears are dull of hearing, their eyes they have closed; (deaf and blind) or else perhaps they might perceive with their (spiritually healed) eyes, hear with their (spiritually healed) ears, understand with their (spiritually healed) heart (seeking righteousness) and should turn again (spiritually awaken) and I would heal them. But blessed are your (Holy Spiritual) eyes, for they see; and your (Holy Spiritual) ears, for they hear, Matthew 13:11-16.

Now the Elohim of patience and of comfort grant you to be of the same mind (righteousness-seeking mentality) one with another according to Messiah Yahshua that you may with one accord and with one mouth glorify the Elohim and Father of our Sovereign Yahshua the Messiah, Romans 15:5-6.

How can the true children (Nazarenes—spiritual images) of Yahweh live peacefully with each other, in one accord, and esteem Yahweh with one voice, unless they think exactly alike and exactly like Yahweh Whom we esteem, if we do not all have the exact same "Likemind" as Yahweh?

A True Paradox

Those that seek salvation for personal sake will never obtain it. Those that seek the righteousness of Yahweh will obtain salvation, justification and redemption.

Brother Jim DeHart

Trust and Obey

Yahweh said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." Yahweh created man in His own image, in the image of Yahweh He created him; male and female He created them. Yahweh blessed them; and Yahweh said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Then Yahweh said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to everything that moves on the earth which has life. I have given every green plant for food"; and it was so. Yahweh saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day, Genesis 1: 26 - 31.

Yahweh Loved His Creation

He established a personal relationship with His creation in the beginning, in the garden, in the earth. He had created man in His image and given man control over the earth. Yahweh trusted His created beings to care for the whole of His creation. Yahweh turned over the keys to the new creation to Adam. The relationship here was strong. Yahweh gave control of the new creation to Adam with only one restriction:

Yahweh Elohim took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. Yahweh Elohim commanded the man, saying, "From any tree in the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die," Genesis 2:15 - 17.

A Loving Relationship

Mankind was given all the provisions one would ever need to occupy the land and have a very fulfilling life.

Then Yahweh Elohim said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him," Genesis 2:18.

A simple, wonderful existence — walking and talking with the King of the Universe and trusting one another to do only good for each other. A truly good friendship. The only caveat in this scenario was to not eat from that tree or, "Friend," you will not like the consequences of your actions. If you eat, you will die.

They trusted each other in the beginning.

Obedience is the Key With Yahweh

Obedience is truly the key with Yahweh.

Then Saul said to Samuel, "I did obey the voice of Yahweh, and went on the mission on which Yahweh sent me, and have brought back Agag, the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took some of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the choicest of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to Yahweh your Elohim at Gilgal." Samuel said, "Has Yahweh as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of Yahweh? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is the sin of divination, and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of Yahweh, He has also rejected you from being king." Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned; I have indeed transgressed the command of Yahweh and your words, because I feared the people and listened to their voice. Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me. that I may worship Yahweh." But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you; for you have rejected the word of Yahweh, and Yahweh has rejected you from being king over Israel," 1 Samuel 15:20 - 26.

Saul was given specific instructions and he chose to do things his way rather than Yahweh's way. It seems that Saul didn't trust Yah to be giving him the proper instructions.

Trust is the Key to Obedience

Trust is the key to obedience. If we don't trust someone we have a tendency to hesitate when they tell us something or delay if they want us to do something. Suppose you are a happily married individual. You are in love with your spouse. You trust your spouse implicitly. You have had no trouble at all in your relationship.

Suppose a trusted friend, a relative, a member of your assembly; anyone that you are comfortable with as being truthful, approaches you and says that they have knowledge that your spouse is now and has for some time been having an affair. This is not true!! But you have been told by a trusted source.

Has your opinion of your spouse been compromised? Even though it's not true do you feel betrayed? Something in your relationship has changed. Even though it's not true, and your spouse would never dream of betraying you, and your spouse loves you dearly. Still something inside of you has changed; because of a lie.

The trust that once existed between you and your spouse has been broken. Confrontations and discussions on this matter will ensue; your spouse will doubt your fidelity and question you because "how could you think such a thing?"

Remember, it was all a LIE. Lies have power, the power to break trust and that broken trust can call a loving relationship into question.

Where Does This Lead Us?

Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which Elohim had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has Elohim said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat: but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, Elohim has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will surely die."" The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! For Elohim knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like Elohim, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise. she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together

and made themselves loin coverings, Genesis 3:1 – 7.

Adam and Eve trusted Yahweh. They had a loving relationship with Yahweh and they believed what was told to them. The serpent questioned that relationship. Did He restrict you in any way? Why would He hold back from you in a loving relationship? You surely will not die, he says. He knew that when you eat from that tree you will become like Him, and He can't allow that, can He?

Something happened in the garden. Something happened to Eve and Adam. They trusted all of Yahweh's creation. Why would they not trust the serpent? They listened. The serpent told them a lie about their relationship. Something happened to their relationship with Yahweh.

Now there is doubt... mistrust...



Why? Was it because they believed a lie?

Did Consumption Cause Their Death?

For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it passes by, or as a watch in the night, Psalm 90:4.

But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with Yahweh one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years is like one day, 2 Peter 3 :8.

Using this reckoning of time, Adam lived 930 years according to Genesis 5:5. This was within a day according to Yahweh.

Adam's Descendants Distrusted Yahweh

Then Elohim spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying "Now behold. I myself do establish My covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you; of all that comes out of the ark, even every beast of the earth. I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth," Elohim said, "This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all successive generations; I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth. It shall come about when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow will be seen in the cloud, and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between Elohim and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." And Elohim said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth." Now the sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem and Ham and Yapheth; and Ham was the father of Canaan. These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated, Genesis 9:8 – 19.

Yahweh promised a new beginning for the sons of Noah. This was to be a fresh start for their relationship and renewed covenant. The sons of Noah had seen the hand of Yahweh; they had seen the mighty power. Still, there was something, a hint of doubt! Could they really trust the Creator? He had just destroyed the world around them. Even though He said He would never do that again, could they trust Him?

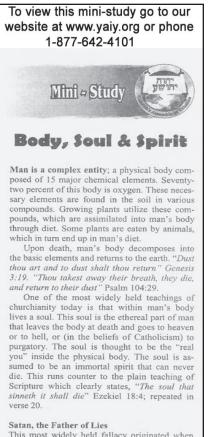
Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. It came about as they journeved east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. They said to one another. "Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth," Genesis 11:1 - 4

Rather than returning to the relationship that once existed before the serpent, the sons of Noah opted to strike out on their own and build their own name rather than accept and serve the name of Yahweh. The trust had not returned. They were still wary of the Creator. They can serve themselves and that would be the way of the world. Ha satan's lie had lived on in the children of Noah. They would be their own object of worship. Of course, other elohim crept into their lives over time, but there was something that had changed about Yahweh. Something inside that they could not overcome.

Did Yahweh Cast Israel Aside?

NO. Yahweh tried to re-establish that relationship. He tried to regain the trust that was lost due to the lie of ha satan. He tried through many trials when the children of Abraham were caused to be slaves in Mitsraym. It was time to try to reestablish the relationship again. Yahweh contacted Moshe (Moses), telling him about his special task. Moshe was hesitant to approach the pharaoh as a representative of the Most High. Perhaps Moshe didn't trust Yahweh?

Then Moshe said, "What if they



This most widely held fallacy originated when Satan deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden. Thus Satan is called the first liar in Scripture. Yahshua said he was a liar and the father of lies, John 8:44. "Thou shalt not surely die," Satan told Eve, "For Elohim does know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened and

will not believe me or listen to what I say? For they may say, 'Yahweh has not appeared to you."" Yahweh said to him, "What is that in your hand?" And he said "A staff." Then He said, "Throw it on the ground." So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent; Moshe fled from it. But Yahweh said to Moshe. "Stretch out your hand and grasp it by its tail" - so he stretched out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand - "that they may believe that Yahweh Elohim of their fathers, the Elohim of Abraham, the Elohim of Issac, and the Elohim of Yaacob, has appeared to you." Yahweh furthermore said to him, "Now put your hand into your bosom," and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow. Then He said, "Put your into your bosom again." So he put his hand into his bosom again, and when he took it out of his bosom, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh. If they will not believe you or heed the witness of the first sign, they may believe the witness of the last sign. But if they will not believe even these two signs or heed what you say, then you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground: and the water which you take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground." The Moshe said to Yahweh, "Please, Yahweh, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." Yahweh said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf or seeing or blind? Is it not I, Yahweh? Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say." But he said, "Please Yahweh, now send the message by whomever You will." Then the anger of Yahweh burned against Moshe, and He said, "Is there not your brother Aaron the Levite? I know that he speaks fluently. And

moreover, behold, he is coming out to meet you; when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. You are to speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I, even I, will be with your mouth and his mouth, and I will teach you what you are to do. Moreover, he shall speak for you to the people; and he will be as a mouth for you and you will be as elohim to him. You shall take in your hand this staff, with which you shall perform the signs." Then Moshe departed and returned to Yethro his father-in-law and said to him, "Please, let me go, that I may return to my brethren who are in Mitsraym, and see if they are still alive." And Yethro said to Moshe. "Go in peace," Exodus 4: 1 – 18.

Moshe did not want to trust Yahweh. He did not want to do what was required of him. He argued with Yahweh. Something was missing in Moshe's character. But, he went.

After Yisrael was brought out of Mitsraym they moaned and complained and found fault at every turn. They lost their trust in the One Who delivered them from slavery. They doubted the Creator and longed for their former life in mitsraym. Yisrael waited at the base of Mt. Sinai for Moshe to return from speaking to Yahweh. They feared and lost faith. Their trust was in their own hand. They demanded that Aaron make them a golden calf that they might appeal to Yahweh in the ways that they knew in Mitsraym.

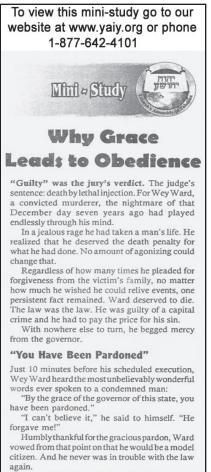
Then Yahweh spoke to Moshe, "Go down at once, for your people, whom you have brought up from the land of mitsraym, have corrupted themselves. They have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them, they have made for themselves a molten calf, and have worshipped it and have sacrificed to it and said, 'This is your elohim, oh Yisrael, who brought you up from the land of mitsraym!' Yahweh said to Moshe, "I have seen this people, and behold, they are an obstinate people. Now then let Me alone, that My anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them; and I will make of you a great nation," Exodus 32:7 – 10.

Moshe pleaded with Yahweh to spare the people for Yahweh's sake; that His name be held in esteem. The people did not trust their Elohim. But, Moshe was seeing Yahweh differently.

Conclusion

We are a sad lot. Our relationship has been broken and the doubt of our Creator carries on, by and large, to this day. We continue to doubt Yahweh. Our hope is to believe He is Who He says He is and to restore our relationship with Him.

Yahweh sent an emissary to



Although fictitious, the foregoing illustrates the concept of scriptural grace and how it works in the

help us to renew our trust and to renew the covenant we had with Him. He sent Yahshua ha Mashiach to restore that which had been lost.

Men that knew Yahshua had a change of heart. They found a new faith and trust in the Creator.

When they had brought them. they stood them before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Yerushalyim with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us." But Peter and the emissaries answered, "We must obey Elohim rather than men. The Elohim of our fathers raised up Yahshua, Whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a stake. He is the One Whom Elohim exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Yisrael, and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Ruach Ha Kodesh. Which Elohim has given to those who obey Him," Acts 5:27 - 32.

They found a renewed, trusting relationship with the Creator of the Universe. Through long-suffering Yahweh was realizing the renewal of the way it was to be in the beginning, before the lie.

Peter, an emissary of Yahshua Messiah, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of Elohim the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Ruach, to obey Yahshua Messiah and be sprinkled with His blood; may favor and peace be yours in the fullest measure. Blessed be the Elohim and Father of our Master Yahshua Messiah. Who according to His great compassion has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Yahshua Messiah from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and

<see Trust page 20>

Wisdom Is Calling

Wisdom versus Folly — Proverbs Chapter 9

Wisdom is making her last bid. She does not desire to buy anything, but rather is making her last cry for people to listen. Will you listen? Her voice may sound like a whisper due to excessive verbalization, but her words are still all truth. Her voice may sound crackled, but not garbled, for her words are still intelligible. Her voice may sound like a record being played on a run-down gramophone, but her words are still audible. Yes, wisdom continues to cry, and:

Wisdom has buildeth her house, Proverbs 8:1a.

This is not a cry indicating pain and suffering, but it is a cry which is being made, pleading for people to:

Listen To What Wisdom Is Saying

Wisdom stands like a town crier, who, in her lofty seat in the highest tower in town, sends forth her message so that all may hear her. Are you one that hears her? If so, then wisdom wants you to listen to her. All parents have heard their infants cry but they must listen to that cry to determine what kind it is — that of hunger, pain, loneliness, etc. Parents, are your children still crying, perhaps inaudibly, even as they grow older? This then, need not be to satisfy the hunger of their stomachs, but to satisfy the hunger of their hearts. Parents: you are to teach your children of Yahweh's ways:

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it, Proverbs 22:6.

And to the youth of today — both young and old alike: Are your parents crying? Yes, crying because you failed to attend to their instructions.

A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent, Proverbs 15:5.

Yes, wisdom is calling, but who is listening? Many will hear wisdom calling, but few will really listen to her. Yahshua tells us in Matthew 22:14b,

For many are called, but few are chosen.

We should listen to Yahshua, Who personified wisdom to the nth degree when He spoke of the parable of the marriage of the king's son in Matthew 22:1-14. Everything is there and the bidding (calling) has been sent out (*And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come,* Matthew 22:3.). The invitation is even given to the simple or unsuspecting ones and specifically to those who have a heart for understanding, Again, He sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared My dinner: My oxen and My fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage, Matthew 22:4.

Friends

Who are your friends? Do they commit acts which are unreasonable or seemingly senseless? Do they get their kicks from making it miserable for others? Or, are your friends those buddies who are your companions who will stick by you when the going gets rough? Do they think it contemptuous to injure others by any means? If they are of the first type, it would do you good to seek out others, for they are certainly of this world and "whosoever will be a friend of the world is the enemy of Yahweh," James 4:4. Don't get so wrapped up in the cares of this life so that you lose sight of the main goal, which is everlasting life.

Hold Your Tongue

And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell, James 3:6.

"Oops, sorry, I didn't mean to say that." "I guess I should have thought before I answered." Have you ever been plagued with the necessity of offering such an excuse? Unfortunately, this happens all too often, for the tongue is a restless appendage ready to be used on a moment's notice. No one can tame his tongue (*But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison*, James 3:6.). However, one can learn to control it (*Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles,* Proverbs 21:23.). One must learn when to speak and when to keep his mouth shut. Perhaps experience will help one learn but the college of hard-knocks is a hard school to graduate from. Proverbs 9:7-9 gives a little insight into this matter:

He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked man getteth himself a blot. Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning, Proverbs 9:7-9.

A scorner, or a scoffer, is one who ridicules or makes fun of his enemies. It is better not to reprove (convict) someone else for Yahweh wants us to condemn ourselves - the sinners we are. Proverbs 9:7 and 8. Yes, hold your tongue and learn to speak only when it is necessary. Let your tongue be the tongue of the learned (Yahweh Elohim hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned. Isaiah 50:4.) and not the tongue which speaks deceitfully (Their tongue is as an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: one speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait, Jeremiah 9:8.). Let your tongue be like that of a virtuous woman (one of high moral character), who speaks with kindness (She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. Proverbs 31:26.) and not the tongue which speaks lies. (See Prov. 6:17.).

Advice

Have you ever offered advice to someone? Parents offer advice to their children virtually everyday under the guise of instruction. Giving advice to people can lead down two paths — either they will find the thought of you offering advice distasteful and dislike you for it, or they will thank you for it because they know you are intending it only for their betterment,

Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning, Proverbs 9:8-9.

Oh, To Feel Important!

How is your ego these days? Are you the type of person who needs a pat on the back everyday to keep you going? "You're doing great job, keep it up." Do you feel there are days which are a complete waste of time? Whether you put in a 16 hour work day or rest the entire day in bed, you can still make a day be useful. In reading Prov. 3:2, 16; 4:10; 9:10-11, by keeping Yahweh's commandments each day of our lives we shall gain knowledge and wisdom and understanding for "The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom," Proverbs 9:10a.

Stop Complaining

Do you know of anyone who is always complaining about something with the biggest complaint of all being: "no one listens to me." Perhaps that person is too dense to fully realize how the words that come out of his (or her) mouth may sound. The inflection placed upon words in a sentence can change a command into a complaint, while each basically conveys the same thoughts or desires. This is brought out in a paraphrase of Proverbs 9:13-15:

"A foolish or dense person complains because he (or she) doesn't know any better. They sit on their high horses calling to people, but the people don't listen, they keep right on going their own way or doing what they are doing."

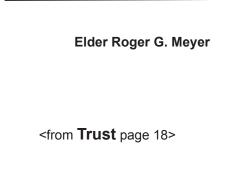
There is certainly nothing wrong by giving a complaint if one defines a complaint as a voice of displeasure. But, it is when complaints are uttered in excess that they will tend to fall upon deaf ears.

If you feel you lack wisdom, ask Yahweh, in steadfast faith, to give it to you. Study the Scriptures

Which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Messiah Yahshua. All scripture is given by inspiration of Yahweh, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of Elohim may be perfect, *throughly furnished unto all good works*, 2 Timothy 3:15-17.

Remember,

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her. She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee, Proverbs 4:7-9.



undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in the heavens for you, who are protected by the power of Elohim through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time, 1 Peter 1:1 - 5.

Surely, if we trust our Elohim to be Who He says He is and to accept the work of renewing the relationship that Yahshua did, we are no longer a "stiff-necked" people as in the days of old. We welcome the return to the former thing, the renewal of the covenant between Yahweh and His people. Yisrael shall once again become heir to the promises and dwell in the land that Yahweh has given us.

Brother Gary Hornickel



"Lights & Perfections" does not clarify for me the meaning of the Urim and Thummin. From Ex. 28:30, Numbers 27:21 and Deut. 33:8-11, it was something over the High Priest's heart which somehow had something to do with judgment.

The Companion Bible explains the Urim and Thumim were probably two precious stones that were placed in the bag of the breastplate of judgment. Called "Lights" and "Perfections," the stones were drawn out and made a judicial decision of guilt and innocence by the high priest. When the land was divided "by lot," judgment of Yahweh was by the "Urim" and "Thumin." The technique whereby guidance was made plain has not been recorded, according to the New Bible Dictionary, J. D.Douglas. There are no negative answers recorded.

Q

Why did the armies of Israel kill Balaam, son of Beor, along with the Midianites, when he had prophesied for Israel earlier?



Balaam is a (prophet for profit), a picture of greed (Numbers 22-24). Moab King Balak sought to have Balaam curse Israel, but each time Yahweh turned the curse into a

blessing. Balaam advised the Midianites to lure the Israelites into the worship of Baal-Peor instead of making war with them. Thus, Israel became Baal worshippers, and for this, he was eventually killed along with the Midianite kings by Israel.



I wonder why Yahweh prohibited planting a grove of trees near the "altar of Yahweh," Deut. 16:21. Perhaps that would encourage pagan worship too close to camp? The Bible uses the word "grove" as an euphemism for the sacred pillar or pole:

"Thou shalt not plant thee a grove of any trees near unto the altar of Yahweh thy E I o h i m, which thou shalt make thee," Deuteronomy 16:21 AV.

This reference to "grove of trees" refers to the pagan custom of cutting the top off a tree and fashioning it into a phallic symbol used in Baal worship of the Asherah. The following is an example:

"For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree," 1 Kings 14:23 AV.



What did Yahshua mean when He told the Disciples, "Whoever is not against us is for us," when they saw a man casting out demons in His name?



The verses are probably the following: The man casting out demons did so in Yahshua's name, and though not closely associated with the Savior, was doing the work. There

are others that Yahweh is calling out of the world that we know very little about.

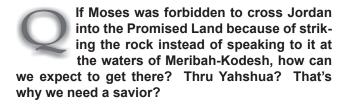
"And John answered Him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in Thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbad him, because he followeth not us. But Yahshua said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in My name, that can lightly speak evil of Me," Mark 9:38-39 AV.

The question is often asked about this follower of Yahshua, for we know very little about him. He is probably one of the early believers found in Luke 10:1-22, the sending out of the 70, two by two. He may have been one who was himself baptized when the Holy Spirit came to earth on Pentecost or may have influenced others that Yahshua was indeed the promised Messiah, who then were immersed, Acts 2:41.



If it is what is inside that counts, why does Yahweh exclude those with disability?

He wants those to represent His benevolent side so that we might remember His goodness and tender mercies. In preferring good physical specimens, we can easily recognize spiritual qualifications are also part of the equation Yahweh expects from us. We are to strive for spiritual perfection, for we are to be holy as He is holy, 1 Peter 1:16.





We cannot by our own reason or strength come to Him, only through the Savior:

"Yahshua saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me," John 14:6 AV.

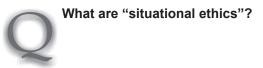


did Yahweh suggest giving or Why selling to a stranger or alien, that thing which "dieth of itself." but was forbidden as unclean to the Israelite? See Deut. 14:21.



Both Deuteronomy and Exodus 22:31 tell us not to eat of animals that are killed or die of themselves, but to give these things to strangers or cast them to dogs, and rid

the earth of dead animals. Yahweh wants His people to be a clean, healthy, virile and robust people. One would get rid of an animal that died of sickness, but could give or sell a clean animal to a foreigner. We must watch what we put into our mind or make a habit.





We are to take up the same goals as Yahshua and Yahweh have in eating clean, thinking clean, and being a clean people in all we think and do. It helps us see things

through Yahweh's eyes, so we become more like Him. Yahweh is guite clear in revealing His purpose and His goals for those He has called.



Why were the children of Israel forbidden to eat a kid seethed in his mother's milk? Deut. 14:21.



The mother's milk was to give life to the kid, not make the milk an instrument of death. Some scholars contend that it is next to impossible to boil milk with a kid.



In Joshua 7:25-26, it states the children of Israel built "a great heap of stones" over the burial site of Achan in the Valley of Achor. Is this witness visible today? The Bible states "unto this day" in Josh-

ua 7:26.



"Unto this day" is generally understood to mean the day the author wrote the account. A "cairn" of stones was often erected to recall some important event. We are not

aware of any archeological evidence this "cairn" or the "heap of stones" of the gate of Ai being visible today. (Joshua 8:28-29).



Are the two witnesses, referred to in Revelation 11:7 and 20:7, witnessing before or after the 1,000 years?



The two witnesses are likely two groups of people who are upholding Yahweh's truth, and will be killed just before Yahshua comes, Note that Rev. 11:7 says the Beast will make

war with them. Now, why would a world ruler "make war" against two people? A potentate could send a contingent of soldiers after them and get rid of them quickly. But this man "makes war" against the witnesses and they are not limited to two men. Verse11:11 says the Holy Spirit enters into them and they ascend to heaven and meet Yahshua in the air, as seen in 1 Corinthians 15:50-55, which is likely the first resurrection.

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