



YAIY BEACON

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Rapture of the Saints - Fact or Fallacy?

The Super Nova Festival

Remembering the Seventh Day

Why Are We So Few?

The Throne is Established
by Righteousness

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

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Rapture of the Saints

Fact or Fallacy?

*“Behold, I [am] against them that prophesy false dreams,” saith Yahweh, “and do tell them, and cause My people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all,” saith Yahweh. (Scripture references are from the **Restored Name KJV**, unless otherwise noted.)*

The desire to escape to Paradise in the third heaven, before the start of a not-so-pleasant chain of events which are described in the Scriptures as great tribulation – that is, a rapture – continues to captivate millions of Bible believers around the world. No doubt, many people, in ignorant innocence, preach it and believe it with all their hearts, without even asking basic necessary questions concerning the validity of this unfounded heresy.

Some suggest that Yahweh is too kind to allow His ‘children’ to go through such a dreadful time as the great tribulation period. But a careful look at the Scriptures reveals that Yahweh’s people are protected on earth in times of devastating judgement. For example: Noah and his family were protected on earth while the wicked people of that generation perished in the deluge (Gen. 7:1-24). Lot and his two daughters were kept safe on earth during the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:12-29). Ancient Israel was protected in Goshen while Yahweh poured down various plagues on the Egyptians (Exod. 8:20-24).

So, will Yahweh (Who changes not) suddenly change His way in this last generation by evacuating people into heaven to enjoy special protection, while the rest of the world experiences great tribulation? The answer of Scripture, as we have found out, is, “NO” (Mal. 3:6).

Pre-Tribulation Rapture

One may be surprised to learn that the word, “**rapture**,” does not appear anywhere in the Scriptures. Neither Yahshua, nor His apostles, ever taught the concept of a rapture. In spite of this, proponents of this error keep struggling to explain it with a philosophy that has neither precedence in, or credence of, the Scriptures. The fact that the word does not appear in the Scriptures makes such explanations weak and untenable.

Pre-tribulation rapture is the false doctrine that says Yahshua the Messiah will return secretly to ‘snatch away’ His saints before great tribulation begins on the earth. It presumes that during the period of great tribulation, genuine believers in Yahshua will not be subject to the reign of the anti-Messiah.

Rapturists, however, are not in agreement on the number of years they hope to spend in heaven. Some claim it will be three and a half years; others say, seven years while others, posit they will be in heaven for one thousand years before returning to earth. And then there are a fourth who believe they will spend eternity in heaven. However, all these are wrong, as we will discover from the Scriptures.

Misunderstood Verses

For this we say unto you by the Word of Yahweh, that we which are alive [and] remain unto the coming of the Master shall not prevent them which are asleep. For Yahshua Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of Yahweh: and the dead in the Messiah shall rise first: then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up with them in the clouds, to meet the Master in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Master, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17.

Much of the argument in favor of this false doctrine of rapture is built on a misunderstanding of this passage. For this reason, it is important we take a close look at the Apostle's words, with focus upon three key words that can help us unravel what Paul is saying here, and arrive at the correct interpretation.

First of all, as we can see, the passage says we shall be caught up to MEET, **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance**, G.529 μἑετ , meaning "a friendly (encounter) to Yahshua in the air (1 Thess. 4:17). It does NOT say, we shall meet Him in Paradise, or the third heaven, as many people wrongly assume. The Greek word translated AIR in this verse is G.109, αἶρ which means "the air (particularly the lower and denser, as distinguished from the higher and rarer), the atmospheric region" ... also known as the first heaven.

Secondly, in Acts, Chapter 28, we read of Paul on a journey from Caesarea to Rome. The brethren there were so excited about his coming that they went to MEET **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance**, G.529 μἑετ , meaning "a friendly (encounter) him on the way, at the Appii forum. Paul didn't lead the brethren back to Caesarea. What did he do? he continued his journey to Rome (Acts 28:12-16).

As we can see, there is parallel here, to what will happen at the second coming of Yahshua – MEET, **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance**, G.529 μἑετ , meaning "a friendly (encounter) in the AIR G.109, αἶρ which means "the air (particularly the lower and denser, as distinguished from the higher and rarer).

Yes, whether first dead in Messiah, or alive, we will be caught up to MEET Him in the air from thence, He will continue His journey with us, to the earth. Paul is speaking here about A FRIENDLY ENCOUNTER with Yahshua in the air (particularly the lower and denser, as distinguished from the higher and rarer), the atmospheric region – a joyous gathering, to welcome the King of kings with Whom, we will, from that very moment, be forever.

Where? one might ask. The Scriptures make it abundantly clear that we will be with Him in His kingdom which He will establish on this earth upon His return (Dan. 7:27; Rev. 11:15, 5:9-10; Luke 22:28-30).

MEET ... AIR ... CAUGHT UP – this third, G.726 χαυρητ υπ (harpazo) means in various applications, "to seize: catch (away, up), pluck, pull, take (by force).

Some teach this "caught up" is synonymous with "rapture" and thus, validates the rapture doctrine. However, this view is grossly incorrect in the light of its context. Harpazo is a word used multiple times in the New Testament Scriptures and we shall examine two instances in which it is used.

And the angel of Yahweh spake unto Philip, saying, "Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert." And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, "Go near, and join thyself to this chariot." And Philip ran thither to [him], and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, "Understandest thou what thou readeest?" And he said, "How can I, except some man should guide me?" And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. The place of the Scripture which he read was this, "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened He not His mouth: in His humiliation His judgment was taken away: and who shall declare His generation? for His life is taken from the earth." And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, "I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same Scripture, and preached unto him Yahshua. And as they went on [their] way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, "See, [here is] water; what doth

hinder me to be baptized?” And Philip said, “If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Yahshua is the Son of Yahweh. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water; both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of Yahweh CAUGHT AWAY Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea, Acts 8:26-40.

Philip was led by the Angel of Yahweh to introduce an Ethiopian proselyte to Yahshua the Messiah. The man believes and is immersed in water. Shortly afterward, the Spirit of Yahweh CAUGHT AWAY Philip from there and he was later found at Azotus. Obviously, Philip was not CAUGHT UP to heaven, but was supernaturally transported (χαυητ υπ, harpazo to another location on earth).

When any heareth the Word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked [one], and CATCHETH AWAY (G.726, χαυητ υπ harpazo means in various applications, “to seize: catch (away, up), pluck, pull, take (by force) that which was sown in his hear. This is he which received seed by the way side, Matthew 13:19. Again, its (harpazo) use here has nothing to do with being caught up into heaven. Rather, Yahshua is showing us that the devil forcefully takes away the Good Word sown in the heart of men.

So, returning briefly to 1 Thessalonians, Chapter 4: Paul is affirming that Yahshua descends from heaven on His way to the earth; the saints who have fallen asleep in Him will be resurrected first, after which they which are alive will be CAUGHT UP together with them to have a FRIENDLY ENCOUNTER with Yahshua in the AIR (1 Thess. 4:15-17).

The Great Tribulation

And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily [sacrifice], and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate, Daniel 11: 31.

And from the time [that] the daily [sacrifice] shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, [there shall be] a thousand two hundred and ninety days, Daniel 12:11.

When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) then let them which be in Judaea

flee into the mountains: ... For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be, Matthew 24:15-16, 21.

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of Thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation [even] to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. ... Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river. And [one] said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, “How long [shall it be to] the end of these wonders?” And I heard the man clothed in linen, which [was] upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that [it shall be] for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these [things] shall be finished, Daniel 12:1, 5-7.

And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, “Who [is] like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?” And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty [and] two months, Revelation 13:4-5.

The Scriptures describe the great tribulation as a time of unprecedented difficulty, and coming in the near future during which time, Almighty Yahweh will pour out His judgment upon the disobedient people of this world for their continuing in lawlessness (Rev. 6:1-17, 8:6-13).

During this period, the man of sin, known also as the anti-Messiah will rule the world and attempt to stop men from worshipping Yahweh ... arrogating worship to himself by situating himself in Yahweh’s Temple in Jerusalem. (We understand that a physical temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem in these last days and the commanded daily sacrifices will be restored and that later, the anti-Messiah will end the daily sacrifice and proclaim himself Elohim Whom men should worship, 2 Thess. 2:3-4.)

The great tribulation, during which the anti-Messiah rules, will last for three and a half years, from the time he terminates the daily worship of Yahweh in the Temple and institutes what the Scripture calls, the abomination of desolation. In those days, Yahweh will, in His mercy, send two

witnesses to proclaim the Word of Yahweh in Jerusalem, and to warn men of impending judgment against their continuing in lawlessness (Rev. 11:1-3).

Throughout their ministries, neither Yahshua, nor any of His apostles ever even hinted on a two-phase second coming of the Messiah. One that would feature both a secret return to evacuate believers from earth in order to escape the coming great tribulation and the other one establishing His millennial reign on earth. Rather, they taught that believers will experience some trials and tribulation in this present world, before entering into the Kingdom of Yahweh. Indeed, history attests to this having been the believer's experience all along (Matt. 13:20-21; Acts 14:21-22; 2 Thess. 1:3-4; Rev. 1:9).

We now proceed to prove from the Scriptures that Yahshua's return will occur only after the great tribulation.

The Gathering of the Elect

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: and then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other, Matthew 24:29-31.

"One end of heaven to the other," means "the farthest parts of the earth (Deut. 4:31-33; Mark 13:24-27). This becomes clearer when this passage is read from other Bible translations.

*Right after those days of suffering, the sun will become dark, and the moon will no longer shine. The stars will fall, and the powers in the sky will be shaken. Then a sign will appear in the sky. And there will be the Son of Man. All nations on earth will weep when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. At the sound of a loud trumpet, He will send His angels to bring his chosen ones together from all over the earth, Matthew 24:29-31, **Contemporary English Version.***

Right after the trouble of those days, this will happen: The sun will become dark, and the moon will not give light. The stars will fall from the sky,

*and everything in the sky will be changed. Then there will be something in the sky that shows the Son of Man is coming. All the people of the world will cry. Everyone will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds in the sky. He will come with power and great glory. He will use a loud trumpet to send His angels all around the earth. They will gather His chosen people from every part of the earth, Matthew 24:29-31, **Easy-to-Read Version.***

*But immediately after those times of distress the sun will be darkened, the moon will not shed her light, the stars will fall from the firmament, and the forces which control the heavens will be disordered and disturbed. Then will appear the Sign of the Son of Man in the sky; and then will all the nations of the earth lament, when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with great power and glory. And He will send out His angels with a loud trumpet-blast, and they will bring together His own people to Him from north, south, east, and west – from one extremity of the world to the other, Matthew 24:29-31, **Weymouth New Testament.***

As we can see from these various translations of the same passage, Yahshua will be coming back to earth after the great tribulation, and NOT before it. Faithful believers will still be here then, and they will be gathered from wherever they may be on the face of the earth to MEET the Messiah with a FRIENDLY ENCOUNTER when He returns after the tribulation period.

Anti-Messiah Reigns before We are Caught Up

For this we say unto you by the Word of Yahweh, that we which are alive and remain unto THE COMING OF THE MASTER shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Master himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of Elohim: [and] the dead in Messiah shall rise first: then we which are alive remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Master in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Master, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17.

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Master Yahshua Messiah, and [by] our gathering together unto him, that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Messiah is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and

exalteth himself above all that is called elohim, or that is worshipped; so that he as Elohim sitteth in the temple of Elohim, shewing himself that he is Elohim. ... And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Master shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4, 8.

In these two passages, we understand that our gathering together unto Yahshua, that is, our being CAUGHT UP to MEET Him in the AIR at His return to the earth cannot occur without two major events first happening.

- a falling away (apostasy ... a departure from the faith) which began following the death of the apostles, and
- when the man of sin (the anti-Messiah) is revealed, sitting in Yahweh's Temple; claiming he is Yahweh, but opposing Yahweh's worship.

Believers will evidently be here during this time, if there are some who are lost by falling away.

Resurrection of the Saints Follows the Great Tribulation

For this we say unto you by the Word of Yahweh, that we which are alive and remain unto THE COMING OF THE MASTER shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Master himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of Elohim: [and] the dead in Messiah shall rise first: then we which are alive remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Master in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Master, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17.

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Yahshua, and for the Word of Elohim, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Messiah a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of Yahweh and of Messiah, and shall reign with Him a thousand years, Revelation 20:4-6.

Is there a clearer way Yahweh can make the truth known to us than by what He has already done

through these passages? The first resurrection will include, but is not limited to, the faithful believers who will be killed by anti-Messiah during the great tribulation for their refusal to worship him (the anti-Messiah). Keep in mind, the Scriptures tell us the saints who are asleep in Messiah will be resurrected before those of us who are alive, and that we, together with them, shall MEET Yahshua with a FRIENDLY ENCOUNTER in the AIR upon His return to the earth.

Conclusion

The Scriptures speak extensively about the second appearance of Yahshua the Messiah and His soon-coming Kingdom. But not once are we informed from the Bible that He will return secretly to snatch us to heaven so that we will not experience the great tribulation that will occur in the end of this age. Rather, we are admonished to endure to the end that we might be saved (Matt. 24:13; Rev. 13:8-10, 14:9-12). We are also told that all eyes will see the Messiah's return, and that the disobedient people of this world will weep when they behold the Savior coming in great glory and power (Matt. 24:30; Rev. 1:7).

The rapture doctrine, dating only from the 19th century, is a false hope many people today tenaciously hold. But it is a heresy, capable of destroying their faith when the prophesied events of the great tribulation begin to unfold, and they are still here!

As we witness a surge of unscriptural doctrines being taught by men whose understanding is darkened, we must arm ourselves with the truth as taught by Yahshua and His apostles, as well as the holy prophets. We must be vigilant against these, and other, erroneous doctrines of men and bear in mind the admonitions of the apostle Paul who foretold that in the end of days, some will not longer accept wholesome Words and sound Doctrine, but will, on the contrary, be turned unto false doctrines inspired by the adversary (1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 4:2).

- Deacon Israel Omotayo (Nigeria, Africa)



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Anti-Semitism – and by extension, anti-Shemitism, that is, anti-Nameism which is a first cousin to Anti-nominalism, or anti-Law – is found early on, in the Scriptures. Anti-Semitism has its origin with Abraham, the father of the Hebrew people. We are told early on, in Genesis 12, of the Covenant Yahweh made with Abram ... even before this man had stepped foot across the Jordan:

And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. (English Standard Version used throughout, unless otherwise noted.)

A Review

Leaning to his own understanding, Abraham in Genesis 16 yielded to his wife Sarah's suggestion that in order to fulfill Yahweh's promise that of his seed should come a nation which should be innumerable, as the stars in heaven and the sand on the seashore, he should take Hagar, Sarah's Egyptian maidservant, and of her, raise up an heir.

Ishmael, their issue, was prophesied to be a wild man, untamable, set in opposition to Isaac, the progenitor of the Hebrew people. Isaac in turn, had twin sons – Esau, the elder, grew up ... a grief of mind to his father Isaac and his mother Rebekah, and after his birthright and the blessing attendant to it was taken via a conspiracy between his mother and his younger brother, Jacob, Esau purposed to slay his brother.

Principal among reasons he was a grief of mind to his parents is that he took wives of the Hittites, one of the seven nations Israel was to later purge from Canaan (Gen. 15:20).

But seeing his marriages were displeasing to his parents, he then compounded their displeasure by taking to himself wives of the family of Ishmael.

In Genesis 19, we read the men of Sodom protest to Lot, Abraham's nephew who had come out with him from Ur and into Canaan, who refused to surrender his guests to their perverse dispositions, saying,

But they said, "Stand back!" And they said, "This fellow came to sojourn, and he has become the judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them." Then they pressed hard against the man Lot, and drew near to break the door down, Genesis 19:9.

Flight from Sodom, owing to Yahweh's destroying the cities of the plain of Jordan, prompted Lot's two daughters who were barren, to fornicate with their father. Of them, came forth the forbearers of the Ammonites and Moabites, which would later present as thorns in the flesh during Israel's sojourn in the wilderness following their departure from Egypt.

In the 34th chapter of Genesis, we read the account of Simeon and Levi perpetrating a matter among the Hivites – another people nation, later destined to be purged from Canaan (Exod. 23:28) – at She'chem requiring all the males there to be circumcised and then slaying them at the edge of the sword as a just retribution for the prince of that people violating their sister, Dinah.

Their father Jacob chided them, saying,

Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have brought trouble on me by making me stink to the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites. My numbers are few, and if they gather themselves against me and attack me, I shall be destroyed, both I and my household," Genesis 34:30.

Then in Genesis, Chapter 39, we read of Potiphar's wife, disappointed because she couldn't persuade Joseph to yield to her wanton pursuits. Subsequently, she lied to her husband, saying,

Then she laid up his garment by her until his master came home, and she told him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me. But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house," Genesis 39:16-18.

Certainly, we can discern an Anti-Semitic attitude come from Exodus, Chapter 1, Verses 8-19. This same Joseph had been awarded the position of viceroy over Egypt owing to his interpretation of Pharaoh's troublesome dreams and his wise counsel of making preparation for the seven-year long famine that should come. But after Joseph's death, another Pharaoh acceded to the throne. His fear that this people who had emigrated from Canaan some two hundred-ten years earlier, and who were occupying Goshen, the best land in Egypt, were multiplying rapidly and might, in a military contest with Egypt's adversaries, ally themselves with Egypt's enemies.

And so, he commenced a plan by which he would make "their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field" (Exod. 1:14, **KJV**) and, moreover, commanded that that every male born to an Hebrew woman should be killed (Exod. 1:8-16).

Exiled, owing to their failure to keep the land Sabbath, and for other disobediences, principals of Judah, Hananiah, Azariah, Mishael were singled out for their refusals to bow before Nebuchadnezzar's image of gold (Dan. 3). Later, under the authority

of the Persian, Darius, Daniel, too, was fingered for continuing to defy royal decree that forbade intreating any other elohim not on the 'approved list'.

The Book of Esther supplies us with a narrative of intrigue. A plot was conceived of Haman, a courtier and counselor to Ahasuerus, to enact the first, 'final solution'.

At this time, Judah was still in captivity throughout the 127 provinces of Persia's vast empire. Because of Haman's disdain for Mordecai, a Jew, and for reason that the latter declined from supplying the other with the honor and respect to which the former expected and required, Haman contrived a plan to extirpate all the Jews.

Let's pick it up in the narrative, in Esther 3:8-15:

Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom. Their laws are different from those of every other people, and they do not keep the king's laws, so that it is not to the king's profit to tolerate them. If it please the king, let it be decreed that they be destroyed, and I will pay 10,000 talents of silver into the hands of those who have charge of the king's business, that they may put it into the king's treasuries." So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews. And the king said to Haman, "The money is given to you, the people also, to do with them as it seems good to you." Then the king's scribes were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month, and an edict, according to all that Haman commanded, was written to the king's satraps and to the governors over all the provinces and to the officials of all the peoples, to every province in its own script and every people in its own language. It was written in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king's signet ring. Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with instruction to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews, young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods. A copy of the document was to be issued as a decree in every province by proclamation to all the peoples to be ready for that day. The couriers went out hurriedly by order of the king, and the decree was issued in Susa the citadel. And the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was thrown into confusion.

The want of space precludes telling in detail, of other rampages of anti-Semitism, but following are a few highlights:

- > Antiochus Epiphanes' genocide of Jewry during the Maccabean era for their rejection of his edicts to force paganism on them;
- > Emperor Claudius expelling the Jews from Rome (see Acts 18:2);
- > Titus' destruction of Jerusalem in 68-70 CE;
- > Emperor Hadrian renaming Jerusalem Aelia Capitolina, building a temple to Jupiter on the Temple Mount, renaming the province Palestina, and expelling the Jews from Judea following the Bar Kokhba Revolt early in the 2nd century CE;
- > King Ferdinand of Spain expelling all Jews c.1492 when it is supposed that Columbus discovered the New World;
- > The Protestant Reformation occurring in the early 16th century and sparked by Martin Luther's University of Wittenberg lectures, writings, and his posting of 95 theses on the door of the Cathedral of Wittenberg, supplied impetus to the development of Replacement Theology that suborned the Jewish people from their Covenant relationship with Yahweh in favor of Christianity for reason of their impalement of the Messiah;
- > Hitler's purge of 6.5 million Jews during the 1930's and 1940's;
- > The United States during this same time, refusing ships conveying Jewish emigres fleeing persecution, to secure docking privileges at Eastern seaboard ports.

A Declaration of Blessings and Cursings

Toward the end of the fortieth year of Israel's wilderness sojourning, Moses addresses this people whom Yahweh intended should become a people peculiar above all the people of the earth

Following are a few highlights from that message:

And if you faithfully obey the voice of Yahweh your Eloha, being careful to do all His commandments that I command you today, Yahweh your Eloha will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of Yahweh your Eloha. Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and

the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out. Yahweh will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. Yahweh will command the blessing on you in your barns and in all that you undertake. And he will bless you in the land that Yahweh your Eloha is giving you. Yahweh will establish you as a people holy to Himself, as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of Yahweh your Eloha and walk in His ways. And all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the Name of Yahweh, and they shall be afraid of you. And Yahweh will make you abound in prosperity, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your livestock and in the fruit of your ground, within the land that Yahweh swore to your fathers to give you. Yahweh will open to you His good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands. And you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. Yahweh will make you the head and not the tail, and you shall only go up and not down, if you obey the commandments of Yahweh your Eloha, which I command you today, being careful to do them, and if you do not turn aside from any of the words that I command you today, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other elohim to serve them. But if you will not obey the voice of Yahweh your Eloha or be careful to do all His commandments and His statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you, Deuteronomy 28:1-15.

And then what follows, is 53 verses detailing curses, vexations, and rebuke, concluding with dire words of prophetic doom:

And as Yahweh took delight in doing you good and multiplying you, so Yahweh will take delight in bringing ruin upon you and destroying you. And you shall be plucked off the land that you are entering to take possession of it. And Yahweh will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other elohim of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known. And among these nations you shall find no respite, and there shall be no resting place for the sole of your foot, but Yahweh will give you there a trembling heart and failing eyes and a languishing soul. Your life shall hang in doubt before you. Night and day you shall be in dread and have no assurance of your life. In the morning you



shall say, "If only it were evening!" and at evening you shall say, "If only it were morning!" because of the dread that your heart shall feel, and the sights that your eyes shall see, Deuteronomy 28:63-37.

Israel, Now

So now, we come to the early morning hours of October 7th, 2023, a Sabbath and according to the Jewish calendar, the 8th day (*Shemini Atzeret*, a High Sabbath), following the Festival of Sukkot, when the Palestinian militant group *hamas* initiated an attack on Israel at kibbutz Re'im, three miles from the Gaza-Israel border.

There at Re'im, it was reported that 364 of the more than 3,500 festival-goers who had come from all over the country were killed with 40 taken as hostages.

The terrorist assault was a coordinated attack alongside those at the *moshavim*, the villages adjacent to the Gaza Strip, Netiv ha Asara, Be'eri, Kfar Aza, Nir Oz and Holit where at least, 1,100 more were added to the casualties occurring at Re'im, and more than 200 more were abducted as hostages.

Many of the kidnapped, particularly women, were violated, tortured, and murdered.

At sunrise, around 7 AM, a siren warned of an incoming rocket attack, but at 6:29, the noise of music was interrupted by armed militants, dressed in military attire and using motorcycles, jeeps, vans, trucks, and powered paragliders, surrounding the festival grounds making incursions into the encampment and begin firing indiscriminately on individuals attempting to escape.

Their assailants, exclaiming, "*allah akbar*" (god is great) gleefully slaughtered, mutilated, and documented their atrocities via GoPro cameras and victims' cell phones, uploading footage on the world wide web in an effort to inspire their terrorist comrades the world over to do the same.

Attendees seeking refuge in bomb shelters, bushes, and nearby orchard trees, were killed.

Those who reached the road and parking areas, in an effort to flee the barrage of bullets, were trapped in a traffic jam as militants blockaded every avenue of escape and fired incendiary rounds at vehicles.

The open terrain left few places to hide and phone calls and WhatsApp messages from them who sought mere survival, were not able to facilitate immediate aid from emergency responders and a cadre of military, even though there were police and military personnel present at the, "**festival.**"

The massacre at the festival grounds and the accompanying villages was the largest attack and the worst civilian loss of life in Israel's modern history.

Billed as the Supernova Sukkot Gathering, “**a celebration of friends, love and infinite freedom**,” the venue was produced by an organizer known by the peculiar cognomen, “the Tribe of Nova,” and was scheduled as a week-end long outdoor psychedelic trance, music festival that blends music from many different genres.

The event attended by mostly 20 to 40 year-olds began on Friday October 6th and was to conclude on Sunday the 8th, on Simchat Torah, “the Joy of Torah.”

Traditionally, Simchat Torah occasions the reading of the last two chapters of *Devarim* (Deuteronomy) of the Torah after which, the scroll is rolled back to Genesis and the Torah begins Its cyclical read for the next Jewish liturgical year.

The invasion which *hamas* has labeled the “Al-Aqsa Flood” had spawned memorials in as far away places as Las Vegas, Nevada, as the Irish rock band **U2** performed, “Pride (In the Name of Love)” with modified lyrics as a tribute referencing the, and other memorials since, have featured backdrops of bullet-ridden porta-potties and incinerated vehicles and personal effects recovered from the Re'im festival grounds.

The butchery, rape, torture, and mutilation of some 1,000 Israeli civilians by *hamas* murderers and their comrades, while it shocked many, nevertheless jettisoned the unapologetic, proud, and defiant amoral behavior that characterizes American higher education.

For example:

- > an instructor at Stanford University boasted about denying the Holocaust and singled out Jewish students for unhinged rantings;
- > an even bolder Cornell history faculty member bragged he was exhilarated on news that Jews were being butchered;
- > a University of California at Davis professor threatened to the children of what he called, Zionist journalists;
- > another, at the Art Institute of Chicago ascribed to Israelis in as blatant words as what the Scriptures in the Book of Jeremiah reference as an astonishment, a byword, a curse, a desolation, a hissing, an execration, a proverb, a reproach, a taunt, a waste;
- > at rallies and protests, hundreds of students

and faculty inciting residents in the communities in which their schools are located, have become the equivalent of anti-Semitic sheet-wearing Klansmen;

- > and Spring 2024 commencement exercises at colleges and universities across this country were disrupted by bands of *hamas*-supporting rabble-rousers, intent in making their voice to be heard in opposition to Israel's prosecution of a war that is poised to spark another war that engulfs the world.

A Peculiar People? Head, or Tail?

And so, what are we to make of all this activity? As we posited earlier, anti-Semitism – **best understood in the context of anti-Nameism, that is, to say, at variance with; at enmity against; and contrary to that Name Above Every Name** – and the pro-*hamas* talking points which have intensified among elitist communities of higher education and institutions of government and culture, are owing to a people whom the Covenant Maker would, should have become, a peculiar people above all the peoples of the earth but who have chosen, in their continuing disobedience to that Covenant to which their fathers and they, nominally agreed, to instead become the tail and beneath.

And questions abound. Why did it take Israeli Defense Forces hours to respond to the emergency? Was the Israeli intelligence community apprised of potential Palestinian incursions? Did high-level authorities in the Israeli Government withhold emergency response in order to opportune an occasion by which they could launch an aggressive counteroffensive – “Operation Swords of Iron” – under color of a nation defending itself against the Palestinian people at large? And what are we to make of Yahweh's foretelling Abram, *I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great: and thou shalt be a blessing: and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed*, Genesis 12:2-3, **KJV**.

Some, sympathetic to Israel and in defense of Israel and the Covenant that Yahweh made with Abraham and with his seed, have been outspoken concerning what's perceived as the Government of the United States softening its aid response to Israel.

Well, we are reminded by Scripture, that Yahweh made a Covenant with a people who three times assented to, and agreed to the terms of His Initiative

“All that Yahweh has spoken we will do ... and we will be obedient” (Exod. 19:8, 24:3, 7) – and must question whether or not, they which today, profess themselves to be of Israel, are in fact, Israel: “For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel” (Rom. 9:6b, **KJV**).

In other words, are all they who profess themselves today to be of Israel, that peculiar treasure unto Yahweh above all people (Exod. 19:5), heirs to the Covenants and commonwealth of Israel, or are they strangers from the Covenants of Promise and the commonwealth of Israel (Eph. 2:12)?

Perhaps, we might find some appropriation from the apocalyptic writer who faithfully recorded what was revealed to him by Yahshua: “... **and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not ...**” (Rev. 2:9).

Conclusion: History Repeats Itself

Before any would judge us anti-Semitic, we acknowledge hamas and its terrorist-allies as the aggressors, while at the same time, recognize Israel as culpable for having dwelt carelessly, instead of maintaining a sober vigilance during this Set Apart Season. This tragedy is but yet another consequence of Israel ceding real estate covenanted to their trust by the Grantor, Yahweh. Many who look toward the day when the branches that were broken off might be grafted in have renounced the media propaganda that has heightened what’s regarded as the disproportionate Israeli response to Arab attacks but which, at least, has uncovered the unwarranted bias concealed by many who were thought intellectual and above mob mania.

But much the more, are we concerned with something more important, with something more at the foundation of Truth: **Its abandonment.** This three-day event was scheduled to coincide with the closing days of the Feast of Tabernacles, and as our image portrays, parallels an event occurring 3,500 years earlier at Sinai and on the occasion of another solemn occurrence in the life of a people – yes, even the ancestry of the Re’im festival goers – who, at that time, what was inaugurated as the Feast of Shavuot, and the giving of the Torah, three times professed themselves to Moshe, and before Yahweh, **“All The Words Which Yahweh Hath Said Will We Do, And Be Obedient”** (Exod. 19:8, 24:3, 7).

Yes, history repeats itself, over and over again: as Moses and Joshua proceeded in their descent from

Sinai, with the elder of the two carrying The Ten Words inscribed on tablets of stone by the finger of El Shaddai, they heard from below, the noise of the people in the camp as they shouted in revelry.

And then, another licentious people at Re’im, as Sinai’s descendants, were shouting in trance dancing until 6:29 AM when suddenly, the noise of their merriment was changed to cries of terror with the hailing of rocket fire and the burst of machine gun artillery ... and all, before the presence of another image, of another elohim.

And so, we ask: “How can it be thought that ‘a celebration of friends, love and infinite freedom’ on a Sabbath and that, a High Sabbath, too, could be thought anything but “a turning the foot away from the Sabbath, from doing Yahweh’s pleasure on His Set Apart Day to theirs; from calling the Sabbath a delight, the Set Apart Day of Yahweh, honorable ... honoring Him, and not doing their own ways?” (Isa. 58:13).

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem? indeed, but how can, and how will, there be peace so long as a people, any people, decline from, or outright deny, the Prince of Peace in preference to doing fealty to the prince of this world,

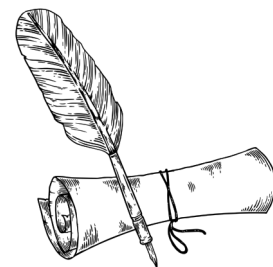
- > whether in a trance dance at a Supernova music festival that diminished the esteem that ought to have been accorded the Producer of this Feast of Sukkot or,
- > in some other activity that wastes the substance of life by the making of provision for the flesh, running to some other excess of riot and revelry of man’s choosing?

We conclude with what Solomon calls the whole duty of man, and the conclusion of this matter, too:

“Fear Yahweh, and keep His Commandments” (Eccl. 12:13) which is but Man’s whole duty and reasonable service.

- Elder John W. Reece

*“This is the end
of the matter; all
hath been heard:
Fear Yahweh,
and keep His
commandments;
for this is the
whole duty of man”*
- Ecclesiastes 12:13.





Remembering the Seventh Day

Some people say, “We follow the moral aspects of the Ten Commandments, but we don’t observe the Seventh Day Sabbath because it was meant only for Israel.” While some understand Sabbath observance through the Messiah, others wonder what can be done on the Sabbath day. So, the question arises, how should one observe the Sabbath?

*“If you watch your step on the Sabbath and don’t use My holy day for personal advantage, if you treat the Sabbath as a day of joy, Yahweh’s holy day as a celebration, if you honor it by refusing ‘business as usual,’ making money, running here and there – then you’ll be free to enjoy Yahweh! Oh, I’ll make you ride high and soar above it all. I’ll make you feast on the inheritance of your ancestor Jacob.” Yes! Yahweh says so! Isaiah 58:13-14, **The Message**.*

It’s appropriate to rest outdoors by walking in the park or sitting on a bench. This is specifically to be a day of joy and happiness without concern for your job or shopping in stores.

It’s a day to take and enjoy, focusing on Yahweh and thinking about His ways in your life. It is without question a day of worship and a day of rest.

*And Yahweh spoke to Mosheh, saying, “Speak to the children of Yisra’el, and say to them, ‘The appointed times of Yahweh, which you are to proclaim as set-apart gatherings, My appointed times, are these: Six days work is done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, a set-apart gathering. You do no work, it is a Sabbath to Yahweh in all your dwellings,’” Leviticus 23:2–3, **The Scriptures**.*

The world is at variance with Yahweh’s ways. We, however, must be obedient to, and in line with His Word. Six days we work, but the seventh day is set-apart/holy. But what if you are employed in the medical industry, helping others on the seventh day? Inform your employer you can’t work on the Sabbath, or else separate yourself from that employment.

Does this mean that if there is an emergency, we can’t seek hospital care on the Sabbath? Not at all. Does it mean that if someone is breaking into our house on the Sabbath, we can’t call the police? Not at all. There are “ox in the ditch” situations we must deal with, no matter what day it is.

Yahweh, however, does not want His people to work regular jobs on the Sabbath day. One can be on a regular job, in a service position six days a week, but not on the seventh day of the week nor on any of the other seven annual Sabbaths, which Leviticus chapter 23 specifically lists.

His Appointed Times

The Appointed Times (*moedim*) are days in which we come before Him. But what if you're disabled, unemployed, or unable to travel to where others gather in His Name? While there are conditions, rather than objections, that can arise, we do the best we can where we are, to honor Him.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, Exodus 20:8, **KJV**. From sunset Friday to sunset Saturday, a 24-hour period, we keep the day holy unto Yahweh. When one comes into this knowledge, activities must be examined in the light of whether or not participation in these constitutes keeping the Sabbath day set apart. Anything that distracts us from giving our attendance to the economies of Yahweh on the Sabbath should be avoided (1 Cor. 7:35).

May we take military or public service employment that would benefit our community? Can we watch the news to see what current events are happening worldwide? What about walking in the park and appreciating Yahweh's creation? Is studying Yahweh's Word or listening to messages on the Sabbath alright? What about visiting family members?

These questions find their answer in Scripture:

If because of the Sabbath, you turn your foot from doing your own pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of Yahweh honorable, and honor it, desisting from your own ways, from seeking your own pleasure and speaking your own word, then you will take delight in Yahweh, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; and I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of Yahweh has spoken, Isaiah 58:13–14, **NASB**.

Restaurants and Shopping on Sabbath?

"... if the peoples of the land bring in goods or any grain on the Sabbath day to sell, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on a holy day," Nehemiah 10:31a, **ESV**. He explains his position, which should also be our position.

In those days I saw in Judah people treading winepresses on the Sabbath, and bringing in heaps of grain and loading them on donkeys, and also wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of loads, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. And I warned them on the day when they sold



*food. Tyrians also, who lived in the city, brought in fish and all kinds of goods and sold them on the Sabbath to the people of Judah, in Jerusalem itself! Then I confronted the nobles of Judah and said to them, "What is this **evil thing** that you are doing, **profaning the Sabbath** day? Did not your fathers act in this way, and did not our Elohim bring all this disaster on us and on this city? Now you are bringing more wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath,"* Nehemiah 13:15-18, **ESV**.

Seeing that Judah went into captivity expressly because they had not kept the land Sabbath for more than 490 years, they ought to have learned the implications of forgetting to keep the Sabbath holy.

Nehemiah confronted the nobles of Judah about the evil of undertaking commerce on the Sabbath. He declared he would personally lay hands on anyone who tried to buy, sell, or transport any goods on the Sabbath or holy days (Neh. 13:21). Moreover, for other transgressions against Yahweh's commandments, he struck some of them, even pulling out their hair (Neh. 13:25).

Today, the Jews in Jerusalem close shop on the Sabbath and all holy days, and are found in worship at the synagogue. Many of Jewish orthodoxy, and others who would emulate their practices, as in,

- lighting candles, so no electricity is used;
- pre-tearing tissue for toiletry use;
- even refraining from attending Sabbath services for reason of having to start their automobile do so with a zeal toward making "the holy day of Yahweh honorable," but have forgotten to "call the Sabbath a delight ... in Yahweh" and burden themselves from enjoying the Sabbath, as it should be enjoyed.

Jews Only?

Is Sabbath only for the Jews or only for Israel? Verse 2 of Leviticus 23 says they are “Yahweh’s Appointed Times.” There is one Law for both the native born and the foreigner (Exod. 12:49). (Read our free mini-study *The Hope of Israel*.)

Yahshua declared, “the Son of Man is Master of the Sabbath. Departing from there, He went into their synagogue. And a man was there whose hand was withered. And they questioned Yahshua, asking, ‘Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?’ – so that they might accuse Him. And He said to them, ‘What man is there among you who has a sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath’” (Matt. 12:8b-12, *NASB*.)

This gets back to the “ox in the ditch” circumstance we sometimes experience. We have to discern what is appropriate. If your neighbor has run out of gas coming home from somewhere and has to push his vehicle into his driveway and asks for your help, then, by all means, help him.

But, if he is trimming his trees on the Sabbath and asks if he can get you to help him clean up all the branches and haul them to the dump, it’s your opportunity to tell him about the Sabbath and why you don’t do regular work that day. He may say it’s not regular work, as he only does it once a year. You’ll still have to stand your ground and let him know that you can’t help him, because there are 6 other days to do work during the week. It may not make him very happy. But we must please Yahweh rather than man. It’s better to have a person angry with you than to have Yahweh angry with you.

*A man was found gathering wood on the Sabbath day. Those who found him gathering wood brought him to Moses and Aaron and the whole assembly, and they kept him in custody, because it was not clear what should be done to him. Then Yahweh said to Moses, “The man must die. The whole assembly must stone him outside the camp.” So the assembly took him outside the camp and stoned him to death, as Yahweh commanded Moses, Numbers 15:32-36, *NIV*.*

Again, whom are we to obey? Yahweh or man? When it comes to the laws of the land, we obey both Yahweh and civil authority. But when civil law conflicts with Yahweh’s Law, then civil law becomes subordinate to Yahweh’s Law.

For thou shalt worship no other god: for Yahweh, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous El, Exodus 34:14, *KJV*.

Choosing Yahweh or Something Else?

Things which are highly esteemed can become like a false idol or a god. But anything that comes between you and Yahweh is, figuratively, an idol – career, hobbies, desires of the flesh.

There was a dialogue between Oprah Winfrey and Steven Tyler (Aerosmith’s lead singer). Steven spoke about believing in a Creator. He’d said something about experiencing “god” in music, and Winfrey replied that she thought the music was “god.” Tyler’s countenance revealed his consternation. He didn’t believe her.

The reality is that positioning things between ourselves and Yahweh is a pointless endeavor.

Then Yahshua said to His taught ones, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his stake, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it. For what is a man profited if he gains all the world, and loses his own life? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his life?” Matthew 16: 24-26, The Scriptures.

We’re given choices. We’re told in Messiah that we’ll be forgiven our sins and gain eternal life if we overcome such things that would draw us away from doing His Father’s will. Worldly things get in the way of remembering to keep the Sabbath set apart – yes, the Sabbath, that sign between Yahweh and His people. It is that, and more, which distinguishes His people from all that is the rest of the world.

Learning, Hearing, and Doing

When my wife, Carrie, and I lived in Hawaii and were learning about the Sacred Names and other deeper truths from Scripture, we kept the Feast of Tabernacles at a campground, doing the best we could with what we had and knew. (If there is first a readiness to will and a willing mind, it is accepted according to what a man has, and not what has not (2 Cor. 8:11-12).)

Carrie and I couldn’t get the campground permit the first night, so we pitched the tent in the backyard. Neighbors were partying much of that night, and we thought about what it must have been like for the Israelites coming out of Egypt.

Each week, the Seventh Day Sabbath allows us to recall that from which we’ve been redeemed, saved, and delivered. The spiritual lessons and insight we gain from remembering and honoring Yahweh’s Sabbath are clear. We are reminded that we have come out of spiritual Egypt to worship Yahweh and to do what He says.

The 4th commandment reads,

Observe the Sabbath day to keep it holy, as Yahweh your Elohim commanded you. "Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the Seventh day is a Sabbath of Yahweh your Elohim; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant or your ox or your donkey or any of your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you, so that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and Yahweh your Elohim brought you out of there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore Yahweh your Elohim commanded you to observe the Sabbath day," Deuteronomy 5:12-15, **NASB**.

Learning how to keep the Sabbath and the other Appointed Times where Yahweh has placed His Name may take some time. But He will guide you and can keep you safe from the enemy.

Life may be difficult at times, but there is joy and happiness for those who overcome and strive to do what's right in Yahweh's sight.

Fasting on the Sabbath?

While we usually don't recommend fasting on the weekly Sabbath, it actually is commanded on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 23:27). Going back to Isaiah 58:13-14, which we read at the beginning of this article, it may be that the Day of Atonement is the context of the passage when including the previous 12 verses.

It really is up to an individual, whether they fast on the weekly Sabbath or not. If one feels compelled to fast on a weekly Sabbath, and it should be alright

if they do. However, it should not be a regular tradition to do so.

If I were to fast on the Sabbath, everyone here would know it, since we all eat together after services. I believe it would draw unnecessary attention to myself, so I would not do it unless an emergency required prayer and fasting (Matt. 15:21).

It should be noted that Moses and Yahshua (Matt. 4:2) fasted continuously for 40 days, even King David (2 Sam. 12:16), who all fasted on a weekly Sabbath. Besides these, valiant men in Israel also fasted on the Sabbath due to King Saul's death (1 Sam. 31:12-13).

Conclusion

What was Israel's real problem? Backsliding into disobedience (Heb. 3:12-19). The inspired Word additionally testifies:

*Therefore, since a promise remains of entering into His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it ... those who formerly received the Good News **did not enter in because of disobedience** ... there remains a Sabbath-keeping for the people of Elohim ... Let us therefore do our utmost to enter into that rest, lest anyone fall after **the same example of disobedience**, Hebrews 4:1, 6, 9, 11, **The Scriptures**.*

Remember the Sabbath by being obedient and not neglecting what you know to be true. By submitting to Yahweh's Commandments and overcoming all that is of the world through Yahshua the Messiah, you will enter into His rest and become an heir to eternal life.

-Elder David Brett

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Why Are We So Few?

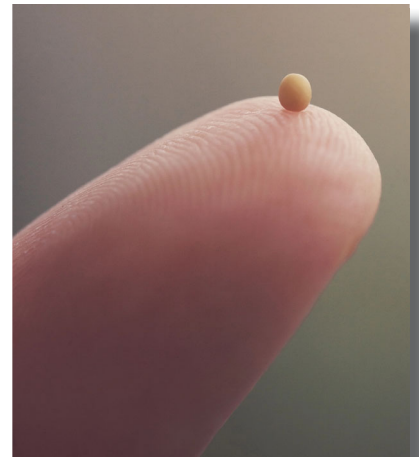


“If you are in the truth, why are there so few of you?” This question often comes from those who find comfort in belonging to large faith communities. When newcomers see our modest attendance compared to bustling churches and mosques, they may question the strength and validity of our beliefs. “There is strength in numbers,” they may say. Being compared to the world’s largest religions, Christianity and Islam, can sometimes influence a believer’s faith in a negative way. Yet, in the face of these doubts, we find solace in Yahshua’s teachings and the timeless wisdom of the Scripture.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Another parable He put before them, saying, “The reign of the heavens is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is less than all the seeds, but when it is grown it is greater than the plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the heaven come and dwell in its branches.” Matthew 13:31-32, **TS2009**.

Yahshua is the man who sowed the seed, symbolizing the kingdom of Elohim. Notice that He chose the smallest seed, emphasizing that great things often start from humble beginnings. As members of a small faith community, we can find hope in this parable, knowing that our small number is part of Yahweh’s great plan. We rejoice because Yahshua’s parable is being fulfilled through us in our time.



Parallels with Early Believers

Small numbers come with their own challenges. Reflecting on early believers provides perspective. Lacking huge, elaborate cathedrals and mosques, most of them simply gathered in their homes to worship.

The assemblies of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla send you greetings heartily in the Master along with the assembly that meets in their home, 1 Corinthians 16:19 **CSB**. (see also Colossians 4:15; Philemon 1:20; and Romans 16:3-5)

The early believers also had their fair share of disagreements that caused factions, divisions, jealousy and strife. Consider the following verses:

For I have been informed concerning you, my brothers, by those of the house of Chloe, that there are strifes among you. What I mean is this, that each one of you says, “I am of Sha’ul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or “I am of Kēpha,” or “I am of Messiah.” Has the Messiah been divided? Was Sha’ul impaled for you? Or were you immersed in the name of Sha’ul? 1 Corinthians 1:11-13, **TS2009**.

For you are still fleshly. For since there is envy, and strife, and divisions among you, are you not fleshly and walking according to man? 1 Corinthians 3:3 **TS2009**.

Some of them had to endure the pain of having members who leave the Assembly.

They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. However, they went out so that it might be made clear that none of them belongs to us, 1 John 2:19 **CSB**

Some even left the Messiah Himself because His teachings made them feel uncomfortable.

Therefore, when many of His disciples heard this, they said, "This teaching is hard. Who can accept it?" ... Yahshua, knowing in Himself that His disciples were grumbling about this, asked them, "Does this offend you? From that moment many of His disciples turned back and no longer accompanied Him," John 6:60-61, 66 **CSB**.

Even early spiritual leaders did not always agree. There were debates about comparisons among the disciples.

An argument started among them about who was the greatest of them, Luke 9:46 **CSB**.

Whoever receives this little child in My Name receives Me; and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you will be great, Luke 9:48 **NKJV**.

There was even an open opposition between two of our greatest stalwarts of faith, Paul and Peter. *But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face because he stood condemned,* Galatians 2:11 **CSB**.

Likewise, we cannot forget the sharp dispute between Paul and Barnabas. *Barnabas wanted to take along John who was called Mark. But Paul insisted that they should not take along this man who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone on with them to the work. They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed off to Cyprus,* Acts 15:37-39 **CSB**.

Facing Our Challenges

These circumstances remind us in all humility that no assembly is perfect. Our present situation is not far different from that of the early believers. We know of many brethren who worship in their homes because they have no assembly halls where they can gather during Sabbath. Disagreements and personal struggles among leaders and members are

not unfamiliar. These challenges test our resolve but also affirm our place in Yahweh's unfolding plan. Like the tiny mustard seed, we must endure harsh conditions to grow into something greater. We will persevere through all challenges because the Hand that has sown us is the same Hand that will protect and nourish us.

The Promise for the Remnant

And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to fight with the remnant of her seed, those guarding the commands of Elohim and possessing the witness of Yahshua Messiah, Revelation 12:17 **TS2009**.

Miriam-Webster defines "remnant" as "a usually small part, member, or trace remaining" or "a small surviving group." In the book of Revelation, we are reminded that in the end times, only a remnant of the seed will obey Yahweh. Other versions interpret this as those "which keep the commandments of Yahweh and have the testimony of Yahshua," Though we may be a few, our faithfulness stands as a testament to Yahweh's enduring love and purpose.

Hope for the Future

Despite our small numbers and the trials we face, Yahshua's promise remains steadfast. Yahweh, through Yahshua, can turn chaos into miracles. The seed He planted long ago will grow fully just as He said. *Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches,* Matthew 13:32, **NIV**.

We may become impatient and wonder, "When is this seed going to grow? It doesn't seem to be growing at all!" A newly planted seed cannot be expected to be fully grown the next day. It needs time. In two days, it will germinate with only a fresh, tiny sprout to show. With Yahweh, a thousand years is like a day. *But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With Elohim a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. Elohim is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance,* 2 Peter 3:8-9 **NIV**.

Everything in this world works in Elohim's time frame, not ours. So, when He says He planted a seed two thousand years ago, it is akin to saying He planted it two days ago. A mustard seed planted two days will have only a tiny sprout. This is where we are now. We do not need to be too anxious about

our small sprout and our current numbers. One day, everyone will call and bow down to the Name of Yahshua, our coming King and Savior. All will keep His Commandments, which are written in our hearts (Jer. 31:33). Everyone will call on His Name (Zeph. 3:9). These things may be strange to billions today, but these are already prophesied in the Bible. When that time comes, we will realize that the seed has become a tree.

Conclusion

Yahshua likened the Kingdom of Heaven to a mustard seed: small at first, yet destined to grow into a mighty tree where birds find shelter. This parable reminds us that greatness often emerges from the humblest beginnings. Our small numbers reflect Yahweh's deliberate choice, not a deficiency. Our growth may seem slow, but Yahweh's timing is perfect. We are given the opportunity to be part of His grand plan, and our faithfulness, though seemingly insignificant now, will bear fruit in His time.



The question, “Why are we so few?” becomes more significantly a question of “What is the purpose of the small seed?” Apostle Paul reminds us of Yahweh’s preference for the humble and His promise of growth and transformation. *Elohim chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things — and the things that are not — to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before Him,* 1 Corinthians 1:28-29 **NIV**. Moses also reminds us that Yahweh’s profound love for His people does not depend in the quantity of their numbers. *Elohim had His heart set on you and chose you, not because you were more numerous than all peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But because Elohim loved you and kept the oath He swore to your ancestors, He brought you out with a strong hand and redeemed you from the place of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt,* Deuteronomy 7:7-8 **CSB**.

Quantity does not always equate to quality. Though our numbers are few, yet, we hold the truth within us. Let us embrace our role as part of the mustard seed, Yahweh’s provision and guidance. We are called to be brave. *Don’t be afraid, little flock, because your Father delights to give you the kingdom,* Luke 12:32 **CSB**.

The small seed planted by our Savior two thousand years ago may now be a tiny sprout, but this is just the beginning. As we remain steadfast, we anticipate the day when the small seed blossoms into a mighty tree fulfilling Yahweh’s Kingdom on Earth. The time will come when our number will not bother us anymore. *The least will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation. I am Yahweh; I will accomplish it quickly in its time,* Isaiah 60:22 **CSB**.

- Deacon Leopher Neil T. Bayan (Philippines)

Let’s Pull the Mask From Halloween!

(Excerpt from the study. Read, order, or download the full study at yaiy.org)

Every October 31, children across the land learn how extortion works through one of the most popular of ancient, pagan festivals.

We know it as Halloween, which is a shortened combination of the words “Hallowed” and “evening.” But there is nothing holy about this night.

Halloween has no redeeming value. It is one big trick on an ignorant or indifferent society, and another victory for the forces of darkness.

The Heavenly Father gives us a final warning in the law about demonism and witchcraft:

For all that do these things are an abomination unto Yahweh: and because of these abominations Yahweh your Elohim does drive them out from before you. You shall be perfect with Yahweh your Elohim, Deuteronomy 18:12-13.

Why indulge in practices your Creator hates and condemns? Drop the empty, senseless, heathen observances of man and resolve to begin keeping the true holy days He has commanded in His Word. You’ll be blessed if you do!

20 OCT.-DEC. 2024 YAIY BEACON



The Throne Is Established by Righteousness



“**RIGHT**” is a significant word in the Scriptures and is understood from ancient times as representing primacy, strength, authority, blessing, equity, integrity, position, or direction.

The *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance* references the word “**RIGHT**” more than 350 times. It is the first syllable in the word “**RIGHTeousness**.” Other derivative entries of the word – **RIGHTeous**, **RIGHTeously**, **RIGHTeousness**, **RIGHTeousness’**, **RIGHTeousnesses**, **RIGHTly** – appear more than 570 times. That’s some 920 times the word or its derivations appear in the Bible and nearly all of which, carry the spiritual connotation of primacy, strength, authority, blessing, equity, integrity, position, or direction.

For example, in Matthew 25:31-34, we read, *When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth [his] sheep from the goats: and He shall set the sheep on His **RIGHT** hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on His **RIGHT** hand, “Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”* (*King James Version* used throughout, unless otherwise noted.)

In Acts 7:55-56, the martyr Deacon Stephen, but moments before he yielded his spirit in death, declared seeing the risen Yahshua standing at the **RIGHT** hand of Yahweh.

The Apostle Paul severally, in Romans 8:34, Ephesians 1:20, and Colossians 3:1, attested to the risen Messiah, to whom all judgment has been entrusted, being positioned at the **RIGHT** hand of His Father, Yahweh.

At Jerusalem, the Apostles James, Peter, and John, in adjourning the Council that had convened for the purpose of taking up the matter recorded in the 15th chapter of the Acts, dismissed their peers Paul and Barnabas by extending to them the **RIGHT** hands of fellowship (Gal. 2:9).

Typically, the **RIGHT** hand was used to confer blessing or consecration. In the Genesis narrative, the viceroy Joseph is seen presenting his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim before his father Israel (Jacob), that the elder might impart a blessing upon them – a blessing of primogeniture, reserved for the eldest son. Joseph had positioned his elder son, “Ephraim in his **RIGHT** hand toward Israel’s left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel’s **RIGHT** hand, and brought them near unto him. And Israel stretched out his **RIGHT** hand, and laid it upon Ephraim’s head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh’s head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the firstborn” (Gen. 48:13-14).

RIGHT with Blood

*Then shalt thou kill the ram, and take of his blood, and put [it] upon the tip of the **RIGHT** ear of Aaron, and upon the tip of the **RIGHT** ear of his sons, and upon the thumb of their **RIGHT** hand, and upon the great toe of their **RIGHT** foot, and sprinkle the blood upon the altar round about, Exodus 29:20.*

For this reason, at the time Aaron and his sons, priests of the Levitical order, were consecrated and set apart for the conduct of their office, blood was taken from the second of two rams offered for that purpose and smeared upon the tip of the **RIGHT** ear; upon the thumb of the **RIGHT** hand; and upon the great toe of the **RIGHT** foot.

The blood was put upon these body parts to sanctify and cleanse them from sins and to teach the priests that they ought attentively to listen to what should be said unto them of Yahweh, and then to faithfully report what was conveyed them, to the people. And because their hands and fingers were instruments of activity, and their feet and toes for walking, their behavior should be pure and holy ... their affairs guided by discretion and most certainly, exemplary and above reproach.

As for blood, the Scripture further reads, "And almost all things are by the Law purged with blood ..." (Heb. 9:22). Blood, come from a sacrificial offering dedicated or consecrated in accomplishing the service of Yahweh, was essential in representing an acceptable atonement for an article such as the brazen altar and the Ark of the Testimony, as well as for the priest who served as the mediator between the offeror and Yahweh.

Magistracies in Scripture

*And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to **judge** the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening. And when Moses' father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said, "What [is] this thing that thou doest to the people? Why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even?" And Moses said unto his father in law, "Because the people come unto me to enquire of Yahweh: when they have a matter, they come unto me; and I **judge** between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of Yahweh, and His laws." And Moses' father in law said unto him, "The thing that thou doest [is] not good. Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that [is] with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone. Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and Yahweh shall be with thee: be thou for the people to Yah-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto Yahweh: and thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do. Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear Yahweh, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place [such] over them, [to be] **rulers** of thousands, [and] **rulers** of hundreds, **rulers** of fifties, and **rulers** of tens: and let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, [that] every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so*

*shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear [the burden] with thee. If thou shalt do this thing, and Yahweh command thee [so], then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace." So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said. And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them **heads** over the people, rulers of thousands, **rulers** of hundreds, **rulers** of fifties, and **rulers** of tens. And they **judged** the people at all seasons: the hard causes they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they **judge** themselves, Exodus 18:13-26.*

This passage is replete with the word, "**judge**," *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*, H.8199, *shaphal*, rendered, to *judge*, i.e., pronounce *sentence*; by implication, to *vindicate* or *punish*; by extension, to *govern* and "**rulers**," H.8269, *sar*, rendered severally as, a *head* person (of any rank or class): captain (that had rule), chief (captain), general, governor, keeper, lord, master, prince (-ipal), ruler, steward.

Akin to these words is the Hebrew word, *elohim*, H.430, rendered in the Scriptures: (in the plural, especially with the article, "the," Supreme *Eloha* (Yahweh); occasionally applied by way of deference to civil magistracies and sometimes as a superlative: angels, great judges.

In the Torah, we see both these words **gods** and **ruler** used in the following verse:

*Thou shalt not revile the **gods**, nor curse the **ruler** of thy people, Exodus 22:28.*

Chief among Yahshua's inquisitors were the priests, particularly His Levitical counterpart, the high priest. The priests exercised both rule and authority over the people, in both civil and spiritual matters.

In the Acts, we read of the Apostle Paul being examined by judicial authority, the council of chief priests. *And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before Yahweh until this day." And the high priest Ananias commanded them that stood by him to smite him on the mouth. Then said Paul unto him, "Eloha shall smite thee, [thou] whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law?" And they that stood by said, "Revilest thou Yahweh's high priest?" Then said Paul, "I wist not, brethren, that he was the high priest: for it is written, Thou shalt not speak evil of the **ruler** of thy people," Acts 23:1-5.*

The Scripture to which Paul referred in this encounter with the high priest is Exodus 22:28: *Thou shalt not revile the **gods (elohim)**, nor curse the **ruler** of thy people.*

(Before proceeding further, we might wonder that Sha'ul who was an Hebrew, and who had been a Pharisee, and whom we might suppose had at once sat in the chamber of the Sanhedrin, could not have known this Ananiah (not Annas, the son-in-law of Caiphas) but an appointee of Herod king of Chalcis in about 48 CE was the high priest. On the other hand, perhaps his reply here was a subtle hint that the Levitical order was come to its successor, the order of Melchizedek and that now, Yahshua the Messiah whom the author of Hebrews calls "**the Apostle and High Priest of our profession**" (Heb. 3:1) was, at least by this Sect of the Nazarene, so recognized and acknowledged as the High Priest.)

Following the death of Joshua who had brought the people Israel into the Promised Land, the government was administered by a succession of 15 judges (*elohim*), the last of whom was Samuel. The people toward the end of his tenure, demanded a king, saying "Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations" (1 Sam. 8:5) – a fulfilment of the prophecy spoken in Deuteronomy 17:14:

When thou art come unto the land which Yahweh thy Eloha giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shall dwell therein, and shalt say, "I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that [art] about me."

Thus, began a succession of monarchical rule. The first 120 years, Israel was united under the reigns of Saul, David, and Solomon followed by a succession of kings (and one queen) among divided kingdoms. A survey of the history of Israel under the divided kingdoms reads, that of all 19 kings which ruled the northern kingdom (Israel) and of the 20 monarchs, 11 kings and 1 queen – Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah who, when he was dead, destroyed all the seed royal – which ruled the southern kingdom (Judah), it is repetitively recorded in the chronicles of the kings, "that he (she) did that which was evil in the sight of Yahweh and followed after the ways of Jeroboam, or as his fathers had done" or even, "above all the evil that was done before him."

On the other hand, of the eight "good" kings of Judah, the narrative runs something like this: "and he did that which was right in the sight of Yahweh as his fathers" and sometimes, with this addendum, "but not with a perfect heart."

Throne ... Established ... Righteousness

Perhaps the annals of history might have been gracious toward Israel, if the reign of king Solomon hadn't been marred by him taking to himself, many strange women of these nations that were about Israel – "seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart" (1 Kings 11:4) from Yahweh with their abominable polytheistic practices.

And maybe, there might have been accorded Rehoboam who had succeeded to his father Solomon's throne, a second chance if he hadn't afterward foolishly dismissed the counsel of the old men which had stood before his father and advised him that if he would be a servant to this people Israel, and would serve them, and answer them with good words, then they would be his servants forever. But, no, he favored that which had come from his younger peers, recommending his reply, "My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins. And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions" (1 Kings 12:6-11).

Nevertheless, *Eloha is the Judge: He putteth down one, and setteth up another, Psalm 75:7.* And certainly, none will deny Him His providence from Whom all authority proceeds, *to do so – to put down one, and set up another* – whether he (or she) who occupies the seat of power is **RIGHTeous**, ("**the throne is established by**

RIGHTeousness," Prov. 16:12) or occupied by rulers who by agenda, policy, and practice, are spiritually, reprobate ... truth, having its premise in Scripture:

RIGHTeousness exalteth a nation: but sin [is] a reproach to any people, Proverbs 14:34.

*When the **RIGHTeous** are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn,* Proverbs 29:2;

The prince that wanteth understanding [is] also a great oppressor ... Proverbs 28:16;

*When it goeth well with the **RIGHTeous**, the city rejoiceth: and when the wicked perish, there is shouting. By the blessing of the up**RIGHT** the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked,* Proverbs 11:10-11.

Of Tribute, Custom, Fear, and Honour

One wouldn't have to look far to see the amoral disposition of the plebiscite of this nation called America as but a reflection of its political leadership. Yet, scarcely does the United States stand alone. The old adage, "**Absolute Power Corrupts Absolutely**," is applicable to most every government that has been instituted in the history of humanity which have all, but failed to function in harmony with government's Author.

Civic-minded patriots, and particularly the religious among them, like to refer to Romans 13:1-7:

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of Yahweh: the powers that be are ordained of Yahweh. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of Yahweh: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: for he is the minister of Yahweh to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of Yahweh, a revenger to [execute] wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore [ye] must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are Yahweh's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute [is due]; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

The Apostle Paul here, corroborates King Yahshua's reply, "Thou couldest have no power at all against Me, except it were given thee from above" to Pontius Pilate who, rather arrogantly, declared, "Knowest Thou not that I have power to impale Thee, and have power to release Thee?" (John 19:10-11).

Again, the more religious among civic-minded patriots will, furthermore, cite King Yahshua Who responded to those *men of religion* of His day – scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees – who ever sought to trip Him up with words, like,

And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute [money] came to Peter, and

said, "Doth not your Master pay tribute?" He saith, "Yes." And when he was come into the house, Yahshua prevented him, saying, "What thinkest thou, Simon? Of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? Of their own children, or of strangers?" Peter saith unto Him, "Of strangers." Yahshua saith unto him, "Then are the children free. Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for Me and thee, Matthew 17:24-27.

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of Yahweh: the powers that be are ordained of Yahweh. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of Yahweh: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation."

- Romans 13:1-2

Tell us therefore, "What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?" But Yahshua perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why tempt ye Me, [ye] hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money." And they brought unto Him a penny. And He saith unto them, "Whose [is] this image and superscription?" They say unto him, "Caesar's." Then saith He unto them, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto Yahweh the things that are Yahweh's." When they had heard [these words], they marvelled, and left Him, and went their way.

Of course, there are "Sovereign Citizens" – even among the Assemblies – who are but one step removed from anarchy, spouting a doctrine of civil disobedience for every cause, and without cause, against authority that's been established by **RIGHTeousness** and refuting what is owed of "tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom, fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour" (Rom. 13:7) on grounds that the Government is not a good steward of revenue it levies against, and receives, of its subjects.

But believers cannot have the answer of a good conscience toward Yahweh by subscribing to, or supporting any purpose either, for every cause or, without cause, to espouse anarchy or insurrection against that which has been established by **RIGHTeousness**. That is not to preclude however, our deference of obedience to Yahweh over our obligations of supporting those institutions of government administered by man (Acts 5:29) whenever government infringes upon, or usurps authority not accorded it by the Sovereign of sovereigns. Always, "it is better to trust in Yahweh than to put confidence in princes" (Psalm 118:9).



Conclusion: July 13, 2024

If it should be permitted us an opinion, there seems to be little question whom the plebiscite will likely return to 1600 Pennsylvania in November. An assassination attempted the 13th of July of this year, on the life of Candidate Donald John Trump, together with the tendency of an electorate during perilous times to vote their purse, and more by what they see than what they believe, may assure his accession to the Presidency. (And note well: We're not campaigning for anyone but King Yahshua. Neither are we taking any position but the defense and confirmation of His Message, that His Truth ... and His Truth alone, will set men free.)

But the presumed assignment of sanctimony by some to Candidate Trump – ***Cease ye from man whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of, Isaiah 2:22*** – on account of him narrowly surviving a mortal attempt upon his life with but a slight injury to his **RIGHT** ear with evidence of blood, and upon the phalanges of his **RIGHT** hand and stockinged **RIGHT** foot, could hardly be considered a parallel to that order of consecration Yahweh ordained for His priests in the performance of their service to Him and in behalf of His people. Indeed, it could be argued that Mr. Trump is a man of like passions with every other member of his species and has at least as great a need for redemption, salvation, and deliverance in Yahshua's Name as any other.

So, to make anything more of a shooting in Pennsylvania on the 13th of this month ... a

shooting that drew blood and stipulating, furthermore, that the bullet just missed lodging into its victim's cranium by centimeters, may but serve to elevate Mr. Trump to a sacrosanct position he can neither presume to himself, nor before an altar at which he has no greater **RIGHT** to partake than the general population.

On the other hand, regard toward the authority of Scripture having established the sequence of eschatological order must preclude the inclination of some toward validating that which is provided us in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-9, and supposing that Mr. Trump necessarily satisfies the profile of that one described in verses 3 and 4:

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Saviour Yahshua Messiah, and [by] our gathering together unto him, that ye be not soon shaken in mind,

or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Messiah is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called Eloha, or that is worshipped; so that he as Yahweh sitteth in the temple of Yahweh, shewing himself that he is Yahweh. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth [will let], until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Master shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: [even him], whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.

Better, much better, we should pray "for all that are in authority (and those aspiring toward being elected to authority) ... For this is good and acceptable in the sight of Eloha and our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the Truth ... that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all **RIGHT**eousness and honesty" (1 Tim. 2:2, 3-4, 2).

- Elder John W. Reece



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q Can you shed some light on this? Will people get a second chance for salvation?

Hebrews 9:27–28 *And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, so Messiah also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.*

A Perhaps another way of saying this is that apart from them who are alive at Yahshua's return (1 Cor. 15:51; 1 Thess. 4:17) all will die a first death and will be judged after they are resurrected. But those who are waiting for His return, and not His first coming, will not be condemned. This is due to the death sentence being released from them, as He is their Sacrifice for sins passed (1 Pet. 3:18).

The passage above is significant in the context of the Savior's blood being shed. It goes back to what Yahweh says: choose life (Deut. 30:19). It underscores the conditions for accepting His sacrifice, which is more than just a belief in Him. Even the demons believe and shudder (James 2:19; Matt. 8:29). As we know, He immediately taught that people should repent after He, Who knew no sin, was baptized as an example of righteousness being fulfilled. We are told that a requirement is to be immersed in His saving Name (Acts 4:12), which includes the Father's Name (John 5:43). This does not contradict Scripture, which shows salvation is imputed to those who call upon Yahweh's Name (Joel 2:32). Yahshua, being Yahweh's Salvation, was a sacrificial offering – a law added because of transgressions – according to the Torah's atonement-prescription for sin (Gal. 3:19). Once Messiah came and offered Himself "ONCE to bear the sins of many" (Heb. 9:28), then all those that accept His atoning blood have their sins which are past remitted them (Rom. 3:25).

However, not all accept Him according to the

commands or pattern but rather are blinded by Satan and the confusion he has produced through lies and subtlety (Rev. 12:9). Because of this, not all the world's population will become first fruits, a term referred to as the bride (Rev. 19:7-8), in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6). But neither shall all who are not first fruits, be condemned to the lake of fire. We know there is yet a second resurrection for the rest of mankind in which everyone else will be judged by what they did with what they knew. In other words, their deeds will follow them. A just judge will not condemn everyone, as Yahshua points out in his address to Bethsaida and Chorazin (Matt. 11:21). Though His judgment which is according to Truth (Rom. 2:2) will be problematic to some, His judgment will be fair (Luke 12:48).

A question comes to mind: if Yahweh is NOT calling everyone now (1 Cor. 3:6-8) to be the first fruits, isn't it because they haven't chosen that position in this lifetime? The son of perdition, blasphemers of the Spirit, those who will worship the beast and take his mark, and they who knew to do good but chose not to do good but to live in sin instead (Matt. 7:23; Heb. 10:26) are all destined for the second death and the lake of fire, as there is no forgiveness in this life or the next (Matt. 12:32). Hence, it is written in Revelation 21:8: *But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.* In the context of what the rest of Scripture says, these are evidently those who knew to do right but chose not to, even with the knowledge and understanding they were initially provided with the calling from on High.



Q Hello, I have a question about Exodus 16:29. Does this mean we aren't supposed to leave the vicinity of our homes? This doesn't seem to be the case with Yahshua and the Apostle Paul. Also, is this related to a "Sabbath day's journey" mentioned in Acts 1:12?

A The Exodus 16:29 admonition was intended as training wheels, similar to Nehemiah's command that the gates be shut on the Sabbath so the people would obey (Neh. 13:15-22). Today we are given a portion of Yahweh's Spirit to help us keep the Commandments (Ezek. 36:26-27; Jer. 31:33; Rom. 7:22). Acts 1:12 does speak of a day's journey, which was common knowledge and used to describe distance between certain locations. In all this, we do not need training wheels to keep the Commandments of Yahweh. We walk in the Spirit and Truth of Yahweh's Word. We can travel on the Sabbath to Sabbath services, but if the distance is too long, requiring the purchase of gas or food, we would want to make other arrangements, such as traveling during the week. Back in Exodus 16:29, the context is shown why they were told to stay in their dwellings. It was because of their rebellious hearts. This is something that has changed with those in Messiah today.

Q Does your literature in other languages transliterate, or translate, Yahweh and Yahshua?

A Thank you for your inquiry. Years ago, we were asked if we wanted help translating some of our literature into Greek. We replied, "Sure." But we never heard from the person again. It's possible they were trying to make a point that *kurios*, *theos*, *Iesus*, and other forms are acceptable. From what we've come to understand, however, it is clear that they are not. In all of our language translations, we make it a point to make the proper transliteration of the Father's Name (Yahweh) and His Son's Name (Yahshua), along with restoring the appropriate titles. For example, since our Savior was a Hebrew, we don't make Him a Greek by saying "Christ." Messiah which is the transliteration of the Hebrew, *Maschiach*, is a more appropriate title.

Again, we do transliterate the Sacred Names, that is, bring the pronunciation across from the Hebrew and the Greek, and not just translate the meaning. In some cases, like the Greek, there have been a lot of problems. Some German translations, for example, typically pronounce the Father's Name, Yahweh, as Yahveh – exchanging the "w" for a "v" – but



we correct the Germanic spelling and hence, the pronunciation, to give the reader a knowledge of the truth.

Furthermore, we have started to post an online audio example with translated studies of how the Names are pronounced/spoken by both a male and female voice. (See our Turkish translation online.)

We have striven to correct the Pharisaic tradition of removing the Sacred Names from speech and from writing. Not only has the Father's Name become subject to Pharisaic proscription, but we strongly suspect the Savior's Name was also purposefully changed by vowel pointing. For example, the *yod*, can be an *ah* or an *eh* sound, depending on how the vowel pointing is done.

For example, "...it became customary not to use Y[a]shua's correct name but intentionally and consciously to use the distortion 'Yeshu,' because at some point someone realized that 'Yeshu' is also an acronym consisting of the first letters of the Hebrew insult, 'Yimach sh'mo v'zikhro' ('May his name and memory be blotted out'; the words adapted and expand the last phrase of Psalm 109:13)," ***Jewish New Testament Commentary***, by David H. Stern (p. 5).

In the ***Babylonian Talmud***, a collection of Jewish oral traditions from about A.D. 200-500, we read: "On the even of the Passover Yeshu ...was hanged. For forty days before the execution took place, a herald went forth and cried. 'He is going forth to be stoned because he has practised sorcery and enticed Israel with apostasy. Anyone who can say anything in his favour, let him come forward and plead on his behalf.' But since nothing was brought forward in his favour he was hanged," ***The Journey from Texts to Translations***, by Paul D. Wegner (p. 133).

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**“For everything there is a season, and a
time for every purpose under heaven.”**

• Eccl. 3:1