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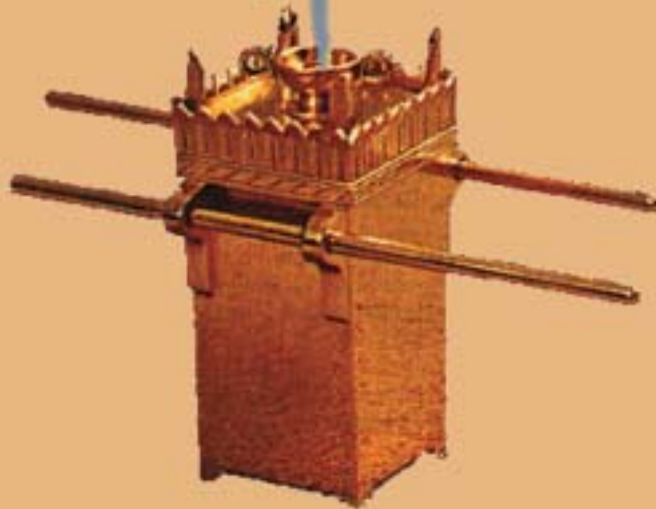


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The smoke of the incense
with the prayers of the
saints rises up before Yahweh



Premiere Issue

YAIY



Beacon



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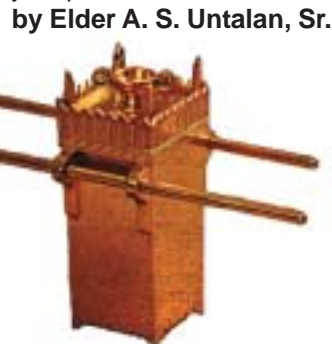
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Our Mission and purpose is to reach people around the world with the message of the revealed personal Names of Yahweh and His Son Yahshua the Messiah, as well as teaching the salvation truths that have been neglected for centuries.

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PRAYER

ITS BELIEFS

AND CUSTOMS

people had contact, and in many ways, “direct contact,” with the Almighty. Abraham knew Him as Melchisedec (King of Righteousness) king of Salem (Peace). And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; He was priest of Eternal Most High. He blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram by Yahweh, the Most High, Maker of heaven and earth; and blessed be Yahweh Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand !” And Abram gave Him one-tenth of everything, Genesis 14:18-20.

There are many various beliefs and customs with their own definition of what form a prayer must take. There is anything from the use of a prayer wheel, going into a repetitious chant, to holding a string of beads, or bowing before an object of material, be it wood, metal or clay, even going as far as kneeling before another human being, whether male or female, dead, or alive! There are those who take a picture or statue or a piece of parchment, paper or religious book, even a Bible is made an object of what is prayed to, and kissed, and revered in the place of a “mighty one”.

Many say it is only a “reminder” of the holy one. In truth those “idols” will not and can not ever represent the Almighty Yahweh Himself, for it is He who sets the Law on how we are to worship Him. The people in these systems are kept in total ignorance as to what is written within the Scriptures. It is not the object or objects made with human hands, or a human being, or even going further, angels that are to be revered, but all honour and submission must go to our Almighty Father in heaven through the Word, in Spirit and in Truth.

Prayer is one of the most important forms in the worshipping and the praising of Yahweh the Almighty Creator and Father of all which is in the heavens and upon this earth. The reason we have included so many passages of Scripture in this article, is to clarify through the Sacred Word which has been preserved for us today, to know and understand what prayer really is.

Examples of Prayer

Scripture has many examples of prayers to the Almighty by great people of Yahweh. Their words have been recorded in Scripture, as a guideline for us to apply in these days. The Word clearly urges us to be in a constant, prayerful attitude towards the Eternal our Elohim.

In the early days, from Adam through to the time of Noah, then to Abraham right down to Moses, Yahweh’s

In the days of Moses, Yahweh introduced the Levitical priesthood which existed until the first coming of Yahshua the Messiah. It was during this priesthood of Levi, the only way the people could have intercession with the Almighty was through them. But a problem arose with this priesthood, due to human weaknesses, and may I add rebellion within the priesthood towards the Almighty’s Law. **(The Book of Malachi covers this very problem)** Many times it became so bad that Yahweh inspired Prophets, who were not even members of the priesthood, to go and warn kings, even the nation of Israel, of their back sliding from the Law. We read recorded prophecies, warning other nations of their sins, and their immanent destruction, if they did not change their ways (Jonah and Naham are two examples).

Today Scripture shows us that we are now living in an era where there is no more physical priesthood, but we have inherited a Greater Priesthood! Yahshua the Messiah, our High Priest is now our One and Only Mediator between Yahweh and His People.

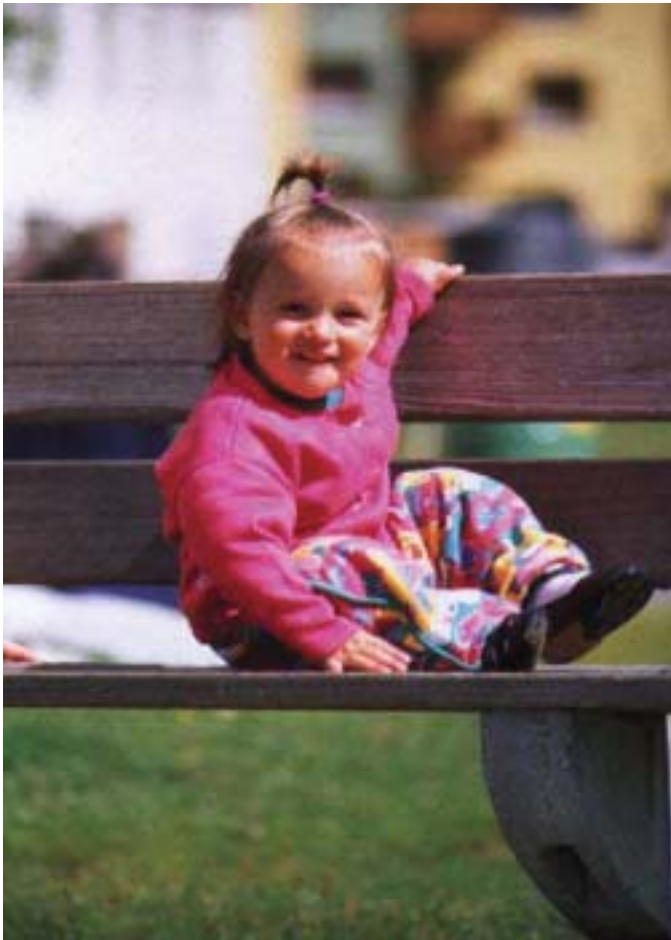
For it is attested of him, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”... Consequently He is able for all time to save those who approach Yahweh through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them, Heb 7:17,25.

He qualified through His sinless Life, being the Ultimate Sacrifice as the True Passover Lamb, who takes away the sins of the world.

*The next day he saw Yahshua coming toward him and declared, “**Here is the Lamb of Yahweh, who takes away the sin of the world!**” (John 1:29)*

Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Yahshua the Messiah of Nazareth, whom you impaled, whom Yahweh raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the

<Beliefs see page 18>



Life

Has

Meaning

Some time ago I was the lone passenger on a motorcycle at Puerto Princesa, a small city in the province of Palawan, Philippines, when my eyes caught sight of three English words painted inside that reads, "Life Has Meaning." Three simple words which convey a profound truth, particularly for people who believe in the concept of a First Cause, i.e., a Creator who caused all things to exist.

Conversely, if Charles Darwin's Theory of Evolution were true, Nikolai Lenin would be vindicated for saying that "religion is the opium of the people." Hence, the feeling of security and inner peace that people derive from their religious belief will be reduced to what doctors call the "placebo" effect.

For those who embrace Darwinism, how could there be meaning to life if the short span of physical existence is all what it takes in this life? If man's existence is limited to this earthly life, and nothing more beyond the grave, would not that give credence to the rich fool's decision to take life "easy, to eat, drink and be merry?" So, if we believe in the truthfulness of creation, we owe it to ourselves to find out and understand, as deep as our finite minds can fathom the very reason for our existence. Evidently, this is what David had in mind when he asked,

What is man, that you are mindful of him? And the son of man, that you visit him? (Ps. 8:4 TSS)

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

Yes, common dust. That is what man is basically made of. Isn't it ironic that we humans have an aversion to dust?

As one brother once wrote some years ago, "dust is the cheapest, commonest, and filthiest thing there is."

Yet, man is made of dust – transformed into bones, flesh, and blood – and made alive by the infinite power of the Creator. An interesting question is: "Why common dust?" We will come to understand that later. Nevertheless, to compensate for man's lowly origin, Elohim made man His masterpiece of creation. How could that be?

In His Image

In Genesis 2:7, the word SOUL is from the Hebrew *nephesh*, Strong's #5315, properly a breathing creature, i.e., animal or (abstr.) vitality; used very widely in a lit., accommodated or figurative sense. It is the same Hebrew word translated CREATURE in Genesis 1:24.

And Elohim said, "Let the earth bring forth the living CREATURE (nephesh) after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so."

Shockingly, it seems, animals are also living souls. Perspectively, in Hebrew, Genesis 1:24 and 2:7 imply that mankind, at least physically, does have an affinity with the animals. But, that doesn't give credence to the contention

(biological science) that we humans are the highest form of animal. Mankind is a special creature.

Definitely not, and until now Darwin's concept of evolution has not been satisfactorily and conclusively proven. In fact, anthropologists have not yet found what they believe is the "missing link" that will connect man and ape.

But, aside from the physical aspect of life, man is uniquely different from the inferior creature. Here's the great difference.

Let us make man in our image, in our likeness... So Elohim created man in his own image, in the image of Elohim he created him; male and female he created them, Gen. 1:26-27.

Clearly, man is created far above the animals. Man alone is created in the image and likeness of his Creator. Even the angels are not given such honor. Indeed, man is the crowning glory of Yahweh's creative activity – truly His masterpiece. But, being in the image and likeness of Elohim transcends outward form, or appearance. It is more than that, as we will find in this study.

The Master Potter

Josiah Wedgwood (c. 1730-1795) was no mere potter. From his factory at Staffordshire County, Stafford, England out comes pottery, whose exquisite beauty has gained admiration and fame far and wide. And, because of his beautiful creations, Josiah Wedgwood's name is well-known in his country.

But, Mr. Wedgwood is nothing compared to the Master Potter, whose creations far excel the works of all other potters of all time. The greatness of this potter is that He has the power to give life to his creations. Who is this potter?

But now, O Yahweh, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you our potter, and we all are the work of your hand, Isaiah 42:8 TSS.

There He is! Yahweh is His name, Ex. 3:15 and Isa. 42:8. He is the Elohim of Abraham, the Father of the Faithful, whether Israelite or gentile,

Gal. 3:29. Regrettably, there came a time, when, because of superstition, Israel chose to ignore and avoid mentioning the true name of Yahweh, preferring to call Him "adonay" instead.

The rest of mankind followed suit, and called the Creator with a variety of fake and substitute names or titles, e.g., the Lord (in Hebrew *ha Baal*), GOD, Jehovah, Allah, etc. Maybe that is the reason why the Psalmist was inspired to write,

If we have forgotten the name of our Elohim, and spread forth our hands (pray) to a strange El; will not Elohim search this out? For he knows the

To obtain a printout of the following mini-study go to page 23

Mini - Study

DO YOU HAVE AN IMMORTAL SOUL?

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

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

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

NO IMMORTAL SOUL IN SCRIPTURE

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

secrets of the hearts, Psa. 44:20-21 TSS.

Before the Israelites crossed the Jordan River the prophet Moses gave them this warning,

Be careful that you do not forget Yahweh, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. Fear Yahweh your Elohim, serve him only and take your oaths in his name, Deut. 6:12-13.

This warning applies to you and me as well. Regrettably, despite man's vaunted knowledge and wisdom, the great majority of mankind is still ignorant of Yahweh. Is it not strange that the name of the Master Potter has been missing or hidden, and unknown for thousands of years? Be wise to reflect seriously on the following text,

O Yahweh, the hope of Israel, all who forsake you will be put to shame. Those who turn away from you will be written in the dust, because they have forsaken Yahweh, the spring of living water, Jer. 17:13 NIV.

A Clay Model

Man's natural body was not meant for eternity. Yahweh, Himself, told Adam that he was dust; and to dust he will return, Gen. 3:19. However, there is yet another form or dimension of existence for man. Paul made it quite clear in his letter to the Corinthian assembly.

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood can not inherit the kingdom of Yahweh; neither does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We all shall not sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality, 1 Cor. 15:50-53 TSS.

Another passage of Scriptures tells us that our natural bodies are just "houses of clay," Job 4:19. And, the true self, in the words of Paul, is the "inward man," Romans 7:22. It is clear, then, that man, made of dust, is just a clay model. Model for what?

The Making of Righteous Character

In our modern society, we are accustomed to such things as instant coffee, tea, noodles, etc. You just pour hot water, and presto, you've got an instant beverage or meal. What about character? Is there such a thing as instant righteous character? What about the angels? Let us consider the creation of an angel.

You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty... You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you, Ezek. 28:13 NIV.

Take note of the parallel to Genesis, chapters 2 and 3. Was not Adam also blameless until he ate from the forbidden tree? Incredible as it may seem, it appears that the angels, and man as well, were originally created perfect beings, except in character. With crystal clarity, we can see that even the angels are susceptible to wrong-doing. The fact is, one third of the angels committed an act of rebellion and sinned, Rev. 12:4, 7.

The making of righteous character is a process that involves time. Regrettably, for the many, even a lifetime is not enough to build up good character. This is because by himself and alone, man is hopelessly devoid of righteous character. What seemed right to man is nothing but illusions, or delusions.

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away, Isa. 64:6 NIV.

But this is not all the more surprising, taking into consideration that even the angels fell short of perfection.

Behold, he puts not trust in his servants; and his angels he charges with folly: how much more them that dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust..., Job 4:18-19 NIV.

Certainly, there is no such thing as instant righteous character.

A Case of Vain Pride

Now we need to understand why the All-Wise Creator formed man from the dust of the ground. To repeat the question: "Why common dust?" Yahweh Elohim could have used gold dust, but He did not. Why? Take note how this angel was created.

Thou hast been in Eden the Garden of Elohim; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond., the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold... Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness, Ezek. 28:13-17.

Have you noticed the great difference in the creation of this Being

in contrast with Adam's lowly origin? Note that this angel was covered with gold and nine precious stones. How? The word "covering" is from the Hebrew *mecukkah* of Strong's #4540, and from Strong's #5526, *cakak* or *sakak*; a prim. Root: properly, to entwine as a screen. No wonder then that in Isaiah 14 he is called Lucifer (KJV), Latin for Shining One.

His heart overflowing with pride and confidence, the erstwhile cherub thought of becoming equal with his Creator. He wanted to be like Elohim. He coveted the position, honor and glory that belonged exclusively to the Elohim Family. That led to his expulsion from heaven, and he became Satan (Adversary) and devil.

This tragic incident is an object lesson both for man and angel. It also proved that in created beings, righteous character is developed over a period of time (not instantly). Experience is also a valuable factor, and that's what Lucifer lacked, there being no precedent. But, aren't angels a paragon of virtue? Yes, they were, until Lucifer sinned.

Now we can understand why the omniscient Creator formed man of common dust. By the way, if man, who is made of dust, can still be conceited and haughty, what is more, had Yahweh formed man of gold dust?

What Image – What Likeness?

In the creation of man, the true sense of the word "image" and the synonym "likeness" is somewhat vague. This comes to mind the possibility that the converted black man is left wondering, whether in the other life, he would still be black or be resurrected white.

We can not think of Elohim in terms of form or appearance. To do so would be limiting Elohim's boundless attribute. To the more discerning, the two words transcend the literal meaning. Consider the following text.

Can any hide himself in secret places so that I shall not see him? says Yahweh. Do not I fill heaven and earth? says Yahweh, Jer. 23:24 TSS.

To get a printout of the following mini-study go to page 23

Mini Study

Yahweh's Appointed Feast Days

Now YOU Can Afford to Attend!

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

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

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

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

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

Yahshua Messiah Himself tells us that no man has ever seen Elohim as He really is, and at any time, John 1:18 and 1 John 4:12. So, in Genesis 1:26-27, Elohim's image and likeness construe more of His holiness, righteousness, and knowledge, Eph. 4:24 and Col. 3:10. That is why the apostle Peter tells us,

For it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy," 1 Peter 1:16.

Paul also tells us that Yahshua is the image of the invisible Elohim (Col. 1:15), the radiance of Elohim's glory, and the exact representation of His being, Heb. 1:3 NIV. But, that doesn't mean Elohim is like a human being in appearance. It was the other way around.

Have this mind in you, which was also in Messiah Yahshua, who, existing in the form of Elohim counted not being on an equality with Yahweh a thing to be grasped; but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant being made in the likeness of men, Ph'p. 2:5-7 TSS.

Leading By Example

Adam, the first clay model, was a perfect specimen, until an envious Adversary sneaked into the garden and induced him to commit sin. This Adam, Yahweh's masterpiece, was marred or ruined. Henceforth, death loomed and stalked Adam and his descendants.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of Yahweh is eternal life through Yahshua Messiah our Master, Romans 6:23.

Man, marred with sin, lost Elohim's image and likeness, i.e., holiness and righteousness (Eph. 4:24) and became sinful flesh, Romans 8:3. By himself and left to his own devices, man lost his bearings and relied on his own wisdom to figure out the right way.

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us have turned to his own way, Isaiah 53:6 NIV.

So Elohim took human form in the person of Yahshua Messiah to lead man by example to Yahweh's way of life.

Because Messiah suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth, 1 Peter 2:21-22 NIV.

Yes, the Father allowed His Son to condescend into being human and, like each of us, was tempted in every way, yet without sin, Heb. 4:15. Clearly, Yahshua came to restore Elohim's image and likeness to man (1 Cor. 1:30), which Adam lost in Eden.

Why Are We Here?

Life on earth is generally taken for granted. Most people are busy confronting the hustle and bustle of daily life, and do not care to understand why we are here.

On the other hand, evolutionists try to enlighten us, not on why, but on how we came to be, and never truly and satisfactorily providing an answer. More still, this world's cacophony of religious persuasions all the more contributed to the pervasive and ever worsening moral and spiritual decadence we see all around.

In between the conflicting beliefs and opinion, agnosticism surfaced and gained adherents. But agnosticism is just a hypothesis which is more precarious, there being no certainty of a much better existence beyond the grave.

We have nothing to lose, but everything to gain, in believing that human life, as well as other life forms, was directly created by an omnipotent Supreme Being on purpose.

For we are his workmanship, created in Messiah Yahshua, unto good works, which Elohim hath before ordained that we should walk in them, Eph. 2:10 AV.

In hope of eternal life, which Elohim, that can not lie, promised before the world began, Titus 1:2 AV.

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love. Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Yahshua the

Messiah to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, Eph. 1:4-5 .

By far, I find these words of Scripture more credible in contrast with evolution or agnosticism. Many other Scriptures reveal that human existence is neither by chance nor incidental. Rather, we are here on purpose, in accordance with Yahweh's plan.

Adversity – Suffering

When adversity comes and things turn from bad to worse, do not lose hope. Many a time adversity or suffering turns out to be a blessing. For example, here is a real life story that happened in the Philippines.

Juan dela Cruz (John Doe in English) lived with his old widowed mother who had no source of income. But the lad managed to earn a living as a bootblack and newsboy. Before Juan turned 18, he got sick and was found to have moderately advanced TB in both lungs.

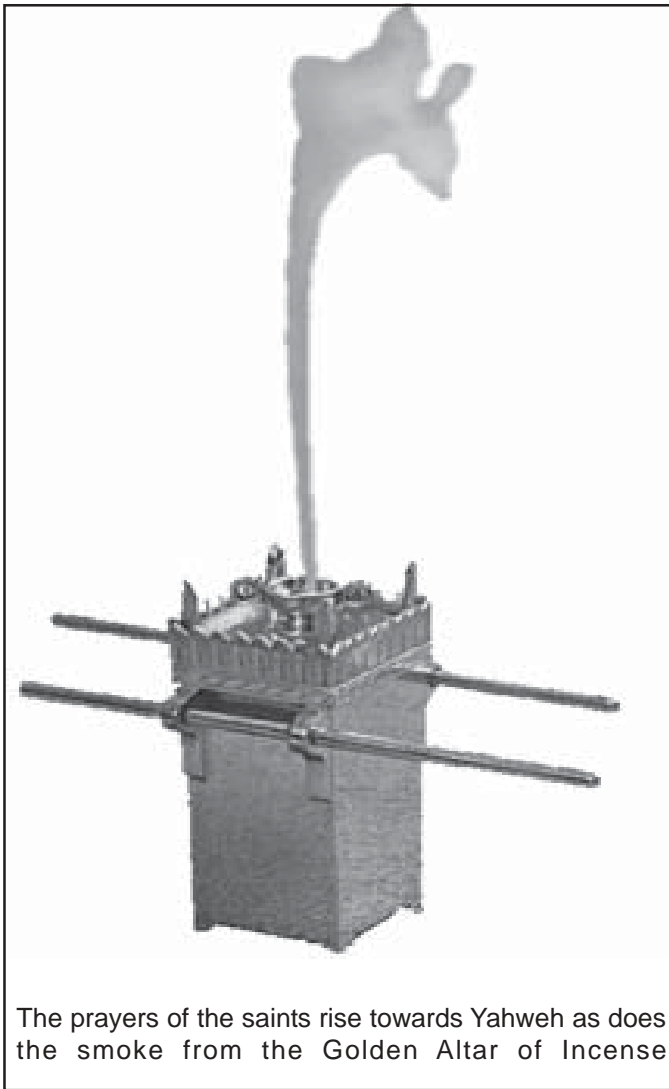
Forced to give up his trade, Juan's dilemma is "NO MONEY for medication and food." He and his mother had to make do with dole outs from relative and neighbors. And, there were nights when he woke up bothered by gnawing hunger pains in his stomach.

As the young man's body was wasting away, and Juan continued to cough up phlegm with blood, no one in the community expected him to last a year. Someone even taunted him. Distressed and with no relief in sight, the lad was overwhelmed with self-pity and thought of committing suicide. But it dawned on him to take one's own life is a sin, because his mother sometimes took him along to her church. One night, with tearful eyes and between sobs, Juan poured out his feelings toward Elohim.

"Holy Father, if this is my lot, then so be it. Thy will be done. And, if you are to take back my life this early, the sooner the better; and let me rest now from all this suffering and misery." With that prayer, he fell sound asleep.

At daytime, with no work to do, Juan thought of reading his late

<Life see page 20>



PRAYER

WHAT IS A PRAYER?

Verse 2 of Luke 11 shows that the first part of a prayer should focus on Yahweh. By doing so we show our respect toward Yahweh by placing our references to Him at the beginning of our prayers. Verses 3 and 4 of Luke 11 concerns the satisfying of our own needs.

It is interesting to note that this model prayer has seven parts to it, where the number seven points toward spiritual perfection.

But what is the main reason why Yahshua chose these words to indicate what a typical prayer should be made of? Let us look at each of these parts and by doing so learn the reason why.

Our Father Who Art In Heaven

This first part of the model prayer shows us to whom we are to address our prayers - to Yahweh, Himself. He is the One who gives us everything, the One who knows what is best for us. It is to Him we are to direct our prayers.

In Ps. 5 verses 1 and 2 we read: "Give ear to my words, O Yahweh, consider my meditation. Harken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my Elohim: for unto Thee will I pray." Paul tells us the same thing in Phil. 4:6: "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known unto Yahweh."

When we pray we should not pray selfishly for things, but we should pray respectfully and with all humility because Yahweh "knows what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him." Matt. 6:8. Yahshua, Himself, tells us, in John 16:23: "And in that day ye shall ask Me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My Name, He shall give it to you."

The old testament people knew they were to pray to Yahweh:

Therefore the people came unto Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against Yahweh, and against thee; pray unto Yahweh, that He take away the serpents from us, Numbers 21:7. See also I Samuel 7:5.

The same is true for the new testament people.

Now I pray to Yahweh that ye do no evil; not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which

In chapters 4 and 5 of I Thessalonians Paul is telling the people of Thessalonica how to live. He tells the people how they should conduct themselves, that they should look forward to Yahshua's second coming, that they should remain steadfast in their faith, and remain in agreement.

In I Thes. 3:10 Paul tells the people of Thessalonica to pray for whatever they are lacking that their faith may become perfect. In I Thes. 5:17 he tells them to "pray without ceasing". This admonishment could be directed towards us, also. Do we make full use of prayer? Before we can answer that question we must first find out more about prayer itself.

What Constitutes a Prayer?

When you pray do you know what you should say? No matter how you answer this question would it surprise you to know that one of Yahshua's own disciples asked that question of Yahshua? In Luke 11:1 we read that as Yahshua was praying in a certain place that one of His disciples said unto Him "Master, teach us to pray." In the next three verses of Luke 11 we read Yahshua's answer. See also Matt. 6:9-13.

is honest, though we be as reprobates, II Cor 13:7. See also Acts 8:18-24.

In I Tim 2:1 Paul writes to Timothy that prayers are to be made for all men."I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men." Bullinger, in his notes, says that the Greek word proseuche translated prayers is restricted to prayer that is to be offered to Yahweh.

Hallowed Be Thy Name

If you came out of nominal churchianity and repeated this model prayer did you ever realize what is meant by this phrase? The Greek word hagiozo is translated hallowed and means to hallow, to make holy, to sanctify. We are to set Yahweh's Name apart from other names for holy use.

The third commandment tells us in Ex. 20:7 that we are not to take Yahweh's Name in vain. This means that we are not to bring Yahweh's Name to nought. We are not to make Yahweh's Name become worthless. We must hold Yahweh's Name in deep reverence.

Thy Kingdom Come

John the immerser proclaimed the coming of the kingdom:

In those days came John the immerser, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, and saying, Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand, Matt 3:1 and 2.

The major thrust of Yahshua's early ministry was proclaiming the coming kingdom.

From that time Yahshua began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand, Matt. 4:17.

The kingdom would have already been here were it not for the decision by Adam and Eve to partake of the forbidden fruit. Can we do no less than to ask that all the trials, temptations and persecutions against Yahweh's People end so that His kingdom can be established on this earth?

Thy Will Be Done On Earth As It Is In Heaven

Matt. 7:21 tells us:

Not every one that saith unto Me, "Master, Master", shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven.

Here the word *will* is a translation of the Greek *thelema* which means will, inclination, desire or pleasure. See also Matt. 12:50. We should realize that Yahweh's will shall always prevail.

There may be times in our lives when we may not fully comprehend why certain things happen. If we believe that Yahweh's will does prevail then we must also believe that whatever happens to us in our lives is done according to what Yahweh wills to happen. This is explained for us in Rom. 12:2:

And be ye not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of Yahweh.

We are to be the servants of Yahweh:

Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as servants of the Messiah, doing the will of Yahweh from the heart, Eph. 6:6.

Paul tells us in Heb. 13:18-21 that we should pray that by doing those things which are well pleasing to Yahweh that Yahweh will perfect us to be able to do His will so that we might "receive the promise," Heb. 10:36.

I Tim 2:4 tell us that Yahweh "will have all men to be saved". We know that all men will not enter into Yahweh's kingdom because of man's unwillingness to conform to Yahweh's way of life. Matt 20:16 tell us that "many will be called but a few chosen."

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

This phrase must be viewed two ways: physically and spiritually.

Physically we know that we need food to sustain us. We can not live too long if we do not ingest food. The

nutrients provided by the food we eat will either build up our body if they are good for us, or will tear it down if they are not what we should eat.

Fasting is a means of eliminating from our bodies the poisons we take in when we eat. Unless we grow the food we eat that food may contain additives which are not the best for us. These additives can accumulate in our bodies. A little bit may not make a profound difference, but a lot could make a profound difference in the way that our bodies can handle those items we eat which may not be the best for us.

Spiritually there are many scriptures which tell us that there is more to life than eating to sustain our physical life.

In Luke 4:4 we read that "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word of Yahweh." See also Deut. 8:3.

In the sixth chapter of John, verse 26, Yahshua tells the people following Him that they are following Him for the wrong reason. He told them they were not following Him because of the miracle He performed in the feeding of the 5000 people with only 2 small fishes and 5 barley loaves, but that they were following Him because of the food that they ate.

In John 6:27 Yahshua tells the people following, and us also, "Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you."

In verses 48 through 51 of John 6, Yahshua tells these same people:

I am the bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eats of this bread, he shall live forever: and that bread that I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

This confused the people following Him and Yahshua further had to explain in verses 53 through 58 that by eating of His flesh and drinking of His blood that He will raise them up in the last day to live with Him forever.

These verses refer to the passover service we are to keep annually and the symbolic meaning of the eating of the unleavened bread and the drinking of the fruit of the vine.

Forgive Us Our Debts As We Forgive Our Debtors

The last 13 verses of Matthew, chapter 18, shows the significance of not forgiving those who owe us something. It seems a servant of a king owed his master a lot of money. When the king threatened to throw this servant into prison until the debt was repaid, the servant pleaded his master not to do so and the king had compassion and forgave his servant the debt owed.

A short time later this same servant came upon a man who owed him a lot less money than he owed his master. This servant was going to throw this man in prison until the debt was paid. But the man pleaded the servant not to do so. However, this servant did not have compassion and threw the man in prison.

When the master heard of his servant throwing someone in prison for an unpaid debt he called the servant to his presence and in no simple terms "delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him." Matt. 18:34.

Verse 35 of Matt 18 tells us the importance of this story.

So likewise shall My Heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Forgiveness is a two way street. To be forgiven, one must forgive. "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven." Luke 6:37. We are to also remember that as Yahshua told Peter in Matt. 18:21-22 that we are to forgive "until seventy times seven".

Lead Us Not Into Temptation, But Deliver Us From Evil

When we first become part of Yahshua's body through immersion into the Name of Yahshua, we must

believe that satan will attack with full force to try to cause one to fall into sin.

We can expect trials and temptations and, even if we are subjected to evil, we should count it for joy as we are told in James 1:2: "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into diverse temptation". See also I Peter 1:6.

The Scriptures plainly tell us not to be afraid of temptations because "Yahweh is faithful, Who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it". I Cor. 10:13. See also II Peter 2:9.

In James 1:12-15 we find out what happens to those who endure

temptations and to those who succumb to temptation. A crown of life will be given to those who endure temptation, verse 12, while the second death is promised those who give way to temptations, conceive lust and sin, verses 14 and 15.

We must be watchful of temptations. We must be on guard when temptations befall us. Scriptures tell us of these things and that we should pray that temptation not overcome us.

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak, Matt. 26:41.

See also Mark 14:38 and Luke 22:46.

Satan wishes to take away as many people from Yahshua as he can. Satan tries to influence anyone and everyone to lose their faith. This is why we should pray that Yahweh deliver us from the evil one. When we are tempted by satan we should say, as Yahshua did in Luke 4:8, "get thee behind Me, satan".

What Should Be Said In A Prayer

The model prayer we just went through is stated verbatim in nominal churchianity. By doing so it loses its importance and meaning. By repeating it over and over one can forget how important it really is. What one must remember is that we are to do the will of Yahweh and to remain in Yahweh's favor. When troubles beset us there is nothing wrong with a prayer to contain something which is not specifically mentioned in this model prayer. So then let us search the Scriptures to find proper examples of what Yahweh will deem as an acceptable prayer.

Some general areas the Scriptures relate to are confessions:

And Hezekiah spake comfortably unto all the Levites that taught the good knowledge of Yahweh: and they did eat throughout the feast seven days, offering peace offerings, and making confession to Yahweh Elohim of their fathers, II Chron. 30:22;

To obtain a printout of the following mini-study go to page 23

Mini - Study PDF

The Meaning of Prayer

Many know by memory the Master's Model Prayer. Yet, do they think of what they are really asking when they repeat His words? Here is a lesson about prayer that bears repeating!

It has always been man's innate desire to reach out beyond himself to tap the unseen powers beyond his own sphere, in an effort to achieve results outside his reach.

Even primitive, pagan man acknowledged unseen powers or beings beyond himself. Because he was not able to see or prove the existence of such supernatural powers, he created icons of these imagined forces. With them he hoped to get a physical handle on powers of the invisible spirit world.

Some pagan practices involved carving a talisman or totem pole from wood or stone and then inviting a spirit deity to inhabit that humanly created object. Other objects might include a "good luck" bracelet, ring or brooch to ward away evil spirits.

The Bible tells us not to rely on icons, images or figures made by man for our worship or protection, neither are we to bow down to them. Yahweh is the only true Creator and Heavenly Father.

To Whom Do We Pray?

As far back as Adam, many Biblical examples reveal that man was able to converse with his Creator and He would respond.

We are not to take up the ways of the heathen, but to follow examples of righteous men given us in the Bible.

Our Savior told the woman at the well in John 4:24, "Yahweh is spirit, and they that worship Him must

There is a saying which says that the confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works. Making a confession makes one feel better. By confessing pressure is taken off and one is relieved. Prov. 28:13 says that "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." It is best to make confession of our sins as I John 1:9 tells us "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness". One can also read the stories found in Joshua 7:19-26 and Ps. 32:5. We should daily pray for the forgiveness of our sins.

There is nothing wrong with making requests:

Who in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save Him from death, and was heard in that He feared, Heb. 5:7.

The Scriptures tell us that it is quite proper to request wisdom,

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of Yahweh, That giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him, James 1:5.

We can also ask for guidance:

Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and Yahweh shall be with thee, Ex. 18:19.

When we feel the pressures of this world to be too great for us we should pray to Yahweh for added strength as David did in Ps. 39:12 and 13:

Hear my prayer, O Yahweh, and give ear unto my cry; hold not Thy peace at my tears: For I am a stranger with Thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were. O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go thence, and be no more.

See also Matt. 26:36-44.

When we feel persecuted or threatened by others or if we feel we are being spitefully used by others we can pray, as David did in Ps. 54:2 and 3:

Hear my prayer, O Elohim; give ear to the words of my mouth, for strangers are risen up against me, and oppressors seek after my soul; they have not set Elohim before them.

See also Acts 4:23-30, Neh. 1:11 and Matt. 5:44.

One should not leave out praises and thanksgiving:

It is a good thing to give thanks unto Yahweh, and to sing praises unto thy Name, O most High, Ps. 2:1.

Even though we may not agree with what others are doing we should also make prayer for them as Paul writes to Timothy in I Tim. 2:1 and 2: "I exhort therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all righteousness and honesty."

Paul shows us in Acts 27:33-36 that we should give thanks to Yahweh before we eat for the food He has provided.

The story told us beginning in Deut. 8:10 tells us that after we eat and are full that we should give praise and thanksgiving to Yahweh lest we forget Yahweh.

Paul tells the people of Ephesus, chapter 5, verses 15 and 20: "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise... giving thanks always for all things unto Yahweh and the Father in the Name of our Saviour, Yahshua the Messiah".

We are told not to love the world nor the things in the world because if we do then the love of Yahweh is not in us, I John 2:15 - 17. The reason for this is that this world and all the materialistic things in it will eventually pass away and be of no use to us when Yahshua returns to claim His People.

Requirements While In Prayer

James writes for us in James 5:16 to

Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

From the Greek words translated effectual and fervent it means that we should put our entire being into play when we pray. Scriptures use "cry with a loud voice", Ps. 27:7; "prayed and cried", II Chron. 32:20 and "pour out your heart", Ps. 62:8 to emphasis fervent prayer.

In nominal churchianity when the same prayer is offered week in and week out it is so easy to let one's mind wander when saying a prayer. Does Yahweh accept a prayer from someone when that person is saying the words but their mind is off somewhere else? Hardly. When we pray we should concentrate on what we are saying.

David indicates in Ps. 119:58 and Ps. 62:8 to put our whole heart into what we say in prayer. This is what Yahshua did when He prayed to Yahweh in Heb. 5:7:

Who in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save Him from death, and was heard that He feared.

See also Luke 22:44

Where Should One Be When Praying

Yahshua tells us some of the do's and don't's about prayer. "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily, I say unto you, they have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou has shut thy door, pray to thy Father Which is in secret; and thy Father Which seest in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not therefore like unto them....". Matt. 6:5-8.

The word *closet* in the above Scripture is the translation of the Greek word *tameion* which certainly can not mean a literal closet. If it did then we would find it difficult to offer prayers unless we found our own physical closet to enter before offering a prayer. This Greek word *tameion* has a much deeper meaning. It means a chamber where all our treasures are stored.

A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things; and an evil man out the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things, Matt. 12:35.

Our own heart is the treasure storehouse where our very thoughts come from.

O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the hearts the mouth speaketh, Matt. 12:34.

When Matt. 6:6 says to shut the door of this closet it means to eliminate all outside interference and to concentrate on what we are saying. If we do not do so then can we expect Yahweh to hear our prayer?

As further evidence that this closet can not be taken literally, Paul writes to Timothy in I Tim. 2:8,

I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

Even Peter went upon the housetop to pray:

On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour, Acts 10:9.

Yahshua prayed on a mountain side:

And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, He took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray, Luke 9:28.

These Scriptures assert that the place where one offers a prayer to Yahweh is not important. What is important is our attitude when we pray. I Thes. 5:17 tells us to "pray without ceasing". There is never a place not proper to offer a prayer unto Yahweh.

Positions While in Prayer

Should one really worry about the position of our physical body when we pray? No, as the Scriptures tell us that there is not.

Hannah prayed while standing:

And she said, Oh my master, as thy soul liveth, my master, I am the woman that stood by thee here, pray unto Yahweh, I Sam. 1:26.

Yahshua kneeled down:

And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Luke 22:41.

Ezra and the people bowed their heads while in prayer:

And Ezra blessed Yahweh, the great Elohim. And all the people

answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped Yahweh with their faces to the ground, Neh. 8:6.

Paul tells Timothy that men should lift up their hands when in prayer:

I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting, I Tim. 2:8.

There is no Scripture which tells us what the proper position of our own body should be in before offering a prayer. If there was then would not Yahshua have told His disciples so when He was asked by them: "Master, teach us to pray" in Luke 11:1.

Why Pray?

Job asked this very question: "What profit should we have, if we pray to Him?". Some may feel that praying is not effectual. Some may feel that prayers should be answered immediately. Some may feel it useless to pray because they do not receive an answer right away. This only shows us what human nature is. We expect an answer without delay. However, Yahweh knows what we are in need of even before we ask for it. Yahweh will make sure that if we follow Him that we shall receive all what is absolutely necessary at the proper time.

An atheist will not pray because he denies the very existence of a creator. An agnostic will not pray because he will usually deny the evidence that a creator even exists. Others may believe in the existence of a creator but not as the One who rules and guides our everyday life.

As we have already found out a prayer should come from the heart, should have both meaning and substance. Prayer is the only way we show our total dependence on Yahweh for all things. Prayer is the only way we can communicate with our Creator. Prayer is a way of showing our reverence toward Yahweh.

Prayer's Basic Requirements

Much has been said concerning prayer. But what must be true in order that

Yahweh will even hear our prayer? The basic requirement of a prayer being acceptable to Yahweh is not only what we say but what we do.

Now we know that Yahweh heareth not sinners; but if any man be a worshipper of Yahweh, and doeth His will, Him He heareth, John 9:31.

This Scripture plainly says that we must follow Yahweh and do His will even before Yahweh will listen to our prayer.

Peter agrees with this:

For the eyes of Yahweh are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers; but the face of Yahweh is against them that do evil, I Peter 3:12.

David, at a time when he was in grief and felt oppressed because of his enemies, tells us in Ps. 6:8 and 9:

Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for Yahweh hath heard the voice of my weeping. Yahweh hath heard my supplication; Yahweh will receive my prayer.

This last Scripture tells us of a second, and as important, requirement when offering up a prayer to Yahweh. We must have faith that Yahweh will hear our prayers and answer them.

A third basic requirement of a prayer is that we must not harbor any sin in our hearts. David wrote in Ps. 66:18 "if I regard iniquity in my heart, Yahweh will not hear my prayer".

A last requirement has already been mentioned. We read in John 23:16

And in that day ye shall ask Me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My Name, He will give it to you.

This verse says that when we pray to Yahweh we are to pray through Yahshua. Since we have no right to approach Yahweh directly we are to pray to Yahweh and make our petitions known through Yahshua, our Mediator and High Priest.

Unanswered Prayer

Mankind, by nature, is selfish. From the day of one's birth man has to learn to become unselfish. This might be a hard lesson to learn for some. If things

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CHURCHIANITY

The history of what is known as Christianity and how it survived down to us is interesting indeed. Some believed in one deity, others believed in two, while others believed in thirty or more. Clashes and disagreements followed for three centuries after Yahshua's resurrection until the present scholarship prevailed.

Bart Ehrman in his book "Lost Christianities," goes into detail showing the differences between various dominate religious groups whose doctrines are with us today. With some 300 years having passed since Yahshua's resurrection, general agreement was reached on the make-up of our present 27 books in the New Testament under the influence of emperor Constantine. It is interesting how so many varied doctrines and teachings come from the same source with each group claiming their understanding is the correct one because their doctrine is based on the very words of the Savior and His Apostles.

Yahweh did not leave us in the dark for He raised up able Bible scholars such as Origen of Alexandria, Tertullian and others who carefully selected the wheat from the bogus chaff and gave us the New Testament we have today. Mainstream Christianity of today is often referred to by author Ehrman as "proto-orthodoxy." The following is a study of two Christian groups, each at the opposite ends of the pole, which will deepen the perspective of our faith. First we will examine a group trying to be more Jewish than the Jews.

The Ebionites

The Ebionites were active according to historical believers in Yahshua in the second and fourth centuries, and understood themselves to be Jews who followed Yahshua. There were other groups of Jewish believers but the Ebionites generated the greatest opposition. They believed the Savior was the Jewish Messiah sent by the Jewish Father to the Jewish people and fulfilled the Jewish Scriptures. They also



believed that to be the people of the Book one had to be Jewish.

Consequently, they found much to guide them from the Old Testament such as the seventh day Sabbath, kosher foods, and acknowledging Jerusalem in their worship. However, their insistence on physical circumcision of all males put them at loggerheads with the Apostle Paul who assures us that New Testament circumcision is that of the heart, that one is willfully obedient in following the Savior.

In addition to being more Jewish than the Jews, the Ebionites did not agree with other believers in who the Messiah was, and did not accept the belief that Yahshua pre-existed. The following are clear Bible examples of who Yahshua was:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with Yahweh, and the Word was Yahweh. The same was in the beginning with Yahweh. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing

made that was made. (John 1:1-3 AV)

No man hath seen Yahweh at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared [him]. (John 1:18 AV)

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Messiah Yahshua: Who, being in the form of Elohim, thought it not robbery to be equal with Yahweh: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the stake. Wherefore Yahweh also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Yahshua every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth; And [that] every tongue should confess that Yahshua Messiah [is] the Savior, to the glory of Yahweh the Father, Phpn. 2:5-11.

Not only did the Ebionites not subscribe to Yahshua's pre-existence, but denied His virgin birth. Author Ehrman

believes their Aramaic Bibles lacked the first two chapters of Matthew and Luke both of which deal with Yahshua's virgin birth. They believed the Savior was indeed the son of the Father by adoption and was a real flesh and blood human being just like us. What made Him stand out was that He kept the Father's laws perfectly and was the most righteous man on earth who died on the stake not for His own sins, but for the sins of the world.

Because the Ebionites apparently believed the Savior paid for the sins of the entire world, there was no more a need for animal sacrifices. (This was before destruction of the Temple in 70 CE.) Their other doctrines included a heavy reliance on the Old Testament. They rejected all the New Testament writings of the Apostle Paul. Not only did they feel Paul was wrong in a few points, but he was their archenemy and a heretic who had led many astray! The sign of the covenant was circumcision, and now Paul is teaching it was not necessary for a gentile convert to be circumcised.

An interesting note on their no animal sacrifice view is found in the fragments of Epiphanius against the Ebionites, a disciple asks Yahshua about the preparation of the Passover with the 12, Mark 14:12. He replies, "I have no desire to eat the flesh of this Passover Lamb with you." In another place more to the point, He says, "I have come to abolish the sacrifices; if you do not cease from sacrificing, the wrath of Elohim will not cease from weighing upon you." Interesting that these statements are not found elsewhere, but the Temple was destroyed in the year 70 (CE) and the sacrifices ceased. Yahweh enlisted Paul to carry the spiritual truth to the Gentiles.

It is easy to discern why potential converts among the pagans were not flocking to the Ebionite form of religion, which involved the Saturday being observed as the Sabbath, no pork and carnivorous animals and shellfish were unclean and not to be eaten, and for the men circumcision was required to be Jewish in all phases of life.

Marcionites Spurn All Things Jewish

At the opposite end of the religious New Testament groups were the Marcionites who had a very attractive religion for many pagan converts. There was nothing Jewish about the doctrines of theologian Marcion. In fact a Jew would have difficulty recognizing how Marcion's religion was an offshoot of his own. Not only were the Jewish Scriptures rejected, but also so was the Jewish Elohim we know as Yahweh. How does Marcion fit Yahshua together with Yahweh?

Marcion was indeed a shrewd politician and well versed in the Jewish Bible which he later rejected. He was said to be wealthy through being a shipping merchant or ship builder. Reports indicate he had a falling out with his father who was the bishop of the church near the Black Sea. He then journeyed to Rome, the dominant city in the area, where he gave 200,000 sesterces (lots of money). to the church's mission. He then lay low for five years working out his program. After five years Marcion introduced his

program by means of two books. The teaching in them was revolutionary.

The writings of the Apostle Paul were most intriguing, especially in the book of Galatians and elsewhere where the law of the Jews was distinctly different from the evangel of Messiah. We know that Paul claimed a person was made right by faith in Messiah, not by doing the works of the law. This distinction became fundamental to Marcion. Quoting author Ehrman, "The [evangel] is the good news of deliverance, it involves love, mercy, grace, forgiveness, reconciliation, redemption and life. The bad news that makes the [evangel] necessary in the first place; it involves harsh commandments, guilt, judgment, enmity, punishment, and death. The law was given to the Jews. The [evangel] is given by Messiah."

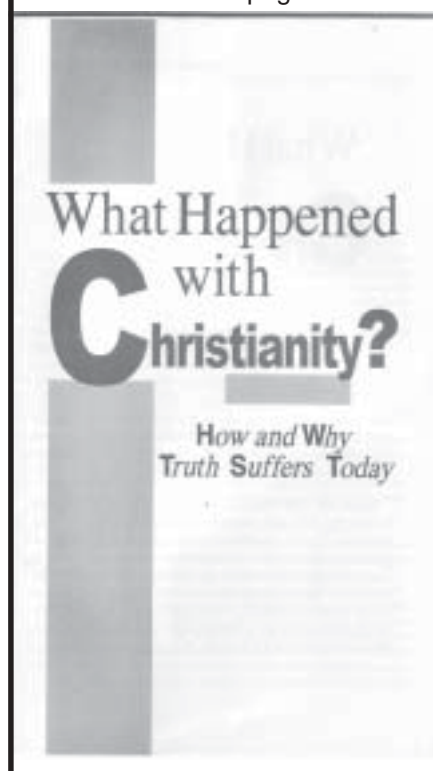
How could the same Deity be responsible for both situations? How could the wrathful, strict, vengeful One of the Jews be the loving, patient, merciful One of Yahshua the Savior? Marcion taught that these attributes could not belong to one Deity, because they stand at odds with one another. He concluded there must be two Deities; one for the Jews and another for Yahshua! {Note the next two paragraphs!}

The Deity of the Old Testament insisted that people keep His law and penalized them when they failed. He was not evil, but He was rigorously just. Since no one is able to keep all the laws perfectly, penalties were passed out and death was the final result. He was justified in His punishments and sentencing all people to death.

The Deity of Yahshua and the New Testament came into the world to save the people from the vengeful Deity of the Jews. He was unknown previously to this world and never had any dealings with it. Not even the prophecies of the future Messiah came from this one for these refer not to Yahshua, but to a coming Messiah of Israel, to be sent by the Deity of the Jews, the Creator of this world and the Deity of the Old Testament. Yahshua

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Prayer

Who Do We Pray To?

Prayer is commonplace in today's world and many are dedicated to doing it daily. There has been much talk about the subject and even some controversy has arisen because of it, not only today, but also during recorded times of history long ago. Prayer vigils and open prayer, even in public places, is commonplace. Not all pray to the same "God" as is often referred to today. So, can one know who to pray to? Is there a standard prayer? Is there a certain physical position one should be in to pray? Who has the answers?

A Little History

Let's take a look at Daniel of the Bible to start getting some answers. Daniel was from the tribe of Judah whose name means, "El is my Judge." He was one of many Jews of the southern tribes brought into Babylonian captivity under King Nebuchadnezzar. It had been prophesied that because of the Jews' sins, they would suffer 70 years under foreign rule. The northern tribes of Israel (Ephraim), known by many as the "Lost 10 Tribes," also suffered a similar fate and were ultimately dispersed through Assyrian captivity into other nations. They are not readily identified today, but Yahweh promises that they will be brought back into a right relationship with Him and into their own land once again in the future.

Faithful Prayer

Daniel was a dedicated believer and follower of Yahweh, the Mighty One of Israel (all 12 tribes). Daniel, we are told, was just a youth (Dan 1:17) when brought into captivity, but his dedication and perseverance in true worship was and is to be admired. Prayer to Yahweh the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, is what helped to keep him focused.

Yahweh, at that time in history, gave Daniel the ability to interpret dreams, but it was not without prayer and supplication to Yahweh.

King Nebuchadnezzar was going to put to death all the wise men because they could not tell him what his dream

was or meant. Daniel asked his friends, who were also captives in this strange land and culture, to beseech Yahweh that there might be resolve to the situation:

Daniel went at once to see the king and requested more time so he could tell the king what the dream meant. Then Daniel went home and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah what had happened. He urged them to ask the Elohim of heaven to show them his mercy by telling them the secret, so they would not be executed along with the other wise men of Babylon. That night the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised of heaven, saying, "Praise the name of Elohim forever and ever, for he alone has all wisdom and power. He determines the course of world events; he removes kings and sets others on the throne. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars. He reveals deep and mysterious things and knows what lies hidden in darkness, though he himself is surrounded by light. I thank and praise you, Elohim of my ancestors, for you have given me wisdom and strength. You have told me what we asked of you and revealed to us what the king demanded," Dan 2:16-23 NLT.

What's in a Name?

As a side note, the above text was translated from Aramaic (Dan 1:4), though Daniel probably would have also been schooled in Akkadian and Persian, besides his own Hebrew language. The Hebrew term Elohim which is usually translated "God" (a pagan Teutonic deity) in most translations, was inserted above, but would otherwise be translated "Elah" from the Aramaic (Strong's # 426). It is interesting that the Arab peoples of today claim Abraham as their ancestor and call upon "Allah" in their prayers. Where did they get the name Allah from? Yahweh is clearly identified by top Hebrew Linguists and Bible Scholars, such as Frank Cross and the late F.F. Bruce, as the original and Sacred Name of the Heavenly Father.

The Encyclopedia of Islam uses the spelling of “*Dāniyâ*” for Daniel in their book. Daniel, as mentioned already, means “El is my Judge,” not, “Al is my Judge.” Could Allah be derived from the Aramaic title “Elah,” which has been brought over to Arabic, as more like Alah or Allah?

The Book of Islam, unlike the Bible, was only brought into being around the 6th century A.D., while the book of Daniel (whose author is Daniel, Dan 12:4) dates back more than a thousand years to 573 century B.C.

Is Allah of Islam the Yahweh of Israel? That would be an emphatic “No.” It is clearly and readily proven by a comparison of the two faiths that the two are diametrically opposite to each other. The Quran and the Bible are two different books, both with two different messages.

Daniel Prayed to Yahweh

Daniel being a faithful and prayerful servant of Yahweh used His name in prayer. For example, Yahweh is mentioned by name numerous times in this heartfelt prayer by Daniel, in chapter 9. Notice what verse 19 of the NKJV says,

O Yahweh, hear! O Yahweh, forgive! O Yahweh, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my Elohim, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name.

Daniel and all the wise men were spared when Yahweh revealed to Daniel the meaning of King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, but there was still trouble ahead as the King decided to make a false idol and a decree that all bow down and worship it, which no doubt would include prayers. Daniel was not about to do such an abomination. What was Daniel’s first act when he heard the King’s new decree? It was to pray:

Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his Elohim, just as he had done before. Then these men went as a group and

found Daniel praying and asking Elohim for help, Dan 6:10-11 NIV.

When we have difficulties, is our first course of action to seek Yahweh’s help and intervention? It should be. Do we get down on our knees in humble adoration for the Almighty? We better. Daniel kneeled when he prayed and others stood (Mark 11:12). There even are examples of extending your hands (2 Chron 6:12), even while kneeling, 1 Kings 8:54.

You may recall the rest of the account as Daniel and his three friends were thrown into a fiery furnace by the King for failure to worship his idol. But, Yahweh intervened in their lives and spared them. He also punished the King for his arrogance and failure to recognize the One Who is above all and is the only One to be worshipped. The Jews came back from captivity with this understanding.

Abraham Called on Yahweh

Going back further in Scripture we find Abram, meaning “Exalted father.” His name was soon to mean “Exalted father of a multitude,” after Yahweh renamed him Abraham. Abraham was blessed and it was because he obeyed Yahweh’s law:

And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws, Gen 26: 4-5.

Abraham knew Yahweh and His name even before his own name was changed:

And Yahweh appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto Yahweh, who appeared unto him. And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto Yahweh, and called upon the name of Yahweh, Gen 12:7-8. (See also Gen 13:4)

This may be news to some. Using Ex 6:3 as proof, they say Yahweh Himself said He wasn’t known by

name back at that time. However, Ex 6:3 is actually in the form of a question, not a statement.

It is also promoted that Abram was a Jew, but he wasn’t. He was a Hebrew. Gen 14:13 says, “Abram the Hebrew.” He wasn’t even an Israelite. Shocked? You shouldn’t be, as Jacob, Abraham’s grandson, was the first Israelite, Gen 32:28.

Prayer Through The Savior

We must keep in mind that when we talk with Yahweh today, it is in the form of a prayer through a Mediator. Prayer for us is a time of discussing matters of importance with Yahweh.

We know Yahweh sent His Son, whose Name we know was originally like Joshua (with a “Y” and not a “J”) the son of Nun. This particular Name basically means “Yah’s Salvation.” Yahshua (correctly spelled transliteration) holds the Name above all names, “Yah,” Ps 68:4 and Phil 2:9. Yah is the shortened form of Yahweh, as Dave is the shortened form of David or Don is the shortened form of Donald.

Yahshua came as a sacrifice for us, and to magnify Yahweh and His way of living which Abraham was to teach to his descendants of whom we most likely are:

For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of Yahweh by doing what is right and just, so that Yahweh will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him, Gen 18:19 NIV.

Of the 10 commandments, the 3rd and 4th are mostly ignored today, while others are taught in many churches around the world and are a condensed version of everything that is right and true. You cannot break one of them and say you have love for Yahweh and your fellow man because to keep them you must have love for everyone, including Yahweh first and foremost.

Abraham’s Intercessory Discussion/Prayer

In Isaiah 1:18, Yahweh says, “Come now, and let us reason together.” Abraham knew he could approach Yahweh and did so, especially when it

came to the well being of others. When Yahweh informed Abraham that he was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah for their wicked ways Abraham tried to intercede for them by reasoning, saying,

Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? (Gen 18:24-25)

How could Abraham be so bold? Prov 28:1 says, "The righteous are bold as a lion." If we ourselves are clean through Yahshua's blood, and being immersed in His name and do what is right in Yahweh's sight, then wouldn't we have boldness to go before His throne?

Yahweh is merciful. Listen to what the rest of Isaiah 1:18-19 says,

Come now, and let us reason together, saith Yahweh: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.

There is much more than land being offered today, if we obey Yahweh through Yahshua. Do we desire to be a part of that Family? Yahshua says,

For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother, Matt 12:50.

So, did Abraham stop with his intercession for the people? No, he continued,

And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto Yahweh, which am but dust and ashes: Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? (Gen 18:27-28)

You can read of the whole account for yourself, but it got all the way down to ten. If there be 10, would Yahweh save? The answer was always "Yes." Yahweh is a wonderful and merciful

Elohim, but He will not tolerate the breaking of His laws. It's something that we all need to be well aware of.

Yahweh Answers, Yes, No, and Not Yet!

A few years ago there was a movie called "Bruce Almighty." It was a comedy about how one man was given the abilities of the Almighty Himself. During this time he was given all this unlimited power. He also received all the prayers of people around the world. He decided the best way to handle them all was to put it all into a computer to be able to respond in an expeditious manner.

He decided to say "Yes" to all the prayers, and with the hit of one keystroke, they were all answered in the affirmative.

By the way, the computer screen at the top said something like, "Yahweh's Insta-Prayers." I remember that the name Yahweh was prominently used. Not sure how many caught that or even understood the significance of how important His Name really is. Indeed, it is a Name that answers prayers.

Speaking of the end times, Scripture says:

And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of Yahweh shall be delivered, Joel 2:32.

Many times people pray and sometimes receive an immediate answer, but other times there is a delay. Sometimes, the answer is "No." Yahshua left us an example when He prayed. It's an example we need to consider ourselves when we pray.

In the Garden of Gethsemane where Yahshua was under tremendous pressure and stress due to what was coming (i.e., His death on the torture stake), He prayed that the figurative cup might be taken away.

The cup, of course, was not taken away. Listen in to what He said though, "Not My will, but Yours be done." Here is the entire quote: "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done." (Luke 22:42) Here was total submission and humbleness toward Yahweh in prayer.

Is this not acceptable to Yahweh? Yet, what happened had to happen, as Yahweh had a purpose and is still working out His plan for mankind.

Short Prayers, Big Results

Sometimes the shortest prayer can bring the greatest results!

And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow. And Jabez called on the Elohim of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And Elohim granted him that which he requested, 1 Chron 4:9-10.

Notice it says he was more honorable than his brothers. Doesn't Scripture say that a righteous man's prayers avail much? Is Yahweh close to those who do good or to those who do evil? Will He reward a man for his good deeds or behavior? Of course, just as He will punish the one who does wrong. Yahweh is not mocked and we can't deceive nor hide anything from Him! Yahshua said in Luke 11:28, "blessed are those that hear the word of Elohim and observe it!"

King Solomon received great wisdom because his prayer was sincerely to help the people and not for any selfish reasons. He completely humbled himself before Yahweh:

"O Yahweh my Elohim, now you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn't know his way around. And here I am among your own chosen people, a nation so great they are too numerous to count! Give me an understanding mind so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great nation of yours?" Yahweh was pleased with Solomon's reply and was glad that he had asked for wisdom. So Elohim replied, "Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people and have not asked for a long life or riches for yourself or the death of your enemies—I will give you what

you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding mind such as no one else has ever had or ever will have! And I will also give you what you did not ask for—riches and honor! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life! And if you follow me and obey my commands as your father, David, did, I will give you a long life,” 1 Kings 3:7-14 NLT.

Yahshua’s Outline Prayer

Yahshua, when asked how one should pray, started out saying “Father, Hallowed be your name, Your Kingdom come.” (Luke 11:2) Giving reverence to Yahweh and his Name and desiring His will to be done is paramount when we pray.

He continued saying, “Give us each day our daily bread.” (verse 3) When we seek him are we asking for more than what we need? And what bread should we really be seeking?

Yahshua said, “It is Written,” meaning Scripture, the only holy writings in the new testament times, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of Yahweh,” Matt 4:4. (See also Deut 8:3)

Verse 4 of Luke 11 continues with: “And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.”

Having the attitude of “I’m a sinner and I need help” is a sure way to get help. Acknowledgment and understanding we have sinned, brings us to a point of being able to repent. Without acknowledgement of the transgression against Yahweh’s law how can forgiveness come? Sin is that transgression.

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law, 1 John 3:4.

Being able to forgive others is also a prerequisite for receiving it.

Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions, Mark 11:25 NASB.

Yahshua set the example even when He was being put to death. He said, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do,” Luke 23:34. Woe to those who do know, yet choose a different road to follow.

Many times you’ll hear people quoting the prayer verbatim that Yahshua used as an example. It was not meant to be memorized and used in that sense, and we are warned against using vain repetitions. He wanted the listeners to understand what the priorities should be in one’s prayer. He wanted us to know who to pray to and whose name we should hold in esteem.

Who do we pray to? “His Name alone is Yahweh,” Ps 83:18.

Elder David Brett

<Beliefs from page 3>

Stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the Chief Cornerstone, Acts 4:10,11.

Yahshua is the Only Name by which we can be saved!

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved, Acts 4:12.

NO PRIEST WHO EVER LIVED DESERVED THAT QUALIFICATION! Paul explains this in his letter to the Hebrews in chapters 5 to 8. In reading John 1:1-14 we are told in simple words that Yahshua the Messiah was the **WORD** (Greek = Logos), which existed at the beginning of Creation. He was the One whom the Father said, “Let us make man in our Image”; He was the One whom Jacob wrestled with; He was the One who gave the Law to Moses.

In the beginning HE was the WORD and the WORD was with YAHWEH: and the WORD became FLESH, John 1:1.

Therefore, all our prayers and worship, whether for thanksgiving or for blessings or for forgiveness, are to be through His Name (Authority) Who is Yahshua the Messiah, our Saviour, the Son of the Living Elohim.

Firstly, when approaching the Throne of Grace (Free Pardon), we are

instructed to be in a right frame of mind, and body.

When the righteous cry for help, Yahweh hears, and rescues them from all their troubles. Yahweh is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit, Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but Yahweh rescues them from them all, Ps 34:17-19.

The sacrifice acceptable to Yahweh is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O Yahweh, you will not condemn, Ps 51:17.

Thus says the Eternal: Heaven is My Throne and the earth is My Footstool; where is the house that you will build for me, and where is my resting place? All these things My Hand has made, and so all these things are Mine, says Yahweh. But this is the one to whom I will look to: he who is humble and has a repentant spirit and trembles at My Word, Isa 66:1.

You will notice in reading the instructions to the priests in the Book of Leviticus, on how they had to go through a series of washings. It is the same with us, we are to clear our minds of unclean thoughts, be repentant of the sins we committed against the Almighty Father, even towards our brethren.

He shall put on the holy linen tunic, and shall have the linen undergarments next to his body, fasten the linen sash, and wear the linen turban; these are the holy vestments. He shall bathe his body place, and put on his vestments; then he shall come out and in water, and put them on ... He shall bathe his body in water in a holy offer his burnt offering and the burnt offering of the people, making atonement for himself and for the people, Lev 16:4, 24 NRSV.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the Truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart, 1 Pet 1:22.

Yahshua tells us to go even further and have an attitude of love towards our enemies!

You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who

persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect, Matt 5:43-48.

His people are not to be ignorant of His Word. This means we need a continual study of the Scriptures. Otherwise how can we ever know what His Will is toward us? We are not to read His Word parrot fashion, as do the Pharisees and the Scribes of this world. They are set by their religious founders, which have set writings and interpretations of the Scriptures, of which Messiah has pointed out as the leaven of the Pharisees, and the Sadducees, who are forever learning, and never coming to the understanding of the Truth.

*Holding to the outward form of righteousness but denying its power. Avoid them! For among them are those who make their way into households and captivate foolish women, overwhelmed by their sins and swayed by all kinds of desires, **who are always learning and can never arrive at a knowledge of the truth**, 2 Tim 3:5-7.*

But the Almighty's Word says, as it has already been stated in this article, we are to approach His Word with a Humble spirit, always prepared with a repentant attitude to change all our pre-conceived ideas, and do what He calls us to do.

*Until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of **the knowledge** of the Son of Yahweh, **to maturity**, to the measure of the full stature of Messiah, Eph 4:13.*

Beware of practicing your religious beliefs before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the

*streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. **And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father in private; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you, Matt 6:1-6.***

As Isaiah asked for continual guidance, so should we.

Yet, O Yahweh, you are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our Potter; we are all the work of Your Hand, Isa 64:8.

The Messiah was in constant prayer to His Father.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed, Mark 1:35.

The following are Messiah's very own Words of instructions on how we are to behave in prayer.

When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him, Matt 6:7, 8.

The following is an example of the structure of a prayer. Messiah had no intention of us using it **as a repetitive chant** as many assemblies practice who believing they get a request through to the Almighty. The one praying must know and understand what he is praying for. We must realize that we are not just talking to a person, but to the **Almighty Father, our Creator and Saviour**. It is **not to be taken lightly**. After all, if you were to be having an audience with a judge in the Court, or the head of a country, no doubt you would be as clear minded and sober as you can be by choosing

every word you would say very carefully, and strive to **be specific** as to what you intend to say.

The Model Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name. (Do you know His Name, and how important it is, or do you just use His Titles?) **Your kingdom come. Your Will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.** (We are to pray for His Kingdom to come to **the earth**, and how can we know His will if we do not read and study His word?) **Give us this day our daily bread.** (Constantly remembering He gives us our daily needs, both physical and spiritual, not just ours, but all Father's creation.) **And forgive us our debts (sins), as we also have forgiven our debtors.** (those who sin against us, here we are asking for His forgiveness only, or in the same way we forgive those who offend or persecute us!) **And lead us not into temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.** (We must admit our weaknesses against the temptations all around us in this present evil world, and acknowledge the Everlasting Power and Splendour of our Heavenly Father.), Matthew 6:9-13.

John, Chapter 17

This is the prayer Messiah made the night of the Passover, just before His arrest.

After Yahshua said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true Elohim, and Yahshua Messiah, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything

you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name — the name you gave me — so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you

known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them," NIV.

A Good Set of Prayers

A good practice to apply when you feel short in the field of praying to the Almighty Father, is to go to the most perfect set of prayers ever recorded, and start reading from the beginning. There is no doubt you will soon find many a phrase which will pertain to you in your walk through life.

O Yahweh, do not rebuke me in Your anger, or discipline me in Your wrath. Be gracious to me, O Yahweh, for I am languishing; O Yahweh, heal me, for my bones are shaking with terror. My soul also is struck with terror, O Yahweh —how long? Turn, O Yahweh, save my life; deliver me for the sake of Your steadfast Love. For in death there is no remembrance of you; in the grave, who can give you praise? I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping. My eyes waste away because of grief; they grow weak because of all my foes. Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the Eternal has heard the sound of my weeping. The Eternal has heard my supplication; Yahweh accepts my prayer, Ps 6:1-9.

Prayers of Thanks

O give thanks to Yahweh of mighty ones, for His steadfast love endures forever. O give thanks to the El of Elohim, for His steadfast love endures forever, Ps 136:2, 3.

And say ye, Save us, O Elohim of our salvation, and gather us together, and deliver us from the heathen, that we may give thanks to thy holy name, and glory in thy praise, 1 Chron 16:35.

And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto Yahweh; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised Yahweh, because the foundation of the house of Yahweh was laid, Ezra 3:11.

Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O Yahweh, among the heathen,

and sing praises unto thy name, Ps 18:49.

Conclusion

Scripture does not stipulate any particular stance we should be taking when we pray. Although we must take the example Messiah sets, who went aside and knelt in prayer, there were occasions when He looked up to heaven and prayed. He prayed to the Father as He died on the stake. Moses prayed with his hands held high, while Israel was at war, and as soon as his hand dropped, when he became tired Israel lost ground, so he had helpers holding up his hands until the fight was over, and won. Daniel prayed at a set time each day. David never went to sleep without praying to Yahweh.

We are instructed to pray in Spirit and in Truth, whether we are in the privacy of our homes and family, or in the assembly of the faithful, or whilst traveling along the road, such as Paul did in Acts 9:3 which was a crisis he went through. How often we need intervention on the roads today. Reasons for the need to call on the Almighty for help, in prayer, or a thanksgiving for a blessing you have just received, could happen at any unusual time and place. We need no other tool, such as a stone wall of an old temple, or a statue of some form or other. In fact, nothing human, or made with hands, to bow or to sway to, do we need, for we have **Yahshua the Messiah, our High Priest who is the Only Mediator** for us to commune with our Father in heaven. There will be a time when every knee shall bend before Him. We do hope and pray this article will be helpful to all who read it.

Elder Lionel Gets

<Life from page 7>

father's old Bible. He read, read and read, until his eyes were tired and bleary. Everyday he read, and he stopped worrying about his misery. Why worry? He is going to die soon anyway.

For lack of space, let me shorten the story. Amazingly, nine years later,

Juan is still alive and he even got married. And, four of his five children finished college. For many years since, he has been in Yahweh's work. And, Yahweh blessed Juan with a little knowledge of the English language. So he does some writing, and the chances are you might have read some of his articles in a religious magazine..

How did Juan survive? Was it a miracle? I don't think so, but I believe in what the apostle Paul wrote:

And we know that in all things Elohim works for good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose, Rom. 8:28.

Moral lesson: Juan's illness was a blessing in disguise. Had he not been sick with TB, there would have been no time for him to read the Bible. He would have pursued only material things all his life. Now in his seventies, Juan remains within the poverty line, but richly blessed with FAITH in Yahweh.

Summary

We all do have our own plans. But these don't always work out if they don't conform to Yahweh's plan for us. And, take note, our economic or social standing doesn't earn us a point in Yahweh's eyes. If you are rich, Yahweh doesn't regard it because He owns the earth and everything it contains. If you are powerful, that is nothing to Elohim because He is the source of all power. If you think you are somebody because of your academic credentials (maybe a master's degree or a doctorate), that doesn't impress Him because man's knowledge and wisdom is foolishness to Elohim.

But the Savior commended the meek, the merciful, the peacemakers, the pure in heart (unpretentious), etc., who seek after righteousness, Matthew chapter 5. What matters more to Yahweh is how we live our life, regardless of our economic or social status. And, remember, all the pains, suffering and misery we may have to pass through can never compare with Job's experience.

Like Job, we have to understand that we are lumps of clay and the

Master Potter needs to spin us in the wheel of life. All the while there goes the spinning, and in the process fashioning us into "vessels" of various looks and colors.

Then, after having been tried with fire (1 Peter 1:7) or the furnace of affliction (Isa. 48:10), either we become vessels for His glory or vessels fit for destruction, Romans 9:22-23.

Dear reader, what would you rather be? As for this life's problems we'd better say with Job.

But he knows the way I take; when he has tried me, I will come forth as gold, Job. 23:10.

At birth, each one of us is given a role to perform in this life. Discover for yourself what your role is, and you'd better use it to serve Yahweh through FAITH in Yahshua, the true Messiah. When you do, you will soon find out that indeed – Life Has Meaning!

Elder A. S. Untulan, Sr.

<Prayer from page 12>

don't go the way it is wanted man can become frustrated sometimes and unwilling to believe it might be the best if things go a different way.

When one prays the solution one receives may be something completely different than expected as Paul did. "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Master thrice, that it might depart from me. And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of the Messiah may rest upon me," II Cor. 12:7 - 9.

When one prays one may receive more than what was prayed for as Solomon did. Solomon asked for wisdom and not for personal riches. Yahweh gave him not only wisdom but also riches, honor and long life, I Kings 3:7-14.

Man must remember that Yahweh's will is what shall be done on earth and in the heavens. We can not

expect immediate results when we pray; for if we do then our frame of mind is not correct - we are trying to usurp Yahweh's will with our own.

When Moses prayed to Yahweh to be allowed to cross the river Jordan into the promised land Yahweh's reply was: "Let it suffice thee; speak no more unto Me of this matter....for thou shalt not go over this Jordan." Deut. 3:26 and 27.

The old saying that patience is a virtue is so true when it comes to unanswered prayer. We should never give up hope that our prayers will be answered. To pray without ceasing means that we should be persistent in our prayers, having faith that they will eventually be answered, remembering that Yahweh's will prevails.

Prayer is a Necessity

Much scripture has been looked at in showing how important prayer should be in our life. Whenever one feels alone, commune with Yahweh and He will uplift you. In Ps. 145:17 we find that "He will fulfil the desire of them that fear Him; He also will hear their cry, and will save them."

When we pray to Yahweh we must have the proper frame of mind. We must pray fervently and sincerely, knowing He will hear the cries of the righteous: "The eyes of Yahweh are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry". Ps. 34:15.

We should use prayer to communicate with Yahweh. We must let our prayers be unselfish, praising Yahweh. We must understand that Yahweh's will prevails. We must remember that through prayer we have access to the source of all power.

Elder Roger G. Meyer

<Christianity from page 14>

came completely unexpectedly and did what no one could possibly have hoped for: He paid the penalty for other people's sins to save them from the Old Testament Deity.

Marcion spent much time and effort convincing the religious world his

<Christianity see page 23>

Will You Be My Valentine?

“Will you be my valentine?” Again, it is that time of the year when businesses popularize that one day a year when people are to show some special person that they are very special. People do this in many different ways. Retail businesses reduce some of their prices in hopes to gain more sales. Theaters reduce prices so one can take their loved one to a movie. Restaurants reduce meal prices so one can treat their spouse or loved one to a special meal. Liquor is sold at reduced prices to encourage their sales. Florists give special prices on flowers. Card and gift shops advertise special prices to encourage the sale of their goods. Commercial establishments use this day to increase their sales so they can increase their profits.

Advertisers Also Target Young People

The above scenarios are for the not so young. But retail stores also target children. They encourage school children to purchase a card for each child in their class. If a class has 30 pupils and each buys a card for the other children, that totals 870 cards. Multiply this by a small amount for each card and this will total in the hundreds of dollars. Then, multiply this by the number of classrooms in the country doing the same thing and what do we have? A business venture not left alone.

The Beginning

A number of stories concerning this day have circulated through time to give some credence to its origin. One story has a Roman priest named Valentine who favored young people. At the time when the Roman Empire needed soldiers and the Emperor forbade anyone becoming engaged, much less getting married, this priest defied the Emperor and married a young couple and he was arrested and sentence to die.

Another legend has Valentine being jailed for helping persecuted Christians. For this he was imprisoned and

while there he seemingly helped the jailer's blind daughter regain her sight. Just before he was executed he sent her a farewell message and signed it “from your valentine.”

There is a Roman festival named Lupercalia, which was celebrated to honor Lupercus, protector of flocks against wolves. One story attached to this festival was that Roman youths would draw names of young girls to be their partner for this pagan fertility festival. Another story concerning this February 15 day dealt with *luperci* priests who, after a sacrifice, would choose two youths of noble birth to run through the streets of Rome and lash out at the crowd with goatskin throngs. If a person was struck by the thongs, it was believed to increase their fertility. It was also believed that birds, especially love birds, would begin their mating on February 14.

Its Meaning Is Lost

The Adversary has once again shown his ability to shadow the true meaning of this pagan celebration. As with other pagan days which society chooses to celebrate, as Halloween or Christmas, Satan has convinced mankind that nothing is wrong with doing something good on this day. Mankind really has had the wool pulled over their eyes. By merely looking in a dictionary or an encyclopedia one can find out for yourself the origin of this day. You will be surprised what those reference books will say.

Don't let Satan beguile us. It is of utmost importance you recognize the true meaning of this and all pagan celebrations. Yahweh is most assuredly not for them. He hates manmade festivals. We must turn from them if we want to have a position of rulership in His Kingdom when our Savior, Yahshua, returns to set up that Kingdom.

Elder Roger G. Meyer

<Christianity from page 21>

concept of two separate deities with one being the Creator of all life and the strict giver of the Law. The other deity was revealed in the New Testament who sent his adopted son (the Savior) to die for the sins of the world's people.

The King James New Testament contains 27 books. Marcion's New Testament consisted of eleven books, ten of which are of the Apostle Paul, the one he could trust to understand the radical claims of the New Testament. But why did not the Savior have His disciples explain more clearly the spiritual comprehension of His mission? He gave Paul special training and insight for his task. Well, the disciples were Jews and did not grasp the deeper understanding. Therefore the Savior gave Paul the task of introducing the New Testament to the world.

To back up his teaching of two Deities, Marcion was attracted to Yahshua's saying that a tree is known by its fruit and used the following quote as proof:

For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. (Lu 6:43-44 AV)

Good trees do not produce rotten fruit and bad trees do not produce good fruit..When applying this truth to the divine realm, what sort of Deity would create a world with pain, misery, disaster, disease, sin and death? Marcion then would quote the following from the Old Testament:

Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and Yahweh hath not done [it]? (Am 3:6 AV)

Comparing the Two Groups

There is much more author Ehrman has to say about the vast differences between the doctrines of the Ebionites and the Marcionites. Each claims to be followers of Yahshua and through Him, the true Elohim. Ehrman lists the

following contrasts between the Ebionites and Marcionites, both claiming to trace their views back to Yahshua through the apostles in the second and third centuries:

- The Ebionites were Jews who insisted that being Jewish was fundamental to a right standing before [Elohim]. The Marcionites were Gentiles who insisted that Jewish practice was fundamentally detrimental for a right standing before [Elohim].
- The Ebionites insisted there was only one [Elohim]. The Marcionites maintained there were two.
- The Ebionites held to the laws of the Old Testament and saw the Old Testament as the revelation of the one true [Elohim]. The Marcionites rejected the laws of the Old Testament and saw it as a book inspired by the inferior [Elohim] of the Jews.
- The Ebionites saw Yahshua as completely human and not divine, The Marcionites saw Yahshua as completely divine and not human.
- The Ebionites saw Paul with his teaching of justification by faith in Messiah apart from the works of the law, as the arch heretic of the church. Marcion

saw Paul as the one and only true apostle of Messiah.

- The Ebionites accepted a version of Matthew as their Scriptures (without its first two chapters, which show that Yahshua was born of a virgin), possibly along with other books, such as their own [evangel] of the Ebionites. Marcion accepted a version of Luke as his Scripture (again, possibly without its first two chapters, which show that Yahshua was born) along with ten letters of Paul.

Author Ehrman notes that Ebionite Christianity was "left behind" fairly early in the history of Christianity. Church fathers such as Irenaeus and Tertulian do not see it as a threat at the end of the second century. Had the acceptance of Marcion's teachings taken place, the Old Testament would be ignored and anti-Semitism of little relevance. Judeo-Christian roots teach us Yahweh is our Creator and Savior through Yahshua.

Bart D. Ehrman writes in a readable style and gets to the nitty-gritty right away of how things are the way they are and how they got that way. There is much that one can learn about the forgeries and pseudo-history and the struggle to authenticate the writings of the New Testament. One can appreciate the Bible from author Ehrman's introduction of facts from the past, including docetism which little is said in our enlightened nuclear/space age.

We can rest assured that Yahweh will not leave us in the dark concerning the "Book of Books," for He tells us:

All scripture [is] given by inspiration of Yahweh, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of Yahweh may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (2Ti 3:16-17 AV)

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