



BEACON

OCT - DEC. 2023 - SPREADING THE WORD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD - YAIY.ORG



**Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled
The Seventh Day
Thou Shall Not Kill
Marriage Covenant
After the Feast Glow**

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

YAIY BEACON magazine, is published quarterly by Yahweh's Assembly in Yahshua.

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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Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled

When Yahshua could see the troubled hearts of individuals, what would be the best thing to tell them? The title is taken from John 14:1, in which Yahshua says, “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in Elohim, believe also in Me.”

Sometimes, we struggle with our thoughts and feelings. A lot of “what if” questions can arise, and we think of the worst-case scenarios playing out. We can say things in our own minds that we think are true, but when examined against Scripture, we find are not.

Some time ago there was something posted to Facebook by *The HalleluYAH Express Ministry*, which gave a three-column presentation of “You Say,” “Yah Says” and the “Bible Says”.

Let’s go through 12 of them together:

1. You say, “I can’t figure it out.” Yah says, “I will direct your steps.” The Bible says, in Proverbs 3:5–6, *Trust in Yahweh with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.* (The *New American Standard Bible* is used throughout unless otherwise noted)

The *KJV* says, “He will direct your path.” And, He will, if we consider Him when we are making decisions and ask, “What would He have me do?” It’s a big help in figuring out how to proceed or figuring it out.

2. You say, “I’m too tired.” Yah says, “I will give you rest.” The Bible says, in Matthew 11:28–30, *Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*

The *NASB* always capitalizes quotes from Old Testament Scripture. “You will find rest for your souls” is taken from Jeremiah 6:16.

Thus says Yahweh, “Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; and you will find rest for your souls. But they said, “We will not walk in it,” Jeremiah 6:16.

When we tell people that they should walk according to Yahweh’s Laws, like keeping the 7th day holy and eating only clean foods, etc., they often have the rebellious attitude of “We will not walk in it.” It is a problem. Let us know how that ends up working out for you. See if you will enter into His rest, with that attitude (Hebrews chapters 3 and 4 would say, “No, you will not.”).

3. You say, "It's impossible." Yah says, "All things are possible." The "Bible Says," Luke 18:27... *"The things that are impossible with people are possible with Elohim."*

Yahshua always knew how to answer as His focus was always on Yahweh's will.

4. You say, "Nobody loves me." Yah says, "I love you." The Bible says, in John 3:16, *For Elohim so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

There are many other Scriptures, as well, that tell us of the Love of Yahweh and of Yahshua, such as Romans 5:8, Ephesians 2:4, 2 Thessalonians 2:16 and others.

5. You say, "I can't forgive myself." Yah says, "I will forgive you." The Bible says, in Romans 8:1, *Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Messiah Yahshua.*

To be in Him, is to walk as the Father instructs. After all, Yahshua Himself said, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" He answered His own question by saying "Whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven." (Matt.12:47-50)

6. You say, "It's not worth it." Yah says, "It will be worth it." The Bible says, in Romans 8:28, *And we know that Elohim causes all things to work together for good to those who love Elohim, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

We see this principle worked out throughout Scripture, ultimately obtaining eternal life in which there will be no more pain or suffering.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of Elohim is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and Elohim Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true," Revelation 21:3-5.

This is becoming one of my new, favorite Scripture passages, as it tells us the end (which is just the beginning of things that will be too marvelous to imagine) for those who overcome this world through the Messiah, Yahshua.

7. You say, "I'm not smart enough." Yah says, "I will give you wisdom." The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 1:30, *But by His doing you are in Messiah Yahshua, who became to us wisdom from Elohim, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.*

What this is really saying, is that we now have wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption through the Messiah. This allows us to walk on higher ground in spirit and in truth. Ultimately, it's Yahweh's Spirit and His Truth which is found in His Word. If you are able to know His Word, then you are able to be smart enough.

8. You say, "I'm not able." Yah says, "I am able." The Bible says, in 2 Corinthians 9:8, *And Elohim is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.*

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

It's the same works of which they will be saying in the coming Kingdom:

Remember the law of Moses My servant, even the statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel. Behold, I am going to send you EliYah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of Yahweh, Malachi 4:4-5.

This would be an extremely odd statement at the end of the Old Testament, if the laws of Yahweh had been abolished.

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

9. You say, "I can't go on." Yah says, "My grace is sufficient." The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 12:9, *And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the Power of Messiah may dwell in me.*

The Apostle Paul took the humble attitude of accepting, and, in fact, embracing, his weakness so that the strength of Messiah would be found in him. Paul reinforces this position in the next verse:

Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Messiah's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong, 2 Corinthians 12:10.

We should be thankful for all things, and as we change our perspective knowing what Yahweh is doing in us through the Messiah, we can say, "I will go on." Yahshua Himself encourages us to do so.

These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world, John 16:33.

Regrettably, we still get discouraged at times and think we can never measure up to the high standard that Yahweh has set for us.

10. You say, "I can't do it." Yah says, "You can do all things." The Bible says, in Philippians 4:13, *I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*

The book of Philippians is dated roughly five years after 2 Corinthians, so we see Paul is still acknowledging what Yahshua told him about being strengthened by His power. It is power granted to the Son by the Father. Acts 10:38 specifically says that Yahweh anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power. It's a substantial power that Yahshua has. Hebrews 1:3 attests to Yahshua upholding all things by the Word of His power.

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together, Colossians 1:17.

All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being, John 1:3.

11. You say, "I can't manage." Yah says, "I will supply all you need." The Bible says, in Philippians 4:19, *And my Elohim will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Messiah Yahshua.*

All needs include handling and managing life no matter what it throws at us. The promises given to us in 1 Corinthians 10:13 declare that we will not be tried beyond what we can handle. And as Hebrews 12:4 says, we have not resisted to the point of shedding blood in our striving against sinning against Yahweh.

When thinking about not being able to manage, we know the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

gentleness, and specifically self-control, can help us to manage. It's a matter of leaning upon Yahweh and the Messiah, Who love and care for us, making us able to manage whatever situation in which we find ourselves. We have no need to fear. Yet, the biggest problem for many of us from this list is the last we'll look at: being fearful.

12. You say, "I'm afraid." Yah says, "I have not given you fear." The Bible says in 2 Timothy 1:7, **KJV**, *For Elohim hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

What is Yahweh's main attribute? In a word, He can be described as Love, therefore He is able to express that love through us by His Spirit.

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because He first loved us, 1 John 4:18-19.

He still loves us. Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom (Luke 12:32).

What about those in areas of the world in which there is war? Are there brethren in these areas? Sometimes there are, and sometimes they have to flee or otherwise defend themselves. Our natural "fight or flight" response kicks in, a natural response to stimuli such as war. But even during times like this, brethren can rely on Yahweh's Word for comfort. King David, a man after Yahweh's own heart, having been in war and knowing what it was like to be on the offensive as well as the defensive, said this in the Psalms.

When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You. In Elohim, whose Word I praise, in Elohim I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me? Psalm 56:3-4.

Notice that King David did have fear, as a natural response. However, He chose to look up and put his trust in Yahweh. He spoke the words of affirmation concerning his trust and reliance on the Heavenly Father.

Yahweh is for me; I will not fear; what can man do to me? Psalm 118:6.

Looking Above

As a people in the body of Messiah, who put their trust in Yahweh, we must rely on Him to see us through any difficulty we might naturally perceive as overwhelming or difficult, even to the point of anguish. Our perception of each situation, keeping in mind that Yahweh is not unaware, and that

Yahshua being a capable Shepherd is on guard for us, can help us keep our sanity. (Sanity is identified with words like rational, stability and soundness of mind which relate to the Fruit of the Spirit of Yahweh.)

We can help Yahweh's Spirit by keeping our mind focused on Him and on good things He has provided for us. Putting our request before Him and trusting Him, will provide peace for us.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to Elohim. And the peace of Elohim, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Messiah Yahshua. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the Elohim of peace will be with you, Philippians 4:6–9.

The Apostle Paul is offering up his own example to be followed, as he himself followed the Messiah. If we compare what he went through with what we go through, we can say with confidence that we have it easier that he did. Since he overcame to the end with such difficulties (2 Cor. 11:23-29), it means we can, too. But he's not the only example provided us in Scripture.



Suffering Job

We sometimes wonder why we might be going through difficulties. We know we live in a fallen world, due to Adam and Eve's sinning in the Garden of Eden. We now suffer with thorns, thistles, the sweat of our brow in making a living, and ultimately death at the end of our physical existence.

Yes, Adam and Eve sinned, but Satan was there to prompt their sin. We find him later, causing Job problems. But if we are honest, we cannot compare what we go through with what Job went through. And he was blameless, fearing Elohim, and turning away from evil (Job 1:1).

There was a man in the land of Uz whose name

was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing Elohim and turning away from evil, Job 1:1.

Yahweh said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered Yahweh and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." Yahweh said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing Elohim and turning away from evil," Job 1:7–8.

We know the rest of the account, as he had great wealth and lost it all, including his family. And Job's response?

He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. Yahweh gave and Yahweh has taken away. Blessed be the Name of Yahweh." Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame Elohim, Job 1:21–22.

Blessed be the Name of Yahweh. Can we likewise declare this when going through difficulties? Can we compare our troubles with Job's?

Satan answered Yahweh and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. However, put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You to Your face." So Yahweh said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life." Job 2:4–6.

Have you ever had a day when just when you thought it couldn't get any worse, it did? Still, our troubles don't compare with Job's. This time boils were all over his body, and he scraped at them with broken pottery, sitting in the ashes of his mourning, his wife at his side.

And, what was his response this time, even when prompted to forsake Yahweh?

Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse Elohim and die!" But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from Elohim and not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips, Job 2:9–10.

As we read further the pain in his heart began to affect him and before his friends who came to "comfort" him, he cursed the day of his birth.

Ultimately, Yahweh used Job's experience to bring to us an understanding of how great He is, and how miniscule we are.

Yet, Yahweh did not forsake Job, neither did He fail to show him mercy. After Job made intercessory prayer for his friends, we read,

Yahweh restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends, and Yahweh increased all

that Job had twofold. Then all his brothers and all his sisters and all who had known him before came to him, and they ate bread with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the adversities that Yahweh had brought on him. And each one gave him one piece of money, and each a ring of gold. Yahweh blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had 14,000 sheep and 6,000 camels and 1,000 yoke of oxen and 1,000 female donkeys. He had seven sons and three daughters, Job 42:10–13.

Joseph

Another, who initially had trouble, was Joseph. The favor his father Jacob had shown toward him by making him a coat of many colors, and his dreams manifesting his family would bow down to him, provoked his brothers to be angry with him.

Nevertheless, Joseph presented himself blameless, even after his brothers wanted to kill him, eventually selling him into slavery. Through it all, Yahweh blessed him.

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the bodyguard, bought him from the Ishmaelites (also known as Midianites, Genesis 37:36), who had taken him down there. Yahweh was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian. Now his master saw that Yahweh was with him and how Yahweh caused all that he did to prosper in his hand, Genesis 39:1–3.

Everything seemed to be going alright, but then his master's wife sought to satisfy her lust with the young man. But Joseph refused her advances, recognizing it would be a great sin against Yahweh. We read of it here:

It came about after these events that his master's wife looked with desire at Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, with me here, my master does not concern himself with anything in the house, and he has put all that he owns in my charge. There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil and sin against Elohim?" Genesis 39:7–9.

Talk about integrity. His was similar to Job's – tested, but then blessed.

And He called for a famine upon the land; He broke the whole staff of bread. He sent a man before them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave. They

afflicted his feet with fetters, he himself was laid in irons; until the time that His Word came to pass, the Word of Yahweh tested him, Psalm 105:16–19.

Thirteen years had passed from that time when his brothers had cast him into the pit at age 17, until at the age of 30 in which he interpreted Pharaoh's dreams, and credited Yahweh,

So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since Elohim has informed you of all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you are. You shall be over my house, and according to your command all my people shall do homage; only in the throne I will be greater than you." Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." Then Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put the gold necklace around his neck. He had him ride in his second chariot; and they proclaimed before him, "Bow the knee!" And he set him over all the land of Egypt. Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Though I am Pharaoh, yet without your permission no one shall raise his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt," Genesis 41:39–44.

After this, Joseph moved his extended family and provided for them, fulfilling his earlier dreams that his family should bow before him.

Yahweh's will worked out in our lives is not always readily understood. However, with the hope we have knowing Yahweh's promises in Messiah, we are blessed above all peoples and look forward when everything will be made right. Not because we've seen it in a dream, but because we believe Yahweh and that what He has proclaimed through His Son will come to pass. Hence, the reason Yahshua has said, "let not your heart be troubled."

Addition to Israel

Joseph was blessed in another way, through the children he had, named Ephraim and Manasseh. Israel gave this prophecy about Joseph's sons when he laid hands on them.

But Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head, crossing his hands, although Manasseh was the firstborn. He blessed Joseph, and said, "The Elohim before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the Elohim who has been my shepherd all my life to this day, the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and may my name live on in them, and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and may they grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth," Genesis 48:14–16.

Ephraim – a reference to the ten northern tribes – became dominant among the family of Israel (Ezek. 27:19).

As we know, Israel was dispersed among the nations by the Assyrians owing to their sins against Yahweh. Hence, the reason they were dispersed, but just like Job and Joseph, going through difficulties, in the end it will work out according to Yahweh's promises to Abraham, through Isaac, and to all those accepting the Messiah, Yahshua Who is the way to Yahweh.

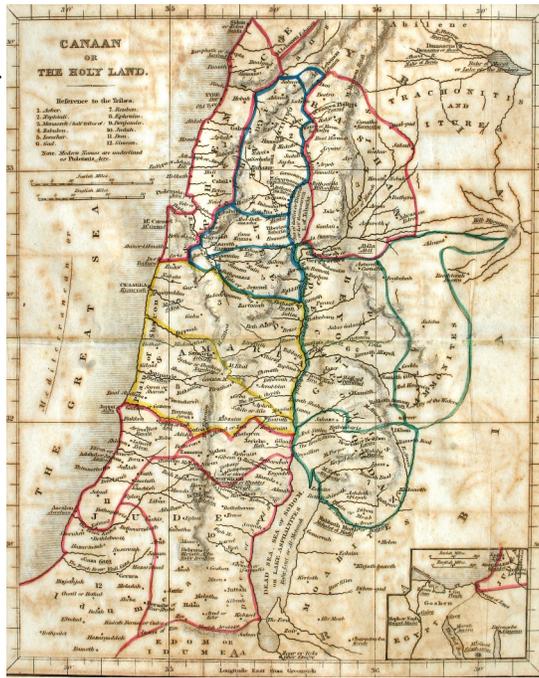
Speaking of a future recovery in the Kingdom for a remnant of Israel, we read:

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

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

Yahweh's Mercy

In the book of Lamentations, we read of one of the five poems, one for each of the Book's five chapters. Thought to be written by Jeremiah, known as the weeping prophet, and faced with the destruction of Jerusalem and deportation of Judah into Babylonian captivity, he trusted Yahweh.



Remember my affliction and my wandering, the wormwood and bitterness. Surely my soul remembers and is bowed down within me. This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. Yahweh's lovingkindness indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. "Yahweh is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him." Yahweh is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him. It is good that he waits silently for the salvation of Yahweh, Lamentations 3:19–26.

A lot of times we want to express to everyone our pain and suffering, but often times we should just wait silently for resolution and relief, or alternatively, offer up in prayer to Yahweh what troubles us. There is a time and season for everything, even for us to bear one another's burdens, confident that Yahshua will return to set everything aright.

Hope in Messiah

Without question, we are here because Yahshua died for us and we are here by the mercy of Yahweh and hope in Messiah.

Blessed be the Elohim and Father of our Master Yahshua Messiah, Who according to His great mercy 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 undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of Elohim through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, 1 Peter 1:3–6.

Do we think ourselves protected by the power of Elohim? Yes, it's true, believing under pressure is to prove our faith.

So that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Yahshua Messiah; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in

Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls, 1 Peter 1:7–9.

So, the outcome of our tested faith is the salvation of our souls through Yahshua the Messiah.

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of Elohim, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. After you have suffered for a little while, the Elohim of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Messiah, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you, 1 Peter 5:6–10.

What we go through establishes, strengthens, and settles us, enabling us to endure to the end. In due time, we will be lifted up and be forever with the Messiah.

But each in his own order: Messiah the first fruits, after that those who are Messiah's at His coming, then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to Elohim and Father; when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death, 1 Corinthians 15:23–26.

Yahshua has risen from the dead, but not until He comes back will those who have died in Him be raised up with Him. They are first, then those who are alive in Him will be changed.

For if we believe that Yahshua died and rose again, even so Elohim will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Yahshua. For this we say to you by the word of the Master, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Master, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Master Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of Elohim, and the dead in Messiah will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Master in the air, and so we shall always be with the Master. Therefore comfort one another with these words, 1 Thessalonians 4:14–18.

These words are comforting. And I trust they will be comforting for any who are in need, mentally, physically, or spiritually.

Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of

the world has become the kingdom of our Master and of His Messiah; and He will reign forever and ever." And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before Elohim, fell on their faces and worshiped Elohim, saying, "We give You thanks, O Yahweh Elohim, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign, Revelation 11:15–17.

In Conclusion

I can't help but come back to my new favorite Scripture references, which is one of the best promises of all. After the 1000-year reign of Messiah in the physical Kingdom, and the Great White Throne Judgment, we read:

And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of Elohim is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and Elohim Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true," Revelation 21:3–5.

Whatever we see going on in the world or whatever is happening in our lives, or in some cases, what is happening to us, we have assurance through the Word of Yahweh and of the Messiah, that He will never leave us, nor forsake us.

The promises found in Scripture can restructure our thinking to be more positive and less fatalistic in our thinking. Most assuredly, we can move forward without a troubled heart.

Will we never have negative thoughts or emotions? Yes, we will, at least, in this life. But we are not living just for this life, are we? We are looking for what is coming. And for that, and for the Messiah, Who gives us the ability to enter into eternal life, by Yahweh's great wisdom, we are most grateful.

Blessed be the Elohim and Father of our Master Yahshua Messiah, the Father of mercies and Elohim of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by Elohim. For just as the sufferings of Messiah are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Messiah, 2 Corinthians 1:3–5.

Praise Yahweh, through His precious Son, our Savior, Yahshua the Messiah.

-Elder David Brett



The Seventh Day

When we look at today's society, we must admit that customs have come and gone. Changes occur with time. History is full of information concerning how these changes have taken place. One such change is the weekly Sabbath, also known as the 7th day.

Today, many Christians go to church on Sunday. They say they are keeping "the Lord's Day." Some may even think Sunday was set apart from creation. When they find that the facts, that both the Bible and history support the 7th Day Sabbath, they often say, "It doesn't matter what day we keep, Yahweh knows our hearts."

Yes, He does know our hearts (Jer. 17:9-10), that's the problem. He knows that we tend to reason the plain truth away in our hearts. He knows that unless we are shown the right way, it's the wrong way that we'll automatically take. Scripture tells us the right way to go:

*And He humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that He might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of Yahweh doth man live, Deuteronomy 8:3. (See also Matt 4:4; Luke 4:4; the **King James Version 1900**, is used throughout unless otherwise noted.)*

Let's go back to the beginning to determine how the weekly Sabbath can't be reasoned away to Sunday (the 1st day of the week) or to some other day, for that matter.

From Creation

Going back as far as we can to see what is said about the weekly 7th day Sabbath, we find the following creation account:

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day Elohim ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. And Elohim blessed the Seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which Elohim created and made, Genesis 2:1-3.

Here, we find that the seventh day was "sanctified," which means it was set apart and made holy for a special purpose. It is a day of rest or cessation from work that one would normally do the rest of the week. In this case, we know that Yahweh had rested, but then He tells His people to do the same on the "7th day."

As a good Father always does, He first sets an example for His children and will remind His children to do certain things. He rested and expects us to rest on the day He set aside.

It's also important to understand that only Yahweh can sanctify a day or a certain time period. Man does not have the power to override what Yahweh sanctifies. Yahweh reinforces that by telling us not to forget

the day He made holy:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the Seventh day is the Sabbath of Yahweh thy Elohim: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the Seventh day: wherefore Yahweh blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it, Exodus 20:8-11.

The fourth commandment makes it undeniably clear that we are to keep this particular day, the seventh day, holy. Yet, how do we know that the day called, Saturday, is the seventh day?

Seventh Day Unchanged

Several changes have taken place, but we can easily look at the pages of history and realize that Saturday is indeed the seventh day, the last day in the seven-day weekly cycle.

Reviewing the creation account of Genesis gives us an irrefutable answer (Gen. 2:1-3), keeping in mind that John 10:35 tells us, “Scripture cannot be broken.” However, over the years, there have been changes to the calendar.

The Julian calendar, introduced in 46 BCE by Julius Caesar, was widely used until the fall of 1582, when the Gregorian calendar was developed by Pope Gregory XIII. England continued to follow the Julian calendar until September of 1752. Though in doing, so required the removal of 11 days – the third through the 13th of that month – in order to come into conformity. Turkey, Russia, Serbia, and Greece continued to use the Julian calendar until the early 20th century. Today, however, with few exceptions, the Gregorian calendar is followed by most every country. Nevertheless, though the calendar had undergone this revision, it retained the order of days, did not disturb the weekly cycle and thus, preserved the 7th day Sabbath.

The Biblical Calendar starts in the Springtime (the one Yahshua kept, as is evident by the Passover that He also kept), and the Roman calendar – both the Julian and the Gregorian – started in the dead of winter. But the seventh-day cycle was undisturbed.

Even with the documented change-over from Julian to Gregorian, these new national calendars configured with an extra day during leap years kept the Sabbath in the correct day-order during the weekly cycle. It’s a matter of historical fact.

Historically speaking though, we still need to

go back to the Messiah’s time and look closer to confirm if the weekly Sabbath of today, that the Jews keep, is the true seventh-day Sabbath that Yahshua kept.

The Savior Observed the Sabbath

Going back to the time that Yahshua our Savior walked the earth, we find that He indeed kept the Sabbath day and on the day the Jews kept it. *And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up: and, as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read, Luke 4:16.*

The Jews, to this day, have not kept another day of worship. Going back even further to the Jewish Babylonian captivity, we find that the Jews learned two major lessons that have stuck with them over all these years. First and foremost, there is One to be worshipped, and His Name is Yahweh. He is the Mighty One of Israel (all 12 tribes) not just the Jews. Yahweh will bring both Judah (the dominant tribe of the south, including Benjamin and Levi, though Levi didn’t receive land) and Ephraim (the dominant tribe of the 10 northern tribes, those now assimilated into today’s nations, Hos. 8:8) together back into the land of Israel as prophesied in Ezekiel 37:21-22. Secondly, they learned that there is one day a week that man is to set aside for worship and rest. That day is the 7th day weekly Sabbath.

When Yahshua walked the earth, the Pharisaical Jews criticized Him for doing certain things contrary to their oral, added rules that distorted and changed His Father’s Law. Of them, He said, *Howbeit in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of Elohim, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And He said unto them, ‘Full well ye reject the commandment of Elohim, that ye may keep your own tradition,’”* Mark 7:7-9. But they could not accuse Him or His disciples, for that matter, of not keeping the correct day. He would have rebuked the Pharisees of His day had they been keeping another day holy, and He Himself would not be going to the places of worship (synagogues, Luke 13:10) on the Sabbath had He not approved of that day being the correct one.

Yahshua and His followers taught the Sabbath day and kept the correct day holy, according to the 4th Commandment, as others who have maintained this day throughout history. We, too, follow in Yahshua’s footsteps. *Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light*

unto my path, Psalm 119:105.

Yahshua kept His Father's laws and did not distort them, but rather taught them clearly to others, even bringing out the Spiritual intent (Matt 5:27-28). He taught that there were consequences for not keeping them ... even one of them. *Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, "That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven,"* Matthew 5:19-20.

The Sabbath Will be Kept in the Kingdom

Reflection with prayer can bring a much deeper understanding of what Yahweh wants for us. In considering what has taken place from the beginning of creation, down through the giving of the Law and further, to the fulfillment of Yahshua's death and resurrection to our current time at the end of the age, we find prophecy is yet to be fulfilled with Yahshua's return in all power and glory and the establishment of the Kingdom of Yahweh upon the earth.

What does the Bible tell us concerning the keeping of the 7th day Sabbath in the future? We should keep in mind, while looking at the following Scriptures, that the weekly Sabbath was sanctified from creation, given to all of Israel, and kept by Yahshua, our Savior, and His disciples.

The Book of Isaiah, which is replete with prophecy, says, *"And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before Me,"* saith Yahweh, Isaiah 66:23.

Showers of Blessings for Obedience

Worship before Yahweh is a good thing and obedience is a must. To reiterate, there are consequences for not obeying. The Bible tells us that if people do not come to keep the Feast of Tabernacles, for example, they will not receive rain (Zech. 14:16-19). Rain is synonymous with blessings. One could relate the disobedience today to a lack of rain being given to the people, as well. Therefore, some who refuse to celebrate one of the Holy Days of Yahweh can forfeit the blessings that would otherwise come their way. Nevertheless, Isaiah says all will come to worship before Yahweh from one Sabbath to the next in the soon-coming Kingdom (Isaiah 66:23).

What kind of blessings will be given from Yahweh in the Kingdom during the weekly Sabbath and other times? *And many people shall go and say, "Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh, to the house of the Elohim of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths:"* for out of Zion shall go forth **the Law**, and **the Word of Yahweh** from Jerusalem, Isaiah 2:3 (emphasis, ours). (See also Malachi 4:2.)

Many reject Yahweh's written instructions today, but they will obey them in the Kingdom. Or, as already mentioned, they will not receive rain. Rain can also be a description of the Spirit coming from Yahweh. There are descriptions such as "former and latter rains" in which this Spirit-outpouring was initially given, as in Acts chapter two, a metaphorical "former rain."

Notice that we cannot even receive the blessing of this rain or living waters (i.e., the Spirit) unless we are striving to obey Yahweh, *And we are His witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Spirit, whom Elohim hath given to them that obey Him*, Acts 5:32. (See also Hebrews 5:9.)

Ezekiel prophesied about a "new Spirit" (a change in heart's disposition or attitude) being given. It is an ongoing process that started at Pentecost with the outpouring of the Spirit and will continue into the Kingdom:

Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep My judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be My people, and I will be your Elohim, Ezekiel 36:25-28. (See also Ezekiel 11:19.)

Notice why the Spirit is given: to "... cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep My judgments, and do them." The **New Living Translation** is written a little clearer as to why the Spirit is given, by stating, "... so you will obey My laws and do whatever I command." Of those laws, the weekly Sabbath will be kept in the coming Kingdom. It is also kept now by Yahweh's people who follow in Yahshua's footsteps.

From Sabbath to Sunday

In the past, and even today, there has been mixture with pagan rituals, combining false worship with true. It's called syncretism, which is at the root of

many false teachings today, including Sun-day worship. Under powerful pagan rulers, such as Hadrian and Constantine I, who both exercised great influence, believers had difficulty maintaining purity in the doctrine, as many embraced falsehood under their leadership.

Sun worship itself has influenced not only Sabbath-keeping but also Scripturally-appointed times, such as Passover which has become identified with Easter Sun-day. In the book called *From Sabbath to Sunday* author Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi states the following:

“The repressive measures adopted by the Romans against the Jews – particularly felt in the capital city – apparently encouraged the predominant Gentile membership of the Church in Rome to clarify to the Roman authorities their distinction from Judaism by changing the date and manner of observance of characteristic Jewish festivals such as the Passover and the Sabbath which most Christians still observed. We found, in fact, that the Church of Rome took a definite stand against both festivities. The (14th Day) Quartodecimen Passover was substituted by Easter Sunday apparently at the time of Hadrian (A.D. 117-138), as suggested by Irenaeus’ reference to Bishop Sixtus (ca. A.D. 116-126) and by Epiphanius’ statement regarding the origin of the controversy at about A.D. 135. The sources attribute explicitly to the Bishop of Rome, the role of pioneering and championing Easter Sunday, in order to avoid, as later stated by Constantine, ‘all participation in the perjured conduct of the Jews.’ The close nexus existing between Easter Sunday and the weekly Sunday (the latter being viewed by many Fathers as an extension of the former) gives us reason to believe that both festivities originated contemporaneously in Rome because of the same anti-Judaic motivations.”

Historical details give us a clear view of what has happened and why there needs to be a restoration of correct Biblical teachings and observance within, and among, those who claim to follow the “God,” as they say, “of the Bible,” but, keep a pagan day claiming to be observing “the Lord’s day.” Just what this particular day is, may shock some, as it’s Scripturally neither Saturday nor Sunday.

The True Meaning of “the Lord’s Day”

The term “Lord,” or more specifically “the Lord,” is like a stamp covering the Sacred Name of Yahweh in most Bible translations. We also find the term “Lord” is, at times, used instead of a more correct title of “Master” or “Sovereign” for Yahshua the

Messiah. These things can easily be proven with most any reliable Bible concordance or interlinear and so we will not be going into further detail here. (There is much already written on the subject that can be requested.)

It might surprise some that in the New Testament, there is only one place where the term “the Lord’s Day” is found. In Revelation chapter 1:10, it says, *I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet.* We can correctly translate the passage with the transliterated name in place: *I was in the Spirit on Yahweh’s day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet.*

The Greek wording for “Lord” in verse 10 is *Kurios* instead of *Theos*. *Kurios* is normally placed in the Greek, where Yahweh’s name should appear. This can be proven by looking at some of the more than 200 quotes from the Old Testament found in the New Testament.

Nonetheless, the question would be, “What is this ‘Yahweh’s day’?” The context of verse 10 is the end time. Verse 3 says, “for the time is near.” Verse 7 says, “Behold, He is coming.”

There is a tendency, due to the conditioning of years of false teachings, to think that verse 10 is in reverence to Sunday. Even some commentators on this specific verse recognize that there is an alternative and better meaning. *The Complete Biblical Library*, by World Library Press Inc., states the following:

“The ‘Lord’s day’ may mean Sunday, but this verse more probably means that the Holy Spirit projected John into the future Day of [Yahweh] that is ahead of us. While experiencing the special move of the Spirit, a voice came like a trumpet blast.”

The “Day of Yahweh” is mentioned numerous times in Scripture, and it is a time ahead of us. There is also more evidence that “the Lord’s day” is better rendered the “Day of Yahweh.”

Trumpet Blast

The idea of a voice like a trumpet mentioned in verse 10 is significant, the blowing of trumpets indicative of end time events and even sounding a warning beforehand.

Trumpets mentioned in Revelation precede great tribulation coming upon the earth (Rev. 8:7-9:14). The last trump shows the Messiah taking full command over all nations (Rev. 11:15-19).

For the Master Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of Elohim: and the dead in Messiah shall rise first, 1 Thessalonians 4:16.



The day of Yahweh is the ultimate climax, just before the Messiah's return, as we read in the following:

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on My holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of Yahweh is coming. It is close at hand – a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. Like dawn spreading across the mountains a large and mighty army comes, such as never was of old nor ever will be in ages to come, Joel 2:1-2, NIV.

Mark your Bible with cross-referencing verses and underline significant parts of verses that parallel Revelation 1:10. This may help you to help someone who says, "I keep 'the Lord's day,'" to see the error of what they've always held to be true. Invite someone to study on the 7th day, not to argue, but to look into Yahweh's Precious Word with meekness.

The Identifying Sign of His People

One of the identifying marks of Yahweh's people is the weekly Sabbath. The world steps out of sync with Yahweh's ways, but His children walk the course that Yahweh sets before them:

Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, "Verily My Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am Yahweh that doth sanctify you. Ye shall keep the Sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, Holy to Yahweh: whosoever doeth any work in the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, and

on the Seventh day He rested, and was refreshed." And He gave unto Moses, when He had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of Elohim, Exodus 31:13-18.

Israel didn't walk according to the ways Yahweh had set before them, and therefore they incurred His wrath and were prevented from entering the promised land. They lacked the indwelling Spirit to bring to remembrance what had been commanded them (Heb. 8:10; John 14:26).

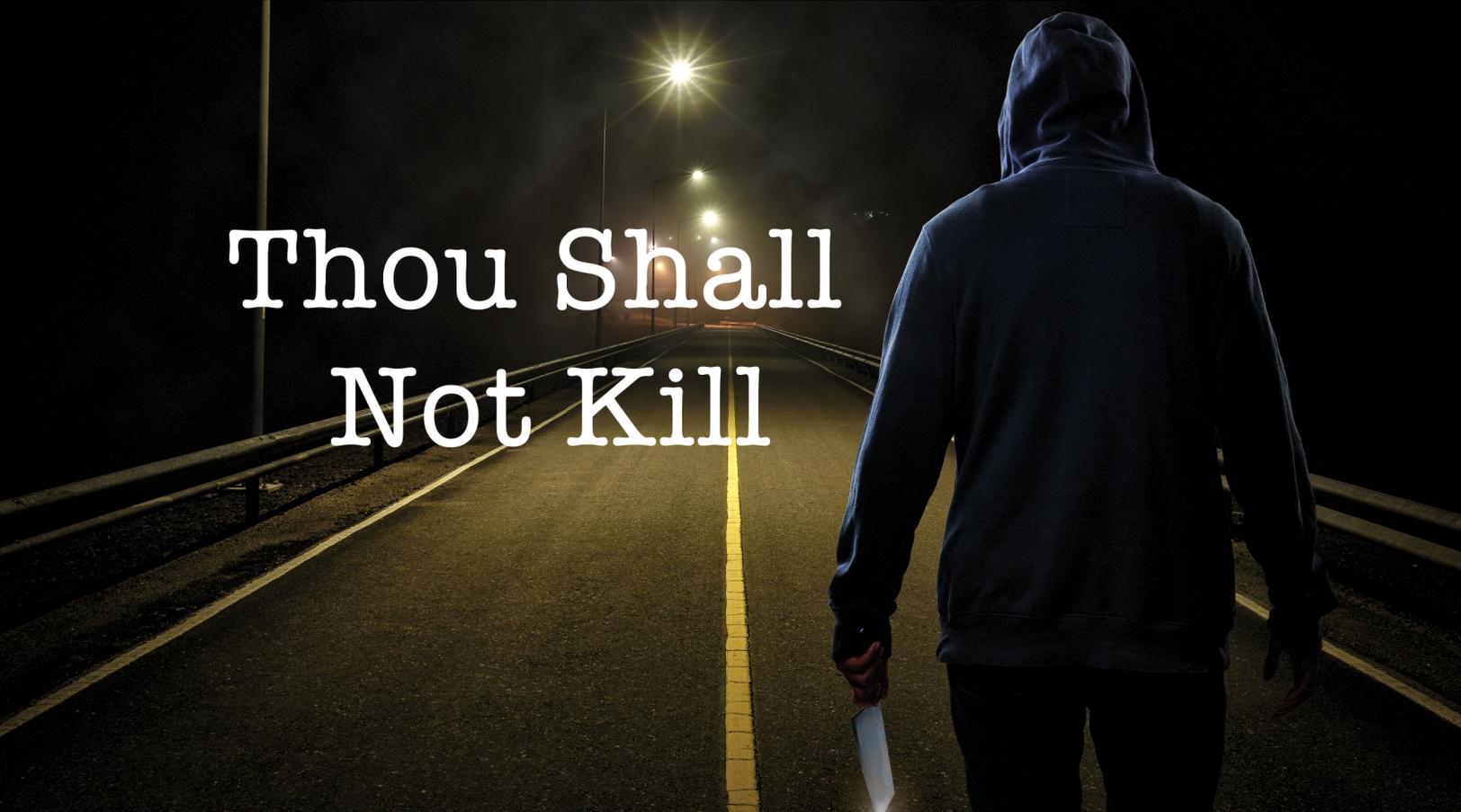
It is the Spirit that helps His people today to overcome themselves, the world, and the evil one who deceives the world. Many of the descendants of Israel today are still failing to see their history, neither have they learned from it. Yet, as already mentioned, there will be a time soon when they will understand, and for them who are now called, understanding is being given (Matt. 16:13-17). Look at what happened to ancient Israel and let us not repeat their mistake of disobedience:

I gave them My laws so they could live by keeping them. Yes, all those who keep them will live! And I gave them My Sabbath days of rest as a sign between them and Me. It was to remind them that I, Yahweh, had set them apart to be holy, making them My special people. But the people of Israel rebelled against Me, and they refused to obey My laws there in the wilderness. They wouldn't obey My instructions even though obedience would have given them life. And they also violated My Sabbath days. So I threatened to pour out My fury on them, and I made plans to utterly consume them in the desert. But again I held back in order to protect the honor of My Name. That way the nations who saw Me lead My people out of Egypt wouldn't be able to claim I destroyed them because I couldn't take care of them. But I swore to them in the wilderness that I would not bring them into the land I had given them, a land flowing with

*milk and honey, the most beautiful place on earth. I told them this because they had rejected My laws, ignored My will for them, and violated My Sabbath days. Their hearts were given to their idols. Nevertheless, I pitied them and held back from destroying them in the wilderness. Then I warned their children and told them not to follow in their parents' footsteps, defiling themselves with their idols. "I am Yahweh your Elohim," I told them. "Follow My laws, pay attention to My instructions, and keep My Sabbath days holy, for they are a sign to remind you that I am Yahweh your Elohim." But their children, too, rebelled against Me. They refused to keep My laws and follow My instructions, even though obeying them would have given them life. And they also violated My Sabbath days. So again I threatened to pour out My fury on them in the wilderness. Nevertheless, I withdrew My judgment against them to protect the honor of My Name among the nations who had seen My power in bringing them out of Egypt. But I took a solemn oath against them while they were in the wilderness. I vowed I would scatter them among all the nations because they did not obey My laws. They scorned My instructions by violating My Sabbath days and longing for the idols of their ancestors. I gave them over to worthless customs and laws that would not lead to life, Ezekiel 20:11-25, **NLT**.*

Today, we have an opportunity through Yahshua's sacrifice to be brought back in good standing with Yahweh in the Second Covenant. His shed blood brings forgiveness of the sins we've committed. We are told saints will be they who have their faith in Yahshua. Moreover, they also keep the commandments of Yahweh (Rev. 12:17, 14:12). One of these commandments is to keep the seventh day Sabbath holy. It is the fourth Commandment and a sign that identifies His people. Will we be the people He has called us to be? *Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it Holy, Exodus 20:8.*

- Elder David Brett

A person wearing a dark hoodie and dark pants is walking away from the camera on a road at night. The person is holding a knife in their right hand. The road is illuminated by streetlights, and the scene is dark and atmospheric.

Thou Shall Not Kill

Why did Yahweh command that we “not kill,” and yet had His people go to war in the past? It seems contradictory until we look closely at what Scripture says.

Are you ready for a Bible Study? Grab your concordance and a Bible, and let's start.

First of all, why does He say, “Do not kill,” or does He? Deuteronomy 5:17, says, “Thou shalt not kill.” (The **King James Version 1900** is used throughout unless otherwise noted.)

If we ask what the Hebrew word “kill” means, we find that the word “kill” takes on clearer meaning. In *Strong’s Concordance* H7523, the word “kill” is *ratsach* (raw-tsakh’) meaning to “murder,” “premeditated,” or “revenge.”

Another question would be, “Can we find where the word “kill” means just that, kill?” The answer is, “Yes.” We read in Exodus 22:2, *If a thief be found breaking [in], and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him.* The word “smitten” H5221, *nakah* (naw-kaw’) here means “kill,” “strike,” or “smite.” Notice: there is no death penalty here, for self-defense.

Are there any more definitions? Let’s look at Genesis 22:10, *And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.* The word “slay” is H7819 *shachat* (shaw-khat’) meaning “sacrifice,” or “slaughter.” This neither means “murder” nor “kill” in the sense of what we have just examined.

Yet another definition is found in Numbers 3:17: *And they warred against the Midianites, as Yahweh commanded Moses; and they slew all the males.* The word “slew” here is H2026 *harag* (haw-rag), it really means “out of hand,” “judicial execution,” an “authorized or sanctioned killing.”

With the above definitions we can get a clearer view of what certain verses are really saying. But what happens when you find two or more of these in successive verses, and these have different meanings? This is where we get to rightly divide His Word.

Let’s take a look at a couple examples. First in Exodus 21:12, *He that smiteth (H5221) a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death.* How can this be? This isn’t murder? We find the answer in the next verse:

And if a man lie not in wait, but Elohim deliver(ed) him into his hand; then I will appoint thee a place whither he shall flee, Exodus 21:13. Here, we see that if the person’s guilt is questionable, that is, it doesn’t look like it was murder (he wasn’t lying in wait for the other person; it wasn’t premeditated), then he had the right to go to a place of safety ... a “city of refuge,” as they were called in times past.

The *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* says, “men are often done (put) to death in revenge for what was the purest accident. To prevent such a thing where possible, and to provide for a right administration of justice, these cities (cities of refuge) were instituted. Open highways were to be maintained ... which the manslayer might have an unobstructed course to the city gate.”

Yahweh is the one who establishes civil laws (Dan. 2:21, 4:17; Prov. 8:15). Today, there is a civil justice system in place that can help those in similar situations. We pray for our government and its leaders (1 Tim. 2:1-4).

Proceeding to Exodus 21:14, *But if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbour, to slay (H2026) him with guile; thou shalt take him from mine altar, that he may die.* The word “slay” does not mean “murder” here, so why the death sentence? The key is in the word “presumptuously.” It’s H2102 *zuwd* (zood) and means “arrogant,” or “rebellious.” We find written this definition:

“One is presumption. Because a person is proud he presumes too much in his favor, especially in the sense of authority,” *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*.

Given that this is the meaning let’s also look at Deuteronomy 18:20, which says, *But the prophet, which shall presume (H2102) to speak a word in My Name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other [mighty ones], even that prophet shall die.*

Let’s get the final word on this: *Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous (root H2102) sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression,* Psalms 19:13.

If, for example, a person wants someone hurt or even dead, and says to himself, “Yeah, I just know Yahweh wants that loser dead anyway, so I’ll do it!” then the reality is that the person is a murderer in Yahweh’s sight. (More on this a little later.)

Verse 15 of Exodus 21:12-15, says, *And he that smiteth (H5221) his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death.* We know that (H5221) is not murder, so again, why the death sentence? We can find the answer by putting two and two together. The 5th Commandment reads:

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which Yahweh thy Elohim giveth thee, Exodus 20:12.

The point is, because this is so important (it’s one of the foundational commands), that purposely killing, striking, or smiting (H5221) one or the other, or both, deserves death. It’s that simple.

Only the Called and Chosen

It seems to be embedded into most of “Christianity’s” mind that our Heavenly Father is presently trying to save all of mankind. Not so. Let’s expose this false idea. There is a process of calling and choosing, as we see here:

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But Elohim hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and Elohim hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty, 1 Corinthians 1:26-27.

Have you ever heard of predestination? What did Yahshua say to the mother that wanted her sons to sit with Him in His Kingdom? *And He saith unto them, to sit on My right hand, and on My left, is not Mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of My Father, Matthew 20:23.*

We also read, *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love Elohim, to them who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brethren, Romans 8:28-29.*

Yahweh knew before they were born that He would call them! This, however, does not mean that one is saved just because one is called. He clearly says through Yahshua, *“For many are called, but few are chosen,”* Matthew 22:14.

It’s important to know all this before we fully answer important questions, such as, “Why did He have His people go to war?”

Knowing that Yahweh is working primarily with those that He calls now, we can get a clearer picture of what is going on. *For He saith, “I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation,”* 2 Corinthians 6:2.

The Apostle Paul is saying there is an acceptable time, “now,” available for those being called and chosen. There will also be “a” day of deliverance for the rest of mankind, but who are not “now” called.

Understand that many, even before Yahshua came and offered himself, never heard or understood Yahweh’s truth. Many today also do not fully understand the truth – the only way, if Yahweh reveals it to them (Matt 16:17).

It will be in the second resurrection from the dead for many, but some that go through the tribulation will also have their “first” opportunity for deliverance in the Kingdom (a one-thousand year period, on earth, Rev. 5:10, 20:6). (Ask for your free mini-study called, ***Just One Resurrection?***)

Nevertheless, the majority of Christianity believes

in a “Going to Heaven.” However, only Yahshua has risen to heaven. *And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of Man which is in heaven, John 3:13.* Even King David, a man after Yahweh’s own heart, is not in heaven:

Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day ... For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, “Yahweh said unto my Master, ‘Sit thou on my right hand’” ... For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of Elohim, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption, Acts 2:29, 34, 13:36. (Ask for your free mini-study called, ***A Matter of Death and Life.***)

We can see that going to war with people that Yahweh was trying to save, doesn’t make sense. But it does make sense that Yahweh was NOT trying to save everybody then, nor is Yahweh calling everyone now!

A question that comes to mind is, “Why is the Word going forth to all Nations?” *And this Good News 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.* There we have it, the Word is going forth, not to “convert,” but as a “witness” to every nation. Has this happened? The answer is “Almost.”

Yahweh’s Wars of the Past

There are specific reasons why Yahweh allowed war and killing. While Israel was wandering around for 40 years in the wilderness, wicked, vile and corrupt people inhabited the land. Yahweh’s solution? Surgery! Cut them out, like a surgeon would cut out gangrene or cancer. Get rid of vile and corrupt pagans (Deut. 7:1-8), and indeed they were vile and utterly corrupted!

King David, the Bible tells us, was himself trained by Yahweh, for war.

It is El that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect. He maketh my feet like hinds’ feet, and setteth me upon my high places. He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms. Thou hast also given me the shield of Thy salvation: and Thy right hand hath holden me up, and Thy gentleness hath made me great. Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip. I have pursued mine enemies, and overtaken them: neither did I turn again till they were consumed. I have wounded them that they

were not able to rise: they are fallen under my feet. For Thou hast girded me with strength unto the battle: Thou hast subdued under me those that rose up against me. Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies; that I might destroy them that hate me, Psalms 18:32-40. King David gives Yahweh credit.

Yahweh does not need man to do battle for Him, as He has shown many times that He can take care of things without us. When war occurred, Yahweh gave victory.

We read of this in Numbers 21:34-35, **NASB**: *But Yahweh said to Moses, "Do not fear him, for I have given him into your hand, and all his people and his land; and you shall do to him as you did to Sihon, king of the Amorites, who lived at Heshbon." So they killed him and his sons and all his people, until there was no remnant left him; and they possessed his land.*

We read in Deuteronomy 21:10, "*Yahweh thy Elohim hath delivered them into thine hands.*"

Clearly, Yahweh fights our battles, and delivers victory! At the same time, we stand by, participating when it's His will.

Look at what happened in Numbers 14:41-45:

And Moses said, "Wherefore now do ye transgress the commandment of Yahweh? but it shall not prosper. Go not up, for Yahweh is not among you; that ye be not smitten before your enemies. For the Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and ye shall fall by the sword: because ye are turned away from Yahweh, therefore Yahweh will not be with you." But they presumed (H6075) to go up unto the hill top: nevertheless the ark of the covenant of Yahweh, and Moses, departed not out of the camp. Then the Amalekites came down, and the Canaanites which dwelt in that hill, and smote them, and discomfited them, even unto Hormah.

(Read chapters 13 and 14 to get a good overview of what took place, and pray we never make our Father angry with us by complaining and grumbling to His face and before His servants, as these men did.)

With much prayer and discernment, we need to see if certain things are His will, and one of the best ways to find this out today is to study His word. His people never went to war, unless it was Yahweh's will, and if they did go without His approval, it resulted in their destruction.

Yahweh's Wars Today

Today, His people do not fight in physical wars in His Name. We do, however, fight a spiritual war!

We are told to be good soldiers:

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Yahshua Messiah. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier, 2 Timothy 2:3-4.

We are warned not to fight physical wars now. *Then Yahshua said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?" Matthew 26:52-53, NASB.*

We normally do not need to have or use physical swords in everyday life, but we are told to have and use a spiritual sword.

Some say that because Yahshua's own disciple carried a sword, then we should too. However, this was purposed to fulfill Scripture. We read verse 54, *How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?*

Among our spiritual weapons found in Ephesians 6:14-18, we read in verse 17, *And take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of Elohim.* This is the sword we must have, the Word of our Father Yahweh. We also know that the "Word" is Yahshua (John 1:1).

Notice the response He gave to Rome's Governor, Pontius Pilate: *Yahshua answered, "My kingdom is not of this world: if My kingdom were of this world, then would My servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is My kingdom not from hence," John 18:36.*

We must follow our Master, and He wants us to desire spiritual things:

*Mind the matters above, not those on the earth. For you have died (this happens at immersion/baptism), and your life has been hidden with Messiah in Elohim. When the Messiah, who is our life, is manifested, then you also shall be manifested with Him in esteem, Colossians 3:2, TS. (Read our study, **Why Be Baptized Into the Name of Yahshua?**)*

Not until He returns will this happen, none of His people are up there playing on their harps. But, when He returns, we will become spirit-beings, as He is Pure Spirit.

Getting back to the weapons of war with which we are equipped:

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through Elohim to the pulling down of strong holds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge



of Elohim, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Messiah, 2 Corinthians 10:4-5.

Today around the world, there are physical wars being fought, but these all will soon end. However, before they do, we read of one more physical battle that will take place:

Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; "Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, 'I am strong.' Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty [men] to come down, O Yahweh. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats (vats) overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of Yahweh is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. Yahweh also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but Yahweh will be the hope of His people, and the strength of the children of Israel," Joel 3:9-16.

Yahweh's Future War

What will take place? We read in Isaiah 13:11-18, *And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir. Therefore I will shake the*

heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of Yahweh of hosts, and in the day of His fierce anger. And it shall be as the chased roe, and as a sheep that no man taketh up: they shall every man turn to his own people, and flee every one into his own land. Every one that is found shall be thrust through; and every one that is joined unto them shall fall by the sword. Their children also shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled, and their wives ravished. Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, which shall not regard silver; and as for gold, they shall not delight in it. Their bows also shall dash the young men to pieces; and they shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eye shall not spare children.

Why is Yahweh going to bring this future war? We just read, "And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease."

Yahweh is NOT pleased that this world is murdering innocent unborn children! Yahweh is NOT pleased with the filth that society calls entertainment! Yahweh is NOT pleased with the corruption in man's governments, and Yahweh will NOT let it continue indefinitely!

This is a terrible war that's coming! Whom will you call upon, on that day? We read, *But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; "And it shall come to pass in the last days," saith Elohim, "I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on My servants and on My handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy: and I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and*

fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day Yahweh come: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the Name of Yahweh shall be saved,” Acts 2:16-21.

Many claim to be prophesying, saying they are “slain in the Spirit” speaking babble, claiming it is the speaking in tongues (speaking in different languages, a sign for unbelievers, this time too, 1 Cor. 14:22). They claim visions and dreams. But, according to Yahweh’s Word, this pouring out of the Spirit will not happen again just before this dreadful day (the day of Yahweh) of war comes. Yes, there was an initial pouring out of His Spirit in the apostles’ day (Acts 2), but that was the beginning of His plan, there is yet more coming! (Request your free mini-study, Tongues: **Past, Present, and Future.**)

One-fourth of mankind is going to be destroyed before the Kingdom is established:

And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell (Hades) followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth, Revelation 6:8.

It is Yahweh Who will bring this to pass.

Presumptuous Sins

We spoke earlier on presumptuous sin, and cited Psalm 19:13:

Keep back Thy servant also from presumptuous (root H2102) sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression, Psalm 19:13.

The word here (presumptuous) is zed (zade’) from H2086 meaning “proud,” or “insolent.” The root word for H2086 is H2102, meaning “arrogant” or “rebellious.”

This is one of the reasons Yahshua had to tell us the following:

“Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, ‘Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment.’ But I say unto you, ‘That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment,’” Matthew 5:21-22a

Here, we have the proper spiritual intent of that Commandment, and it’s with this knowledge that we can help overcome our presumptuous thinking and actions. In other words, knowledge helps stop presumption before it starts.

King David grasped this when he wrote Psalm 19:13. He saw that if he could keep from being presumptuous, he could stop committing any great sin, as it starts with presumption. In this regard, the Scriptures help us.

Conclusion

We read that Yahweh Himself says that He doesn’t like death, *For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Master Yahweh: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye,* Ezekiel 18:32. This would have stopped Yahweh from going to war with other nations, if they would only have repented of their sinning!

Yahweh is loving, yet “Yahweh is a man of war” (Exod. 15:3).

Things might have been different if Adam and Eve hadn’t sinned (i.e., broken Yahweh’s law, 1 John 3:4)!

And Yahweh Elohim commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die,” Genesis 2:16-17. They died within a span of nearly a thousand years.

Yahweh will not tolerate sin. He has, and He will, even yet, purge the nations of it. He had His people involved in the process of doing this in ancient times. But in the last days, He and His Son Yahshua will fully purge sin (Rev 6:16-17). Yahweh’s people will witness in Spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24) to all these nations before that great and terrible day – the day of Yahweh!

It is not always easy to understand why certain things have happened or why Yahweh would have His people involved, but involved they have been. It was Judicial Judgment from on High that was executed upon the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, and others. It will be Judicial Judgment once again at the end of the age.

-Elder David Brett



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Marriage Covenant

A marriage is a covenant agreement between a man and a woman who desire to commit to one another in life, to go through the good times and the bad in loving support of one another.

Marriage can be a wonderful and beautiful union, with physical intimacy adding a dimension for expressing loving emotions and pro-creation for the addition of children to the family. Some married couples are not able to have children. The reasons vary, preventing physical intimacy as normally could take place. These couples, otherwise, lead very normal lives, and in some cases adopt children to have the traditional family unit made up of a man, woman, and children.

The family is really the foundational building block of homes and communities. Take away family and you will have a breakdown of society. In many countries outside the United States family units are made up of an extended family of grandparents and grandchildren, sometimes all living within the same house or community all caring for, and looking out, for one another.

Israelite culture also expressed these types of living arrangements early on, though, admittedly, more nomadic living. With examples of patriarchs like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob being the precursor of all of Israel.

Betrothal engagement usually precedes marriage. Those who are engaged are letting everyone know that they are off the market and have made an initial agreement to marry each other. It's similar to our relationship with the Master.

Let's examine the Scriptural precedent for betrothal and marriage.

Rules of War in Israel

In Deuteronomy, what is known as the second giving of the Law, we read, *And who is the man that is engaged to a woman and has not married her? Let him depart and return to his house, otherwise he might die in the battle and another man would marry her*, Deuteronomy 20:7 (The *New American Standard Bible* is used throughout.)

Engagements are strong and likened to a marriage, without the benefits of marriage, such as living together.

The following provides a strong connection between being engaged and married.

If there is a young woman who is a virgin engaged to a man, and another man finds her in the city and lies with her, then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city and you shall stone them to death; the young woman, because she did not cry out in the city, and the man, because he has violated his neighbor's wife. Thus you shall purge the evil from among you, Deuteronomy 22:23–24. Here we see the term wife used in reference to someone who is betrothed. It was a warning not to mess around with someone who is already engaged. An engagement is strong, like marriage.

Commonly Known Among Believers

The betrothal of Joseph and Mary was so strong in fact, that Joseph, it is thought, would have given something like a certificate saying, “she is not with me, nor I with her,” when he found out she was with child.

It was foretold Mary that she would bare a child in Luke 1:26–38, *Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from Elohim to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! Yahweh is with you." But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with Elohim. "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Yahshua. "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and Yahweh Elohim will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of Elohim. "And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. "For nothing will be impossible with Elohim." And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of Yahweh; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. (Emphasis ours.)*

See how she trusted the word of Yahweh's angel. Joseph, was also a believer in Yahweh.

Another angel spoke to Joseph in Matthew 1:18–25, *Now the birth of Yahshua Messiah was as follows: when His mother Mary had been **betrothed** to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. And Joseph **her husband**, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of Yahweh appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His Name Yahshua, for He will save His people from their sins." Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by Yahweh through the prophet: "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "EL WITH US." And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of Yahweh commanded him, and took Mary as his*

wife, but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His Name Yahshua. (Emphasis ours.)

Comparing the two highlighted bold areas in this also shows engagement is likened to marriage.

Joseph was righteous according to Yahweh's ways. The point we should make here is, we should not be unequally yoked.

Paul's Wisdom from Above

However, sometimes we come into the faith already married, but the spouse is unwilling to come in. As the Apostle Paul pointed out in his letters, one should remain as he is called (1 Cor. 7:20). He was emphasizing what our priority should be, that is, to the Master.

Paul compares us to an engagement with Yahshua, saying, *I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me. For I am jealous for you with a Yahweh-like jealousy; for I betrothed you to one Husband, so that to Messiah I might present you as a pure virgin,* 2 Corinthians 11:1–2.

Marriage itself is likened to Messiah and the Assembly. *Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Master. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Messiah also is the head of the Assembly, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the Assembly is subject to Messiah, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Messiah also loved the Assembly and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the Assembly in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Messiah also does the Assembly, because we are members of His body. FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Messiah and the Assembly. Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband,* Ephesians 5:22–33.

We'll take a look at this passage again, but first let's look at a time ahead of us.

The Prophetic Time Yet Ahead

Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.” It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints, Revelation 19:7–8.

There is preparation that is done prior to a marriage, both on the part of the groom and on the side of the bride.

Yahshua says that he has gone to prepare a place for us. So, a lesson here is that our young single men should have their own house in order prior to marriage. It will make things much easier if things are done in a proper and orderly manner.

We encourage couples to go through the Prepare and Enrich premarital counseling course with us as it adds to the couple’s preparedness and helps them before marriage. Also, we will not marry a couple unless it is according with the laws of the land (i.e., licensing, certificates, etc.).

There is a reason why details of marriage covenants (ceremonial processes) are not provided in Scripture. It’s because Yahweh in His wisdom knew marriage laws would vary in different countries and cultures.

Seven Marriage Facts

Let’s switch gears for a moment and look at seven facts that we see in Scripture concerning marriage. I believe this list originated in the *YRM Study Bible*, but these have been shared in at least two weddings I’ve been to in the last couple of years.

1. Marriage was established by the Creator from the beginning.

So Elohim created the man in His image, in the image of Elohim He created him — male and female He created them, Genesis 1:27.

The purpose of the creation of man and woman was to unite them as one.

And, it should be mentioned that Yahweh recognizes even pagan marriages, like Joseph’s master Potiphar, whose wife tried to have her way with Joseph, the son of Israel. Joseph’s response was to run. And that should be ours, too. Run from evil, not to it.

2. Marriage is between one man and one woman, making them one in flesh.

We find that The Bible definition of Marriage from the beginning is only between a man and a woman.

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one

flesh. Genesis 2:24. This is quoted in Mark 10:7-8; 1 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 5:31 and also Matthew 19:5.

“Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what Elohim has joined together, let not man separate.” Matthew 19:4-6.

Notice: has “joined together” “has established.” Today this is becoming blurred along with the rest of Yahweh’s Word which many are ignoring altogether these days.

3. Marriage is for raising children and creating a family.

Yahweh gave the authority to man to populate and fill the earth. *Then Elohim blessed them, and Elohim said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it,” Genesis 1:28.*

As mentioned in the beginning, the family is really the foundational building block of homes and communities. Take away family and you will have a breakdown of society.

4. Marriage requires mutual love.

Wives, subject yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Master. Because the husband is head of the wife, as also the Messiah is head of the Assembly, and He is Savior of the body. But as the Assembly is subject to Messiah, so also let the wives be to their own husbands in every respect. Husbands, love your wives, as Messiah also did love the Assembly and gave Himself for it, in order to set it apart and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, in order to present it to Himself a splendid assembly, not having spot or wrinkle or any of this sort, but that it might be set-apart and blameless. In this way husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but feeds and cherishes it, as also the Master does the Assembly, Ephesians 5:22–29.

Yahweh knows how we are built, and these instructions reflect this fact. Men tend to be more logical, and may not express the feelings that a woman will desire of their husband, so husbands are told “Love your wives.” And women may not like the subordinate position, but they are to respect it by respecting and honoring their husbands.

The headship is clear, there is Yahweh, then Yahshua, then man, then woman (1 Cor. 11:3). Yahweh is all about law and order, and that is

exactly what we see in His instructions and those inspired to provide insight from His Word.

5. Marriage is a lifelong commitment, divorce is not an option.

For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man, Romans 7:2-3.

This, of course, is not the only instructions we find. Just like, looking at Sabbath verses, we need to look at not just one area of Scripture concerning Sabbath, but all the areas, to have an overall understanding of it.

There are reasons allowed for divorce and remarriage: For example, sexual immorality (Matt. 19:9) or the death of the spouse (which is not a divorce, but rather a condition, in which there is a release of that marriage by the law of the land and of Scripture (1 Corinthians 7:39 and Romans 7:2-3, as just read).

In addition, "... if the unbelieving depart" (1 Cor. 7:15) If an unbeliever divorces a believer, Paul says the believing one "is not under bondage." That is to say, not bound to that marriage after the divorce. It is effectively dissolved, following the laws of the land, unless reconciliation can be made. In some cases, it cannot, but we are to try nonetheless. The believer who is left, is to remarry in the faith, not outside of the faith.

When it comes to believers in the body of Messiah, they only have the option of separation, if the other factors are not involved. Otherwise, adultery is the outcome.

6. Marriage requires faithfulness and purity.

Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband, 1 Corinthians 7:1-3.

Many of us can certainly relate to what Paul is saying here. Some of us don't go through an engagement process, we just go to the justice of the peace. Lest we fail to exercise self control.

Drink water from your own cistern, and running water from your own well. Should your fountains be

dispersed abroad, streams of water in the streets? Let them be only your own, and not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth. As a loving deer and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; and always be enraptured with her love. For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, and be embraced in the arms of a seductress? Proverbs: 5:15-20.

Sage advice, and, it's in line with the rest of the commandments, especially, not committing adultery, which, even looking lustfully at others is a violation.

You have heard that it was said, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY"; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matthew 5:27-28.

We are called to walk on higher ground.

7. Marriage is a blessing that exhibits the favor of Yahweh.

He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from Yahweh, Proverbs 18:22.

The wording we find here does mean to look for, keep an eye out for. Searching is a natural process for a man as hunter, gatherer and provider.

Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life which He has given you under the sun, all your days of vanity; for that is your portion in life, and in the labor which you perform under the sun, Ecclesiastes 9:9.

One of the better things in life for a man is to have a good wife. But, many of the good things in life are a direct result of Yahweh providing.

House and wealth are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from Yahweh, Proverbs 19:14.

The point in this is to ask Yahweh to guide and lead you to the right wife for you. And single sisters in the faith, that should be your prayer, as well. If you are wanting to marry, as Paul said, it is not a sin (1 Cor. 7:28, 36).

In Conclusion

Marriage is one of the greatest covenants we can make outside of being in covenant with Yahweh through Yahshua. Never take marriage covenants for granted, for Yahweh certainly does not.

Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers Elohim will judge, Hebrews 13:4.

-Elder David Brett

After the Feast Glow

Attention all brethren: as exciting as the Feast of Tabernacles and The Eighth Day are each year, it had to end, or did it? Now that we are back in our respective hometowns and jobs, we can still share the glow of the Feast, now looking forward to Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread. We can share the good experience with others, and we ourselves can face difficult situations with a steadfastness in Messiah.

We can do this because of the recharging of our batteries, so to speak, a renewing of our first love, which we are not to forsake (Rev. 2:4). Not that we couldn't face difficulties before, but there is a determination that comes from within when keeping Yahweh's Appointed Times, of which the Feast of Tabernacles is just one. There is joy and happiness when spending time with like-minded brethren. The Bible confirms this: "*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*" Psalms 133:1. (The **King James Version 1900** is used throughout unless otherwise noted.)

Sometimes there are difficulties, but we must follow our instructions and deal with any difficulties appropriately. *With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace,* Ephesians 4:2-3. At the Feasts of Yahweh, this is always a goal and, when done, produces the proper fruit of the Spirit that Yahweh desires in us all. It is accurate to say that this behavior among brethren is the product of the Spirit within us.

As we see the concern of people and the troubles that seem to be getting worse in the world, we have more opportunities to be a beacon of light. *Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid,* Matthew 5:14.

Many family members and employers know when we are gone for a week. It is no secret what Yahweh's people are doing, yet the world does not understand. When we come back, many cannot deny there is something different in our countenance; we are more joyful in our overall attitude. It's an after-the-Feast glow.

It's something that we can continue to have with close contact with Yahweh through Yahshua in studying the Word and in praying in the Spirit given to us. Not all of us have the ability to fellowship

regularly with like-minded brethren, but all of us in Messiah can go to the very throne of Yahweh every day.

Shining Bright

We may remember Moses is the one who went before Yahweh on the mountain and came down with a facial glow. *Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony were in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him,* Exodus 34:29, **NKJV**.

We're not saying you'll have a glowing face after going to Yahweh's throne in prayer. We know it's true that Moses' glow was on the outside, but he didn't have the Spirit within as we do, and our glow comes from within and comes out in our attitude.

Something interesting to note from the above verse is that Moses didn't even realize there was something different about himself. Moses did not know his face was shining, but the people sure did!

Today we might not notice what close contact with Yahweh does for our countenance and attitude, but others will.

Some years ago, a man left an image with me even though I had only seen him for a few minutes. To describe him, I'd have to say it was as if he had just won the lottery but was keeping the information to himself. His appearance was one of calm joy from within. In other words, he glowed. And after just coming out from Yahweh's presence (Matt 18:20) at the Feast of Tabernacles and The Eighth Day, rejoicing with other brethren, we, too, glow from within. As Leviticus 23:40 says, "ye shall rejoice before Yahweh, your Elohim."

Let's hold on to that joy by continually going before Yahweh's throne in prayer and occasionally fasting to draw even closer to Him through Yahshua, the Messiah, and fellowship with like-minded individuals, if possible. Yahweh can make a way.

You may not be able to do this every Sabbath, but the Feast days should be the exception. *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching,* Hebrews 10:24-25.

- Elder David Brett



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q Someone said they are happy to take government handouts and “work” the system. They used the example of Israel taking the gold coming out from Egypt. Do you have some Scriptures that I can share with them?

A We believe there is a principle of giving, and an attitude of service, that the Scriptures bring out.

He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good (“the laborer is worthy of his wages” Luke 10:7; 1 Tim. 5:18), so that he will have something to share with one who has need, Ephesians 4:28, NASB

For you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship, for laboring night and day, in order not to burden any of you, we proclaimed to you the Good News of Elohim, 1 Thessalonians 2:9, TS

All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty, Proverbs 14:23, NIV

But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever (consideration for men who are seeking a wife), 1 Timothy 5:8, NASB

For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Master Yahshua Messiah to do their work quietly and to earn their own living, 2 Thessalonians 3:6–12, ESV



After these things he left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them, and because he was of the same trade (“working with our own hands” 1 Cor. 4:12), he stayed with them and they were working, for by trade they were tent-makers, Acts 18:1–3, NASB.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for The Master, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Master as a reward. It is the Master Messiah you are serving. Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism, Colossians 3:23–25, NIV.

As students of Scripture we can see from the above, Paul and others set the example of working in their given trade so as to not burden anyone, even our government. We understand that Yahshua Himself was brought up in the work of a carpenter/stone mason until such a time as called to work full-time in the ministry. We are to work and provide for ourselves and our own households. In fact, the command is to work six days a week (Exod. 20:9; Duet. 5:13). This way, we give as an example to others, living according to the Word of Yahweh.

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Q Is Jerome a saint? After all, he wrote the vulgate. And, if that was the first Bible, shouldn't we use it or a translation of it?

A To give some history, he (Jerome) was commissioned by Pope Damasus in the year 382 to take from the Hebrew and Greek manuscripts and translate them into Latin. Vulgate means, "common version." This particular Bible is therefore known as the Latin Vulgate, which took about 23 years to translate. It is a translation of other documents, which themselves are copies of originals.

Historically, the canonization of the Books of the Bible occurred prior to this time. The Books we have now in most Bibles were already generally accepted by the peoples to be the Canon. The Catholics were just instrumental in getting them translated.

Latin, regrettably, allowed Catholics to control the interpretation of the Bible, as most did not speak or know Latin. Bibles were known also to have been chained to lecterns, which only priests were allowed to have and to read from.

Eventually, Wycliffe's (1380), Tyndale's (1525), and Coverdale's (1535) translations into English were made available through the Gutenberg printing press and other presses designed later throughout Europe. These allowed the common people to have Bibles of their own. They could then read for themselves what was actually said in Scripture.

Regrettably, we still see Catholic doctrines embedded into offshoot Protestant denominations, stemming from the Reformation era in the 16th century.

Are any of them saints? Sainthood is often designated by Catholicism, which often leads to a form of idolatry. But, when we (true believers) think of sainthood, we think of the disciples of Messiah Yahshua, some of whom were authors of the New Testament writings (letters) we have today. We ourselves are called to be saints (Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2).

We do not deify saints nor pray to them. We do study and find their writings to be confirming the Bible (scrolls they had access to), which today we call the Old Testament.

This leads us to the first part of your question. Is Jerome a saint? Jerome is considered a saint by many Catholics and Protestants today. Here at Yahweh's Assembly In Yahshua, we see the man as someone who kept with the tradition of covering up the Name of Yahweh and also distorted the Savior's Name, and who himself probably thought the Law

of Yahweh was done away with. Blasphemy is the word that comes to mind, whether he was aware of it or not. Keeping with the traditions of men, who have taken the Key to knowledge (Luke 11:52) and removed it from the Bibles today, is what we see in most religious circles.

In the first century, the Bereans were known to be more noble because they searched the Scriptures. We do the same and have seen what has happened historically. We share these things today through articles, media, and word of mouth. It is a restoration of the Word, and being about our Father's business, which is being accomplished today.

To learn more, read our booklet entitled, *What Happened to Christianity?*

While Genesis 26:5 proves that Torah existed long before it was codified at Sinai, and that Abraham observed it, we find out in Genesis 20:12 that the same Abraham admittedly married his half-sister, a practice that was clearly prohibited in Torah. Was this a sin or knowledge gap or was it permissible at the time? How do we explain?

A When we think of some of the laws, we recognize that amendments have been made and exceptions exist. For example, it was originally taught that every seed-bearing plant and seed-bearing tree producing fruit would be for food (Gen 1:9). Later we read certain animals, fish, and birds were added and allowed for food (Gen. 9:3; Lev. 11; Deut. 14).

Since Eve is the mother of all mankind (Gen. 3:20), we know that brothers and sisters married early on. Science has since proven that with the gene pool being so pure, there would not have been birth defects caused by such relations. But today, the gene pool is such that if a brother and sister marry, there is the likelihood of birth defects being produced in their children.

A case in point: There is a tribe in the northern part of Zimbabwe that only marries within their families, and they are called the ostrich people because of a common birth defect among them passed down from generations of breaking the law of Yahweh (Lev. 17:6, 18:9)

What is called a Levirate Law exception is found in Deuteronomy 25:5, practiced thousands of years ago allowing a brother to continue a deceased brother's family by taking the brother's wife as his own. There were no known birth defects from these relationships, but today the risk is great.

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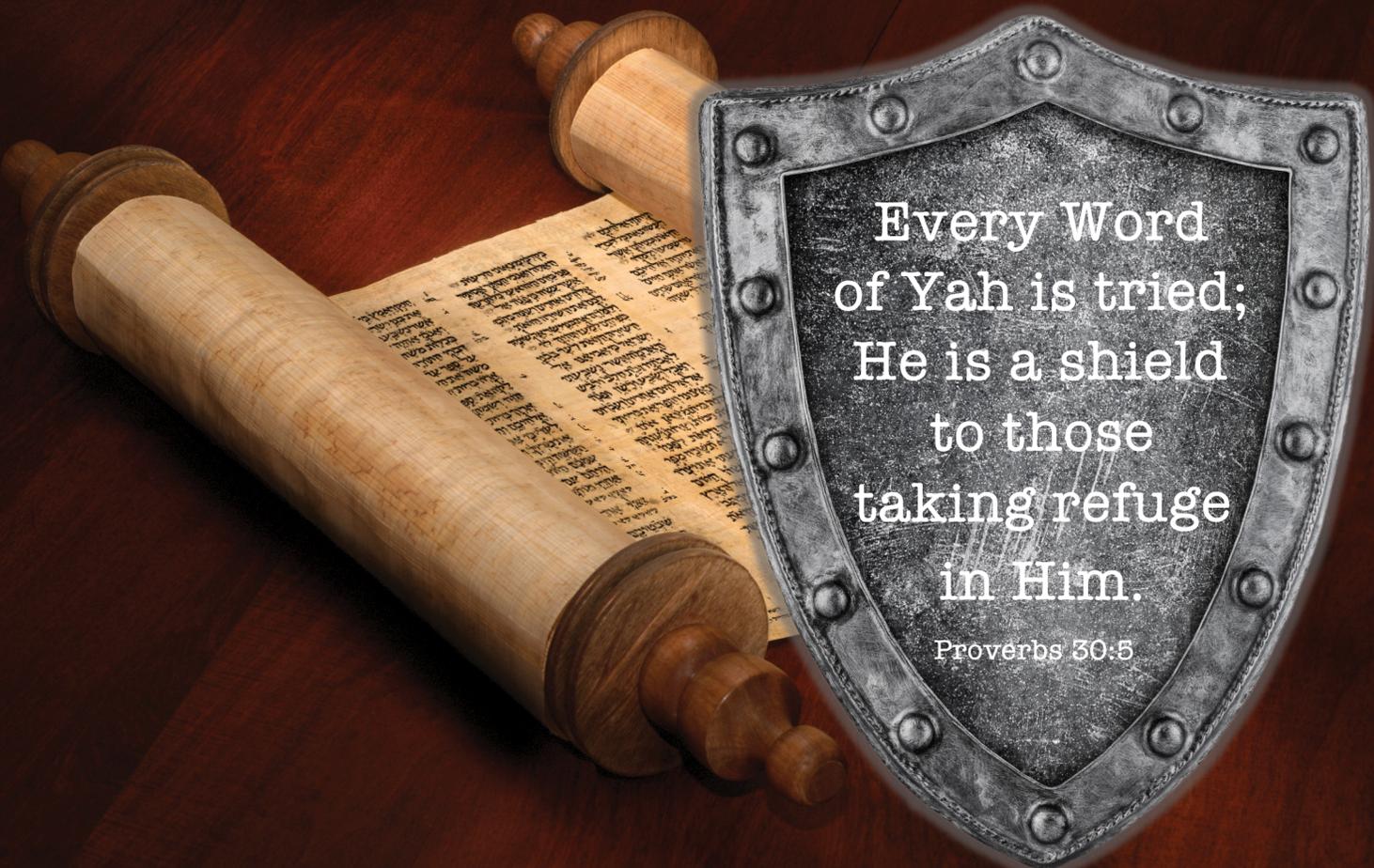
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