



THE Master Key

UNLOCKING BIBLE TRUTH

March-April 2026 Volume 48 No. 2



Psalms 52:8, But I am like a green olive tree in the house of Elohim. I have trusted in the kindness of Elohim forever and ever!

- 1—The Month of
Green Ears**

- 4—HalleluYah
D. Zakkay**

- 5—Scriptural
Reckoning of Time**

- 6—Deep Spiritual
Truths**

- 9—Barley or
Equinox—
A Fresh New Look
D. Zakkay**

- 11—Keep the Fire
Burning
E. Burgett**

- 12—Invitation to
Passover and
Feast of Un-
Leavened Bread**

**INSIDE BACK
COVER—
Evangelism USA 2026**

**BACK COVER
Free Booklet Offer—
“Passover or Easter”**

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, e.g. the feast days and clean food laws. 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.

The Master Key is published by Yahweh’s Assembly in Messiah, 401 N. Roby Farm Rd., Rocheport, MO 65279, (573) 698-4335. Our website is: yaim.org. Email is: officestaff@yaim.org. Although we offer a free, one-year subscription, your freewill donation is welcomed and will help spread the news of the coming Kingdom of Yahweh. We sincerely thank you for your support!

Weekly Seventh-Day (Saturday) Sabbath Services

Rocheport, Missouri: Pastor George Garner,
Yahweh’s Assembly in Messiah, (573) 698-4335, Services 1:00 pm

Frystown, Pennsylvania: Pastor Jake Meyer
Yahweh’s Free Brethren Assembly (717) 933-4796, Services 1:00 pm

Kenya: Bishop Peter Kihara, Messianic Assemblies of Yahweh,
PO Box 79007 (Code 00400), Nairobi, Kenya Africa, Phone 726-592-890

Philippines: Revival of Faith Ministries, Pastor Rex Francke, Website:
rfmnow.com

Editor in Chief
TBD

Managing Editor
Renette Burgett

YAIM Website
www.yaim.org

Yahweh’s Children Website
Yahwehschildren.org

Proofreaders

Alicia Barnard
Renette Burgett



Cover photo:
**Jerusalem
Olive Garden**
© Olena Iliencko
Dreamstime.com



THE MONTH *of* GREEN EARS

You may have heard this statement made in reference to “green ears” by many different people: “Green ears do not establish the biblical festivals or the new year. The sun and moon, along with the spring equinox, determine the calendar; not the ripening barley.” Scripturally, “green ears” do indeed determine when the year begins, and in turn, they determine when the rest of the festivals should be kept. Here are the points to consider:

Looking for the word “equinox” in Scripture is the same as looking for the word “rapture.” Neither one of these words can be found in the Bible, yet MAJOR doctrines have been built around them. WHY?

Saying that “green ears do not establish the months of the calendar” is deception. Yahweh said, “This month came you out of Egypt, the month of Abib (moon of green ears). This shall be the beginning of months for you.”

With that said, let us look at some facts, and then

the scriptural proof that backs them up. First of all, there is no Hebrew word for “equinox.” The closest we can get is to use the Hebrew word *tkufah*, which is a general word that means “cycle, era, or period of time.” On the other hand, “equinox” means equal day and equal night. So, we have *tkufah* which means cycle, and “equinox” which means equal—two different words with two different definitions.

To use the equinox calculation to determine the new year and holy days is not scriptural. Keep in mind that *tkufah* is not a definite term, but merely a general term used for “equinox.” The following Scriptures should prove out this statement. This word *tkufah* appears in the Scriptures four times. None of these Scriptures have anything to do with the calendar or the telling of when to keep the feast days! As a matter of fact, they say just the opposite.

The word *tkufah* is *Strong’s* #8622—*t’koo-phah*. It means “a revolution, a course, a circuit, or to come about.” It comes from the root #5362—to surround, circulate, go round about, enclose. It is found in **Psalms 19:6**. There, it establishes the fact that the sun does run a full course.

It is also found in **2 Chronicles 24:23**, which says, **About the turn of the year, the army of the Arameans came up against him.** But this has no bearing on determining when the new year begins.

The third reference is in **1 Samuel 1:20: It came about in due time after Hannah had conceived that she gave birth to a son.** Here we do have something significant to look at. Does it take a woman one full year to deliver a baby? No, it takes approximately nine months. Please notice that is what this Scripture is saying. The gestation cycle of the woman came around and she gave birth to the baby. Again, what does this have to do with the first month of the year?

The fourth reference is in **Exodus 34:22** which says that we are to celebrate the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Ingathering at the turn of the year. Does that mean that we celebrate them at the end of the year? Certainly not. It means that we should celebrate each one as its cycle comes around. This has nothing to do with Abib.

Obviously, NONE of the above Scriptures using the word *tkufah* have anything to do with HOW to determine the first month of the year. So then, how did the word *tkufah* even become involved in the discussion of how to determine the first month of the year? Those who support this false theory use only ONE scripture and a whole lot of PERSONAL COMMENTARY. There is no second witness to the theory they propose. There is only one Scripture they can use to try to prove this entire scenario, and it's not absolute. As a matter of fact, when studied closely, it will prove just the opposite.

First, let's look at that one Scripture. I'm sure when you look at it in the right light, you will see it really does not support this theory. In fact, if you look at it in the proper context, you will find a second witness to the proper meaning. **Genesis 1:14-16** says, **And Elohim said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven to divide the day from the night, and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and year; and let them be for lights in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the earth," and it was so. And Elohim made the two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; He made the stars also.**

Here, we must answer two questions: Do the sun and the moon together rule the day? Do the sun and moon together rule the night? NO! On the contrary, the sun rules the day and the moon rules the night. If you continue to read in **Genesis**, you will see that **verses 17 and 18** say that one accomplishes one thing, and the other accomplishes another, so that the light can be "DIVIDED" from the darkness. If you look at **Genesis 1:14** closely, you will see that the two lights were to divide the day from the night. They each have two different jobs!

SUN

DAYLIGHT

SIGNS*

DAYS

MOON

NIGHT

SEASONS*

MONTHS

The asterisk is after the word "seasons" so you will remember that it is the Hebrew word *moedim*, or appointed festivals of Yahweh. Here is a second witness. Look at the first part of **Psalm 104:19, He appointed the moon for seasons (*moed*).** That is the moon's job. There is another asterisk after the word "signs". Is this referring to the divisions made by meteorologists of our four seasons according to the four astronomical signs? The vernal equinox, when day and night are equal in length (usually about March 20), begins our spring. The longest day in June, known as the summer solstice, begins our summer. Fall is said to start at the autumnal equinox in September when, again, the day and night are equally long. December 21st signals the beginning of winter and is the shortest day of the year. This is the sun's job, for the signs, just as the moon's job is for the months.

Now brethren, this is very simple. Are we going to accept what the Scripture says, or not? If **Genesis 1:14-16** is saying something different than **Psalm 104:19**, then we have a major problem. We have a Scriptural contradiction! DOES SCRIPTURE CONTRADICT ITSELF? There is no Scripture that says anything about the equinox or *tkufah* governing the first month of the year. Do the Scriptures say anything contrary to that? First of all, let us establish the meaning of the word *abib*. It is ludicrous to say that green ears have nothing to do with the month of ABIB, when the word *abib* itself means green ears! Stop and think about that a minute. One of the major mistakes that is being made here is to use ABIB as the NAME of the first month. Yahweh did not name His months or days—man did that. Yahweh numbered them (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, etc.).

If ABIB is not a name, what is it? ABIB is a statement, a declaration. It is actually a command! In **Nehemiah 2:1**, we read about a name of the first month, **And it came to pass in the month NISAN...** That is a name given to the first month of the year after the captivity in Babylon. Yahweh said that in the first month, and the second month, and the seventh month, etc., you will do these things. Yahweh used numbers for His days and His months. Yahweh said the first moon of the year shall be the moon of "green ears."

Let's look at **Exodus 12:2. This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the**

first month of the year to you. How many Scriptures can you find telling us that the first month after the spring equinox is the first month of the year, the month Yahweh took the Israelites out of the land of Egypt? There isn't one! On the other hand, how many Scriptures can you find confirming that the first month of the year is the moon or month of "green ears," the month Yahweh brought them out of the land of Egypt? Let's count them. Begin in **Exodus 13:4, This month came you out, in the month of *abib*** [month of green ears]. **Exodus 23:15 says, You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread... as I commanded in the time appointed [*moed*] in the month of *abib*** [moon of green ears], **for in it you came out from Egypt.** We read in **Exodus 34:18, The Feast of Unleavened Bread shall you keep, seven days shall you keep unleavened bread as I commanded you in the time of the month of *abib*. for in the month of *abib* you came out of Egypt.** Again, we see in **Deuteronomy 16:1, Observe the month of *abib* and keep the Passover to Yahweh your Elohim, for in the month of *abib* Yahweh, your Elohim, brought you forth out of Egypt by night.**

So, we see the month of *abib* (moon of green ears) mentioned once in **Exodus 13:4**, once in **Exodus 23:15**, twice in **Exodus 34:18** and twice in **Deuteronomy 16:1**. Each of these references answers the question asked about **Exodus 12:2**, Which month is the beginning of months to you; which month is the first month of the year for you? Is it the month with "green ears" or is it the first month after the equinox? "WE" can make a case for whatever "WE" think. But if it cannot be found in the Scriptures, then it is man's faulty understanding, and there is no light in them.

The question is asked, What constitutes a "green ear?" Why not just accept what the Scriptures say? Again, the reasoning will go back 2,000 years to prove which moon was used when Yahshua died according to some man's calculation. Why not go back a few more thousand years and accept what the Scriptures say about that very first reckoning of the first month of the year?

Take a look at **Exodus 9:31, And the flax and the barley were smitten, for the barley was in the ear, and the flax was balled** (or in the bud). According to the Scriptures, there were barley ears on that first reckoning of the first month of the year. If that was only a one-time occurrence, why does Yahweh continue to tell them to observe *abib* (the moon of green ears)? Why would we only go back 2,000 years to find the truth? We must go all the

way back to the first event itself and see what Yahweh's Word has to say. The ear itself does not have to be present on the new moon day. It's the **month** of green ears, not the **day** of green ears. Any farmer who knows can look at a barley plant on a given day and tell if the ears will be present within the next thirty days or not. To say that the harvest has nothing to do with the calendar and the moons is in error. The harvest definitely establishes the festivals. Look at **Deuteronomy 16:16**. Three times a year we are to come before Yahweh—in the spring after the barley harvest, in the summer after the wheat harvest, and in the fall after the ingathering of all the crops, and we are not to come empty-handed. Would Yahweh ask His people to gather themselves together and not come empty-handed unless He had filled their hands first? He also tells them in **Exodus 22:29**, Do not delay in giving your harvest. He by no means told them to wait until the sun crossed a certain place in the sky. He said as soon as it is ripe, offer it and do not delay. If the ears are there and the equinox has not occurred, you risk disobedience to Yahweh by any delay. The understanding of crops and harvest times is of utmost importance in knowing when to observe Yahweh's annual feast days.

Now we have seen from Scripture the true and correct way of setting the observances of Yahweh's annual festivals. What it all boils down to is whether or not we are going to believe Yahweh's Word. Those in error would like to hang this entire study on their interpretation of **Genesis 1:14-16**. But as we have shown, the sun and the moon are not co-responsible for the day and the night. The absence of one or the other is what divides the day and the night

There are two other questions needing scriptural answers:

- 1) During the flood, how did Noah determine when the ears would have been green?
- 2) During the 40 years in the wilderness, Israel kept a very careful record of months and years. How did they manage to do that without consulting the green ears of barley?

These are really very easy questions to answer. When you have a direct line of communication with Yahweh, you do not need anything else. Most certainly we would have to agree that Moses and Noah were two individuals that had good and direct communication with Yahweh. Now, here is a question about Moses and Noah: If neither one of them had anything with which to make an offering, does that

mean that there was no wave sheave offering? Did they not keep the Feast of Weeks? Do we not teach that Yahweh's laws have been in existence from the beginning of time? This causes quite a problem.

If you use the moon of green ears, as the Bible instructs us to do, then we will never go against Yahweh's will in what month we are to keep as the first of the scriptural months! All we are instructed to do is to watch for green ears. That's the only instruction that was given to the children of Israel. If it was good enough for them, shouldn't it be good enough for us?

As concerning the observance of the new moon, we are now like the children of Israel when they were in the wilderness of Sinai. We are in the wilderness of this land waiting to go to that land that was promised to our forefathers. We are in training now learning to do what we will be doing in the future. There are times when the new moon comes to Missouri before it gets to Jerusalem, and other times, it happens the other way around. To observe the new moon only after it is seen in Jerusalem would mean that we are being guided by the man-made, artificial International Date Line

in the Pacific Ocean. It would be denying what we behold and observe with our own eyes when we look up at the evening sky and see a new crescent moon.

The better we learn to serve Him now, the more we will please Him. If we are to be priests and kings with Yahshua, we are going to be assisting Him in teaching Yahweh's statutes to others. We cannot teach something we know nothing about. The important thing is to learn how to do it properly so that when the time comes, and we are called to do our part, we will understand scripturally how to do it.

Even though we do love and respect those who do not agree with us, we will continue to teach our understanding of the truth as Yahweh's Spirit gives it to us. The world doesn't want to hear about Yahweh's ways. All we have is each other. Who knows, maybe that's why Yahweh gave us different understandings to begin with. As long as we have each other to try to convince, we will never stop reading and studying. **AND THAT, BRETHERN, IS VERY GOOD!**

May Yahweh bless you all.



Hallelu Yah!

Scripturally and Etymologically Speaking

By: D. Zakkay

A detailed study of the etymology of a word which we discuss a great deal among Yahweh's people—the word “halleluYah”—reveals some fascinating facts, as well as some very useful spiritual insights. We are, of course, quick to point out to anyone interested that it is a contraction for “praise Yah”, showing how His name has found it even into our more recognized words. However, in doing careful word searches in the Hebrew scriptures, it may be found that “halleluYah” (or “hallelujah” as they would spell it), as a separate word, is actually never used in the King James Version (KJV) of the scriptures. The closest it gets is the word “alleluia” used 4 times in the book of Revelation. “Hallelujah” (sic.) is not in the KJV translation of the Hebrew Scriptures. The thought of praising Yahweh is, of course, mentioned repeatedly in the Old Covenant Scriptures, especially in the Psalms, but always as 2 words; H1984 (“praise”) and H3068 (“Yahweh”) or H3050 (“Yah”). Of course, we find H1984 and H3050 used sequentially in a number of places, and could, therefore, be contracted into the single word, “hallelujah” (sic.), but the KJV translators did not choose to do so.

While researching the topic, however, it is possible to also find an interesting fact about the English word, “praise”, which is the Hebrew word “halal” (H1984). The off-line PC dictionary, *The Sage*, indicates that although the etymology of “praise” in its later usage means, as we would expect, to “extol” or “acclaim” (when used as a verb), and “commendation”, “worship”, or “devotion” (when used as a noun), yet in its earlier etymology is derived from Latin words indicating “price”, “value”, “worth”, “cost”, and even earlier, in the Proto-Indo-European “preti”, meaning “recompense” or “compensation”. So it turns out that our “halleluYah”, or praise of Yahweh, is really what He is due, not just what we do! No, it is not just what we do, but rather, it is His rightful recompense or compensation. In Malachi 3:8, Yahweh states that His people have robbed Him, so we should recognize that according to the etymology of the word “praise”, we rob Him whenever we do not rightly praise Him and give Him what He is due. May Yahweh be praised. HalleluYah!



From the very first emergence of light upon the newly-created earth, Yahweh established a perfect pattern of time by which man was to live for the next 7,000 years. **And Elohim said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And Elohim called the light Day and the darkness He called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day (Genesis 1:3, 5).**

The evening, or sunset, marked the beginning of each new day as it was created. The following sunset marked the end of the day as a new one began. Thus, from the very beginning, the length of a day has scripturally been from sunset to sunset. References to this fact include a statement in the *New English Bible* (Oxford Study Edition): “The Hebrews reckoned a day as beginning at sunset and lasting until the following sunset.” The *Companion Bible* also shows in Appendix 51 IV (4) that the day was reckoned from sunset to sunset.

DAY’S LIMITS ESTABLISH DAY OF RESURRECTION

For the true believers desiring to be obedient in every respect to Yahweh’s word, knowing the start and the end of the day is essential for keeping the holy Sabbaths correctly. **Exodus 12:18** and **Leviticus 23:32** are only two of many Scriptures showing that the Sabbaths begin at evening.

Knowing that the scriptural day was from sunset to sunset is also a key to understanding other passages of the Bible, one of the most important being the time of day in which the Messiah was resurrected. Please read **Matthew 28:1**. The period described here was the end of the Sabbath and dawning (drawing on) toward the first day of the week. Scripturally, this time would be at sunset on Saturday, the seventh day. The stone was rolled away and Yahshua was already gone. One of the main reasons many in churchianity give to explain why they keep Sunday as the Sabbath is that the Messiah rose on that day. That is simply not scriptural, as you

can see when you understand the duration of the scriptural day. The Hebrew week consisted of seven days set forth at creation. The only day given a name in the Bible is the Sabbath. The others are simply numbered.

MONTHS BEGIN AT NEW MOON

And Elohim said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years” (Genesis 1:14). The *New English Bible* states that the Hebrew month began with the appearance of the new moon determined by visual observation rather than by astronomical calculation. Abib, which means “green ears,” is the first month of the year and occurs in the spring (**Exodus 12:2, 13:4, 23:15, and 34:18**). The observance of the new moon is vital to keeping Yahweh’s holy Sabbaths on the correct days (**Leviticus 23:5, 24, 27, and 34**).

The basic Hebrew year had 12 months, each determined by the moon, and contained approximately 354 days. Periodically, another month must be added to offset the difference between 354 days of the lunar year and 365 days of the solar year. Otherwise, in that given year, the green ears of barley would not be ripe enough to call the month Abib, therefore, beginning a new year.

The understanding of the scriptural reckoning of time is essential if we are to be in complete obedience to Yahweh’s word. The world has changed, corrupted, and calculated away this simple, but perfect method of determining the times and seasons of man. However, when Yahshua returns to set up His Kingdom, the world will then worship in the correct way and at the correct time Yahweh instituted from the very first day of creation. **“And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another shall all flesh come to worship before Me,” saith Yahweh (Isaiah 66:23)!**



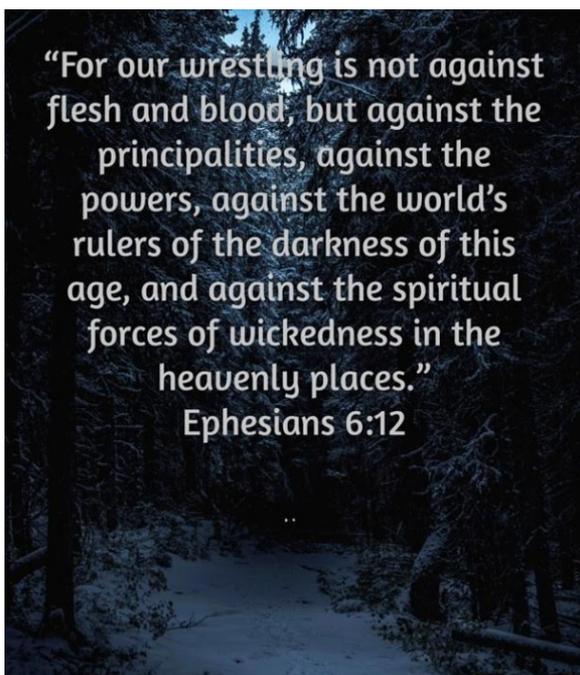
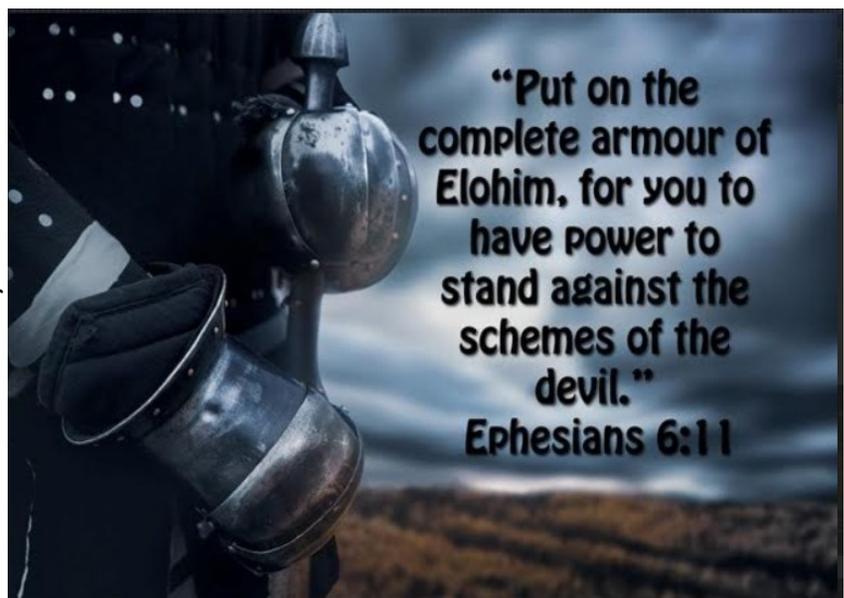
Deep Spiritual Truths— From Yahweh’s Sacred Word

Part 17

Ephesians 6

Verse 11

Life is a spiritual battle against the devil and his forces. As warriors of Yahweh, we are to actively take up and put on Yahweh’s armor. The armor of Yahweh is a complete set of spiritual protection and weapons He provides, not by human strength, to stand firm against Satan’s attacks and not ever retreat. The days are evil. The evil day, the day when Satan is hardest at work, is the age we are living in. He has many methods by which to injure and wound us as soldiers of Yahshua. And he is very crafty in his wiles. When we put on Yahweh’s whole armor, we have on us the best protection in the universe. Yahweh is looking for people who will be lights for Him and heroes in this spiritual battle for Him. We must stand our ground until this evil day is at an end, and the glorious day begins. And this day of glory will never end.

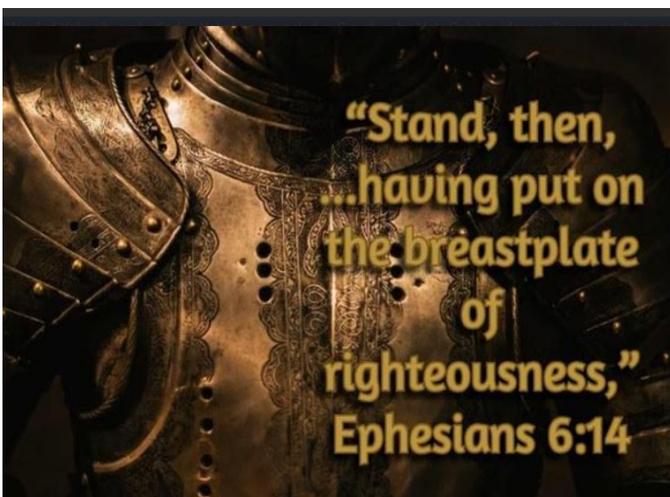
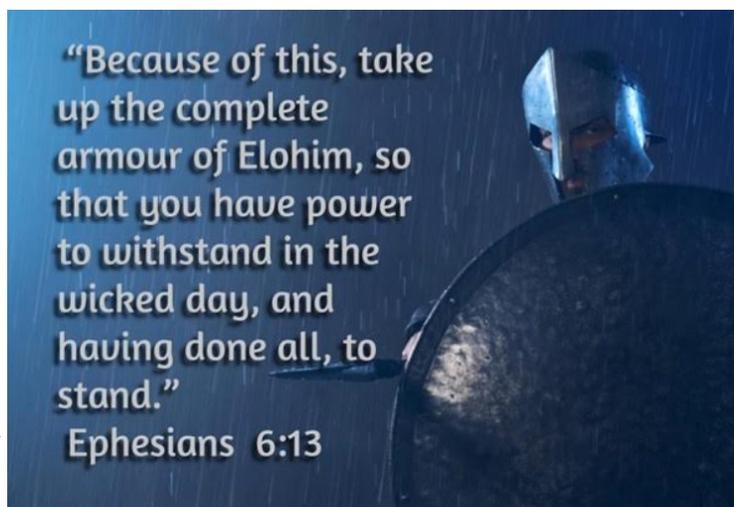


Verse 12

Spiritual warfare. The primary conflict for a believer is not against human enemies, but against a spiritual enemy who has a thousand ways of beguiling unstable souls and labors to destroy the goodness in our spirits. To avoid defeat, believers must be aware of this enemy and the reality of this spiritual warfare. Satan’s spiritual forces are powerful and have authority to rule in the world. They are evil and associated with darkness and not light, wickedness and not good. And they are shrewd. They are so skilled at deception that sometimes they come disguised as angels of light, or wolves in sheep’s clothing. We cannot sugar coat holidays rooted in paganism, such as Halloween. Modern occultists and Wiccans consider Halloween a sacred time for spiritual and supernatural interactions, noting it as the Wiccan New Year and a time when the spiritual and physical worlds are said to be closest. Because the battle is spiritual, the weapons to fight it must also be spiritual. We fight this war by always praying, standing firm in the Word, staying alert, and by daily putting on the whole armor of Yahweh.

Verse 13

We must hold our ground as we fight against the pressures of Satan and this world. We are to stand on a firm foundation, securely grounded in truth and righteousness with solid convictions rather than preferences that vary with circumstances. It is only when we are called by Yahweh and our eyes opened by His Holy Spirit that we can see we are in a life-and-death struggle against all forms of spiritual wickedness. In this battle, we must recognize the real enemy and his strategies and to “resist him, steadfast in the faith.” Yahshua is our truth, our righteousness, our peace, the source of our salvation, and the living Word of Yahweh. When we put on the full armor of Yahweh, we are protected by the only One Satan has never and will never defeat.



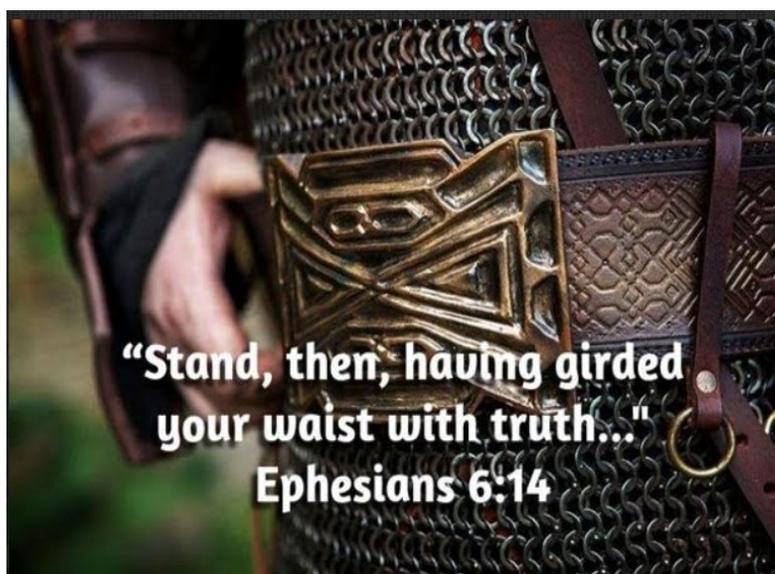
Verse 14

Righteousness to believers denotes the flawless moral integrity of Yahweh, the status granted to us through Yahshua, and a life conformed to Yahweh’s standards. This unearned gift, together with the Spirit’s transformative work, compels us to “pursue righteousness” until that day when justice and righteousness cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. The breastplate of the Roman armor in the Apostle Paul’s day covered the torso from neck to waist, shielding the heart and lungs. Believers are to put on “the breastplate of righteousness,” guarding our heart and conscience in spiritual warfare. This armor is effective because believers are united to the One whose righteousness is perfect, whose faithfulness is unailing, and

whose love never fails. He equips His people with an impenetrable defense for the heart, even against forces of unrepentant evil. By faith and love, clad in Yahshua’s righteousness, the breastplate secures believers for present conflict and final victory.

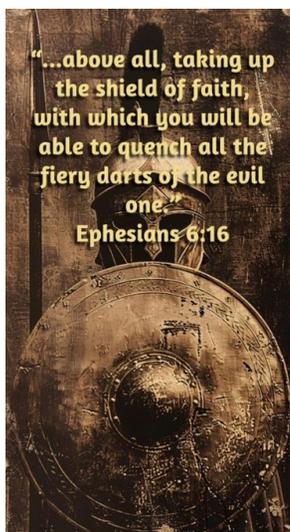
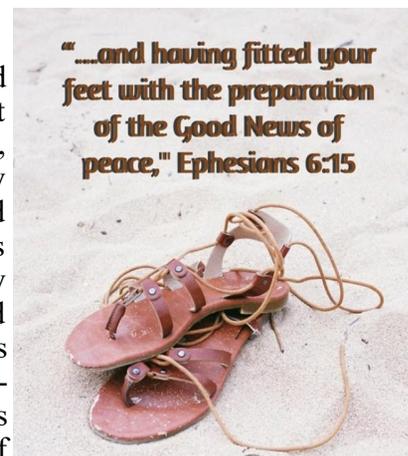
Verse 14a

Truth is the Word of Yahweh, embodied in Yahshua, revealed in Scripture by Holy Spirit guidance. To receive, love, and live this truth is to participate in Yahweh’s plan of salvation and in the freedom for which He created us. The man of lawlessness wields “every wicked deception” for those who refuse to love the truth. Conversely, those who live in Yahweh’s truth obtain an enduring triumph through the Holy Spirit. The soldier’s belt held the sword and strengthened the core, as truth stabilizes the believer, securing every other piece of armor. Yahweh’s covenant soldiers must clad themselves with these truths before they can overcome the world and the forces of darkness. Believers in these perilous times must stand ready, rooted in truth, and ever vigilant for Yahweh’s unfolding plan of salvation.



Verse 15

Preparedness of shod feet is linked to the believer's secure footing in the Good News of salvation, balancing aggression with peace: the believer advances, yet the message proclaimed is reconciliation. We, as believers in Yahweh's army, need that firm footing because one of the greatest things Satan wants to destroy in our lives is our PEACE. He wants to stir up disagreements and division, and he wants us filled with worry and anxiety. This part of the armor can give us the protection we need to keep moving through every obstacle the enemy throws our way. As we put on the shoes of peace, may they be firmly grounded in the Good News of salvation through His peace which is beyond understanding. The battle seems tough but Yahweh is greater. May He lead us, guide us, and keep us steady on the path that leads to the glorious Kingdom of peace.



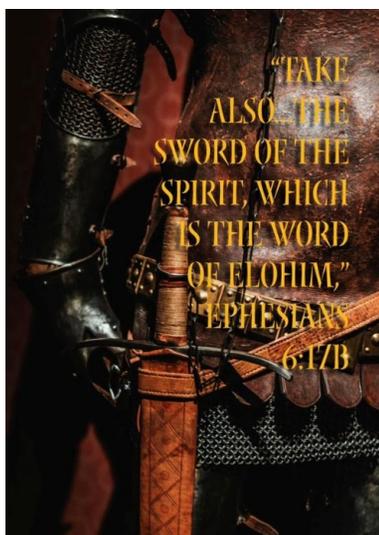
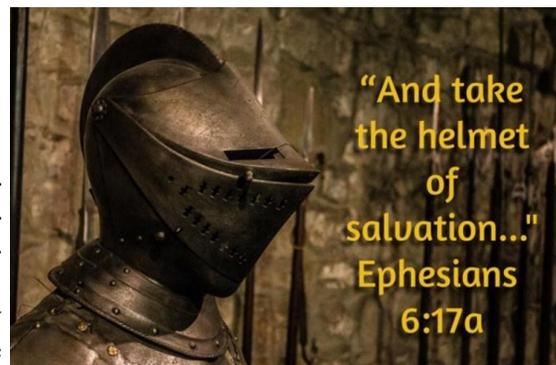
Verse 16

Faith is the believer's shield which we actively put on in front of us in every place and circumstance against Satan's subversive schemes. His flaming arrows include temptations and doubts designed to ignite fear or compromise in our lives. Faith absorbs and quenches such attacks because it stands before us with the Good News of salvation, the promises of Yahweh, and the indwelling Spirit's power. The believer who consistently takes up the shield of faith stands secure until the day when every battle ceases with the return of King Yahshua, Satan's ultimate defeat, and our victory due to our putting on complete armor of Yahweh.

Verse 17a

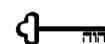
The helmet is the final, sealing piece of a soldier's defensive armor. Protecting the most vital command center—the head—it signifies security, identity, and clarity of thought in the midst of conflict.

Yahshua, the ultimate warrior, has triumphed over death and now shares His own helmet of salvation with His body of believers. The Head is already exalted; the members share in His victory. Thus the helmet directs attention upward to Yahshua, safeguarding believers from self-reliance and anchoring them in His redemptive victory. Bearing the helmet of salvation, believers enter the spiritual battlefield confident that the decisive victory is already secured and their minds are guarded until the day they see their Captain face to face.



Verse 17b

The sword is both an offensive and defensive weapon used by warriors. It was necessary for a soldier to get intensive training on the proper use of the sword to get maximum protection. All soldiers in Yahweh's army need this same training to know how to properly handle the Sword of the Spirit, "which is the Word of Yahweh," since every believer is in a spiritual battle with the satanic and evil forces of this world. Then it will be an effective defense against evil, and an offensive weapon to "demolish strongholds" of error and falsehood. The more we know and understand the Word of Yahweh, the more useful we will be in doing His will and the more effective we will be in standing against the enemy of our souls.



BARLEY OR EQUINOX— A FRESH NEW LOOK

By: D. Zakkay

*(We have been asked to
publish this article again.)*

Given the differences of opinions from prior years in settling on a month of Abib, and some who have taken to discussing the merits of using the spring (vernal) equinox as an additional input in determining the first month, this article is being published again to provide insight into the subject, recognizing that if "that which seems right to man" is not found, or does not agree, with the Holy Scriptures of Yahweh, it must be discarded as falsehood, and will not stand in the light of the truth of His Word.

It should first be stated that it is good to have this discussion, especially considering the conflicts and acrimonious discussions of years past when seasoned and verified barley watchers have provided evidences of Abib and near-Abib grain of various types just ahead of the new moon. On the other side were some Karaite Jewish believers who said that the evidences were not adequate according to their decision-making criteria. In each case, the differences of opinion produced sharp divisions and very negative character displays among the students of Yahshua. This is not good, and not in keeping with the very definition of these "moedim," or days of coming-together (assembly). We need to be able to consider all the options in a loving, civil, unbiased manner.

We should all admit that the spring equinox is and should be a significant input into the Abib decision process. Obviously, as the sun more greatly warms the earth in the Northern Hemisphere, the likelihood increases that spring-like conditions will occur in Israel. But a prime consideration still must be **Leviticus 23:10-11-14. Verse 14** creates an absolute requirement boundary for the selection of Abib. There must be enough barley to form a sheaf for the priest to wave, and to generate an omer of barley seeds. (Both are the meaning of the Hebrew word "omer" probably because it only takes an armful [sheaf] of healthy, standing grain stocks to produce 3+ quarts of barley grain.) The first few chapters of the book of Ruth make this fact quite clear. We now must be as sure as we can (if we wish to do our very best at fulfilling the scriptural requirements for the barley offering) that there will be that minimal quantity of barley of the right type, grown under the right conditions, at the time of the Abib decision. We must be as sure as we can because, by obeying that requirement (as best as we can),

we are putting the final decision in Yahweh's hands, and not our own. He controls the weather according to His plan for Israel, and the seasons of His creation (**Leviticus 26:4; Deuteronomy 11:14, 28:12; Job 38:22-38; Jeremiah 33:20; Ezekiel 34:26; Amos 4:7; Acts 1:7**). Then, by controlling the weather in Erets (the land) Israel, Yahweh can and does move around His moedim—His appointed times of assembly—to suit His foreknowledge and plans. Yes, He engineered the celestial mechanics that produce the seasons, which may be approximated by the observation (or calculation) of the equinox, but the occurrence of the equinox is not a sufficient criterion for determining the state of development of the barley crop in Israel. Using just the equinox can and does produce errors. In prior years, some Messianic believers have accepted a later Abib based on an attempt to "shoehorn-in" their acceptance or rejection of barley maturity with the Jewish calendar. The result was clear: the barley harvest in Israel was in full swing, and nearly complete before the "late Passover" was ever reached! The equinox reckoning was wrong. There were multiple, on-the-ground, in-Israel, witnesses to this fact. If the farmers in Israel had been aware and concerned about the wave-sheaf requirement, most of the harvest would have molded in the fields before they could harvest. A too-late Passover would have produced a national disaster, with starvation and famine in ancient Israel.

It is for that reason that we should ignore all the man-made rules for determining the state of the barley crop, as well as any man-made rule that is not found in the Torah of Yahweh. **Leviticus 23** only tells us that a sheaf/omer of barley is necessary. The "first new moon after the spring equinox" just does not fulfill that requirement. It may come at the same time more often than not, but it is not definitive. We must leave the final decision in Yahweh's hands. It is easy, it is definitive—find an omer of barley of the right type, in the right state of development ahead of the potential new moon of Abib, and there you will have a clear and definitive determination. If the equinox is used as a prime input into the "formula" to identify the month of Abib, it automatically becomes the one and only criterion. In other words, if the new moon selected as the new moon of Abib must always be after the spring equinox, then barley development in Israel is of no use in the determination (since no one would consider waiting until the 2nd or 3rd new moon after the spring equinox to declare Abib); whereas, if barley is the prime criterion, then the equinox becomes a useful, initial input to the equation, but not the "fine-tuning" parameter.

It would be useful for us to acknowledge that the use of the vernal equinox is essentially the same as the use of the Gregorian calendar, since it is a close approximation of timing of the solar year. (That is what the Gregorian calendar was designed to approximate, as does any use of the "first point of Aries" or other celestial markers.) Of course, if we were somehow lacking a calendar for the (secular) year, or did not have access to a "perpetual calendar" (such as is found in most almanacs), then simple observation of the closeness of the time of equal days and nights would have to be a similar, useful guidepost.

It is interesting that some have noted that **Leviticus 23:14** only forbids the eating of the new crop, but not the harvesting of that crop before the wave sheaf offering. That is a pivotal argument in favor of using the spring equinox in some way for determining Abib. Let's re-read **vs. 14** on that. It does not actually forbid the harvest. However, when it is added to other Scriptures, it does seem to require that the grain not be harvested ahead of the wave sheaf offering. Why? It is clearly because of **vs. 20** which provides context that the wave sheaf cutting must be of the "firstfruits" (*reshith*, H7225) of the harvest. If the harvest was allowed before the spring equinox (but not the eating of the new grain), would a later firstfruits cutting really be the first fruit? And if the wave sheaf offering cutting was cut at the beginning, then held "in reserve" until an Unleavened Bread week after the equinox, would it remain fresh and green (the very meaning of the word "Abib")?

These seem to be problems, especially since **Deuteronomy 16:9** added to **Leviticus 23:10** seems to be saying that the count to the day of Firstfruits (Chag Shabua [H762]/Chag Bikkur [H1061]) starts then (in addition to **the day after the Sabbath** [H7676]), **from [when] you begin** (H4480) **to put the sickle to the grain**). So, it is a first sheaf, of the first harvest, (also the first/best of the harvest [**Exodus 23:19**]) that occurs around the time of Unleavened Bread. That would not at all allow a harvest before the firstfruits cutting).

Some might point out the obvious fact that, in previous centuries, information regarding the barley state was not available world-wide. However, what we have now are world-wide informational tools that assist us in getting the Abib decision correct. Those tools were not made available to prior ages, but they are available to us now. We should take advantage of it in our attempts to most closely align our assembly days with Yahweh's commanded requirement of **Leviticus 23:14**, just as we use other modern tools to broadcast the good news of the Kingdom, just as we use the internet and telephone to have these discussions, just as we use the printed word to distribute these messages, and just as we all have endless Bibles and resources for studying the truths of the Scriptures.

We, as adopted sons, grafted in (**Romans 11:17**), are, like most of blood Israel, in the wilderness (**Revelation 12:6**), doing our best to obey and serve Him in lands where He never provided local instructions. We sight the new moon in the Americas and Australia. Where does it say to do that? But then, what else can we do? We do the best we can to apply instructions given to Israel while they were in the land, to our situations outside of the land. If part of "our best" today includes electronic communications or jet travel, that is a blessing Yahweh has allowed His people to use in these last days in order to make it more likely that we will come to Him for an appointment and not be late (or early). But it is correct that neither we, nor blood Israel, could have been sure of the state of the barley harvest in Eretz Israel for much of human history. Yet, we should thank Yahweh for the added information

we have today and not squabble about man-made formulas on how to use that information.

Hopefully, some of these points will be useful in determinations on this subject which occur on a yearly basis. Perhaps they will help us all to avoid acrimonious replies which might lead to unnecessary (further) schisms among Yahweh's people. Paul warned us: **Who are you judging another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls...** (**Romans 14:4**). So, we do need to do our best to provide the best advice, based soundly on the Scriptures and the collective guidance of Yahweh's kodesh spirit, while not allowing such differences among Yahweh's people to be another cause for division. Yahweh allows questioning on doctrinal matters such as this one, just to test us and see how we relate to one another, and how we can lovingly give and accept correction. After all, we will have a lot of work in the Kingdom convincing people to do the right thing. If we can't do it now with our brothers and sisters in the Messiah, how can our Master know that we will be able to do it then with strangers?

This point is of the utmost importance in this debate. It's sometimes amazing the things believers will get upset about and even divide over. We will always have our own opinions, but we should never sow disunity. What a sad witness it is to believers, and to a lost world, when we are divided and arguing. And what a powerful witness it is when people see brothers and sisters loving one another. There's a great statement attributed to Augustine that says, "In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; in all things, charity [love]." There are essentials we can't budge on. For example, if you were to say, "I don't really believe the Bible is the Word of Yahweh," or "Yahshua Messiah is not the way to Yahweh," then we probably won't be agreeing on anything. We need unity in the essentials, in the basic truths of the Bible. There is no compromising here.

We have friends who are pastors, and brothers and sisters in other assemblies who don't agree on every theological point. But they're very good friends because we still have a lot of beliefs in common, and we let the love of Yahshua shine through us in our interactions, even when we may not agree on everything. These are the weightier matters of the law—how we treat each other and continue to show love, in spite of differences!

Make no mistake, Yahweh is testing us in these things, and is judging the attitude of our hearts and our love and actions toward one another, just as much as our interpretations of what we believe the Scriptures say. Let's all remember that we are one body in Yahshua, and that we will never see everything exactly the same until He returns, and until He sets up His Kingdom of absolute and total truth! Let's always adhere to these words of the great Apostle Paul: **He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love, Ephesians 4:16.**



KEEP THE FIRE BURNING

By Elder Edward Burgett

*The priest shall put fire upon the altar
(Leviticus 1:7-9).
They shall be holy unto their Elohim, and not pro-
fane the Name of their Elohim, for the offerings of
Yahweh made by fire, and the bread of their Elo-
him, they do offer, therefore they shall be holy
(Leviticus 21:6).*

Peter instructs those called out of darkness into the light of Messiah Yahshua: **But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people...** (1 Peter 2:9). The priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the Law (Hebrews 7:12). The Levitical priesthood failed in their responsibilities: **“For the priest’s lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth; for he is the messenger of Yahweh of hosts. But you have turned aside out of the way. You have caused many to stumble at the law. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi,”** says Yahweh of hosts (Malachi 2:1-9).

They, as did all of Israel, forsook Yahweh, Who is a consuming fire (Deuteronomy 4:24; Hebrews 12:29), and they forgot His Name for that of Baal Gawd, or the English translation—“Lord God.” **Of the Rock that begot you, you are unmindful, and have forgotten Elohim Who formed you (Deuteronomy 32:18).**

The nation of Israel was called to an altar, to slaughter, or offer sacrifices made by fire to Yahweh: **It is a continual burnt offering, which was ordained in Mount Sinai for a sweet savour, a sacrifice made by fire unto Yahweh (Numbers 28:6).**

The Apostle Paul instructs the household of Israel in **Romans 12:1, I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of Eloah, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice unto Eloah which is your reasonable service.**

Paul also taught the true believer: **Know you not you are the temple of Elohim, and that the Holy Spirit dwells in you (1 Corinthians 3:16)?** If we are truly the temple of Elohim, then we are to offer ourselves as living sacrifices to Him.

For we are laborers together with Elohim; you are



Elohim’s husbandry, you are Elohim’s building, according to the grace of Elohim which is given unto me as a wise master builder. I have laid the foundation another builds thereon. But let every man take heed how he builds, therefore, for another foundation can no man lay that is laid, which is Yahshua the Messiah ... Every man’s work shall be made manifest, for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire, and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is (1 Corinthians 3:9-15).

But you shall be named the Priests of Yahweh: men shall call you the Ministers of our Elohim ... everlasting joy shall be unto them. For I, Yahweh, love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them (Isaiah 61:6-8).

This article began with the “Torah” and has proceeded into the writings of Paul, who understood the meaning of sacrifices to Yahweh: **For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers perfect. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have had no pleasure (Hebrews 10:1, 3, 6).**

Paul continues teaching about a good and acceptable sacrifice to Yahweh: **But to do good and to fellowship forget not: for with such sacrifices Elohim is well pleased (Hebrews 13:16).**

Here is what King David wrote: **The sacrifices of Elohim are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O Elohim, You will not despise ... Then shall You be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness... (Psalm 51:17, 19).**

For as Jacob fathered the household of Israel (Genesis 31), so Yahweh fathers the priestly household built by Yahshua the Messiah: **But now in the Messiah Yahshua you who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of the Messiah. For He is our peace, Who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of partition between us (Ephesians 2:13-14).**

This will be an acceptable sacrifice to Yahweh: **That**

He might present it to Himself an honorable assembly, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish (Ephesians 5:27).

We have a responsibility to walk according to Yahweh's laws, charging ourselves to walk in holiness—to keep the eternal fire burning, as we offer sacrifices of praise to our Father Yahweh, in obedience, and according to His will: **By Him, therefore, let us offer the sacrifice of praise to Elohim continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name (Hebrews 13:15; see also Jeremiah 33:11).**

May we not be guilty of offering unacceptable fire on Yahweh's altar (Leviticus 10:1; Numbers 3:4, 26:61): **“Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you,”** says Yahweh of hosts, **“neither will I accept an offering at your hand” (Malachi 1:10).**

But as the Prophet Malachi continued: **“For from the rising of the sun, even unto the going down of the same, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto My name, and a pure offering: for My name shall be great among the heathen,”** says Yahweh of hosts (Malachi 1:11).

We must come before the altar without hypocrisy, in humility, which conduct Yahweh says, He will reward: **When you pray, you shall not be as the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by**

men. Most certainly, I tell you, they have received their reward. But you, when you pray, enter into your inner chamber, and having shut your door, pray to your Father Who is in secret, and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you openly (Matthew 6:5-6).

We must be about our Father's business, **But you be sober in all things, suffer hardship, do the work of an evangelist, and fulfill your ministry (1 Timothy 4:5).**

And we try to follow in Messiah's footsteps: **But thanks be to Elohim, Who gives us the victory through our Master Yahshua the Messiah. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Master, forasmuch as you know that your labour is not in vain in the Master (1 Corinthians 15:57-58).**

May we serve and worship Yahweh upon the altar of faith, in spirit and truth: **But the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship Him. Elohim is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24).**

Purge out, therefore, the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, as you are unleavened. For even the Messiah, our Passover, is sacrificed for us: therefore, let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth (1 Corinthians 5:7-8).



**Invitation to 2026 Passover—
Feast of Unleavened Bread**

If green ears are seen by the 2026 new moon in March, we will be observing the Passover Memorial the evening of April 1st. Please make plans now to join us for a most inspiring candlelit Passover memorial. Yahshua said, “Do this in remembrance of Me.”

Please contact us if you plan to attend the Passover memorial so we will have enough place settings. Join us for a most-blessed evening as we sit at Yahshua's table, and partake in the cup of salvation!

Also please plan to stay with us for the entire seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread, with Bible studies and meals planned for each day! Looking forward to seeing all of our faithful brethren!

“Evangelism USA ~ 2026”

To: Yahweh’s Assemblies

Greetings to all who read this in the mighty Name of Yahshua Messiah. It is our prayer that this announcement finds all of you blessed by our Creator, Yahweh. It is being sent out to first let all the assemblies know of the upcoming plan to evangelize the USA in the year 2026. We are reaching out to ministers, pastors, and elders of the assemblies, as well as all the brethren within the congregations, in hopes of creating a group effort to bring truth to this dying nation. Our goal is to bring the



Sacred Names of Yahweh and Yahshua, along with the truth about the Sabbath, to everyone who will give ear. We will be setting up a booth in public areas, handing out tracts about the Sabbath and the Names and setting up a microphone system for Q&A. As we all know, we are starting to see prophecy of Scripture unfold rapidly, and it is time to evangelize in preparation for the return of Yahweh’s Redemption (Yahshua Messiah)! We must be found planting seeds and working in the field when He comes, and this nation is in dire need of our labor for Yahweh’s purpose in the life of mankind.

This effort will start after Passover and Unleavened Bread, with areas out West. Then after the Feast of Weeks, we will commence once again proceeding East. We already have many locations in mind and are asking for your help in generating funds, prayers, and your time when we are near your area. We will be initiating a fundraiser soon with the assemblies who wish to participate in this great push forward, bringing people who are perishing to the truth.

We have already spoken to several assemblies and pastors who said they will participate in whatever means they can when we are in their areas. We will be doing a lot of flying, renting cars, and riding trains, etc. So, raising funds is going to be a big thing pertaining to how successful our efforts will be. We are praying that by the time the Unity Conference comes around in August 2026, that we will see much fresh fruit joining us to worship.

If you feel led to help or participate in any way for this attempt to bring people to Yahshua, please contact us at the contact info provided below. We are so thrilled to see what Yahweh is about to do with these plans! After much prayer and planning, myself and Minister Ahmad Taylor have set aside an allotted amount of time already for this next year to appear before the masses in the USA on behalf of Yahweh and Yahshua. There are several others that have said they would like to get involved and we are very thankful. Let every effort here be for the edification of the Body of Yahshua and the soon-coming Kingdom of Yahweh. Please contact us for more info. Shalom to you all!

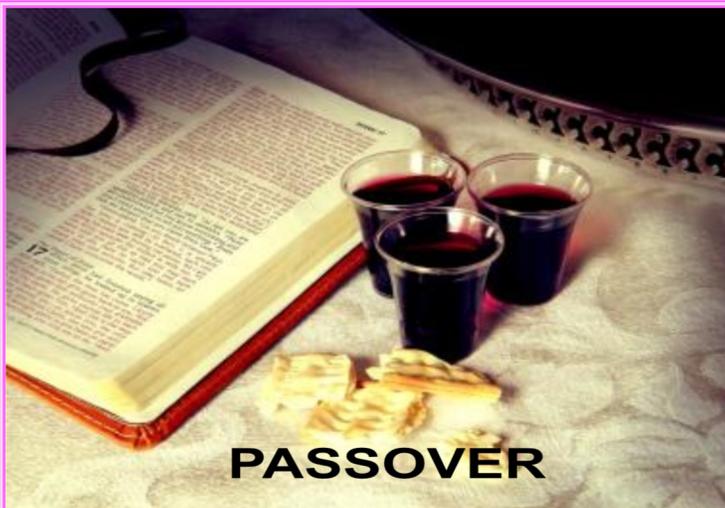
Elder Teddy Wilson
SOYM – 208-553-8393
SeekersofYahweh@outlook.com

THE
Master Key
401 N. Roby Farm Rd.
Rocheport, MO 65279

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ROCHEPORT, MO
PERMIT NO.7

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

MOVING? HELP US SAVE MONEY ON EVERY ISSUE BY SENDING US YOUR NEW ADDRESS!



PASSOVER

Passover or Easter? Only one is found in the Scriptures. The other is a counterfeit that the enemy is using to deceive and destroy Yahweh's chosen people. Find out the facts about both in these free booklets, *Passover—A Day to Remember*, and *What You Should Know About EASTER!*

WHICH WILL YOU CHOOSE?



ASK FOR YOURS TODAY!



EASTER