



THE Master Key

UNLOCKING BIBLE TRUTH

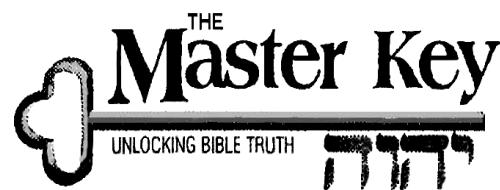
תְּהִוֵּה

July-August 2024 Volume 46 No. 4

Now learn a parable of the fig tree; when his branch is yet tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near: So likewise, when you shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass till all these things be fulfilled (Matthew 24:32-34).

July-August 2024

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The Master Key is dedicated to opening the door to sound Bible understanding. The true names of the Heavenly Father, Yahweh, and His Son, Yahshua the Messiah, are restored in this publication. The “lying pen of the scribes” (Jeremiah 8:8) and the “experts in the law” (Luke 11:52), as well as Bible translators, took away the key of knowledge by substituting titles—God, Lord, Adonai—for the true names. They also neglected other Bible truths proclaimed in these pages. The Sacred Name is easily proved in most good encyclopedias and dictionaries under the heading “Yahweh,” “Jehovah,” “god” or “Tetragrammaton.” You may also request our free booklets, “The Heavenly Father’s Great Name,” and “The Missing J” for a wealth of well-known secular and religious sources that prove the Sacred Name in detail.

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Yahweh’s Assembly in Messiah, (573) 698-4335, Services 1:00 pm

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THE POWERFUL NAME— YAHWEH!

**The Sacred Name is dynamic.
It is the essence of the Creator Himself.**

Discover the power and glory of the Ruler of the universe by discovering His personal, revealed name, and the original, and true name, of your glorious Savior. The Creator's name is a key to understanding Yahweh's Word!

Did you know that great miracles were performed in the Old Testament through the personal name of the Most High, and that the early New Testament assembly, following the Hebrew tradition, also worked mighty miracles by calling on the name of the Messiah? The personal Name of the Creator had been obscured through superstition, even as it is hidden today. Yet we can now begin to understand the power and glory of the Ruler of the universe by discovering His personal, revealed Name, and the original and true name of His own Son.

THE CREATOR'S NAME—KEY TO UNDERSTANDING BIBLICAL FAITH

The Scriptures are not expressed in lofty, nebulous ideas, but in concrete descriptions of a real entity—a living, intelligent, and powerful Being named Yahweh. Those who know the Name of Yahweh and use it, know that they can trust Him to fulfill His promises (**Psalm 9:10**). Yet because the Jews had superstitiously determined that the sacred Name was “too holy to pronounce,” they, and so many others after them, have substituted, forgotten or just plain ignored the name of the Most Holy One of all. **How long shall it be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? Yes, they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart; which think to cause My people to forget My Name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbor; as their fathers have forgotten My Name for Baal** (**Jeremiah 23:26-27**). The very name that offered protection, blessings, and salvation was deleted from common usage and the various names of Baal (Lord) were substituted in its place.

Listen to the stinging rebuke Yahshua the Messiah

hurled toward the learned men in His day. **Luke 11:52, Woe to you, lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge: you entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in you hindered.** His is a warning to anyone who thinks the name Yahweh is not important enough to use in worship. This is why it became necessary for Yahweh to reveal Himself again to man and reveal His name.

HIDING THE NAME UNLAWFUL

There are many references to the use of Yahweh's name. It is important enough to Yahweh to include them in the law. In **Exodus 20:7** we are warned, **You shall not take the name of Yahweh Your Elohim in vain; for Yahweh will not hold him guiltless that takes His name in vain.** The word *vain* actually means to make desolate. Yahweh's name is holy and is to be treated as such. **Let them praise Your great and terrible [awesome] name; for it is holy** (**Psalm 99:3**).

Through the use of Yahweh's holy name, Israel was victorious in wars (**Psalm 20:7**). Because they had been calling upon the name of Yahweh (**Genesis 12:8** and **1 Kings 18:24**), they found safety (**Proverbs 18:10**). Yahweh put His name on Israel according to the priest's law as stated in **Numbers 6:22-27**, **And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, ‘On this wise you shall bless the children of Israel saying to them, “Yahweh bless you, and keep you: Yahweh make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you: Yahweh lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.” And they shall put My name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them.”**

In addition, there were numerous warnings against profaning or defiling His name. Notice what Ezekiel had to say: **...they profaned My holy name, when they said to them, “These are the people of Yahweh, and are gone forth out of His land.” But I had pity for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the heathen wherever they went. Therefore, say to the house of Israel, “Thus saith Yahweh Elohim, ‘I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for My holy name’s sake which you have profaned among the heathen ... and the heathen shall know that I am Yahweh, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes”** (Ezekiel 36:20-23).

In Psalm 83:16-18 we read, **Fill their faces with shame; that they may seek Your name, O Yahweh. Let them be confounded and troubled forever; let them be put to shame, and perish: that men may know that You, Whose name alone is Yahweh, are the Most High over all the earth.**

Why is it so important that we be required to call upon Yahweh’s Name? In Psalm 91:14-16, our question is answered, **Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore will I deliver him. I will set him on high, because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him, and show him My salvation.** We have been greatly blessed because we love the heavenly Father, and we use His personal name.

PROMISES THROUGH HIS NAME

There are many promises attached to the name of Yahweh: deliverance, being set on high, answers, help in time of trouble, long life, and salvation. There is great significance and importance that Yahweh Himself attached to His own name. Do you use the revealed, personal name of Yahweh? If not, then how can you claim the promises He has given, and will give, to those who call upon His name?

The New Shaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge, Vol. 12, says, regarding Yahweh’s name: “...being filled with His very self, it is active and powerful, for it is the sign of His real presence in the midst of His people.” There is no doubt that when Israel called upon the name of their Mighty One, they expected great things to occur. They were not disappointed, either. Why? Again, quoting from *Shaff-Herzog*: “Because the divine name discloses the Almighty’s nature. It is laden with the authority, power, and holiness of Yahweh Himself. This accounts for the great reverence for the name, which is one of the distinctive features of Israel’s faith.”

New covenant faith stands in line with this historical

revelation, in that it affirms Yahweh’s name was also manifested in Yahshua the Messiah. Thus, when Yahshua said in **John 17:6, I have manifested Thy name...**, He not only reconfirmed Yahweh’s name, but opened up the way of salvation. Almighty Yahweh, today, is reaffirming His covenant with His people, through Yahshua, by the revelation of His name. Yahweh is the covenant name of the Almighty. Knowing His name is important in coming into a covenant relationship. Often the covenant relationship is demonstrated in the salvation of His people, who “knew” Yahweh firsthand! **To know that I am Yahweh** appears at least 26 times in the Old Testament, and invariably shows Yahweh’s faithfulness toward His people. This can be seen in **Exodus 6:7, I will be [Ehyeh] their Elohim and they shall be [Yihu] My people.** Thus, in **Exodus 6:7, I will be to you an Elohim, and you shall know that I am Yahweh.**

We see then that “Yahshua yoshia”(Aramaic text), the Mighty One who saves His people, is the same as “Ehyeh Yihu,” the Mighty One of the covenant.

And ‘the Sovereign,’ whom you seek shall suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, whom you delight in (Malachi 3:1). This, of course, refers to the Sinaitic covenant known as the Ten Commandments. It was Yahweh Who gave the Ten Commandments and also resided in the innermost section of the Tabernacle known as the Holy of Holies. The covenant relationship is the basis of the knowledge of Yahweh, and is expressed in the personal revelation of Yahweh’s name as the true Mighty One, the Maker of the covenant.

And He declared unto you His covenant, which He commanded you to perform, even Ten Commandments; and He wrote them upon two tablets of stone (Deuteronomy 4:13).

A LEGAL CONTRACT

The covenant, which is an agreement between Yahweh and a particular group of people, becomes a legal document when bearing the legal names of the parties. It continues in effect as long as both parties are performing their part of the legal agreement, e.g., Yahweh’s covenant in keeping His commandments (**1 John 2:3, 5:3**).

If you were promised to inherit a great deal of wealth—riches beyond imagination—you would want your correct name on the legal document authorizing such an inheritance, wouldn’t you? It would be extremely important, also, that the one authorizing the inheritance had his legal and correct name on this document. Using any other name would void the agreement.

In the same manner, it is important to use the only name that has ever identified the Almighty—Yahweh. It is His legal covenant or contractual name. Without it,

either by omission or substitution, you have no legal contract—and that contract is your salvation.

ESSENCE OF THE SACRED NAME

Yahweh's name is so much more. It embodies His very essence. You would not accept being called another name. Your name is you. You are bothered when your own name is mispronounced, let alone mistaken by another name or generic title. The same is true of Yahweh. Pronouncing Yahweh's name is the expression of His very being. That is why the "Word of Yahweh" came to the prophets with all the authority of Yahweh Himself. With this same authority, the Apostles worked among the people. On the day of Pentecost, the Apostle Peter boldly quoted **Joel 2:32, And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of Yahweh shall be saved** (Acts 2:21).

YAHSHUA MEANS SALVATION

All of the Apostles, including Peter, knew that "Yahweh is Salvation." This is embodied in contraction of Yahweh and Hoshea, meaning *salvation*, and had a predecessor in the form of the Israelite general Joshua. The significance of Joshua is that he is the one who led the Israelites into the promised land, a type of salvation—that's so clear. The name of the Messiah is indeed identical to that of the famed Israelite general. In **Acts 7:45** and again in **Hebrews 4:8**, the two names are interchanged (translators mistakenly inserted "Jesus" here, a translation of Yahshua)! Read the two Scriptures, and see for yourself! Both leaders who took their followers into the promised land are correctly named Yahshua. The name Yahshua (Joshua) is defined in the *Wycliffe Bible Encyclopedia*: "The full name Jehoshua (**Numbers 13:16**) means 'Yahweh is salvation.'" There is so much in the meaning of that name, and the promises that are carried along with it!

Let us look at **Matthew 1:23**, a prophecy taken from **Isaiah 7:14, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which being interpreted is El with us.** Emmanuel or Immanuel is a title of the prophesied Messiah that was to renew the promises made to David and show that Yahweh had not cast off His people. The *Wycliffe Bible Encyclopedia* also says, "El is with us" which is probably taken from 'Immadiyahu, Yah (u) is with me,' or 'Immanuah, Yah(weh) is with us' ... He should be known as Immanuel, Yahweh (Elohim) is with us."

How unbelievably exciting it must have been to hear the play on words, "Yahshua yoshia," which means: the eternal, self-existent mighty one, Yahweh, is salvation and shall save His people; or as we know it, Yahshua: for He shall save His people. Note, however,

that the name Immanuel is not ascribed as a "...proper name (like Yahshua), but that He should come to be known in His character ... the living bond of holy and most intimate fellowship between Yahweh and men from henceforth and forever" (*Interpreters One Volume Commentary of the Bible*).

With profound earnestness and excitement, John wrote in **1 John 1:1-3, That which is from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life, (for the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us) that which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us; and truly fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Yahshua the Messiah...**" The knowledge that he and the others who knew Yahshua personally as Yahweh Elohim of the Hebrew Scriptures—the very spokesman of the family of Yahweh, the "I Am" of **Exodus 3:14**, the great supreme power of the universe, the Almighty—was fantastically incredible!

APOSTLES PERSECUTED FOR THE NAME

In nearly every case, the Apostles taught and preached in the name, Yahshua the Messiah. For this reason, they were persecuted vehemently by the Jewish religious establishment.

We see in **Acts 5:27, ...and the high priest asked them, saying, "Did not we straightly command you that you should not teach in this name? And, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us."** Notice in the above passage that the Apostles had previously been warned about preaching in the name of Yahshua, which, of course, they ignored. We also notice that Jerusalem was filled with their teaching, and that preaching in the name of Yahshua was regarded as a doctrine. This caused a great deal of alarm on the part of the political and religious establishment, owing to the fact that they were afraid of a swift Roman reprisal for the insurrection that was supposedly taking place.

YAHSHUA SPOKE HIS NAME TO PAUL

At another time, Jerusalem was in an uproar when the Apostle Paul was being defended by the Roman guard, **Acts 21:30-33**. When Paul had obtained permission to speak to the people, he spoke to them in the Hebrew language. **Acts 22:2, And when they heard that he spoke in the Hebrew tongue to them, they kept the more silence.** Paul, now reiterating his experiences on the road to Damascus, tells his audience, in Hebrew, the name of the Messiah, Yahshua (verse 8).

There can be no mistake that “Yahshua” is the original sacredly-inspired name because Paul received it directly from Him in Hebrew.

When speaking in his own defense before King Agrippa (recounting his experience on the road to Damascus), Paul relates: **At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. And when we were fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, “Saul, Saul, why persecute thou Me? It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.”** And I said, “Who art thou, Sire?” And He said, “I am Yahshua of Nazareth whom thou persecute,” *Acts 26:13-15, Holy Name Bible*. We clearly see in this account that the resurrected and glorified Messiah identified Himself to Paul in the Hebrew language.

PAUL PROCLAIMED THE NAME

Was Paul faithful? Indeed! What message was he instructed to carry? In *Acts 9:15* we read, **But Yahshua said unto him, “Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto Me, to bear My name before nations, and kings, and the children of Israel.”** In *1 Corinthians 15:3-4*, we read: **For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Yahshua died for our sins according to the Scriptures. And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.**

Paul’s two-fold mission was to bear the Messiah’s name, and to witness to His resurrection. This Paul did as we have seen by the example in *Acts 21:30* through *22:1-2*. Paul was faithful in bearing the name of the Messiah to the nations and Israel. For years, Israel looked for salvation from Yahweh.

“YAHSHUA” WAS PROPHECIED

In *Isaiah 62:11*, we find a most amazing statement, which, properly understood, can open our understanding, *Isaiah 62:11* reads, **Behold, Yahweh hath proclaimed to the end of the world, “Say ye to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, thy Salvation cometh; behold His reward is with Him and His work before Him.’”**

“His” points back to Salvation and describes Salvation as a person. The Hebrew word used here means salvation, liberty, deliverance, free, to be safe, deliver. Therefore, Yahweh’s Salvation, or Yahshua, was to come to set at liberty, deliver, free, and cause to be safe, the daughter of Zion. The Psalmist, in recounting the Exodus of the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt, shows not only the errors of the people, but also the greatness of Yahweh Elohim. The main point is summarized in *Psalm 106:21*, **They**

forgot Elohim their Savior, which had done great things in Egypt. They took the greatness of Yahweh lightly and turned away from Salvation, and yet, Yahweh, being full of graciousness and mercy, promises that, not only Israel, but also **all flesh shall know that I, Yahweh, am thy Savior and thy Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob** (*Isaiah 49:26*).

This is clearly pointed out in *Habakkuk 3:13*, **Thou went forth for the salvation of Thy people, even for salvation with Your anointed...** It is plainly said that the salvation of the people is with Messiah. If we remember here that, as a personal name, Yahshua is the combination of Yahweh and Salvation, then there can be no doubt—Yahshua is our Messiah.

The Word of this salvation was indeed sent to them, but they **received Him not**. They could not see their salvation, Yahshua, coming to them **lowly, and riding upon a donkey, and upon the colt the foal of a donkey**, as *Zechariah 9:9* describes. They could not comprehend the **Hope of Israel, the Savior Yahshua the Messiah, as a stranger in the land (Jeremiah 14:8)**. Even today, Yahshua is still a stranger to many, for the messages of many false messiahs have gone forth and have obscured this glorious message: Yahweh is Salvation through Yahshua the Messiah!

DON’T NEGLECT YOUR SALVATION

These truths are recorded in the Scriptures for our admonition so that we might believe, not only what is said, but also to believe on His name. Let us not neglect so great a salvation—Yahshua the Messiah.

Read the Word of Yahweh and believe. **This is the Stone which was set at naught by you builders, which is become head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved** (*Acts 4:11-12*).

Miracles are still performed in Yahweh’s name today. A changed life is one of the greatest of miracles on earth. Those who have accepted the name of Yahshua, and have been baptized into His name, have made that first step. They have accepted the Salvation that Yahweh has mercifully sent to this earth—His Son. As His Spirit is given, Yahweh empowers that individual to overcome the temptations and trials of the world, the flesh, and the devil. He continues to grow in the stature and fullness of the Messiah. Truly, a miracle takes place when old things pass away and all things become new. A new creation in Messiah is that miracle! Test Him, call upon His name, and see if He will pour out blessings so many that you cannot receive them! HalleluYah!



Ministers of Yahweh's New Agreement

By: Elder Edward Burgett

The Apostle Peter gives calling, **But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (2 Peter 2:5-9).** This priesthood being something sacred--set apart--administers to, or officiates on behalf of Yahweh and Yahshua, to minister, as a public servant, or functionary in the Temple.

The Apostle Paul picks up this concept of the priesthood by explaining how Yahshua sets up these ministers. **He Who descended is also the One Who ascended far above all the heavens that He might fill all things. And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Messiah (Ephesians 4:10-11).**

According to Paul, we are to build up the assembly, and help to prepare them to take hold of their calling (the priesthood); to take hold and administer the New Agreement or Covenant. This would not be the letter of the law, but of the Spirit. We are no longer just a part of a covenant, but it is now a part of us (**Jeremiah 31:31; Deuteronomy 5**). **For the letter kills but the Spirit gives life.** This ministry would be more glorious than the one written on stone. **You came down on Mt Sinai; You spoke to them from heaven. You gave them regulations and laws that are just and right; decrees and commands that are good. You made known to them Your holy Sabbath and gave them commands, decrees and laws through your servant Moses (Nehemiah 9:13-14).**

Paul explains that the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory (**2 Corinthians 3:9**). Therefore, the ministry of the saints--the royal priesthood--is for laying the foundation of the New Covenant, of which Yahshua is the High Priest (**Hebrews 7, 9:11**). Paul gives understanding of this in **2 Corinthians 3:11- 18, For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious.** What is passing away? **Not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of flesh; that is, of the heart**--the physical versus the spiritual.

Many argue that the law is passing away; something that was done away by the nailing of the Messiah to the tree. This is not what Paul is teaching. Paul is teaching that the Torah--our instruction manual--is not found on tablets of stone, but within the heart of the believer.

What has also passed away is the litigation of the Torah. We are no longer litigants. We are no longer involved in a lawsuit, having a claim. The death penalty was removed as a result of Yahshua's sacrifice, Who was the **...mediator of the New Covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant; that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance; or the blood of bulls and goats, and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean and sanctified for the purifying of the flesh; how much more shall the blood of the Anointed, Who through the Eternal Spirit, offered Himself without spot to Eloah, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living El (Hebrews 9:11-18).**

It is no longer a litigation issue concerning the Torah, but one of understanding, **I will put My laws in their minds and write them on their hearts ... (Hebrews 8:10).**

Paul brings these things to fruition when he explains them with these teachings; **... unlike Moses who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. But their minds were blinded. For until this day, the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament because the veil is taken away in the Anointed. But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their hearts. Nevertheless, when one turns to Yahweh, the veil is taken away (2 Corinthians 3:13-16).**

Isaiah prophesied in **chapter 25** these very same words, only he included the nations. **And in this mountain, Yahweh of Hosts will make for all people a feast of choice pieces. A feast of wine on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees. And He will destroy on this mountain the surface of the covering cast over all people. And the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever. And Yahweh Eloah will wipe away tears from all faces and the rebuke of His people will He take away from all the earth, for Yahweh has spoken (Isaiah 25:6-8).**

Messiah Himself spoke of the matter, quoting from **Isaiah 6:9-10, Seeing they may see and not perceive, and hearing they may hear and not understand lest they should turn and their sins be forgiven them.** See also **Mark 4:12. Sin is transgression of the law (1 John 3:4).** Israel became like the nations. They became transgressors of the law (**Isaiah 59; Deuteronomy 9:4).**

The wickedness, iniquity or lawlessness of both Israel and the nations has caused both to stumble and to come under the wrath of Yahweh. Messiah Yahshua's call is for men to turn and address Paul's writings. **Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law (transgressors) that every mouth may be stopped and all the world may become guilty before Eloah.** Therefore, **by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin (Romans 3:10-20).** For not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of Eloah, but the doers of the law will be justified (**Romans 2:13).**

When asked how eternal life was to be obtained, Messiah's response was: **You know the commandments (Luke 18:20).** At Yahshua's death, the veil of the Temple was split down the middle, exposing that which was behind it.

You shall make a veil woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread ... and you shall hang the veil from the clasps. Then you shall bring the Ark of the Testimony in there behind the veil. The veil shall be a divider for you between the holy place, the Most Holy. You shall put the mercy seat upon the Ark of the Testimony (witness) in the Most Holy Place. You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark, you shall put the testimony that I will give you. And there I will meet with you

and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat ... even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary ... the Ark of the Covenant overlaid on all sides with gold (Exodus 26:31-34, 25:17- 22; Hebrews 9:1-7).

The Ark of the Covenant, which held the Testimony, was a witness against Israel. It held the words of the covenant Yahweh had made with the sons of Jacob (**Deuteronomy 5**). It taught them what would happen to them if the covenant was broken (**Deuteronomy 30:11-20**). Yet the true understanding as to what the Ark of the Covenant was all about had yet to be exposed. **The Holy Spirit indicating this that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing (Hebrews 9:8).**

Now, as a result of the blood of Messiah and His entrance into the Holy of Holies, ... **once for all, having obtained eternal redemption**, the Redeemer has brought man into the very presence of Yahweh and the "witness against man" so that Yahweh, through Yahshua, could give us an understanding of what the Torah's teachings are about--false worship, the true Creator and Savior--Yahweh, sin and how Yahweh creates and delivers the world.

Eloah, Who at various times and in various ways, spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days, spoken to us by His Son, Whom He has appointed heir of all things, through Him also He made the worlds (Hebrews 1:1-29 Colossians 1:12-23).

For Eloah did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved... brought into the bond of the covenant which unites the Creator and His creation (Isaiah 43:10-13, 40:28; Hebrews 9:15, 8:8-12). Blessed be Eloah and Father of our Master Yahshua (John 5:43) ... just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world ... having marked us out to the adoption as sons (Ephesians 1:3-10).

Messiah's words are not only for the physical house of Israel, but for those scattered amongst the nations (**Hosea 9:17, 8:8-10**). **For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words? (John 5:46-47).**

If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rises from the dead (Luke 16:31).

Paul teaches why man cannot find the Messiah in Moses' writings and why there is a veil over the eyes of the nations; man's religions and his worship of the created, instead of the Creator; and man, not having an understanding of the Torah (**Romans 1 and 2; Jeremiah 51:17-19**).

For all the gods of the peoples are idols (Psalm 96:1-13; Jeremiah 10-11). There is only one Mighty One, Yahweh! (1 Corinthians 8:1-6).

The love of wood and stone is a result of these scriptures: **The carnal mind is enmity against Elohim; for it is not subject to the law of Elohim nor indeed can it be (Romans 8:7; Exodus 20:4).**

For one to come away from the hatred of the Mighty Ones from the heavens (Yahweh and Yahshua) and walk from the flesh and in the Spirit, one has to be drawn to Yahshua by Yahweh (**John 6:44**). It is Yahweh Who teaches us about Yahshua (**Isaiah 54:13; John 6:44-45**). Yahshua, in turn, teaches man of Yahweh (**John 17**). **My doctrine is not Mine, but His Who sent Me (John 7:16).**

For I have given to them the words which You have given Me, and they have received them (John 17:8). Yahshua taught His disciples the understanding of those things behind the veil that covered the Holy of Holies--Yahweh and His living Word (the Torah), whether it be in the Old Testament or the New Testament. There is not a veil over the eyes of a saint. He or she knows what Yahweh's Word gives to those who desire it: knowledge of the true Creator Yahweh; His holy name (**Matthew 6:9**); His purpose (**Matthew 6:10**); and how He will accomplish His will, which is His deliverance message (**Numbers 24:15-19; Revelation 22:16**).

From the Torah, a saint is exposed: **For all have sinned and come short of the glory of Eloah (Romans 3:23). For without the law, sin was dead (Romans 7:8).** From Torah, a saint can find freedom from sin (**Genesis 3:15**). **And you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free (John 8:31-36). For I am the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6). Your law is truth (Psalm 119:142). Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105).** And the Word became flesh and

dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth; ... the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Yahshua (John 1).

Pilate, therefore, said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Yahshua answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice" (John 18:37).

In **John 8:45-51**, Messiah says, **He who is of Eloah hears Eloah's words; therefore, you do not hear, because you are not of Eloah. Beloved, do not believe every spirit but test the spirits, whether they are of Eloah, because many false prophets have gone out into the world (see 1 John 4:1).**

The confession that Yahshua is the only begotten of the Father is the first step to come into an understanding of truth, that which is found under the veil that covers the whole world. This is why the world creates their deities and then carves them out of wood and stone, saturating their places of worship because they have never known the only begotten Son Who teaches this: **Eloah is spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him (John 4:23-24).**

I have chosen the way of truth. Your judgments I have laid before Me. I cling to Your testimonies, O Yahweh; do not put Me to shame. I will run the course of Your commandments. For You shall enlarge My heart (Psalm 119:30-32).

By this we know we love the children of Elohim, when we love Eloah and keep His commandments. For this is the love of Eloah that we keep His commandments and His commandments are not burdensome (1 John 5:2-3)

Open my eyes that I may see wondrous things from Your law (Psalm 119:48). May we be the servants Yahweh desires us to be, and may He continue to lift the veil from our eyes, giving us greater understanding of Him and His ways. **For man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of Eloah (Matthew 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:3).** HalleluYah!

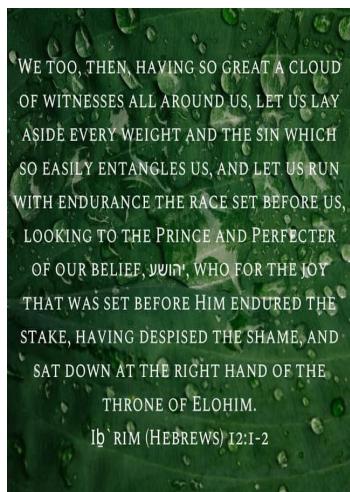


Deep Spiritual Truths— From Yahweh's Sacred Word

(Part 7)

Hebrews 12:1-2

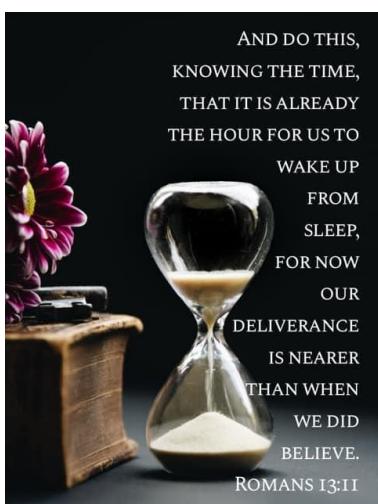
The world that we as believers have left behind is still always calling to us, wanting us to go back. But we are running a race. There are real dangers along the way, requiring us to leave behind everything that is not absolutely essential to winning



the race. Our supreme example is Yahshua Himself, the One who finished the race, and out of pure love for us, paid for our sins, and is now seated in the place of highest honor and authority. We look to Him, not only as our example, but as our Redeemer, our source of strength, and our soon-coming King!

Romans 13:11

The time is now for believers to cast off all works of darkness, and to live as people who walk in the light, taking on the spiritual armor of light, Yahshua Himself, for the time of judgment and ultimate victory is fast approaching!



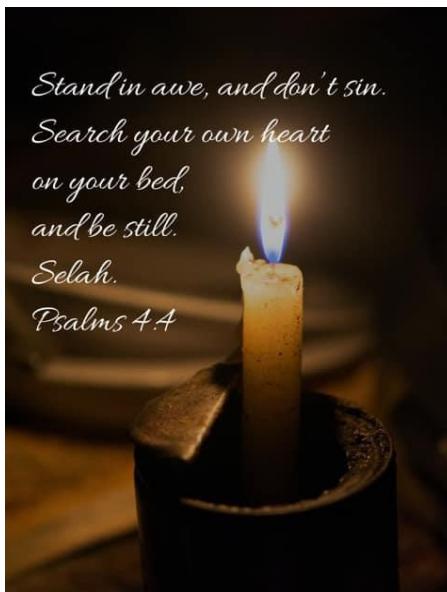
May all of your days be full of blessings and resolve to continually walk in His wisdom and light, as the day of our final redemption draws nigh!



The fear of יהוה is clean,
standing forever;
The right-rulings of יהוה
are true, They are righteous
altogether,
More desirable than gold,
Than much fine gold;
And sweeter than honey
and the honeycomb.
Tehillim (Psalms) 19:9-10

Psalms 19:9-10

Pure worship, as prescribed in Yahweh's Word, is sincere, not mixed with any falsehood or impurity of any kind. His truth is constant, unchangeable, sacred, and unquestionable, throughout all ages. His laws declare His righteous will, by which He will judge all at the last day. His Word, received by faith, is more precious and valuable than gold to our lives; it is sweeter than honey to our souls. May your worship and meditations



be pure and full of joy in His presence!

Psalms 4:4

May our true zeal and reverence for Yahweh and His righteous ways be ever our fervent desire and meditation, so that we will proceed no

further in sinning against Him. We must find time in quietness and solitude to seriously ask our hearts the hard questions and thoroughly examine our ways. May we be able to answer according to Abba Yahweh's good purposes for our lives, that we are seeking first His kingdom and righteousness, unto His great honor and glory.

1 John 1:7
Yahweh is love and peace and hope and joy, and is the purest light. He knows that the perfect place of protection and joy for all His children is to remain in



fellowship with Him and to walk in the light of His Son, the light of the world. May we all enjoy blessed fellowship with our brothers and sisters who are also living in the light, as we, with great thanks and praise, dwell in fellowship with our blessed Savior, Himself, and with the great Father of light and life and hope and love.

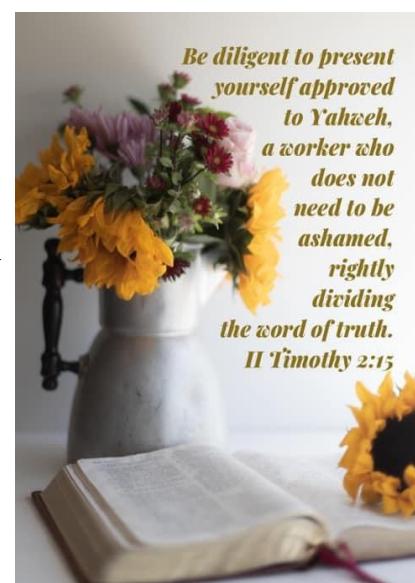
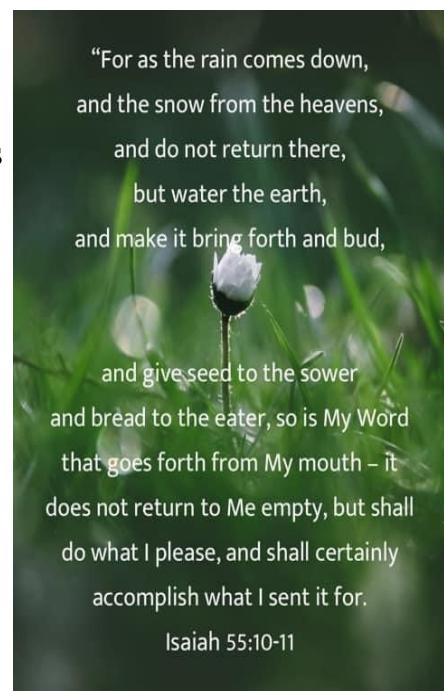
Isaiah 55:10

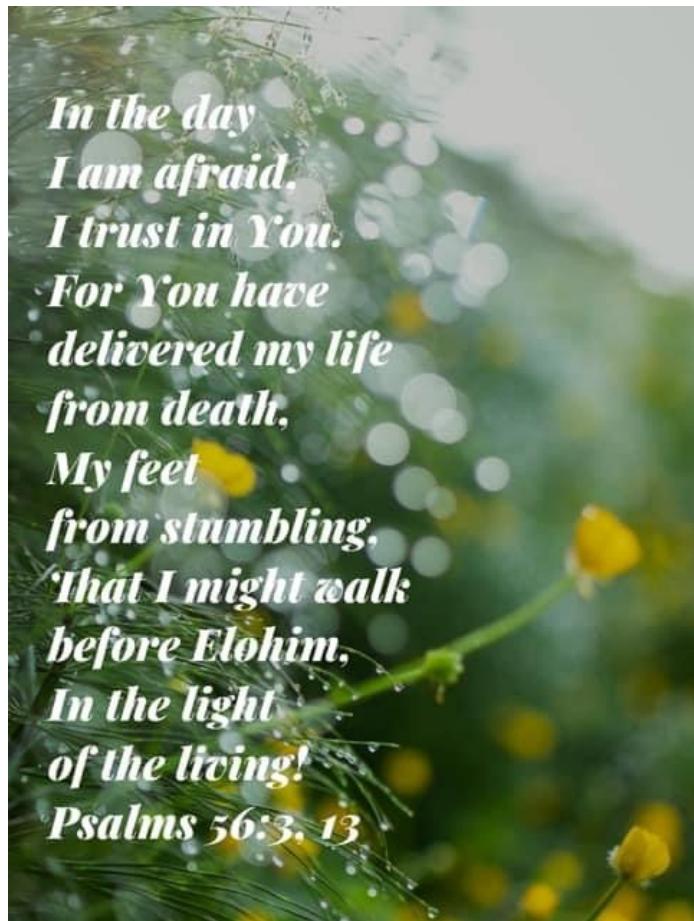
The water cycle displays Yahweh's genius method of sustaining life on earth. This is how Yahweh's Word is to function in our lives too. His Word also leaves the heavens with a mission to accomplish a specific purpose in us and in the world. May we be ever mindful of Yahweh's amazing creation and His powerful Word.

Abba Yahweh, may we drink from the life that your Word offers, and help us to be like water, rain and snow, in the world where you send us. May you continually be inspired by the Water of Life!

2 Timothy 2:15

The word of truth which we hold to must be diligently and continuously studied, not only to understand how to defend our faith, but also to reveal greater truths, through proof of the evidence in the Scriptures, with sincerity and faithfulness, to deliver the whole and pure counsel of Yahweh. It requires great care in believers to question and prove our faith, with much reading, meditation, and prayer to be sure that our doctrine and beliefs are found to be true.





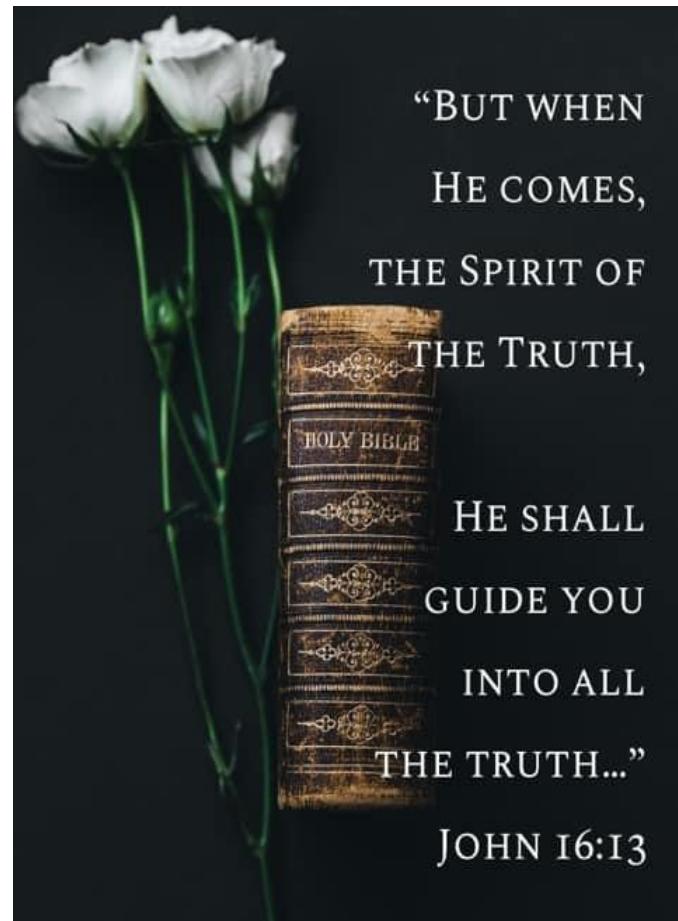
*In the day
I am afraid.
I trust in You.
For You have
delivered my life
from death,
My feet
from stumbling,
That I might walk
before Elohim,
In the light
of the living!*
Psalms 56:3, 13

Psalms 56:3, 13

Yahweh opens our hearts to hear His message of love, reminding us to trust who He is. He is the Mighty One who shows the moon where to hide until evening, the One who made the walls fall with a shout, the Highest Elohim who turned the sea into a highway, who blankets the morning grass with dew from heaven. He is the Great One who heals, raises the dead to life, and holds time in His mighty hands. He is faithful and His love is everlasting. Faith is our compass that points to true north. It isn't always easy to have faith, but it is always necessary. May our faith in Him be unwavering in these perilous times!

John 16:13

The Holy Spirit is our Guide sent to direct us in our daily choices, and also to be the truthful voice leading us into the understanding of what Yahweh is trying to



“BUT WHEN
HE COMES,
THE SPIRIT OF
THE TRUTH,
HE SHALL
GUIDE YOU
INTO ALL
THE TRUTH...”
JOHN 16:13

reveal in His Word, understanding the truth, as a gift of His mercy and love. May our worship to Yahweh *be always in spirit and in truth as we thank Him for the gift of the Holy Spirit, the constant guide in our lives.*



SABBATH SERVICES ON DVD

View our weekly Sabbath services at home on high-quality DVDs. We have songs, sermonettes, special music offerings and sermons on each DVD. To receive a free introductory set of two DVDs with information about our program, just contact us.

A MANUAL FOR LIFE! Read It and Get the Facts

Some time ago, after a discussion with a friend on several topics, I was impressed by the strong values we humans place on certain physical objects. In our discussion, my friend went into great detail about his talk with an auto mechanic on the relative merits of a certain automobile he wanted to buy. He had reviewed the repair record, engineering, handling, and road worthiness of the car. He had even asked my recommendation on which car he should buy. This friend also related that he was planning to build a new house. He did not agree with his father, however, on the style of the house best suited for his needs. His father liked two-story houses, but he preferred a ranch style. His research showed that a one-story house was easier to construct, was more economical and easier to heat, among other advantages. He gave the impression that he had extensively studied house styles and plans to come up with all those facts.

Our discussion then turned to the merits of various TVs. He recalled the many problems his parents had with their brand, so he went to a friend who was a TV repairman. He learned of some features to look for when buying another one, and some of the pitfalls as well. He became well-versed in some of the more technical aspects of knowing which one would be the best buy. As our discussion progressed, I was struck with the thought that here was an individual who wanted all the facts before making up his mind. He seemed to be open and willing to hear the pros and cons before making any decisions. We had been discussing temporal items, and he appeared to be a logical and reasoning person. What could be more important than the spiritual aspect of life, those things that are everlasting? Seeing this opportunity, I began the discussion of Yahweh's Word, planning to show him some facts and to give him some literature he could study and prove from his Bible.

I had just started discussing the Bible when he suddenly interrupted me. "Well, you know my family has always been Catholic," he said, "and I

am too. I figure what was good enough for my folks is good enough for me." I was shocked. Just when I was complimenting him on his thorough research and willingness to delve into the facts before making a purchase, he refused to do the same investigation into his very salvation! He looked thoroughly into things that he could enjoy for a time during his earthly life of threescore and ten years (**Psalm 90:10**), but expressed little interest in studying and proving what really mattered.

Reflecting on this encounter with my friend, I wondered where our values should lie? What should occupy the center of our thoughts and activities? The Messiah must have had this in mind when He said in **Matthew 6:21, Where your treasure is, there also is your heart.** If we think only of the worldly things, they will occupy our desires, ambitions, and our activities. We will be taken up with the objects and pursuits of the world and have precious little time for what really counts.

Proving for ourselves the things we were taught about the Bible requires effort, and a sincere desire to know the truth, but we want everything simple and easy. It is easy to leave the filing of our taxes to someone else. Let the doctor tell us what is wrong and give us a prescription for the cure. And all too often we leave the religious aspects of our life in the hands of the local pastor, yet our eternal salvation is the most important concern of life! Paul tells us to be diligent that we might be **approved unto Yahweh, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth,** **2 Timothy 2:15.**

Although Scripture says the Assembly will have ministers and teachers, it is incumbent upon each individual to study for himself and "rightly divide the word of truth." We are all responsible for our own spiritual growth. It is up to us alone to develop our spiritual life. We must emulate the noble Bereans who searched the Scriptures daily to prove to themselves what was true. They obtained all the

facts on a scriptural subject before they decided what course to follow, **Acts. 17:11.**

Advanced Study Aids Within Reach

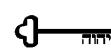
We are given Yahweh's guidebook for life. It contains the facts we must know to obtain salvation. **All Scripture is given by inspiration of Yahweh, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of Yahweh may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works, 2 Timothy 3:16.** Although Yahweh Himself inspired men to write down His word—and these men wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit—not all translations today are entirely accurate. At times, man has inserted his pre-conceived ideas and understanding when translating from one language to another. Some Bibles follow very closely the word for word rendition of the Hebrew and Greek texts. Others are paraphrased, giving us the underlying thought or idea. Quite often man's ideas have crept into the translations.

Reading the Bible daily is uplifting and keeps our minds on a higher spiritual plane. We today have available added tools, however, to be even better Bible scholars than were people and clergymen a hundred years ago. Today there are many exhaustive and analytical concordances, lexicons, word studies and other references that go back to the original lan-

guages to show exact meanings necessary for true worship. Certainly, we are living in the time spoken of in **Daniel 12:4**, when knowledge shall be increased. We can use the available tools to "rightly divide the word of truth."

When You're Recalled by the Maker

Many new automobile owners are careful to take their malfunctioning vehicle back to the dealer from whom it was purchased. Some will complain that the guarantee was not honored, and may be told they did not operate the vehicle in accordance with the instruction manual. Because the manufacturer knows what is best for his product, he includes with every new car an owner's manual. The Bible is the owner's manual of life. It instructs us both in this life and about life to come. One day the Giver of life will demand an accounting of what we have done on earth. Will you be able to say you followed the instruction manual, the Bible, and have the Maker honor His guarantee? Or will the guarantee of everlasting life He promised be canceled in your case because you did not read the instruction manual and did not operate according to the Manufacturer's specifications? An honest answer to that question will give us direction and should also encourage us to read and study Yahweh's Word to show ourselves approved!



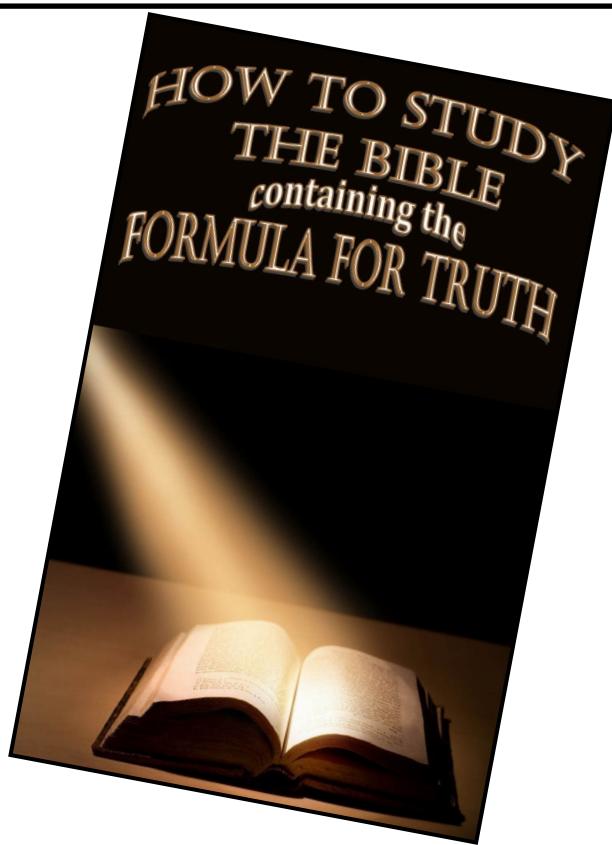
How to Study the Bible

Proper Bible study can be very rewarding. Most everyone possesses a Bible in their home, but very few know how to understand it. This booklet is provided in the spirit of exhorting people to become Bible students.

If you learn some basic foundations in Bible study, you will soon learn the Bible will interpret itself for you as you discover how to harmonize the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. So instead of searching for passages to support our preconceptions, we begin our Bible study with a clean slate and use the logic of discovery. The Bible itself becomes our authority.

We approach our study with an open mind, and ask questions of the text, allowing the Scriptures to speak to us.

To learn more, request our FREE booklet, How to Study the Bible Containing the Formula for Truth.



THE “CONCLUSION”⁹⁹

By: C.G. Eckhoff

PEOPLE draw conclusions on a regular basis, as part of everyday life. The conclusions we accept as truth are what determine our perception of reality. There are many things that influence a person to come to one conclusion, or another. The main source of most people's conclusions is their own personal experience. However, even these may be tainted with misconceptions, whether accidental or desired. Many people draw conclusions on the basis of less stable information, like what they see on T.V., or what they read in a newspaper or magazine. The merit of these sources should be obvious, since their producers are mercenary in nature. Some people draw conclusions from what they've been told by a friend or family member. Although this information may be offered in good faith, it lacks merit as well, because the origin of their information is unknown. Some may even come to a conclusion based on what a car salesman or lawyer tells them. Although such information borders on the ludicrous at times, people will believe, if what they are being told is what they wanted to hear, or had already concluded themselves. Conclusions may also be drawn through the use of logic. However, the foundations of logic are typically theory, or a mathematical type of formula that has yet to be found false.

Considering all this, in order to determine absolute truth, it is necessary to carefully inspect and objectively weigh the factors that build our concept of reality. All pertinent evidence should be gathered, examined, and tested from every angle and aspect. This is particularly important regarding the conclusions we accept as truth about the existence of, and scripture regarding, the Creator of all things. What could be of greater importance? What could possibly cast more influence into our lives than the perceived truth we carry within ourselves regarding the Source of life, and the reason for our existence? It gives one pause to consider the tremendous weight involved in the outcome of this, which is ultimately the most important conclusion at which one can arrive.

King Solomon, who is considered one of the wisest men in history, wrote, **Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: fear Elohim and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty**

of man (Ecclesiastes 12:13). I want to make certain that a couple of things regarding this scripture are clearly understood. The word *fear* is not meant to convey the message, “be afraid of.” Rather, it means, we are to “show reverence” or “respect.” Also, “Elohim” was used in the original Hebrew scripture, but has been replaced by the word “God” in most Bibles. The word “Elohim” typically denotes “divine authority.” There are many such substitutions that have taken place in the process of translation from the original Hebrew Scripture to our modern day Bible. I encourage you to research this truth further.

Many people come to a different conclusion than the one Solomon came to, perhaps because it is human nature to seek the easiest way to accomplish a desired goal and it is often more difficult to do the right thing. The wisest way is not often the easiest. When you change a flat tire on your car, you don't leave half of the lug nuts off because it's easier. You know the car manufacturer put that many lug nuts on the wheel for a good reason. Sure, two or three lug nuts will hold a tire on sufficiently to drive a vehicle, but, you know it increases your chances of losing that tire. When your life or the lives of your loved ones rests on the result of your actions, you will typically put all the lug nuts on the tire. Call this wisdom, or good sense, but it just boils down to the right thing to do. This is a simple example, but understand, doing the right thing will always save you worry, grief, and possibly, your life or the life of someone you love.

So, how do we know what is the right thing to do? In the case of the tire, common sense tells us what is right. In the way we behave socially, and in personal relationships, we have laws for guidelines. There is a problem with man-made laws though. They are subject to change. It has been said, “What is popular is not always right, and what is right is not always popular.” You have seen that what is legal today, according to man-made law, may be illegal tomorrow. And what is illegal today may be legal tomorrow. This can cause confusion, disharmony, frustration and pain in the populous of a nation, or in the mind of an individual. However, we have a set of laws regarding our social relationships and moral conduct that do not change.

They are called "The Ten Commandments," sometimes referred to as "The Mosaic Law." These laws have been translated and transcribed from the Hebrew "Torah," which is considered Holy Scripture. I find it interesting that nearly everyone I've ever spoken to about the moral concepts of "The Ten Commandments" agrees that the world would be a better place if everyone adhered to them. Yet many of those same people deny the existence of a Sovereign Creator of the universe. In addition, they themselves choose to disobey the "Mosaic Law" on a regular basis. Why is this so? Some people choose to live contrary to the rules which they *know* would make the world a better place because it is easier to do what they want to do, rather than what they ought to do. It is easier to believe we will not be held accountable for our actions.

For the Son of Man is going to come in His Father's glory with His angels, and then He will reward each person according to what he has done (Matthew 16:27).

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Yahshua, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad (2 Corinthians 5:10).

I dispersed them among the nations, and they were scattered through the countries; I judged them according to their conduct and their actions (Ezekiel 36:19).

I, Yahweh, search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve (Jeremiah 17:10).

The day of Yahweh is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head (Obadiah 15).

Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with Me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done (Revelation 22:12).

Whether we find it easy, or hard, obedience to Yahweh's Word is commanded. Yahshua said, **Whoever has My commands and obey them, he is the one who loves Me. He who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I too will love him and show Myself to him (John 14:21). If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching. My Father will love him and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me will not obey My teaching. These words you hear are not My words; they belong to the Father who sent Me (John 14:23-24).**

It is my prayer that whoever reads these words may sense the truth of Yahweh, be convicted by the Holy Spirit and submit in obedience to the teaching of Yahshua. This is the conclusion of the whole matter. HalleluYah!



MAN CHANGED YAHWEH'S DAY OF WORSHIP

"The emperor Constantine, a convert to Christianity, introduced the first civil legislation concerning Sunday in 321, when he decreed that all work should cease on Sunday, except that farmers could work if necessary. This law, aimed at providing time for worship, was followed later in the same century and in subsequent centuries by further restrictions on Sunday activities," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 15th ed., "Sunday," p. 672.

"It being expedient to overthrow superstition, the Jewish holiday was abolished and as a thing necessary to retain decency, order, and peace in the Church ... the early Christians substituted what we call the Lord's Day for the Sabbath," John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, I, p. 343.

"They (the Catholics) refer to the Sabbath-day as having been changed into the Lord's Day, contrary to the Decalogue [Ten Commandments] as it seems. Neither is there any example whereof they make more than concerning the changing of the Sabbath-day. Sunday is not celebrated in Christendom by [Yahweh's] command. Great, say they, is the power of the Church, since it has dispensed with one of the Ten Commandments," *Augsburg Confession*, Art. 28, p. 24.

"In the New Law, the observance of the Lord's Day took the place of the observance of the Sabbath, not by virtue of the precept (Fourth Commandment) but by the institution of the church," *Summa Theologica*, Art. 4, II. p. 1702.

"It is barely imaginable that first day Sabbath observance ... commenced before the Jerusalem council (C.E. 49). Nor can we stop there. We must go on to maintain that first day Sabbath observance cannot easily be understood as a phenomenon of the apostolic age and of apostolic authority at all," M.M.B. Turner, *From Sabbath to Lord's Day, a Biblical, Historical and Theological Investigation*, p. 198.

Sabbatical & Jubilee Years

By: DeWitt Smith (Reprint)

The key to understanding the prophecies concerning the Messiah's return involves understanding the Sabbaths of Yahweh. There are many kinds of Sabbaths. Besides the weekly Sabbath, there are seven yearly Sabbaths. There is also the septennial Sabbath that lasts an entire year and occurs every seventh year. Then there is the Jubilee Sabbath that also lasts an entire year and occurs every fiftieth year. Finally, there is the millennial Sabbath of 1,000 years. We will focus on the Jubilee Sabbaths here because they are pivotal in calculating long-range events.

A Jubilee year always follows seven Sabbatical years or seven times seven years. The Jubilee year was always the year of release in which debts were cancelled. Any person who had sold himself into slavery would become a free man. If he had a mortgage on his land, he could have that mortgage cancelled. At least once in a person's life, a man would experience a Jubilee year, or perhaps two, if he lived a long life. This has a spiritual significance in that the Messiah came the first time to liberate all of us from the bondage of sin and death. He is coming the second time to redeem His possessions.

A remark that Yahshua made in the synagogue of Nazareth gives us a clue in determining these Jubilee Sabbaths. If we can locate just one Jubilee year, we can work forward or backward from that date. We cannot proclaim the Jubilees with total certainty since Israel did not keep records of the Jubilee Sabbaths as they did their seven-year Sabbaths. In fact, there is no secular or biblical evidence that they were ever observed by Israel. Yet they were commanded to keep them.

Yahshua and Jubilee Equals Release

I believe that the year Yahshua preached His sermon at Nazareth was a Jubilee year, when He used a quote from **Isaiah 61:1-2** in **Luke 4:16-19: The Spirit of Yahweh is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the good news to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of Yahweh** (*King James Version*).

Yahshua our Messiah did not read the last phrase of **verse 2** because it applies to the Day of Judgment. This is a good example of rightly dividing the Word of Truth. It is evident that the year Yahshua read this verse from the Prophet Isaiah was a year of release. The purpose of

the Jubilee Sabbath was to bring relief to the poor, to deliver the captive, and to bring liberty or freedom again to those who had been sold into slavery. Yahshua then said, **Today is the Scripture fulfilled in your ears.**

The possibility exists that He was alluding to the Sabbatical year rather than the Jubilee year, since the Jews, in the time of Yahshua were not observing the Jubilee years. Yet this need not exclude it from being the proper year for a Jubilee.

While the Sabbatical Sabbath did bring relief to the poor, it did not bring liberty to those who had been sold into slavery as the Jubilee law demanded (**Leviticus 25:8-14**). This speaks of complete liberation--**the acceptable year of Yahweh**. The "acceptable year" is reminiscent of the year of Jubilee, when not only debts were cancelled, but also slaves were freed. His remark had particular significance because He came to deliver us all from the captivity of Satan and from the bondage of sin.

His Ministry Begins

Now the question is, can we locate the date Yahshua delivered His message in the synagogue of Nazareth that Sabbath morning? I believe we can. There is documentary evidence today showing that Yahshua was born in the fall of the year, 3 BCE, and that He was baptized in the fall of 27 C.E. The difficulty in pinpointing the exact date that He would have given the sermon at Nazareth is because the evangel writers did not always list events in the life of Yahshua in their chronological order. From reading Matthew, Mark and Luke, it would seem that Yahshua began His ministry in Galilee immediately after His baptism and His temptation in the wilderness. Luke mentions the incident of the sermon at Nazareth as if it had occurred at the beginning of His ministry, but this was not the case.

Yahshua officially began His ministry at Jerusalem by publicly driving the money changers out of the Temple. That occurred in the Jewish year 27-28 or in the spring of 28 C.E. Both John the Baptist and Yahshua were ministering in the area in and around Judea at the same time.

The Apostle John is the only one of the four Evangel writers who records the early Judean ministry of Yahshua. Not until jealousy developed among some of John's disciples over who was baptizing more people did Yahshua leave Judea to make a temporary journey up north to Galilee (**John 3:23-24; 4:1-3**).

While up in Galilee, Yahshua again visited Cana, where He performed His first miracle and ministered in the region around the Sea of Galilee (**John 4:45-47**). After a short ministry there, He returned to Jerusalem to attend an unnamed feast. He worked in the region of Judea again until John the Baptist was imprisoned.

Now after John was put in prison, Yahshua came into Galilee, preaching the Glad Tidings of the Kingdom of Yahweh (**Mark 1:14**). This was not the case when Yahshua first left Judea to go into Galilee, as John

was still preaching (**John 3:23- 24; 4:1-3**). It was when He heard that John was imprisoned that He returned to Galilee and it was at that time, while in Galilee, that He preached the sermon at Nazareth. If Yahshua had come to Nazareth the first time He came into Galilee, the Apostle John does not say so, and we cannot assume from silence that He did.

Seven Cycles Bring Jubilee

The early ministry of Yahshua in Judea was during the Sabbatical year 27-28 C.E., and most of His ministry was spent there that year. It was the following year that Yahshua was at Nazareth and preached the sermon that alluded to a Jubilee year. A Jubilee year always follows a Sabbatical year once every 49 years. A Jubilee Sabbath is a Sabbath that follows the close of seven Sabbatical years ($7 \times 7 = 49 + 1 = 50$).

Some difference of opinion exists in the counting of a Jubilee year, but the consensus of most scholars is that, while the Jubilee year is always the 50th year after the completion of seven Sabbatical cycles, or 49 years, the first year of the Jubilee cycle is also the first year of the ensuing Sabbatical cycle. In other words, one Jubilee to the next covers exactly 49 years. Because Yahshua was baptized at the beginning of the Sabbatical year of 27-28 C.E., and because His ministry began at Nazareth a year later, and because His remarks implied a Jubilee Sabbath--then we have a Jubilee date from which we can work both forward and backward in time.

Sabbatical Years

The dates for the Sabbatical years are based on the meticulous research of Jewish scholar Ben Zion Wacholder. His work is entitled, *The Calendar of Sabbatical Cycles During the Second Temple and the Early Rabbinic Period*, published by the Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, 1973.

The following Sabbatical years are documented by historical evidence:

- 163-162 B.C.E.-- Judas Maccabee's defeat at Beth-zur (1 Maccabees 6:48-57).
- 135-134 B.C.E. and 37-36 B.C.E. (Josephus, the Jewish historian, concerning Simon the Hasmonean and Herod's conquest of Jerusalem. This would mean that 98 years, or the equivalent of 14 Sabbatical years, intervened between these two Jubilee Sabbaths).
- 41-42 C.E.--King Agrippa 1 recited the section of **Deuteronomy 31:10-13** that was required to be done according to the law (see Mishnah Sotah 7:8).
- 55-56 C.E.--A document written in Aramaic was discovered that states that the second year of Nero was a Sabbatical year.
- 69-70 C.E.--A Jewish work called the "Seder Olam" can be interpreted as indicating that the Temple of Jerusalem was destroyed in a Sabbatical year.
- 132-133 C.E.--A document discovered which states that Bar Kochba's revolt of the Jews against the Romans occurred on a Sabbatical year.

- 237-238 C.E --The ruins of an old synagogue were discovered recently, having a mosaic dating the Jewish year 4,000 to the second year of the Sabbatical cycle.
- 531-532 C.E.--There is a reference in the Jewish Talmud (Sanh 97 b) that the Messiah will release the world from the bondage of corruption in the year 4,291 of the Jewish calendar. This was believed to be a Sabbatical year.

The 70 "sevens" of years in **Daniel 9** consist of 10 Jubilee periods ($49 \times 10 = 490$ years). Could there be any significance to 50 of those Jubilees? If so, there is a time gap elapsing from the time that Yahshua stated, **Your house is left unto you desolate (Matthew 23:38)**, to the time that Israel will once again be brought into a New Covenant relationship with the Messiah, which could be a period of 1,963 years.

If we date that rejection as occurring in the year 31, after 483 years of that prophecy had expired, then their acceptance could occur 1,963 years later. If we add the 70 years of the captivity of Israel, we have a period of 2,520 years. The date 1994 was one of many Sabbatical years.

Nothing Left to Chance

The Apostle John wrote the Book of **Revelation** from revelations given to him by the Messiah Yahshua. The book pertains specifically to people who will be living in the last days. During the last $3\frac{1}{2}$ years, a powerful world dictator will rule over **...all kindreds, and tongues and nations (Revelation 13:7)**. He is called in the Scripture the **Beast** and the **anti-Messiah**. Satan will be manifested in him, controlling his every thought and action. No one knows for certain when his false messiah will appear. But when he does, it may just be a matter of counting 1,260 days, or $3\frac{1}{2}$ years before Yahshua comes with His angels to establish His Kingdom. I do not believe that the time element of Yahshua's second coming is based on the conditional readiness of His elect saints as many teach, but rather on the time schedule that Yahweh has foreordained. Nothing in the past has been left to chance. Everything in the past has been on scheduled time--Yahshua's birth, His baptism, and His death (**Daniel 9:24-27; Matthew 26:18; John 7:6**). Even the time to favor Zion (Israel) was a set time (**Psalm 102:13; Isaiah 60:22**). Everything has been foreordained in accordance with Yahweh's own time schedule and eternal purpose (**Ephesians 1:5-10; 3:11**). Yahshua (our Husband) will surely come to this earth at the day appointed (**Proverbs 7:20**). Because these Sabbaths serve as signs, this date appointed will very likely be on one of Yahweh's feast Sabbaths.

He Brings His Reward

The Scriptures are sometimes hidden from those who do not thirst for its understanding and revealed to those who do. Many obscure passages in the **Psalms** and in the writings of the Prophets, which allude to the first coming of the Messiah, have been read in the past by

people who did not understand their meaning. For example, how many Jews, when they read: **As many were astonished at thee; His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men (Isaiah 52:14)**, realized that this referred to the cruel treatment that Yahshua received at their hands?

They, too, should have realized that the passage in **Zechariah** concerning the **thirty pieces of silver** (**Zechariah 11:12**) had a relationship to their Messiah's future betrayal by Judas. Many such hidden gems of truth outlined throughout the Bible have similar reference to His second coming. One such passage is found in **Proverbs 7**. This passage is an allegory describing a woman who played the part of a harlot (**v. 10**) while her husband, called the **goodman**, went on a long journey (**v. 19**). The woman in this passage is a description of Israel as the harlot (**Isaiah 1:21; Jeremiah 2:20, 3:8**). The relationship between Israel and Yahshua has always been depicted in the Scriptures as a marriage (**Jeremiah 31:32; Isaiah 54:5**). The "goodman" or husband is referred to in the parable of **Luke 19** as a certain nobleman. In both passages, the "goodman" and the "nobleman" went on a long journey and returned. This "far country" and "long journey" are an allusion to heaven where Yahshua went.

When Yahshua the Messiah ascended on High from the grave, He was given all power and authority, including the right to bestow the gift of eternal life (see **Psalm 68:18** and **Ephesians 1:20-22**). He took with Him a bag of money, which will be distributed as rewards to those who are justified in His sight to receive them. **For the goodman is not at home; He is gone on a long journey: He has taken a bag of money with Him and will come home.** Notice the phrase ...**He will come home.** That agrees with **Luke 19:12** and **John 14:1-3**. When will He return? Will He come tomorrow? No, His return will be on schedule, ...**at the day appointed (Proverbs 7:19- 20).**

Sabbaticals and Jubilees in History

Some important and verifiable Sabbath and Jubilee years falling before, during, and after Yahshua's ministry, as well as today.

Sabbatical Year	Jubilee Year	Sabbatical Year	Jubilee Year	Sabbatical Year	Jubilee Year
205-04		97-98		1742-43	1743-44
198-97		104-05		1749-50	
191-90		111-12		1756-57	
184-83		118-19		1763-64	
177-76		125-26		1770-71	
170-69	169-68	126-27		1777-78	
163-62		132-33		1784-85	
156-55		139-40		1791-92	1792-93
149-48		146-47		1798-99	
142-41		153-54		1805-06	
135-34		160-61		1812-13	
128-27		167-68		1819-20	
121-20	120-19	174-75	175-76	1826-27	
114-13		181-82		1833-34	
107-06		188-89		1840-41	1841-42
100-99		195-96		1847-48	
93-92		202-03		1854-55	
86-85		209-10		1861-62	
79-78		216-17		1868-69	
72-71	71-70	223-24	224-25	1875-76	
65-64		230-31		1882-83	
58-57		237-38		1889-90	1890-91
51-50		244-45		1896-97	
44-43		251-52		1903-04	
37-36		258-59		1910-11	
30-29		265-66		1917-18	
23-22	22-21	272-73	273-74	1924-25	
16-15		279-80		1931-32	
9-08		286-87		1938-39	1939-40
02-01	B.C.E.	293-94		1945-46	
06-07	C.E.	300-01		1952-53	
13-14		307-08		1959-60	
20-21	Key Date	314-15		1966-67	
27-28	28-29	321-22	322-23	1973-74	
34-35	Luke 4:16-21			1980-81	
41-42				1987-88	1988-89
48-49				1994-95	
55-56		1700-01		2001-02	
62-63		1707-08		2008-09	
69-70		1714-15		2015-16	
76-77	77-78	1721-22		2022-23	
83-84		1728-29		2029-30	
90-91		1735-36		2036-37	2037-38

Sabbaths Crucial for Messiah's Return

The return of the Messiah will be according to a set or appointed time. The note in *Strong's Concordance* states, regarding the word "appointed," that it is a "festival appointed time." It is not clear when this festival appointed time will be, but because it is an appointed, set time it could very well occur on one of the feast Sabbaths. The column footnote reference on **Proverbs**

7:20 says in some versions that it is on a new moon, such as Trumpets. Other versions state that it refers to the full moon, which means His return could possibly occur at the Feast of Tabernacles, or on the Passover Sabbath, which also falls on a full moon. Regardless, His return will likely occur on one of these festival Sabbaths.

We do know that there were 70 Sabbatical years or 490 years allotted to Israel. At the end of this period, their sins, as a nation, would be pardoned and reconciliation would take place (**Daniel 9:24**). These Sabbaths are said to be signs between Yahweh and His people throughout all generations. That includes the last generation.

All this evidence should impress upon us that these Jubilee and Sabbatical years are critical. Time may be shorter than we think. Very likely, Yahshua will return soon. He could come at any time within this 120-year generation period. How many Sabbatical years remain? Only one Jubilee Sabbath re-

mains. May we not be so engrossed in this world that we do not watch for our Bridegroom to come. **But know this, that if the Goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore, you be also ready: for in such an hour as you think not, the Son of Man comes (Matthew 24:43-44).**

By observing Yahweh's calendar, including the new moons, Sabbatical and Jubilee years, you will be watchful and ready when Yahshua the Messiah returns in all His glory to establish His millennial Kingdom!



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