

YAIY **BEACON**

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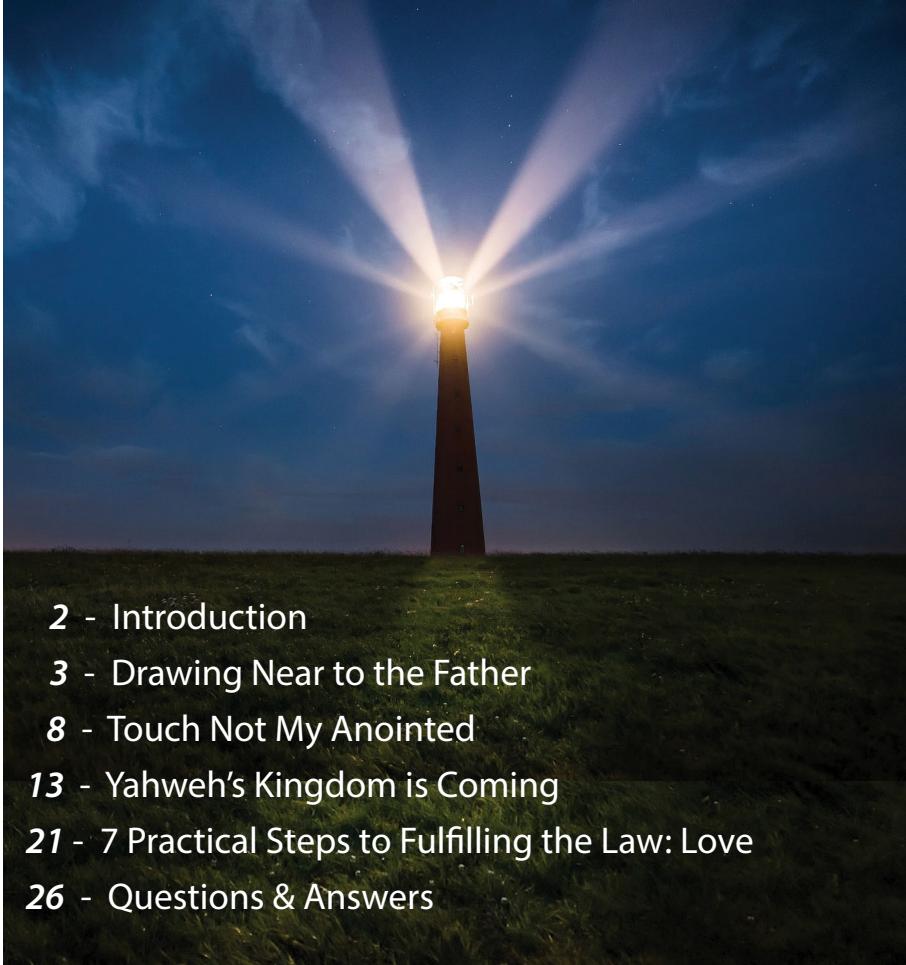


Drawing Near to the Father

Touch Not My Anointed

Yahweh's Kingdom is Coming

**7 Practical, Ascending
Steps to Fulfilling
the Law: Love**



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MISSION STATEMENT

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

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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.

Drawing Near to the Father



The most outstanding achievements of mankind do not compare to the extraordinary ability to access and approach the throne of Yahweh. It is through His precious Son, Yahshua, that we have this access today. To draw close to the Creator Who made us, and everything else in the universe; to Him who dwells in unapproachable light, far removed from sin and any figurative darkness, should be the ultimate goal of every man, woman, and child. But it is only by His will that we can even think of approaching and drawing near to Him.

How blessed is the one whom You choose and bring near to You to dwell in Your courts. We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple, Psalm 65:4. (The *New American Standard Bible*, 1995 version, is used throughout.)

Mystery Revealed

In ancient times, it was a mystery how Yahweh had divorced Israel for being an unfaithful bride and could then, be restored after being put away. Yahweh was faithful to His promises to Abraham, that through Isaac, a unique people would arise on the earth – a people destined to show and proclaim the surpassing excellencies of His majesty.

Of this Assembly I was made a minister according to the stewardship from Elohim bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of Elohim, that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom Elohim willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Messiah in you, the hope of glory, Colossians 1:25-27.

The “Gentiles,” as a people, are, in fact, a reference to the descendants of Israel. (Request your free Mini-Study entitled, *The Hope of Israel* for an overview of this exciting Good News.)

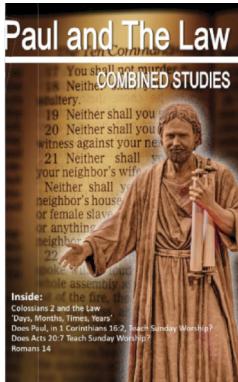
For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Messiah Yahshua for the sake of you Gentiles – if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of Elohim’s grace which was given to me for you; that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Messiah, which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Messiah Yahshua through the evangel, of which I was made a minister; according to the gift of Elohim’s grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Messiah, Ephesians 3:1-8.

Hence, a principal reason the Apostle Paul emphasized knowing Yahshua and having received forgiveness through Him, is such a wonderful and exceeding greatness over anything else he could possibly have known or experienced.

*But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Messiah. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Messiah Yahshua my Master, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Messiah, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Messiah, the righteousness which comes from Elohim on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Messiah Yahshua. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of Elohim in Messiah Yahshua, Philippians 3:7-14. (For further clarification, request your free Combined Studies booklet, entitled, **Paul and The Law**.)*

A Mirror Image

Often, the disciples would inquire of Yahshua the meaning of what He had said, as they didn't understand some of His statements. Once, in reply to Thomas and Philip's queries, Yahshua answered, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him." Philip said to Him, "Master, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Yahshua said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves," John 14:6-11.



This passage certainly reflects creative attributes, showcasing a full spectrum of emotions ranging from frustration to love and is a glimpse of Who He Is, a Spirit Being, and that He has eternity within Himself and by just speaking a word, that physical matter came into existence.

In Genesis 1:27, we are told, *Elohim created man in His own image, in the image of Elohim He created him; male and female He created them*. And though Yahshua now sits at the right hand of His Father, we still can know the Father through Him, because Yahshua is a mirror reflection of the Father. Yahshua, the only-begotten Son of Yahweh, and by self-declaration, the Son of man – that is, created in the image of man – is both fully Elohim and man.

Paul said that we look in a mirror dimly, but then face to face (1 Cor. 13:12). They which have a portion of Yahweh's Spirit, will be like Him – seeing Him as He is – in His glorified body when He returns (1 John 3:2).

Moreover, in 1 Corinthians 13:12, we read further, "... now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known."

The words, "know" and "known," can also be translated as "understand" and "understood." By interposing "understand" and "understood" for "know" and "known" in Yahshua's replies to Thomas and Philip's queries in John 14, we get a better appreciation of Yahshua's answers to them.

If you had [understood] Me, you would have [understood] My Father also; from now on you [understand] Him, and have seen Him." Philip said to Him, "Master, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Yahshua said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to [understand] Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" John 14:7-9.

This also gives clarity to what Paul reiterated from Isaiah 40:13, and also referenced in Romans 11:34, in writing 1 Corinthians 2:16: *For WHO HAS KNOWN (understood) THE MIND OF YAHWEH, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Messiah.*

Fellow Citizens in Elohim's Household

For through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father; so then you are no longer

strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of Elohim's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Messiah Yahshua Himself being the Corner Stone, in Whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in Yahweh, in Whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of Elohim in the Spirit, Ephesians 2:18-22.

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Yahshua, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of Elohim, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He Who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near, Hebrews 10:19-25.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me, Ephesians 2:11.

By His Spirit, we find unity through the Messiah – no longer “separate[d] from Messiah, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without Elohim in the world” (Eph. 2:12). By His Word Which cannot lie, we are drawn close to Yahweh, “sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise; given as a pledge of our inheritance” (Eph. 1:13-14; 2 Cor. 1:22). This relationship, having been called out of gross darkness and into marvelous light, is far better (1 Pet. 2:9).

By Faith Alone?

There are steps toward drawing closer to the Father: Repentance from dead works; faith come by hearing; obedience to the commandments; immersion in Yahshua's Name with the laying on of hands by the presbytery toward receiving the Gift of the Holy Spirit to help us to the end, overcoming the world.

While none of these steps can be dispensed

with in undertaking to draw close to Yahweh, but one stands out above every other: Faith. For it is written, *And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to Elohim must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him, Hebrews 11:6.*

Indeed, though some should have the good news preached to them, the Word they hear cannot profit them without It being united by faith in those who hear (Heb. 4:2).

To emphasize that faith doesn't work alone, the Apostle James writes, *But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." You believe that Elohim is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?* James 2:18-20.

Thus, the rallying cry of *fida sola* (faith alone) that was proclaimed during the 16th century reformation movement, is at variance with what was understood by the Apostles and the whole of Scripture which they preached. Yahweh Himself says, *So you shall keep My statutes and My judgments, by which a man may live if he does them; I am Yahweh,* Leviticus 18:5.

Knowing what Yahweh says, helps us to know how to draw close to Him.

Draw near to Elohim and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded, James 4:8.

Purified by His Sacrifice

The innocent blood of the Messiah truly cleanses us (Heb. 9:11-26). This, together with water immersion into His Name (Acts 4:12), purifies and prepares us for receiving a portion of Yahweh's Spirit. This is similar to the Levitical priestly process of offering animal sacrifices and the ceremonial washings of water by which Israel could acceptably approach Yahweh during the tabernacle and temple eras.

We should note, however, that with regard to these ceremonial rites performed by the Levitical order, some confuse the change in the law (Heb. 7:18-19, “former regulations”) as somehow meaning all the laws, statutes and ordinances of Yahweh. Certain aspects of the priestly laws, such as clothing, temple work, ceremonial practices, sacrificial rituals, civil regulations, and laws concerning warfare, have been changed through the Messiah Whose priesthood

is superior to what was instituted under the Levitical order. But the fundamental laws, ordinances, and statutes that guide how humanity should live, and obedience to which purifies and protects us, remain unchanged – for example, *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit*, Ephesians 5:18.

Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Yahshua Messiah. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.” If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Messiah, 1 Peter 1:13-19.

Salvation, not Based on “Works”

With these clear statements from Scripture in mind, we get an understanding that bring us to the conclusion, that salvation is not a “works” process.

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Yahshua Messiah our Savior, Titus 3:5-6.

Therefore, If we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light (Psa. 36:9), we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Yahshua His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, 1 John 1:7-9.

This whole process brings us into a new order – the Melchizedek order – superior to the Levitical process of becoming sanctified through the performance of various “regulations that were imposed until the time of reformation” (Heb. 9:9).

For it is attested of Him, “YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK.” For, on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness (for the Law made

nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to Elohim. And inasmuch as it was not without an oath (for they indeed became priests without an oath, but He with an oath through the One who said to Him, “YAHWEH HAS SWORN AND WILL NOT CHANGE HIS MIND, ‘YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER’”); so much the more also Yahshua has become the guarantee of a better covenant. The former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing, but Yahshua, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently, Hebrews 7:17-24.

In Messiah Yahshua, we find more emphasis on the spiritual when it comes to sacrifices.

*Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to Elohim, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His Name. And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices Elohim is pleased, Hebrews 13:15-16. (For more information, request the free In-Depth booklet, *Orthodox Followers*.)*

Our Focus

We must ask ourselves, are we putting in the time to truly wanting to draw close to Yahweh? If our focus is wrong, our outcome will also be wrong. The result we are looking for, is a closer relationship with Yahweh; to have our movement and being in Yahshua Who always did those things pleasing to His Father (John 8:29).

King David, whom the Scripture records as a man after Yahweh’s own heart (1 Sam. 13:14), often meditated and focused on Him.

One thing I have asked from Yahweh, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of Yahweh all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of Yahweh and to meditate in His temple. For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; in the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock, Psalm 27:4-5.

Yahshua often pointed us to the Father.

While He was still speaking to the crowds, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him. Someone said to Him, “Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You.” But Yahshua answered the one who was telling Him and said, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?” And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, “Behold My mother and My

brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father, Who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother,” Matthew 12:46-50.

The Apostle Paul, too, though having said all was a loss compared to gaining Messiah, also knew His first and foremost focus, and ours also, should be on the Father.

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that *Messiah may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Messiah which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of Elohim*, Ephesians 3:14-19.

Therefore be imitators of Elohim, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Messiah also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to Elohim as a fragrant aroma, Ephesians 5:1-2.

In another place, where Paul introduced the proper headship in relationship to Yahweh, he said,

Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Messiah. Now I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold firmly to the traditions, just as I delivered them to you. But I want you to understand that Messiah is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and Elohim is the head of Messiah, 1 Corinthians 11:1-3.

While awaiting his company's arrival from Thessaly, Paul said to some at Athens, who had an altar and inscription “To An Unknown Mighty One,” *The Elohim who made the world and all things in it, since He is Master of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man (Adam) every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek Elohim, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, “For we also are His children.” Being then the children of Elohim, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art*

and thought of man. Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, Elohim is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead, Acts 17:24-31.

Paul's focus here is on the Father, and His resurrected Son. And this is the message: Some in ignorance think Yahweh's will is only to believe in His Son. It is not. Much more is it Yahweh's will that men live a sanctified life toward Yahweh because of having been purchased with the blood of His Son, as it is written:

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, whom you have from Elohim, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify Elohim in your body, 1 Corinthians 6:19—20.

Again, the focus of all Scripture is on the Father, through acknowledging the redemptive work of His Son. That is the correct understanding to be able to draw closer to Him.

Conclusion

Much, much more could be said about walking in His Spirit and in His truth, praying, fasting, Bible study, attending services, keeping the Feasts, avoiding those things that can entangle us – all these things we should be doing, and more!

And though we may not always feel His presence, He is nevertheless as near as our calling upon Him.

Yahweh is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them. Yahweh keeps all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy. My mouth will speak the praise of Yahweh, and all flesh will bless His Holy Name forever and ever, Psalm 145:18-21.

The prophet Isaiah speaks further:

Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, according to the faithful mercies shown to David, Isaiah 55:3.

“Incline your ear … come … listen” – yet, the only way to truly draw close to Yahweh is through Yahshua. Remember, He Himself said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me” (John 14:6).

- Elder David Brett



Touch Not My Anointed

Throughout the Scriptures, we have many warnings and admonitions regarding. Yet, one that in modern days seems especially overlooked is found in Psalms 105:15, ***Do not touch My anointed ones, and do My prophets no harm.*** And who are His anointed? And why does Yahweh warn people to inflict no harm upon His anointed?

Israel Chosen and Anointed

We learn from the Word of Yahweh who His anointed are – not necessarily a specific person, but an entire nation of people, like that people Israel ... or as well, in these times, the Body of Messiah, upon whom Yahweh conferred blessings and protection. While all Israel was blessed and appointed and chosen by Yahweh, certain individuals within Israel were appointed a greater higher anointing and calling. And conduct levied against them also merited a commensurately higher punishment.

But for now, let's appreciate Yahweh's choosing Abraham as the father of many nations, and particularly, the father of Israel. In Genesis 12:1-3 we read,

Now Yahweh said to Abram, “Go from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you; and I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed. (The New American Standard Bible used throughout, unless otherwise noted.)

So, in this promise, Yahweh tells Abraham that he will become a great nation (Israel) and that those who bless him (Israel) will be blessed and those who curse him (Israel) will be cursed. This is an immutable declaration in Scripture. Even when, for their disobedience to Yahweh and manifold trespass of His Covenant, Israel was taken into captivity and dispersed from the land given them by promise, they who would make of Israel to become a byword and a reproach ultimately suffered the consequence of Yahweh's pronouncement of a curse upon them. But why is Yahweh so protective of Israel? What has Israel done that warrants such a blessing and protection? Nothing!

It was not because of anything Israel did that they warranted Yahweh's favor. Rather, Yahweh Who cannot lie (Num 23:19), and Who for His Name's sake, remained faithful to the covenant He had made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and that, moreover, it was because of the grievous wickedness of the peoples in the lands which Israel was to possess that the others were dispossessed (Deut. 9:4-8, 10:15).

Indeed, Israel has always been rebellious and stiff-necked. Yet, Yahweh has not rescinded Israel's calling as a light to the nations (Isa. 60:1-3) and their appointment as a royal priesthood (Exod. 19:6).

Deuteronomy 14:2 reads, *For you are a holy people to Yahweh your Elohim, and Yahweh has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.* And 1 Peter 2:9 further says of those who have been reconciled to Yahweh through the blood atonement of Yahshua the Messiah and made to become a partaker in the commonwealth of Israel and the Covenants of promise, *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for [Elohim's] own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*

Israel was always purposed of Yahweh to be an obedient nation whose blessings would be the talk of the world (Deut. 4:5-8). Nevertheless, the condition of Israel continuing to be blessed is contingent upon their obedience, as it is written: *Now it shall be, if you diligently obey Yahweh your Elohim, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, Yahweh your Elohim will set you high above all the nations of the earth,* Deuteronomy 28:1.

Moreover, worthy of note is that Yahweh during the time of Israel's duress in Egypt, calls Israel His firstborn in (Exod. 4:22), showing how highly He regards them. Another reason Israel is protected by Yahweh, is because through Abraham's seed (Israel) all the nations of the earth will be blessed (Gen. 18:8) as it is further written, Yahweh says to Abraham, *And I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed,* Genesis 26:4. Thus, Israel is destined to be a conduit of blessings for the whole world. So, when one curses Israel, they are cursing themselves. Despite all of Israel's

backslidings, however, Yahweh has not, and will not, forsake them utterly.

Thus says Yahweh, Who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; Yahweh of hosts is His Name: "If this fixed order departs from before Me," declares Yahweh, "Then the offspring of Israel also will cease from being a nation before Me forever." *Thus says Yahweh, "If the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth searched out below, then I will also cast off all the offspring of Israel for all that they have done," declares Yahweh,* Jeremiah 31:35-37.

Now, the Matter of Ba'al Peor

This brings us to Balaam son of Beor whom Balak king of Moab engaged to curse Israel. (The narrative in Numbers, chapters 22-24, relates Balak's enterprise in seeking to implore Yahweh's disenfranchisement of Israel.) Moab was terrified with Israel's having vanquished the Amorites, and feared for their own security, observing, "there is a people come out from Egypt: behold, they cover the face of the earth ... Now

shall this company lick up all that are round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field" (Num. 22:5, 4, **KJV**).

And so, we read Balaam inquired of Yahweh. What Yahweh says in reply, confirms Israel's esteemed position with Him.

Balaam said to Elohim, "Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent word to me, 'Behold, there is a people who came out of Egypt and they cover the surface of the land; now come, curse them for me; perhaps I may be able to fight against them and drive them out.' " Elohim said to Balaam, "Do not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed," Numbers 22: 10-12.

There is no higher Authority than Yahweh. Balaam had no power to curse Israel even if he had had a mind to do so. How could Balaam indeed curse what Yahweh had not cursed? (Num. 23:8). What Yahweh has blessed, man cannot revoke (Num. 23:20). Yahweh is not like man; He will not lie or repent concerning His blessings (Num. 23:19). The only thing that can annul Yahweh's blessings is disobedience. Thus, Balaam instructed Balak to put a snare before Israel, so that Israel would bring a curse upon themselves through their sin, to eat

things sacrificed to idols, and to commit *acts* of immorality (Rev. 2:14). For his error, Balaam received the just retribution of the sword (Num. 31:8).

We, Too, are Israel

One may wonder what does this have to do with us in the Body of Messiah? It matters, because we are Israel. By virtue of one's immersion in water in the Name of Yahshua for the remission of his/her sins that are past, they are made partakers in the commonwealth of Israel, and heirs to the covenants of promise (Eph. 2:12). So,

If the first piece [of dough] (Israel) is holy, the lump is also; and if the root is holy, the branches are too. But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, [remember that] it is not you who supports the root, but the root [supports] you. You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear; for if Elohim did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either. Behold then the kindness and severity of Elohim; to those who fell, severity, but to you, Elohim’s kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise, you also will be cut off. And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for Elohim is able to graft them in again. For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural [branches] be grafted into their own olive tree? Romans 11:16-24.

In Jeremiah 11:16, we read, “Yahweh called your name, ‘A green olive tree, beautiful in fruit and form’ ...” The Apostle Paul uses the metaphor of an olive tree in making it clear that we are grafted into Israel when we come into this Faith.

Moreover, Paul affirms elsewhere, that in Messiah Yahshua, neither circumcision, nor uncircumcision, avails anything, but a new creature – the Israel of Elohim – upon whom is bestowed peace and mercy (Gal. 6:15-16) and which is further corroborated in the following passages from Romans 2:26-29:

If therefore the uncircumcised man keeps the requirements of the Law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? And will not he who is physically uncircumcised, if he keeps the Law,

will he not judge you who though having the letter [of the Law] and circumcision are a transgressor of the Law? For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but of Elohim,

And Ephesians 2:11-14:

Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” [which is] performed in the flesh by human hands – [remember] that you were at that time separate from Messiah, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without Elohim in the world. But now in Messiah Yahshua you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Messiah. For He Himself is our peace, Who made both [groups into one] and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.

So, we may rightly conclude from Scripture, that all those who are bought and washed by Yahshua's blood, are Israelites by faith.

Why is this important? because the same blessings imputed to Israel apply as well, to us who are faithful. We are Israel, and those who take a stance against us risk a curse upon themselves.

Higher Anointings

Though we can appreciate Israel being a called out, chosen ... even a peculiar, set apart people, there are some among Israel who are due a greater honor because their anointing is higher. Several persons in Scripture qualify. One is Moses, a prophet of Yahweh and held in higher regard by both man and Yahweh. His position, however, did not preclude the people of Israel from grumbling against him.

However, in the following passage in which the people murmur against Moses and Aaron, the anointed of Yahweh, Moses retorts that the peoples' grumbling against the pair was really a complaint against Yahweh.

The whole congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The sons of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by Yahweh’s hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger. Then Yahweh said to Moses, “Behold, I

*will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily." So Moses and Aaron said to all the sons of Israel, "At evening you will know that Yahweh has brought you out of the land of Egypt; and in the morning you will see the glory of Yahweh, for He hears your grumblings against Yahweh; and what are we, that you grumble against us?" Moses said, "[This will happen] when Yahweh gives you meat to eat in the evening, and bread to the full in the morning; for Yahweh hears your grumblings which you grumble against Him. **And what are we? Your grumblings are not against us but against Yahweh,** Exodus 16:2-8.*

Speaking against Yahweh's anointed or against His prophets is no different from challenging Yahweh Himself.

In other places of the Torah narrative, we read of Yahweh taking the side of Moses whenever his authority was questioned. In Numbers 12:6-8, for example, Yahweh chides Aaron and Miriam for their boldly challenging the special anointing Yahweh had conferred upon their brother, saying,

"Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, Yahweh, shall make Myself known to him in a vision. I shall speak with him in a dream. Not so, with My servant Moses, he is faithful in all My household; with him I speak mouth to mouth, even openly, and not in dark sayings and he beholds the form of Yahweh. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant, against Moses?"

Like Aaron and Miriam before them, Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and On, together with two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation rose up against Moses and Aaron, protesting, "You have gone far enough, for all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and Yahweh is in their midst; so why do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of Yahweh" (Num. 16:1-3).

Indeed, Korah spoke the truth when he acknowledged that the whole congregation was set apart. But he failed to understand and respect the higher anointing conferred upon Moses. A further read of the narrative reveals that Korah's incitation to riot did not end well for him and his companions, as Yahweh avenged their rebellion by making a new thing: the ground opening its mouth

and swallowing them up alive with all that was theirs (Num. 16:30-31) and fire also, come forth to consume the two hundred and fifty men complicit with Korah and who had presumed the office of the priests in burning incense (Num. 16:35).

Having either witnessed or heard of Yahweh's displeasure in these instances, the people who entered into Canaan under Joshua's authority, were careful not to repeat Korah's error lest they incur to themselves that recompense of falling into the hands of Living, Consuming Fire ... pledging themselves, saying,

"All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. ... only may Yahweh your Elohim be with you as He was with Moses. Anyone who rebels against your command and does not obey your words in all that you

command him, shall be put to death; only be strong and courageous" (Josh. 1:16, 17, 18).

So, what we should learn from Israel's wilderness experiences is that Yahweh does not take kindly to any who carelessly speaks against those whom He has anointed including now, the called-out ones which comprise the Body of Messiah.

Moreover, in the New Testament record, the Apostle Paul asserts double honor should be accorded the elders in the Assembly, saying, *The elders who lead well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching,* 1 Timothy 5:17.

David and Saul Contrasted

Both Saul and David were anointed as kings over Israel by the Prophet Samuel. While Saul is noted in 1 Samuel 10:9 as having his heart changed by Yahweh on the day of his anointing, his presuming the office of the priests in offering to Yahweh a burnt offering before engaging the Philistines in battle (1 Sam. 13:12) and subsequent disobedience in the matter of extirpating all the Amalekites, including Agag (1 Sam. 15), and envy – one of the seven capital sins – as all the maidens acclaimed David for his slaying the giant (1 Sam. 18:7), he tarnished that anointing with his indiscretions ... not the least of which, was his rending Samuel's garment when the seer declined to accompany him in worshipping Yahweh and Samuel declared, "Yahweh has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to your neighbor who is better than you" (1 Sam. 15:25-27).

David, on the other hand, sought to remain loyally subject to Saul, now mad with jealousy, even during those times when Saul abandoned the affairs of state to pursue him. And when David had opportunity, and was encouraged, to advantage himself with Saul's death, he refused to lift his hand against Yahweh's anointed one, even at the risk of his life as he emerged from the cave of Engedi, attesting to his conviction,

"Behold, this day your eye have seen that Yahweh had given you today into my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you, but my eye had pity on you; and I said, '**I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is Yahweh's anointed**' " (1 Sam. 24:10)

A second time, David might have availed himself opportunity as Saul lay asleep while encamped in the hill of Hachilah during one of his many pursuits of the shepherd from Bethlehem and again, was pressed by Abishai to permit him to slay the king (1 Sam. 26:8). But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him, for who can stretch out his hand against Yahweh's anointed and be without guilt ... Yahweh forbid that I should stretch out my hand against Yahweh's anointed ..." (1 Sam. 26:9, 11).

"Do not be deceived, Yahweh is not mocked; for whatever a person sows, this he will also reap."

-Galatians 6:7

David so much regarded Yahweh's anointing as sacred, that when a young Amalekite had come to David's camp and represented himself as having slain Saul,

"David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and so also did all the men who were with him ... Then David said to him, 'How is it you were not afraid to stretch out your hand to destroy Yahweh's anointed?' And David called one of the young men and said, 'Go, cut him down'. So he struck him and he died. And David said to him, 'Your blood is on your head, for your mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have killed Yahweh's anointed'" (2 Sam. 1:11, 14-16).

Conclusion

Do not be deceived, Yahweh is not mocked; for whatever a person sows, this he will also reap, Galatians 6:7. One should not think he can touch Yahweh's anointed or chosen ones, or do his prophets harm, with impunity. Better, far better, He should heed the words of the psalmist: Do not touch My anointed ones, and do not harm My prophets, Psalm 105:15.

- Deacon Lucas Bentley

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Yahweh's Kingdom is Coming

And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him, Daniel 7:27.

And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Elohim, and of His Messiah; and He shall reign for ever and ever." And the four and twenty elders, which sat before Yahweh on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped Yahweh, saying, "We give Thee thanks, O Yahweh El-Shaddai, which art, and wast, and art to come; because Thou hast taken to Thee Thy great power, and hast reigned." And the nations were angry, and Thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that Thou shouldest give reward unto Thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear Thy Name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth, Revelation 11:15-18. (The Restored Name KJV is used throughout, unless otherwise stated.)

The Bible is replete with passages pointing to the coming Kingdom of Yahweh, soon to be established on this planet earth. Throughout the ages, the message of the Kingdom has been proclaimed, and is still being proclaimed, by those whose hearts' desire is to see this wicked, corrupt and lawless age of man replaced with an endless age of righteousness, peace, love, abundance and joy. Such a glorious Kingdom is neither an illusion nor a forlorn hope. It is an inspired promise, deeply rooted in the Scripture of Truth -- from the Torah to the epistles of the holy apostles. Central to the teachings and numerous parables of the Messiah Yahshua is the message of this Kingdom, which we do believe will soon be established on this earth. It is our intention to bring clarity to this all-important topic and to clear the confusions that many people have.

A Literal Kingdom

As seen throughout history, a Kingdom is a governmental system headed by a king who rules with supreme and absolute authority over a territory and all its inhabitants. Unlike a president or prime minister, a king is not elected by popular vote, neither do men set a predetermined limit to the reign of a king. Typically, a king rules for life.

Yahweh's kingdom will be a literal Kingdom which will not be brought about by popular vote or opinions of men, and no term limit will be set to His reign by any mortal being.

And in the days of these kings shall the Elohim of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever, Daniel 2:44.

Typically, every kingdom has the following:

- A king and his nobles who reign with him;
- A territory, his domain;
- Subjects/inhabitants;
- A constitution/law/acceptable lifestyles and conducts;
- Economic system;
- Privileges/benefits for the inhabitants;
- An army –an angelic army, in this case.

The coming Kingdom of Yahweh will, among other things, have all these features, and we will, in the course of this study, touch on each of them from the Scriptures.

The King and His Territory

And Yahweh shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Yahweh, and His name one, Zechariah 14:9.

I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, Daniel 7:13-14.

Contrary to the big-bang theory, the universe did not evolve from a singular event, neither did the earth come into existence by chance. Everything, visible and invisible, was deliberately and purposely created by the Almighty Yahweh through His Son, Yahshua ha Mashiach, (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:12-16).

The Psalmist proclaimed thusly: *The earth is Yahweh's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein,* Psalms 24:1.

Yahweh is the rightful King over all the universe, and He has appointed His Son to reign on His behalf over His Kingdom that will soon be established on this earth.

Concerning King Yahshua, the prophet Isaiah declared: *Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of Yahweh of hosts will perform this,* Isaiah 9:7. This clearly shows that He was born to be a King over a literal Kingdom, just as David was a king over a literal earthly kingdom.

During Yahshua's trial, Pontius Pilate asked Him if He was a king, to which Yahshua responded, "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice" (John 18:37).

During the Babylonian captivity of Judah, king Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that troubled him greatly. To add to his trouble, he couldn't even remember the dream anymore. So, he ordered his court magicians, astrologers, and sorcerers to reveal to him the dream and its meaning. Of course, none of them could tell him the dream, so he threatened to put all of them to the sword. Just before he could do that, however, Daniel, one of the wise men in the palace of Nebuchadnezzar, prayed to Yahweh

concerning the matter. Not only did He reveal the dream, he also revealed the interpretation as follows:

Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth. This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the Elohim of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. ... And in the days of these kings shall the Elohim of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever, Daniel 2:31-41, 44.

This dream is neither vague nor merely symbolic of a kingdom in the hearts of believers. What Yahweh revealed here is a succession of literal world-ruling Kingdoms, beginning with the neo-Babylonian empire, which was the predominant Kingdom at that time. Just as the prophet Daniel said, Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold. The second was the Medo-Persian empire whose army, under the command of Cyrus the great, overthrew Babylon just as the dream had foretold. The third

was the Greek empire, led by Alexander the Great who defeated the Persians. And then came the fourth Kingdom ... the two legs of iron – the Roman empire, with capitals in Rome and Constantinople.

Notice that Yahweh was speaking of a succession of literal world-ruling kingdoms here.

Yet, is there a fifth and final human kingdom, characterized by feet having ten toes of iron and clay mixed together. Daniel, chapter 7, and Revelation, chapters 13 and 17, provide us a clear parallel in understanding that this is none other than the reign (kingdom) of the anti-Messiah who will reign on earth during the soon-coming, three-and-a-half-year period of the Great Tribulation. And it seems clear enough from the Scriptures that this final kingdom of man will be connected, one way or another, to the fourth Kingdom, the Roman Empire. This beast system will be the dominant power on earth right up to the return of Yahshua.

This final system may take its place sooner than you think, perhaps during your lifetime! Remember that Daniel had told Nebuchadnezzar that this vision was to reveal events in the latter days.

Daniel went further to give the meaning of the stone cut out of the mountain without hands, which smashes the image representing the succession of world-ruling empires and then grows to fill the whole earth: *And in the days of these kings shall the Elohim of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever*, Daniel 2:44.

Suddenly, the last vestige of man's kingdoms, with his greed for power and wealth, his arrogance and cruelty, is erased forever! In the same vein, we also read about this abolition of human governments in the book of Revelation:

And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse, and against His army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of Him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of His mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh, Revelation 19:19-21.

No longer will there ever be a human kingdom

ruling over the earth, neither will any human being be referred to as a king of kings, like Nebuchadnezzar.

The Messiah Yahshua will then reign over all the earth as the true King of kings and Sovereign of sovereigns (Rev. 19:11-16). This is further corroborated in Revelation 11:15 where, at the time of Yahshua's return, loud voices in heaven will proclaim: "the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Elohim and of His Messiah, and He shall reign forever and ever!" (Rev. 11:15).

Thus, shall the cruel reign of man over the earth be brought to an end decisively, and Yahweh's kingdom finally established.

It must also be pointed out that, while no human Kingdom in all of history has ever ruled over all the earth, Yahweh's kingdom will do just that. His Kingdom will encompass the whole earth, and it will have no end, just as the Scriptures say. Also remember what the prophet Daniel said: "The dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure" (Dan. 2:45).

The Millennium and Its Inhabitants

We are told in Revelation, chapter 20, verse 4, that Yahshua will reign for a thousand years – known as the Millennium – and as we read about this kingdom, we discover it will be inhabited. Who will populate this kingdom?

Scriptures teach that at the end of the great tribulation, Yahshua will return to earth in glory. He will return with His angelic army to judge the wicked and to set up His kingdom (Matt 24:29-30). This is also explained in the parable of the tares and wheat. The angels will gather the tares (the wicked) and destroy them while the righteous will be protected and enter into the kingdom of their Father (Matt 13:36-43). Furthermore, in Matthew, chapter 24, we read:

For as the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left, Matthew 24:38-41.

Notice that in the above passage, they which were taken by the flood were those who were killed in the time of Noah. Likewise, they who will be taken in the end of this age are those who will be put to death by the angels, and the ones left are those who will be left to survive and go into the kingdom.

Moreover, we are foretold by Paul, Yahshua will descend from heaven right after the great tribulation, accompanied by His angelic army. At the sound of the trumpet, the righteous people who are asleep will be resurrected as immortal beings. After that, the righteous ones alive will likewise be changed to immortal beings, and together with those who have been resurrected, will be caught up to welcome Yahshua in the air – the atmospheric region (1Thess. 4:15-17).

Following this, we will accompany the returning King to Jerusalem which will be the capital of the kingdom. Note that no one is taken up to heaven ('rapture' heresy) before, or at this time.

Jude also wrote about this when he said that the returning King will come with a multitude of His angels to execute judgement on the wicked (Jude1:14-15). It is important to stress again the fact that in Matthew 24:38-41, they which are taken refer to those who will be killed, just like those taken away by the flood in the days of Noah; and they which are left are those who will be spared. This passage does not support the unscriptural 'rapture' heresy. As a matter of fact, the great tribulation will be a time during which Yahweh's judgment is poured out on the wicked people of this world, but He will protect His elect. And when all these events are fully consummated, it seems clear from the Scriptures that the majority of human population will be no more. Only those who are considered fit to dwell in Yahshua's righteous Kingdom will be left.

So, we have two categories of people left upon Yahshua's return: the glorified saints – both the resurrected Messianic believers and the living and who will be changed to immortal beings. They are referred to as the first fruits (James 1:18; Rev. 14:4), and they will reign with the King of kings during the Millennial reign (Rev. 20:4). They will serve as priests of Yahweh and of Yahshua in the kingdom (Rev. 20:6), and from that point on they will reign forever, having become part of Yahweh's family of righteous spirit beings – this is what it truly means to be born again (John 3:3-6).

What qualifies these people to be the first fruits? Well, as we read in the Scriptures, they had kept Yahweh's Commandments – including the ones rejected by others – and they kept the faith of Yahshua (Matt. 19:17; Rev. 14:12). They have the true name of the Father written in their foreheads



(Rev. 14:1). No false doctrine or false worship or practice of idolatry is found in them (Rev. 14:5). They had been prepared for the Bridegroom's return while others were not (Matt. 25:1-13). And some even laid down their lives in defense of the truth (Rev. 20:4-6). As we have declared previously, these will be governing and teaching the physical people in the Millennial kingdom. This is further corroborated in the parable of the talents where some servants are given authority

over ten cities, and some five cities, and some two cities, depending on each one's ability and work for the Master in this present age (Luke 19:11-26).

This is further corroborated in the parable of the talents where some servants are given authority over ten cities, and some five cities, and some two cities, depending on each one's ability and work for the Master in this present age (Luke 19:11-26).

The other group of people are those who are not included among the first fruits, but who are spared, i.e., left to survive the judgement that comes upon the wicked people of this world at the end of the age (Matt. 24:38-41; Luke 17:34-37). They are not changed to spirit beings, but remain as mortal beings, still living as flesh and blood. They will replenish the earth through procreation and earn their daily bread through lawful but profitable activities. It is important to state that they have not inherited Yahweh's kingdom, while they have yet corporeal being, that is, while they are still flesh and blood (1 Cor. 15:50). However, they will continue to dwell on the earth during the Millennium as physical people, still subject to the processes of aging and physical death. More importantly, they will now have to learn and obey the law of Yahweh correctly (Isa. 2:3, 66:23; Zech. 14:16). They will realize the error and futility of their previous way of life and worship, even as prophet Jeremiah declared, "the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit" (Jer. 16:19).

So, what about Yahshua's disciples' role in the coming Kingdom. Yahshua specifically told the twelve Apostles,

Ye are they which have continued with Me in My temptations. And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as My Father hath appointed unto Me; That ye may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel, Luke

22:28-30. This is a clear reference to rulership positions in the Millenium.

An Amazing Age of Bliss

Let's exercise our imagination for a while! Imagine a peaceful world where there is no war or rumors of war; a world in which swords and spears are beaten into plowshares and pruninghooks (Isa. 2:4); a world without criminal gangs; a world without terrorists or the religion of terror; a world where everyone enjoys good health, abundance of food and profitable work (Amos 9:13-14); a world in which one is considered a child if he dies at the age of hundred (Isa. 65:20). Think of a world in which no one is ever enslaved or exploited, and where people can live for hundreds of years and be truly prosperous (Isa. 65:17-23); a world in which the deserts blossom, producing abundance of food (Isa. 35:1-2). A world in which animals co-exist peacefully, in which ferocious animals no longer attack humans or kill other animals (Isa. 11:6-9, 65:25); a world in which the resources of the earth are used for the benefit of all. Now, you are getting a picture of the kingdom of Yahweh.

Let's ponder furthermore, upon a world in which Satan and his hordes of fallen angels are chained and imprisoned for a thousand years (Rev. 20:1-3); a world without diversity of religions, but where everyone worships only Yahweh and in the same way He wants (Zech. 14:16-20); a world where sin is not tolerated but decisively punished (Isa. 65:20); a world in which mankind begins to return to the original language spoken from the garden of Eden (Zeph. 3:9), thereby reversing the confusion and disunity occasioned at the tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1-9); a world in which there is one law (the Torah) for all nations (Exod. 12:49, ff), proceeding from a global government based in Jerusalem, under the kingship of Yahshua the Messiah (Isa. 2:3). Such a world is not a fantasy, it is not a mirage. It is the promised Kingdom of Yahweh that will soon be established on this earth.

Concerning this golden age, the prophets of old prophesied extensively:

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of Yahweh shall rest upon Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Yahweh; And shall make Him of quick understanding in the fear of Yahweh: and He shall not judge after the sight of His eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of His ears: But with righteousness shall He judge the poor, and reprove with equity for

the meek of the earth: and He shall smite the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips shall He slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of His loins, and faithfulness the girdle of His reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Yahweh, as the waters cover the sea, Isaiah 11:1-9.

Under Yahshua's reign, the knowledge of Yahweh's Torah will permeate the earth. Mankind will obey His Torah, including His weekly Sabbath and His annual Holidays (Isa. 66:23; Zech. 14:16; Ezek. 45:17, 46:9) and the subsequent blessings of such righteous living will be unbelievable.

But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of Yahweh shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh, and to the house of the Elohim of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem. And He shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of Yahweh of hosts hath spoken it, Micah 4:1-4.

Man has been given six days to do his own work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of Yahweh (Exo 20:9-10). The six days of work correspond to six thousand years, while the Sabbath corresponds to the Millennial reign of Yahshua on this earth (Psa. 90:4; 2 Pet. 3:8). So, man has been allotted six thousand years to run his own government, and that is very near conclusion now. In the course of these six thousand years, it has become abundantly clear that man, without Yahweh, is unable to govern himself successfully. The prophet Jeremiah pointed this out: *O Yahweh, I know that the way of man is*

not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps, Jeremiah 10:23

Man has failed woefully to establish lasting peace and Justice. He is unable to bring about righteousness and true prosperity on earth. He is incapable of freeing himself from the countless woes that have befallen him.

The catastrophic events at the end of this age will finally bring humanity to the brink of total self-annihilation (Matt. 24:22). Only then will people realize the futility of self-rule and seek Yahweh's help over the affairs of this earth. Then Yahweh will intervene, and His Kingdom will come! (Matt. 6:10).

Yahshua will return to earth at the end of this age – at the end of the six days given to man to do his work. Then the kingdom of Yahweh will be set up as a literal government in which the saints of Yahweh will serve under Yahshua the Messiah Who will at last, bring genuine global peace and prosperity. That is a tremendous Good News. The Kingdom of Yahweh is the ruling family of Yahweh, and we can enter into it if we are willing to do the Father's will in this age.

The Final Rebellion and Judgment

Yahweh's Kingdom will be established on earth. His will shall be done here on earth as it is in heaven (Matt. 6:10). As men begin to do His will, walking in His Torah (instructions), and as lawlessness and evil works of darkness become a thing of the past, the result will be a new earth – different from what we've ever known (Isa. 65:17-18).

The thousand-year reign will be peaceful and prosperous, and men will again procreate and fill up the earth. But the thousand years will one day come to an end. And when it does, what happens next?

And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from Yahweh out of heaven, and devoured them, Revelation 20:7-9.

During the Millenium, children will be born who will never experience the troubles in today's world. The people who live through the great tribulation, crossing into the Millenium in the natural body, will grow old and pass away. The world will then be filled with a new set of people, born with human nature, but having no experience of the pains and challenges of the present world which is under the

influence of Satan, the god of this world. These people will take a lot of things for granted: the abundance of food, good health, unprecedented peace, and other benefits come of being governed by Yahshua and His immortal saints. All these will, sadly, be taken for granted by ungrateful men who have never experienced anything of adversity. So, when Satan is finally released from his prison to test them, they will show what is in their hearts.

A question that comes to mind, is: "Why will Satan be released again?" According to the book of Isaiah, some who are born during the Millenium will be inclined toward sin, even without the overwhelming negative influence of Satan (Isa. 65:20). Thus, at the end of the Millenium, and before the eternal phase of Yahweh's Kingdom begins, those who rebel and sin against Yahweh in His Kingdom are identified and destroyed, once and for all. This final rebellion, orchestrated by Satan, will also be a testament that the devil himself is unwilling and incapable of repenting of his evil ways, and will never repent.

In the end, Satan will be judged, and so will all those who have followed him – angels and humans alike. Yahweh foretold this judgement long ago:

Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyre, and say unto him, "Thus saith the Sovereign Yahweh; 'Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of Elohim; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of Elohim; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of Elohim: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from

the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee, Ezekiel 28:12-18.

Here we see Yahweh's judgement on Satan. He will be burnt up and reduced to ashes, never to exist anymore. Likewise, all unrepentant sinners who have followed him in their lifetimes will be destroyed forever in the lake of fire (2 Thess. 1:9; Rev. 20:10-15; 2 Pet. 3:7; Mal. 4:1, 3). "And the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (1 Cor. 15:26).

A New Heaven and a New Earth

Following the destruction of Satan and his followers – including his angels and the wicked people of the world as well as their evil works, and following the destruction of death and the removal of sin and its effects on earth, the outcome will be a change of the old order of things to a new order; the result will be a new earth and nothing short of a new earth.

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from Yahweh out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her Husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of Yahweh is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and Yahweh Himself shall be with them, and be their Elohim. And Yahweh shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." And He that sat upon the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said unto me, "Write: for these words are true and faithful." And he said unto me, "It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his Elohim, and he shall be my son," Revelation 21:1-7.

At first glance, passages such as Isaiah 65:17, 2 Peter 3:13, and Revelation 21:1, seem to suggest an utter destruction of this planet earth. However, we know that this is not the case when we consider other passages of Scriptures where the permanent and perpetual existence of the planet is assured (Eccl. 1:4; Psa. 104:5; Isa. 45:18).

The 'burning' and 'melting' imagery in 2 Peter, chapter 3, speaks of purging and refining — just as fire refines gold.

"New heavens and new earth," therefore, are a Biblical metaphor for a new order of things. Yahweh will remove the corrupt world system. All unrepentant, wicked people who have ever lived on earth will be destroyed in the Lake of Fire. Likewise, the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places will be destroyed forever. For instance, a repentant sinner is not obliterated so a new creation can emerge. Rather, he is cleansed, renewed and sanctified so he can become a new creation (2 Cor 5:17). Likewise, Yahweh will not obliterate planet earth and the countless galaxies of the universe in order to replace them with new ones. The heavens and the earth will be cleansed, purified, renewed and restored. So, what comes out of that is what the Scriptures describe as a new heaven and a new earth. In Matthew 19:28 we read:

Yahshua told them, "I tell all of you with certainty, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne in the renewed creation, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, governing the twelve tribes of Israel," Matthew 19:28, *ISV*.

Yahshua said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel," *NIV*.

The New Jerusalem

Every Kingdom has a capital city, and so will the kingdom of Yahweh. While the present-day Jerusalem will be the kingdom's capital during the Millennium, the heavenly Jerusalem (The new Jerusalem), will be the eternal capital of Yahweh's Kingdom after the white throne judgement.

And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, "Come hither; I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife." And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the Holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from Yahweh, Having the glory of Yahweh: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, Revelation 21:9-14.

The Apostle John was shown a cube-shaped city, measuring 1,200 miles in length, 1,200 miles in width and 1,200 miles in height (Rev. 21:16). The magnificence and size of this literal city is, simply put, far beyond human comprehension and architecture. It is far greater than what human riches and technology can ever achieve. The city is, according to the Scripture, built of pure gold, like clear glass (Rev. 22:18). Its splendor is like jasper stone, clear as crystal. It has twelve foundations made of twelve precious stones, and marked with the names of the twelve Apostles of the Lamb (Rev. 21:14). It also has twelve gates made of pearls, and marked with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel (Rev. 21:12). There, the River of Life flows, and the Tree of Life bears twelve kinds of fruits each month (Rev. 22:1-2). The bride of Yahshua will partake of its fruits, and there the redeemed of Yahweh will be joyful forever – pains, sorrow, crying, death – all are gone forever (Rev. 2:7, 21:4, 22:14). This is Paradise, the eternal home of the Almighty Yahweh and of the Lamb (Yahshua the Messiah). From here, Yahweh and His only-begotten Son will reign over all the earth.

The angel that spoke with John described the New Jerusalem prepared for the Bride, the Lamb's wife, which implies that the city will be their permanent home (Rev. 21:2, 9, 10)

They will dwell in the presence of Yahweh and of Yahshua, reigning with Him forever (Rev. 22:3-5). It appears these are the same people who reigned with Him during the Millenium (Rev. 5:10, 20:4, 6), having been married to Him during the Millennial Kingdom (Rev. 19:7).

And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it, Revelation 21:24-26.

This implies that apart from the New Jerusalem, there are nations (peoples) who also live on the renewed earth. They are saved but separate from those who actually dwell inside the city. They've been found worthy of eternal life at the white throne judgment (Rev. 20:11-15), but they were not part of the first-fruits (Rev. 14:4). They benefit from the city's light (the glory of Yahweh), but they are not identified with the city as the bride is. They also benefit from the Tree of Life in the middle of the city, the leaves of the tree provided for their healing (Rev. 22:2) which suggests there might be sickness

among the nations. However, the people in the nations will not be sick, since death and pain will have been abolished (Rev. 21:4).

Instead, the leaves will serve a preventative, not a curative, purpose. It will be for the sustenance and renewal of their health, ensuring they stay alive and healthy forever.

In Revelation, chapter 22, verses 1 and 3, John sees the throne of Yahweh and of the Lamb in the New Jerusalem. Notice carefully: it says “the throne” (singular), not ‘thrones’. Yet, it belongs to Yahweh and Yahshua (the Lamb). This shared throne symbolizes the unity between the Father and the Son throughout the endless age of eternity. It is also pertinent to point out that there is no mention of a third person regarding the throne, an indisputable fact that clearly disproves the doctrine of a ‘trinity’.

Conclusion

And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Aleph and Tau, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the Tree of Life, and may enter in through the gates into the City, Revelation 22:12-14

Here in the last chapter, and in some of the last verses of the Scriptures, we are reminded that obedience to Yahweh's Commandments is required to gain access to the New Jerusalem and the Tree of Life, and that we will be rewarded based on our works in this present world.

Yahweh's plan is simple and clear: the six days He allotted to man will soon end. And then the Sabbath will begin, ushering in the return of Yahshua the King of kings, to establish the Kingdom of Yahweh on this earth, putting an end to the reign of man.

Heaven is watching and, indeed, in control of events on earth. Although wickedness and suffering abound today, these will not continue forever. Soon and very soon, Yahweh will intervene. The wicked will be duly punished with everlasting destruction, while the righteous, though experiencing pain in this present world, will be rewarded with the kingdom of Yahweh where righteousness, peace, comfort and joy abound forever. His Kingdom will surely come, without delay, and His will, and His alone, will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let him that heareth say, “Come.” And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the Water of Life freely, Revelation 22:17.

- Elder Israel Omatayo



Seven Practical, Ascending Steps to Fulfilling the Law: Love

In Luke's Evangel, we read a parable spoken by Master Yahshua in which he tells of a certain rich man who was faced with a quandary. His garden was overflowing with the produce of his fields, and he determined that he would pull down his barns and build greater ... there, to store his increase. And therewith confident that he had more than heart could wish, he would resign himself to fulfilling a life of pleasure and leisure, taking his ease eating, drinking, and being merry.

But the Supreme Sovereign Yahweh took notice of his purpose, and intervened, declaring to him, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required to thee ... So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward Eloha" (Luke 12:20, 21, **KJV** used throughout).

"Rich toward Eloha?" One might ask, *How can one be rich toward Eloha when the cattle on a thousand hills are His (and the hills also) as well the earth, and the fulness thereof, are His and from Whom distribution of man's needs are come?*

Well, the answer is found elsewhere, in Matthew's account. In chapter 25, Yahshua declares that when He, the Son of man shall come in His glory, He will separate the sheep from the goats, and commend the sheep on His right hand, "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave Me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took Me in: Naked, and ye clothed Me: I was sick, and ye visited Me: I was in prison, and ye came unto Me. Then shall the righteous answer Him, saying, 'Master, when saw we Thee ...?' And the King shall answer and say unto them, 'Insomuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto Me'" (Matt. 25:34b-38a, 40). We conclude then, that becoming **rich toward Eloha** will cost the benefactor that first prerequisite, incidentally, of professing himself to be a disciple of Yahshua – that is **denying the self** (Matt. 16:24).

Love: Fulfilling the Law

Of these six estates in which one might find himself or herself – hungry; thirsty; a stranger (perhaps homeless); naked; sick; imprisoned – this discourse will focus upon the fifth: "I was sick, and ye visited Me."

There would perhaps be fewer means by which one could, at once and the same time, condescend to them of lower estate by looking less upon one's own things and more, upon seeking the prosperity of another; weeping with them that weep; bestowing more abundant honor to them who think themselves less honorable; comforting them which are in any trouble; lifting up the hands that hang down and supporting

the weak and feeble knees; bearing another's burdens; distributing to the necessity of them in want; doing good to them as you would they should to you, exercising the same care and concern for, and identifying with, and relating to others' suffering ... in short, becoming rich toward Yahweh and fulfilling the Law of Love when a member-in-particular is sick and infirmed, afflicted and tormented, and conflicted even, when his or her faith toward Yahweh is come under attack through the experience of adversity of illness.

There would be fewer occasions that demand and command the exercise of Body Ministry by them which are thought, and who profess themselves to be, members everyone-of-another, than when one of their members suffer not only physical sickness or disease, but whose faith is also tried and particularly, when after spiritual introspection nothing of outstanding, unconfessed sin is produced that might be considered cause for his or her distress.

Three Reasons for Sickness

The Scripture informs us, that *When a man's ways please Yahweh, He maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him*, Proverbs 16:7.

Surely, sickness may be thought an enemy. But, on the other hand, couldn't sickness be an instrument, a vehicle, a means, by which one is chastened and corrected because of a want of having contritely repented and confessed his sin?

Well, yes it could, as Yahweh posited in the Book of Deuteronomy, that if His peculiar people would obey Him, He would not afflict them with the diseases of Egypt.

In John, chapter 9, Yahshua's disciples understood this concept, when they queried of Him concerning the man born blind, who had sinned, he or his parents? And earlier in John's narrative, in chapter 5, Yahshua had healed a man who had been afflicted with his particular infirmity for 38 years, saying, "Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee" (John 5:14).

So, yes, clearly, sin can be the responsible agency for one's illness, but sickness can as well be an opportunity by which Eloha might be glorified, as in the case of Lazarus in John, chapter 11, whose sickness declined toward his death.

Or one's illness can also become that occasion by which the infirmed might awaken to an aspect of righteousness to which he or she had not yet apprehended. And only they who admit they've been bought with the peculiar price of Innocent Blood; that they are no longer their own to do as

they would; and that He, therefore, can do what He will with His own, will delight themselves that their illness has effected this awakening which is not so common, incidentally, among many who profess themselves heirs of the Commonwealth and Covenants of Promise.

So, What to Do!

According to Psalm 103, there are certain benefits that may be appropriated of Yahweh by such of those who keep His Covenant and that remember His Commandments to do them: His lovingkindness and tender mercies; forgiveness of all our iniquities; redemption of our lives from destruction; satisfying our physical needs; execution of righteousness and judgment in behalf of them who are oppressed; healing of all our diseases.

Scripture provides formulae to be pursued by those who are afflicted with sickness:

"Is any among you afflicted? let him pray ... Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the Assembly; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Name of the Sovereign: And the prayer of faith shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:13-16).

"And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us: And if we know that He hear us, we know that we have the petitions we desired of Him" (1 John 5:14-15).

And of particular note, is that this approach should be the first recourse, rather than the last resort of a believer for it is still, better to put one's trust in Yahweh than to put confidence in man whose breath is also in his nostrils (Psa. 118:8; Isa. 2:22). This is not to say, and we mean not to aver that giving attendance to medical practitioners and their therapeutic interventions is forbidden, but it is still the Author of Life Who fearfully and wonderfully created us, and principally to Him, therefore, should we take recourse to Him to fearfully and wonderfully repair us ... patient in tribulation, deferring our will to His purpose; setting our time into His hands while at the same time, giving Him no rest via our intercession and supplication with thanksgiving. Hard to do? absolutely, but we are reminded of Yahshua's reply at Lazarus' tomb-site when the mourners there, mused among themselves whether He Who testified Himself as the Resurrection and

Life could not also raise this one, interred now four days, his body become subject to the worm – He affirmed to them there, “Believe … see the glory of Eloha” (John 11:40).

So, without question do we have need of faith and patience and, moreover, to resist the temptation to cast away our confidence which has a great recompense of reward (Heb. 10:35). For always, is it a want of faith and patience that preclude us from doing the will of Yahweh and, subsequently, from receiving His promise to renew strength to endure trial. Again, this is not to decry the employment of medical practitioners whose skill-sets are provided them at the pleasure of the Creator, but only that there should first be a remembrance of Him Whose dominion over life is proprietary and, therefore, an endeavor toward discerning the reason for, and cause of, one’s affliction.

1 - The First Practical, Ascending Step

Effectual prayer is the first practical, ascending step which must incorporate the following criteria:

- prayer that will properly acknowledge, “according to His will” (1 John 5:14) and, “nevertheless not my will, but Thine be done” (Luke 22:42) properties of what constitutes that which is “effectual”;
- the intercessor, whether members of the presbytery, the member-in-particular who has summoned their ministry, and the members everyone-of-another whose prayers are offered in behalf of their peer, must certain that they have the ear of the Grantor of their petition by first securing the answer of conscience, that it is void of unrepentant and unconfessed sin because there would be fewer causes from which Yahweh would hide His face and turn His ear, than from any whose prayer is abominable before Him owing to a participant’s outstanding sin; let them first confess their faults one to another, that this enterprise of healing might occur, for it is still that prayer that is offered from the abundance of a righteous heart that avails much;
- abominable before Him? yes, any who have deliberately turned their ear from hearing His Law, and whose lips presumptuously seek His favor should not expect their appeal will much warrant a favorable response but perhaps much more, an occasion of His chastisement;

- for this reason, prayer should not be solicited from them who are yet dead in their trespasses and sins, and neither should the one needing intervention have regard for them who exclaim, “You’re in my thoughts and prayers” or, “I’ll be praying for you” as they who dismiss the one who is naked and destitute of daily food, by saying, “Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled” (James 2:15, 16), notwithstanding nothing is proffered the other that is needful – what does it profit? prayer that is clothed upon with a fervent spirit, zealously affected – purposed and intentional, with time set apart for its utterance and not become subject to, or made to become but a part of an activity of multi-tasking – and said, ‘doubting nothing’, ‘nothing wavering’ and possessing but the faith of a grain of mustard seed, yet capable of removing mountains and accompanied even, with fasting as an act meeting that first prerequisite of a disciple of Yahshua Messiah, “denying the self”
- these comprise the first practical, ascending step toward fulfilling the Law of Love.

2 - The Second Practical, Ascending Step

As we progress through these seven practical, ascending steps you will notice that successively, each one will demand and command more cost to you – of your time, of your purpose and intention.

This second, is calls. Nearly every one of us has access to a telephone. Very many carry a hand-held communication device with them all the time.

It’s true, people who are infirmed don’t care how much you say you care, until you prove that you care. It takes so little time to place a call (and not a text) to one who is sick in the hospital, or convalescing at home; to make inquiry of their estate with a readiness to will and a willing mind to encourage and offer them assurance of bearing their burden – in short, to be a friend in deed and truth and not just one of many who love in word and tongue but who scarcely put feet to their lips.

Oh, and think not that but one call (and not a text message) will but satisfy your duty, obligation, and responsibility toward loving your neighbor as yourself. Sickness that suspends or precludes one

from executing his or her “activities of daily living” can be injurious to one’s mental health and wellness, and at such times, knowing that one has a friend in time of need will contribute very much to an accelerated recovery.

3 - The Third Practical, Ascending Step

Who doesn’t like to receive a greeting card, intended to convey a message that ministers to the emotional and mental health of the one afflicted with sickness? But as we progress through the seven, more cost will be exacted from the benefactor of good, requiring him or her to get to a Hallmark Card and Gift Center or to the local Walmart or Dollar General store, there to peruse the greeting card aisle to search for that one card that fits the personality of the sick and infirmed, and to take the time to add genuine and sincere words of encouragement that perhaps is deficient in the printed message from the card manufacturer.

Oh, and don’t forget to include an uplifting Scripture, perhaps from the Psalter, discreetly avoiding such trite and terse words, like, *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love Eloha, to them who are the called according to [His] purpose*, Romans 8:28, which may arouse in the sick and infirmed a sense of his illness being attributed more to Yahweh’s judgment, than being respected as good and useful to his edification.

And, of course, hand delivery of such felicitations is more appreciated by the sick and infirmed than an e-mail or dispatch by snail-mail.

4 - The Fourth Practical, Ascending Step

Chocolate – who doesn’t like chocolate? Again, it’ll cost you a trip to a Russel Stover candy store or your local Walmart to pick up a box of Zachary assorted chocolates. And of course, consider that if your friend is diabetic, chocolate might not be an appropriate choice.

Oh, and there is a benefit to you, too. Personal delivery of the confectionary to the sick and infirmed, will likely result in the other insisting that you “help yourself.” After all, “breaking of bread” and “eat[ing] their meat with gladness and singleness of heart” (Acts 2:42, 46) is one of the four attributes that distinguished the three-thousand who were immersed on a particularly notable Pentecost. The other three? “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship … and in prayers” (Acts 2:42). It doesn’t get much better than that.

5 - The Fifth Practical, Ascending Step

We’re still climbing, and we’re almost there … but not quite, yet. The floral industry posits their mantra, “Say It With Flowers.” Yeah, that means a little more cost of your time, and to your hip pocket or purse, as you make a trip to a flower shop or Kroger’s (touted to be the largest floral shop in the world) to search for that special bouquet and vase and card that says it all, “I love you with the love of Yahshua.” If you have a flower garden yourself, it’s acceptable to clip specie of flowers … even, wild flowers with which to shower Yahweh’s earthy grace upon that one for whom you care.

Oh, and if you do make a purchase from a floral vendor, don’t request their delivery – pharmacies also do the same – but deliver them yourself, so that you can share in the other’s appreciation of this gesture of your love.

6 - The Sixth Practical, Ascending Step

This next will perhaps require much more of your time, and exact more from your hip pocket or purse than any of the other five practical, ascending steps. Visitation. People in distress much more prefer your p-r-e-s-e-n-c-e than your p-r-e-s-e-n-t-s. Visiting as often as you can and as the other’s circumstance allows, provides you with opportunity and occasion to do personal ministry – becoming acquainted with the other’s personal needs that have not perhaps been met; opportunity to read the Scriptures and to pray for redress of their circumstance; or maybe, just to sit there with them like Job’s companions who wept and rent everyone his mantle, sprinkling dust upon their heads and for seven days and seven nights, kept their quiet vigil of fasting with him in sackcloth and ashes because they saw his grief was most egregious.

Yes, visitation – what better way to fulfill the Law of Loving Thy Neighbour As Thyself that participating in the other’s duress with a grasp of their hand; weeping with them, and washing away their tears with a tissue; combing their hair; fluffing up their bed pillow; straightening out their bed clothing; assisting them with eating; sitting with them in the hospital visitor’s lounge; walking with them down the hospital corridor; relieving their caregivers of their labor for a time that they may become refreshed themselves, and a myriad of other aid that might be offered during this time of their recovery and convalescence.

As with the other practical, ascending steps, don’t make visitation a “one-time only” event. The sick

and infirmed are dealing daily with the work of healing, recovery, and convalesce, and resumption of their particular “activities of daily living” will occur gradually, as they recover their strength and stamina to undertake these activities.

7 - The Seventh Practical, Ascending Step

At last, we've reached to what might be the costliest and yet, the most rewarding to ourselves and to the sick and infirmed as he or she recovers from their illness and garners strength of life.

This last practical, ascending step called physical ministry will likely also, capture the notice of men who will have cause to recognize that you ... yes, you, have been with Yahshua by the unfeigned love you have demonstrated for your fellow in the time of his or her need.

Who, wouldn't want to come home from a hospital stay to find their yard had been mown; their garden weeded and harvested; their mail collected and maybe, in the event of a prolonged hospital or rehabilitative stay, their utility paid from your resources in order to prevent the utility disconnecting the water and gas and electric infrastructure?

And what about relieving them of meal preparation, or doing their laundry, or driving them to post-care medical appointments that might not be so proximate to their home, or running errands to the grocery or pharmacy, or bringing them to Sabbath Assembly ... the cost of which are borne from your own hip pocket or purse without thought

even, of being reimbursed by them as they have other fiscal matters with which to be concerned, like medical deductibles and co-pays?

Conclusion

So, what's the bottom line? Well, first of all, we'll have to overcome this being so inoculated with ourselves – looking more upon our own things, pursuing our own gain, seeking our own lives – and looking less upon the needs of others and instead, make our abundance to become a supply to others' want ... if we will save our own souls by being rich toward Eloah and at one and the same time, fulfill the Law of Love that works no further ill to its neighbor through neglect of doing the Commandment.

Secondly, and become secondary to having done the first work, we are assured of the Supreme Sovereign that through our ministry of redressing the want of others afflicted with sickness, that our own need shall be satisfied if, and when, we too become afflicted with infirmity, necessity, or distress ... exactly by the expression of others' love toward us, so that we can confidently say, as the Apostle, “Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities ... for when I am weak, then am I strong” (2 Cor. 12:9, 10) for the power of Messiah, working through my brothers and sisters has sustained my hope, and my faith and affirmed the Truth of Master Yahshua's observation, that though “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35) His saying expresses but a comparative degree. For it is certainly a blessing to the one sorely afflicted with illness, to receive the giving of others' selves in the time of his need.

- Elder John W. Reece





QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q Isn't there proof that during the first century, leavened bread was used in the Eastern as it was in the Western Assemblies of Yahweh's people? Aren't there Bible Scholars who believe that this was the case up until the 10th century?

A There are no absolute confirmed historical records reliable beyond the clear writings of Scripture concerning what bread had to be used at the Passover Service.

Many try to use the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox "church" writings to substantiate this doctrine. These "churches" were never Yahweh's Assembly (Hos. 2:2).

The Catholic Church has stated quite openly that Unleavened Bread was used by our Savior the night of the "Last Supper" (Passover supper), with reference to Exodus 12:8. They even endorsed that NO LEAVENED BREAD was to be present the night of the Passover. (Douay version.) References alongside 1st Corinthians 5 in the Douay version goes so far as saying:

"Messiah excommunicates the incestuous adulterer, and admonishes them (the church) to purge out sinners which are likened to that of old leaven."

In Catholic teachings, under the word "Eucharist" (thanksgiving) they assert, that the bread and wine, thought it retains its appearance and taste of bread and wine, become (is "transubstantiated" into) the real presence of the Body, and blood of Messiah. They say this is proved by the following texts:

And as they were eating, Yahshua took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body," Matthew 26:26. (emphasis ours)

And as they did eat, Yahshua took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, "Take, eat: this is My body." And He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And He said unto them,

"This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many," Mark 14:22-24. (emphasis ours)

And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you, Luke 22:19-20. (emphasis ours)

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" John 6:51-52. (emphasis ours)

Peter understood what Yahshua was saying (verse 68), but many still did not understand and walked away.

When we ask Yahweh's blessing upon our drinking from the cup of the fruit of the vine (grape juice) at Yahweh's table, it means that all who drink it are sharing together the blessing of Messiah's blood. The bread which we break shows that we are sharing together in the benefits of His body, which was broken for us (1 Cor. 10:16).

And when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, "Take, eat: this is (a token of) My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me." After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, "This cup is the new testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Master's death till he come. 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. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and



drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Master's body, 1 Corinthians 11:24-29. (See Heb. 9:25, 10:1, 3, 11-12; Exod. 13:10; Luke 22:13.)

After reading these texts and having knowledge of Yahweh's law, Yahshua was speaking to His people in the Spirit. Those emblems of the bread and the fruit of the vine were symbolic reminders for His people to partake in each Passover. Understand that our Savior spoke in parables so those who were not chosen would not understand (Luke 8:10).

Though the Catholic church admits that only unleavened bread (no yeast) may be used as the symbol of the Messiah's body, in their manufacture of the wafer they use for their service, it is rice paper mixed with a bi-carb ingredient. Although no yeast is added, the bicarbonate of soda becomes a leavening agent. That is the reason why the wafer melts so easily on the tongue.

Hardly, therefore, may the Catholic church be thought an authority on this matter of whether leavened or unleavened bread is acceptable for the memorial observing Yahshua's sacrifice. Indeed, given church history of the medieval period, the following Proverb may be attributed to them:

For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence. But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble, Proverbs 4:17-19.

Leaven was held to be a symbol of corruption in the religious rites of the Canaanites, Babylonians and Egyptians. To the Hebrews and the Romans, leaven was a metaphor for evil (*Peak's Commentary on the Bible*, 204e). Leaven is usually a figure for an evil influence (*Peak's* 729h). Leaven signifies corruption, a reason why its presence is prohibited at any sacrificial service (*Peak's* 185a).

Q Is drinking alcohol allowed according to the Bible?

A According to Scripture, alcohol is alright, in moderation:

"Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!" (Isa 5:10)

It was even allowed (keeping in mind, moderation) for those keeping the sojourning Feasts (found in Lev 23) of Yahweh:

"And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for

wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before Yahweh thy Elohim, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household," Deut. 14:26.

The reference of wine for Passover, however, is a misnomer. The Greek word "oinos" is NOT used in reference to the Passover in the New Testament, not even once. This is easily proven. Even when you look at the first reference in Scripture to "cup," you find it is grapes being squeezed into it. In the New Testament the reference for "grape juice" is "fruit of the vine."



Q. Is there a scriptural commandment to look for the new moon? If so, where is it found?

A Yes. The word "observe" (*shamar* #8104) can have the meaning of "watch," "to look" and/or "take note of and keep." The word "shamar" appears some 468 times in the OT (5 times as "watch") and has numerous translations to the English words: keep, watch (*Vine's Expository Dictionary*); keep, watch, observe, watch for, wait for & others (*BDB Hebrew Lexicon*). In Deut. 16:1 - "Observe the month of *Abib*..." could easily read "Watch for the new moon of *Abib*..." To watch for means one must make a visual sighting.

When Yahweh took the people out of Egypt, He pointed out the new moon, after the new growth from the spring time, saying, "This month (new moon) shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month (new moon) of the year for you," Exodus 12:2 *ESV*. It's the only way to determine the new year and the appointed times of Yahweh (Lev. 23). Historical information by Jewish scholars (Edersheim, Spier, etc.) also show the practice of observing the new moons for each new month was done.

The moon has the root meaning of "light" brought out, one must then watch/look/note/observe the first visible crescent light presented to be able to confirm a new moon. It would then be kept and noted as a new moon (new month). The link below has some additional information on new moons.

<https://www.newmoonreport.org/calendar.html>

More Questions and Answers and over 100 studies are available for viewing online @ yaiy.org. Contact us if you have other Biblical questions.

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**“And on the fifteenth day of this
month shall be a feast; seven days shall
unleavened bread be eaten.”**

- Numbers 28:17

