



# BEACON

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Patience  
Fiery Trials  
What is Truth?  
Universal Salvation?  
The Coming Apocalypse

## 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.

- 2 - Introduction
- 3 - Patience
- 8 - Fiery Trials
- 12 - What is Truth?
- 15 - Universal Salvation?
- 21 - The Coming Apocalypse
- 26 - Questions & Answers

### 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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# PATIENCE

Lean not on your own understanding



Patience is important today, even being listed as a Fruit of the Spirit. Patience, also translated as longsuffering, indicates a patient endurance of pain or unhappiness. That is a deeper understanding than just saying someone is patient. We can wait for a bus, taxi, or rickshaw – depending on where you live – and our patience can be tested when we are waiting in traffic that’s not moving because of some circumstance. Frustration and the stress accompanying it, are increased if the delay will result, for example, in our being late to work, or missing an international flight.

In Scripture, one of the Greek words for patience is *mak-roth-y-mi-a*’ (G.3115, **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance**). *Macros* means long and *thumos* means anger, together, *makrothymia*, means slow to anger. In Hebrew, its equivalent is actually found in two separate words, *ap* and *erek*, with *ap* meaning a long face and nose (figuratively a stable neutral look, not angry or happy), while *erek*, means long-suffering before getting angry. In other words, slow to anger.

*“Yet even now,” declares Yahweh, “Return to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, weeping and mourning; and rend your heart and not your garments.” Now return to Yahweh your Elohim, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger (patient, **TS**), abounding in lovingkindness and relenting of evil, Joel 2:12-13 (The **New American Standard Bible**, used throughout unless otherwise noted)*

Patience is something that we will want to exercise in our lives because it is opposed to “outbursts of anger” (Gal. 5:20), which is listed among the works of the flesh.

## Prior to Baptism

Recently, a man contacted the Assembly expressing his desire to be baptized. He admitted to having struggles, but believed the Spirit would help him overcome through being immersed in water. We replied that the Set Apart Spirit is given to those who obey Yahweh (Acts 5:32). In other words, obedience to Yahweh – ceasing to continue in sin – precedes receiving the Holy Spirit. The following tells us we better think before we act.

*And whoever does not bear his stake and come after Me is unable to be My taught one. For who of you, wishing to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid the foundation, and is unable to finish it, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, “This man began to build and was unable to finish.” Or what sovereign, going to fight against another sovereign, does not sit down first and take counsel whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. So, then, every one of you who does not give up all that he has, is unable to be My taught one, Luke 14:27-33, **TS**.*

Counting the cost, requires relinquishing bad habits and sins that easily entangle one into slavery to Satan.

In light of Luke 14:27-33, we can appreciate a deeper meaning from Luke 6:47-49:

*Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who has heard and has not acted [accordingly], is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great.*

When we count the cost, and move toward doing what we’re told to do, we have a foundation and a house that cannot be easily moved. And, of course, the foundation for us is the Word and the Messiah.

On the other hand, if we don't do as we are told, then we will have neither a foundation, nor a house, that can stand. And we know, the Savior's words agree with His Father's words, since a house divided against itself will not stand (Mark 3:25).

Besides giving the aforementioned Scriptures to the man wanting to be baptized for his consideration, we also affirmed that Yahweh's Spirit was already at work in him, opening his mind to the truth. However, he must "count the cost of choosing life."

In Acts, chapter 2, following the 3,000 who were baptized in Yahshua's Name – the only Name under heaven by Which we are saved – for the remission of their sins, it is written that Peter said to them, *And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation,"* Acts 2:40. In their patience – and in ours, as well – they would possess their souls (Luke 21:19).

### **We are Told to be Patient**

*Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Master. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Master is near,* James 5:7-8.

These words relate to the prophecy of Joel 2:23, 28, which speaks of an anticipated outpouring of Yahweh's Spirit. James is saying to be patient and wait for all that Yahweh has in store to bestow upon His people, a change to come that will astonish mankind.

In the Seed and Sower parable, we find those who, with patience, do well in bringing forth fruit. *But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the Word, keep [it], and bring forth fruit with patience,* Luke 8:15, **KJV**.

This is a different Greek word, *hup-om-on-e'* (G.5281), meaning the power to withstand hardship or stress and put up with things or circumstances. Alternative renderings are steadfastness, endurance, perseverance, or persistence.

*To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life,* Romans 2:7, **NIV**.

Being patient and doing good come with rewards ... though it is reward enough, knowing we are doing the right things which is but whole duty and reasonable service. Though our circumstances may not always be the best, we can trust that with Yahweh helping us, there will be a good outcome.

*The end of a matter is better than its beginning, patience of spirit is better than haughtiness of spirit,* Ecclesiastes 7:8. We walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7), hoping for we do not see and waiting for it with patience (Rom. 8:25). Spirit can be translated as attitude. So, we might ask ourselves, "Does our attitude express the Spirit within?"

*Be still before Yahweh and wait patiently for Him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes,* Psalm 37:7, **ESV**.

Some people may succeed with their "wicked schemes" ... in the short term, but Yahweh Who knows the end from the beginning (Isa. 46:10), knows also the end of those who hate Him and has prepared a rest for those who love Him. It is the end that will matter the most; it's the long game that counts.

And so, therefore, [It is] *good that [a man] should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of Yahweh,* Lamentations 3:26, **KJV**.

*For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of Elohim, you may receive what was promised,* Hebrews 10:36.

Are we waiting patiently for the Master's return? Redeem the time, waiting patiently; helping and serving where you can; for the joy that is set before us (Heb. 12:2), thinking about the end and not just about what is happening now.

This walk is not without difficulties and hardships we endure. But these are purposed to build in us character, preparing us for the opportunity in the future to rule 1,000 years with the King of kings.

*For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.* Matthew 7:14. The word "narrow" is literally "pressed" as the Greek *thli'-bo* (G.2346) renders it. It can also be translated as "afflicted" or "hard-pressed." Paul said that through many tribulations, we must enter the Kingdom of Yahweh (Acts 14:22). Certainly, as Yahshua prophesied in Acts 9:16, he would come to experience tribulation and difficulties (2 Cor. 11:23-28).

### **PAUL**

The list is long, but let's start with Paul, as one who had been patient. He says, *Giving no cause for offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited, but in everything commending ourselves as servants of Elohim, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine*

*love, in the word of truth, in the power of Elohim; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, 2 Corinthians 6:3-7.*

Notice the first thing here: Paul is saying not to give offense in anything, so the ministry is not discredited. Does this mean that offenses won't come? Not at all, but we are warned not to be an offender but rather, permitting the Light within us to be maintained by exercise and seen by men.

While in a Roman prison, Paul says, *Therefore I, the prisoner of the Master, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience (mak-roth-y-mi-a'), showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, Ephesians 4:1-3.*

This, he learned from Yahshua, in that having pleaded with Him to take away the thorn in his flesh, received instead, the solace that Yahshua's Power would be perfected in his weakness (2 Cor. 12:9). Some 5 years later, Paul could say that he learned to be content in any situation (Phil. 4:11).

So, Paul is speaking from experience when it comes to afflictions, hardship, and distress, but he is not the only one with the experience of being hard-pressed and patiently enduring. We, too, are blessed to personally experience, and to rejoice with, others' recovery from difficulties. *Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep, Romans 12:15.*

In his letter to Timothy, Paul speaks plainly to Timothy, how he recovered from the trials he suffered.

*Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience (makrothumia), love, perseverance (hup-om-on-e'), persecutions, [and] sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium [and] at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Master rescued me, 2 Timothy 3:10-11.*

## **JOB**

*Behold, we count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and have seen the outcome of the Master's dealings, that the Master is full of compassion and [is] merciful, James 5:11.*

So, what was Job's attitude like after the great loss of his children? *And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. Yahweh gave and Yahweh has taken away. Blessed be the Name of Yahweh." Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame Elohim, Job 1:21-22.*

Thankfully, Yahweh doesn't give us more than we can handle (1 Cor. 10:13), but the loss of his possessions, and his children? That was quite the blow to Job, and to his wife who later suggested that he curse Yahweh. (Good thing he was the head of his house, and not her, otherwise the outcome may have been different.)

Did Job learn anything from what he went through? After four chapters (Job 38-41) being questioned by Yahweh, he learned that he may have been a "little" self-righteous. He also learned as James pointed out, that Yahweh is compassionate and merciful. *I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore I despise [myself], and repent in dust and ashes, Job 42:5-6, TS.*

After this, and his intercession for his friends, Yahweh gave him double what he had before. And Yahweh blessed him more in the end of his days than at the beginning. Yahweh is Good.

## **JOSEPH**

From Yahweh, Joseph was given dreams foretelling his own future. But when he told his brothers they were going to bow down to him, they thought to kill him, but his life was delivered to him instead, by being sold as a slave. He lived and prospered for a time (Gen 39:1-5) but then found himself unjustly imprisoned for several years for doing what was right. What can we infer about Yahweh's opinion of Joseph for persevering through his difficulties? *For Elohim is pleased when, conscious of His will, you patiently endure unjust treatment. Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, Elohim is pleased with you, 1 Peter 2:19-20, NLT.*

Joseph's suffering for doing good and enduring it patiently, was amply rewarded by Pharaoh before whom he credited his gift of interpreting the king's troubling dreams, to Yahweh (Gen. 41:39-44).

His blameless character was afterward revealed as he declined the opportunity, more than a decade later, to avenge his brothers for their disaffection toward him.

## **ABRAHAM**

*For when Elohim made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He by Himself, saying, "I WILL SURELY BLESS YOU AND I WILL SURELY MULTIPLY YOU." And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise, Hebrews 6:13-15.*

Again, another outcome, better in its end than in its beginning. Abraham saw Isaac married and the blessings that would come from the promise of Yahweh through Isaac and Jacob, his grandson.

Nevertheless, his life had its trials. He was tested when Yahweh told him to sacrifice Isaac, the son whom he loved ... a figurative image of Yahweh's Son, Yahshua. Abraham, recognizing that Yahweh could provide, patiently moved forward to obey Yahweh. And Abraham was blessed.

*This is what Yahweh says: "Because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your son, your only son, I swear by my own Name that I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies. And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed – all because you have obeyed Me,"* Genesis 22:16, **NLT**.

Moreover, a greater blessing awaits those who obey Yahweh: "the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is Yahweh" (Hebrews 11:10).

## **JACOB**

Jacob worked for Laban, his mother Rebekah's brother (Gen. 24:29). Laban had two daughters, Leah and Rachel. Jacob loved Rachel, but Laban bartered with him – seven years' service to him, in exchange for Rachel to become his wife. But Laban, seeing an opportunity for advantage, manipulated the situation so that Leah was given to Jacob first. Afterward, for the consideration of seven more years of service, Rachel was given him in marriage.

Jacob patiently endured his uncle's treachery for years. So, when we talk about patience, we may be talking about years, maybe even decades though sometimes, patient endurance may be just for a short time – like Jacob wrestling throughout one night with the Messenger of Yahweh (Whom we understand was the pre-existent Savior, Yahshua) not giving in until he was blessed. And, indeed, he was blessed. (See our in-depth booklet study entitled, ***Did the Savior Pre-exist?***)

*And Elohim said to him, "Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." So He called his name Israel. And Elohim said to him, "I am El Shaddai: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body. The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you." Then*

*Elohim went up from him in the place where He had spoken with him. And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he had spoken with Him, a pillar of stone. He poured out a drink offering on it and poured oil on it. So Jacob called the name of the place where Elohim had spoken with him Bethel,* Genesis 35:10-15, **ESV**.

So, do you see a pattern? If we don't give up and patiently (with persistence) endure, we'll be blessed.

## **YAHSHUA**

Yahshua received stripes, insults, and ultimately death. Abraham, Joseph, Job, Paul, Yahshua and others show us that we are not alone in suffering and in trials that will test the very fabric of who we are.

*Then the soldiers of the governor took Yahshua into the governor's residence and gathered the whole cohort to Him. And they stripped Him [and] put a scarlet military cloak around Him, and weaving a crown of thorns, they put [it] on His head, and [put] a reed in His right hand. And kneeling down before Him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they spat on Him [and] took the reed and repeatedly struck [Him] on his head. And when they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the military cloak and put His [own] clothes on Him, and led Him away in order to impale Him,* Matthew 27:27-31, **LEB**.

Are we willing to drink the cup from which He drank? Are we willing to lay down our lives for the brethren? We have to give up everything, as He was willing to do.

*Fixing our eyes on Yahshua, the Originator and Perfecter of faith, Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the stake, disregarding the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of Elohim. For consider the One who endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary in your souls and give up. You have not yet resisted to the point of [shedding your] blood [as you] struggle against sin,* Hebrews 12:2-4, **LEB**.

Certainly, Yahshua had Yahweh's Spirit and help, which is good news. Nevertheless, He declared that in the world, we will have tribulation (John 16:33). Expect trials, for they will come.

*Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad – for these trials make you partners with Messiah in His suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing His glory when it is revealed to all the world,* 1 Peter 4:12-13, **NLT**.

A great day is ahead – a day of redemption, following the tribulation.

Paul said this of Yahshua:

“It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Messiah Yahshua came into the world to save sinners ... *that He* might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life”(1 Tim. 1:15, 16).

Yahshua had perfect patience, and we must grow and learn to follow in His footsteps.

### Other Prophets

*As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the Name of Yahweh, James 5:10.*

**Question:** How many of Yahweh’s prophets knew Yahweh’s Name? **Answer:** All of them.

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Obadiah, Jonah, Zephaniah, Zechariah – all these, for example, even had Yahweh’s Name within their own.

**Question:** How many had patience? **Answer:** To a degree, all of them.

Some manifested patience more than others. Jonah didn’t do so well when he was charged to go to Nineveh (Jon. 1:2-3). Jeremiah, known as the weeping prophet, wanted to die and cursed the day he was born (Jer. 20:14-18). Neither of these are perhaps the best examples of patience, but other prophets were more exemplary. We’ll take a look at one, Daniel.

### DANIEL

Daniel was in Babylon during the exile of the southern tribes. There, under the rule of Darius the Mede, he disregarded the edict that had been issued, that anyone who made a petition to any Elohim or man besides the king for thirty days, should be cast into the lion’s den (Dan. 6:7) and continued to bow down to Yahweh three times a day in prayer, as he had previously done. For this, he patiently endured being cast into the lion’s den. When he was delivered by Yahweh Who dispatched an angel to shut the lions’ mouths, Darius made the following statement:

*I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom men are to fear and tremble before the Elohim of Daniel; for He is the living Elohim and enduring forever, and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, and His dominion [will be] forever. He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, Who has [also] delivered Daniel from the power of the*

*lions. So this Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian, Daniel 6:26-28.*

Again, the outcome was good because Daniel was focused on Yahweh, kept his composure, and patiently endured difficult times.

And, incidentally, just a side note: Satan is described as a roaring lion going out and seeking whom he may devour, but we should emulate Daniel, noted as faithful (v. 4) to Yahweh and whose complete trust was in Him (v. 23).

### In Conclusion

*For Elohim [is] not unjust, [so as] to forget your work and the love which you demonstrated for His Name [by] having served the saints, and continuing to serve [them]. And we desire each one of you to demonstrate the same diligence for the full assurance of [your] hope until the end, in order that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who inherit the promises through faith and patience, Hebrews 6:10-12, **LEB**.*

We have time yet before Yahshua’s return. How are we to spend that time? Are we spending it wisely?

We continue to preach the Word, standing as a witness to the nations, though most ignore the Word and us. We acknowledge that it will be more difficult as lawlessness increases worldwide.

*Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. This evangel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come., Matthew 24:12-14. Yes, “lawlessness is increased.”*

*And, you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put [some] of you to death, and you will be hated by all because of My Name. Yet not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives. ... the one who endures to the end, he will be saved, Luke 21:16-19; Matthew 24:13.*

Again, through patient endurance, we will be saved and gain our lives. The way to perfect patience is to fully believe Yahweh and trust Him with all of your heart, as it is written:

*Trust in Yahweh with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear Yahweh and turn away from evil, Proverbs 3:5-7.*

May the peace that passes all understanding, be with all of us.

- Elder David Brett



# FIERY TRIALS

## Be Strong and of Good Courage

“in afflictions ... in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in infirmities ... in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses ... as chastened ... as sorrowful ... as poor ... as having nothing ... *in* perils by mine own countrymen, *in* perils by the heathen ... *in* perils among false brethren ... troubled ... perplexed ... persecuted ... cast down ... besides those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily ... always bearing about in the body the dying to the Sovereign Yahshua ...” (2 Cor. 6:4, 5, 12:10, 4:9, 12:10, 6:9, 10, 11:26, 4:8, 9, 11:28, 4:10).

A collage of words, taken severally from the 4th, 6th, 11th, and 12th chapters of 2 Corinthians, make first impressions to conclude that the writer was suffering from, what might be called the 5D syndrome: disappointment; discouragement; despondency; depression; maybe, even, death – and experienced in that order, too, when faith in Yahweh and hope in man are become elusive and you, worn out and tired of human relationships, maybe even declaring as one did, *From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Sovereign Yahshua*, Galatians 6:17. (**King James** Version used throughout)

Ever been there? sure you have, as disappointment; discouragement; despondency; depression, maybe even, wishing you could just die and get life over with – these are experiences not uncommon to the most of men.

But isn't it remarkable, that somehow most people recover, or should have recovered, when what was experienced is past and is relegated as a former thing displaced and permitted to become a distant memory so that now, all things are become new, and they, and you, get on with life, and once again begin to thrive and prosper?

And, yes, sometimes, trouble ... particularly, trouble not of your own making, is so overwhelming, you'd do most anything, even to transgressing what is decent and orderly, and good to the use of edifying, in order to extricate yourself.

However, what is the most therapeutic thing to do, is to commit your cause to Yahweh Who extends to you an invitation, “Come now ... Produce your cause’, saith Yahweh ...” (Isa. 1:18, 41:21). And rest assured, He already knows what you're experiencing and may even, have ordained the experience to satisfy His perfect and lawful purpose of proving you, or improving you

- whether or not, in the midst of adversity, you will faint or stand;
- whether in the midst of adversity, you will continue steadfastly in, earnestly contend for, and stand in defense of, your hard-earned faith or capitulate to what you have allowed to beset you.

### His Grace Covers Trouble

We started this treatise by citing a collage of words, taken from Scripture, that express one man's suffering what we've called the 5D syndrome.

But his life experience didn't spell his end. For though he was troubled on every side, yet he professed himself not distressed. For though he had been at times perplexed, he professed himself not in despair. For though he had been persecuted, he professed himself not destroyed. For though he had experienced stripes, imprisonments, tumults, infirmity, reproach, necessity, persecution, distress, famine, nakedness, peril or sword, things present and as well, things to come, he professed himself ... by the Set Apart Spirit; by the Word of Truth; by the power of Eloha; by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, moreover, succored by, the words of His Sovereign and Master, “My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is perfected in weakness” (2 Cor. 12:9) so that he could reply, *I can do all things through Messiah which strengtheneth me*, Philippians 4:13.



The Apostle Paul required the experience of being struck physically blind as he pursued his purpose of breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the Sect of the Nazarene. It was the only way apparently, by which he would awaken to righteousness; be renewed in the spirit of his mind, and become spiritually enlightened to the deception and darkness of Talmudic Judaism.

And sometimes, we, too, require an on-the-road-to-Damascus experience, because of being stubborn, stiff-necked, recalcitrant, obdurate, obstinate, and even hard-hearted against the Truth that would set us free from the error of our thoughts and our ways when it should be easier just to exclaim, “Yea, And Amen,” to Yahweh’s summons to come out of gross darkness and into marvelous Light; to pass from death to life.

And the Master’s reply, “My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor. 12:9), ranks alongside other words spoken 14 and a half centuries earlier, to ancient Israel as they, under the leadership of Joshua, were preparing to assume the conquest of Canaan.

Moses, 120 years old on this, his last day, and now, readied to go the way of all the earth, encouraged the people whom he had brought to the edge of Canaan,

*Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them; for Yahweh thy Eloha, He [it is] that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee,* Deuteronomy 31:6 – words, as appropriately spoken ... to you, today, so that you might also return reply, *I can do all things through Messiah which strengtheneth me,* Philippians 4:13.

Yes, when others, weak in faith, bring up an evil report, saying, *“We be not able to go up against the people; for they [are] stronger than we ... and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight”* (Num. 14:31, 33), you may counter with other words, like, “Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it” (Num. 14:30).

Friend, Yahweh meets you where you are ... to comfort and to console and to empower you who are languishing in your own 5D syndrome; to affirm you who lack self-confidence; to empower you to affirm your persuasion that henceforth, nothing but you falling into the temptation and snare of sin, could separate you from the boundless love of Yahweh and by Whom you are, therefore, become more than a conqueror and an overcomer.

## **The Rewards for Overcoming**

In Yahshua’s farewell remarks to His disciples – before He was betrayed and suffered many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and was killed and raised again the third day – He said, “Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own ... These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16:32, 33).

In the Apostle John’s apocalyptic sequel, the Book of Revelation, we read eight times, concerning “*Overcoming*.”

“To him that overcometh” ... and keepeth My Words unto the end ... will I give to eat of the Tree of Life, which is in the midst of the paradise of Eloha, (2:7)

“To him that overcometh” ... shall not be hurt in the second death, (2:11);

“To him that overcometh” ... will I give to eat of and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it, (2:17)

“To him that overcometh” ... will I give power over the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star, (2:26-28);

“To him that overcometh” ... the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the Book of Life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels, (3:5);

“To him that overcometh” ... will I make a pillar in the temple of My Eloha, and he shall go no more out: and I will write unto him the name of My Eloha, and name of the city of My Eloha ... and ... My new Name, (3:12);

“To him that overcometh” ... will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne, (3:21);

“He that overcometh ... shall inherit all things; and I will be his Eloha, and he shall be My son,” (21:7).

Given such exceeding great, and precious promises, why then, should you think fiery trials – affliction; tumult; infirmity; reproach; necessity; persecution; distress; chastening; sorrow; poverty as having nothing; sundry perils measured to you by your own; by the heathen; among brethren falsely so called, and besides those things that are

without, that which cometh upon you daily, always bearing about in your bodies the marks of the dying of the Sovereign Yahshua – are some strange thing happening to you? Why not instead, rejoice in having been found worthy to suffer, even shame if necessary, for the sake of His Name? Why not instead, appreciate knowing that you have but by a measure, filled up that which is behind of the sufferings of Messiah in your flesh, for His Body's sake?

In the chronicles of the *Tanach*, we are provided examples of four, on whom trouble was visited, but who were encouraged by words like, *Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them; for Yahweh thy Eloha, He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee*, Deuteronomy 31:6, and who wavered not in their persuasion that Yahweh was able to deliver them from their trouble.

Three men, bound in their coats and their turbans, were cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace, which, heated seven times hotter than usual, consumed the most mighty men in the king's army who were assigned the task of committing their bodies to this torturous death.

And during that time while it should have been expected that they had roasted, a fourth, having the form of The Son of Eloha, was observed in their company by the king and his counsellors who could but only marvel that the fire, had not accomplished the extirpation of their bodies but that they, could emerge therefrom without an hair of their hair singed, neither their coats changed, nor the smell of fire passed on them!

Do you suppose this was done in a corner, so that only few would have heard this report? Oh, no! the decree issued throughout all the provinces of Babylon, requiring "the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image" (Dan. 3:2) of gold whose height was threescore cubits (119.28 feet, or the equivalent of a ten-story building) and that at the sound of cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of music, all people, nations, and languages within the imperial realm, would bow the head and bend the knee, or suffer the penalty of being sentenced to being cast into a burning, fiery furnace for noncompliance, was so published that all from the least to the greatest were informed. Well, three, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah stood in defiance (Daniel 3:16-18).

Do you suppose their response to the king was

spoken quietly, in a private audience? Do you suppose, that a burning fiery furnace, heated seven times hotter than usual, was situated in the king's backyard, within a fenced enclosure, and that this fiery execution was intended to be a secret matter? No, Nebuchadnezzar was impressed with the resignation of these three to a mortal fate. (Dan. 3:26-30).

We are supplied a second example from the same Book ... different king, different imperial realm. Daniel, a companion of the former three, maintained his custom of thrice daily, opening the windows of his house toward Jerusalem, kneeling upon his knees to pray, and giving thanks to Eloha. This, he continued to do, knowing the governors and the princes, and the counsellors and the captains, with the approbation of Darius the king, had made a firm decree that whosoever should ask a petition of any elohim or man for thirty days, except the king, should be cast into the lion's den. Some might regard him foolhardy, tempting fate ... that in the face of persecution, he would maintain his integrity by continuing steadfastly in, and earnestly contending for his faith! But just maybe, he had an insight into something that had not yet been written, and would not be for another five hundred years: That with much tribulation must we enter into the Kingdom, and that all they who live righteously will suffer persecution (Acts 14:22; 2 Tim. 3:12).

Well, he'd known of the deliverance of his three friends from the burning fiery furnace, heated seven times hotter than usual and he was just as persuaded as they, that his Eloha was able to deliver him from the mouths of ravening lions, but if not, yet would he cease not to trust in, and acknowledge Yahweh, by leaning to his own understanding!

Seeing you also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses (Heb. 12:1), why wouldn't you lay aside every weight, and the sin of unbelief which seeks to beset you and run with patience the race that is set before you?

### **Trouble Faithfully Endured: A Witness Observed**

In the Record of the Acts of the Apostles, we read of apostles, threatened ... later, even beaten, and commanded to speak no more of this Nazarene Whom their persecutors had killed, but Whom they preached was risen from the dead.

Reporting all that had occurred in the precincts of the temple court, and reveling also, that many who had heard Peter's homily at the outer court of the Temple, believed, these disciples returning to their

own, stirred up their company so that the place of their gathering was shaken again, and filled with the Set Apart Spirit and they all, become more emboldened to speak the Word of Yahweh.

The Master had as much foretold told His disciples that they would be persecuted, and when they were so tormented, to flee to another city. This His disciples have done throughout the past two millennia, taking the Message with them, distributing Good News along the way. We read in the Acts, “Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled ... preaching the Word ...” (Acts 11:19).

Your obedience to Yahweh’s commandment, even, and especially, at the expense of patiently enduring very much trouble will serve, as a witness and testimony to others who may be induced to inquire the reason you should be willing to give yourself to so great a cause. All the more reason, you should be ready always to give an answer to them who ask you a reason of the hope that is in you (1 Pet. 3:15).

So, if you should be made to partake of His suffering; if you should be made a reproach for His Name, blessed are you ... because He suffered, leaving you an example that you should also. But understand of this: There is a difference between suffering trouble because of, and for His sake, and suffering trouble as a consequence of your trespass of His Commandment. Very many fail to make that distinction ... a distinction, incidentally, that may well preclude their admittance into the Kingdom. You must know the reason trouble has visited you. Is your trouble come to prove you or to improve you? If, indeed, your trouble is of your own making, then contrite repentance and confession will go far in delivering you, per His promise that He will not permit you to suffer above you are able to endure, but will with the trial make a way of escape that you might be able to endure it (1 Cor. 10:13).

### **One Final Example**

In Acts, chapter 9, Saul discovers that it is, indeed, a fearful thing to fall into the hands of Living, Consuming Fire. Knocked to the ground on a highway to Damascus, where if he should find any of the Sect of the Nazarene to be returned to Jerusalem for trial, He has an encounter with Yahshua Who directs him to go into the city and there, Ananias would tell him the certainty of what should thereafter become his life’s work. Among the words Yahshua spoke to Ananias, frightened by the prospect of meeting the tormentor of This Way,

were these: *For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for My Name’s sake*, Acts 9:16.

And suffer he would. (All the introductory words with which we introduced this discourse, were taken from his letter to the Assembly at Corinth. Very much of the content of the Acts of the Apostles from Acts, chapter 9, to its conclusion is a record of the Apostle’s experience and, yes, and accounting of the great things he suffered for His Name’s sake, too.) Everywhere he went, the Set Apart Spirit through the voices of prophets and prophetesses witnessed “that bonds and afflictions abide me” (Acts 20:23). In his epistle to the Assembly of Philippi, he wrote, *And many of the brethren in the Sovereign One, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the Word without fear*, Philippians 1:14.

### **Conclusion**

In Yahshua’s farewell to His disciples, He asserted that the Set Apart Spirit Which should be sent them after His departure, would

- guide them in all Truth;
- teach them all things;
- bring back to their remembrance what Commandments He had given them; and
- show them things to come.

Show them things to come? Throughout the breadth of the Scripture, the Set Apart Spirit is doing just that, so that we need not think it strange when once, and again, we experience afflictions; stripes; imprisonments; tumults; infirmities; reproaches; necessities; persecutions; distresses; chastening; sorrow; poverty, as having nothing; sundry perils, besides those things that are without, that which comes upon us daily: always bearing about in the body the dying to the Sovereign Yahshua – filling up that which is behind of the afflictions of the Messiah in our flesh, as if some strange thing is happening to us.

And so, we commit these things to you, so that you may pass your sojourning during these perilous times and last days with renewed fervor and zeal; give greater diligence to make your calling and election sure; and, be able to rejoice in such coming of fiery trials, that you have been privileged to bear the marks in your bodies as well, the dying of the Sovereign Yahshua.

- Elder John W. Reece

# WHAT IS TRUTH?

Considering the conversation between Pontius Pilate and Yahshua the Messiah, we read in John 18:36-38: *Yahshua answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Yahshua answered, "You say [correctly] that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"* (*New American Standard Bible* used throughout, unless otherwise noted.)

Obviously, Pilate was not of the truth. But the truth speaks of Yahshua and why He came.

## **The Truth Is:**

- The truth is that Yahshua came to recover the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Matt. 15:24) – a mystery unveiled at His arrival (Rom. 16:25-26).
- The truth is that Yahshua is a sacrifice for all, who will accept the terms (Heb. 9:14), for the forgiveness of sins (1 John 1:6-10); for them who no longer practice sin (1 John 3:4-6).
- The truth is that Yahshua was with the Father from the beginning and was always with the Father, but is not the Father, but rather the Son, and is the living and walking Word of Yahweh (John 1:1, 14), setting the example for all to follow (1 Pet. 2:21-23).
- The truth is that Yahshua is the exact Representation of the Father (Heb. 1:3), and has always been a Mediator between mankind and the Father (John 1:18).
- The truth is that Yahshua is the Craftsman, while Yahweh is the Draftsman (Prov. 8:22-30), and everything created was done by the Son and for the Son (Col. 1:15-19).
- The truth is that Yahshua is the Salvation of Yahweh and in His Name is the only Name given, among men, in which one must be saved (Acts 4:12).
- The truth is that Yahshua did not come to do away with His Father's laws (Matt. 5:17-18), but to establish and magnify them, making the law honorable (Isa. 42:21).
- The truth is that Yahshua taught repentance toward Yahweh and that the Kingdom of Yahweh is coming to rule over all (Matt. 4:17). And guess Whose Law will be upheld throughout the entire kingdom on the earth? (Isa. 2:2-3; Mic. 4:2). That is the truth!

## **A Remnant will be Saved**

Those of the truth, to whom truth is revealed, will come to understand these things. But they will be few as Jeremiah prophesied of the end of the age. *"Return, O faithless sons," declares Yahweh; "For I am a Master to you, and I will take you one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion,"* Jeremiah 3:14.

Through the end of this chapter, this speaks of end-time prophecy for the lost sheep of the house of Israel, the northern ten tribes dispersed throughout the world. A small flock, or remnant, of Israel will be saved. Others will be grafted into the olive tree, though it doesn't appear the numbers will be significant. One from a city of millions? A minuscule number, indeed.

Yahshua Himself said to strive to enter the narrow gate because many will try but not be able (Luke 13:24). He also says in another place, that “many are called, but few are chosen” (Matt. 22:14). Hence, the reason Peter said to “make your calling and election sure” (2 Pet. 1:10).

### **Truth is Not Easy for Some to Hear**

There are other things in the world which are true, but Scripture defines truth as that which leads to eternal life. *Truthful lips will be established forever, but a lying tongue is only for a moment*, Proverbs 12:19.

*A truthful witness saves lives, but he who utters lies is treacherous*, Proverbs 14:25.

*But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? He who is of Elohim hears the words of Elohim; for this reason you do not hear [them], because you are not of Elohim*, John 8:45-47. Those called by Yahweh hear the Messiah. He produces growth (1 Cor. 3:6).

But there are vessels of honor and vessels of dishonor (2 Tim 2:20). Regrettably, the vessels of dishonor – they which refuse to hear the Word of Yahweh (1 Thess. 4:8) – are many today. Of them, Yahshua would say, *You are of [your] father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own [nature], for he is a liar and the father of lies*, John 8:44. The evil spirit ruling the world works in the lives of the disobedient. On the other hand, the Spirit of Yahweh is calling a precious few to be firstfruits.

In Yahshua’s farewell to His disciples, but hours before the treachery in Gethsemane, Yahshua declared to His disciples, *I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; [that is] the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, [but] you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you*, John 14:16-17.

Yahweh is Spirit and is equated with Truth. In John 14:6, we read, *Yahshua said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*

A true worshiper today needs to be willing to walk in Yahweh’s Spirit and in His Truth. The Master affirmed, that the hour is now, “when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit

and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. Elohim is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:23-24).

Yahshua did the Father’s will, as They were together, the Father with Him and He with the Father by the Spirit emanating from the Father.

*Yahshua answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him*, John 14:23.

### **Serve Him in Truth; Don’t Reject Him**

*Yahweh is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth*, Psalm 145:18.

The sum of His Word is Truth and every one of His Righteous Ordinances is everlasting (Psa. 119:142, 160). Yet, people are, and will be, destroyed for want of knowing Truth and His Righteous Ordinances. And they which reject His Truth, or who forget His Righteous Ordinances, He will also reject them and forget their children (Hos. 4:6). For while He deals gently with the ignorant and misguided (Heb. 5:2) and responds to those with contrite and repentant hearts, Yahweh won’t hear sinners who persist in sin (John 9:31).

Here (Hos. 4:6), as in Exodus 34:7, generational curses are promised. Children not trained in the way they should go (Prov. 22:6), neither brought up in nurture and admonition (Eph. 6:4) – apart from them calling upon Him in truth (Psa. 145:18) – will grow up hating Yahweh.

Yes, generational curses can be broken. *The eyes of Yahweh are toward the righteous, and His ears are [open] to their cry. The face of Yahweh is against evildoers, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. [The righteous] cry and Yahweh hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. Yahweh is near to the brokenhearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit*, Psalm 34:15-18.

“Only fear Yahweh and serve Him in truth with all your heart ...” (1 Sam. 12:24). *For you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Master; walk as children of light (for the fruit of the light [consists] in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to Yahweh*, Ephesians 5:8-10.

Obedience to His Word, the fruit of the light – goodness, righteousness, and truth – and maintaining the answer of a good conscience, void of offense toward Yahweh and man (Acts 24:16), are synonymous with what is pleasing to Yahweh.

## Becoming Sanctified

*Sanctify them in the Truth; Your Word is Truth.*  
John 17:17.

*For this is the will of Yahweh, your sanctification ... that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor; not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know Yahweh,*  
1 Thessalonians 4:3, 4-5.

*For we are His workmanship, created in Messiah Yahshua for good works, which Yahweh prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them,*  
Ephesians 2:10.

Nominal Christianity takes the position that the Messiah came to do it all, so we don't have to do anything. But as we see, the Scriptures teach otherwise.

Those in Berea received the Word with great eagerness, and examined the Scriptures daily to confirm that what they had heard spoken by Paul and Silas, were true (Acts 17:10-12).

So instead of saying Yahshua did it all and so we don't have to or stating the Law no longer has to be obeyed, we read, for example, the following exhortations from the pastoral epistles:

- **1 Timothy 1:3**, *As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may **instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines.***
- **1 Timothy 4:6**, *In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Messiah Yahshua, [constantly] **nourished on the Words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following.***
- **1 Timothy 4:13**, *Until I come, **give attention to the [public] reading [of Scripture], to exhortation and teaching.***
- **1 Timothy 5:20**, *Those who continue in sin, **rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also will be fearful of [sinning].***
- **2 Timothy 1:3a**, *I thank Elohim, whom I serve with a clear conscience **The Way my forefathers did...** (see Genesis 26:5).*
- **2 Timothy 2:15**, ***Be diligent to present yourself approved to Elohim as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the Word of Truth.***
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17**, ***All Scripture is inspired by Elohim and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of Elohim may be adequate, equipped for every good work.***
- **2 Timothy 4:2-3**, ***Preach the Word; be ready***

*in season [and] out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure **sound doctrine**; but [wanting] to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires.*

- **Titus 1:9**, ***holding fast the faithful Word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.***
- **Titus 2:1**, ***As for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.***
- **Titus 2:14**, ***Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.***
- **Titus 3:1-2**, ***Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, to malign no one, to be uncontentious, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.***

## Conclusion

It is very clear that the Law is purposed to keep the Assemblies and their individual members from lawlessness.

*For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope,*  
Romans 15:4.

Hope in the Scriptures? Yes. They speak of Yahshua and tell us also how to live in the Truth – a Truth Yahshua upheld, and Which is found in the saints “who keep the Commandments of Elohim and their faith in Yahshua” (Rev. 14:12).

- Elder David Brett



# Universal Salvation?



You will likely hear of the concept of Universal Salvation, also called Universal Reconciliation. This concept states that all humanity will be saved and no one is excluded. This idea brings the following Scripture to mind:

*There is a way [which seems] right to a man, but its end is the way of death, Proverbs 16:25. (The **New American Standard Bible** used throughout, unless otherwise noted).*

Yahweh and Yahshua are very clear about the consequences of continuing in sin. But the idea of Universal Salvation suggests that the consequence of a second death is no longer a deterrent to living any way one wants.

## Consequences of Sin

The Apostle Paul understood the consequences of sin and did not teach a Universal Reconciliation or Salvation ideology, but rather the end of those who persist in sin.

*So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live, Romans 8:12-13.*

This agrees with what he says in Galatians 5, in which no one who continues in the flesh will enter the Kingdom of Yahweh. The deeds of the flesh are sin, and sin is the transgression of the Law. But rather, we walk in the Spirit, producing the fruit of the Spirit – doing righteous deeds, rather than Lawless deeds – and are, therefore, not under the penalty of the Law.

But what if we no longer walk in the Spirit, but become entangled again under the yoke of sin?

*But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity and does according to all the abominations that a wicked man does, will he live? All his righteous deeds which he has done will not be remembered for his treachery which he has committed and his sin which he has committed; for them he will die. Yet you say, “The way of Yahweh is not right.” Hear now, O house of Israel! Is My way not right? Is it not your ways that are not right? When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity and dies because of it, for his iniquity which he has committed he will die, Ezekiel 18:24-26.*

Preceding this passage, in verse 20, Yahweh declares, “The person who sins will die.” We know there is a first death (physical) and also a second death (spiritual).

Could this be just talking about the first death? No, there is a deeper teaching here than just a first death.

The Great White Throne judgment proceeds after Yahshua’s millennial rule, which from its beginning – at the end of the tribulation period – will be introduced with a FIRST resurrection. Those whose names are not recorded in the Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire, which means THEIR END is NOT life, but rather death ... a second death, as it is written:

*Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire, Revelation 20:14-15.*

Those facing this death are twice-dead, a finality of existence without the possibility of resurrection, because in the eternal Kingdom, there will be no admittance to evil.

## Kingdom Come, Not for Everyone

*Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying, Revelation 22:15.*

Yahshua in speaking to the Pharisees, in Matthew 8:12, prophesied that they whom He intended should be “the sons of the Kingdom,” who were supposed to be the good seed producing good fruit, but who instead were corrupt, producing bad fruit and were no longer thought to be good seed, would “be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

*Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever, Jude 1:11-13.*

Ideas such as the immortal soul are false teachings since immortality which we should seek, is not inherently a characteristic of the soul. For though there is eternal life through Yahshua, attaining eternal life has conditions that must be satisfied. Look at what the author of Hebrews says:

*For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES. Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on [the testimony of] two or three witnesses. How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of Elohim, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? Hebrews 10:26-29.*

Death is bad, but the second death is even worse. Judgment, in this context, is CONDEMNATION. No further forgiveness, only the lake of fire. This judgment of fire comes from heaven, and not from earth.

*For after all it is [only] just for Elohim to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and [to give] relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Master Yahshua will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out*

*retribution to those who do not know Elohim and to those who do not obey the evangel of our Master Yahshua. These will pay the penalty of **eternal** destruction, away from the presence of the Master and from the glory of His power, 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9.*

“**Eternal** destruction” – this agrees with “eternal” in the following Scripture:

*But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an **eternal** sin, Mark 3:29.* These are Yahshua’s own words.

Yahweh condemns and rules with judicial judgment. Though committed to the Son (John 5:22), the Son does His will and He is in agreement with the Father.

*If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the **eternal** fire. If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be cast into the fiery hell (Gehenna), Matthew 18:8-9.*

This is the same wording, but with the definite article, emphasizing total and final destruction without necessarily, any such connotation of “everlasting.”

It’s Yahshua’s own words. It is Authority proceeding from Heaven and pronouncing upon those who continue in unrepentant sin, that they will be cast into the eternal fire. And, they who heard His words, understood He was making a plain statement of truth – the **eternal**, fire and destruction, leaving no doubt to what He was saying.

*And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone, Revelation 19:20.*

*Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of Elohim, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and **he will be tormented with fire and brimstone** in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And **the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name,**” Revelation 14:9-11.*



Similarly, they who blaspheme Yahweh's Spirit, there is no forgiveness, NOT in this life and NOT in the next. This is the truth.

The problem is, a teaching of Universal Salvation is now being presented to some of the Assemblies, and Scripture is being misappropriated to justify the teaching. So, let's take a look at the go-to Scriptures of those who are promoting this idea.

#### **Five Go-To Scriptures – Number One –**

**Colossians 1:18-20:** *He (Yahshua) is also Head of the body, the Assembl[ies]; and He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. For it was the [Father's] good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile **all things** to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His stake; through Him, [I say], whether things on earth or things in heaven.*

Here we have it. The Messiah is reconciling ALL THINGS to Himself. This is Universal Reconciliation or Salvation. Right? Not so fast. Let's read a little further.

*And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, [engaged] in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach – **if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the evangel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister,** Colossians 1:21-23.*

If, is one of those conditional statements. "Not moved away" speaks similarly to what the author of Hebrews said when saying "fallen away":

*For in the case of those who have once been*

*enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good Word of Elohim and the powers of the age to come, and [then] have **fallen away**, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again impale to themselves the Son of Elohim and put Him to open shame. For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from Elohim; but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it **ends up being burned**, Hebrews 6:4–8.*

If there is one thing we can say about Scripture, it is that there is consistency. Notice, especially the last part, "**ends up being burned.**" The author understood the concept of fire and that in this example, those things that are worthless and close to being cursed will be destroyed. That is the final curse for those who fall away after coming into the knowledge of the truth (Heb. 10:26).

#### **Number Two**

**1 Timothy 4:9-10:** *It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance. For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living Elohim, Who is the Savior of **all men**, especially of believers.*

"The Savior of all men ...?" But will all men be saved? Will all men accept the Savior? We don't think Scripture indicates that.

*First of all, then, I urge that entreaties [and] prayers, petitions [and] thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all righteousness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of Elohim our Savior,*



Who desires **all men** to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one Elohim, and one Mediator also between Elohim [and] men, [the] man Messiah Yahshua, Who gave Himself as a ransom for **all**, the testimony [given] at the proper time, 1 Timothy 2:1-6.

Paul states here, Yahweh desires that *all men* be saved, coming to a knowledge of the truth. But will *all men* desire to be saved? Yahshua came to provide Himself as a ransom for *all*, and we are charged to pray for *all*. But to assume *all* will be saved? Not so fast. We have to revisit the idea of sinning willfully.

*If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not [leading] to death, he shall ask and [Elohim] will for him give life to those who commit sin not [leading] to death. There is a sin [leading] to death; I do not say that he should make request for this. All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death,* 1 John 5:16-17.

The sin not leading to death is the ignorant sin. Willful sin is entirely different. We don't go on sinning once we come into the faith, we rather put to death the sinful deeds of the body. It's in doing so, that we will live. Paul said in Romans 8:13, *for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

Here is the definition of willful sin and the end result of it:

*You shall have one law for him who does [anything] unintentionally, for him who is native among the sons of Israel and for the alien who sojourns among them. But **the person who does** [anything] **defiantly**, whether he is native or an alien, that one is blaspheming Yahweh; and that person shall be cut off from among his people. Because he has despised the Word of Yahweh and has broken His commandment, that person shall be completely cut off; his guilt [will be] on him,* Numbers 15:29-31.

Defiance is an attitude of not caring and inwardly shaking one's fist at Yahweh. We find agreement in Hebrews 10:26: "For if we go on sinning willfully ... there no longer remains a sacrifice for sin." Numbers 15:31, "that person shall be completely cut off; his guilt *will be* on him" is further corroborated, moreover, by these words from Hebrews 10:26b-27: "... there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries." Sorry, no more sacrifices for the individual cut off, just death.

What Yahshua asserted about Judas who betrayed

Him, "It would have been better if that man had not been born" (Matt. 26:24), could also be affirmed for that individual cut off.

We affirmed earlier, there is consistency in Scripture.

In Leviticus 16, we read:

*He (the high priest) shall make atonement for the holy place, because of the impurities of the sons of Israel and because of their transgressions in regard to **all** their sins; and thus he shall do for the tent of meeting which abides with them in the midst of their impurities. When he goes in to make atonement in the holy place, no one shall be in the tent of meeting until he comes out, that he may make atonement for himself and for his household and for **all** the assembly of Israel.* Leviticus 16:16-17.

But then, we read in Hebrews 9:6-7,

*Now when these things have been thus prepared, the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle, performing the divine worship, but into the second only the high priest [enters], once a year; not without [taking] blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in **ignorance**.* (See our mini-study concerning **The Hope of Israel**.)

All their sins, for *all* the assembly? But we understand as did the author of Hebrews, that *all* is NOT *all*. Just as Yahshua is NOT going to save *all*, as in, universally, *all* people.

Entering into, and making atonement in the holy of holies, is NOT for "defiant" sinners; NOT for those who blaspheme Yahweh's Spirit; NOT for those who, after receiving the knowledge of the truth, choose to continue sinning willfully.

Let's look at this in a different way. Yahshua said that whatever we ask in His Name will be granted to us. True or false?

*Whatever you ask in My Name, **that will I do**, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me **anything** in My Name, **I will do** [it],* John 14:13-14.

Think about it: Can we ask for that which is forbidden and expect to receive it? Can we ask for anything outside of Yahweh's will, and expect it to be done?

So, along the same line of thinking, can we assume *all* means *all*, even if *all* will not abide by His commandments? Should we assume *all* will believe in the only begotten Son, for certainly not *all* will ... even as the Apostle Paul observed in 2 Thessalonians 3:2b, "for NOT *all* have faith."

Some will rather believe in the anti-Messiah, and

receive the mark and worship the image of the beast. So, no, not *all*, just like *all* can't ask for anything in Yahshua's Name and expect to receive it.

### Number Three

**Ephesians 1:9-12:** *He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, [that is], the summing up of all things in Messiah, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Messiah would be to the praise of His glory.*

All things, means, all things, right? Things in heaven and things on the earth? What did the Apostle Peter say?

*But the day of Yahweh will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and righteousness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of Elohim, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! 2 Peter 3:10-12.*

The Day of Yahweh is speaking of a time prior to Yahshua's return. Peter was familiar with the prophecies of Joel and of Zechariah, and of Malachi 4:1-3, the latter of which reads:

*"For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze," says Yahweh of hosts, "so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear My Name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall. You will tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day which I am preparing," says Yahweh of hosts.*

Are the ashes something that indicates life or death? After the 1,000-year reign of Messiah Yahshua, the second resurrection takes place and the rest of mankind are judged for their deeds. Some will be condemned to the lake of fire, as we've already seen from Scripture. After this, Yahshua will make all things ready for Yahweh Himself to come down from His throne. It may be that there will only be spirit-beings left, since there will be no

more sea (symbolic of people, Rev. 21:1).

Nevertheless, in all of this, nothing sinful, evil or wicked nor unpurified, will remain, since Yahweh cannot tolerate or be around such things – only, a new heaven and a new earth, all things purified. With this in mind, let's read the passage again:

**Ephesians 1:9-12:** *He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Messiah, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Messiah would be to the praise of His glory.*

"Summing up" means in the end Messiah will, with the Father, be all and in all, of them that remain.

### Number Four

Luke 19:10: *For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

The Universalist would posit here, that everyone, that is, all mankind, is lost ... which they are, until they aren't. But "everyone," is not necessarily what Yahshua is saying here.

In response to a woman who, though not of the family of Israel, wanted to be healed, "... He answered and said, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel'" (Matt. 15:24). Nevertheless, by her persistence and faith, she was granted healing as we, too, are granted that honor because of a faith that produces repentance and a desire to become a part of the family through Messiah,

Zacchaeus, whom Yahshua called a son of Abraham, through the line of Isaac to whom the promises were given, was a sinner – a sinner, however, who showed true repentance. Let's read the passage in context.

*He (Yahshua) entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man called by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and he was rich. Zacchaeus was trying to see who Yahshua was, and was unable because of the crowd, for he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree in order to see Him, for He was about to pass through that way. When Yahshua came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house." And he hurried and came down and received Him gladly. When they saw it, they all [began] to grumble, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stopped*

and said to the Master, “Behold, Master, half of my possessions I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much.” And Yahshua said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost,” Luke 19:1-10.

In none of this, however, may one deduce that all of mankind will be saved. Only those who repent. Let’s examine another passage from Matthew 22:11-14:

*But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes, and he said to him, “Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?” And the man was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, “Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few [are] chosen.”*

In Revelation 19:7-8, we are told the bride prepares herself, and is given white linen garments. Even those who follow her in – having come out of “the great tribulation” (Rev. 7:14) – are able to wear purified white robes because of their repentance toward Yahweh through Yahshua.

We can appreciate the similarity in weddings today, in which the bride and bridesmaids wear special garments.

Nevertheless, there is inconclusive evidence in support of the idea of Universal Salvation.

### Number Five

**Acts 3:19-21:** *Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Master; and that He may send Yahshua, the Messiah appointed for you, whom heaven must receive until [the] period of restoration of all things about which Elohim spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.*

A restoration of *all* things? We understand this to mean restored truths of Yahweh’s Word – the use of, rather than the covering up, of His Name, His Feast days, etc.

What prophets did Luke, the author of the Acts, have in mind? Well, verse 22 clarifies his meaning. He is speaking of Moses.

*Moses said, “YAHWEH ELOHIM WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN; TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED to everything He says to you. And it will*

*be that every soul that does not heed that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people,”* Acts 3:22-23; Deut. 18:15, 18-19.

Reading Scripture contextually really does give clarity. In this case, the Universal Salvation (or Universal Reconciliation) doctrine is discarded into the dumpster.

### Conclusion

In light of the these things, it is hard to understand how this false doctrine of Universal Salvation has gained ground, among those presumed to have already been established in the knowledge of the truth.

This notion of Universal Salvation is part and parcel to the Once Saved, Always Saved, or Eternal Security, apostasy – and all, but false doctrines not fitting for Yahweh’s people to believe in, or hold fast to. We have presented a warning not to syncretize what’s false with what’s true.

It finally comes down to this: mankind has been given free will. Though Yahweh urges man in Deuteronomy 30:19 to choose blessing and life, the outcome of being saved, the truth is, not *all* men will contritely repent, confess, and forsake willful sin. And Yahweh, though He is not going to take away man’s free will, he will take away one’s life who, through continuing willfully in sin, rejects His offer of Grace.

*Then He said to me, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his Elohim and he will be My son. 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,”* Revelation 21:6-8.

The second death is not a purification process, where one comes out the other side purified. It is the cessation of life. It is death. It is the outcome of having in this time, chosen life.

In addition to what we’ve seen already, is this additional plain statement from Yahshua:

*Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him Who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell (gehenna),* Matthew 10:28. (See our in-depth study on **Understanding HELLFIRE**).

- Elder David Brett



# The Coming Apocalypse

*Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, "Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise answered, saying, "Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves." And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, "Master, Master, open to us." But He answered, "Truly, I say to you, I do not know you." Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour, Matthew 25:1-13.*

*Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of Son of Man. They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark ... and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away ... and destroyed them all. Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all so will it be on the day when Ben Adam is revealed. On that day, let the one who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away, and likewise let the one who is in the field not turn back. Remember Lot's wife. Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it. I tell you, "In that night there will be two in one bed. One will be taken and the other left. There will be two women grinding together. One will be taken and the other left." And they said to him, "Where, Master?" He said to them, "Where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather," Luke 17:26-27; Matthew 24:39; Luke 17:27-37.*

*But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ... Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Sovereign is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. ... Blessed is that servant whom his Master will find so doing when He comes, Matthew 24:36, 42-44, 46.*

*But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man. ... Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will not pass away, Luke 21:34-36, 33.*

## **Airbags Aren't Pillows; Don't Drive Drowsy**

Recently, I was driving Interstate 44, and this message, posted by the Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT) on a digital roadside sign, captured my attention.

Many today are Driving LIFE Drowsy ... Asleep, At The Wheel – so wrapped up in cares and affairs; so much allowing the deceitfulness of riches admittance into their lives; so much of the substance of those things that can be possessed, but which perish with the using; so much leaning to their own understanding and a way that seems right, that they've little left to consider that it is in acknowledging Yahweh and His inviolate will and immutable Law, that their path is enlightened and illuminated so that they need not trip over, and become crushed by, the stumbling blocks of loss and adversity.

Each of us faces the same struggle of balancing time and aspirations (interpreted here to mean, the cares and affairs of life) with maintaining, and sustaining, a faithful steadfastness toward pursuing the will of Yahweh ~ simply stated, SANCTIFICATION.

And so, to begin this discourse, let us make recourse to the first clause of Psalm 31:15: "My times are in Thy hand ..."

We are contemporary Marthas – "careful and troubled about many things" (Luke 10:41), neglecting, or at the least, deferring to the morrow, that one thing which is needful: choosing that good part, sitting at Yahshua's feet, hearing His Word.

It is today, as it was then. The Apostle Peter, in his general epistles, wrote: *Yea, I think it meet... to stir you up by putting you in remembrance... That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the Commandment of us the apostles of the Master and Saviour ... Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things ... be established in the present truth ... gird up the loins of your mind ... as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: but as He Which hath called you is set apart, so be set apart in all manner of behavior; because it is written, "Be ye set apart; for I am set apart, 2 Peter 1:13, 3:2, 1:12; 1 Peter 1:13, 14-16.*

Very much of the verbiage that proceeds from our pulpit and which is written in our literature, is spoken and written over and over, and is expended on correction, instruction, and exhortation to a people to go on to perfection.

But the Truth is, the observable outcome manifests so little application of that verbiage in a people going on to perfection, leaving the Word Expositor, drained and discouraged and feeling himself, that he, too, has come short of that glory which Yahweh has purposed for His people.

It's very nearly that time, my friend: Your redemption is drawing nigh and you can ill afford to resign yourself to, "Oh well, life goes on." For that's what scoffers say: "Where is the promise of His coming?... all things continue as they were..." (2 Pet. 3:4).

Yes, life goes on, but what life? stale and stagnant; dark and miry. But that's not the life, and that more abundantly, which Yahshua promised to give us.

Today, you will hear people who have some little knowledge of time and season, pontificate, saying, "We're mortgaging our children's and our grandchildren's future. But these aren't willing personally, to stop their contribution toward increasing that mortgage ... unaware, that as long as breath is warming their bodies, they are mortgaging their futures, too.

## **Rome, Revisited**

Many writers and thinkers have drawn many similarities between the decline of the Roman Empire, and the current decline of the Western World – Europe, and especially, the United States of America – that has characterized the past 50 years.

The social mores and financial belt-tightening of a people accustomed to having lived through the decades of the 1930's, 1940's, and 1950's have given place to ultra-liberal, socialistic politics that has compromised principles; abridged personal freedoms; redefined lifestyles; and, been given over to consumption, consumption, consumption ...

But at what expense, as a people gladly surrender what had been so long cherished of principles and freedoms and Scriptural foundations of financial security and integrity, to a Government positioned as a generous benefactor doling out economic stimuli and social welfare, and robbing its constituencies of personal initiative and ambition.

That's where we're at: The United States and many other, thought-to-be first world countries, presently wallowing in serious moral turbulence and fiscal instability, as war is waged by the 'woke' folk against past cherished institutions like traditional marriage between one man and one woman, till death do they part; against propagation of family, and family values, purposed of the Creator; against the religion of the Bible and Its practitioners whom

they would criminalize as narrow-minded bigots.

And let's speak particularly of wallowing in serious fiscal instability – very much related, incidentally, to the United States and many other, thought-to-be first world countries, wallowing in serious moral turbulence; among the United States and many other, thought-to-be first world countries, hanging on, but barely, at the precipice to social catastrophe and economic collapse.

We came across a recent ***Prophetic Trends*** article appearing in the Assemblies of Yahweh publication, the ***Sacred Name Broadcaster***, entitled, “A World On Edge.” It was a sober read. The author of that piece, cited words from Merrill C. Tenney's two-volume work, ***New Testament Survey*** and ***New Testament Times***, a vivid portrait of the Roman empire during the formative period of the Messianic faith.

Addressing the socio-economic aura of the time, he writes:

*The world of the first century was not unlike the modern world of the [21st] century. Rich and poor, virtuous men and criminals, free men and slaves, lived side by side and the social and economic conditions that prevailed were similar to those of the present day. The old free-holding populace of Italy had disappeared. Many of the earlier senatorial families had perished in the party struggles. ... In their place had risen a new aristocracy, the landholders who controlled public lands by their influence and who bought cheaply the private lands of those whose families were impoverished by war or by the impossibility of making a living from a small farm. ... Largely because of the rise of slavery which was built upon the use of military captives, the middle class was almost crushed out of the empire. Many had been killed in the wars and proscriptions. Many others had been unable to meet the competition of slave labor, and had slowly been starved out of their small farms and estates.*

*Gradually, they swelled the homeless and foodless mobs, which filled the great cities, especially Rome, and they became dependent for their sustenance upon the state. The hungry, idle crowds, who would vote for any candidate whose promises sounded better than those of his competitor were a dangerous and unpredictable factor in the social life of the empire.*

*Moral declension does not mean that no comparatively decent people existed, or that virtue was completely stifled. [But] it does mean that the prevailing trend in society verged downward*

*in indulgence and to lawlessness. Human life was cheap and murder was frequent. Divorce was easy to obtain and was generally accepted in 'society'. The [abandonment] of unwanted infants was a common practice, as illustrated in the well-known letter of Hilarion to his wife, Alis: "Should ye bear a child, if it is a boy, let it live. If it is a girl, expose it." Superstitions and trickery of every kind flourished.*

That's where we're at, and we need not wonder what's next. The advent of Revelation 13's beast system is closer ... now, than when we first believed. The love of money, and what money can buy, has been, and still is, the root of all this evil and when the dominoes begin to fall ... and they are even now, shaking and quaking, there will be no stopping them.

All the foundations of the earth are, already, out of course; the world's economic system is in a state of jeopardy, on the heels of moral decay that has been prompted by unrestrained imagination and the pursuit of excess. Yes, the world's economic system is in a state of jeopardy, and the beast system of Revelation 13 will enslave the peoples of the world, because the money interests will demand a return on the credit it's extended.

No nation in the history of the world has ever escaped debt without involuntary adjustment. As of this writing, the United States owes its foreign creditors more than \$33 trillion, and has to borrow more just to make the interest due these loans. The time will come, and is here already, that no longer will America's treasured monuments and public spaces satisfy as collateral to its creditor nations. \$218 million is added every hour to America's debt clock – that's \$5.2 billion every day. Reckless spending, wasteful squandering, not only by Government – but by its subjects as well ... people buying things they don't really need with money they don't have in hand.

Economic growth in this country has been fueled by increases in credit card balances. Credit card debt in America has exceeded \$1 trillion, with interest by some lenders approaching 35%, and card balances increasing by \$48 billion from the second quarter of last year to \$1.08 trillion the third quarter.

And do we care? no, not when we can make minimum monthly payments ... hardly FEELING the pinch at all. Some people MUST finance the purchase of a new car every two or three years – a purchase costing more than a modest home did a generation ago.

Donghoon Lee, Economic Research Advisor of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, observed that

*the continued rise in credit card delinquency rates is broad-based across area income and region, but particularly pronounced among millennials and those with auto loans or student loans.* (Millennials are that age group falling between 20 and 30 years of age.)

Let's talk about home mortgage debt. In the third quarter of 2023 (July-September), it increased to \$17.3 trillion, an increase of \$228 billion from the second quarter (April-June). As of the third quarter of last year, auto loans have topped \$1.6 trillion. Repossessions and foreclosures, too, have risen dramatically as people, become accustomed to living above their means, discover that awaiting them at the end of their rainbows, is doom and gloom.

### **Yahweh's Purpose for a Peculiar People**

Right here, examine yourself in the light of what Yahweh purposes for His Peculiar People. Let's begin with a read from Philippians 4:12, 11:

"... Every where and in all things I am **instructed** both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need ... I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound ... for I have **learned**, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be *content*."

We've written these verses in a different order, so that you get a sense of process and order. One doesn't learn without first being instructed. Today, some want to abound and be full, without first being instructed and learning how to be abased, hungry and suffering need because this latter is too painful. People naturally incline toward abounding and being full, living abundantly ... and, on credit.

Moreover, people don't like their lifestyles challenged; they don't like being told to "present your bodies a living sacrifice ... which is your reasonable service ... And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind ..." (Rom. 12:1, 2). They don't like being told how to live ~ not by the Word, and especially, not by the Word Expositor.

However, becoming not conformed to this world but transformed by the renewing of your mind and, ultimately, conformed into the image of Yahweh's Dear Son is only accomplished as you choose to give the more earnest heed to the five administrations of the Word and Which ought be presented in season, from the pulpit; and out of season, in the public square: Reproof, Correction, Instruction-in-Righteousness, Rebuke, Exhortation.

In the Torah, in the first 13 verses of Deuteronomy,

Yahweh promises blessings for a Peculiar Peoples' obedience, concluding with these words in verse 13:

*And Yahweh shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of Yahweh thy Eloha, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do [them].*

So, judge yourself: Are you the head, or the tail? Are you above only, or beneath? Are you the borrower, enslaved to a lender? These are questions you need to answer. For if your answer is, "I'm the tail" and, "I'm beneath" and the answer is, "I'm the borrower, enslaved to a lender" – if this is your situation, then you need to work ... yes, we did say, work, to change your position and, moreover, determine with yourself and with Yahweh Who is set to help you, that you're going to get yourself FREE.

Back in the January-March 2020 issue of the *YAIY Beacon*, there appeared an article, transcribed from a message delivered to the Assembly, entitled, "Scriptural Foundation For Financial Security And Integrity" – principles laid out in process and order, which if followed, will help you thrive and not just survive. (Copies of that transcript are available, if you request it.)

Here's the bottom line: We but fool ourselves if we expect Yahweh to be for us, when we've willingly positioned ourselves against His will.

### **But War is NOT the Way to Recovery**

History informs us that the way a nation attempts recovery from a failed economy, is to go to war. Transforming peace-time industrial production to war materiel, sparks a nation's economy ... at least, in the short term. And so, the way to sustain prosperity and to defer economic recession that inevitably follows a cessation of hostilities, is to lengthen the war, because it generally takes longer to reconvert again to peace-time production than the urgency which prompted the earlier industrial conversion.

And we'll digress a moment to give one further notice: World War 2 gave us, Rosie the Riveter, come to age during the 1940's, as she replaced her menfolk in the workplace who were gone on to military service. Now, 'earning' her own way, and become the 'head' of her house, she experienced the 'thrill' of being 'liberated' – a situation that did not bide so well when once her menfolk returned home. For when her male significant others returned



home from the front, many of them found their particular Rosies had discovered that the traditional relationship between man and woman, had given way to the nuclear age.

So now, let's return to current events: The decimation of what was Ukraine continues – remember Ukraine, now in its 26th month of war with the Bully and the memory of which is faded, owing to a most recent distraction in the Middle East. Oh, and what about Israel?

We'll begin our commentary with an exegesis: Hamas (*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*, G.2555, *kwaw-mawc'*, *violence*, by implication, *wrong*, and rendered severally in Scripture as unjust gain: cruel(ly), damage, oppressor, unrighteous, violence (against, done) violent (dealing).

Hamas GoPro cameras documented and posted video images on the web, of the gleeful butchering of hundreds of civilians including women, children, and infants, and the taking of hundreds of hostages.

And all this, occurred during the seventh Biblical month, and at a time when many in Israel were given to, as it was in the days of Noah ... eating and drinking ... likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot – they were eating and drinking ... people – their hearts set on mischief; their hearts weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, so that day came upon them suddenly like a trap – at a music festival that sported licentious behavior instead of its attendees, regarding the sanctity of these set apart days and accentuating the reproach lauded by public media, owing to IDF (Israeli Defense Forces) responses to this terrorist aggression, labeled “disproportionate,” and fueling anti-Semitism around the world.

Elitist universities assumed a part, too:

- A Stanford instructor singled out Jewish students with unhinged rantings and denials of the Holocaust;
- Screaming campus activists with their professors openly supported Hamas terrorism by marching and parading around campus buildings, waving Palestinian flags;
- A Cornell University history faculty member was exhilarated with the news of Hamas atrocities;
- An enraged University of California at Davis professor threatened harm to the children of “Zionist journalists;”
- Inflammatory adjectives and nouns were assigned to Jews by a teacher at the Art Institute of Chicago.

- At protest rallies, hundreds of students with faculty members and the general populace – many cloaked in garb resembling sheet-wearing Klansman, and wearing masks and wrapping their faces in *keffiyehs* – talked about eliminating Israel altogether.

It bears repeating: It's very nearly past the time, my friends – your redemption is drawing nigh!

### Conclusion

You can ill afford any longer, to resign yourselves to, “Oh well, life goes on” – but what life? stale and stagnant? dark and miry?

That's not the life, and that more abundantly, which Yahshua promised to give us.

In the 36th chapter of Isaiah, we read of the Rabshakeh (Sennacherib, the king of Assyria's field army commander) with a great army, standing at the conduit of the upper pool proximate to the highway of the fuller's field taunting Israel, and encouraging a coup d' etat against Hezekiah.

Hezekiah, upon receiving word of the Rabshakeh's reproach, rent his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of Yahweh, first sending Eliakim, who was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah, declaring to him, “Thus saith Hezekiah, ‘This day is a day of trouble, and of rebuke, and of blasphemy’” (Isa. 37:3).

Well, today, too, is “... a day of trouble, and of rebuke, and of blasphemy ...”

### Airbags Aren't Pillows; Don't Drive Life Drowsy

It's time to awaken from “a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands” (Prov. 6:10). It's both time and season to affirm to yourself, and to your sundry cares and affairs, “My times *are* in Thy hands ...” (Psa. 31:15) – taking little less thought for tomorrow, and much more for this day: now, in a time accepted, to give diligence to make your calling and election sure. For what you have here, may well be your last, best hope in this time and season to take heed to a Word of deliverance from the apocalyptic Rabshakehs that are come, if it is possible, to wear you down and out.

- Elder John W. Reece



## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**Q** Please explain the last sentence of Revelation 20:5, “This is the first resurrection?”

**A** Revelation 20:5b, read in the context of verses 3-4, and 6, occurs when Yahshua returns. This correlates other references to His second coming (1 Cor. 15:49-55), with the saints caught up with Him – first, those who have died and then they which are alive (1 Thess. 4:15-16). These which are raised up at this time will experience the better resurrection of the two (see Rev. 20:6, 12-15).

The sequence of events in the Book of Revelation are not necessarily chronological, but there is sufficient context in the breadth of Scripture to put the pieces together in what is thought a chronological order (Prov. 25:2, Amos 3:7).

From Scripture, we can establish the following sequence:

- A falling away from the truth (2 Thess. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1);
- Tribulation (Matt. 24; Luke 21);
- The first resurrection (Matt. 24:30-31; 1 Thess. 4:13-17);
- Satan bound for 1,000 years and the establishment of the millennial Kingdom of Yahshua (Rev. 20:2);
- The descendants of Gog and Magog laying siege against Jerusalem (Matt. 24:15-20; Luke 21:20-24);
- Their destruction into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:7-10);
- The second resurrection before the Great White Throne judgment (Rev. 20:11-15);
- The establishment of a new heaven and a new earth (2 Pet. 3:10-13; Rev. 21:1);
- Yahweh Himself coming down, wiping away every tear and making all things new, with no more death or suffering or pain (Rev. 20:1-5).

Finally, we would recommend our publications, *Resurrection Truths* and *The Spirit Realm* which can be sent to you free upon request.

**Q** The prison I’m in won’t accommodate my food request for eating kosher. What can I do? I’m going to starve in here.

**A** We appreciate the dilemma you face. But the prison authorities also face a problem. Their food service must procure large quantities of food to serve a large prison population from which only a small number would *halachically* require a diet of clean food. Moreover, kitchen personnel acquainted with *halachic* diets would have to be trained in kosher food preparation.

The fact that we live in a fallen world makes it difficult for believers, particularly those who are incarcerated, to observe everything Yahweh commands. Obedience to the Law doesn’t mean there won’t be any problems.

Possibly Joseph, the son of Israel – cast into an Egyptian prison where he remained for more than a decade – may not likely have had a kosher diet. Yet, he obtained the favor of the keeper of the prison.

Daniel and his three friends, though not imprisoned, would not defile themselves with the king’s rations (Dan. 1:8), yet after but ten days – and only on a diet of pulse, lentils, and water – in being presented to Nebuchadnezzar, they excelled above and beyond the king’s counselors in all matters of understanding and wisdom (Dan. 1:17-20).

The Apostle Paul was incarcerated at Philippi and at Rome, under Roman authority. It is doubtful that he was provided a kosher diet, yet he observed the Law and would not have offended in any point lest he should be guilty of the whole Law (James. 2:10).

As best as you can, therefore, be attentive to the weightier matters: mercy, faith, righteousness, temperance, judgment to come (Matt. 23:23; Acts 24:25). Be content with such things as you have (Phil. 4:11) as contentment with piety is great gain (1 Tim. 6:6). It is accepted according to what a man

has, and not according to what he has not (2 Cor. 8:12). Things do not preclude you from seeking to peaceably and respectfully entreat appropriate prison authorities to provide you with such things as your require for your expression of faith (Rom. 12:18). Finally, *therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil*, Romans 14:16. *Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe [them], glorify Elohim in the day of visitation*, 1 Peter 2:12, *NASB*.





Was not the unleavened bread of the Old Covenant not to be used in the New Covenant for Passover (John 6:58)? I believe there was the Old (unleavened), and now there is the New (leavened).

**Q**

**A**

We believe you're taking things out of context. We cannot agree with your conclusion.

In John 6:58, Yahshua says, *This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever, KJV.*

We must first point out that those who eat bread today still die, but it is understood that there is Spiritual nourishment that we need to take in and live by, if we are to receive eternal life. It's called Yahweh's Word, and it does sustain us, as does physical food:

*By the sweat of your face You shall eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return, Genesis 3:19, NASB.*

To state that the 2nd Covenant Passover contained leaven to be readily taken and used is to deny what the Word of Yahweh says. Leavened bread was not to be even found within the borders of the dwellings, it was to be put outside the gates and not be in the residential areas.

*Unleavened bread shall be eaten throughout the seven days; and nothing leavened shall be seen among you, nor shall any leaven be seen among you in all your borders, Exodus 13:7, NASB.*

The disciples were ready to prepare the Passover (Matt. 26:17; Mark 14:12; Luke 22:7). They did not ask "how" to prepare for Passover, as they already knew from Scripture. No wine was allowed to be drunk during a service (Lev. 10:9-12; Exod. 44:21), and certainly no leavening during Passover (Exod. 12:8, 23:18, 34:25).

Many brethren make sure leaven is out of the house days before Passover arrives. Why? because it is

such an important time! Are we not to be cautious? *Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Master, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Master, 1 Corinthians 11:27, KJV.*

The whole point that Yahshua was making in John 6:58 can be seen in verse 63, which says, *It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are Life, John 6:63, KJV.* Peter correctly understood this and said in verse 68, "...thou hast the words of eternal life." Yahshua's words are the "bread of life."

Yahshua told them of His day, and us today, that He is the Way and the Truth and the Life (John 14:6). There was bread from heaven (manna) that was eaten in the past. There is now Bread from heaven available through Yahweh's Spirit, which is available only through Yahshua, our Savior.

We partake of His body and blood each year as a "memorial" of His sacrifice. Do we dare think of having leavening during that time? To do so is treading on dangerous ground, even to disregarding Him as our Passover Lamb.

**Q**

Do you teach that we are in the era of Laodicea?

**A**

There are specific assembly parallels today to the first century of the common era, as some are closer to the Truth than others, but "assembly eras" seem unlikely. The lesson we should learn from these is that eternal life is awarded those who have overcome all that is in the world: the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16) and brought themselves into captivity to the obedience of the Commandments (1 Cor. 9:27; 2 Cor. 10:5)

Of interest, the case of Smyrna, faithful to death in the face of poverty and tribulation (Rev. 2:9-10) which suggests the end of the age. Until that time, however, we should be more concerned with doing what is good and acceptable in Yahweh's sight.

Lastly, another reason not to receive the "assembly era" teaching promoted by some, is that the Scriptures (Rev. 1:20 and 2:11) address all the assemblies (plural) which existed simultaneously as Assemblies do today.

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More Questions and Answers and over 100 studies are available for viewing online @ [yaiy.org](http://yaiy.org).

Contact us if you have Biblical questions of your own.

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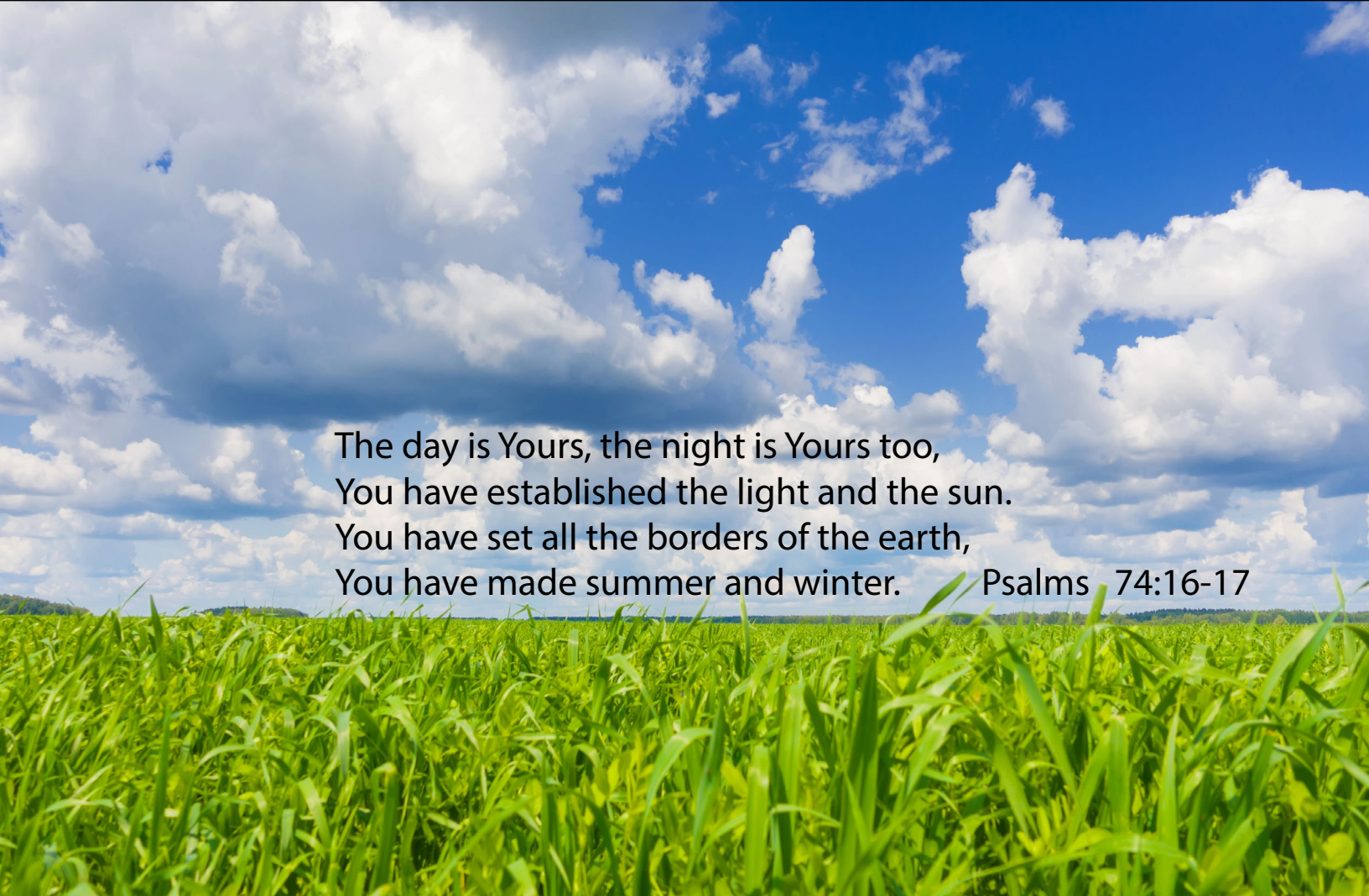
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The day is Yours, the night is Yours too,  
You have established the light and the sun.  
You have set all the borders of the earth,  
You have made summer and winter. Psalms 74:16-17