

A MESSAGE FOR OUR TIME¹

By Nazarene Rabbi Sha'ul ben Yisra'el (Paul Todd)

INTRODUCTION

This message will lead the reader to desire more information than what I present however I will not be able to take a lot of time to explain things which are discussed in great detail in other messages. This message is a timely message for our day and for the believers in Yahshua (Jesus). I have written this message directly to the Christian believer hopefully in a manner that can be understood.

Right up front, I must warn you that this will be a hard message and some of you might just throw it out. Please, read the whole message. Furthermore, I will use a great deal of Scripture during this message. It actually will not be me speaking but Yahweh (God) through His Word. Check out these Scripture references and then check me out. Don't nod your head either in agreement or disagreement. See what Yahweh says!

FIRST THINGS FIRST AND HOUSE KEEPING

It is necessary to discuss a few things before this material is presented. This will reduce confusion and allow the reader to have a grasp on some terminology that might be unfamiliar. The first thing that we have to discuss is words.

SACRED NAMES

We² have a long message on the use of the Sacred Names, why they are used and where we see them in Scripture so I will not present that material as part of this message, however, here are some important points. I will use the Name יהוה or “Yahweh” instead of “God”, “The Lord”, “Adonai”, “HaShem” or other unscriptural names. We have spent some time studying the correct pronunciation of the Name יהוה as we see it in the Tanakh (“Old Testament”) and we have chosen to pronounce it “Yahweh” (Yah – way). I will also use the term “Elohim” where most Scripture versions use the word “God” or “Lord” or other variations. I also will use the Name יהושע or “Yahshua” instead of the name “Jesus” or “Isous”. We believe that the pronunciation should be “Yahshua” (Yah – shuah) but there are other sources that say His Name should be pronounced “Yahoshua” (Yah – ho – shuah). This is a matter of Hebrew grammar. In the Hebrew text, we will continue to spell Yahweh's Name as יהוה and to “transliterate” His Name as “YHVH” or “Yahweh”. Furthermore, we have chosen to render the Messiah's Name as יהושע in the Hebrew text and Brit Chadashah (“New Testament”). This Name I will “transliterate” as “Yahshua”. It must be noted that Mattithyahu (Matthew) 1:21 says “*And she shall give birth to a Son, and you shall call His Name יהושע for He shall save His people from their sins.*” (Emphasis mine) The name “Yahshua” means “salvation of Yah” whereas the name “Jesus” does not mean this.

¹ Please see “My Final Words” at the very end of this message.

² “We” being Servants of Messiah Ministries. Most of the messages referenced in this message are found on our website www.servant2000.org. At some time in the future, this message will be put on CD and these other messages will be added to the CD.

The Scripture version that I will use primarily in this message is “*The Scriptures*”³ (or T.S.) from the Institute of Scripture Research. I may also use the *Restoration Scriptures*⁴ for clarity and from time to time I will also compare Scripture text to the *King James Version* and to the *Hebrew Tanakh*⁵. I prefer to use the Hebrew portion of the Stone Edition Tanakh⁶. I may use other versions of Scripture where appropriate. I have made use of the free program “e-Sword” for cut and paste and research. This program is available at www.e-sword.net. I also made limited use of the computer program “Logos” from Logos Research Systems, Inc.

NAMES AND WORDS ARE IMPORTANT

We absolutely must set aside our Greek/Roman thinking and understanding and view Scripture from a Hebraic perspective. The writers of Scripture were NOT Greek/Romans, they did not think Greek/Roman and their philosophy was not Greek/Roman. Their theology was not Greek/Roman. And their language was not Greek or Roman or Latin or English – it was Aramaic and Hebrew⁷.

We westerners are Greek/Romans – our schools and universities teach with a Greek/Roman mindset. Our philosophy and theology is G/R. Our legal system and government system are G/R. Even our religions are G/R. That includes Christianity and present day Judaism.

Because of this, we do not recognize the importance of names, or words, for that matter. We say things and use names and assign names to people and things without regard to what we are doing. We give people “nick-names” or shorten their names as a convenience. We may call someone “Bill” rather than “William” when William is his correct name. We may refer to the person that we work for as “the boss” rather than by his name. Some people refer to Yahweh as “the man upstairs” or a “higher power”. This is absolute blasphemy but it goes on unchecked even in the Christian church.

We also change the meaning of words to make certain statements. We might see something and say “cool” about that thing. We are not discussing the temperature of the object, we just think it’s – well – cool. This is called an “idiom”. If you want to see how the meaning of words have been changed over the past century find a book written in the early 1900’s and read it. You might find that the writer used words that have either another meaning today or an additional meaning. If you are familiar with the language of the King James Version you will know that many words used in the older editions and in the 1611 edition are archaic and simply not used in modern English.

³ “The Scriptures” published by the Institute For Scripture Research”, PO Box 1830, Northriding 2162 South Africa. The Scriptures is available through Strawberry Islands, 2303 Watterson Trail, Louisville, KY., 40299 (www.fossilizedcustoms.com) and several other sources.

⁴ Restoration Scriptures, True Name Edition, © 2004, Your Arms To Israel Publishing, 7378 W. Atlantic Blvd. #112 Margate Fla. 33063. www.yourarmstoisrael.org.

⁵ Tanakh instead of “Old Testament”. Tanakh is an acronym that stands for “Torah” (the first five books of Scripture often called “the Law”), the Nivim (the prophets) and the Ketuvim (the writings). This paper will use the word “Tanakh” to refer to that part of Scripture erroneously called the “Old Testament”. The word “Old Testament” conveys the illusion that the front part of the Bible is “Old” or “Past” and therefore, done away with.

⁶ Rabbi Nosson Scherman, 1996, *Stone Edition Tanach* (Brooklyn, New York, Mesorah Publications, Ltd.)

⁷ This fact is proved in other messages and in a short section in this message.

None of this is essentially wrong, it is just the way we do things. It is the current culture we live in. It is our current way of saying things. What is wrong is when we attempt to apply current culture, language and idioms to ancient Hebrew culture, language and idioms.

THE CULTURE AND LANGUAGE OF THE BIBLE

Most Believers have been taught that the Bible was written in mostly two languages. We have been taught that the “Old Testament” was written in Hebrew and the “New Testament” was written in Greek. Most of us assume that the particular version of the Bible that we favor is accurate in its translation and that we can understand what the original author intended. Over the past few years, I have come to different conclusions.

I think that the first thing to examine is language. We have made some assumptions about the English language over our lifetime that affects our understanding of the language. Let me explain it this way. By this time in history most of us reading this have been exposed to a wide range of Science Fiction movies and television programs. Whether we want to admit it or not, those movies and programs have taught us certain things about language and culture.

THE STAR TREK METAPHOR

From my own perspective, I like SciFi and I have seen every Star Trek program, movie and take-off there is. I have also seen almost all of the other space related SciFi movies and television series going back to the fifties. All of this has “taught” me certain things about all other cultures and races of beings in the entire universe – or, at least the fictional ones. These are:

1. Everyone in the universe speaks English (most with a slightly British accent).
2. Everyone in the universe understands the cultural nuances of all other cultures.
3. Everyone in the universe has a similar physiology to humans (i.e. 2 arms, 2 legs, 1 head, 2 eyes, 2 ears, 1 nose, 1 mouth etc.)

According to the “Star Trek” metaphor, we have a similar situation in how we, as Americans, have been taught to look at Scripture. If I maintain this metaphor, and modify point 3 slightly, here is how we have been taught:

1. ALL Hebrew or Aramaic words and phrases can be easily translated directly into Greek and then English. All Hebrew and Aramaic words have only one exact meaning.
2. We can fully understand the culture of the ANE (Ancient Near East).
3. The people of the ANE were exactly like we are today.

CONSEQUENCES OF IGNORING CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

The Greek/Roman theology that we have been taught has ignored or only lightly considered the Hebrew and Aramaic language, culture and idioms of the Scriptures. In doing so, they have made of

no account such important things as the multiple meanings of Hebrew words and the importance of names for people and places.

As we examine Torah and the rest of the Tanakh, we see that names of people and places have an importance beyond the English translation. We see names of places and people being changed to reflect a new status such as the name Avram, meaning “exalted father”, being changed to Avraham, meaning “father of many nations”. By examining the importance of Avraham’s name we see Avram was named by his father, Terah (who was an idolater). Yahweh changed his name to Avraham in Beresheet (Genesis) 17:5.

In Ya’akov’s (Jacob’s) case, he has two names one being Ya’akov and the other being Yisra’el. Another way of stating Beresheet (Genesis) 35:10 is “...*your name will no longer be Ya’akov exclusively, but your name will also be Israel...*”. The Tanakh uses both names interchangeably (See Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 43:1). Yisrael can mean “prince/ruler with Yah”.

Ignoring the culture of the ANE also creates a misunderstanding of what Scriptures are telling us. The people of the ANE were mostly agrarian – they raised animals and farmed. Their farming technology was very primitive by our standards today and even the standards of several hundred years ago.

For example, Yahshua says in Luka (Luke) 9:62, “...*No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of [Yahweh].*” (KJV, Sacred Name corrected) Well, I don’t actually understand plowing a field. I saw someone operate a plow once but they were using a tractor to pull it. Does the same idiom apply to using a tractor? If Yahshua were to say these same words to us today, He might say, “...No man, having put his hand to the ***lawn mower***, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of Yahweh.” Now I can understand that.

RULES OF SCRIPTURE STUDY

For the sake of this message I will use two “Rules” when referring to Scripture. I have taken these “rules” from a hermeneutics course, and we present and consider them to be vital to our discussion in this message. This message will say things that might be contrary to what you have been taught therefore whatever I teach must line up with Scripture **precisely**.

I am reminded of the words of Ya’akov (James) “*Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, knowing that we shall receive greater judgment.*” (Ya’akov (James) 3:1 T.S.) I consider teaching to be a serious matter and I endeavor to use Scripture properly.

FIRST RULE – CONTEXT, CONTEXT, CONTEXT, CONTEXT

That’s four contexts. I have heard, and so have you, Christian teaching where the teacher will use a Scripture passage or verse to illustrate or justify the teaching. There are times the particular Scripture is properly used and correctly illustrates the teaching. On the other hand, MANY times the Scripture is used OUT OF CONTEXT to illustrate a teaching that the teacher wants to make and not a teaching that the text wants to make.

THE FIRST CONTEXT IS THE CONTEXT OF THE PARAGRAPH THE VERSE IS IN.

One of the problems with most English Bibles is that they are in single verse format and not paragraph format. Consequently, we are not sure how that verse relates to the rest of the text. Many Christians that do not agree with my teaching say to me “we’re not under the law but under grace”. I take that to mean that because the Christian is “under grace” they don’t have to obey Yahweh’s commandments. I usually inform the speaker that they are taking that verse out of context and it doesn’t mean what you think it means. Go look it up yourself. BUT, read it in its full verse context. And then read it in its paragraph context. If your Bible does not have paragraphs, then get one that does. However, I don’t know of any paragraph format in a proper Scripture.

THE NEXT CONTEXT IS THE CHAPTER CONTEXT.

This can be a little trickier. The original writers of Scripture did not write in chapter format anymore than we write letters in chapter format. Sometimes the chapter divisions over lap or “under-lap” the text. Sometimes several chapters should be grouped together somehow. For example, Korintyah Alef (1 Corinthians) chapter 13 – “the love chapter” is often said at weddings because it seems to have something to do with love and a wedding is a good place to talk about love. Actually, this is part of chapters 12, 13, and 14 which is primarily about Spiritual gifts and not marital love. Chapters 12, 13 and 14 of Korintyah Alef should be just one chapter somehow.

THE THIRD CONTEXT IS THE BOOK CONTEXT.

The two books of Korintyah (Corinthians) were written to the congregation at Korintyah (Corinth). They were not written to your congregation or to anyone alive today for that matter. The letters were written by Rav Sha’ul⁸ to a congregation that he founded. The letters address certain issues that may or may not be applicable to any particular group today.

Let’s use a current example. Rabbi Smithonovich of Whole Word Worship Center has planted some congregations here and there. Whole Word has been in existence for 10 years so let’s assume that they have planted 10 congregations around the world. Let’s say Rabbi Smithonovich writes to the congregation at Gainesville Florida about some particular issues. He also writes a letter to the congregation at Cedar Rapids Iowa about some other issues. He writes letters to all of his congregations. Finally, many years later, these letters come together in one volume. We might also note that it is possible that some of his letters are missing from this volume. Let’s say that Rabbi Smithonovich said, in his letter to Gainesville, “now, to deal with the questions you wrote about...” (like Korintyah Alef (1 Corinthians) 7:1) and then he answered a bunch of questions without restating the questions.

Could the Cedar Rapids congregation apply those question-less answers to doctrine within their congregation? Maybe and maybe not. Of course, the other congregations could use Rabbi Smithonovich’s letters to justify certain doctrine or theology. So could congregations that have nothing to do with Rabbi Smithonovich. We could even take some text of Rabbi Smithonovich’s letters to one of his congregations and combine it with a sentence from another letter and make up a

⁸ erroneously called “Paul”, but that’s another message.

doctrinal statement based on these “verses”. We could even make what Rabbi Smithonovich actually said say something else.

FINALLY, THE FOURTH CONTEXT IS THE WHOLE OF SCRIPTURE CONTEXT.

Whatever is said in the verse, paragraph, chapter and book CANNOT be taken out of context of the whole of Scripture. There are NO SCRIPTURES THAT CONTRADICT SCRIPTURES. If there are, then Yahweh is a liar and I quit! If a particular verse appears to contradict the rest of Scripture, then it is our understanding of the meaning of that verse that is in error. Some time ago I was on the radio and made certain comments that went against the teachings of a local pastor. It was later reported to me that he had assembled his staff of assistant pastors and had them look up verses to contradict what I taught. I couldn’t believe that he thought that he could find contradictions of Scripture in Scripture.

“A Text Without Context Is Only A Pretext”

SECOND RULE – NO CONTRADICTIONS

THERE ARE NO CONTRADICTIONS IN SCRIPTURE! If there appears to be a “contradiction” in Scripture, it is our understanding or our interpretation that is in error. Yahweh is always the same⁹, no matter what He teaches, and in what period He reveals that teaching, we can be assured that He does not contradict Himself. Yahweh would not reveal something in a later period that would contradict something He had previously revealed¹⁰.

PARDES – AN IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE

An important principle in both Hebraic and Aramaic writing and understanding goes by the acronym “PARDES”. This system was used by Moshe (Moses), the prophets, the men of the Great Assembly¹¹ and all the rabbis in the Land of Israel and in the exile. This system would have been known and understood by Yahshua, His followers and Rav Sha’ul.

The First and Second Covenants or Tenachb’cha¹², as I call it, were written by Hebrews for Hebrews. Consequently, the system of Pardes would have been used in all their writings, accounts and revelations. If we try to examine Scripture with any Greek/Roman or modern method, we will set ourselves up for failure, frustration, error, deception and misunderstanding.

⁹ Iyrim (Hebrews)13:8 יהושע Messiah is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

¹⁰ There is another teaching called “Progressive Revelation” that addresses this concept in more detail.

¹¹ “The Men of the Great Assembly” were a group of prophets and other leaders that met sometime around 300 BCE.

¹² This is a combination of the Tanakh and the Brit Chadashah and I made it up so don’t look for it somewhere and don’t quote me here.

We cannot examine Scripture by our favorite method and consider that it is good enough to fully understand what the Scriptures are telling us. We cannot, for example, decide that all Scripture will be examined exclusively using a “face value” or literal method.

PARDES DEFINED

P = PASHAT

Pashat is the literal primary meaning of the text.

R = REMEZ

Remez are the hints in the text that point to something deeper.

D = DRASH

Drash is the added understanding that can be gleaned by a story, riddle or parable.

S = SOD

Sod (the “o” is pronounced like the “o” in “go”) is the deepest level. This is the secret or underlying mystery revealed in the text.

Much of the B’rit Chadashah is written in a drash or sod level – particularly books such as Yochanan (John) and Gilyahna (Revelation). Almost all of Yahshua’s teachings are at a remez, drash or sod level. If we take Yahshua’s parables at the pashat level and examine them at a literal level, we either completely miss the point or come to a wrong conclusion. The three parables in Luka (Luke) chapter 15 are good examples of this problem¹³.

A great deal of the Tanakh is written at other than the Pashat level. Actually about the only text we find at the Pashat level is narrative describing events such as a person going from one place to another.

MORE WORDS

I have already used some Hebrew transliterated words that might be unfamiliar to you. I will attempt to “translate” these and other words to their closest English translation. Hebrew and Aramaic are more “concept” or “picture” languages than a precise language like English so sometimes Hebrew or Aramaic words do not translate accurately into a single English word. And this certainly applies to Greek. I’m sure most of you have heard the Hebrew word “Shalom”. In modern Hebrew it is used like a greeting like the English word “hello”. We also know the word to mean peace. However, the Hebrew word שלום (Shalom) means – peace, security, rest, well being, welfare, health.

So when we say the “Aaronic Benediction” found in Bemidbar (Numbers) 6:24 – 26, the last line is:

¹³ I have since discovered that Yahshua used poetic forms in the Aramaic that He spoke and that the Brit Chadashah was written in. (See below)

יְשָׁא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וְיִשָּׁם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם.

Yih-sah Yahweh pa-nahv ay-leh-cha veh-ya-same leh-cha **Shalom**.

The Hebrew text is read from right to left. The Hebrew word “Shalom” is the last word to the left and I have highlighted it for you. The text below the Hebrew is the “transliterated” text or how it would be pronounced¹⁴. In English we would say:

Yahweh lift up His countenance upon you and give you **peace**.

Now, the source of the Torah (the first 5 books of Scripture) is Yahweh Himself. Torah was not written out of the imagination of Moshe (Moses). Therefore, our English translation might fall a little short on what Yahweh was conveying to us. Maybe we should understand this verse to say:

Yahweh lift up His countenance upon you and give you **peace, security, rest, well being, welfare and health**.

SCRIPTURE VERSIONS

Without trying to denigrate anyone’s favorite version of the Scriptures I must state the following:

ALL translations are an “agenda” translation.

This is not necessarily bad, it is just what happens when someone or some group attempt to translate something from one language into another. The original Hebrew and Aramaic of the Scriptures and the Greek translation¹⁵ were translated into English, for example, with a particular agenda in mind. That agenda may have been to preserve as accurately as possible the intent of the original authors or it may be to change the meanings of certain words so as to reflect a particular theology. I will discuss some words as we go along in this message and you will see some vivid examples.

The English translation that I use primarily is *The Scriptures*¹⁶ by the Institute for Scripture Research. This is not an obscure translation and is easily obtainable. I also use from time to time the *Restoration Scriptures, True Name Edition*¹⁷ by Your Arms to Israel Publishing. And from time to time I’ve even been known to use the *King James Version*. For an accurate Hebrew Tanakh I use the *Stone Edition Tanakh*¹⁸ however, the English in this version of the Tanakh is decidedly anti-Yahshua as Messiah and the agenda of the English translation reflects this. However, the Hebrew text is

¹⁴ Hebrew is a phonetic language and we can easily pronounce it in our English.

¹⁵ This statement is not designed to start a fight. This fact must be discussed in another message at great length however, I have briefly touched on it below.

¹⁶ “*The Scriptures*” published by the “Institute For Scripture Research”, PO Box 1830, Northriding 2162 South Africa. The Scriptures is available through Strawberry Islands, 2303 Watterson Trail, Louisville, KY., 40299 (www.fossilizedcustoms.com).

¹⁷ *Restoration Scriptures, True Name Edition*, © 2004, Your Arms To Israel Publishing, 7378 W. Atlantic Blvd. #112 Margate Fla. 33063. www.yourarmstoisrael.org.

¹⁸ *Stone Edition Tanach*, Rabbi Nosson Scherman, 1996, (Brooklyn, New York, Mesorah Publications, Ltd.)

accurate. I will use the free Bible program e-Sword available at www.e-sword.net for my cut and paste.

WHAT LANGUAGE WAS THE NEW TESTAMENT WRITTEN IN?

During all of my church time I had been taught that the “New Testament” was written in Greek and the “Old Testament” was written in Hebrew. As far as I can remember, I never challenged this tradition. If I wanted to research something in the NT I would go to Strong’s Concordance and look up a number which would give me the meaning of the “original” Greek word. Without questioning it, I accepted this tradition as fact!

When I attended Yeshiva (Rabbinic School) I took a course called Biblical Hermeneutics. The professor of this course adamantly stated that the NT was written in Greek and there was no two ways about it. He went so far in his assertion that he was pounding his fist on the table. He had handed out an enormous pile of “hand-outs” (most of them 6th or 7th generation copies making them hard to read) on many topics relevant to Biblical Hermeneutics. Three of those “hand-outs” were by some authors that clearly stated that the NT was **NOT** written in Greek but in Aramaic. All three of those authors proved their points in what appeared to me to be a logical manner. There was a hole in the dam of my “Greek New Testament tradition”.

Some time after the school a fellow rabbi sent me a copy of the preface to Dr. George M. Lamsa’s “Holy Bible From the Ancient Eastern Text” (which was a translation from the Aramaic Peshitta). This preface is available at <http://aramaicnttruth.org/page.php?page=home> and is entitled “Dr. George Lamsa’s Aramaic Evidence”. I further discovered that there was absolutely NO evidence that the NT was written in Greek except church tradition. The ancient “church fathers”, who were mostly Greek pagans started this tradition.

There is way too much to say on this subject in an attempt to prove my statements so I **strongly** advise you to go to <http://www.aramaicpeshitta.com/> or <http://aramaicnttruth.org/> or <http://www.raphaellataster.com/> and download the free book “Was the New Testament Really Written in Greek?” This book is extremely well researched and will not only answer your questions but change your mind about the true language of the New Testament and what language Yahshua spoke.

I really insist on you reading this book because you will see that the parables of Yahshua were actually poetic forms. Even the, so called, “Lord’s Prayer” is in poetic form. Much of Rav. Sha’ul’s (erroneously called “Paul”) writings are also in poetic forms in Aramaic.

If you can read Hebrew then you might be interested in the book “The New Covenant Commonly Called The New Testament”, “Peshitta Aramaic Text With a Hebrew Translation” edited by The Aramaic Scripture Research Society in Israel. As I remember it, this book was very difficult to find. This book has the Aramaic on the right page and the Hebrew translation on the left page. The Aramaic is not in the true Aramaic font but is in Hebrew text with Hebrew vowel markings so it can be pronounced. The Aramaic is quite similar in pronunciation to the Hebrew. Since reading the book “Was the New Testament Really Written in Greek?” I intend to go back to the Peshitta and

look at Yahshua's words in the Aramaic and see for myself this poetic form. Poetry is definitely not my strong point so this should be interesting.

Why is the language so important? If the Brit Chadashah or Renewed Covenant ("New Testament") was actually written in Greek with Greek thinking then Yahshua and the writers of the B"C¹⁹ were Greeks. Thus the Hebraic way of thinking is gone in the B"C and replaced with the pagan Greek way of thinking. Furthermore, this Greek NT drives a wedge between Semitic people (of which Yahshua was one) and the pagan Greeks. In fact, the tradition of a Greek NT is anti-Semitic which is what many of the early "church fathers" were.

A MESSAGE FOR OUR TIME

THE RESTORATION MESSAGE

"And in those days Yochanan²⁰ the Immerser came proclaiming in the wilderness of Yabudah, and saying, "Repent, for the reign of the heavens has come near!" For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Yeshayahu, saying, "A voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way of יְיָ', make His paths straight.' " (Mattityahu (Matthew 3:1 -2 T.S.)

THE MEANING OF RESTORATION

For the purposes of this message "restoration" means "the restoring of something to an earlier condition". Restoration can also be considered a physical or spiritual healing. There must be a "something" that existed that was somehow broken or deteriorated so that it either does not look like the original or just barely looks like the original before we can restore it. This might be an over simplification but you can't turn nothing into something and call it a "restoration".

Say for example that someone found a 1957 Chevrolet in some old barn. It is in terrible condition with just about all of the interior gone or in sad shape and all metal surfaces are nothing but rust. The engine is rusty and frozen and the wheels and tires are really bad. It's got small trees growing up through it and it is home to a large family of gophers. All the glass is broken and it is impossible to tell what color it was.

The person buys the piece of junk because it is their heart's desire to have a showroom looking 1957 Chevrolet. This car can be restored if the owner actually desires to do so and has the resources to complete the task. It may be that the "as found" condition of the car appears to be hopeless BUT if the owner is willing to put the work into the car it can be restored to perfect show-room condition.

The new owner of the old 1957 Chevrolet will need to have the original manufacturer's instructions and specifications. Those original documents will tell him exactly how to restore the car. He could, of course, just clean things up and make the car into some kind of custom car using some of the parts of the original and adding a lot of other stuff but that would NOT be restoration. For the 1957 Chevrolet purest, he might look at this custom Chevy as an abomination because it is not true

¹⁹ B"C is a kind of Hebrew short hand for Brit Chadashah.

²⁰ The Hebrew name "Yochanan" (John) means "Yah is gracious".

to the original. If the “Great Designer”²¹ of the 1957 Chevrolet were to look at the restored car his reaction would be one of happiness that someone took the care to restore the car accurately. But what would his opinion be of the custom Chevy?

The restoration I will address in this message is the restoration of the “church” to its original, Scriptural condition. After Yahshua’s transfiguration His *talmidim* (Hebrew for “taught ones”, “students”, or “disciples”) asked him “*“Why do the scribes say that Eliyahu²² has to come first?”*” (Mattithyahu (Matthew) 17:10). Yahshua answers them by saying “*“...Eliyahu is indeed coming first, and shall restore all matters.”*”

WHO IS YAHSHUA?

The Christian belief system has as a pillar of faith that there is a “triune Godhead”. There might be various ways this is described but, as I remember from my younger years, Scripture was not used to clearly prove this statement. The question is “is this true” and “how can I prove it”? There is nothing that directly states that there exists a “triune Godhead” at the Pashat level. I was taught a long time ago that these concepts were only in the “New Testament”²³. I was further told that the “Old Testament” had to be “interpreted” in light of the “New Testament”. “The New Testament must always be the guide for interpreting the Old Testament. Old Testament passages may not become the basis for giving primary direction for the interpretation of New Testament passages.”²⁴ This is a false statement and will lead to serious error. Remember, there are no “New Testament” quotes in the “New Testament”. What must be understood from the start is that the concept of Messiah is hidden in both Covenants. There is no plain Scripture that says who or what the Messiah is.

LET’S TRY TO SEE THINGS HEBRAICALLY

The Tanakh and Brit Chadashah were written by Hebrews for Hebrews²⁵ using Hebraic words, idioms and concepts and NOT Greek/Roman/Western words and concepts. There was a system of interpretation that was well known, understood, accepted and practiced by all of Israel’s sages from Moshe (Moses), to the prophets, to the Men of the Great Assembly, to the rabbis, Pharisees and Sadducees of Yahshua’s day to the rabbis of the Diaspora and all the way to us. Even the simple minded could use this system of Hebraic interpretation to glean important things needed for a deep comprehension in Yahweh’s Word.

USING PARDES IN OUR SEARCH FOR YAHSHUA

I have briefly discussed PARDES above. PARDES applies to the Brit Chadashah (Renewed Covenant) as well as the Tanakh. Major portions of Mattithyahu (Matthew) can only be grasped using the drash method of allegories, metaphor and most often by parable. Rarely does anything

²¹ Hint, hint!

²² The Hebrew name “Eliyahu” (Elijah) means “Yahweh is my Elohim”.

²³ Another thing that I was taught and believed is that I had to have an advanced theology degree to understand the deep things of the Christian faith. I should just trust the pastor because he has the schooling and understands these matters. In other words, **the pastor was my go-between** between myself and Yahweh.

²⁴ Walter C. Kaiser, Jr., *Toward Rediscovering the Old Testament*, p. 53

²⁵ Or Semitic people using Semitic languages, customs and idioms.

Messianic come out plainly in the literal or Pashat level of the text and some parts of the text are at the Sod level – particularly the book of Yochanan (John).

The Brit Chadashah also quotes from the Tanakh using several methods to show Messianic prophecy. Sometimes partial quotes, cut and pasted quotes, altered quotes and paraphrased quotes are used. Rav Sha'ul (erroneously called “Paul” but that is another message²⁶) uses this method of quoting Tanakh passages and discussing them. This was a common practice of rabbinic scholars of the day of which Rav Sha'ul was one²⁷.

In Mattithyahu 13:11-17, Yahshua tells His talmidim that He has hidden the truths of Torah in parables from the people because their *“heart has become thickened, and their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed...”* (Mattithyahu 13:15). Yahshua did not teach at the Pashat level. Even to His talmidim He had to explain everything.

Let us look for Messiah using the Remez, Drash and Sod levels of understanding in Scripture. We will also revisit some of these words in more detail to see clearly our Messiah Yahshua.

YAHSHUA IS CREATOR

THERE IS A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YAHWEH’S WORD, HIS COMMANDS AND WISDOM.

Mishli (Proverbs) 2:1 – 2 says, *“My son, if you accept my words, And treasure up my commands with you, So that you make your ear attend to wisdom, Incline your heart to understanding;...”*

YAHWEH FOUNDED THE EARTH BY WISDOM.

Mishli 3:19 says, *“**יָדָוּן** founded the earth by wisdom; He established the heavens by understanding;”*

BY THE WORD OF YAHWEH THE HEAVENS WERE CREATED.

Tehillim (Psalms) 33:6 says, *“By the Word of **יָדָוּן** the heavens were made, And all their host by the Spirit of His mouth,”*

YAHWEH SPOKE AND IT CAME TO BE, HE COMMANDED AND IT STOOD FAST.

Tehillim 33:9 *“For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood fast.”*

²⁶ See the message “Will the Real Rav Sha’ul Please Stand Up” at www.servant2000.org

²⁷ Rav. Sha’ul also used other complex methods of teaching is his letters that were in use at the time and are still used today to some extent. These methods are discussed in another message but it must be understood that when Christian theology either does not follow Rav Sha’ul’s methods or deliberately ignores them then their theology is flawed.

From these Scriptures and others we can discover that Yahweh's Word, His Wisdom, His commands, and His Torah created the world. So then what is His Word, His Wisdom, His Command and His Torah.

YAHSHUA IS THE POWER OF ELOHIM AND THE WISDOM OF ELOHIM.

Korintyah Alef (1 Corinthians) 1:24 "...but to those who are called – both Yebudim and Greeks – *Messiah the power of Elohim and the wisdom of Elohim.*"

BY YAHSHUA ALL THINGS WERE CREATED.

Kolesayah (Colossians) 1:15 – 16 says, "...who is the likeness of the invisible Elohim, the first-born of all creation. Because *in Him were created all that are in the heavens and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or rulerships or principalities or authorities – all have been created through Him and for Him.*"

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD ... AND THE WORD WAS ELOHIM.

Yochanan (John) 1:1 "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with Elohim, and the Word was Elohim.*"

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD

"In the beginning was *the Word*, and *the Word* was with Elohim, and *the Word* was Elohim. All came to be through Him, and without Him not even one came to be that came to be." (Yochanan (John) 1:1, 3)

We accept these 2 statements to be Truth. However, what does the word "Word" mean according to Scripture? Sometimes we see "word of Yahweh", "the word of faith", "the Word", "Yahweh's Word" and so forth in Scripture so we need to discover what these phrases mean. According to Avi ben Mordechai²⁸:

"...these are words used in religious circles as generic definitions of the words of the "NT" or the words of "Jesus" or "Paul". But in Hebraic thinking the "word" is much more specific. In Greek the idea of the *logos* stems from the philosophical system of Plato *which is really not much help to the bible student.*

The first century Jewish world in Israel, *the language of the day was Aramaic.* The Aramaic word Memra is synonymous with the Hebrew word YHVH when an anthropomorphic expression was to be avoided. Memra was understood as a divine manifestation of YHVH and sent to His people for discipline, comfort, and teaching in the Torah. In Hebrew, another expression was also used – D'var [Word]. D'var can mean the word of a man, the word of a prophet, and the word of a child – any word whatsoever. However, what we want to learn is what Yahshua and His talmidim had in mind when they said "memra" or "d'var". [emphasis and additional text for clarity are mine]

If we did a word search on the word “Word” in the Brit Chadashah we would find Scriptures such as:

Luka (Luke) 8:21 *“And He answering, said to them, “My mother and My brothers are those who are hearing the Word of Elohim and doing it.”*

Luka 8:11 *“And this is the parable: The seed is the word of Elohim.*

Luka 8:12 *“And those by the wayside are the ones who hear, then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, lest having believed, they should be saved.*

These, and many other passages are telling us that Yahshua considered “the Word”, “memra” or “d’var”, to be the “Word of Elohim”. Furthermore we see that His talmidim also considered “the Word” to be the “Word of Elohim”:

Ma’aseh Shlichim (Acts) 6:7 – *“And the Word of Elohim spread, and the number of the taught ones increased greatly in Yerushalayim, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the belief.”*

Ma’aseh Shlichim 11:1 – *“And the emissaries and brothers who were in Yabudah heard that the gentiles also received the word of Elohim.”*

Ma’aseh Shlichim 12:24 – *“And the word of Elohim went on growing and spreading.”*

Ma’aseh Shlichim 13:49 – *“And the Word of יהוה was being spread throughout the entire country.”*

Take very careful note here – Yahshua’s talmidim did NOT teach a doctrine or “word” contrary to the Word of Elohim or Torah. They would have taught the words that they were taught by Yahshua. Thus, Yahshua DID NOT teach against Torah and therefore, He did not do away with Torah. These are proof texts of that fact and any other texts used to say something different amount to a contradiction which cannot exist in Scripture.

Often times Rav Sha’ul’s teachings or writings are used to do away with the Torah. This is saying something his writing are not saying. Here are a few examples of Rav Sha’ul’s teachings concerning the Word of YHVH.

Ma’aseh Shlichim 15:35 – *“And Sha’ul and Barnabah continued in Antioch, teaching and bringing, with many others also, the Good News: the Word of יהוה!”*

Ma’aseh Shlichim 19:10 – *“And this took place for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Master יהושע, both Yabudim and Greeks²⁹.”*

Timtheous Bet (2 Timothy) 3:1 – *“For the rest, brothers, pray for us, so that the Word of יהוה spreads rapidly and be praised, as also with you...”*

Ephsiyah (Ephesians) 6:17 – *“Take also the helmet of deliverance, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of Elohim...”*

²⁹ Rav Sha’ul uses the word “Greeks” which means “gentiles”.

There is also a message for those of us obedient to Yahweh's Torah in the end times:

Gilyahna (Revelation) 6:9 – “*And when He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the beings of those having been slain for the Word of Elohim and for the witness which they held...*”

WHAT DOES THE “WORD OF ELOHIM” OR THE “WORD OF YAHWEH” MEAN?

I had stated above that the words of the Brit Chadashah must be confirmed from the Tanakh. We must be able to find their meaning in the Tanakh and then we must apply that meaning to the words as we read them in the Brit Chadashah³⁰. The meaning of the words must be the Hebrew or Aramaic meaning and not the Greek or English or any other language meaning. It must be remembered that the writers of the passages above wrote in Hebrew and/or Aramaic with Hebraic concepts. They did not think like Greeks or Romans³¹. So in the passages above we must be able to find a solid definition of “the Word of Elohim” or “the Word of יהוה” in the Tanakh. Furthermore, we should find several passages in the Tanakh that clearly give us this definition.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 32:46 he (Moshe) said to them, “*Set your heart on all the words with which I warn you today, so that you command your children to guard to do all the Words of this Torah.*”

The King James says: “*And he said unto them, Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law.*”

The Hebrew word for “word” is Strong’s H1697 = דָּבָר = “dabar” or “davar” and means “word” or “thing” and can be used in the figurative as “to speak”.

The last phrase of the King James says “...all the words of this law.” The KJV uses the word “law” rather than the actual word “Torah”. The Scriptures and the Hebrew Tanakh use the correct word “Torah”. The word “law” in the KJV is Strong’s # H8451 which = תּוֹרָה = Torah. The Torah contains some laws but it is not “law” as in a “rule of conduct or procedure that is enforceable by authority”. We Greek/Roman/Westerners look at the word “law” very negatively and when the English translation uses the word “law” instead of “Torah”, we are convinced that what is being discussed is “bad”. However, the word “Torah” means “instructions” and contains commandments that we are to follow and that we can follow.

The Hebrew phrase “the word of Elohim” is synonymously understood to be “d’vrai HaTorah” (literally “words of the Torah”).

דְּבַרֵּי הַתּוֹרָה

³⁰ Look at Yochanan (John) 1:45 – “*Philip found Netban’el and said to him, ‘We have found Him whom Moshe wrote of in the Torah, and the prophets: יְהוֹשֻׁעַ of Natsareth – the son of Yoseph.’*” This tells us that they understood Messiah from the Tanakh and not the “New Testament”. This also tells us the correct order of the “Old Testament” but that’s another message.

³¹ Even though their writings were translated into Greek and Latin, their original writings were Aramaic.

In late Second Temple Times (i.e. the “first century”), every time the phrase “Word of Elohim” or “the Word of יהוה” was used it ALWAYS referred to the WHOLE of the Torah of Mt. Sinai. Yahshua states in Luka 11:28, “*But He said, “Blessed rather are those hearing the Word of Elohim and watching over it!”*” The phrase “watching over it” is the same as “keeping it”.

Yahshua was restating Shemot (Exodus) 24:7 – 8, “*And he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that יהוה has spoken we shall do, and obey [hear]. And Mosheh took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said, “See, the blood of the covenant which יהוה has made with you concerning all these Words.”* [emphasis mine]

There will be much more said on this Scripture later.

YAHSHUA IS YAHWEH

Part of this fact has been answered above by stating that **Yahshua is the Word** and that **the Word is Yahweh**. These are not the only Scriptures that lead us to understand that Yahshua is Yahweh but we will look at a few more as we continue. To reduce confusion when I speak of Yahweh the Father in heaven I will use that term and when I am speaking of Yahshua as Yahweh I will call Him Yahweh the Son. Hopefully this will reduce confusion.

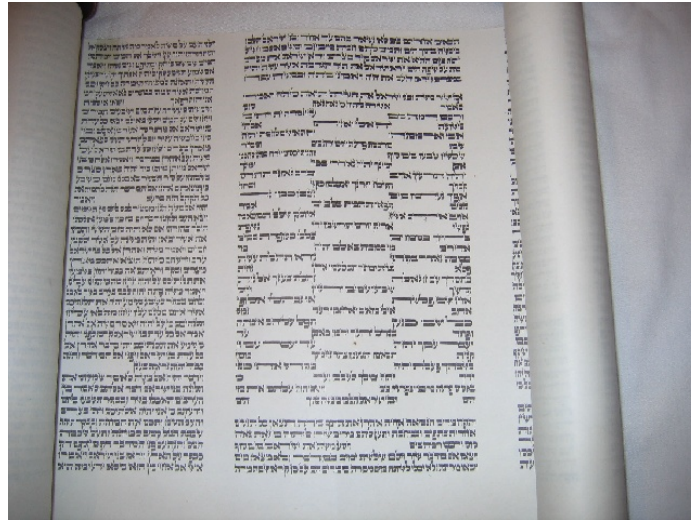
IN THE BEGINNING...

We stated above “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with Elohim, and the Word was Elohim. All came to be through Him, and without Him not even one came to be that came to be.*” (Yochanan (John) 1:1, 3). Maybe we should look at “in the beginning...” first however, before we can discuss this we have to talk about the Torah.

THE TORAH

We really have to discuss what the Torah Scroll is and some of the important things we will find in it. According to Tradition, Yahweh DIRECTLY dictated the words of the Torah to Moshe and Moshe wrote them down EXACTLY as Yahweh gave them to him. According to tradition, the Torah that Moshe wrote did not even have spaces between the words. Moshe literally wrote down every letter that Yahweh gave him. Later the words were separated without changing the layout of the Scroll.

The Torah scroll is written in columns. Each column in our Torah at Servant of Messiah Ministries consists of 42 lines. There are 245 columns and 304,805 letters (or approximately 79,000 words). The accuracy is insured such that the Torah Scroll our congregation uses is EXACTLY like the Torah Scroll found in the Qumran caves or the Dead Sea Scrolls which may date back to 1100 BCE.



This photo shows the Torah Scroll open to Shemot (Exodus) chapter 15, the first Song of Moshe.

JOT AND TITTLE

There are several places where letters are larger or smaller than the rest of the letters. Moshe did this because this is what Yahweh told him to do. There are also places where there are spaces between sentences but there are also places where there are spaces in the middle of a sentence. There are even a few words that have dots over all the letters. Notice in the photo above of Shemot chapter 15 that there are some spaces between words.

In the teaching Christianity calls the “Sermon on the Mount”, Yahshua teaches on the Torah. We find part of this teaching in Mattithyahu (Matthew) 5:17 – 20. in verse 18 Yahshua says, “*For truly, I say to you, till the heaven and the earth pass away, one jot or one tittle shall by no means pass from the Torah till all be done.*” I was always taught that a “Jot or Tittle” was the smallest mark in the Torah Scroll and referred to “decorations” the scribes put on certain letters. Like this:



But this can't be true. The reason is because the text that Moshe used to write the Torah scrolls in his day was Palaeo Hebrew and the letters did not look anything like modern Hebrew.

So the question is, what is a “jot or tittle”? And the answer is, Jots and Tittles are those larger and smaller letters, dots over letters and spaces and so forth that I just mentioned. There is meaning in

these Jots and Tittles at the deeper levels of Torah study³². One of those places is the very first word in the Torah Scroll.

THE FIRST WORD

If you look at Genesis 1:1 in any English version of Scripture you will see something like this:

The Scriptures: *“In the beginning Elohim created the heavens and the earth.”*

The King James Version: *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”*

The New International Version: *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”*

And there are other versions that say something similar. As you look at this text you may compare it to Yochanan 1:1 and 3 where we know that Yahshua is the Creator and we might just pass this Scripture up as a simple statement. It is fact and, with the rest of the proof texts above, it proves the fact that Yahshua is Creator.

BUT – Yahshua was talking to his talmidim in Mattithyahu 5 about something called “Jots and Tittles”. Now His talmidim knew what he was talking about but do we? Let’s look at the first word in the Torah Scroll.



This is a scan of the first line of the first column in the Torah Scroll above. Notice that all the letters are consonants (i.e. there are no vowel markers on some of the letters like I have already shown in this message and that I show below). Notice also that some of the letters have “crowns” or decorations on them. But, notice that the very first letter on the right (Hebrew is read right to left) is larger than the rest of the letters. This is not because it is the first letter of a book and it is being embellished like we might find in some of our English books. This is a tittle and this letter has meaning at the sod level. Actually the whole first word has meaning at the sod level.

This is what the first line of Torah looks like with the vowel markings (read from right to left):

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

The first line of the Torah Scroll transliterates to:

“beh-ray-sheet bah-rah Eh-lo-him et ha-sha-mah-yihm veh-ayt ha-ah-retz”

³² There is a rather long message on Jots and Tittles that will be available.

This translates literally to:

“In-beginning created Elohim *** the-heavens and-*** the-earth.”

The fourth word from the right transliterated as “et” (***) is alef – tav or **אֶת** which I will discuss later. It is part of Hebrew grammar and has no meaning in English.

BERESHEET – IN THE BEGINNING³³

The first word with vowel markers:

בְּרֵאשִׁית

Some of what I will say about this first word is from Hebrew and Jewish tradition and some is from other sources.

In Hebrew everything means something. The first letter **ב** (bet or like a “B” in English) stands for **בֵּית** (pronounced “bah-it”) or “house”. This first larger letter is telling us that **Yahweh the Father willed that there be a house or dwelling place (tabernacle) in the earth.**

The first and second letters are combined producing **בֶּר** (pronounced “bar”) which means “son”. **Thus Yahweh the Father wanted to have a dwelling place or tabernacle³⁴ in the earth for His Son.**

We then take the first two letters and the last two letters³⁵ producing **בְּרִית** (pronounced “beh-rit” or “b’rit”) which means covenant. **Yahweh the Father will build a house for His Son through a covenant. Furthermore, Yahweh will relate to His creation ONLY through covenant.** (More on covenant relationships later).

The Hebrew word “Beresheet” is actually a word with a prefix. The prefix is the **ב** or bet and the actual word is the last 5 letters or **רֵאשִׁית** which is pronounced “ray-sheet” and means beginning or first.

The **ב** or bet often means “in, on, by, with” and other meanings and it can mean “for” therefore the sages (as in rabbis of old) conclude that the first word can also mean “For (the sake of) the beginning”. The added words are from Rashi (a tenth century Jewish sage).

³³ I owe much of this information to Rabbi Eddy Chumney at www.hebrewroots.org and other sources that I can’t remember or find. This is not my original creation.

³⁴ Yochanan (John) 1:14 “*And the Word became flesh and pitched His tent¹ among us, and we saw His esteem, esteem as of an only brought-forth of a father, complete in favour and truth.* Footnote: *‘An indication that His birth was during the Festival of Booths.’* (footnote in original)

³⁵ This method of examining Scripture text is common in the previously discussed methods of teaching and study used by Rav Sha’ul and the Rabbis and sages of his time.

Therefore, the sod level purpose of Creation is that Yahweh the Father wanted to:

ב → build a house

בר → for His Son

ברית → by making a covenant

בראשית → for (the sake of) the beginning

There is much more here than I have presented and I will touch on a few points related to this discussion. Needless to say that at the sod level this single word tells us much about the Will of Yahweh the Father and the work of Yahshua at creation.

To make my point that we must look at the whole of Scripture from a Hebrew perspective I would like to make three further illustrations using this first single line of Torah.

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

BAH-RAH

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

In the first line of the Torah there are more sod level “secrets” for us to look at. The second word, bah-rah is translated as “created”. However, this is a weak word in our English language. The word “created” can be used to describe something that an artist or craftsman has made and it can even be used to describe the creation of a child by a man and woman. The Hebrew word for these types of “created” is יָצַר yah-tzahr. It is only Yahweh that can “bah-rah” – “create” something out of nothing.

In Yochanan (John) chapter 2 there is an account of Yahshua at a wedding in Qanah of Galil. Christianity teaches that here “Jesus turned water into wine”. This sounds more like a magic act than an act of creation. What actually happened was that Yahshua “**created the fruit of the vine**”! Why is the distinction so important? At every Passover celebration the Israelites drink from 4 cups of wine and at each weekly Shabbat they drink a cup of wine and they recite the following blessing:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְרֵי הַגֶּפֶן.

Ba-rukh ah-ta Yahweh El-o-hay-nu meh-lehch ha-oh-lahm, **bo-ray** peh-ree ha-gahfen.

Blessed are You, Yahweh our Elohim, King of the universe, Who **creates** the fruit of the vine.

Just a short note on Hebrew grammar – most nouns and verbs have a three letter root. In the case of the word for create those letters are ברא. For grammatical purposes sometimes other letters

might be added as in the case of the blessing over the fruit of the vine. The word highlighted is still the same word.

ALL of the people that were in attendance at that wedding knew that ONLY Yahweh can create anything and here this “man” created the fruit of the vine. There is much more in this chapter of Yochanan but that is another message.

ET

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֵת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֵת הָאָרֶץ:

The fourth word is אֵת or “et” (or also pronounced “ate”). These two letters combined are the first letter: א (alef) and the last letter: ת (tav) of the Hebrew alef-bet. The word itself has no meaning in English and is a part of Hebrew grammar. However, the sod meaning here is very deep. If we read this verse this way:

In the beginning Elohim created the Hebrew alef-bet (or the Hebrew language), etc.

What language does Yahweh speak? Hebrew! See Tzephanyah (Zephaniah) 3:9 which says, “*For then I shall turn unto the peoples a clean lip [language], so that they all call on the Name of יהוה, to serve Him with one shoulder.*” (emphasis mine for clarification)

As we continue to read in Beresheet (Genesis) we see that Yahweh caused all things to be by speaking them into existence. He created the language and then used the WORD (the אֵת alef-tav) to create everything.

I have been saying that the Brit Chadashah was written in Aramaic with Hebraic or Semitic thinking. This is a very good proof of that concept. Keep in mind that the Word is the אֵת Alef – Tav and is the creator and is therefore Yahshua.

In Gilyahna (Revelation) 1:11 in the King James it says, “...*I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last*:...”³⁶ these are supposed to be the words of Jesus. Furthermore in Gilyahna 22:13 in the King James we read, “*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.*” However, The Scriptures correctly renders these two verses as: Gilyahna (Revelation) 1:11, “*I am the ‘Aleph’ and the ‘Tav’*”, the First and the Last,” and, Gilyahna 22:13, “*I am the ‘Aleph’ and the ‘Tav’*”, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”

It must be noted that “Alpha and Omega” are Greek letters so they could never be applied to the אֵת the alef – tav or to the true “first and last” as we just saw above. There is more Yahshua is saying here than just being the first of something and the last of something. NOW looking at what we saw in the first verse of the Torah and these verses in the last book of the whole of Scripture, we

³⁶ There is a very interesting discussion on this topic in the free on-line book “Was the New Testament Really Written in Greek?” that I discussed above.

³⁷ The Scriptures renders the “v” as a “w”. Their explanation is found in the explanatory notes.

can see actual proof that Yahshua is the creator and he is the finisher of our faithfulness and Torah obedience as He continues to speak to us in Gilyahna 22:14 – 21.

Baruch HaShem Yahweh! Blessed is the Name of Yahweh!

YAHSHUA IS SALVATION

As we continue to examine Who Yahshua is according to Scripture I want to prove that He is Salvation. I realize that Christians just accept that “Jesus is the Savior” but, I must ask the question, where do you find this? As we read in Yochanan (John) 1:45 – “*Philip found Nethan’el and said to him, ‘We have found Him whom Mosheh wrote of in the Torah, and the prophets: מְשִׁיחַ of Natsareth – the son of Yoseph.’*” They did not use a Brit Chadashah (“New Testament”) reference but a Tanakh (“Old Testament”) reference. They knew their Tanakh (Scriptures) and from that knowledge they would know who the Messiah would be. They knew that the Messiah would be the “Salvation of Yah”. So where do we find this. Among many of the other Scriptures we can look in Yeshayahu (Isaiah) chapter 43. I find this chapter pregnant with deep meanings that are in another message but we see three places where Yeshayahu says that Yahweh is Salvation. These are:

Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 43:3 “*For I am אֵלֹהִים your Elohim, the Set-apart One of Yisra’el, your Saviour; I gave Mitsrayim for your ransom, Kush and Seba in your place.*”

Yeshayahu 43:11 – 12 “*I, I am אֵלֹהִים, and besides Me there is no saviour. I, I have declared and saved...*”

Yeshayahu 43:25 “*I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake, and remember your sins no more.*”

In these three verses in just this one chapter of Yeshayahu we establish that אֵלֹהִים is the Savior or is Salvation. This is easy to see at the pashat level however, at a deeper level there is even more. At the pashat level we might just say that these three verses say what we see and just go on from there. However, at the deeper levels we see Yahshua in these three verses.

In verse three the Set-apart One of Yisra’el is Yahshua. We will discuss this later.

In verses 11 and 12 we see the words “I, I...” in the Scriptures. In The Scriptures verse 12 should actually read, “I have declared...” according to the Hebrew text. In verse 11, Yahweh does not stutter and He is not using the personal pronoun “I” twice for emphasis. The King James and many other versions of Scripture translate this part of these verses (and verse 25) as “I, even I...”. This includes the Jewish Publications Society³⁸ version using this wording. However, the Stone Edition Tanakh³⁹ says, “I, only I...”.

However, the Hebrew of verse 11 begins with:

אֲנִי אֲנִי יְהוָה ...

³⁸ The Holy Scriptures According to the Masoretic Text , 1955(Philadelphia, Penn., Jewish Publication Society)

³⁹ Rabbi Nosson Scherman, 1996, Stone Edition Tanach (Brooklyn, New York, Mesorah Publications, Ltd.)

The Hebrew for the beginning of verse 25 is:

... אֲנִי אֱלֹהִים

So why am I making such a big deal about this? Well, Yeshayahu is saying that Yahweh says “I, I (am)⁴⁰ Yahweh...” (verse 11) and he is saying “I, I (am) He...” who blots out transgressions (verse 25). So who is “I, I”? Who this “I, I” is found in Yeshayahu 43:3, “...I am אֱלֹהִים your Elohim, the Set-apart One of Yisra’el, your Saviour;...”

This says Yahweh is our Elohim → He is the Set-apart One of Yisra’el → He is our Savior. Or, for those mathematicians reading this: Yahweh = Set-Apart One of Yisra’el = our Savior.

Let’s see what we can find in Scripture.

YAHSHUA AS SAVIOR

Shemu’el Bet (2 Samuel) 22:2 – 3 “And he said, “אֱלֹהִים is my rock and my stronghold and my deliverer. My Elohim is my rock, I take refuge in Him, My shield and the horn of my deliverance, My high tower and my refuge. My Saviour, You save me from violence.”

Yeshayahu 45:18 “For thus said אֱלֹהִים, Creator of the heavens, He is Elohim, Former of earth and its Maker, He established it, He did not create it to be empty, He formed it to be inhabited: “I am אֱלֹהִים, and there is none else.”

Yeshayahu 45:19 “I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth. I have not said to the seed of Ya’akov, ‘Seek Me in vain.’ I am אֱלֹהִים, speaking righteousness, declaring matters that are straight.”

Yeshayahu 45:21 “Declare and bring near, let them even take counsel together. Who has announced this from of old? Who has declared it from that time? Is it not I, אֱלֹהִים? And there is no mighty one besides Me, a righteous El and a Saviour, there is none besides Me.”

Yeshayahu 45:22 “Turn to Me and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am El, and there is none else.”

Yeshayahu 45:23 “I have sworn by Myself, a word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, so that to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue swear.”

Romiyah (Romans) 14:11 “For it has been written, “As I live, says אֱלֹהִים, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to Elohim.”

Luka (Luke) 1:47 “...and my spirit has rejoiced in Elohim my Saviour.”

Luka 2:11 “Because there was born to you today in the city of David a Saviour, who is Messiah, the Master.”

Yochanan (John) 4:42 “And they said to the woman, “We no longer believe because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard, and we know that this is truly the Messiah, the Saviour of the world.”

⁴⁰ Hebrew has no present tense form of the verb “to be” (הָיָה). This means that there is no Hebrew word for “am”, “is”, or “are”.

Ma'aseh Shlichim (Acts) 5:30 – 32 “The Elohim of our fathers raised up **יְהוֹשֻׁעַ** whom you laid hands on, hanging Him on a timber. Him, a Prince and a Saviour, Elohim has exalted to His right hand, to give repentance to Yisra'el and forgiveness of sins. And we are His witnesses to these matters, and so also is the Set-apart Spirit whom Elohim has given to those who obey Him.”

Ma'aseh Shlichim 13:22 – 23 “...He raised up for them David as sovereign, to whom also He gave witness and said, ‘I have found David the son of Yishai, a man after My own heart, who shall do all My desires. From this one’s seed, according to the promise, Elohim raised up for Yisra’el a **Saviour, יְהוֹשֻׁעַ**...”

Phylipsiyah (Philippians) 3:20 “For our citizenship is in the heavens, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Master **יְהוֹשֻׁעַ** Messiah,”

Timtheous Alef (1 Timothy) 1:1 “Sha’ul, an emissary of **יְהוֹשֻׁעַ** Messiah, according to a command of Elohim our Saviour, and of the Master **יְהוֹשֻׁעַ** Messiah, our expectation,”

Timtheous Alef 4:10 “It is for this that we labour and struggle, because we trust in the living Elohim, who is the Saviour of all men, particularly of those who believe.”

Yochanan Alef (1 John) 4:14 “And we have seen and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son, Saviour of the world.”

Teitus (Titus) 2:13 – 14 “...looking for the blessed expectation and esteemed appearance of the great Elohim and our Saviour **יְהוֹשֻׁעַ** Messiah, who gave Himself for us, to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for Himself a people, His own possession, ardent for good works.”

It looks to me that Rav Sha’ul is saying in Teitus 2:13 that Yahweh and Yahshua are One. Furthermore, he says that Yahshua gave Himself (in accordance with Torah) for us to redeem us from Torah-less-ness (lawlessness). This will cleanse us so that we become a people (being Israel) for Him. We will become His own possession. We will be “ardent” or “passionate” for good works. The KJV uses the word “zealous” here for “ardent”. I must assume that the “good works” spoken of here are Torah “good works” and not just things that make us feel good. They are not “works of the law” which are actually man made rules or oral Torah which at that time (and today) were a big problem. Yahshua addresses this in Mattithyahu (Matthew) 15:8 – 9 and Markos (Mark) 7:6 – 7 and elsewhere.

YAHSHUA IS THE SET-APART ONE OF YISRA’EL

Yeshayahu 29:19⁴¹ “And the meek ones shall increase their joy in **יְהוָה**, and the poor among men rejoice in the Set-apart One of Yisra’el.”

Yeshayahu 41:14 “Do not fear, you worm Ya’akov, you men of Yisra’el! I shall help you,” declares **יְהוָה** and your Redeemer, the Set-apart One of Yisra’el.”

⁴¹ Yahshua references this verse in Mattithyahu 5:5.

Yeshayahu 47:4 “Our Redeemer, **יְהוָה** of hosts is His Name, the Set-apart One of Yisra’el.”

Markos (Mark) 1:24⁴² “...saying, “Ha! What have we to do with You, **יְהוָה** of Natsareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are: **the Set-apart One of Elohim!**”

Luka (Luke) 1:35 “And the messenger answering, said to her, “The Set-apart Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow you. And for that reason **the Set-apart One** born of you shall be called: **Son of Elohim.**”

YAHSHUA IS THE KING OF ISRAEL

Tehillim (Psalms) 89:18 “For **יְהוָה** is our shield, And the Set-apart One of Yisra’el **is our Sovereign.**”

Yochanan (John) 1:47 “**יְהוָה** saw Nethan’el coming toward Him, and said of him, “See, truly a Yisra’elite, in whom is no deceit!”

Yochanan 1:49 “Nethan’el answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of Elohim! **You are the Sovereign of Yisra’el!**”

YAHSHUA AS YAHWEH OF HOSTS

There is one other thing found in Scripture that I wish to bring up partially as a “rabbit trail” and partially to show us more about Yahshua. In Yeshayahu (Isaiah) chapter 6, there is a very powerful message that I will not fully discuss here. However, for purposes of this message I will make this discussion brief. In Yeshayahu 6:1 we see Yeshayahu saying “...saw **יְהוָה** sitting on a throne, high and lifted up...”. As he observed this event he also saw “seraphim”⁴³ praising Yahweh.

Yeshayahu 6:3 “And one cried to another and said, “Set-apart, set-apart, set-apart is **יְהוָה** of hosts; all the earth is filled with His esteem!”

The King James says:

“And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy,** is the **LORD of hosts;** the whole earth is full of his glory.”

And the Hebrew Tanakh says:

וְקָרָא זֶה אֱלֹהִים וְאָמַר קָדוֹשׁ קָדוֹשׁ קָדוֹשׁ יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת מִלֵּא כָּל־הָאָרֶץ כְּבוֹדוֹ

I have highlighted in yellow the Hebrew word **קָדוֹשׁ** or “Kadosh” which we can translate to “Set-apart” or “holy”. I believe that⁴⁴ the seraphim were not stuttering and they were not emphasizing their praise to Yahweh by saying “Kadosh” three times. Notice in verse one that Yeshayahu saw

⁴² Even the demons knew who He is and declared that He is the Set-apart One of Elohim.

⁴³ A “Seraph” is a very powerful, fiery creature. The “im” means that it is a masculine plural Hebrew word.

⁴⁴ When I use the phrase “I believe that...”, I am stating something that I have come to believe is true based on research and other study. I am NOT presenting some kind of great, inspired, TRUTH that should be carved in stone and presented to the whole world as a TRUTH from Heaven. I am simply expressing an opinion.

“Yahweh sitting on a throne”. I believe that Yahweh which he saw sitting on the throne is the same Yahweh that will be seen sitting on the “Great White Throne” in Gilyahna (Revelation) 20:11 *“And I saw a great white throne and Him who was sitting on it...”*. There was ONE sitting on the throne. Yet the seraphim cried out “Kadosh” three times. Why? I believe that they were praising Yahweh the Father, Yahweh the Son (Yahshua) and Yahweh the Ruach Kodesh (the Set-apart Spirit).

Furthermore, in Yeshayahu 6:8 during this same vision we read, *“And I heard the voice of יהוה, saying, ‘Whom do I send, and who would go for Us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I! Send me.’”* The Hebrew for the English word “Us” is לָנוּ or lah-nu which means “us” as in more than one person. Again we can clearly see that there is more than one person speaking.

The next thing we should look at is *“...יהוה of hosts...”* which I have highlighted in light green. The word “hosts” is Strong’s 6635 which means “an army assembled for war”. The Hebrew for the English word “hosts” is צְבָאוֹת which is pronounced “tzeh-vah-ot”⁴⁵.

Therefore, Yahshua is Yahweh and He is the Set-apart One of Israel and He is our Savior or Redeemer. So if we look at Yeshayahu 47:3 we see, *“Our Redeemer, יהוה of hosts is His Name, the Set-apart One of Yisra’el.”* In this verse we find three titles for Yahshua. I will leave this discussion for another message.

Considering the note above about Yahweh of Hosts when we read Yahudah (Jude) 1:14 – 15 we see, *“And Hanok, the seventh from Adam, also prophesied of these, saying, ‘See, יהוה comes with His myriads of set-apart ones, to execute judgment on all, to punish all who are wicked among them concerning all their wicked works which they have committed in a wicked way, and concerning all the harsh words which wicked sinners have spoken against Him.’”* Does this mean that Yahweh (of Hosts) comes with His myriads of set-apart ones (Redeemed house of Jacob) to execute judgment as an army? Interesting!

YAHSHUA IS THE LAWGIVER

This will become a very important point as we proceed. Yahshua is the Lawgiver as we see in:

Yeshayahu 33:22 *“...for יהוה is our Judge, יהוה is our Lawgiver, יהוה is our Sovereign, He saves us...”*

We have already identified Yahshua as Yahweh, King and Savior. In the verse below we see that Ya’akov (James) is referring to Yahshua. Notice that the “lawgiver” in this verse is also the Judge and is able to save.

Ya’akov (James) 4:12 *“There is one Lawgiver and Judge, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?”*

YAHWEH MAKES A COVENANT WITH AVRAHAM

⁴⁵ The “tz” is pronounced like we pronounce the last syllable of “pizza”. We actually don’t pronounce “pizza” like it is spelled but we have corrupted the pronunciation of the last syllable. The “o” in the syllable “ot” is pronounced like the “o” in “go”.

In Beresheet (Genesis) 13:15 we see that Yahweh promises Avraham, “...all the land which you see I shall give to you and your seed forever.” Yahweh will seal this promise to Avraham with a blood covenant in Beresheet chapter 15. There is a great deal in chapter 15 that we will not discuss in this message but we must address the blood covenant. In Beresheet 15:9 – 10 we see that Avraham took certain animals that Yahweh had commanded him and cut them and placed them such that the blood from the animals would pool together.

In the ANE (Ancient Near East) this would be called “cutting a covenant”. The covenanters would walk between the animals getting the blood on the bottoms of their robes. This was a symbol that they promised to abide by the covenant or “this” (getting cut in half) would happen to them. This might sound pretty gruesome to us but this was a way to show that the covenanters took the covenant promise very seriously.

In Beresheet chapter 15 verse 12 we see that Avraham did not walk through the blood because there was no way that he could keep the promise of the covenant. He was passive throughout the entire event accepting Yahweh’s grace. In Beresheet 15:17 we read, “...a smoking oven and a burning torch passing between those pieces.” Yahweh Himself passed through the pieces as a “...smoking oven and a burning torch...” and stepped in the blood and made the covenant with Avraham and his seed forever.

We have already seen that Yahshua is Yahweh. Yahweh is Spirit and remains in heaven however, Yahshua (Yahweh the Son) can come to earth and interact directly with men. Here we see Yahshua appearing as a “smoking oven and a burning torch”. Also notice that the blood covenant here is with Avraham and his seed (not seeds) which will also be seen again in the Renewed Covenant.

Yahweh restates His covenant with Avraham in Beresheet chapter 17. Verse 2 says, “And I give My covenant between Me and you, and shall greatly increase you.” And also note verse 7 which says, “And I shall establish My covenant between Me and you and your seed after you...”. It must be noted that Yahweh does not covenant with any other peoples. His covenant relationship is ONLY with Avraham and his SEED and not seeds as in other nations (the gentiles or pagans). In Beresheet chapter 17 we also see that Yahweh commanded Avraham to circumcise all the males of his household as a covenant sign. This covenant sign will be carried through all the seed of Avraham.

It must be noted that when Yahweh gave the command of circumcision to Avraham that he did not wait around until the next morning, he did not have a prayer meeting or a staff meeting, he did not spend any time thinking about it he just did it! And yes it hurt.

YAHSHUA MEETS AVRAHAM

Avraham was sitting in the door of his tent recovering when, “**וַיֵּרָא** appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, while he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day.” (Beresheet 18:1). Notice that it clearly says **וַיֵּרָא**; Yahweh appeared to him. In verses 2 and 3 we read, “So he lifted his eyes and looked, and saw three men standing opposite him. And when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, and said, **וַיֵּרָא**, if I have now found favour in Your eyes, please do not pass Your servant by.”

I believe that one of these “three men” was pre-incarnate Yahshua, or Yahweh the Son, in light of the wording of verse 3. Verse 3 specifically says **וַיֵּרָא**: Yahweh. Furthermore, as we continue to

read we find that the other two “men” go on to destroy Sodom. In chapter 18 we see that Yahshua reassures Avraham that he will have a son and therefore “seed” through his wife Sarah.

As I just stated that one of these “three men” was Yahshua. How can Yahweh be called a “man”? In Shemot (Exodus) 15 we see the first “Song of Moses”⁴⁶. At verse 3 we read, “*יְהוָה is a man of battle, יְהוָה is His Name.*” The KJV says “...*man of war...*” The Hebrew word for “man” in this verse is אִישׁ “ish” which means an individual male person. This would be like an anthropomorphism which is using human terms to describe Yahweh’s characteristics even though He is spirit and not flesh.

THE HOUSE OF YA’AKOV (JACOB)

Avraham will have a son named Yitzchak (Isaac) and Yitzchak will have a son named Ya’akov (Jacob) and Ya’akov will have 12 sons. These 12 sons will be the heads of the 12 tribes of Yisra’el or the House of Jacob. Please note that there is not just one tribe; Yehudah (Judah from which we get the name “Jew”) but there are 12 tribes. The sons of Ya’akov are; Re’uven, Shim’on, Levi, Yehudah, Yissaskar, Zevulun, Binyamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher and Yoseph. These names can be found in Shemot (Exodus) 1:2 – 4. By the way, the reason the book of “Exodus” is called Shemot is because the first significant word is שְׁמוֹת or Shemot which means “names”.

Ya’akov and his household went to Mitsrayim (Egypt) – a total of 70 people. As time passed they increased in numbers and became slaves to the Mitsrites (Egyptians). The entire House of Ya’akov along with others will eventually leave Mitsrayim in 430 years under the leadership of Moshe (Moses).

It must be noted that in the Tanakh the House of Ya’akov or the descendants of Ya’akov are also called the House of Yisra’el. Later we will see that the northern tribes will also be called Yisra’el as well.

YAHSHUA MEETS MOSHE

Please totally forget about the movie “The Ten Commandments”; it is fiction.

In Shemot (Exodus) chapter three we see Moshe before the burning bush. He sees a “burning bush” which is not consumed by the flames. Shemot 3:2 tells us, “*And the Messenger of יְהוָה appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush...*”. Notice that this is specifically a “Messenger of Yahweh” or “...*the angel of the LORD...*” as the KJV says. A Messenger or Malach in Hebrew is one who specifically delivers a message from Yahweh.

However, Shemot 3:4 says, “*And יְהוָה saw that he [Moshe] turned aside to see, and Elohim called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Mosheh! Mosheh!” And he said, “Here I am.”* [additional note is mine for clarity]. Now we see that the Messenger was actually Yahweh and furthermore we see that Yahweh is also referred to as “Elohim”. I call your attention to Beresheet (Genesis) 1:1 where we see that

⁴⁶ In Gilyahna (Revelation) 15:3 we read that they shall sing the “Song of Moses”. If the “Old Testament” is “done away with” as Dispensationalism teaches, then why sing a song found in the Tanakh?

“Elohim” created the heavens and the earth. I believe that in this verse Yahweh and Elohim are one and the same and that here Yahweh is in fact Yahshua⁴⁷.

I must make mention here of the rest of verse 4. Notice that Yahshua specifically calls out to Moshe **by his name**. If you will remember, previously I stated that names are important. That importance is further discussed in another message. Notice also that when Moshe heard his name he immediately responded “Here I am”. In the Hebrew this is הִנְנִי or “hih-nay-nee”. This word sometimes gets translated as “Behold” or “Behold me”. Oh that we would be so instant in answering Yahshua’s call to us. As we continue to read chapter 3 we see that Yahweh gives Moshe a mission but Moshe’s real complaint seems to be that he thinks he is not even worthy to carry out such a mission in the Name of Yahweh.

In Shemot 3:13 we read, “*And Mosheh said to Elohim, ‘See, when I come to the children of Yisra’el and say to them, ‘The Elohim of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His Name?’ what shall I say to them?’*” This is a fair and proper question for Moshe to ask Yahweh. Yahweh gives him a 2 part answer in verses 14 and 15.

Shemot 3:14 says, “*And Elohim said to Mosheh, ‘I am that which I am.’ And He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Yisra’el, I am has sent me to you.’*”. In Hebrew Elohim says “אֶהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה” or “eh-yeh ah-sheh eh-yeh”. Most English versions translate this as “I AM THAT I AM” or something similar. This is actually a poor translation because the Hebrew words and the Hebraic concept do not translate easily into English. Please note – this is actually NOT Yahweh’s Name but something like the essence of who Yahweh is. This phrase describes Yahweh as “I shall be...” and the Hebrew word eh-yeh implies that Yahweh is timeless or eternal.

In Shemot 3:15 Yahweh continues, “*And Elohim said further to Mosheh, ‘Thus you are to say to the children of Yisra’el, יְהוָה Elohim of your fathers, the Elohim of Abraham, the Elohim of Yitzchak, and the Elohim of Ya’akov, has sent me to you. This is My Name forever, and this is My remembrance to all generations.’*” There can be absolutely no mistake here in what Yahweh is saying. He is clearly saying in the Hebrew that His Name is יְהוָה → that is yud-hey-vav-hey and NOT something else. In the Restoration Scriptures⁴⁸ at page 59 regarding this verse we read, “Regardless of any other man-made substitute names and regardless of translators hiding His Name almost 7,000 times in most English translations, YHVH assures all Yisra’el that YHVH is His true everlasting Name, regardless of which language man speaks or writes.” And I personally wish to add “...regardless of religious tradition and superstition...” Also take note that Yahweh is saying that יְהוָה is His Name **forever**. As in forever which is a long time.

A note on how important Yahweh’s Name is and why you should know it and use it and stop using the false names. In Mal’aki (Malachi) 3:16 we read, “*Then shall those who fear יְהוָה speak to one another, and יְהוָה listen and hear, and a book of remembrance be written before Him, of those who fear יְהוָה, and those who think upon His Name.*” Please remember this verse the next time someone tells you that it doesn’t

⁴⁷ See “Yahshua is Creator” above.

⁴⁸ Restoration Scriptures, True Name Edition, © 2004, Your Arms To Israel Publishing, 7378 W. Atlantic Blvd. #112 Margate Fla. 33063. www.yourarmstoisrael.org.

matter what name you call “God”. He takes His Name so serious that there will be a book of remembrance where your name can be written if you fear Yahweh and think upon His Name.

YISRA’EL LEAVES MITSRAYIM

In Shemot (Exodus) chapter 12 we see Moshe leading Yisra’el out of Mitsrayim (Egypt). The events leading up to this event and the command of the Pesach (Passover) are another message. The question would be “who left Egypt”? Well, some religious traditions, especially replacement theology and Dispensationalism says that “the Jews” left Egypt. This is taught not only in Christianity but also Judaism. But is this true Scripturally?

In Shemot 12:38 we read, “*And a mixed multitude went up with them too, also flocks and herds, very much livestock.*” This does not say “the house of Judah only” or anything like that. Torah clearly says a “mixed multitude”. Let us also look at Shemot 12:41 which will help clarify who this “mixed multitude” is, “...*all the divisions of יִלְלִי*” *went out from the land of Mitsrayim.*” The “mixed multitude” are called “all the divisions” The KJV says “...*all the hosts*...” and this word “hosts” or “divisions” is Strong’s #H6635 which is צְבָעָה which is “tz-vah-ah” and means, “a mass of persons, especially regularly organized for war (an army)”. The actual Hebrew word in the Torah is צְבָאוֹת or “tzeev-ot” or “hosts”. We see this word used in Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 6:3 to describe Yahweh seated on the throne.

If we were to continue to read through Torah we would see that Yahweh commanded that the camp of Israel be set up in a certain way. The Tabernacle would be in the middle and the tribes would encircle the Tabernacle in a certain order. This discussion is in another message but this arrangement of the camp is a military encampment of the time of the ANE.

These “...*all the divisions of יִלְלִי*...” are this mixed multitude and Yahweh is identifying them as belonging to Him – they are His people. The “mixed multitude” would consist of all the House of Ya’akov or the House of Yisra’el – all 12 tribes AND those that had aligned themselves to the House of Ya’akov. This certainly would be those that put the blood on their door posts the night before. Those that are not the direct descendants of Ya’akov could be “strangers” or “sojourners” or even non-Israelites that married into the House of Israel.

Further evidence that the “mixed multitude” consisted of others than the House of Ya’akov is found in Shemot 12:49 which says, “*There is one Torah for the native-born and for the stranger who sojourns among you.*” This verse follows the “law of Passover” and shows that Torah applies to all who are Yisra’el. It is also evidence that “all the divisions” included “strangers” and “sojourners” or “goyim” meaning “gentiles”.

THE NON-ISRAELITE MUST BECOME AN ISRAELITE

The non-Israelite or “strangers” and “sojourners” must become Israelites as we see in Shemot 12 verse 48 which says, “*And when a stranger sojourns with you and shall perform the Passover to יִלְלִי, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and perform it, and he shall be as a native of the land. But let no uncircumcised eat of it.*” When these former gentiles or pagans accept Yahweh’s Torah and obey His

commands they are “grafted **into**” Israel. They **are** Israelites and are absorbed into one or another of the tribes of Israel.

I wish to show one of the greatest examples of this “conversion” from gentile – pagan – idol worshipper to Torah obedient follower of Yahweh. In the account of Root (or Ruth) we see a former gentile who is in the lineage of Yahshua. In Root (Ruth) 1:16 we read, “But Ruth said, “*Do not urge me to leave you, or to go back from following after you. For wherever you go, I go; and wherever you stop over, I stop over. Your people is my people, and your Elobim is my Elobim.*” The Scriptures has a footnote which says, “An example of how a gentile is “grafted in” among the Chosen People⁴⁹”. Ruth, this ex-Mo’abite, later on became the great-grandmother of David and is listed in the lineage of Messiah!” I like to call non-Israelites, or those that do not know if they are Israel or not, that join Israel in the same manner as Ruth did “Ruthians”. But that’s another message.

Above I stated that Yahweh deals with humans only through a covenant. Yahweh has a covenant with only **one people** – the descendants of Avraham. In Beresheet (Genesis) 17 we see the covenant sign of circumcision. Notice in verse 23 that Avraham circumcised all the males in his household. At this time Yitzchak had not been born but he circumcised Yishma’el and the rest of the household. This is proof that by obeying Yahweh’s command Avraham brought into the household of Yahweh “strangers”.

THE HOUSE OF JACOB CONSISTS OF ...

Physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob PLUS a mixed multitude (strangers, sojourners, adopted / grafted in). The Redeemed House of Jacob is Those that have accepted Yahshua as Messiah are called the House of Jacob. (Yahshua does not rule over a house of gentiles⁵⁰). Luka 1:32 – 33 says, “*He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High. And יְהוָה Elobim shall give Him the throne of His father David. And He shall reign over the house of Ya’akov forever, and there shall be no end to His reign.*”⁵¹

YISRA’EL AT MOUNT SINAI

Shemot chapter 19 begins the account of the House of Yisra’el at Mount Sinai and the receiving of the Commands of Yahweh. Yahweh speaks to Moshe in verses 3 – 6 saying: “*And Mosheh went up to Elobim, and יְהוָה called to him from the mountain, saying, “This is what you are to say to the house of Ya’akov, and declare to the children of Yisra’el: ‘You have seen what I did to the Mitsrites, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. And now, if you diligently obey My voice, and shall guard My covenant, then you shall be My treasured possession above all the peoples – for all the earth is Mine – and you shall be to Me a reign of priests and a set-apart nation.’ Those are the words which you are to speak to the children of Yisra’el.”* (Emphasis mine)

⁴⁹ By “Chosen People” The Scriptures is saying “Israel” and not only “the Jews” which is un-Scriptural replacement theology.

⁵⁰ There is another discussion in this message regarding this statement and the fact that Christians are being lead astray by replacement theology.

⁵¹ The Scriptures has as a foot note for these two verses, “Verses 32 and 33 confirm the prophecies Ps. 2, Ps. 89:14-34, Isa. 9:7, Isa. 16:5, Jer. 23:3-6, Jer. 30:9, Ezek. 37:24, Dan. 2:44, Dan. 7:18-27, Mic. 5:2-4, Acts 1:6-7, Rev. 11:15.”

There is much said here that needs discussing. First notice that Yahweh is the speaker and he tells Moshe to “...say to the house of Ya’akov, and declare to the children of Yisra’el...”. These will be Yahweh’s Words and not Moshe’s. Furthermore, they will be delivered to the actual House of Ya’akov (Jacob) (the descendants of Ya’akov) AND the children of Yisra’el and the “mixed multitude”. Next notice that it is Yahweh who brought Yisra’el to Himself. His desire is to have the House of Israel as His own people.

The next statement is very important and gets misused by Christianity. It clearly is an IF – THEN statement. In other words, IF something, THEN something else. Yahweh says, “...**if** you diligently obey My voice, and shall guard My covenant, **then** you shall be My treasured possession above all the peoples... and you shall be to Me **a reign of priests and a set-apart nation.**” Beyond a shadow of a doubt Yahweh is saying that IF we (being Israel) obey His voice THEN we (Israel) will be His treasured possession and a “...a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation...” as the KJV says (which most people are familiar with).

Christianity teaches that they are a “kingdom of priests, and an holy nation” simply because they are Christians. This cannot be true unless they are following Yahweh’s commands as we see in the verses above.

Israel’s immediate response is found in Shemot 19:8 which says, “*And all the people answered together and said, “**All that יְיָ has spoken we shall do.**”*” The entire House of Yisra’el (the native born and the “stranger”) committed to the commands that they were yet to receive. They did not go off and have a prayer meeting to see “what the Lord has to say”; they did not wait and see what these commands were going to be; they committed themselves without hesitation.

YAHSHUA IS ON MOUNT SINAI

In the rest of chapter 19 of Shemot we see the people of Israel preparing themselves to receive the Torah from Yahweh on Mount Sinai. In verse 18 we read, “*And Mount Sinai was in smoke, all of it, because יְיָ descended upon it in fire. And its smoke went up like the **smoke of a furnace**, and all the mountain trembled exceedingly.*” We have already seen that Yahshua appeared to Avraham to make a covenant with him and his seed as a “smoking furnace” so we see here that it is Yahshua who is on Mount Sinai. We have also seen that Yahshua is the “law giver” or the “Torah giver” so it is Yahshua that will actually give the Torah to Israel.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Shemot chapter 20 gives us the “Ten Commandments” or the “Ten Words” or the “Ten Utterances”. They begin with verse one which says, “*And **Elohim** spoke all these Words, saying.*”. Notice that again it is Elohim speaking which implies that the speaker is Yahweh the Father – Yahweh the Son – Yahweh the Ruach Kodesh.

I have seen many “Ten Commandment” signs in people’s yards, in business windows, even as bumper stickers. They usually say that the first command is verse 3. This is **not** true! The first commandment or Word is verse 2 which says, “*I am יְיָ your Elohim, who brought you out of the land of Mitsrayim, out of the house of slavery.*” The first part of this Word states that it is Yahweh speaking and

He specifically identifies Himself as the Elohim “...*who brought you out of the land of Mitsrayim, out of the house of slavery.*” He cannot be confused with another mighty-one.⁵² The first words of verse 2 in Hebrew are:

אֲנִכִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ

This verse **does not** use words such as “the Lord”, or “Adonai” or, “HaShem”, or “Jehovah” or even “God”. It specifically says “*I am יהוה your Elohim...*”. Please remember that this is the First Command or the First Word. And you might also want to consider Who is speaking and what He is saying about Himself. It is Yahshua as the speaker!

Notice also that Yahweh is OUR Elohim. He is not my Elohim or your Elohim but OUR Elohim. Notice that Yahshua in Mattithyahu (Matthew) 6:9, in what Christianity calls the “Lord’s Prayer”, uses the same terminology by saying “OUR Father” or “Avinu” (Hebrew for “our father”) and “Ahvon” (Aramaic for “our father”). And you might ask just exactly who is this “our” anyway? As we read the preceding chapters in Shemot, we discovered that this “our” is the whole House of Israel. That is the House of Ya’akov and the “strangers” that have attached themselves to Israel. It must be noted that the commandments do not belong to the nations. They do not belong to pagans. They are ONLY for the redeemed House of Israel. More on this later.

THERE IS GRACE IN THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

In Shemot 20:3-5 we are told that we are not to have any other mighty-ones in His face and that we are not to make any carved images and bow down to them. He is a “...*jealous El...*” (verse 5). He is clearly saying that it is He that we “...*shall love יהוה [our] Elohim with all [our] heart, and with all [our] being, and with all [our] might.*” (Devarim (Deuteronomy) 6:5, emphasis mine).

In Shemot 20:6 we read, “...*but showing kindness to thousands, to those who love Me and guard My commands.*” In the KJV we see the word “mercy” instead of “kindness”. The word kindness is חֶסֶד or “chesed” in the Hebrew. It means “unmerited favor” or Yahweh bestows upon us what we do not deserve. I have a serious bone to pick with the New International Version⁵³ which translates the word *chesed* as “love” most of the time that it appears in the Tanakh. By doing so, the NIV is changing the words of Scripture to meet their own agenda. If the words they translate are not true then there must be a term for that ...

The Hebrew word *chesed* appears 251 times in the Tanakh and the Greek equivalent word, *eleos*, appears only 50 times in the Brit Chadashah. Thus the Tanakh has five times more “grace” than the Brit Chadashah.

⁵² The Scriptures and I use the term “mighty-one” to denote false “gods”. It is not that they are mighty in the same manner that Yahweh is mighty. They are, however, “mighty” in the eyes of the gentiles and in this specific case in the eyes of the former Egyptians and other gentiles that are the “strangers” in the House of Israel.

⁵³ I call the NIV the “Not Inspired Version”. It is clearly an agenda translation making the “Old Testament” to be grace-less and the “New Testament” to be grace-full.

It seems that “grace” or *chesed* and *eleos* imply merciful, kind, favor, beneficent, benevolent, compassionate. The words, in general use in Scripture pertaining to Yahweh’s relationship toward man is one of “unmerited favor”. The antonym of “grace” is domineering, dominating, cruel, rigorous, hard, exacting, austere, severe, stern, ungracious. However, dispensationalist Christianity⁵⁴ assumes that “law” (actually according to their teaching, anything in the “Old Testament”) is the antithesis of “grace” and therefore, “law” seems to be the antonym of grace. Thus, anytime the word “law” appears in the “New Testament” in most English translations it is assumed to be “bad” as in “anti-grace”. The mantra for dispensationalist Christianity is “we are not under the law but under grace”. This will lead to rebellion against Yahweh which we will discuss later.

THE SABBATH COMMAND

In Shemot 20:8 – 10 we have the command for the weekly Shabbat (Sabbath). We read, “*Remember the Sabbath day, to set it apart. Six days you labour, and shall do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of יהוה your Elohim. You do not do any work – you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.*” This is a command and it refers to the seventh day and not the first day. There are also other Sabbaths that we will find in Vayikrah (Leviticus) chapter 23 but that is another message. More will be said on this command later. Remember, that this is the command of Yahshua and he expects His people to follow His commands. This is not the “Jewish Sabbath” either. It is Israel’s Sabbath – it is a Sabbath of Yahweh Israel’s Elohim. In Yochanan (John) 14:15 Yahshua says, “*If you love Me, you shall guard My commands.*”. And in Yochanan Alef (1 John) 2:3 – 4 we read, “*And by this we know that we know Him, if we guard His commands. The one who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not guard His commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*”

WE WILL DO AND WE WILL HEAR

In Shemot chapters 20 to 23 Yahshua gives the Whole House of Israel various commandments. In Shemot 24:3 Moshe, “*...came and related to the people all the Words of יהוה and all the right-rulings. And all the people answered with one voice and said, ‘All the Words which יהוה has spoken we shall do.’*” As we saw above in Shemot 19:8 the Whole House of Israel said, “*...All that יהוה has spoken we shall do.*” And now they are restating that same promise. In Shemot 24:4 Moshe writes down all the Words of Yahweh and then in verse 7 we read that he “*... took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people...*”. The Whole House of Israel has now heard the Word.

In the rest of Shemot 24:7 we read, “*...And they said, ‘All that יהוה has spoken we shall do, and obey.’*”. At least that’s the English translation. The KJV says, “*...and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient.*” The Hebrew for this part of the verse is more revealing. It says:

כָּל אֲשֶׁר-דִּבֶּר יְהוָה נַעֲשֶׂה וְנִשְׁמָע

In this phrase, the last 2 words נַעֲשֶׂה וְנִשְׁמָע (*na’aseh veh-nish-mah*) literally means in English “we-will-do and-we-will-listen” or “we-will-do and-we-will-hear”. Actually the idea behind this statement

was a deep seated desire to practice first the Torah of Yahshua and then to understand the depths and details of the Words of Torah as they did them. We as Israel today can do the same thing. As we begin to hear the Words of Torah and the commands of Yahweh and we have a heart to follow them then we start right then and there. We don't need to go to classes on how to honor the Sabbath, for example. We begin by not working on Shabbat as we are commanded in Torah. As we continue to practice this command we will learn more and our obedience will become more meaningful to us. More on the word "obey" later.

When we say נַעֲשֶׂה וְנִשְׁמָע (na'aseh veh-nish-mah) we are saying "I want to do with my actions and then hear or understand and learn why I am doing what I am doing." This implies a trust in Yahshua that His commands are good for us. In Mattithyahu (Matthew) 11:30, Yahshua says, "*For My yoke is gentle and My burden is light.*" His Torah is not a burden, His commands are easy to follow. It is the commands of men that are a burden and even a type of slavery⁵⁵.

We also see that Yahshua's brother, Ya'akov in Ya'akov (James) 1:22 says, "*And become doers of the Word, and not bearers only, deceiving yourselves.*" And in Ya'akov 2:14 he says, "*My brothers, what use is it for anyone to say he has belief but does not have works? This belief is unable to save him.*" Even Rav Sha'ul says in Romiyah (Romans) 2:13⁵⁶ "*For not the hearers of the Torah are righteous in the sight of Elobim, but the doers of the law shall be declared right.*"

Yahshua condemns those that do not follow His Torah in Mattithyahu 7:21 – 23 by saying, "*Not everyone who says to Me, 'Master, Master,' shall enter into the reign of the heavens, but he who is doing the desire of My Father in the heavens. Many shall say to Me in that day, 'Master, Master, have we not prophesied in Your Name, and cast out demons in Your Name, and done many mighty works in Your Name?' And then I shall declare to them, 'I never knew you, depart from Me, you who work lawlessness (or Torah-less-ness)!' (emphasis mine).*"

This concept of "we will do and we will hear" is going to be hard for the Christian to handle because of our Greek/Roman/Western training. We expect to know about something before we do it. I think this concept is not saying that we should blindly proceed down an unknown path doing things just because Judaism or Messianic-ism or "whoever-ism" is doing them. We must have the faith that Torah, that was written by Yahshua and given to us by Him, is Truth and that his Words and commands are just. This faith will allow us to obey Him with confidence. This obedience will also grow with our love for Him and our trust in Him.

At Mount Sinai, once Israel accepted the Torah from Yahshua there was no turning back. They had the opportunity to refuse or exercise their freedom of choice like the rest of the nations that Yahweh presented the Torah to⁵⁷. However, they chose to obey so they committed themselves and could no longer exercise their freedom of choice. They were committed! This also applies to us today, right now. Any of us that read these words in this message have the freedom to accept or reject them. If you reject them you will be on the "Torah-less side of the fence", as it were. If you accept them then you will be on the "Torah side of the fence". If you accept them then there is no turning back – you are committed.

⁵⁵ This is the meaning of "works of the law" as seen in Galutiah (Galatians) particularly chapter 3. The "works of the law" that Rav Sha'ul is speaking of is NOT the written Torah otherwise he would be speaking against Yahshua.

⁵⁶ It seems to me that this verse is a contradiction to the Christian teaching that "Paul" "did away with the law".

⁵⁷ This statement is according to ancient Jewish tradition.

THE WORD “OBEY” FROM A HEBRAIC PERSPECTIVE

Yahshua, His talmidim (students) and the other writers of the Brit Chadashah were NOT GREEKS – they were Hebrews and spoke and thought Aramaic and Hebrew⁵⁸. Furthermore, the Torah obedience and submission that we wish to examine are the meanings that Yahweh gave to those words in Torah, that is, in Hebrew, and NOT the meanings we might get from a Greek translation or from our understanding of the English word “obey”.

We Greek/Roman/Westerners think of the word “obey” as meaning “to follow instructions or behave in accordance with a law, rule, or order”. I have found that the apparent definition that Christianity has of this word is “to be controlled by something” like “law”. On the other hand I was once taught in the Christian church that I had to “obey” the laws of men. If I went 56 MPH in a 55 MPH speed limit zone I was “sinning” and breaking the law and so forth. I was dis-obeying.

Any of us that have been in the military have an entirely different understanding of the word “obey”. To us it means to “already be doing it as the words come out of the commanders mouth”. There is no questioning and there is no thinking allowed. Actually that works fine for the military but that is not what “obey” means Hebraically.

The first place in Torah where we see Yahweh using the word “obey” is Shemot 19:5 which we have already seen above. Shemot 19:5 says, “*And now, if you diligently obey My voice, and shall guard My covenant...*”

TO OBEY IS TO HEAR

The word “obey” here in verse 5 is Strong’s #8085 which, according to the Strong’s Lexicon is “shama” meaning “to hear, to listen, to obey” and also “to understand and to discern”.

The actual Hebrew for verse 5 is:

אם שָׁמוֹעַ תִּשְׁמָעוּ בְּקוֹלִי וּשְׁמַרְתֶּם אֶת בְּרִיתִי וְהָיִיתִם לִי סֵגֻלָּה

Im sha-mo-ah tish-meh-u beh-ko-lee ush-mar-tehm eht beh-ree-tee
vih-yee-tehm lee seh-gu-lah

Which says literally, “if to-obey you-obey to-voice-of-me and-you-keep *** covenant-of-me then-you-will-be to-me possession”.

The second and third words for “obey” in the Hebrew text above has as a root שָׁמַע or “shema” which means “to hear”. Without going into a detailed word study, we get the sense that the word “obey” used in Torah means to hear or to “hear intelligently” with intent to obey.

⁵⁸ For a better understanding of the differences between Greek and Hebrew thinking see, Marvin R. Wilson, 1989, *Our Father Abraham*, (Grand Rapids, Mich., Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company)

SPIRIT OF OBEDIENCE

Throughout Scripture we find many “Bible Heroes” such as Avraham, Yitzchak, Ya’akov, David and many, many more who demonstrate a “Spirit of Obedience”. These people had a **mature** relationship with Yahweh and that relationship was demonstrated in their habit of obedience to the will of Yahweh. Mature Believers also have this Spirit of Obedience and demonstrate it by seeking Yahweh’s will for their lives and trying to live it. The writer of Hebrews discusses this maturity in Ivrim (Hebrews) 6:1 – 3. I am not referring to “mature” as in “old” or people that have been Christians for many years.

I would say that the mature believer is described in Devarim (Deuteronomy) 10:12 – 13 where we read, “*And now, Yisra’el, what is יְהוָה your Elohim asking of you, but to fear יְהוָה your Elohim, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, and to serve יְהוָה your Elohim with all your heart and with all your being, to guard the commands of יְהוָה and His laws which I command you today for your good?*” Yahweh expects His committed Believers to fear Him and follow His ways. Yahweh is seeking people that have a heart to be obedient to Him and do His will.

To do these things outlined in verses 12 and 13 above, takes a “steer” type commitment rather than a “chicken” type commitment. The “steer” type commitment comes from the steak and eggs breakfast analogy. The chicken has only a casual commitment to the breakfast while the steer is completely committed. Yahweh is fully aware of who is committed to Him and, therefore, who will have a Spirit of Obedience⁵⁹.

Many mature Christian Believers have a “Spirit of Obedience” of a sort but they are obeying the wrong things. They have been in the church for so long and under the churches doctrines and theologies for so long that they believe that the unbiblical things they are doing is the “will of God”, as they would say it. They are under the delusion, for example, that attendance at church on Sunday satisfies the fourth commandment. Or being at sun-rise services on Easter is the “will of God”.

I will say that the church, has robbed these Believers of Yahweh’s great and wonderful blessings by what it is teaching. I also believe that many of these “teachers” (pastors or shepherds) are just re-teaching what they were taught and might be excused. On the other hand, these pastors have no excuse before Yahweh because they are able to read and understand what Scripture teaches. An examination of Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 23:1-4 and Yechezqel (Ezekiel) 34 might be of interest here.

Over the past many years, I have been teaching Torah obedience to many Christian Believers and I have discovered that there really are many people out there that really want to follow Yahweh and, I believe, that they want this Spirit of Obedience. We have many promises from Yahweh and one of those promises is that He will put His Torah in our hearts and in our minds and He will be our Elohim and we will be His people (see Yirmeyahu 31:32⁶⁰).

⁵⁹ See Yechezqel (Ezekiel) 9:4-7 for a discussion on the Mark of Yahweh on those who are committed to Yahweh’s ways.

⁶⁰ Most English Bibles such as the King James have verse 32 as verse 33.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “FEAR YAHWEH”⁶¹?

Moshe had just written the whole Torah scroll that Yahweh had given him and in Devarim (Deuteronomy) 31:9 – 11 he says to the Levites that at the end of the seven years (the release year or the Year of Jubilee) that they will assemble the Whole House of Yisra’el during Sukkot (the Feast of Tabernacles) and “...*read this Torah before all Yisra’el in their hearing.*” (verse 11). In Devarim 31:12 we are told, “*Assemble the people, the men and the women and the little ones, and your sojourner who is within your gates, so that they hear, and so that they learn to fear יִיְהוָה your Elohim and guard to do all the Words of this Torah.*”

Notice the green highlight – this is who of the Whole House of Yisra’el is to be assembled. It includes all of the people and the sojourners. Everyone is to hear the Torah read aloud so that they do the two things highlighted in yellow. One, to fear⁶² Yahweh and two, to guard to do all the Words of this Torah. No one would be able to say that they didn’t know.

Yochanan (John) 1:17 tells us that, “...for the Torah was given through Mosheh – the favour and the truth came through מָשִׁיחַ Messiah.” The word “favour⁶³” here is the Greek word “charis” means “charm, beauty, loveliness, favor and preciousness”. This word does not mean the same as chesed – unmerited favor. Christianity leads us to believe “...the law was given through Moses **but now we have grace through Jesus.**” (KJV with my addition). This is incorrect because of the incorrect understanding of “grace” in Hebrew and Greek. Once we correctly translate “grace” as the precious and lovely words of Torah, it all falls into place. Therefore, Yochanan 1:17 might correctly read like this: “The Torah was given through Moshe and the Torah’s beauty (chen) – loveliness, charm [grace], and truth was realized through Messiah Yahshua.” This makes sense in the light of the whole of Yahweh’s word. Remember: Scripture cannot contradict Scripture.

The Tanakh concept to fear Yahweh is to keep His commandments and His commandments are chesed, or grace and mercy. Another way of saying this is: those who receive His chesed or grace are those who accept Yahweh’s commandments and fear Him. This statement can also say, “he who does not accept Yahweh’s commandments and fear Him **do not receive His chesed or grace**”. Thus if you are not following Yahweh’s commands then you are not under grace!

THE GOLDEN CALF WORSHIP SYSTEM

We need to discuss this topic and this seems like a good place to do so. This topic will become important as we continue because it shows us a pattern for Israel from the days of Moshe to today. We might also call this part of the message, “**Replacing Yahweh’s Commanded Worship System With Man’s Worship System**”. This portion of “The Message For Our Time” is part of a longer and more detailed message.

⁶¹ I owe much of the information in the section to Avi ben Mordachi’s book “Messiah Volume 1”.

⁶² The word “fear” is יָרָא or yahray which means “to hold in awe or to reverence”.

⁶³ The Scriptures uses British spelling which we Americans consider incorrect spelling.

THE FIRST GOLDEN CALF EPISODE

Shemot (Exodus) 32:1-9 discusses Israel making a golden calf to replace Yahweh. I have heard many preachers preach that this is Israel reverting to the idolatry of Egypt. This is not so. Israel wants to serve or obey Yahweh. We have already seen this above in Shemot 24:7. Notice that the people of Israel agree to be obedient. If we read all of Shemot 24, we will see that Moshe and the Elders of Israel go up the mountain to make a covenant with Yahweh. And then Moshe goes up into the midst of the cloud on Sinai for 40 days and nights (Shemot 24:18). In Shemot chapters 24 to 31, Yahweh gives Moshe instructions on how **He** wants to be worshipped. Read these chapters yourself and you will see that Yahweh is **EXTREMELY** detailed in how the Tabernacle is to be built. It is to be built after the pattern of the Tabernacle in Heaven before Yahweh.

I really have to stress this. Yahweh/Yahshua give Moshe commands that will be part of Torah and are **specific**. Yahweh/Yahshua leaves no doubt in how the Tabernacle was to be built⁶⁴. He gave Moshe every tiny detail. He gave Moshe all the details of how the Levites were to come before Him. If we, as Israel are to worship Yahweh then we must do it **EXACTLY** like He commanded and not how we want to out of our own convenience. Yahweh/Yahshua said specifically what day His Shabbat (Sabbath) was to be and He said that **there would never be a change to His Set-apart days**. The seventh day Shabbat is **EXACTLY** the day Yahweh chose for us to meet with Him each week. The church “fathers”⁶⁵ and the Roman Catholic Church⁶⁶ changed the day to the day of the sun (sun worship).

Yahweh does not change. Therefore, His commands do not change at the whim of men. Ya’akov (James) 1:17 says, “...**with whom there is no change, nor shadow of turning**.” And in Mal’aki (Malachi) 3:6 we see, “**For I am אלהים, I shall not change**...”.

SHEMOT CHAPTER 32⁶⁷

When Moshe had been up on Mount Sinai the people of Israel get impatient. In Shemot 32:1 we see, “...*For this Mosheh, the man who brought us up out of the land of Mitsrayim, we do not know what has become of him.*”. Moshe did not come down from the mountain BEFORE the 40 days and nights were up. I understand that it was ancient tradition that if someone were lost in the wilderness for 40 days and nights, they were considered dead. The people must have assumed that he was dead and they took matters into their own hands.

⁶⁴ Later in Torah we will see that Yahweh is specific in all other matters. Think about this for a minute. Yahweh’s commands are clear and concise. You cannot go wrong if you follow them. Furthermore, Yahweh’s commands are easy for us to follow (see Devarim (Deuteronomy) 30:11). It is man’s commands like the “works of the law” which is **not** Torah at all but the “commands” of a strict Jewish sect of the days of Late Second Temple times. Yahweh did **not** write the “works of the law”; man did!

⁶⁵ Most of the church “fathers” were pagans with no or little knowledge of Torah and they meant to do away with all things “Jewish” and replace them with pagan things such as worshipping of the day of the sun and calling it “The Lord’s Day”. (which lord??)

⁶⁶ This information is presented in other messages.

⁶⁷ There is a great deal more to this part of the message in another message entitled, “The Golden Calf Worship System” found on our website.

The people of Israel really meant to “worship” Yahweh, but without Torah or instructions, they did not know how. They did not know what Yahweh’s EXACT instructions were. They feared Yahweh and had promised to obey His commands but rather than wait for the “teacher” – Moshe, they sought to devise another “worship system” to “worship” Yahweh. The only thing they knew about worshipping a “mighty-one” or “god” was what they learned in Egypt.

If they had wanted to return to the idolatry of Egypt and abandon Yahweh, then they would have demanded of Aharon (Aaron) to return to Egypt. There is nothing in the text that indicates that they were murmuring to return to Egypt.

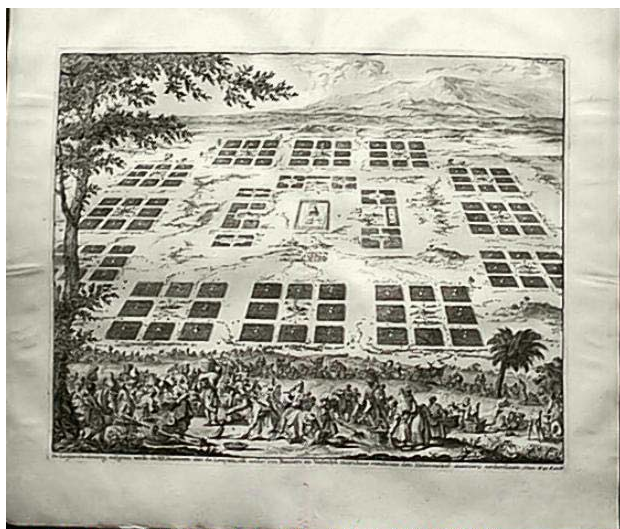
Aharon made a golden calf and in Shemot 32:5 he said, “...*And Aharon called out and said, “Tomorrow is a festival to יהוה”*”. By making the golden calf and worshipping it, Israel disobeys the first three commandments. In Shemot 20:2, Yahweh says, “*I am Yahweh your Elohim...*”. In Shemot 32:4 Israel says that the golden calf is their “god” or “elohim” that brought them out of the land of Egypt.



In Shemot 32:7 we see Yahweh saying to Moshe, “...*for your people which you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves.*” Yahweh disowns Israel! Why? Shemot 32:8 says, “*they have turned aside out of the way which I commanded them...*”. They disobeyed even the little Torah that they knew. Moshe pleads with Yahweh not to destroy Israel and Yahweh concedes. There is more to what happened that you can read in the rest of Shemot 32.

THE “CHURCH” WAS BORN AT MT. SINAI

It is now necessary to add to our discussion some facts about Israel receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai from Yahshua. In Ma’aseh Shlichim (Acts) 7:36 we read, “*This one (Moshe) led them out, after he had done wonders and signs in the land of Mitsrayim, and in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness forty years.*” And in Ma’aseh Shlichim 7:38 we read, “*This is he who was in the assembly in the wilderness with the Messenger who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, who received the living Words to give to us...*”



The KJV of Acts 7:38, “*This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us.*”

The word “church” or “assembly” as used in the Brit Chadashah is the Greek word “ekklesia” (Strong’s #G1557) which means: “...the assembly of the Israelites, an assembly of Christians, a called out assembly.”

This same word for “church” in Hebrew is קהל or “Kah-hal” or Strong’s H06951 which means, “assembly, company, congregation, multitude.” In Devarim (Deuteronomy) 9:10 we read, “*Then יהוה gave me the two tablets of stone written with the finger of Elohim, and on them were all the Words which יהוה had spoken to you on the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly.*” The KJV for this verse says, “*And the LORD delivered unto me two tables of stone written with the finger of God; and on them was written according to all the words, which the LORD spake with you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly.*” In both cases the Strong’s number for the word “assembly” is H06951 or Kahhal.

Further evidence of the “church” or “assembly” (kahhal) being at Mount Sinai is found in Devarim 10:4 which says, “*And He wrote on the tablets according to the first writing, the Ten Words, which יהוה had spoken to you in the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly. Then יהוה gave them to me...*”

Kahal = קהל = an assembly or congregation → the same word as “church”.

THE DAY OF THE ASSEMBLY

We have already seen in Ma’aseh Shlichim 7:38 that, “*This is he who was in the assembly in the wilderness with the Messenger who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, who received the living Words to give to*

us...” The Aramaic Peshitta⁶⁸ for Ma’aseh Shlichim 7:38 uses the Hebrew word בַּקְהָלֹהּ bah-kah-hal which means “in the assembly”. However, in Devarim (Deuteronomy) 9:10 we read, “Then אֲנִי gave me the two tablets of stone written with the finger of Elohim, and on them were all the Words which אֲנִי had spoken to you on the mountain from the midst of the fire in the **day of the assembly.**” And also in Devarim 18:15 – 16 we read, “...אֲנִי your Elohim shall raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brothers. Listen to Him, according to all you asked of אֲנִי your Elohim in Horev in the **day of the assembly,** ...”

Clearly we see that the “Assembly” or “Church” (ekklesia in Greek and Kahhal in Hebrew) was at Sinai. We also see the term “day of the assembly” or בְּיוֹם הַבַּקְהָלָה or “beh-yom ha-kah-hal” which means “on-day-of-the-assembly”. I believe that the “**day of the assembly**” is the “**day of the church**” and it is clearly the day at Sinai. Also take note in Devarim 18:15 that Yahweh will “...raise up for you a **Prophet...**” who is actually Yahshua.

THE CHURCH WAS REBORN IN ACTS CHAPTER 2

Traditional (or dispensationalist) Christianity teaches that the church was born in Acts chapter 2 but if the church was already at Sinai during the giving of the Torah then how can it be born in Acts chapter 2? The fact is that it is not “born” but it is “re-born” as in “born again”.

This “re-birth” of the Assembly is also discussed in Yechezqel (Ezekiel) 11:19 – 20 which says, “*And I shall give them **one heart,** and put a **new spirit within you.** And **I shall take the stony heart out of their flesh,** and give them a heart of flesh, so that they walk in My laws, and guard My right-rulings, and shall do them. And they shall be My people and I shall be their Elohim.*” And we also see this “re-birth” discussed in Yechezqel 36:26 – 27 which says, “*And I shall give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you. And **I shall take the heart of stone out of your flesh,** and I shall give you a heart of flesh, and put My Spirit within you. And I shall cause you to walk in My laws and guard My right-rulings and shall do them.*”

There is a great deal being said here if this is speaking to the “assembly” (or “church” as we have seen above) which must be the Whole House of Israel which I believe it is. It says – they (Jacob or Israel) had a heart of stone (they did not follow Torah) – Yahweh gives them a heart of flesh (they will follow Torah). **Yahweh will put the Ruach Kodesh within them AND He shall cause them to walk in His Torah.** The “assembly” or “church” does not just get the “Holy Spirit” so that they can feel good, laugh, “fall out”, or get all the things they want. The gift of the Ruach Kodesh empowers believers to follow Yahweh’s Torah.

In today’s church there seems to be a lot of “Holy Spirit abuse”. Ma’aseh Shlichim (Acts) chapter 2 is used to justify much of this “Holy Spirit abuse” along with teachings and traditions that are of men. In Ma’aseh Shlichim 2:16 – 17 we read, “*But this is what was spoken by the prophet Yo’el: ‘And it shall be in the last days, says Elohim, that **I shall pour out of My Spirit on all flesh.** ...’*” This is a reference to Yo’el (Joel) 2:28 which says, “*And after this it shall be that I pour out My Spirit on all flesh.* ...” However, before you get all excited read the rest of Yo’el. In verse 27 we read, “*And you shall know that **I am in the midst of Yisra’el,** and that I am אֲנִי your Elohim and there is no one else...*” Yahweh cannot be in the

⁶⁸

The New Covenant Commonly Called The New Testament – Peshitta Aramaic Text with a Hebrew Translation. Edited by the Aramaic Scripture Research Society in Israel. The Bible Society, Jerusalem, 1986.

midst of a gentile church, He is only in the midst of a redeemed Yisra'el (more on this elsewhere in this message).

If we look at all of the text of Ma'aseh Shlichim chapter 2 and read it in context, we see that "...everyone who calls on the Name of יהוה shall be saved..." (verse 21). This verse references back to Yo'el 2:28 – 32. we know that **Yahshua is Salvation** which is discussed elsewhere in this message so by calling on the Name of **YAH-shua** we receive **Salvation**. We see in Ma'aseh Shlichim 4:12 that, "...there is no deliverance in anyone else, for there is no other **Name** under the heaven given among men by which we need to be saved." (emphasis mine). Ma'aseh Shlichim 4:10 tells us that the Name is יהושע (Yahshua) and not the Greek name "Iesous" or "Isous"⁶⁹ or its English translation "Jesus". There is more on this elsewhere in this message.

In Ma'aseh Shlichim chapter 2 we read a discourse by Kepha ("Peter" to the Christian church). In this discourse at Ma'aseh Shlichim 2:37 – 38 we read, "And having heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Kepha and the rest of the emissaries, 'Men, brothers, what shall we do?' And Kepha said to them, 'Repent, and let each one of you be immersed in the Name of יהושע Messiah for the forgiveness of sins. And you shall receive the gift of the Set-apart Spirit.'" In this message I discuss repentance in more detail but what Kepha was telling the people at the Temple⁷⁰ was that they were to "return to Torah" (the meaning of the word "repent").

THE REBORN CHURCH IS THE REDEEMED HOUSE OF ISRAEL

The House of Yisra'el or the House of Jacob consists of the Physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob PLUS a mixed multitude (strangers, sojourners, adopted / grafted in). In Luka (Luke) 1:32 – 33 we read, "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High. And יהוה Elohim shall give Him the throne of His father David. And He shall reign over the house of Ya'akov forever, and there shall be no end to His reign." Those that have accepted Yahshua as Messiah are called the Redeemed House of Israel or the Redeemed House of Jacob. (Yahshua does not rule over a house of gentiles).

The New (renewed) Covenant was made ONLY with the House of Israel and the House of Judah. See Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 31:31 which says, "See, the days are coming," declares יהוה, "when I shall make a new covenant with the house of Yisra'el and with the house of Yabudah". We also see this repeated in Ivrim (Hebrews) 8:8 which says, "For finding fault with them, He says, 'See, the days are coming,' says יהוה, 'when I shall conclude with the house of Yisra'el and with the house of Yabudah a renewed covenant...'. When Yahshua died on the stake He ushered in this New Covenant.

Traditional Christianity says that there was something wrong with the law based on their misunderstanding of Ivrim (Hebrews) chapter 8 and other places however, Ivrim 8:8 says "...finding fault with them..." and not with the Torah.

⁶⁹ There is quite a bit of material on this Greek name that the interested student should examine. You might consider starting at <http://www.fossilizedcustoms.com/>. Possible meanings of this Greek name might be "hail zeus" or even "son of zeus" (I am not entirely convinced of this meaning). It might also be the Greek form of the Greek/Roman god/goddess of healing "Issa" or a similar spelling.

⁷⁰ At the Feast of Shavuot or the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost according to the church) is a feast where all Israelites are required to be at the Temple or the "house" as we see in Ma'aseh Shlichim 2:2.

THE HOUSE OF JACOB AFTER KING DAVID

A VERY BRIEF HISTORY⁷¹

In the days of King David, we see the house of Yahudah (Judah) ruling and reigning over a united Yisra'el with all of the 12 tribes under David's monarchy. All was well until Shelomoh (Solomon), David's son, began whoring physically as well as spiritually. What Shelomoh did after he was king of Yisrael is important because it shows a pattern that will be followed by other kings and it will continue to this day by those who claim to fear Yahweh. In Melechim Alef (1 Kings) 11:5 – 7 we read, "...Shelomoh went after Ashtoreth⁷² the mighty one of the Tsidonians, and after Milkom⁷³ the abomination of the Ammonites. *Thus Shelomoh did evil in the eyes of יהוה, and did not follow יהוה completely, like his father David. Then Shelomoh built a high place for Kemosh⁷⁴ the abomination of Mo'ab, on the hill that is east of Yerushalayim, and for Molek⁷⁵ the abomination of the children of Ammon.*"

Even though Shelomoh built the first Temple and feared Yahweh, in his later years he turned from Yahweh and went after the mighty-ones of his foreign wives. By allowing the gentiles in his midst in such a manner that they could influence his spiritual condition he not only turned away from Yahweh himself but he brought a curse in Israel. Yahweh revealed to Shelomoh that the kingdom would be broken in the life of his son Rehoboam because of Solomon's sins. (Melechim Alef 11:11 - 14).

Yahweh further revealed to Yarov'am (Jeroboam) an Ephraimite, one of Solomon's talented craftsman, that he would receive ten tribes resulting from this split in the kingdom of Israel after Solomon's death. This prophecy was acted out in front of Yarov'am by Ahiyah the prophet and we can read this in Melechim Alef 11:29 – 39. Ahiyah tells Yarov'am that he is doing this to Shelomoh, "...*Because they have forsaken Me, and bow themselves to Ashtoreth the mighty one of the Tsidonians, to Kemosh the mighty one of the Mo'abites, and to Milkom the mighty one of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in My ways – to do what is right in My eyes, and My laws and My right-rulings, as did his father David.*" (Melechim Alef 11:33)

Ahiyah takes the coat of Yarov'am and tears it into 12 pieces and Yarov'am takes 10 of the pieces. He is told that Yahweh will take 10 of the tribes out of the hands of Shelomoh and give them to him.

⁷¹ From the on-line paper "The Full Restoration of Israel" by Rabbi Moshe Koniuchowsky at www.yourarmstoisrael.org.

⁷² This is the "goddess of love" of the Phoenician. We will see much more of her later.

⁷³ This is the national idol of the Ammonites.

⁷⁴ A mighty-one of the Moabites.

⁷⁵ The chief deity of the Ammonites. This mighty-one was worshipped by sacrificing babies that would be born from the sexual unions of worshipping Astoreth (in one of her names or another) and eggs would be dipped in the blood of the babies and hung around the people's houses. This is the source of the colored "easter eggs". The source for this information is from a Christian video series called "That the World May Know" and elsewhere on the internet but I cannot find those sources anymore.

In approximately 921 BCE the ten northern tribes (the tribes given to Yarov'am) broke away from the House Of David (the Whole House of Israel) and called themselves Yisra'el (Israel) making Samaria its capital. The southern tribes of Yahudah, Binyamin and Levi (Judah, Benjamin and Levi) made up the southern kingdom under Rechav'am (Rehoboam) with Jerusalem as its capital (see Melechim Alef 11:26 – 43). As Rechav'am prepares an army to retake the ten renegade tribes in the north, Yahweh forbids it in Melechim Alef 12:24 by telling Rechav'am that this split in the House of David is from Him and that they should not fight against their brothers.

As time goes by the Northern kingdom of ten tribes began to adopt pagan practices, holidays, customs, false worship and unfortunately Yarov'am (Jeroboam) became the father of the Ephraimite pagans⁷⁶. In Melechim Alef (First Kings) 12:26 – 33 we see the evil heart of Yarov'am son of Nebat as he devised a scheme for the northern ten tribes⁷⁷ to begin to practice a false religion designed to keep Ephraim separate from Judah and separate from Judah's Elohim. This system of Jeroboam had as its basic design the creation of a separate entity from the House of David consisting of the ten tribes in the north.

THE SECOND GOLDEN CALF WORSHIP SYSTEM

King Yarov'am (Jeroboam) of Yisrael (the ten northern tribes) sets up a golden calf worship system. Part of his reasoning is that he does not want the Ephraimites under him to go up to Yerushalayim⁷⁸ (Jerusalem) as commanded by Yahweh in Devarim (Deuteronomy) 16:16 which says, *“Three times a year all your males appear before יהוה your Elohim in the place which He chooses: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, and at the Festival of Weeks, and at the Festival of Booths.”* The place that Yahweh chose was Yerushalayim and not somewhere up north. Yarov'am was concerned that, *“If these people go up to do slaughterings⁷⁹ in the House of יהוה at Yerushalayim, then the heart of this people shall turn back to their master, Rechav'am sovereign of Yahudah, and they shall slay me and go back to Rechav'am sovereign of Yahudah.”* (Melechim Alef (First Kings) 12:27).

His solution is to create a false worship system. In Melechim Alef (First Kings) 12:28 – 29 we read, *“So the sovereign took counsel and made two calves of gold, and said to the people, “It is too much for you to go up to Yerushalayim. See, your mighty ones, O Yisra'el, which brought you up from the land of Mitsrayim!”⁸⁰ And he set up one in Beyth El⁸¹, and the other he put in Dan⁸².”* This is almost a repeat of the golden calf incident in Shemot (Exodus) chapter 32. However, in this case, Yarov'am was trying to accommodate his people by setting up two golden calves and putting them at two “convenient” locations. Scripture tells us in Melechim Alef 12:30, *“And this matter became a sin, for the people went before the one as far as Dan.”* Yarov'am also changed the priesthood as we see in Melechim Alef 12:31, *“And he made the house of high places, and made priests from all sorts of people, who were not of the sons of Levi.”*

⁷⁶ Remember that Yarov'am was an Ephraimite.

⁷⁷ collectively known as the House of Israel or Ephraim.

⁷⁸ You always “go up” to Jerusalem even if you are in the north.

⁷⁹ The Scriptures uses “slaughterings” instead of “sacrifice”.

⁸⁰ Another violation of the first 3 commands.

⁸¹ Beyth El or Bait El is often seen as Bethel in English Bibles. Beyth El means “House of El”.

⁸² Dan is pronounced “dahn”.

Yarov'am has gone a long way to turn Ephraim away from Yahweh but he goes further by substituting Yahweh's Scriptural set-apart day as seen in Melechim Alef 12:32, "*And Yarov'am performed a festival on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the festival that was in Yabudah, and he offered on the altar. So he did at Beyth El, slaughtering to the calves that he had made. And at Beyth El he appointed the priests of the high places which he had made.*"

Yahweh's commandment regarding Sukkot or the Festival of Booths (Feast of Tabernacles) is found in Vayikrah (Leviticus) 23:34, "...On *the fifteenth day of this seventh month is the Festival of Booths for seven days to ׀ללל׀*." Yarov'am "kept" the feast of Tabernacles after a fashion but he did it in the wrong month. He substituted the place and substituted the set-apart day. In Melechim Alef 12:33 we read of Yarov'am that, "...he made offerings on the altar which he had made at Beyth El *on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in the month which he had devised in his own heart.* And he performed a festival for the children of Yisra'el, and offered on the altar and burned incense."

This is exactly the same thing as substituting Yahweh's Set-apart days in Vayikrah (Leviticus) chapter 23 with man made days such as Sun-day, Christmas, Easter etc.

A GOLDEN CALF SYSTEM OF WORSHIP INVOLVES SUBSTITUTING TORAH COMMANDED SET-APART PLACES AND SCRIPTURAL SET-APART DAYS WITH MAN'S COMMANDS AND DAYS.

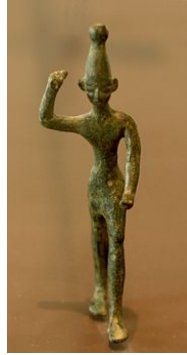
A GOLDEN CALF WORSHIP SYSTEM IS BAAL WORSHIP

In Melechim Bet (2 Kings) 17:16 we see of Yisra'el (that is the northern 10 tribes or Ephraim), "*And they left all the commands of ׀ללל׀ their Elobim, and made for themselves a moulded image, two calves, and made an Asherah and bowed themselves to all the host of the heavens, and served Baal...*". An "Asherah" is a Phoenician goddess; also an *image* of the same. The KJV uses the word "grove" instead of "Asherah". This word may also appear as "ashtoret" or "ashtarte". This is the spring goddess or the goddess of fertility. She is also known by other names. Think of an asherah as a pole or even a tree⁸³.

BAAL WORSHIP IS SERVING IDOLS

Baal worship is not just bending the knee to a graven calf, it is also substituting the commandments of men for Yahweh's commandments. Baal worship includes not just the idols but also changing the place and the day as commanded by Yahweh. **Therefore the characteristics of Baal worship are not following Torah! In not following Torah the individual or group of individuals is following idolatry. Not following Torah and disobeying Yahweh is rebellion!**

⁸³ Hint, hint – christmas tree!!! See the material on www.fossilizedcustoms.com.



In Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 66:3 we read about the Baal worshippers who sacrifice but, “...they have chosen their own ways, and their being delights in their abominations.” This continues in verse 17 which says, “those who set themselves apart and cleanse themselves at the gardens after ‘One’ in the midst, eating flesh of pigs and the abomination and the mouse, are snatched away, together,” declares *יְהוָה*. In his book “Isaiah”, Dr. Slotki⁸⁴ says, “[this is a] description of the detestable rites of idolatry resumed from verse 3. ‘to go into the gardens.’ The first two words are implied. The gardens were the favourite [sic] spots for the practice of the heathenish rites. ‘Behind one.’ The *kethib* reads the word as masculine, the *kere* reads the word as feminine. The former may denote the leader of the procession, the latter a goddess, possibly the *ashterah*. Maimonides⁸⁵ explains as ‘behind one tree in the midst,’ which he understands as indulgence in forbidden lust.”

Above we see some more examples of Baal worship. We see that the Baal worshipper has “chosen their own ways”. Rather than following the ways of the Torah of Yahshua, the people followed their own ways. Furthermore, they delighted in their abominations. Clearly this is saying that they liked it and continued to worship in this mixed worship system. Then in verse 17 we read that they set themselves apart. There is more to be seen here that I do not want to explain here but if we followed Maimonides’ explanation it seems that they are “setting themselves apart” for their mighty-one by engaging in Torah forbidden lusts. This is what the worship of the spring goddess ashtarte is about. A mark of this being set-apart for Baal involves the eating of pig meat⁸⁶. Vayikrah (Leviticus) 11:6 commands us not to eat pig meat. That is Yahshua’s command to His people and it has nothing to do with the lack of refrigeration in the wilderness⁸⁷. The real reason we are not supposed to eat pork is found in Vayikrah 11:45 which says, “For I am *יְהוָה* who is bringing you up out of the land of Mitsrayim, to be your Elohim. And you shall be set-apart, for I am set-apart.” We are to be set-apart as Yahweh is set-apart. And we are to be set-apart for Him. Eating pig meat actually makes us set-apart for Baal worship as we see above.

⁸⁴ Slotki, Dr. I. W., 1957, *Isaiah, Hebrew Text & English Translation with an Introduction and Commentary* (London, England, The Soncino Press)

⁸⁵ A Spanish Jewish sage from 1135 – 1204.

⁸⁶ Please remember this when you have ham for Easter (the feast to Ashtarte).

⁸⁷ I make this statement because I heard a Liberal Jewish Rabbi explain that the reason the “Jews” (as he put it) were not allowed to eat pork in the wilderness was because they did not have refrigeration but they could eat pork now. What?????

YISRA'EL HAD A HEART FOR YAHWEH BUT...

In Melechim Bet (2 Kings) 17:6 we see that Ashshur (Assyria) takes Yisra'el into exile. This is the doing of Yahweh and is discussed at great length in 2 papers by Rabbi Moshe Koniuchowsky on the website www.yourarmstoisrael.org so it unnecessary for me to reinvent the wheel here.

After the exile of Ephraim (Israel) into the lands that they were exiled to, the king of Ashshur sent others not of the land of Shomeron (Samaria) to dwell in the former Ephraimite land. And we read in Melechim Bet (2 Kings) 17:25 – 26 “*And it came to be, at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they did not fear יהוה, and יהוה sent lions among them, which kept on slaying among them. And they spoke to the sovereign of Ashshur, saying, “The nations whom you have removed and placed in the cities of Shomeron do not know the right-ruling of the Elohim of the land. And He has sent lions among them, and see, they are slaying among them because they do not know the right-ruling of the Elohim of the land.”* Even though those dwelling in the land were not Israelites, Yahweh still punished them for not fearing Him.

In Melechim Bet (2 Kings) 17:27 we read, “*And the sovereign of Ashshur commanded, saying, “Send one of the priests whom you exiled from there, to go there. Let him go and dwell there, and let him teach them the right-ruling of the Elohim of the land.”* The king of Ashshur’s goal was to have one of the priests go back and teach the Torah of Yahweh so that the people will learn to fear Yahweh. In Melechim Bet 17:38 we read, “*And one of the priests whom they had exiled from Shomeron came and dwelt in Beyth El, and taught them how to fear יהוה. But every nation was making mighty ones of its own, and put them in the houses of the high places which the Shomeronites had made, every nation in the cities where they dwelt.”* The important point here is that the priests taught the people how to fear Yahweh but each of the different nations (read that as “gentiles”) made their own mighty-ones that they were familiar with.

These people really did “fear Yahweh” but, as we see in Melechim Bet (2 Kings) 17:32 – 33, “*They also feared יהוה, and from every class they made for themselves priests of the high places, who offered for them in the house of the high places. They were fearing יהוה, and they were serving their own mighty ones, according to the ruling of the nations from among whom they had been exiled.”*

Notice that they feared Yahweh but they ALSO served their old mighty-ones. This is **mixed worship**. Traditional Christianity (i.e. dispensationalist or replacement Christianity) teaches that Israel was not worshipping Yahweh – they claim that He was not in their thoughts and prayers. This was not so. They did fear Yahweh they just didn’t worship Him the way **HE** commanded to be worshipped. Israel had brought in mixed worship – or baal worship.

We saw above that the golden calf worship system is baal worship and it is mixed worship. Furthermore, the golden calf worship system is contrary to Yahweh’s Torah. Thus I conclude that:

THE GOLDEN CALF WORSHIP SYSTEM IS CONTRARY TO
TORAH AND IT IS THE SAME AS BAAL WORSHIP AND IT IS
THE SAME AS A MIXED WORSHIP SYSTEM.

SYNCRETISM

The above described golden calf / contrary to Torah / Baal worship / mixed worship system is a syncretic worship system. Syncretism is the combination of different systems of philosophical or religious belief or practice.

ISRAEL FEARED YAHWEH BUT DID NOT FOLLOW TORAH.

In Melechim Bet 17:34 we read, “*To this day they are doing according to the former rulings: **they are not fearing יְהוָה, nor do they follow their laws or their right-rulings, or the Torah and command which יְהוָה had commanded the children of Ya'akov, whose name He made Yisra'el,***” Did they fear Yahweh? Well, yes and no. Above we see that they had a “fear of Yahweh” of sorts but their actions were contrary to Yahweh’s commands. Thus, by their actions they showed that they did not fear Yahweh. They may have had good intentions but good intentions are not worth much.

Furthermore, in Melechim Bet 17:40 – 41 we read, “*And they did not obey, but did according to their former ruling. So **these nations were fearing יְהוָה, and served their carved images,** both their children and their children’s children. As their fathers did, they are doing to this day.*” (emphasis mine). They feared Yahweh in their hearts but not according to their actions. They talked the talk but did not walk the walk.

AN INDICTMENT AGAINST ISRAEL

In Yechezqel (Ezekiel) chapter 20 we read an indictment against Israel. “*And I said to their children in the wilderness, **Do not walk in the laws of your fathers, nor observe their rulings, nor defile yourselves with their idols. I am יְהוָה your Elohim. Walk in My laws, and guard My right-rulings, and do them.***” “*And set apart My Sabbaths, and they shall be a sign between Me and you, to know that I am יְהוָה your Elohim.*” “*But the children rebelled against Me. **They did not walk in My laws, and My right-rulings they did not guard to do them, which, if a man does, he shall live by them. They profaned My Sabbaths,** so I resolved to pour out My wrath on them to complete My displeasure against them in the wilderness.*” “*But I held back My hand and acted for My Name’s sake, not to profane it before the eyes of the gentiles, before whose eyes I had brought them out. Also, I Myself lifted My hand in an oath to those in the wilderness, **to scatter them among the gentiles and disperse them throughout the lands, because they had not done My right-rulings, and they rejected My laws, and they profaned My Sabbaths, and their eyes were on their fathers’ idols.***” “***And I also gave them up to laws that were not good, and right-rulings by which they would not live.***” (emphasis mine)

Rav Sha’ul addresses this topic in Romiyah (Romans) 1:24 – 25 by saying, “*Therefore Elohim gave them up to uncleanness in the lust of their hearts, to disrespect their bodies among themselves, who changed the truth of Elohim into the falsehood, and **worshipped and served what was created rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.***” Notice that Rav Sha’ul says “...worshipped and served **what was created...**” this is the man made / mixed worship system. Christianity might teach this as meaning bowing down to physical idols but by engaging in an anti-Torah or mixed worship system Yahweh sees it as the same thing. The “what was created” was and is the non-Torah worship system. This is **exactly** present day Christianity!

A MODERN APPLICATION

This will be a hard thing to hear for the dedicated Christian but I am compelled to say it. Some of those that go to Sunday church really love “the Lord” (as they understand Him). They want to follow Him and be pleasing in His sight. Are they seeking to love Him according to His Torah? – **NO**. They are, on the other hand, demonstrating their love for Him according to their own “law” and traditions. They fear Yahweh but they are engaged in a mixed worship system.

BAAL WORSHIP WAS DONE IN THE TEMPLE OF YAHWEH

From many of the Scripture quotes above it might seem that the Israelites did their Baal worship on a “high place” or in a grove or something like that. In Melechim Bet 22:3 we read, “*And it came to be, in the eighteenth year of Sovereign Yoshiyahu⁸⁸, that the sovereign sent Shaphan the scribe, son of Atsalyahu, son of Meshullam, to the House of יהוה, saying...*” In verse 8 we read that, “*And Hilqiyahu the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, ‘I have found the Book of the Torah in the House of יהוה’...*” The rest of chapter 22 is quite stirring and you should read it.

Israel had brought the idols and other objects of Baal worship into the Hekel (Temple) of Yahweh. This might be something like the pastor of “Big Time Christian Church” bringing a prostitute into the church and putting her on display on the stage – not for ridicule but for admiration. In Melechim Bet 23:4 we read, “*Then the sovereign commanded Hilqiyahu the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the doorkeepers, to bring out of the Hekel [Temple] of יהוה all the objects that were made for Baal, and for Asherah, and for all the host of the heavens. And he burned them outside Yerushalayim in the fields of Qidron [Kidron], and took their ashes to Beyth El.*” (note and emphasis mine). Note that the word “asherah⁸⁹” or “sacred tree” is used. Baal worship involves setting up “sacred trees” in the Temple.

A short note on the phrase above, “...and for all the host of the heavens...”. There are many objects, pictures or images and other things that represent “the host of the heavens”. Anything that looks like a “star burst” or sun should be considered “the host of the heavens”. Pictures showing “Jesus” or any of the other “saints” with “halos” is a sun symbol and is “the host of the heavens”. I’ve already mentioned Christmas trees but notice that the top ornament is a star and the lights are stars or “the host of the heavens”. For more information, see “Fossilized Customs” available at www.fossilizedcustoms.com.



⁸⁸ The last four letters of this name “yahu” are pronounced “yh-hoo”. This is a “theophoric” name in that it has part of the Name of Yah in it.

⁸⁹ The KJV uses the word “grove” I guess not to make a reference to a tree.

Groves are for idol worship. An Asherah is also a Babylonian – Canaanite goddess, (of spring and fertility). An asherah is also a “sacred tree” or pole set up near an altar. The asherah became the Christmas tree. The Asherah is actually a phallic symbol and has some other rather unpleasant meanings⁹⁰. In Christian churches during Christmas – where was the Christmas tree???? – right next to the altar. Just like the asherah in the Temple. By placing Christmas trees even in the church the church has honored Baal worship or mixed worship.



Some time ago I accepted an invitation to a Christian home at Christmas time. Of course there was a Christmas tree prominently displayed in the living room. There were also some plaques that said “Jesus is the reason for the season” all over the house and several manger scenes. From this I assumed that this home centered their thinking around the “birth of Jesus”⁹¹. However, the entire discussion centered around the tree and how beautiful it was and not around “Jesus is the reason for the season”. Judging by their actions and not their intentions, the reason for the season was that phallic symbol in their living room and the Baal worship it represented. Think about that next Christmas.

Christmas⁹² is actually a festival to the sun god. The Romans had a festival on December 25th “dies natalis solis invicti” or “the birthday of the unconquered sun”. The use of the title Sol Invictus allowed several solar deities to be worshipped collectively, including Elah-Gabal, a Syrian sun god; Sol, the god of Emperor Aurelian (AD 270–274); and Mithras, a soldiers’ god of Persian origin. Emperor Elagabalus (218–222) introduced the festival, and it reached the height of its popularity under Aurelian, who promoted it as an empire-wide holiday.

Baal worship also involves worshipping ashterah or ashtarte or ishtar. The English word for “ishtar” is Easter. We read in Shophtim (Judges) 2:11 “*Then the children of Yisra’el did evil in the eyes of ה' and served the Baals...*” and also in Shophtim 2:13, “*So they forsook ה' and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.*” Well, what is an “Ashtarot”? Ashtarot = עֲשֵׁתֹרֶת = easter. It is a false goddess in the Canaanite religion related to fertility cults. The easter (ishtar) custom is associated with easter bunnies, eggs (a fertility symbol) and is right after the spring equinox. This can’t be associated with Yahweh’s Passover! Yahweh’s Passover was changed by Emperor Constantine (who was the first pope and not “Peter”). However, this is another message. The picture below is from a prominent denomination book store advertisement.

⁹⁰ For more information see the paper on the asherah at www.fossilizedcustoms.com/

⁹¹ Yahshua was born at Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles).

⁹² From <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas>

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I have a problem with the easter eggs because of how they came to be associated with the feast to asherah. To put it bluntly, and pardon me for offending you here, but in ancient times the prostitutes of asherah would have sex with the “worshippers” and the babies that might be born as a result of these unions would be sacrificed to the “god” molech. The eggs which represent fertility, would be dipped in the blood of the babies and then they would be hung around the homes. The source of the above “resurrection eggs” is this abomination!

BAAL WORSHIP ALSO INVOLVES SUN WORSHIP

We have already seen above in Melechim Bet 22:3 that Sovereign Yoshiyahu, sent Shaphan the scribe to the House of יהוה. In chapter 23 verse 5 we read, “*And he put down the black-robed priests [idolatrous priests] whom the sovereigns of Yabudah had appointed to burn incense on the high places in the cities of Yabudah and in the places all around Yerushalayim, and those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the constellations, and to all the host of the heavens.*” (note for clarity is mine)

This idolatrous practice of sun worship was evident in the changing of the seventh day Shabbat (Sabbath) command by Yahweh in His Torah to the “day of the sun” which is a day of Baal worship. In other words, Sunday. Instrumental in changing the true, Torah based Sabbath to the day of the sun is the Roman Catholic Church. Also please note that many paintings of the Catholic idea of the image of their version of “Jesus” shows Him with a halo above His head. This is also the case with many of the other Catholic “saints”. This halo is associated with sun worship. It might be

of interest to you that the Vatican is laid out according to symbols of sun worship. The obelisk in the middle of the square is associated with Egyptian sun worship⁹³.



THE RESTORATION MESSAGE

Finally after all that discussion we can get to the actual message. We will need all of the above information and more to finish the rest of this message. We started with Mattithyahu (Matthew 3:1-2 which says:

“And in those days Yochanan⁹⁴ the Immerser⁹⁵ came proclaiming in the wilderness of Yabudah, and saying, “Repent, for the reign of the heavens has come near!” For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Yeshayahu, saying, “A voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way of יְהוָה, make His paths straight.’”

Who is Yochanan the Immerser? The conception and birth of Yochanan the Immerser is described in Luka (Luke) chapter 1. In case you are interested, from this information and some understanding of the courses of the Kohanim (Priests) we can determine that Yochanan was born on Passover and that Yahshua was born on Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles). But that is another message.

⁹³ Hmm, I wonder of the Washington Monument is the same thing????

⁹⁴ The Hebrew name “Yochanan” (John) means “Yah is gracious”.

⁹⁵ I will use the term “Immerser” rather than “Baptist” because Yochanan was not a Baptist.

ELIJAHU PRECEDES THE COMING OF MESSIAH

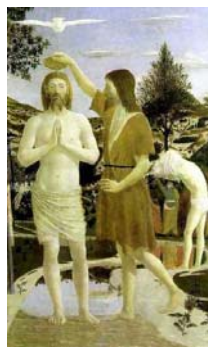
In Mattithyahu (Matthew) 17:10 – 13 we read, “*And His taught ones asked Him, saying, “Why then do the scribes say that Eliyahu **has to come first**? And **דורשני** answering, said to them, “Eliyahu **is indeed coming first, and shall restore all matters**. But I say to you that Eliyahu **has already come**, and **they did not recognise him** but did to him whatever they wished. In this way the Son of Adam is also about to suffer by them. Then the taught ones understood that **He had spoken to them about Yochanan the Immerser**.”* We see in verse 11 “... **Eliyahu is indeed coming first and shall restore all things**”. How is this restoration to take place? Primarily by faith in Yahshua by keeping His commandments. In verse 12 not only did the spirit of Eliyahu come then but he will also come in the end of days and they will not know he is in their midst.

YOCHANAN THE IMMERSER IS PERSONIFIED AS ELIJAHU

In Luka 1:13 we read, “But the messenger said to him, “*Do not be afraid, Zekaryah⁹⁶, for your prayer is heard. And your wife Elisheva⁹⁷ shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Yochanan⁹⁸.*” In Luka 1:17 we read, “*And he shall go before Him **in the spirit and power of Eliyahu**, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the insight of the righteous, **to make ready a people prepared for יתי**.*” Yochanan is coming in the spirit and power of Eliyahu and not a reincarnation.

The Christian church has given an incorrect picture of “John” as some kind of wild man, religious fanatic dressed in nothing more than a camel skin coat and eating honey and locusts. We get this from Mattithyahu (Matthew) 3:4 which says, “*And Yochanan had a garment of camel’s hair, and a leather girdle around his waist. And his food was locusts and wild honey.*” Because of this we have been bombarded by movies and TV that have shown us an incorrect picture. Remember that Yochanan was the son of a Cohen and not some poor beggar. He was a prophet but I doubt that he looked like some kind of hermit wild man.

Below we see a photo of a painting of “John the Baptist” “baptizing” “Jesus”. Notice that the “John” in this painting looks somewhat like a hermit. However, also notice in this image that the two men have long beards rather than the usual scruffy beard of most images of the Christian “Jesus”. Notice also that the three people pictured in this painting are white Caucasians.



⁹⁶ I am deliberately using the Hebrew form of the names of these people. They were Hebrews and not Greeks and their names were Hebrew names and not Greek names. His Hebrew name means “Light of Yah”.

⁹⁷ Elisheva means “Yah is my oath” which is also the feminine form of Eliyahu which means “El is my Yah”.

⁹⁸ Yochanan means “Yah is gracious”.

The camel's hair is woven into a course cloth and usually worn by the poor people of Israel and the leather belt would be worn by the poor. Someone from Yochanan's status might wear a wool garment and use an ornate belt. Yochanan may have been identifying with the poor of Israel rather than the rich or the pompous priesthood. It would have been known that he was the son of Zekaryah (Zecharyah). However, these garments would also be the garments of the prophets. And the food that he ate would be the food of the prophet. There has been speculation that the camel's hair garment was actually the "mantle of Eliyahu". Note, that in Melechim Bet (2 Kings) 2:9-13, Elisha takes the mantle or cloak or robe of Eliyahu. The mantle might have been Eliyahu's talit ("prayer shawl").

THE MINISTRY MESSAGE OF YOCHANAN THE IMMERSER

A major part of Yochanan's mission was to turn many Israelites to Elohim. Notice in Luka (Luke) 1:17, it says he is to "...go before him in the spirit and power of Eliyahu, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children..." which references Mal'aki (Malachi) 4:5 which says, "See, I am sending you Eliyahu the prophet before the coming of the great and awesome day of **יְהוָה**". This "second Eliyahu" is to go before Yahshua and pave the way for Him.

Notice in Luka 1:17 that there is MORE. It says, "... and the disobedient to the insight of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for **יְהוָה**." This tells us that as Yochanan makes ready Israel, that the disobedient ones or lawless ones shall learn from the righteous ones or the Torah obedient ones. And the purpose of all this is to "...make ready a people prepared for Yahweh." **This prepares the "Bride of Messiah" for Yahshua's coming. Yahshua is NOT coming for a bride involved in mixed worship. He is also NOT coming for a Bride who is disobedient to His Torah. He is coming for a Bride that worships Him in Spirit and in Truth.**

YOCHANAN SPEAKS THE WORD OF YAHWEH – REPENT

In Luka (Luke) 3:2 we read, "...the word of Elohim came to Yochanan the son of Zekaryah in the wilderness." The "word of Elohim" must involve Torah as we saw above. The "Wilderness" is not a bad place – It is not a horrible place – the wilderness is a place without distractions. From the context of the next few verses, Yahweh had spoken to Yochanan to go into the area of the Yarden and preach a gospel of repentance or teshuvah⁹⁹ and then immerse or tehvilah¹⁰⁰ those people.

From the teachings of certain Christian theologians, this is the beginning of what they call "baptism" which, they claim, did not exist at all before "John" created it. I have examined this theological "teaching" in several places common to anyone and discovered this is a horrendous error. The practice of Tehvilah ("baptism") in a Mikvah¹⁰¹ began with the Tabernacle in the Wilderness. We have had several messages on tehvilah so I do not want to go into much detail here except to state certain basic concepts.

⁹⁹ Teshuvah means "return" or "repent".

¹⁰⁰ Tehvilah is sort of the same as "baptize" as the Christian church calls it.

¹⁰¹ A Mikvah is a pool of living water or flowing water that a person takes tehvilah in.

Tehvilah is immersion¹⁰² in a Mikvah or pool of “living water” (i.e. running water like a river). There is no splashing, dripping, sprinkling, or other such nonsense. Tehvilah is a physical action for ritual cleanliness. That which was unclean is made clean in the Mikvah. It is not to wash the body to remove dirt.

Tehvilah is also used to change the status of a person. When a man or woman becomes married they take tehvilah which prepares them for the change of their status from unmarried to married. A person entering the priesthood took tehvilah which prepares them for the change of his status from not-priest to priest. A person took tehvilah when he entered a ministry or graduated from yeshiva or changed his position from Cohen to Cohen gadol (high priest). When a person performed tehvilah, they were considered to be “re-born” or “born again”¹⁰³.

In Luka 3:3 we read, “*And he went into all the neighbourhood of the Yarden*”¹⁰⁴, *proclaiming an immersion of repentance for the forgiveness of sins...*” Yochanan was proclaiming **tehvilah of teshuvah or repentance** in Luka 3:3 – he did not create the Baptist church or the catholic church and he did not create some kind of new command. We will discuss “repentance” from a Torah perspective shortly.

“PREPARE THE WAY OF YAHWEH”

In Luka 3:4 we read a very important Word; “*...as it has been written in the book of the words of Yeshayahu the prophet, saying, “A voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way of יְהוָה, make His paths straight.’”* The highlighted section references Yeshayahu 40:3 – 5 which says in English: “*The voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way of יְהוָה; make straight in the desert a highway for our Elohim. Let every valley be raised, and every mountain and hill made low. And the steep ground shall become level, and the rough places smooth. And the esteem of יְהוָה shall be revealed, and all flesh together shall see it. For the mouth of יְהוָה has spoken.’”*



In the Hebrew of the Tanakh there is no punctuation therefore we have accepted the punctuation of tradition. It may be that what we read in The Scriptures or KJV or Stone Edition or other translations is right. BUT, I would like to propose another possibility:

¹⁰² Like dunking! The whole person’s body goes under the water as if dying and comes as if rising to renewed life.

¹⁰³ This is what part of the discussion between Yahshua and Nakdimon (Nicodemus) in Yochanan chapter 3 is about.

¹⁰⁴ The Jordan River area.

**A voice of one calling (or crying), IN THE WILDERNESS, prepare the way of Yahweh,
Make straight, in the desert, a highway for our Elohim.**

I emphasize the “in the wilderness” part for the following reasons; the wilderness was a place of growth and teaching for Israel. Israel became a nation and received Yahweh’s Torah in the wilderness. In the wilderness there is discipline and teaching. Also the prophets went into the wilderness to meet and speak to Yahweh and hear from Him. Yahshua went into the wilderness right after He was “ordained”, as it were, for ministry by tehvilah by Yochanan.

Yahshua speaks of a wide road or gate and narrow gate in Mattithyahu (Matthew) 7:13 – 14 when He said, *“Enter in through the narrow gate! Because the gate is wide – and the way is broad – that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter in through it. Because the gate is narrow and the way is hard pressed (or the way is afflicted) which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”* If we were to use this analogy to describe the wilderness experience, we might have an understanding of what is happening.

If the emphasis changes from going¹⁰⁵ “INTO the wilderness” to someone calling “FROM the wilderness” then we could stay right here in our comfort zones and watch as someone else prepares a way for Yahweh. We might even have the idea that Yahweh Himself will prepare His Own way and make the paths straight etc. and we won’t have to do anything but watch and enjoy. It is our nature to take the easy road.

Furthermore, I believe that “in the wilderness” is correct because the context of the Yeshayahu reference – Yeshayahu 40:3 – 5 – seems to indicate that this is the case. Notice that the highway or path is made straight by lowering mountains and raising valleys and making the path smooth and level. But we still must be on the path IN THE WILDERNESS rather than in our comfort zone somewhere else watching¹⁰⁶. The highway or path is to be made straight to be walked on rather than looked at. It is to be used. So what is this “path” or “way”? It is Torah! As we have seen above.

THE WAY OF YAHWEH IS FOLLOWING TORAH

The “path” or the “way” (der-ech in Hebrew) is seen in some of these Scripture:

Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 2:3 *“And many peoples shall come and say, “Come, and let us go up to the mountain of יְהוָה, to the House of the Elohim of Ya‘akov, and let Him teach us His ways, and let us walk in His paths, for out of Tsiyon comes forth the Torah, and the Word of יְהוָה” from Yerushalayim.”*¹⁰⁷

Yeshayahu 40:3 *“The voice of one crying in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of יְהוָה; make straight in the desert a highway for our Elohim.”*

Tehillim (Psalms) 25:8 *“Good and straight is יְהוָה; Therefore He teaches sinners in the way.”*

¹⁰⁵ As in “calling us into”.

¹⁰⁶ You might want to look at this as sitting in the easy chair while watching the event on TV instead of participating in the event.

¹⁰⁷ His ways, His paths, the teaching and the Word of יְהוָה are used synonymously. (footnote from The Scriptures)

Tehillim 119:1 “Blessed are the *perfect in the way*, *Who walk in the Torah of יְהוָה?*”

Tehillim 119:9 “How would a young man cleanse his path. *To guard it according to Your word?*”

Tehillim 119:10 “I have sought You with all my heart; *Let me not stray from Your commands!*”

Tehillim 119:35 “Make me *walk in the path of Your commands*, For *I have delighted in it.*”

Tehillim 119:105 “*Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.*”

Mishli (Proverbs) 6:23 “*For the command is a lamp, And the Torah a light, And reproofs of discipline a way of life...*”

Mishli 10:29 “The *way of יְהוָה* is a stronghold for the perfect, But ruin to the workers of wickedness.”

Mattithyahu (Matthew) 3:3 “For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Yeshayahu, saying, “A voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare the *way of יְהוָה*, make His paths straight.’” (quoting Yeshayahu 40:3). See also Markos 1:3, Luka 3:4 and Yochanan 1:23.

Yochanan Bet (2 John) 1:6 “*And this is the love, that we walk according to His commands. This is the command, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.*¹⁰⁸”

REPENTANCE

Within Christian circles and Western understanding there is misused term used called “repentance” or “repent”. It seems that the accepted definition of this term is to recognize the wrong in something that the person has done and then “be sorry about it”. A better and more accurate definition is for a person to feel regret about a sin or past action and then change their ways or habits. The second definition comes close but still misses the mark.

Having grown up in the Christian church I found that the church taught me rather ambiguously about repentance. The meaning was elusive and I was left with a weak understanding of what true repentance means. This is the norm for the Christian church. I think that somehow the church has the idea that it means something like “don’t do that” or “don’t sin” in accordance with the churches understanding of the definition of “sin”. Therefore, if the Christian often drives fast then he needs to repent and drive the speed limit. He needs to “stop sinning” (driving fast) and repent or drive the speed limit.

If we assume that “to repent” is to “turn from” something then there must be something to “turn to”. That something must be the opposite of the previous behavior. The Scriptural concept of repentance is turning from sin and turning to Yahweh (See above for the Scriptural definition of sin).

The Hebrew root for the word “repent” is שׁוּב (shuv). This word has a specific meaning! It appears throughout the Tanakh and Yahshua and His talmidim understood its real meaning. Repentance is turning **from** a lifestyle contrary to Torah **to** a lifestyle that follows Torah. It is turning **from** sin and **to** Yahweh. **It is doing a U-turn!**

We see a good definition of repentance and the reward for repenting in Devarim (Deuteronomy) 30:1 – 3, “*And it shall be, when all these words come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you shall bring them back to your heart among all the gentiles where יְיָ your Elohim drives you, and shall turn back to יְיָ your Elohim and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your being, you and your children, then יְיָ your Elohim shall turn back your captivity, and shall have compassion on you, and He shall turn back and gather you from all the peoples where יְיָ your Elohim has scattered you.*” And also Devarim 30:8, “*And you shall turn back and obey the voice of יְיָ and do all His commands which I command you today.*”

The Tanakh is filled with references to teshuvah or repentance. Yisra’el and Yahudah had strayed from Yahweh’s commands on many occasions and Yahweh punished them accordingly and He sent His prophets to tell Yisra’el to return to Yahweh’s Torah. We see this in Melechim Bet (2 Kings) 17:13, “*And יְיָ warned Yisra’el and Yahudah, through all of His prophets, and every seer, saying, “Turn back from your evil ways, and guard My commands and My laws, according to all the Torah which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets.”*

In the church I have seen Divre HaYamim Bet (2 Chronicles) 7:14 which says, “*...and My people upon whom My Name is called, shall humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their evil ways, then I shall hear from the heavens, and forgive their sin and heal their land.*” I do not think this is used to say that the Christian is to **turn from not following Torah to following Torah** but rather to turn from the church’s definition of sin to not sinning. Again the church leaves us with a nebulous definition of “sin” and thus the Christian is going to be confused as to what Yahweh really wants. This Scripture (Divre HaYamim Bet (2 Chronicles) 7:14) is actually Yahweh speaking to Shelomoh as seen in verse 12. Yahweh then says “*...If my people, which are called by my name...*” (KJV), therefore, what He is saying is directed to His people Yisra’el¹⁰⁹. The Christian church seems to have the idea that this statement is applied to Christians or “Christ-ians” but this is not so. It is however, applied to the Whole House of Yisra’el (that is the House of Ya’akov and the strangers that have joined with Yisra’el who obey Torah). Notice also that Yahweh tells Shelomoh that Yisra’el is to turn from their evil ways which was not following Torah.

In Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 55:6 – 8 we see a very profound statement from Yahweh to His people. However, I will only discuss returning to Yahweh’s Torah and leave the rest for another message. Yahweh says, “*Seek יְיָ while He is to be found, call on Him while He is near. Let the wrong forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts. Let him return to יְיָ, who has compassion on him, and to our Elohim, for He pardons much. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,*” declares יְיָ. Here we are told that the “wrong” or the “wicked” (as the KJV says) and the “unrighteous man” are to **stop doing what they are doing**. They are to **return to Yahweh** or, another way to say this is that they are to **return to Yahweh’s Torah**. They are not told to just stop sinning but they are told to

¹⁰⁹

The name Yisra’el means “prince of El” and also “contender with El”.

do a “U” turn – they are told to repent. Notice also the reference to our Elohim who pardons. This is Yahshua who is Salvation.

The prophet Yechezqel (Ezekiel) tells us in Yechezqel 18:21 – 23, “*But the wrong, if he turns from all his sins which he has done, and he shall guard all My laws, and shall do right-ruling and righteousness, he shall certainly live, he shall not die. All the transgressions which he has done shall not be remembered against him – in his righteousness that he has done, he shall live. Have I any pleasure in the death of the wrong?*” declares the Master **יְהוָה**. “*Is it not that he should turn from his ways, and live?*”

And also in Mal’aki (Malachi) 3:7 we are told, “*From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My laws and did not guard them. Turn back to Me, and I shall turn back to you,*” said **יְהוָה** of hosts. “*But you said, In what shall we turn back?*” This verse precedes verse 8 which is the “tithing and offering” verse that I heard in church to make the Christian feel bad for not giving money to that church. Read Mal’aki chapter 3 in context and you will see that this verse cannot be used to force you to give money to your church. Bashing you over the head with this verse to get money out of your pockets is another “guilt trip” of Christianity. Besides, haven’t you been told the “Old Testament” is done away with???? If so, then why quote something from the “Old Testament”????

REPENTANCE IN THE BRIT CHADASHAH

In Mattithyahu (Matthew) chapter 3 we continue our discussion about Yochanan the Immerser. In verses 7 and 8 we see Yochanan speaking to the P’rushim (Pharisees), “*And seeing many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his immersion, he said to them, “Brood of adders! Who has warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Bear, therefore, fruits worthy of repentance...*”. I have another paper about the P’rushim¹¹⁰ which a small portion is quoted in the footnote below. Even though the P’rushim were devoted to the principles of set-apartness they still were not following Torah according to the way that Yahweh wants His people to follow Torah. They were following the Oral Torah or the man made rules that were very stringent and made it difficult for the average person to follow the Written Torah of Yahweh.

Yahshua said to the people of the Galil in Markos (Mark) 1:14 – 15, “*...The time has been filled, and the reign of Elohim has come near. Repent, and believe in the Good News.*” What does “repent and believe in the Good News¹¹¹” mean? Well, according to Scripture we find in Ivrim (Hebrews) 4:2, “*For indeed the Good News was brought to us as well as to them, but the word which they heard did not profit them, not having been mixed with belief in those who heard it.*” Who is “them”? In Ivrim chapter 3 we can determine that the “them” is the Israelites during the 40 years in the wilderness. Remember that the Israelites in the wilderness were the House of Jacob and the strangers who had joined the House of Jacob.

¹¹⁰ A portion of that paper says, “During the Late Second Temple era, there were more than 30 sects of what we would call Judaism. This is not the Judaism of today which did not come into being until after the destruction of the Second Temple. The Hebrew word for Pharisee is P’rushim which means “separatists”. The Pharisees did not associate with the Am ha Eretz or the common people. The Pharisees regarded themselves as the practitioners of the principles of “holiness” as described in the Priestly Code of Ezra. They called themselves the “Holy Community of Jerusalem”. This may seem very egotistical and even arrogant on the surface, but the Pharisees were devoted to Judaism. “

¹¹¹ or Besorah in Hebrew

THE GOOD NEWS IS REPENTANCE

What does the “Good News” mean according to Scripture? In Markos 13:10 we read Yahshua’s words, “*And the Good News has to be proclaimed first to all the nations.*” And in Markos 16:15 Yahshua also says, “*Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News to every creature.*” In Ma’aseh Shlichim (Acts) 8:4 we read, “*Then those who had been scattered went everywhere bringing the Good News: the Word!*” And also in 15:35, “*And Sha’ul and Barnabah continued in Antioch, teaching and bringing, with many others also, the Good News: the Word of ה'!*” We have already seen above that the Word is Torah.

The concept of repentance and returning our hearts back to the Good News or “Gospel” of the Torah is supported by Yahshua Who sent out His talmidim in Markos 6:7 – 12, “*And He called the twelve near, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over unclean spirits. And He instructed them ... And they went out and proclaimed that men should repent.*”

Kefa (“Peter”) who was not the first pope!) speaks to Jewish leaders in Jerusalem in Ma’aseh Shlichim (Acts) 3:19 and says, “*Repent therefore and turn back, for the blotting out of your sins, in order that times of refreshing might come from the presence of the Master...*” From this passage I get the idea that repenting to Yahweh’s Torah produces times of refreshing from Yahshua.

Again in Ma’aseh Shlichim 11:17 – 18 we read, “*So if Elohim gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Master משיח Messiah, how was I able to withstand Elohim? And having heard this, they were silent, and praised Elohim, saying, Then Elohim has indeed also given to the gentiles repentance to life.¹¹²”* This “repentance that leads to life” is from Torah. In Devarim (Deuteronomy) 32:46 – 47 we read, “*...he [Moshe] said to them, Set your heart on all the words with which I warn you today, so that you command your children to guard to do all the Words of this Torah. For it is not a worthless Word for you, because it is your life, and by this Word you prolong your days on the soil which you pass over the Yarden to possess.*” (note is mine for clarity). This then has to mean that Elohim’s gift to the gentiles of repentance was a turning to His Torah and not continuing in their pagan ways.

After Yahshua had risen and He met with His talmidim we read in Luka 24:45 – 47, “*Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, Thus it has been written, and so it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His Name to all nations, beginning at Yerushalayim.*”

It looks to me like there is more said here than first meets the eye. In verse 45 Yahshua opens their minds so that they would understand the Scriptures. Is this similar to Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 31:33 where He puts the Torah in our minds and in our hearts? Verse 47 tells me that they were to teach Torah to all the nations and proclaim His Name (Yahshua). By teaching Torah to all the nations then people of the nations (pagans) would hear the Torah and turn from their evil ways (rebellion, baal worship, etc.) and turn to Torah. This is the Good News!

And for the Christian that continues to say that they are “under grace and not under the law” and they don’t have to do all that “Old Testament stuff”. Rav Sha’ul (“Paul” to you) says in Ma’aseh

¹¹² This verse references Ma’aseh Shlichim 10:35 – “*but in every nation, he who fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.*”

Shlichim 17:30, “Truly, then, having overlooked these times of ignorance, **Elohim now commands all men everywhere to repent...**” This means that ALL¹¹³ must live by Yahweh’s Torah.

Sha’ul also says in Ma’aseh Shlichim 20:17 – 21, “*And from Miletos he [Sha’ul] sent to Ephesos and called for the elders of the assembly. And when they had come to him, he said to them, “You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, how I was with you all the time, serving the Master with all humility, with many tears and trials which befell me by the plotting of the Yahudim, as I kept back no matter that was profitable, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, witnessing to Yahudim, and also to Greeks [gentiles, among others, possibly Yehudim or Ephraim who have been assimilated and may not even know who they are]: repentance toward Elohim and belief in our Master משיח Messiah.”* (note is mine for clarity). Sha’ul is telling both Jews and Gentiles that they must repent and return to Torah which produces belief in Yahshua. This was another chance for the Christian version of “Paul” to do away with “the law” but he did not. This also should tell the Messianic Jewish community that Rav Sha’ul expected the gentile as well as the Jew to follow Torah¹¹⁴. By the way, in Ma’aseh Shlichim 20:16 we read, “*For Sha’ul had decided to sail past Ephesos, so that he might lose no time in Asia, for he was hurrying to be at Yerushalayim, if possible, on the Day of the Festival of Weeks.*” The day of the Festival of Weeks is Shavuot or what the church refers to as “Pentecost” and is found in Vayikrah (Leviticus) 23:10 – 21. If the Christian version of “Paul” started a new religion doing away with the “Jewish law” or the “law of Moses”, then why was he hurrying to get to Jerusalem for Shavuot????¹¹⁵

We also see Sha’ul speaking to King Agrippa in Ma’aseh Shlichim 26:19 – 20, “*Therefore, Sovereign Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus and in Yerushalayim, and in all the country of Yahudah, and to the gentiles, that they should repent, and turn to Elohim, and do works worthy of repentance.*” Again Rav. Sha’ul is saying that the gentiles are responsible to Torah. They are to repent of being gentiles (pagans) and turn to Yahweh to become Israel. Also note they are to “do works worthy of repentance”. This has absolutely nothing to do with “works of the law” which is rigid adherence to man made rules and NOT to Torah commands.

SIN IS TORAH-LESS-NESS

By now we should have an idea of what “sin” is. Sin, or חטא (“Chet”) in Hebrew, conveys the “underlying idea of missing the mark, or deviating from the goal”¹¹⁶. I think that the best Scriptural definition of this is found in Yochanan Alef (1 John) 3:4 which says, “*everyone doing sin also does lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.*”. The King James says it this way, “*Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*” (Emphasis mine).

¹¹³ That means you!

¹¹⁴ I make this statement because in present day Messianic Judaism the Jew by birth is required to follow Torah but the “gentile” or the non-Jew by birth is required to follow the “seven Noachian laws” which are NOT found in Scripture. The question is then “where are they found?” They are found in the Talmud at Sanhedrin 56a, and Melachim 9:1. See page 53 of the Stone Edition Chumash.

¹¹⁵ Remember the law of contexts and the fact that there is no Scripture contradicting Scripture stated elsewhere in this message? This Scripture is true and many others about Rav Sha’ul verifying and supporting the believer’s requirement to follow Torah are true. Thus the teaching that “Galatians chapter 3 does away with the law” is a doctrine of demons to be avoided!

¹¹⁶ The New Bible Dictionary, (Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.) 1962.

Sin is transgression of Torah (or the law) – which is lawlessness. I think this whole definition of sin is missed in Christian circles. I think that the reason is that we are using the phrase “transgression of Torah (or the law)” as part of the definition of sin. Some of Christian people don’t want to deal with this “law thing”, besides, isn’t the law done away with? Isn’t the “law” associated with the “Old Testament”? Aren’t we under grace and not under the law? Then how can sin be a transgression of something we are not under?

Maybe some Christian people, particularly the theologians and church leadership, are going to change this definition to something like “sin is not doing what you’re supposed to do” to make it a little more palatable and not so strong. Or maybe some Christian people will say, “I’m a former sinner saved by grace – so, for me, there is no such thing as sin”. I have heard this very statement made as justification for not following Torah. This softens sin to just “being bad” and the Christian expects that Yahweh is just going to wink at their sin because they are “saved by grace”, “under the blood”, covered by the blood” or “once saved, always saved” or some other Christian nonsense. Yahweh does not wink at sin especially amongst His people. **To Him sin is the transgression of HIS Torah – period!**

When discussing the definition of sin we could bring in a great deal of Jewish and Christian theology to define it and reduce its seriousness. The Jewish theologian could say that sin is “yetzer hara” or our evil inclination. We could also argue between two philosophies that state “man sins because he is a sinner” or that “man is a sinner because he sins”¹¹⁷. However, I like to take things down to their roots. I want to get down to the basics. I want things simple! **Sin is the transgression of Torah. Transgression of the Torah is Torah-less-ness. Torah-less-ness is lawlessness.** Well, that’s pretty clear!!!!!!

What does Yahshua say about those that are Torah-less or lawless? Mattithyahu (Matthew) 7:21 – 23 which says, “*Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Master, Master,’ shall enter into the reign of the heavens, but he who is doing the desire of My Father in the heavens. Many shall say to Me in that day, ‘Master, Master, have we not prophesied in Your Name, and cast out demons in Your Name, and done many mighty works in Your Name?’ And then I shall declare to them, ‘I never knew you, depart from Me, you who work lawlessness.’*” Yahshua will not wink at the sin of the Christian no matter what excuses they make. He wrote the Torah, remember?

YAHSHUA DISCUSSES THE MISSION OF YOCHANAN THE IMMERSER

In Mattithyahu (Matthew) 17:10 – 13 we read, “*And His taught ones asked Him, saying, ‘Why then do the scribes say that Eliyahu has to come first?’ And יְהוֹשֻׁעַ answering, said to them, ‘Eliyahu is indeed coming first, and shall restore all matters. But I say to you that Eliyahu has already come, and they did not recognise him but did to him whatever they wished. In this way the Son of Adam is also about to suffer by them.’ Then the taught ones understood that He had spoken to them about Yochanan the Immerser.*”

In Luka (Luke) 1:17, it says of Yochanan that he is to “...go before him in the spirit and power of Eliyahu, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children...” which references Mal’aki (Malachi) 4:5 which says, “*See, I am sending you Eliyahu the prophet before the coming of the great and awesome day of יְהוָה*”.

¹¹⁷ Louis Jacobs, 1973, *A Jewish Theology*, (West Orange, New Jersey, Behrman House) page 246.

From what we read in the Renewed Covenant Scriptures quoted above, that the spirit of Eliyahu will come before Yahshua's physical arrival¹¹⁸. In the Mattithyahu Scripture above we see that Yahshua clearly says that Yochanan is the spiritual representation of Eliyahu and that he will "restore all matters". In Mattithyahu (Matthew) 3:1 -2 we read that Yochanan said, "*Repent, for the reign of the heavens has come near!*" So it appears that Yochanan's ministry should parallel Eliyahu's ministry. If this is so then I would think that we would see that Eliyahu's ministry dealt mostly with repentance and restoration of "all things". So we should examine what Eliyahu did.

THE MINISTRY OF ELIYAHU

During the years 874 – 853 BCE King Ahab reigned over Israel (the northern 10 tribes) and he was very evil. His wife Jezebel was even more evil and followed after the religion of her father which was Baal worship. In Melechim Alef (1 Kings) 16:31 we see that Ahab married Jezebel the daughter of Ethba'al. The Hebrew for Ethba'al is **אֶתְבַּעַל** which means "with baal", consequently, Jezebel is from "with baal". We shall see much more of her later.

In Melechim Alef (1 Kings) 18:17 – 18 we read the encounter between Eliyahu and King Ahab, "*And it came to be, when Ahab saw Eliyahu, that Ahab said to him, 'Is that you, O disturber of Yisra'el?' And he answered, 'I have not disturbed Yisra'el, but you and your father's house, in that you have forsaken the commands of יְיָ, and you have followed the Ba'als.'*" It is clear that the prophet of Yahweh is telling the King that he is worshipping the ba'als and that Yahweh knows about it.

A Scriptural fact is that a prophet of Yahweh will show the people of Yahweh that they have departed from His Torah. We can see this in Melechim Bet (2 Kings) 17:13 which says, "*And יְיָ warned Yisra'el and Yahudah, through all of His prophets, and every seer, saying, 'Turn back from your evil ways, and guard My commands and My laws, according to all the Torah which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets.'*" This is speaking to both houses of Israel not just Yisra'el (Ephraim) or Yahudah (Jews). As we continue to read through the Tanakh we will see that Yisra'el and Yahudah constantly disobeyed Yahweh's Torah and He punished them accordingly. Eliyahu is filling this role as a prophet of Yahweh by telling King Ahab that he is disobeying Torah.

ELIYAHU CONFRONTS THE PROPHETS OF BA'AL

In Melechim Alef (1 Kings) 18:19 – 22 we read the account of Eliyahu confronting the prophets of Ba'al, "*And now, send and gather all Yisra'el to me on Mount Karmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Ba'al, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Izebel's [Jezebel's] table. Ahab then sent for all the children of Yisra'el, and gathered the prophets on Mount Karmel. And Eliyahu came to all the people, and said, 'How long would you keep hopping between two opinions? If יְיָ is Elobim, follow Him; and if Ba'al, follow him.'*" **But the people answered him not a word.** *And Eliyahu said to the people, 'I alone am left a prophet of יְיָ, but the prophets of Ba'al are four hundred and fifty men.'*" It is my opinion that verse 21 is the saddest verse in Scripture.

¹¹⁸ I will not discuss the events of Yochanan's birth and the association with Yahshua's birth in this message but suffice it to say that Yochanan's arrival preceded Yahshua's.

Eliyahu challenges the prophets of Ba'al to a "cook off" of sorts. In Melechim Alef 18:23 – 29 Eliyahu gives them a challenge. He tells them and Yisra'el that each is to have a bull and prepare for a sacrifice. He tells the prophets of Ba'al to call on their mighty-one to light the fire and he will call on Yahweh to light the fire of his sacrifice. Verse 24 says, "*And you shall call on the name of your mighty one, and I, I call on the Name of יהוה. And the Elohim who answers by fire, He is Elohim.*" *So all the people answered and said, "The word is good."* Personally I think this was a trick on Eliyahu's part. As a true prophet of Yahweh he knew that only Yahweh could answer with fire because He is real and Ba'al is not.

In Melechim Alef (1 Kings) 18:29 we read of the prophets of Ba'al, "*And it came to be when midday was past, that they prophesied until the time of bringing the evening offering. But there was no voice and no one answered, and no one paying attention.*" Well, nothing happened! But, notice the phrase "...time of bringing the evening offering...". This phrase might get missed but it represents something very important pertaining to the time that Eliyahu will present his sacrifice. He will perform the sacrifice according to Torah¹¹⁹ and not according to his own convenience. If he had performed the sacrifice at any other time then he, as a prophet of Yahweh, would have been demonstrating that it is not necessary to follow Yahweh's set-apart times.

ELIYAHU HEALS THE ALTAR OF YAHWEH

In Melechim Alef (1 Kings) 18:30 we read, "*Then Eliyahu said to all the people, "Come closer to me." And all the people came closer to him. And he repaired the altar of יהוה that was broken down.*" Notice that the word "repaired" is used to describe what Eliyahu did. The Hebrew word used here is רפא or "roh-feh" which actually means "heal". The word for repair would be תקן or "tik-un". The altar of Yahweh was broken down because the people of Yisra'el under Ahab and Jezebel turned their backs on Yahweh's Torah and went whoring after the Ba'als. The altar, representing the relationship between Israel and Yahweh, needed to be **healed** rather than just fixed.

In Mattithyahu (Matthew) 17:11 we read Yahshua's words in reference to the ministry of Yochanan that he "...*shall restore all matters*...". It is apparent that Yahshua is saying that Yochanan's ministry is to cause Yisra'el to repent which restores or heals their relationship with Yahweh. Then, in the spirit of Torah obedience, Yisra'el can come before Him. Thus, Yochanan is doing the same thing as Eliyahu did.

In Melechim Alef (1 Kings) 18:31 – 32 we read, "*And Eliyahu took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Ya'akov, to whom the word of יהוה had come, saying, "Yisra'el is your name." And with the stones he built an altar in the Name of יהוה.*" Why twelve stones? This whole event was taking place before Ahab and Jezebel and the northern ten tribes of Yisra'el or Ephraim and did not involve the southern tribes of Yahudah and Binyamin. It appears to be that the healing that Eliyahu and the restoration of Yochanan will involve restoring the Whole House of Israel. Eliyahu's healing is not a band-aid on a sore but a full healing and restoration of the twelve tribes.

¹¹⁹

See Shemot 29:39 and 41.

As we see in Melechim Alef 18:30 that this healing is happening before “all the people” and the prophets of Ba’al (verses 19 – 22) and Ahab and Jezebel. What they are witnessing is a kind of precursor to the final restoration of the Whole House of Israel by Messiah Yahshua¹²⁰.

THE SACRIFICE IS SET FIRE BY YAHWEH

In Melechim Alef (1 Kings) 18:32 – 38 Eliyahu has the people prepare the sacrifice by pouring water on it which is going to make it hard to light. This kinda defeats the purpose unless Yahweh has something in store for the people of Israel to show His power. Verse 36 says, “*And it came to be, at the time of bringing the evening offering, that Eliyahu the prophet came near and said, “יְהוָה Elohim of Avraham, Yitzchak and Yisra’el, let it be known today: You are Elohim in Yisra’el, and I, Your servant, have done all these matters by Your word.”* Notice that the lighting of the sacrifice was to be “...at the time of bringing the evening offering...” which is in accordance with Yahweh’s Torah commands. Eliyahu did not act presumptuously and “show off”, as it were, and call down fire at his convenience but he did “...all these matters by Your word.”

This is important to understand. He did not change Torah or change the time for the offering to what he wanted to do. He did not change the time of the offering to match the time of the offering to Ba’al. For him to have changed the time would have been rebellion against Yahweh’s Torah. We will see more of the result of rebellion to Yahweh's Torah later in this message.

In Melechim Alef 18:37 we read, “*Answer me, O יְהוָה, answer me, and let this people know that You are יְהוָה Elohim, and You shall turn their hearts back to You again.*” Notice that Eliyahu did not say that he wanted Yahweh to show the people what a great prophet he is and that **he** is turning the hearts of the people to Yahweh. He is giving the glory to Yahweh and the mentioning of himself is purely incidental. In verse 38 we read, “*Then the fire of יְהוָה fell and consumed the burnt offering, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.*” What happened was something greater than simply lighting a fire; Yahweh consumed the offering and the altar. Only He could do such a thing.

At the sight of such a fantastic thing “... all the people saw, and fell on their faces, and said, “יְהוָה, He is the Elohim! יְהוָה, He is the Elohim!” It took a dazzling show for the people of Israel to decided that Yahweh was Elohim and not the Ba’al. This is sad because they were Yahweh’s people but their kings before them were evil and did not follow the Torah of Yahweh. Thus, the Israelites would be lead astray and go whoring after the Ba’als in rebellion to Yahweh.

¹²⁰ For more detailed information on the restoration of the Whole House of Israel go to www.yourarmstoisrael.org and there are two papers on the restoration. You might also read “Restoring the Two Houses of Israel” by Chumney, Eddie (Serenity Books, Hagerstown, Maryland 1999) and “Who is Israel and Why You Need To Know” or “Ephraim and Judah, Israel Revealed” by Batya Wooten (Key of David Publishing, Saint Cloud, Florida 1998).

ELIYAHU GIVES THE GLORY TO YAHWEH

In Melechim Alef 18:37 we have read that Eliyahu prayed to Yahweh, “*Answer me, O יהוה, answer me, and let this people know that You are יהוה Elobim, and You shall turn their hearts back to You again.*” It is clear that he is giving the glory to Yahweh.

Yahshua sets the same example in many places in the Brit Chadashah where He gives the glory to Yahweh even onto His own death. As an example in Yochanan (John) 12:28 we read Yahshua’s words, “*Father, esteem Your Name.’ Then a voice came from the heaven, ‘I have both esteemed it and shall esteem it again.’*”. The KJV says, “...*Father, glorify thy Name...*” which is a popular praise and worship song in the church. My question to the church is; if you are singing about glorifying the Name then why are you not using it?

REPLACEMENT – DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY

There are two concepts within Christian theology that seem to be the cornerstone of the NTOC¹²¹. These are replacement theology and dispensational theology. These two concepts are taught to the Christian pastors and theologians and others that attend Christian “cemeteries”¹²². The NTOC pastors and assistant pastors and others within the church use these two concepts for ALL their teachings and writings. Christian books, Sunday school classes, Bible studies, preaching, teaching and everything else is tainted by these two concepts. This Replacement/Dispensational Theology replaces Yahweh’s Torah with the church’s “Oral Torah” or the commandments of men!¹²³

REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY

It appears that the definition of “replacement theology” is a bit illusive. In some denominations and some individual churches, either denominational or non-denominational¹²⁴, “Replacement Theology” is defined as:

“God is done with the Jews and now the new Israel is the church”¹²⁵.

¹²¹ New Testament Only Christianity (NTOC) or New Testament Only Church depending on context. This is that group that believes that, “because of Jesus”, the “New Covenant” under Him is now in force and the “Old Covenant” is passed away or “nailed to the cross” or done away with or similar phrases. This group believes that they are not under the “Jewish Law” or the “Law of Moses” or even under the “Old Testament” and that none of that applies to them. This is not a becoming term and I make no apology for it.

¹²² I deliberately use the word “cemetery” rather than “seminary” because a cemetery is a place of death which, as you will see, is the end result of replacement and dispensational theology.

¹²³ Hint, hint! This is the same thing that Yahshua complained about the Pharisees and their practices. They had placed the Oral Torah above the Written Torah – they had placed the “Works of the Law” above the Written Torah.

¹²⁴ I am not referring to the fringe “white power” groups or similar groups. Their “theology” is based on racism and some really strange “interpretations” of Scripture.

¹²⁵ This is not an actual quote but a representative statement of a typical replacement church or group.

One of these NTOC groups base their theology on a concept that their God is “done with the Jews” because the Jews would not accept their Jesus as “the Christ”. So “the Jews” are gone and relegated to eternal damnation. Now, according to this concept, the NTOC becomes the “bride of Christ”. Another very important part of this NTOC theology is the concept that the **entire** “Old Testament” is done away with. These groups will use quite a bit of Bible quotes, mostly from the Christian version of “Paul”, to “prove” their concepts. ALL of these quotes violate the hermeneutic principle of context and no contradictions in Scripture principle stated above. Thus, their theology is flawed¹²⁶.

The second group openly has a “heart for Israel” or they “support Israel” but, like the first group they consider that the “law” and the “Old Testament” are done away with and they are now under “grace” and not under the law. I call this type of “grace” “greasy grace” in that it is very slippery allowing the “graced” Christian to openly and deliberately violate Torah believing they are forgiven or “under the blood” or something like that.



“Under the Blood”

HOW THE CHURCH USES REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY

The most obvious and, to me, the most disturbing result of the NTOC’s use of replacement theology puts the church in the position Yahshua was discussing in Mattithyahu (Matthew) 5:17 – 19, “*Do not think that I came to destroy the Torah or the Prophets¹²⁷. I did not come to destroy but to complete. For truly, I say to you, till the heaven and the earth pass away, one jot or one tittle shall by no means pass from the Torah till all be done. Whoever, then, breaks one of the least of these commands, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the reign of the heavens; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the reign of the heavens.*”

¹²⁶ I have made these statements before to other groups and I have had antagonistic detractors interrogate me with questions such as “Well, what education do you have to make such comments?” or “Where do you come off thinking you know more than someone with a PhD in theology?” My usual comment is “I do not have the learning disability of a PhD in theology so I can read and understand Scripture”. In our congregation in Florida we had an older woman who kept telling us that she had been so deceived all the years she was in church and then finally she discovered Yahweh’s Torah truth. She had very poor reading skills until only 10 or so years before we met her because of dyslexia which produced difficulty reading. If she can understand Yahweh’s Torah truth in His whole of Scripture then why can’t an over-educated theologian understand?

¹²⁷ The Law and the Prophets is a term used for the pre-Messianic Scriptures.

These are “red letter” words for the King James people so there is no doubt Who said them. Verse 19 should be very clear so how come verses in the Christian version of “Paul’s” letters “do away with” this clear teaching of Yahshua¹²⁸.

If you think that I am just making a “mountain out of a mole hill”, let me quote a few articles I found in the Logos program study notes¹²⁹. I did research on what Christianity teaches about the true Sabbath and found some of these notes reflecting a Replacement/Dispensational Theology. According to Warren W. Wiersbe, the book of Galatians “does away with the law”. He says, “Galatians is God’s strongest word against legalism. The flesh loves to do things religious—celebrate holy days, practice rituals, attempt to do good works for God. Many religious systems today mix law and grace and present a garbled, confused way of salvation that is actually a way of bondage (Gal. 2:4; 4:9; 5:1). Keeping the Sabbath, dietary laws, an earthly priesthood, holy days, obeying rules—all of these are swept away in Galatians and replaced by the glorious liberty the believer has through faith in Christ!¹³⁰” He further says, “Rom. 2:14 and Acts 15:24 make it clear that God never gave the Law to the Gentiles. The moral law was already written in the Gentiles’ hearts (Rom. 2:15). But the ceremonial law (including the Sabbath laws) was never given to the Gentiles. The law was “added” and was not a replacement for the Abrahamic promises. Once the Seed (Christ) came, the Law was superseded.”

I must refute Dr. Wiesbe and his deception. He used the word “legalism” which is a word found nowhere in Scripture. According to the Encarta Dictionary “legalism” means, “strict adherence to a literal interpretation of a law, rule, or religious or moral code”. I have had many NTOC pastors and other religious types bash me over the head with this word in one form or another to refute what I was teaching about the Torah being still in effect. Following Torah is not “legalism” but following the NTOC rules, laws, and religious “moral codes” that are not a part of Torah are “legalism”. Dr. Wiesbe states that, “the flesh loves to do things religious...” – NOT SO!!! It is the natural nature of man NOT to obey Yahweh and to do what is right in man’s own eyes (Do I need to remind you of the incident in the garden where there was only ONE command?). To “celebrate holy days, practice rituals, do good works ... keep the Sabbath, dietary laws, etc. are Yahshua’s commands to His people (read the rest of this message if you have missed this point). Dr. Wiesbe is leading you astray – he is deceiving you! He is **lying** to you! Furthermore, Dr. Wiesbe does not seem to understand the difference between “exegesis” (determine the original meaning of the text and base your theology on that) and “eisegesis” (reading a meaning into the text and creating a theology). If you follow his teaching then one day you will hear the words recorded in Mattithyahu (Matthew) 7:21 – 23 spoken to you by Yahshua!

Dr. Wiesbe also says that the “law” was not given to the gentiles. Actually this is true. The gentiles are NOT Yahweh’s people and they do not have the Torah. However, Dr. Wiesbe quotes Romiyah (Romans) 2:15 but please read 2 verses up from there to get the whole picture. As a matter of fact, read all of Romiyah following the rules of Context and no contradictions and you will see that Rav.

¹²⁸ The actual reason for this is the NTOC’s misunderstanding of the word “law” and “law” used in the “Paulian letters”. One “law” is referring to the oral law or man’s law and the other refers to Torah or the written law. For an in-depth and scholarly study of this topic buy the book “Galatians” by Avi ben Mordechai at www.millennium7000.org. You owe it to your self to read this important book. You will clearly see that you have been taught lies and deception (Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 16:19).

¹²⁹ The Logos “study notes” are from a very “New Testament Only Christianity” perspective and strongly reflect a replacement / dispensational theology.

¹³⁰ Warren W. Wiersbe, *Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the New Testament*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books) 1992.

Sha'ul (not the NTOC "Paul") does not "do away with Torah" and it cannot be used to justify this false teaching.

According to J. I. Packer we are told, "Under the new covenant, in which Old Testament types give way to their antitypes, Christ's priesthood, sacrifice, and intercession supersede the entire Mosaic system for putting away sin (Heb. 7–10); baptism (Matt. 28:19) and the Lord's Supper (Matt. 26:26–29; 1 Cor. 11:23–26) replace circumcision (Gal. 2:3–5; 6:12–16) and Passover (1 Cor. 5:7–8); the Jewish festal calendar no longer binds (Gal. 4:10; Col. 2:16)..."¹³¹ What Dr. Packer has said here is entirely false according to the rules of Context and no contradictions.

Benjamin Blech states of NTOC "Christianity therefore rejected the law and gave a new interpretation to the Covenant at Sinai. This is the crucial distinction between the Old Testament and the New. The Torah was assuredly given to the Jewish¹³² people at Mount Sinai, but its laws were no longer binding, according to Christianity." And he also states, "How could God have given directives that He Himself later saw fit to change?"¹³³ This is a good question.

According to NTOC teaching we find that it is assumed that the book of Acts is considered a transitional book with little theology and is often used to show the Christian that following the law is no longer necessary. It shows us a shifting of the followers of "Jesus" from mostly Jewish to mostly Gentile. Many Bible scholars have gone way beyond the context of the text of Acts. For example, Merrill C. Tenney, in his book "*New Testament Introduction*" (which is used as a major text in many Bible colleges) states:

"Since Paul was the leader of the Gentile mission, he deserves primary attention, and the explanation of the **transition from Jew to Gentile, from law to grace**, and from **Palestine to the empire** did not call for a comprehensive survey of all that took place in the missionary growth of the Christian church. For Luke's purpose the presentation of this one phase was sufficient." (Merrill C. Tenney, *New Testament Introduction* (Leicester, 1961, 1988), pg. 234.) [emphasis is mine].

Notice that Tenney (and many other scholars) states that Acts is describing not just a transition from a predominantly Jewish body of Messiah, but to a Gentile body and a transition "from law to grace"! To be sure, this in only one paragraph taken from a vast body of literature with probably thousands of scholars. Most of those scholars agree with the above statement so it would be safe to assume that this represents a consensus. I would also like to make note of his comment "...from Palestine to the empire...". What "empire" – the "Holy Roman Empire" or the Roman Catholic Church.

CHANGING THE SABBATH DAY

To me the most horrendous error of NTOC replacement theology is changing the Torah Commanded Seventh Day Shabbat to the pagan "day of the sun" or Sun-day¹³⁴. There are more excuses and misuse of Scripture in the material that I found in the Logos research material and elsewhere than you can shake a stick at. However, there were a few articles that stuck out. One of

¹³¹ Packer, J. I., *Concise Theology*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.) 1993.

¹³² Most Jewish theologians, scholars and teachers consider that "Israel" = "Jews" as in only one tribe – the tribe of Judah.

¹³³ Benjamin Blech, *Understanding Judaism*, p xviii

¹³⁴ There is more on the "day of the sun" elsewhere in this message.

them being, “The Sabbath was dear to the Jews, since it was God’s special covenant sign to the nation (Ex. 31:12–17). However, the religious leaders had turned this day of spiritual blessing and joy into a day of legal observances, and the rules made their Sabbath a burden, not a blessing. **Keep in mind that the Sabbath was never given to the church. Our covenant day is the first day of the week, the Lord’s Day, the day of resurrection.**”¹³⁵ [emphasis mine!!!!] Again Dr. Wiesbe is leading you astray.

Furthermore this NTOC theology is taught to church children. “What makes Sunday special? The Pharisees tried to keep the Sabbath by restricting what a person could do on that day. Help children avoid this sterile approach to worship. Emphasize the things we do to make Sunday special. Include of course going to Sunday School and church. Let the children add other things as well. Do they have family traditions—visiting relatives, taking family trips, etc.—that bond the Christian family closer together?”¹³⁶ So the parents teach the child the deception of the NTOC by bringing them to church and encouraging them to participate in church activities. “*Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he turns not away from it.*” Mishli (Proverbs) 22:6 must not apply I guess.

We note in Mal’aki (Malachi) 3:6 that Yahweh says of Himself, “*For I am אלהים, I shall not change...*” and in Yaakov (James) 1:17 we read, “*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no change, nor shadow of turning.*” And also in Ivrim (Hebrews) 13:8 we read, “*דוֹשֵׁעַ Messiah is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.*” This is Scriptural Truth which completely refutes the NTOC theologies that “do away with the law” and change things to former gentile – pagan ways.

THE NTOC IS GENTILE

According to most of the material that I found in Logos and elsewhere, the NTOC is gentile. A “gentile” is the same as “the nations” and they are pagan! The gentiles do not follow Yahweh’s Torah and they are not a part of the Whole House of Israel and they will NEVER be a part of it unless they repent (turn from their rebellion and follow Torah). Yahweh did not make a covenant with the gentiles, He made a covenant only with Israel. The gentile must convert **to Israel** and not the other way around as the NTOC teaches. **The gentile must be grafted into the Whole House of Israel and not the other way around.** That gentile then is adopted as an Israelite and is required to follow Torah as I have stated elsewhere in this message.

Come-on now, think about it! A couple adopts a Korean baby¹³⁷ and brings it into their home. Will they bring the baby up according to their own lifestyle, beliefs, and customs or will they just let the baby continue to be a Korean and keep the Korean lifestyle, beliefs and customs? Look at what Ruth did! She gave up her former pagan ways and became a non-gentile. She became an Israelite! She adopted into her mother in law, Na’omi’s belief system even though Na’omi told her to go to her old mighty-ones. You might also notice that Ruth is in the lineage of Yahshua.

¹³⁵ Warren W. Wiesbe, *Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the New Testament*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books) 1992.

¹³⁶ Richards, Lawrence O., *The Teacher’s Commentary*, (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books) 1987.

¹³⁷ I use this illustration only because I know a couple that had adopted a Korean baby because it was so hard to adopt an American baby.

Just for a Scripture study look up the use of the word “gentile” in the “Old Testament” and then tell me if you want to be one of those. Also see Gilyahna (Revelation) 21:12 where you will read, “...and having a great and high wall, *having twelve gates, and at the gates twelve messengers, and names written on them, which are those of the twelve tribes of the children of Yisrael.*” Did you notice that the “gentile gate” is missing???? There is **no** gentile gate! You will be an Israelite (either a natural born Israelite or a stranger grafted into the Whole House of Israel) in order to enter the “...*great city, the set-apart Yerusalyim...*” (verse 21:10). If not, you will be outside. Yahshua has much to say on this topic and I leave it to you to search it out.

DISPENSATIONALIST THEOLOGY

“A dispensationalist is simply one who recognizes that God deals differently with people in different ages or economies. ... *One who worships on Sunday instead of Saturday is also a dispensationalist, because he recognizes the Sabbath was for Israel, not the church* (Exod. 20:8–11).”¹³⁸

“Dispensationalists teach that God has a distinct program for Israel¹³⁹ and a distinct program for the church. The commands given to one are not the commands to the other; the promises to the one are not the promises to the other. God calls on Israel to keep the Sabbath (Exod. 20:8–11), but the church keeps the Lord’s Day (1 Cor. 16:2). *Israel is the wife of Yahweh (Hos. 3:1), but the church is the Body of Christ (Col. 1:27).*”¹⁴⁰

Dispensation is also described as, “The method or scheme according to which God carries out his purposes towards men is called a dispensation. *There are usually reckoned three dispensations*, the Patriarchal, the Mosaic or Jewish, and the **Christian**. These were so many stages in God’s unfolding of his purpose of *grace toward men*. The word is not found with this meaning in Scripture.”¹⁴¹ Notice Easton’s use of the word “grace”.

In the King James Version, the word “dispensation” appears 4 times. They are at Korintyah Alef (1 Corinthians) 9:17, Ephsiyah (Ephesians) 1:10 and 3:2 and Kolesayah (Colossians) 1:25. The word “dispensation” is Strong’s G3622 which is the Greek word “oikonomia” meaning “*administration* (of a household or estate); specifically a (religious) “economy”: - dispensation, stewardship.” This is the word used in each of the four verses in the KJV. However, The Scriptures uses the word “administration” instead. The Scriptures does not use the word to indicate a distinct segment of time.

According to the Webster 1828 Dictionary¹⁴², the word “dispensation” can mean, “That which is dispensed or bestowed; a system of principles and rites enjoined; as the Mosaic dispensation; the gospel dispensation; including, the former the Levitical law and rites; the latter the scheme of redemption by Christ.” According to what I have studied and seen of the NTOC, this means

¹³⁸ Enns, Paul, *The Moody Handbook of Theology*, (Chicago, Ill.: Moody Press) 1996.

¹³⁹ Dispensationalists and NTOC also consider that Israel consists of the Jews and no one else.

¹⁴⁰ Enns, Paul, *The Moody Handbook of Theology*, (Chicago, Ill.: Moody Press) 1996.

¹⁴¹ Easton, M. G., M. A. D. D., *Easton’s Bible Dictionary*, (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.) 1996.

¹⁴² Noah Webster, LL. D. *An American Dictionary of the English Language*. (Originally published in two volumes by S. Converse, 1828, Facsimile Edition by Foundation for American Christian Education, San Francisco, Calif., 1985)

something like “God” slicing up His relationship with humans into time frames and when one time frame (dispensation) was complete, it was discarded in favor of the next.

However, Webster also defines “dispensation” as, “The granting of a license, or the license itself, to do what is forbidden by laws or canons, or to omit something which is commanded; that is, the dispensing with a law or canon, or the exemption of a particular person from the obligation to comply with its injunctions. ...” The same dictionary defines “license” as, “Excess of liberty; exorbitant freedom; freedom abused, or used in contempt of law or decorum”.

It seems the NTOC assumes that the current “Christian dispensation” is one of “grace” and that “grace” implies merciful, kind, favor, beneficent, benevolent, compassionate. The NTOC considers the antonym of “grace” to be “domineering, dominating, cruel, rigorous, hard, exacting, austere, severe, stern, ungracious”. Because “law”, according to NTOC theology, is the antithesis of “grace” then “law” seems to be defined by the antonyms of grace. The NTOC has really changed Yahweh’s grace into license. They have become a law unto themselves and replacement – dispensational theology has smoothed the way for the Christian church to disregard Yahweh’s Torah.

Dispensationalism directly opposes the Scriptures quoted above that state that Yahweh does not change. Those Scriptures are True because Scripture is True therefore dispensationalism and replacement theology are false!

WE HAVE INHERITED LIES

I have already stated that I grew up in the Christian church and considered myself a “good Christian”¹⁴³. I attended church regularly and Sunday school and even Bible studies. I did have a problem with some of the Scripture that I read that did not agree with what the church was teaching me as true but I reasoned I just did not have the theological training to fully understand. I remember that I asked our senior pastor of a main denomination church some questions and he told me something like I did not have the theological training to understand those things and that theologians had worked all those things out long ago. Well, he was doctor so-and-so therefore he must know and who was I to question him?

Eventually I came to a true understanding of Torah truth and a true understanding of who Yahshua is. I don’t want to bore you with the story so we’ll skip it but when I discovered that I had been taught lies, deception, and the doctrines of demons, I was furious with the entire Christian church¹⁴⁴. For the NTOC pastors who are teaching and misleading their people I must quote what Yahweh says through the prophet Yirmeyahu “*For the shepherds have become brutish, and they have not sought יְיָ. Therefore they did not understand, and all their flock scattered.*” (Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 10:21). Your flock is scattered here and there to every whisper of doctrine and teaching they hear. You have not sought Yahweh but your own understanding. Some of you do not even believe in Him anyway!

An indictment against the NTOC pastors misleading their flock is found in Yirmeyahu 23:1 – 2 which says, “*Woe to the shepherds destroying and scattering the sheep of My pasture! Declares יְיָ. Therefore*

¹⁴³ Whatever that is supposed to mean.

¹⁴⁴ You may detect some of this animosity in my writing. It is not directed at you personally unless you are a pastor or teacher of people and you are teaching these doctrines of demons.

thus said **אלהים** Elohim of Yisra'el against the shepherds who feed My people, “You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and have not tended them. See, I am punishing you for the evil of your deeds,” declares **אלהים**.” The KJV uses the word “pastors” instead of “shepherds” in these Yirmeyahu verses.

But Christian, do not despair for Yahweh continues in Yirmeyahu 23:4 by saying, “And I shall raise up shepherds over them, and they shall feed them. And they shall fear no more, nor be discouraged, nor shall they be lacking,” declares **אלהים**.” The KJV uses the word “shepherd” in this verse. And also at Yirmeyahu 3:15 which says, “And I shall give you shepherds according to My heart, and they shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.” The KJV uses the word “pastors” in this verse.

COMPARISON OF TORAH TRUTH AND CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

In this message we have already seen what Torah Truth is and what Torah says about many things. We have also briefly discussed Christian replacement and dispensational theology. Much has been said so it is time to compare what we know of Torah Truth to what Christianity teaches us. To be fair, there should be a third column labeled “Orthodox Judaism Teaching”. The Pharisee Judaism of Yahshua’s day up to current Orthodox Judaism follow the Oral Torah or the teachings of man over the Written Torah of Yahweh.

Torah Truth	Christian Teaching
Yahweh’s Name is יהוה and it is His command to use His Name when referring to Him	“God’s” name is “God”, “the Lord”, “Lord” etc. and it is not important what He is called. However, the name of the adversary is capitalized and has become a proper name and all the names of the false gods are proper names.
The Messiah’s Name is Yahshua (יהושע) which means “Salvation of Yah”	The Greek word “Christ” is used instead of the proper Hebrew word and this “Christ” is named “Jesus” which does not mean “Salvation of Yah” but it has other meanings. And it also doesn’t matter what we call Him because “God knows Who we are talking about”.
Hebrew and Aramaic names and words have great importance	Names and words are not important.
Hebrew and Aramaic words can have more than one meaning.	Greek and English most of the time have only one, precise meaning (making translating and understanding Scripture difficult).
The culture and language of the Scriptures is Hebraic and Aramaic.	The Bible can be interpreted into any culture and language.
All of Scripture (the Torah, the Prophets, the Writings and the Brit Chadashah) are one continuous revelation from Yahweh.	The “Old Testament” has to be “interpreted” in light of the “New Testament”.

The words of Scripture are divine authority	The decrees of the early church councils ¹⁴⁵ and the teachings of the churches and their denominations are divine authority
The Seventh Day is the Sabbath according to Torah.	The First Day (or the Day of the Sun) becomes the “Lord’s Day” or the church’s “Sabbath”.
No work is to be done on the Sabbath and that includes buying and selling.	You can do anything you want after going to church.
Passover is on the 15 th day of the first month of Aviv.	Passover has been changed to Maundy Thursday which is the day before “Good Friday”.
The feast of First Fruits is the day which Yahshua rose from the dead.	First fruits is changed to Easter which is a pagan feast day honoring the fertility goddess ¹⁴⁶ .
The feast of Shavuot which is the giving of the Torah and represents a Hebrew wedding of the Bride of Yahshua (the Whole House of Israel) to Yahshua.	Pentecost is the “birthday” of the church.
Yahshua will return on Yom Teruah or the Feast of Trumpets ¹⁴⁷ .	“Jesus” will come and “rapture” the church away before the tribulation.
Yom Kippur is the Day of Atonement.	The Christian is “covered by the blood” and is “saved” so this is not necessary.
Yahshua was born on Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles).	“Jesus” was born during the pagan solstice (Christmas).
Torah is valid for the Whole House of Israel.	Torah (Yahweh’s Law) is not valid anymore as a standard for Christians.
Yahshua was an orthodox Jew and followed Torah and never taught against Torah.	“Jesus” is effeminate, non-Jewish ¹⁴⁸ , and breaker of Torah.
Yahshua was a Jewish man of late second Temple times and wore Scriptural clothing such as Tzitzit. He would have been dark skinned, dark haired, and He would have worn a beard.	“Jesus” is a Greek/Roman/Westermer who is white skinned, long blond haired, and either beardless or with a scrawny beard. The church has no clue what “Tzitzit” are.
All the Glory belongs to Yahweh.	The church’s “glory” belongs to the popes, “Mary” as the “Queen of Heaven”, the pastors, bishops, and other church leaders.
Yahshua never commanded His followers to pray to Him. He said that we are to pray to Yahweh the Father in His Name ¹⁴⁹ .	The Christian prays to “Jesus”, the “Holy Spirit”, “God” and (horror of horrors) even hasatan! ¹⁵⁰
Rabbi Sha’ul taught that the believer in Yahshua was to obey the words of Torah and not the	The word’s of “Paul” did away with all of the “Old Testament”.

¹⁴⁵ Read that as the Early Roman Catholic Church councils.

¹⁴⁶ This is done by decree of Emperor Constantine the first pope of the Roman Catholic Church.

¹⁴⁷ I must explain here that it is my opinion that Yahshua will return on Yom Teruah, however, others have said other feast days such as Passover. In any event, His return will be on a Set Apart Day of Yahweh and not on a day of the church. If I am wrong here, then I stand corrected.

¹⁴⁸ Some teach that he became a Christian and some have even gone as far as to say that He was a gentile.

¹⁴⁹ Again – what Name????

¹⁵⁰ Many Christian prayers for healing or to free someone from such things as alcoholism or drug addiction begin with “I command you S-----, in the Name of Jesus to...” STOP DOING THIS!!

“law” of men.	
Rav Sha’ul did not start a new religion.	“Paul” started a new religion called Christianity.
Rav Sha’ul was a “a ringleader of the sect of the Natsarenes” ¹⁵¹ and he said of himself that he is a member of “the Way which they call a sect” ¹⁵² .	Paul became a Christian.
Yahweh made a covenant ONLY with the Whole House of Jacob and those that are grafted into it.	The gentile church is the new Israel.
The First Covenant or “Old Testament” is of grace forever and ever.	The gentile church is now under the “New Covenant” of “grace”.
The “Law of Moshe” or the Commandments of Torah are binding on the Whole House of Israel (which includes the physical House of Jacob and those strangers that align themselves to Yahweh’s Torah).	The “Law of Christ” has replaced the “Law of Moshe”.
The Prophets of Israel spoke words of Torah to the people of Israel.	Preachers now speak to their churches words of their theology of their denomination.
The talmidim of Yahshua and the other emissaries (apostles) spoke words of Torah to the people of Israel and all those that would be grafted into the Whole House of Israel.	Christian theologians now interpret the Bible.
Grace (chesed or unmerited favor) is given to us by Yahweh through His commands.	“Greasy grace” is from “Jesus”.

THE HEBRAIC WAY OF THINKING

THE GREEK/ROMAN FILTER

We are Westerners and we have been trained in a Greek/Roman world. Our schools from kindergarten to graduate school teach from a Greek/Roman mindset, therefore, our mindset is Greek/Roman¹⁵³. For the most part, Christianity uses a Greek/Roman filter to explain (or, in some cases, explain away) Scripture. Christianity attempts to view Scripture through its own culture; whether that culture is modern American or Roman Catholic Church or some other denomination or even a Scripture version like the King James Version. This produces at best a distorted view of Scripture and at the worst, a decidedly different view of Scripture from the intent of Yahweh, the original Author. We cannot hope to understand Scripture rightly if we do not place the Words of the Author in their original Hebraic culture and in the Hebrew/Aramaic language they were written in.

The result of Christianity’s use of this Greek/Roman filter is the creation of a blond, blue eyed, nearly beardless, Aryan, Torah breaking Jesus rather than a Semitic (that is, Israelite) Torah observant Yahshua. The use of this Greek/Roman filter has created a replacement theology that

¹⁵¹ See Ma’aseh Shlichim (Acts) 24:5.

¹⁵² See Ma’aseh Shlichim 24:14.

¹⁵³ Marvin R. Wilson, 1989, Our Father Abraham, (Grand Rapids, Mich., Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company)

begins with the early “church fathers¹⁵⁴” and continues today. This Greek/Roman filter centers the Belief System of the Christian on Rome¹⁵⁵ and its theology rather than Scripture and its theology.

THE SEMITIC WORLD VIEW

Hebrew¹⁵⁶ thinking and Greek/Roman thinking are 180° apart. We, here in America and over most of the world are raised, educated, and trained according to a Greek/Roman philosophy. Virtually all Christian theology and teaching is based on a Greek/Roman philosophy, consequently, Scripture is viewed by Christianity with this Greek/Roman filter. We are taught according to Western or American metaphors that actually do not correctly fit the Hebraic metaphors or idioms used by the writers of Scripture.

We might say that modern Judaism has a philosophy similar to Greek/Roman philosophy and therefore it is appropriate to use a Greek/Roman to interpret and understand Scripture. However, the philosophy of present day Judaism did not appear until about 900 C.E. and is considerably different from pre-Second Temple times when the Tanakh and the Brit Chadashah was written.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HEBREW AND GREEK THINKING

HEBREW Thinking	GREEK Thinking
Hebrew thinking is based on the group. Hebrew thinking considers the family. Hebrew thinking considers the Whole House of Israel which is made up of the tribes and those who join themselves to Israel.	Greek thinking is based on the individual. Greek thinking considers the group only with reference to the individual's membership in the group.
Hebrew thinking has a conceptual approach to Yahweh. Yahweh IS – there is no need to prove His existence.	Greek thinking has an abstract approach to something called “God”. Greek must prove the existence of this “God” or any other “god” or “mighty one”.
Hebrew thinking has a value concept approach to Yahweh. Hebrew thinking understands that Yahweh expresses Himself through: Love Grace Justice Torah Israel	Greek thinking does not have a value approach to a “god” unless that particular “god” somehow exhibits some character trait.
Hebrew thinking can tolerate paradoxes.	Greek thinking must resolve paradoxes.
Hebrew thought uses “block logic”. This means	Greek thinking assumes that there must be some

¹⁵⁴ Remember that the early “church fathers” were Greek/Roman pagans with no real understanding of Torah.

¹⁵⁵ Rome would be the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) even though “Protestants” will claim otherwise. “Protestants” are actually “protesting Catholics”.

¹⁵⁶ It must also be understood that Hebrew thinking and Aramaic thinking are the same thing. They just use some different words.

that things are “black and white”, Thus: Elohim is wrathful -- Elohim is merciful He who finds his life -- He who loses his life Will lose it. Will find it.	gray area in between.
Hebrew thinking assumes that it does not know all the answers and that it might not even know all the questions. Hebrew thinking allows that we might not understand all that we know about something.	Greek thinking assumes that it must know all the answers and understand all the answers. Greek thinking must also know and understand the questions too.
Hebrew language is verb oriented	Greek language is noun oriented.
Hebrew is a language of the heart – it asks why?	Greek is a language of the thinking or mind – it asks who?
Hebrew language uses “word picture” words. Many Hebrew words do not have a precise meaning. The language is not precise and analytical. The same applies to the Aramaic of the Brit Chadashah.	Greek uses precise words with precise meaning.
Hebrew thinking has a non-linear time line.	Greek thinking has a linear time line.
Hebrew people have a deep relationship with Yahweh. They seek this relationship and cultivate this relationship. Not only do they want to know Yahweh, but they want to obey Yahweh.	Greeks have no relationship with their “gods”. They do not want to know their “gods” only know about their “gods”.
Hebrews have a total lifestyle dedicated to serving Yahweh.	Greeks only need to “serve” their “gods” when they need something.
There is no past, present or future in Biblical Hebrew.	In Greek there are 6 tenses of time.

THE CHURCH IS IN REBELLION AGAINST YAHWEH

What you have read above should clearly show that the Christian church, particularly the NTOC¹⁵⁷, is in rebellion against Yahweh. I am referring to the institution of the church and not necessarily the individual Christians. From what I have discovered from church history is that some 1700 or more years ago the “church fathers”¹⁵⁸ began to change the Belief System of Yahshua and His followers which was called “The Way” or “the sect of the Natsarenes” to a pagan church. The first pope of the RCC¹⁵⁹, Constantine, changed Yahweh’s commanded set-apart day, Passover to the pagan festival of easter in 312 CE¹⁶⁰. Constantine was a sun worshipper as the coin below depicts

¹⁵⁷ New Testament Only Church

¹⁵⁸ Who were mostly pagans and were not trained in Torah.

¹⁵⁹ RCC = Roman Catholic Church

¹⁶⁰ This information is available from several sources. One of the sources is www.fossilizedcustoms.com and www.yourarmstoisrael.org as well as our own website www.servant2000.org.

(Constantine and Sol Invictus on the coin and he is shown in the mosaic with a halo). Over the centuries things did not get any better. When a group of people separated themselves from the RCC and called themselves “Protestants” they are really only “protesting catholics” because they have retained a large part of the paganism of Catholicism.



The church has deliberately taught a lie to its people by teaching that a “former Jew” they call “Paul” actually created a new religion called “Christianity”. This is flat not true! In Ma’aseh Shlichim (Acts) chapter 24 we see Rav Sha’ul (his real name) before the governor. In verse 5 it says of Rav Sha’ul that he is, “...a ringleader of the sect of the **Natsarenes**...”. Furthermore, in verse 14, Rav Sha’ul admits of himself, “*And this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the Elohim of my fathers, believing all that has been written in the Torah and in the Prophets*...”. He is **not** a “Christian” and he admits that he believes in the written Torah and Prophets. I want to make this statement clear in case you missed it. **He believes in the written Torah and Prophets and not in the oral “law”**. Therefore, stop blaming Rav Sha’ul for changing Torah and creating some kind of hybrid religion but put the blame where it should go – to the RCC!

HOW IS THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN REBELLION AGAINST YAHWEH?

The church has rejected Yahweh’s commanded Seventh Day Sabbath as we find in Shemot (Exodus) 20:8 – 11 and elsewhere. The church has replaced Yahweh’s Sabbath with the day of the sun (sun-day) and called it “The Lord’s Day”. The question is, which lord? The answer is – the sun god (in his various forms and names).

The church has rejected all of Yahweh’s commanded set-apart days as found in Vayikrah (Leviticus) chapter 23. The church replaced Yahweh’s set-apart days with easter, christmas, halloween¹⁶¹, valentine’s day, saint patrick’s day, and let’s not forget the long list of “holy days” to the “saints” of the RCC.

¹⁶¹ And don’t say that the church doesn’t celebrate halloween. They do but they call it “fall festival” or something similar.



The church has rejected Yahweh's food commands as found in Vayikrah (Leviticus) chapter 11. The church teaches that you can eat what you want. Some even say that if you say a blessing over the food it makes it all right and somehow makes the food "clean". This actually amounts to pronouncing an incantation over the food to magically make it "clean".



There are also a few other things that I will only mention and allow you to investigate them yourself by going to the websites listed at the end of this message. What I am going to say is going to be hard to take and might even embarrass you but that is not my intention. I discovered much of this information in a book I read many years ago called "The Two Babylons: or the Papal Worship Proved to be the Worship of Nimrod and his Wife" by Alexander Hislop¹⁶². I recently found a book called "Too Long In The Sun" by Rives (www.toolong.com). This website also verifies much of what I say below.

The christmas tree that is in the front of your church sanctuary right near the altar and the one in the living room of your house at christmas time is a phallic symbol and an asherah pole. The decorations also represent sexual symbols. The wreath on your front door is a female sexual symbol. The steeple on your church is the same thing as an obelisk which is a phallic symbol and is dedicated to the sun god. The cross is actually an offshoot of the Egyptian ankh which is a symbol of the "after life". The cross in its various forms is found over and over again associated with the various sun gods and sun god worship. When Constantine saw the cross in his "vision" (or hallucination) he actually was referring to the sun god symbol.



And the deception goes on and on. And don't be fooled when someone says that the church has "redeemed" the symbol. You can't redeem that which belongs to hasatan. You may think that the symbol doesn't mean anything to you and therefore that's alright. However, the symbol means something to hasatan and he likes it when you honor him by wearing one of his symbols.

SPIRIT OF REBELLION

By now you should have been able to put two and two together and come up with four as an answer. As we saw above, the spirit of rebellion is the same thing as ba'al worship. It doesn't matter if you are bowing the knee to the "wafer god" in the catholic church or you are celebrating easter sun rise service and then having an easter ham dinner later in the day. It is rebellion!



Every Seventh Day (Saturday to you) that you go and work or shop or do any other thing except honor Yahweh's set-apart Sabbath day you are rebelling against Yahweh. When you attend church on the day of the sun ("the Lord's Day") assuming you are honoring the Sabbath you are rebelling against Yahweh.

Every morning that you have bacon for breakfast you are rebelling against Yahweh. There is much to say about Yahweh's food commands found in Vayikrah (Leviticus) chapter 11 and there is not enough room for that discussion here. I have a message posted on our website called "Yahweh's Dinner Table" that should help you understand the seriousness of these food commands.

Every year that you ignore Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Firstfruits you are rebelling against Yahweh. When you turn Shavuot (Feast of Weeks) into "Pentecost" and claim it is the beginning of the "church" you are rebelling against Yahweh. When you ignore Yom Teruah (Feast of Trumpets) you are rebelling against Yahweh. It is my opinion (and the opinion of many others) that Yahshua will return on Yom Teruah. The explanation is in another message that is on our website. When you ignore Yom Kippur – Yahweh's **most** set-apart day – you are in serious rebellion against Yahweh. And finally, when you ignore Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles) you are rebelling against Yahweh and rejecting His Salvation – Yahshua. Yahshua came to **Tabernacle** with us. "The Scriptures" says in Yochanan (John) 1:14, "*And the Word became flesh and pitched His tent¹ among us, and we saw His esteem, esteem as of an only brought-forth of a father, complete in favour and truth.* Footnote: ¹An indication that His birth was during the Festival of Booths." The phrase, "...pitched His tent..." is the same as saying "tabernacle-ed". Sukkot is Yahshua's birthday and not christmas (the birthday of several sun mighty-ones) but that is another message.

Why are these seven set-apart days so important? All of these set-apart days are prophetic and Messianic in that all of them are fulfilled in Yahshua. To reject Yahweh's set-apart days and substitute them with anything else is the same as rejecting Yahshua. It is worshipping the ba'als. Reject the rebellion of the church and turn to Yahweh's Torah Truth. Later I will discuss some solutions that will help you do this.

I have posted a message called "The Golden Calf Worship System" that includes a hard word from Yahweh for the Christian. Please read that message.

SUMMARY

Even though this has been a long message, I have not covered all that I wanted to cover. I have other messages and papers that can be read to clarify much of what is said in this message. This has been a "Message for Our Time" and it is addressed to the Christian who is seeking truth. I am not, and I do not claim to be the author of original truth. I have presented to you what I have studied and what I have been taught by others. I followed the Scriptural principles that what I was studying or reading must be in context with the whole of Scripture and that there are no contradictions. Thus the material that I presented to you must also meet that criteria.

I have not said much about who I am or what my training is. I spent many years in a certain technical field and then spent many years teaching about that field. I wrote major training programs and even some books. However, that makes me a Greek/Roman/Westermer as I discussed above. This mind set has its disadvantages, however, it also made me very critical of what I was being taught and what I thought I believed. I started taking what I was being taught in the church and holding it up to Scripture and the teachings could not stand the scrutiny of Scripture. When the church taught me that the Sabbath had been changed to sun-day I believed them for a time. But my technical training said that "one plus one equals two" and when I found in scripture that Sabbath was a BIG deal but could not find one single Scripture that changed the Sabbath from Yahweh's commanded seventh day to another day the "math" didn't work out any more. The church was using some kind of "new math". A hole had been punched in the dam of my former belief system.

Other things happened that I won't bore you with but Yahweh put teachers and shepherds before me that were after His Heart and they filled me with knowledge and understanding. Of course, it helped that Yahweh had opened my heart to Him and His Torah. He called me and I answered like Israel did in Shemot 24:7 (see above). Furthermore, I believe that I am a "watchman" and I must speak out and teach that the Christian Believer must be Torah obedient and must repent and return to Yahweh's Torah. I have seen that Yechezqel (Ezekiel) 3:17 – 21 applies to me. I have presented this message to you so that you would repent. I have also presented this message so that you would continue to search out Yahweh's Word and so that you would know Yahshua in a real way rather than just know about Yahshua.

WHAT THIS MESSAGE HAS PRESENTED

NAMES AND WORDS

Names and words in their original Hebrew meaning are vital to understanding Scripture. Yahweh's Name is Yahweh and Yahshua's Name is Yahshua and not something else. These Names have meaning and when we use the Name Yahweh Mal'aki (Malachi) 3:16 applies.

RULES OF SCRIPTURE STUDY

This section was more for your information than a part of the message but it explains what rules I would use to discuss Scripture in this message. The short discussion of PARDES was for your information. And a brief discussion of the true language of the Brit Chadashah.

THE MEANING OF RESTORATION

This section discusses what I mean by restoring and how I will apply that term to this message. For the purposes of this message "restoration" means "the restoring of something to an earlier condition". Restoration can also be considered a physical or spiritual healing. There must have been an earlier condition in order to restore something. Restore implies that we will return to the earlier condition.

WHO IS YAHSHUA?

We needed to see Who Yahshua is according to Scripture rather than what we have been taught in the church. Scripture paints a different, more accurate picture of Yahshua than the traditions and teachings of the Christian church particularly the NTOC. We have discovered that Yahshua is Creator, He is the Word, He is Yahweh the Son, He is Salvation and our Savior, He is the Set-apart One of Israel, He is the King of Israel, He is Yahweh of Hosts, and He is the Lawgiver.

YAHWEH MAKES A COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

Yahweh appears to Abraham as Yahshua (Yahweh the Son) and makes a blood covenant with Abraham and his seed. Yahweh relates to man through a covenant and He has made a covenant only with Abraham and his seed to follow. Yahweh did not make a covenant with Yishma'el or his seed and he did not make a covenant with the gentiles or the nations.

THE LITERAL HOUSE OF YA'AKOV (JACOB)

This was a very brief discussion of who is the House of Ya'akov. There is some confusion because Jacob is also named Israel in Scripture and sometimes the two words are used interchangeably and sometimes the name Israel refers to the ten northern tribes that we see later in the Tanakh. I use the term "The Literal House of Ya'akov (Jacob)" or "the House of Ya'akov (Jacob)" to refer to those people born into one of the tribes of Jacob/Israel. The term "the whole house of Israel" refers to the house of Jacob plus all those who will graft **into** the Whole House of Israel and be under Yahweh's Torah.

YAHSHUA MEETS MOSHE

Yahweh the Son met Moshe in the burning bush and we saw that Moshe asked Yahweh what His Name is. Yahweh was specific and told Moshe what his Name is and that His Name is to be "...*My remembrance to all generations.*" (Shemot 3:15). We are to use and speak Yahweh's Name and not to

hide it. During this meeting Yahshua gives Moshe his “marching orders” to take Israel out of Egypt.

YISRA’EL LEAVES MITSRAYIM

In Shemot chapter 12 we see that a “mixed multitude” left Egypt and not just the “Literal House of Jacob” or the “Jews” as much of Christianity and Judaism teach. Shemot 12:41 tells us that this mixed multitude were “all the divisions of Yahweh” thus it was the House of Jacob/Israel and the strangers that had aligned themselves to Jacob/Israel. Yahweh identifies this “mixed multitude” or “all the divisions of...” as belonging to Him – they are His people.

YISRA’EL AT MOUNT SINAI

In Shemot chapter 19 we see that Israel (the mixed multitude) arrives at Mount Sinai to receive from Yahshua the Lawgiver the Commands of Yahweh. In Shemot 19:5 and 6 we read the words of Yahweh to Yisrael, “*And now, if you diligently obey My voice, and shall guard My covenant, then you shall be My treasured possession above all the peoples ... and you shall be to Me a reign of priests and a set-apart nation ...*”. This is a clear IF-THEN statement from Yahweh to His people. In Shemot 19:8 Israel (the “mixed multitude”) said, “*All that יְהוָה has spoken we shall do.*” This is commitment. This is the same as signing a contract in our time.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Shemot chapter 20 gives us what is called the “Ten Commandments” but it should more correctly be called the “Ten Words” or even the “Ten Utterances”. The first command or Word is Shemot 20:2 which says, “*I am יְהוָה your Elohim, who brought you out of the land of Mitsrayim, out of the house of slavery.*” The first three words in the Hebrew are clear as can be and they specifically say, “*I am יְהוָה your Elohim...*”. By that command we are to call Him Yahweh. We also discover that there is grace in the commands of Yahweh in Shemot 20:6¹⁶³.

THE SABBATH COMMAND

In Shemot 20:8 – 10 we are given the Sabbath command. This is another very specific command stating that Yahweh wants us to cease from working on the **seventh day** and keep that day set-apart to Him. There are hundreds of references to the seventh day Sabbath throughout the Tanakh and in the Brit Chadashah. There is **not one single reference** to Yahweh changing the Sabbath day to any other day!

WE WILL DO AND WE WILL HEAR

Yahweh gives many commands to Israel in Shemot chapters 20 to 23 and then in Shemot 24:7 Israel says, “*...All that יְהוָה has spoken we shall do, and obey.*” Actually the last two words in the Hebrew literally mean in English “we will do and we will listen” or “we will do and we will hear”. The concept behind this statement was a deep seated desire to practice first the Torah of Yahweh and then to understand the depths and details of the Words of Torah as they did them.

THE WORD “OBEY” FROM A HEBRAIC PERSPECTIVE

We Greek/Roman/Westerners do not have a Scriptural concept of “obey”. We apply our G/R/W understanding, philosophy and theology to “obey” which sends us in an entirely different direction

¹⁶³

Except for the NIV mistranslation.

than the Scriptural “obey”. From what I have stated in this message we get the sense that the word “obey” used in Torah means to hear or to “hear intelligently”.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “FEAR YAHWEH”?

Above we saw in Devarim 31:12 that to, “...*learn to fear יִי* your Elobim...” we are to hear the Torah and we are to guard (obey) all the words of the Torah. The Tanakh concept to fear Yahweh is to keep His commandments and His commandments are chesed, or grace and mercy.

THE GOLDEN CALF WORSHIP SYSTEM

This discussion in this message shows us briefly how man has replaced Yahweh’s detailed commanded worship system with man’s own worship system. This section discussed the Golden Calf incident described in Shemot chapter 32. It shows us that Israel did not want to return to Egypt, as the church teaches, but they wanted to “worship” Yahweh. They simply went about everything the wrong way.

THE “CHURCH” WAS BORN AT MT. SINAI

The NTOC teaches that the “church was born at Pentecost” which is error. This section in this message clearly and Scripturally shows how the “Assembly” or “Church” (ekklesia in Greek and Kahhal in Hebrew) was at Sinai. The kahhal/ekklesia/assembly/church was re-born (as in “born again”) in Ma’aseh Shlichim (Acts) chapter 2. This re-born church is the redeemed House of Israel. The House of Yisra’el or the House of Jacob consists of the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob PLUS a mixed multitude (strangers, sojourners, adopted / grafted in). I also presented the Scriptural fact that the New (renewed) Covenant was made ONLY with the House of Israel and the House of Judah (the re-born church).

THE HOUSE OF JACOB AFTER KING DAVID

This was a very brief history in order that the remaining material would make some sense.

THE SECOND GOLDEN CALF WORSHIP SYSTEM

In this section we saw that King Yarov’am (Jeroboam) of Yisrael (the ten northern tribes) set up a golden calf worship system. Yahweh had specifically chosen Yerushalayim (Jerusalem) as His place for us to worship Him but King Yarov’am puts two golden calves at Beyth El and Dan and tells Israel that these calves were “Yahweh” and that they would worship them where they were. He also substituted Yahweh’s set-apart days with his own days. A golden calf system of worship involves substituting Torah commanded Set-apart Places and Scriptural set-apart days.

A GOLDEN CALF WORSHIP SYSTEM IS BAAL WORSHIP

In Melechim Bet (2 Kings) 17:16 we see of Yisra’el (that is the northern 10 tribes or Ephraim) that they left the commands of Yahweh’s Torah, they made for themselves molded images, they set up an asherah (“grove”) in the KJV) and they served the ba’als. Ba’al worship is substituting the commandments of Yahweh for the commandments of men and changing Yahweh’s set-apart days and places to those chosen by men. Therefore the characteristics of ba’al worship are not following Torah! In not following Torah the individual or group of individuals is following idolatry.

YISRA'EL HAD A HEART FOR YAHWEH BUT...

In this section we saw that in Melechim Bet (2 Kings) chapter 17 Israel “feared Yahweh” after a fashion. However, they ALSO served their old mighty-ones which is called **mixed worship**. They did fear Yahweh they just didn’t worship Him the way **HE** commanded to be worshipped. The Golden Calf Worship System is contrary to Torah and it is the same as ba’al worship and it is the same as a mixed worship system.

SYNCRETISM

We saw that syncretism is the combination of different systems of philosophical or religious belief or practice.

ISRAEL FEARED YAHWEH BUT DID NOT FOLLOW TORAH.

They feared Yahweh in their hearts but not according to their actions. They talked the talk but did not walk the walk.

AN INDICTMENT AGAINST ISRAEL

In this message we saw in Yechezqel (Ezekiel) chapter 20 an indictment against Israel. Rav Sha’ul also addresses this topic in Romiyah (Romans) 1:24 – 25. Israel “...*worshipped and served what was created...*” which is the man made / mixed worship system spoken of above. Christianity engages in an anti-Torah or mixed worship system which Yahweh has not approved.

A MODERN APPLICATION

In this brief section I stated that the dedicated Christian is engaged in a mixed worship system in the church because they are not following Yahweh’s Torah.

BAAL WORSHIP WAS DONE IN THE TEMPLE OF YAHWEH

This section shows that ba’al worship was done in Yahweh’s Hekel (Temple). It shows that there were objects of ba’al worship and objects of asherah worship physically in the Hekel. I stated that the Christmas tree in Christian churches (on or near the altar) and in the home are an asherah. I also stated that asherah is also ishtar or easter in English. When the Christian observes “Christmas” and “easter” they are engaged in ba’al worship!

BAAL WORSHIP ALSO INVOLVES SUN WORSHIP

The Roman Catholic Church changed Yahweh’s commanded seventh day Sabbath to the first day “day of the sun” or sun-day. This section only touched on some of the symbols of sun worship found in the church as well as elsewhere.

ELIYAHU PRECEDES THE COMING OF MESSIAH

We saw in Mattithyahu (Matthew) 17:10 – 13 that not only did the spirit of Eliyahu come at that time in the form of Yochanan the Immerser but he will also come in the end of days.

YOCHANAN THE IMMERSER IS PERSONIFIED AS ELIYAHU

We saw in Luka 1:17 that Yochanan the Immerser came, “...*in the spirit and power of Eliyahu...*” and that his mission was to, “...*to make ready a people prepared for יְהוָה*”

THE MINISTRY MESSAGE OF YOCHANAN THE IMMERSER

Yochanan's mission, and thus his ministry message, was to turn many Israelites to Elohim. I stated in this section that Yochanan's ministry message prepares the "Bride of Messiah" for Yahshua's coming. Yahshua is NOT coming for a bride involved in mixed worship and He is also NOT coming for a Bride who is disobedient to His Torah. He is coming for a Bride that worships Him in Spirit and in Truth.

YOCHANAN SPEAKS THE WORD OF YAHWEH – REPENT

In Luka (Luke) 3:2 we read of Yochanan that, "...*the word of Elohim...*" came to him. We saw above that the "Word of Elohim" must involve Torah. We also saw in Luka 3:3 that Yochanan proclaimed an immersion of, "...*repentance for the forgiveness of sins...*". I discussed that this immersion is called tehvilah and we saw that Yochanan was proclaiming tehvilah of teshuvah or repentance. The Christian church has redefined tehvilah into something else such as a sign of "accepting Christ" or becoming a member of a certain church and other things. We must return to the tehvilah of Scripture and do tehvilah of teshuvah and return to Yahweh's Torah.

"PREPARE THE WAY OF YAHWEH"

This section discussed Luka 3:4 which references Yeshayahu 40:3 – 5 where we read, "...*The voice of one crying in the wilderness...*" I discussed changing the focus of this scripture from someone crying from the wilderness to someone calling us into the wilderness.

THE WAY OF YAHWEH IS FOLLOWING TORAH

From Scripture we saw that the term "way of Yahweh" or the "way of Elohim" is exactly the same as saying "the way of Yahweh is His Torah".

REPENTANCE

It seems that the accepted definition of "repentance" within Christian circles is to recognize the wrong in something and then "be sorry about it". However, a better and more Scriptural definition is for a person to feel regret about a sin or past action and then change their ways or habits. Scripturally however, "repent" means to turn from sin (Torah-less-ness) and turn to following Torah.

REPENTANCE IN THE BRIT CHADASHAH

Yahshua said to the people of the Galil in Markos (Mark) 1:14 – 15, "...*The time has been filled, and the reign of Elohim has come near. Repent, and believe in the Good News.*" We saw that the "Good News" is the Word of Yahweh.

THE GOOD NEWS IS REPENTANCE

By teaching Torah to all the nations then people of the nations (pagans) would hear the Torah and turn from their evil ways (rebellion, baal worship, etc.) and turn to Torah. This is the Good News!

SIN IS TORAH-LESS-NESS

I think that the best Scriptural definition of this is found in Yochanan Alef (1 John) 3:4 which says, "everyone *doing sin also does lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.*".

YAHSHUA DISCUSSES THE MISSION OF YOCHANAN THE IMMERSER

From what we read in Mattithyahu (Matthew) 17:10 – 13, Luka (Luke) 1:17 and Mal’aki (Malachi) 4:5 we see that the spirit of Eliyahu will come before Yahshua’s physical arrival. In the Mattithyahu Scripture we see that Yahshua clearly says that Yochanan is the spiritual representation of Eliyahu and that he will “restore all matters”. In Mattithyahu (Matthew) 3:1 -2 we read that Yochanan said, “*Repent, for the reign of the heavens has come near!*” So it appears that Yochanan’s ministry should parallel Eliyahu’s ministry. If this is so then I would think that we would see that Eliyahu’s ministry dealt mostly with repentance and restoration of “all things”.

THE MINISTRY OF ELIYAHU

A Scriptural fact is that a prophet of Yahweh, which includes Eliyahu, will show the people of Yahweh that they have departed from His Torah. We can see this in Melechim Bet (2 Kings) 17:13 which says, “*And יהוה warned Yisra’el and Yabudah, through all of His prophets, and every seer, saying, “Turn back from your evil ways, and guard My commands and My laws, according to all the Torah which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets.”*” This is speaking to both houses of Israel not just Yisra’el (Ephraim) or Yahudah (Jews).

ELIYAHU CONFRONTS THE PROPHETS OF BA’AL

In Melechim Alef (1 Kings) 18:19 – 29 we read the account of Eliyahu confronting the prophets of Ba’al. He challenges them to demonstrate the power of their mighty one and He will demonstrate the power of Yahweh before the people of Israel. The prophets of ba’al lose and Yahweh wins!

ELIYAHU HEALS THE ALTAR OF YAHWEH

In Melechim Alef (1 Kings) 18:30 we read that Eliyahu, “...*repaired the altar of יהוה that was broken down.*” However, the actual Hebrew word in the Tanakh is רפא “roh-feh” which means “heal”. Furthermore, we saw that in Melechim Alef (1 Kings) 18:31 – 32, “*And Eliyahu took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Ya’akov, ... And with the stones he built an altar in the Name of יהוה.*”

THE SACRIFICE IS SET AFIRE BY YAHWEH

In Melechim Alef (1 Kings) 18:32 – 38 Eliyahu has the people prepare the sacrifice by pouring water on it. Notice that in verse 36 the lighting of the sacrifice was to be “...*at the time of bringing the evening offering...*” which is in accordance with Yahweh’s Torah commands. Yahweh lit the fire and consumed the offering, the water, the stones and everything. In verse 38 we read, “... *all the people saw, and fell on their faces, and said, “יהוה, He is the Elobim! יהוה, He is the Elobim!”*”

ELIYAHU GIVES THE GLORY TO YAHWEH

In Melechim Alef 18:37 we have read that Eliyahu prayed to Yahweh, “*Answer me, O יהוה, answer me, and let this people know that You are יהוה Elobim, and You shall turn their hearts back to You again.*” It is clear that he is giving the glory to Yahweh.

REPLACEMENT – DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY

This is a long and admittedly difficult section for the Christian reader. Especially the “New Testament Only Christian” (NTOC). I used reference material that can be found by anyone and showed how this theology is contrary to Scripture.

COMPARISON OF TORAH TRUTH AND CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

This chart compares only a few of the differences between Torah Truth and Christian teachings common in the church.

THE HEBRAIC WAY OF THINKING

This chart compared the Hebraic way of thinking or the Torah way of thinking to the Greek/Roman/Western way of thinking which is the church way of thinking.

THE CHURCH IS IN REBELLION AGAINST YAHWEH

This was actually the hardest section for me to write and I still do not think I did it justice.

SOLUTIONS

I hope you have read all the way down to here and not just tossed this message out as the ramblings of a man with an axe to grind against Christianity. I ask you to go and search out all of the Scripture quoted in this message and see if it is true. See if I have violated the context rule or the rule of no contradictions in what I have said. If what I have said is true then now you have a problem.

You have a choice. You can reject what has been said above (after you have checked it out) and continue in your Christian belief system. That is, you can continue in rebellion against Yahweh. OR you can do teshuvah (repentance) and return to Yahweh’s Torah. If you are a typical Christian in a normative Christian belief system then you are in rebellion to Yahweh. At a time in the future you will hear Yahshua say to you, “...*I never knew you, depart from Me, you who work lawlessness!*” (Mattithyahu (Matthew) 7:23). However, read Mattithyahu 7:18 – 23 for the whole story. See also Mattithyahu 13:41 – 42. This is clearly not good! So there must be a solution that will allow you, the Christian, to be in a good relationship with Yahweh and not hear these words. There is!!!!

BEGIN FROM THE BEGINNING¹⁶⁴

Hold up your Scriptures → THAT is your **Guide To Torah Obedience**.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Shemot (Exodus) 20 gives us the Ten Commandments. The First Commandment is found in verse 2 which says, “*I am Yahweh your Elobim...*” In the Hebrew it says:

¹⁶⁴ Parts of this section are taken from “The Ephraimites Practical Guide to a Torah Lifestyle” that was presented at the UOTHMC 2002 conference in Kansas City by myself.

אֲנִכִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ

It does not say, I am “the Lord”, or “Adonai” or, “HaShem”, or “Jehovah” or even “God”. It says יהוה or yud-hay-vav-hay and we have chosen to pronounce that as “Yahweh”. This is the FIRST COMMANDMENT. This First Command tells you Who you are committed to. You are not committed to your denomination, or your family, or to traditions or even Christianity. Your commitment is to Yahweh and we have already discussed Who He is above. That commitment means that you are to do what he says to do. He has the right to tell His people what to do and how He wants us to do it. As long as you follow His rules His way (and not your way or tradition’s way), you can’t go wrong.

DOING VS. LIVING

Our objective is not to “DO” the commandments. We are not going to follow Torah commands for the sake of blind ritual and tradition. This is forcing ourselves to accomplish some THING in order to “please” our god – this is a form of idolatry. DOING a list of things or not doing them is what the pagans do to please their gods and goddesses.

NTOC seems to have the idea that we are teaching this form of paganism when we say that we are still required to follow Yahweh’s commandments. I can’t tell you how many times I’ve been accused of teaching “legalism” by people that do not have a full understanding of what I teach and the Scriptures I teach from. **LIVING Yahweh’s commandments as a lifestyle is what we are** committed to doing.

As you begin to change your lifestyle from the pagan Christian lifestyle you were living before to a Torah based lifestyle you will find that your life is centered around the Torah. Your week will be clearly divided by the weekly Sabbath. You will even look forward to Shabbat. Your year will be divided into the annual feasts. You will feel drawn closer to Yahshua as you celebrate the Pesach (Passover) and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. You will feel closer to Torah at Shavuot (“Pentecost” according to the church) because the Torah was given on Shavuot. If you are expecting Yahshua to return someday, then you will have a deeper appreciation for Yom Teruah (Feast of Trumpets)¹⁶⁵. Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement) is the most set-apart day in Yahweh’s calendar and as you honor it as commanded, you will receive the understanding and the reward that comes with it. And finally Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles) which would take too much space to discuss here. There is much more to say about Yahweh’s set-apart days that would take up a very long message.

¹⁶⁵ This is an expected day for Yahshua’s return. There is another message on our website regarding the fall feasts that will explain this.

THE SEVENTH DAY SABBATH

YAHWEH'S FAVORITE SET APART DAY – **SHABBAT**

Yahweh's most favorite day is Shabbat. If you want to discover this for yourself, do a word search on Shabbat and see how many times Yahweh discusses Shabbat.

We open our Shabbat service at SOMM with Isaiah 58:13-14 which says:

“If you hold back your foot on Shabbat
from pursuing your own interests on My Holy Day;
if you call Shabbat a delight,
Yahweh's Holy Day, worth honoring;
Then honor it by not doing your usual things
Or pursuing your interests or speaking about them.
If you do, you will find delight in Yahweh –
I will make you ride on the heights of the land
And feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Ya'akov,
For the mouth of Yahweh has spoken.”

OBSERVE THE SHABBAT

For the new Ephraimite (that would be you) that really has no clue what we are doing and what is expected of them, this is the place to start. When you have suddenly come to the conclusion that you are part of Yahweh's set apart people and that He expects you to obey His Torah, this is the place to start. This is the Fourth commandment and holds a place of great honor to Yahweh and His people. For the newcomer – you cannot imagine the tremendous spiritual blessings that await you as you obey this most cherished of Yahweh's commandments.

SO WHAT EXACTLY DO WE DO?

First – make a commitment to Yahweh that you will observe Shabbat. Make a vow. As a family. Margaret and I did this as we were convinced by Yahweh that we were under His Torah and that we were to obey His commandments.

Second – refer to the Ephraimites guide to Torah obedience – your Scriptures.

WHEN DOES SHABBAT BEGIN?

Shabbat begins at sundown Friday (sixth day) evening which is called “Erev Shabbat” or Sabbath Evening. Shabbat ends after sundown Saturday (seventh day) evening. First day or Sunday begins at sundown after Shabbat.

We may have to adjust this depending on our latitude and what time of the year it is. For example, someone in Alaska really doesn't have a sundown during the summer and really never has a sunrise

in the winter. In Florida, there are only a few hours difference from summer to winter whereas in Minnesota the difference is considerable.

DON'T DO ANY WORK ON SHABBAT

Exodus 20:9 says, “*Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work*” (Exodus 20:9, KJV)

That should be pretty straight forward, however, the Rabbis, Judaism, Christianity, Messianic Judaism and a whole lot of other people have gotten their hands into this so much that the definition of “work” eludes us.

For the new Ephraimite – do NOT go to Orthodox Judaism or anything quoting Orthodox Judaism for a source on the definition of “What is Work”? You will be bewildered and confused and probably give up in frustration. You can go to these sources later as you mature in your walk with Yahweh.

STOP WORKING

This means – don’t do any work like in what you do for a living. Don’t do the laundry, or cut the lawn, or clean the house. Don’t rebuild the back fence, or change the oil in the car. Don’t talk about what you do for a living. Don’t sit there thinking about what you do for a living. Don’t buy and sell.

We prepare meals and turn on our stoves but we do not prepare large meals or do any major cooking. Most of the time we eat leftovers anyway on Shabbat day. We like to have a special meal on Erev Shabbat and often we eat the remainder for Shabbat day.

Some congregations teach that we should not cook at all on Shabbat. Some congregations teach that we should also not do any creative work such as going out to our workshops and making stuff or engage in hobbies that are creative like painting. As you practice this command, Yahweh will teach you what He considers work. Your congregation should also discuss this so that the whole congregation understands the concepts.

Remember – Yahweh still extends His True Grace to you because you are trying to follow His Torah. He will overlook mistakes because somewhere along the way He will teach you what He wants you to do. See Ma’aseh Shlichim (Acts) 15:21.

PLANNING

Honoring the Sabbath also means that you will have to plan your week so that all work related stuff gets done before Friday evening. Get the house clean, clothes washed, shopping done, gas in the car, etc. on Thursday and Friday.

THE OTHER FEAST DAYS

Notice in Leviticus 23 there are other set apart feast days of Yahweh that are also Shabbat. These other Shabbat days are to be treated exactly like the weekly Shabbat. Think about it!! You get a LOT of days off during the year.

SIGNS THAT WE ARE ISRAEL

As I have already stated, the Shabbat is a sign that you are Israel. Never mind that most Christians will confuse you with being Jewish – they just don't understand. The sign of Shabbat is both spiritual and physical.

If the Ephraimite is still associated with a NTOC and participates in some of the ministry activities and they have events on Shabbat – do not attend and tell them why. The Ephraimite might have to compromise in some places but we have to take a firm stand here. Yahweh's most cherished commandments deal with Shabbat. Just because the NTOC has rationalized away their lawlessness does not mean we have to go along with them. Besides, this would demonstrate to the NTOC that we mean business when it comes to obedience to Yahweh.

The Ephraimite must insist and even demand that they be allowed to follow Yahweh's Shabbat and feast days. If America can be tolerant of every aberration of Belief System, then they can be tolerant of our insistence on following Torah. By the same measure, we must also be vigilant in following Yahweh's Holy Days. That would mean that we do not work on Yahweh's Shabbats (also the ones during His feast days such as Passover and Shavuot). We should follow Isaiah 58:13-14 and not do our usual things or speak about them.

I want to make a reality note here. There are many non-religious things that we might do. We might be members of a club dedicated to some craft or hobby. It might be that this club has workshops and picnics on the Sabbath so we have to decide if we want to go or follow Yahweh's commands. I know this because I am involved in a certain craft club that has many events on the Sabbath. I have made it a point to voice my opinion that I cannot attend and do not discuss why. After all, the focus of the club is on the craft and not religion. However, this particular craft club makes certain decorations for x-mass trees and there is discussion about that topic every meeting. It almost makes my skin crawl just listening to it. I have chosen not to say anything although I have discussed it with a few of the club board members. I won't have anything to do with their decorations and I certainly won't be attending the x-mass party!

YAHWEH'S FOOD COMMANDMENTS

I have chosen to discuss the food commandments found in Leviticus chapter 11 because these are also obvious signs that we are Israel. Notice Leviticus 11:1-2 says, "*Yahweh said to Moshe and Aharon, 'Tell the people of Israel...'*". Therefore these are still Yahweh's commands. Moses did not have some kind of problem with pork and shrimp and, therefore, he made these commands up – Yahweh commanded them. Leviticus chapter 11 states in no uncertain terms what animals we can eat and which ones we cannot eat.

READ LEVITICUS 11 yourself to find out what we can eat.

WHY?

I remember reading something written by a contemporary Rabbi that stated that the reason that “the Jews”, as he put it, could not eat pork in the desert was because they did not have good refrigeration. But now that we have these modern conveniences, we can eat all these things. Yeah sure. I’d like to see him eat a bat sandwich.

As a matter of fact, the next time you go to some Christian get-together and they tell you something like “Stop complaining. The Bible says anything put before you is clean. So eat it!”¹⁶⁶. Invite them over to your house for a lizard sandwich or mouse stew.

American always want to know the “why” about something. Yahweh tells us why in Leviticus 11:45 which says, *“For I am ה' who is bringing you up out of the land of Mitsrayim, to be your Elohim. And you shall be set-apart, for I am set-apart.”* You might want to go on a little Rabbit Trail here and look up references to swine or swine flesh and see who eats it and why. Like Isaiah 65:4 and 66:17. We might find that eating pig meat is the same as idolatry.

EATING BLOOD

Leviticus 17:10-12 tell us not to eat blood. This means that we should drain the blood from any meat we intend to eat and not to eat things made from blood like blood sausage (yuck!!!). You might also want to know that some breakfast cereal that is “fortified” with iron might be “fortified” with blood. We can “kosher” meat to remove the blood from it using koshering salt¹⁶⁷.

A LITTLE REALITY HERE

America eats unclean! We cannot guarantee that the food we are eating does not contain some unclean product such as pig meat. Pig is used for flavoring in many things besides beans and salad dressings. Sometimes even the labels don’t tell us the whole truth. We can’t buy sliced meats from the grocery store deli because they could have just sliced some ham on the same slicer that they are using for our roast beef.

If the Ephraimite has anything to do with any Christian organization and must go to any event where food is served, you can be sure that they will not even consider Yahweh’s food commandments. This has happened to us several times. If it is a pot luck type lunch or dinner at the local church, don’t eat the “mystery meat”.

Kosher foods are VERY expensive. Some Kosher pastrami might cost 8.00 to 12.00 a pound¹⁶⁸. Most Ephraimites that are on a budget simply cannot afford to eat Kosher all the time. If we live in an area that has a very low Jewish population, then there might not even be a Kosher food store or restaurant nearby. There must be an alternative solution. **Remember, Scripture tells us what animals**

¹⁶⁶ These are almost exactly the words I heard from a very pompous Christian when I had to attend a dinner related to a drug and alcohol addiction ministry my wife and I were involved in at the time.

¹⁶⁷ Look at the instructions on the box of “kosher salt”.

¹⁶⁸ As of 2000.

we can and cannot eat and that we are not to eat blood. It does not command us to eat foods stamped with the appropriate Kosher stamp.

The Ephraimite must stop thinking that pigs, shrimp, catfish, oysters and so forth are food just like we do not consider dogs and cats to be food. When we go to the grocery store and look at the meat counter, the only **FOOD** we see are beef, chicken and turkey, certain fish and lamb. By doing these things, we are obeying Yahweh's food commandments. We are eating clean animals and not eating blood.

The Ephraimite must also make some substitutions for unclean foods that he might have enjoyed as a christian. Turkey "ham" can replace pig ham. Turkey "ham" is not ham and it should not be flavored with pig juices. READ THE LABEL. Jenny-O Turkey Ham is OK for our purposes¹⁶⁹. Most turkey sausage is NOT clean because the casings are pig intestine rather than sheep intestine. If it doesn't say what the casing are on the label then we must assume that it is pig casings.

I love beans but most beans have pork as a flavoring. However, the vegetarian products have no pork in them. Bushes brand vegetarian beans also are kosher. Some other canned vegetables might have pork as an added flavoring so read the labels.

Bread, cakes, pies and cookies should be clean but we must be aware of the use of lard in the cooking. Ask the baker. We buy these products from the grocery bakery rather than off the shelf because we can ask the baker what he puts in things. After awhile, the grocery people will understand what you are asking about and try to meet your needs. There are some bakery goods that are kosher so buy those.

Mixing milk and meat is Jewish halakah and we are not obliged to follow it. The injunction is in Exodus 23:19 which says, "*Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.*" This will be an issue that each Ephraimite family will have to work out for themselves. The Ephraimite congregation must develop minhag (local custom) regarding this issue. We state that this does not mean we are forbidden from eating meat and milk together.

HOLY GARMENTS

The last item that I want to discuss that is an outward sign that we are Israel is the Tzitzit.

In Numbers 15:37-41 and Deuteronomy 22:12 we are commanded to wear Tzitzit. The reason is so that we "...*And it shall be to you for a tzitzit, and you shall see it, and shall remember all the commands of יהוה and shall do them, and not search after your own heart and your own eyes after which you went whoring...*".

¹⁶⁹

I have called them and was told that they do not use pork as a flavoring in any of their products.



We are to wear them “on the corners of our garments”. Here we see a man praying with a Talit (sometimes called “prayer shawl”) on with Tzitzit on the corners of the Talit.



Here in the Diaspora and in our American culture, we do not wear garments with corners so some of us tie Tzitzit to our belt loops. The Tzitzit are to have a blue thread so some of us tie our own Tzitzit out of cotton string or wool yarn. We do not meet Orthodox Jewish standards and what we do probably offends Jewish people so here we must be careful if we live in a large Jewish community.

The Ephraimite must remember that we are obeying Yahweh and trying to please Him and not man. However, we should be sensitive to other people. Remember, the Tzitzit are for the individual to remember and not for the individual to remind the rest of the world. NTOC’s don’t know what we are doing anyway and they don’t want to know. The Ephraimite must be clear as to the **what** of wearing the Tzitzit and the **why** of wearing them. Once those points are understood, then we can proceed.

There is no Biblical requirement to make the Tzitzit out of kosher wool spun and tied by orthodox Jews. There isn’t even any Biblical requirement as to the number of knots and windings in the tzitzit. There might be some debate about the dye used to make the blue and we can pick this nit into oblivion and miss the point of the commandment. The point is that we are to wear Tzitzit on the corners of our garments.

If we used Orthodox halakah as a basis for compliance with this commandment, we could tie string or yarn with the same number of knots and windings as they do. I tie Tzitzit with the Orthodox winding count and, what I call the “Yahweh” count. This count spells out Yud-hey-vav-hey (see the photo above). We could use medium weight cotton strings of blue and white that would make some rather small and unobtrusive Tzitzit. There is kind of another problem with string Tzitzit on the belt loops – they fall off sometimes. So make some extra.

Should women wear Tzitzit? The commandment is for “the people of Israel” – Am Yisra’el. It does not distinguish between men and women. In our congregation we allow women to wear Tzitzit however, other congregations do not allow women to wear them outside their garments. The issue here is whether it will offend someone or not. Another issue is the commandment against women wearing men’s garments. Some congregations allow women to wear Talitot (the plural of Talit) if the talit looks feminine.

ABOUT MESSIANIC OR NETZARENE CONGREGATIONS

I advise you to find a congregation near you. I have listed some web sites below that might be helpful in directing you to a congregation. Be advised – not all congregations are “Two House” in that they teach the restoration of the Whole of Israel and not all congregations are Sacred Name. If you are not of Jewish decent, I wouldn’t recommend attending a Messianic Jewish congregation. I say this sadly because we attended a Messianic Jewish congregation for a year but found we really were not welcome. If you cannot prove your Jewish-ness according to their requirements then you are “goy” (aliens) and will be treated like one. This is very bad and you will become disgusted and may turn away altogether.

On the other hand, there are many small congregations all over the country. These are “home groups” that have started because someone (like you) finally had enough of the church and tried to find a Netzarene congregation near them. When they could not find one, they formed their own. Sometimes these groups are 2 or 3 families and sometimes they are just one family. You can find Siddurim (plural for “Siddur”) for Shabbat on many websites. The Siddur is a “go-by” for the service. The word “Siddur” means “order” and it gives the order of the service. We have one posted on our website that is free; just download it and print it out. We will be posting a home group guide in the near future to help home groups get started.

ABOUT “SATURDAY CHURCHES”

There is also another type of “Messianic Congregation” that you must be aware of. This congregation might be a group that meets on Saturday calling themselves a “Messianic Congregation”, “Messianic Church” or even a “Torah church” or something like that with the outward aim of being a Torah obedient group. Some of these groups might be run by a pastor and be part of a church and even be a part of a large national Messianic organization. There are also groups that are not associated with a church and outwardly look like a Messianic congregation. By “outwardly looking like a Messianic congregation” I am referring to the group meeting on the Sabbath and having some kind of “liturgy”, praise and worship of a Jewish or Messianic flavor (they sing Messianic songs) and maybe even some Hebrew dancing. They might have a “Torah service” where the Torah is read and maybe even discussed. However, with all the Messianic trappings they

have surrounded themselves with, they are still a church being a church and playing “Hebrew Roots”.

Some thing to look for: mixing church and Torah service either with church teachings included in a message or, what I call, “Jesus songs” as part of the praise and worship. This would be called syncretism. Another thing to look for is the mixing of church terminology and liturgy with what would be expected from an actual Messianic congregation. There is an order to things in the liturgy and these thing would be found in a Siddur¹⁷⁰. If the congregation either has no Siddur or is doing something from a church denomination then this is a Saturday church. There is no excuse not to have and use a Siddur; they are available on line and sometimes even for free¹⁷¹.

Some well meaning people (that includes both lay people and pastors) may go to a Messianic conference and be thrilled and up-lifted by the whole experience. The Praise and Worship and dancing was awe inspiring and the messages spoke directly to their hearts. I know this to be the case and I am not denigrating it in the least. Yahweh may speak to someone through that conference!! However, there are others that He did not speak to. Some of those people will start up a “Messianic Congregation” with no training or understanding of what they are doing. They will have created a thing not of Yahweh and it will lead some astray. The Hebrew word אִי-כְבוֹד or Ikabod¹⁷² meaning “No Glory”. Yahweh’s Glory is not there but the leader’s glory is.

The reason that I bring this up is that we have encountered (or should I say that we have been entangled in) Saturday churches before. If you are going to a congregation for the first time, then allow the Ruach Kodesh (Set-apart Spirit) tell you if this is the place for you.

A case in point: Two people went to a large church that was supposed to be a “Messianic Congregation” They expected to see a Torah service but they saw something that sort of looked like a Torah service in one end of the church and at the other end of the same church they were selling pizzas (with pork toppings I might add)!!!! The pastor and the man knew each other and he had told the man many times that he was absolutely Torah obedient and that’s what he taught in his “Messianic congregation”. He taught a “both and” concept which stated that you could be Torah obedient and “do church” at the same time. He even had some Scripture to back up his claim. He was on the radio one night a week and taught this error and he even made a major presentation at a large Messianic conference on this topic.

On the other hand, a certain Messianic teacher that I have already mentioned in this message came to stay with us overnight when we were in Florida¹⁷³. On the way to my house he told me that there are **tens of thousands** of small one or two family home groups all over the country. These groups are mostly people that are fed-up with the deception of the church and have discovered Torah Truth. They meet in the home and they use Siddurim from one of the internet Messianic ministries like ours and many others They follow Torah as best as they know how and as they learn more about Torah they change their lives to agree with Torah. If you can find one of these groups then

¹⁷⁰ The word “Siddur” means “order” and is a method of performing the service. The Siddur has its origin in the Temple and the daily Sacrifices. Certain things are supposed to be done in a certain order and with a certain reverence.

¹⁷¹ You can download a free Siddur from our website.

¹⁷² See Shemu’el Alef (1 Samuel) 4:21.

¹⁷³ I believe this event took place after a Shavuot conference in 2004 in Orlando.

you might be able to get in it or you could even start one yourself. If you need some help, e-mail me at rabbipaul@servant2000.org.

IN CLOSING

We probably could continue to discuss these few commandments and many, many more for hours. I suggest getting some of the books available on Yahweh's commandments. Many of the books written might not reflect the restoration of Israel or the Sacred Names but they are useful. Again, be careful of Messianic Jewish sources or Orthodox Jewish sources. Much of their discussion on obedience to Yahweh's commands will reflect a decidedly Talmudic (man's law or the "Oral Torah") view point.

Congregations must teach Torah and how and what is expected of the Ephraimite. If you are a congregation leader, then you might have to make decisions on some of these and other issues. The Key for Ephraimites to remember is to follow Yahweh's Torah – He did not write His Torah so that we could not understand it. When in doubt – ask Him.

RESOURCES

WEBSITES

By listing these websites I am not endorsing the material on those websites. Some of the material is very good and I agree with it and you will find it beneficial. On the other hand, there is also material that is either in error (in my opinion) or might not be relevant to you now. I have not included some sites that may or may not be useful to you right now and I have deliberately left out sites that are either anti – Messianic or anti – Restoration of The Whole House of Israel.

I strongly advise you to be aware in your search of the Internet. There are many useful websites out there that have information that will benefit your study and search for Torah Truth. There are also many sites that look good on the surface but they are grossly in error and their purpose, it seems to me, is to lead people astray.

ABOUT THE ARAMAIC PESHITTA

<http://www.aramaicpeshitta.com/>

<http://aramaicnttruth.org/>

<http://dukhrana.com/>

<http://www.raphaellataster.com/>

Download the free book "Was the New Testament Really Written in Greek?"

<http://www.peshitta.org/>

<http://www.aramaicnewtestament.org/>

<http://www.aramaicnt.org/>

Other websites about Scripture Languages

<http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/>

NAZARENE / MESSIANIC WEBSITES

<http://www.yourarmstoisrael.org/>

<http://www.fossilizedcustoms.com/>

<http://www.hebroots.org/>

<http://www.isr-messianic.org/>

<http://www.millennium7000.com/>

<http://www.nazarite.net/>

<http://www.messianicisrael.com/>

<http://www.hearoisrael.org/>

<http://www.servant2000.org/> our website.

OTHER SITES

<http://www.e-sword.net/> an excellent Bible program.

<http://www.aish.com/wallcam/default.asp> web cam of the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I truly don't know where to begin with this section. There are so many people that have helped me to get to this point in my ministry and all of them have a part in this message. To simplify things, I will list people that have been my teachers either through personal contact or the internet. Just because I have listed someone does not mean that I agree with all that they taught at the time or that they are teaching now. I must mention them because they, at least at one time, have had a positive influence on me. On the other hand, I will also list those that have "helped" in a negative way. I will only use their initials so as not to embarrass the guilty.

My teachers, mentors and helpers: Rabbi Moshe Koniuchowsky, Rabbi Avi ben Mordachai, Rabbi Eddie Chumney, Rabbi Stuart Dauermann, Rabbi M. Shiffmann, Rabbi J. Fisher, Rabbi Alan Levine, Rabbi Ed Grass, Lew White, Rabbi Rob Miller, Greg Killian, Rick and Debbie Toole and there are many, many others.

The others: Rabbi H. L., Rabbi E. N., Rabbi S. C., T. M., Pastor T. F., R. P. J., Pastor M. S., Pastor D. S., Pastor P. L., Pastor L. L., B. R., D. J., Z. R. & B. R., and others (especially TV “evangelists”).

I have a very special thank you to my wife, Margaret for reviewing this paper and reminding me about “then and than” which I never seem to get right. I would also like to thank Steve Massengill for his review and editing.

MY FINAL WORDS

Over the past 9 years or more I have written a lot of papers and messages however, this has been probably the hardest message for me to write. It certainly has taken the longest amount of time and seems to be the culmination of all the other works. I have been advised to cleanup and re-work the other messages and make them a part of this work so that the reader can find the message where I say “...and that’s another message”. Furthermore I have been advised to finish the second draft of the Siddur that we have been using for many years. These thing will soon be available either on the website or on CD or both.

May Yahweh be with you always. Baruch ha shem Yahweh!!!!

Netzarene Rabbi Sha’ul ben Yisra’el (Paul Todd)