

Elohim's purpose with man.

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This book is not to be sold. We are told in the second part of Matthew 10: 8 “*freely you received, freely give.*”
The book contains sermons to assist believers in Messiah to better understand Elohim's purpose for mankind, recorded in His Word, the Scriptures.

Note: All Scriptures used are from the 'NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE', unless otherwise indicated. Set-apart Names corrected in quotes used, in accord with this Bible's 'Principles of Translation' under the section:

“The Proper Name of God in the Old Testament:

In the Scriptures, the name of God is most significant and understandably so. It is inconceivable to think of spiritual matters without a proper designation for the Supreme Deity. Thus the most common name for the Deity is God, a translation of the original *Elohim*. One of the titles for God is Lord, a translation of *Adonai*. There is yet another name which is particularly assigned to God as His special or proper name, that is, the four letters YHWH (Exodus 3: 14 and Isaiah 42: 8). This name has not been pronounced by the Jews because of reverence for the great sacredness of the divine name. Therefore, it has been consistently translated Lord. The only exception to this translation of YHWH is when it occurs in immediate proximity to the word Lord, that is, Adonai. In that case it is regularly translated God in order to avoid confusion.”

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Chapter 1: What does it mean to be 'Born Again' 1?

Nicodemus a Rabbi belonging to the sect of the Pharisees understood Yahshua to be a miracle-working prophet sent by Elohim and was very interested in His teachings. But because he did not want to be seen speaking with this man the other Pharisees called a 'heretic', he came to Yahshua at night. Very few people today understand that being born again is directly linked to the gospel of the coming Kingdom of Elohim. This was also true when Yahshua was on earth and as much as Nicodemus did not understand when Yahshua spoke to him in John 3: 3, saying: ***"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of Elohim"***, most people have not ever and do not even now, understand the meaning of these words. In fact Nicodemus was completely puzzled by them and therefore asked Yahshua in John 3: 4, saying: ***"How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"***

Yahshua answered him in verses 5 - 7, saying: ***"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of Elohim. (6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (7) Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'"*** But like most Ministers of religion in Christian Churches today, even after studying for seven years in some cases to be awarded a Doctor's degree in Divinity, Nicodemus who was a Rabbi (or teacher), did not understand what it means to be born again. This was when Yahshua told Nicodemus in verses 10 – 12, saying: ***"Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not understand these things? (11) Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak that which we know, and bear witness of that which we have seen; and you do not receive our witness. (12) If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how shall you believe if I tell you heavenly things?"*** Most professing Christians think they were 'born again' when they 'accepted J*e*s*u*s*' in their hearts' and were 'baptized'. From that time on, they supposedly have received the 'Holy Spirit' and have been living a new life in C*h*r*i*s*t*. Yes, it is correct that true believers, who were immersed into Yahshua's saving name have received a portion of the Set-apart (Holy) Spirit of Elohim, and is indeed living a NEW LIFE in Messiah (as per Ephesians 4: 22 – 24). But it does not mean that such believers have been born again. The new birth described in the Scriptures is far more than what most professing Christians have assumed.

Nicodemus was familiar with the process of a physical birth, and understood when Yahshua told him in verse 6 of John 3, saying: ***"That which is born of the flesh is flesh."*** But then Yahshua explained that we must be born again, but not again of the flesh entering our mother's womb a second time, as Nicodemus thought He meant; Yahshua explained that we must be born of the Spirit – born of Elohim. Elohim must be our Father this time. Similarly to when we were born of flesh through human parents, so we must be born of the Spirit of our heavenly Father. When you are born of fleshly parents, you are composed of flesh. But, as Yahshua said in the second part of John 3: 6, ***"That which is born of the Spirit (of Elohim) is spirit."*** One who is born again of the Spirit will not have any blood in his/her body. Such a person will not have to breathe air to exist, as he/she will be literally composed of Spirit. That is the basic teaching of Yahshua in the Scriptures – the new birth is not an emotional experience, but a literal birth. In order for Nicodemus not to mistake the true meaning of being born of the Spirit, Yahshua explained further in verse 8 of John 3, saying: ***"The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."*** Notice that when you are born again of the Spirit of Elohim, like Yahshua was the first-born from the dead (as per Revelation 1: 5¹) when He was resurrected, you will be like the wind; you will be able to appear and disappear at will. You will be able to walk through doors and walls like Yahshua did when He appeared to His disciples in John 20: 26, in this way: ***'And after eight days again His disciples were inside, and Thomas with them. Yahshua came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst, and said, "Peace be***

¹ Revelation 1: 5, ***'And from Yahshua Messiah, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood.'***

with you." By comparing the spiritual birth to the physical birth, Yahshua showed that as human parents pass on their physical nature, so our heavenly Father will pass on His Spiritual nature, when we as first fruits are born again one day during the first better resurrection, provided we remain faithful to Elohim. Elohim created Adam as a perfect physical specimen made of flesh and blood - He was a perfect 'clay' model which Elohim intended to mold and reshape into the perfect Spiritual image and likeness of Elohim. Adam's creation was not complete; he was created needing a second spiritual 'birth' to become a son of Elohim. Let us therefore find Scriptural answers to the questions: How, when, and why this was necessary?

Firstly, to be able to understand what it means to be born again, it is necessary to understand who or what Elohim is, and why He created mankind. Elohim identifies Himself to us the people whom He brought out of Egypt and entered into a covenant with us at Mount Sinai in Deuteronomy 6: 4, saying: **"Hear, O Israel! YHWH is our Elohim, YHWH is one!"** How does YHWH who is the Almighty, define the word one? He gives us the answer in the first part of Deuteronomy 32: 39, saying: **"See now that I, I am He, and there is no god besides Me."** But, we see further according to Genesis 1: 5 that 'One' may be composed of more than a one part, namely: **"And Elohim called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one (echad) day."** We understand from Exodus 33: 20, that no man can see YHWH and live, a fact that is confirmed in 1 Timothy 6: 16, as follows: **"Who alone possess immortality and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amein."** We are given further details in 1 Timothy 1: 17, in this way: **"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only Elohim, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amein."** It is for this reason that man's mind cannot understand Elohim as He cannot be defined nor can He be bordered. To try to explain the unexplained, we make use of the Hebrew words 'Eyn Sof'. Eyn Sof is the very essence of Elohim, as in Hebrew 'Eyn' means 'there is nothing' and 'Sof' means 'end', 'termination', 'border' or 'definition'. Together, Eyn Sof implies something without definition or borders; that is infinite.

Anything corporeal or physical such as a person, a tree or computer consists of 'substance' that cannot be defined unless they are bordered. They are molecules that cannot be seen or defined, unless they are bound together. For example, when a believer dies, his life (or soul) comes to an end, his body is buried and returns to the dust from which it was made; and his spirit, which merged with a portion of Elohim's Set-apart Spirit at immersion, returns to the Father who gave it, as is confirmed in Ecclesiastes 12: 7, as follows: **'Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to Elohim who gave it.'** The Jews who remained faithful to Elohim because they knew and obeyed His Torah teachings from the time our forebears received it as a covenant between Elohim and them, have been given the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim², because of obedience (as per Acts 5: 32³). Similarly have those of the ten lost tribes and others whom YHWH called during this lifetime on earth and are immersed in Messiah's name, been given the Set-apart Spirit as a pledge to the redemption of Elohim's own possession to the praise of His glory (as per Acts 2: 38 & 39⁴), provided they overcome Satan, the world and their own human natures from that time forward. Both these groups will be resurrected as Spiritual children of Elohim at Messiah's return, but those millions of people who never heard or believed Elohim's true gospel, and never knew the true Messiah, will be

² Jews like all people have (or are) living souls (transliterated in Hebrew as 'nephesh') with the spirit of man or higher level soul in them (transliterated as 'neshamah'). Torah observant Jews also possess the Set-apart Spirit (transliterated as 'Ruach HaKodesh'), because of obedience to Elohim. Since returning Israelites lost the Set-apart Spirit due to idolatry and Sabbath breaking, they have to be immersed into the name of Yahshua (who came to reconcile them to Elohim & Brother Judah to re-establish the kingdom of Elohim over Israel at His return), to receive it again.

³ Acts 5: 32, **'And we (meaning Messiah's disciples) are witnesses of these things; and so is the Set-apart Spirit, whom Elohim has given to those who obey Him.'**

⁴ Acts 2: 38 & 39, **'And Kepha said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be immersed in the name of Yahshua Messiah for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Set-apart Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as YHWH our Elohim shall call to Himself."**

resurrected as human beings in the second resurrection, as they do not have Elohim's Spirit within them, yet.

Even though the believer's visible persona or borders are removed at death, his memory and character (spirit) exists in another dimension. In support of this, Yahshua told Martha in John 11: 25 & 26, saying: ***"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, (26) and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"*** This is talking about the spirits of righteous believers that go back to YHWH when they die, and are perfected in heaven according to Hebrews 12: 23, as follows: ***'to the general assembly and congregation of the first-born, who are enrolled in heaven, and to Elohim, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of righteous men made perfect.'*** Without the Spirit of Elohim indwelling us, the spirit in man is not immortal⁵, but allows mankind to talk, think, make decisions and remember (or retain) the happenings in his/her lifetime. As a result the spirit in man retains a record of his character and memory, but is not conscious after death⁶. The spirit in man is so closely intertwined with his soul or life⁷, that the way he/she lives reflects the spirit in him/her to the outside world - either the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim or the spirit of the world. When Messiah returns one day soon, He will bring back the believers spirit and resurrect his body, at which time the believers spirit, soul (life) and body will be complete, as confirmed in 1 Thessalonians 5: 23, in this way: ***'Now may the Elohim of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Master Yahshua Messiah.'*** As can be seen here man is composed of three component parts, namely: spirit, soul and body - yet as individuals we are one, in exactly the same way YHWH our Elohim is composed of three parts as also explained in Romans 1: 19 – 20, as follows: ***"Because that which is known about Elohim is evident within them (mankind); for Elohim made it evident to them. (20) For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes (YHWH is invisible, and has no form), His eternal power (Yahshua is the power of Elohim⁸) and divine nature (The Set-apart Spirit is the divine nature of Elohim⁹), have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."*** YHWH our Elohim is not three persons in one, but like us, He consists of three component parts. The visible image of Elohim is Yahshua; Elohim's immortal soul (or eternal life) is YHWH; and the Set-apart Spirit is the Spirit of Elohim. For those who assert that this is the doctrine of the Trinity, permit me to state that this does not say that you, who like all other human beings are composed of body, soul and spirit,

⁵ Romans 8: 11, ***'But if the Spirit of Him who raised Yahshua from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Messiah Yahshua from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His spirit who indwells you.'***

⁶ Ecclesiastes 9: 5, ***'For the living know they will die; but the dead do not know anything, nor have they any longer a reward, for their memory is forgotten.'***

⁷ Hebrews 4: 12, ***'For the word of Elohim is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.'***

⁸ We understand from 1st Corinthians 1: 24, that Yahshua Messiah is the power and wisdom of Elohim, in this way: ***"but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Messiah the power of Elohim and the wisdom of Elohim."*** Jeremiah 32: 17 tells us that YHWH created the heavens and the earth by His great power, as follows: ***'Ah YHWH Elohim! Behold, Thou hast made the heavens and the earth by Thy great power and by Thine outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for Thee.'*** Isaiah 52: 10 states that: ***"YHWH has bared His holy arm in the sight of all the nations, that all the ends of the earth may see the salvation of our Elohim."*** The name Yahshua means salvation as can be understood from Matthew 1: 21, ***"And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Yahshua, for it is He who will save His people from their sins."*** Yahshua the salvation of YHWH is His right hand and holy arm, but also our Savior.

⁹ The spiritual essence of YHWH is His divine nature. We are given a portion of His divine nature when we are immersed, according to Ephesians 1: 13 - 14, as follows: ***"In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation – having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Set-apart Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of Elohim's own possession, to the praise of His glory."*** We demonstrate the fruits of the Spirit or divine nature of love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and the like, by the indwelling of the Set-apart Spirit. Galatians 5: 22 & 23. We read from 1 Corinthians 2: 11 - 12, ***"For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of Elohim no one knows except the Spirit of Elohim. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from Elohim, that we might know the things freely given to us by Elohim."*** We are also told in 2 Peter 1: 4 that we may become partakers of the divine nature.

are a trinity or three persons in one, instead it teaches that although you have three component parts, of which two are invisible, you as an individual are only one person. It should therefore be clear that this does not teach the doctrine of the Trinity at all.

As mentioned before no one has or can see YHWH the Father, but the word who became Yahshua in the flesh

revealed Him to us, as we read from John 1: 18, in this way: ***'No man has seen Elohim at any time; the only begotten Elohim, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.'*** In fact we read Yahshua's own words in this regard in John 14: 9, after Philip asked Him to show the disciples the Father, saying: ***"Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, 'Show us the Father?'"*** Yahshua came to earth as the Son of Man, when He as the word of YHWH became a flesh and blood human being, to become our kinsman Redeemer – Abraham's promised one seed through whom the lost sheep of the house of Israel are allowed to return to the covenant our ancient forefathers made with YHWH together with the house of Judah at Mount Sinai. After Yahshua was resurrected he became the Son of Elohim, as witnessed from Romans 1: 1 – 4, as follows: ***'Shaul, a bond-servant of Messiah Yahshua, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of Elohim, (2) which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the Set-apart Scriptures, (3) concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, (4) who was declared the Son of Elohim with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the spirit of holiness, Yahshua Messiah our Master.'*** But what is the difference between the two titles? When Messiah was born as the Son of Man, He became a flesh and blood 'human being' to be able as our kinsman Redeemer to buy back the piece of the Promised Land we as the lost sheep of Israel lost through idolatry, but also to pay the penalty due to us for transgressing Elohim's Torah teachings. When Messiah was born-again from the dead at His resurrection three days and three nights after His death and burial, He showed us how we are able to be born again as sons or children of Elohim, when we will be resurrected at His return. Understanding the true identity of Elohim in the Tanach is vital to becoming born-again with the spiritual nature of Elohim. But, what is the composition of Elohim? Yahshua gave us the answer to this in John 4: 24, saying: ***"Elohim is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."***

Rav Shaul told us the difference between the composition of man and Elohim in 1 Corinthians 15: 47 & 48, saying: ***'The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. (48) As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly.'*** One of the great differences between Elohim's Kingdom and a human kingdom is that Elohim is composed of an invisible spirit, while man is mortal flesh and blood, made from the dust of the earth. Immediately before Yahshua was taken to be crucified, He asked the Father to restore Him to the same glorious position He had with the Father, before He came to earth to be born as a flesh and blood human in John 17: 5, saying: ***"And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was."*** We see what Messiah looked like when He appeared to Yochanan in Revelation 1: 13 – 16, in this way: ***'And in the middle of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His breast with a golden girdle. (14) And His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire; (15) and his feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been caused to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. (16) And in His right hand He held seven stars; and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.'*** This is what Messiah looks like now, and will also when He returns to rule the world from Jerusalem. The main difference between mankind and Elohim is that Elohim is Holy or Set-apart and mankind is not, as we read from 1st Samuel 2: 2, as follows: ***"There is no one holy like YHWH, indeed, there is no one besides Thee, nor is there any rock like our Elohim."*** The word 'holy' in this case means Set-apart, but also means 'pure of heart' and free from sin. Elohim possess a sinless, set-apart spiritual attitude and mind. But what does all this have to do with

our being born-again? Everything! Because, when we are born-again one day, we will have the same glory and set-apartness as that of Elohim.

It is very important for us to understand the 'Father-Son' relationship of the Elohim Family, as it will help us understand the plan and purpose of Elohim and being 'born-again.' In Isaiah 43: 10 & 11 YHWH said of Himself: ***"You are My witnesses," declares YHWH, "and My servant whom I have chosen, in order that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no Elohim formed, and there will be none after Me. (11) I, even I, am YHWH; and there is no savior besides Me."*** This agrees with what Yahshua told the Jews in John 10: 30, saying: ***"I and the Father are one."*** Yet, we also see from verses 27 - 29, Yahshua saying: ***"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; (28) and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. (29) My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand."*** YHWH manifested Himself as the Son, to show us that if we follow in the footsteps of the Son – we will like Him be resurrected and born again as Spiritual children of Elohim. However, as the visible image of the invisible Elohim, Yahshua was always under the control of the Father – even before the Word became flesh. We are given the reason why Yahshua Messiah as the word of Elohim became flesh in Hebrews 2: 9, 11, 14 & 15, as follows: ***'But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Yahshua, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of Elohim He might taste death for everyone. (11) For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren. (14) Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; (15) and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.'*** Yahshua Messiah, formerly the word of Elohim became a mortal man so that He the Creator of everything could pay the death penalty for the sins of all mankind. He was able to do this because His life was far more valuable than the lives of all human beings together – after all He was Elohim made flesh.

After Yahshua Messiah's miraculous begettal, the word of Elohim became composed of flesh and blood, YHWH became known as YHWH the Father as witnessed in John 1: 14, in this way: ***'And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.'*** A second witness comes from Matthew 18: 35, as follows: ***"So shall My heavenly Father also do to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."*** Before Messiah – the Word – was conceived in Miriam, He was not the 'Son', He was the visible image or the word of Elohim who appeared to Abraham (Genesis 12: 1 – 4; 6 – 7; 17: 1 -22; 18: 1 -33: etc.) to Hagar (Genesis 16: 1 – 16); to Jacob (Genesis 32: 24 – 30); to Moses (Exodus 3: 2 – 17 & Numbers 12: 8); to Samson's parents (Judges: 1 – 22) and to others. Yahshua existed eternally as witnessed in Micah 5: 2, in this way: ***"But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity."*** Yahshua's 'human' birth was His first birth. He gave up His glory or esteem as Elohim in order to be born into the world as a 'human' being, live a perfect sinless life, and then give His life to pay the penalty of all human sins and to die to be able to remarry His bride – the united Israel.

We need to understand that man is not merely another 'animal' as evolutionist claim, but that Elohim's purpose for creating us surpasses anything ever conceived by the mind of man. We see from Genesis 1: 20 - 25 that Elohim created animals after the animal kind. But, we see further from verses 26 & 27 of Genesis 1, that YHWH created man in His own image and likeness. Without any interpretation, these verses plainly state that Elohim created fish to reproduce after their own particular kind, and cattle after the cattle kind. Each kind may have a number of varieties within it, but all creatures reproduce only after their own kind. Dogs reproduce dogs, sheep reproduce sheep,

monkeys reproduce monkeys, but man was created in the image and likeness of Elohim. In Elohim's pattern for all life, like reproduces like and just as each created form of plant or animal reproduces after its own kind, so man reproduces man. But unlike any of the animals created by Elohim, man was created in Elohim's image or likeness. These scriptures refute the theory that man is merely the 'highest' form of the animals, having 'evolved' from lower mammals. They clearly state that Elohim created man after His own 'image' and 'likeness'. We know from what we have already studied that YHWH our Elohim is invisible (as per 1st Timothy 1: 17), and that no man has seen or can see Elohim, as He is invisible (1st Timothy 6: 16). But we read from Colossians 1: 15, that Yahshua is the (visible) image of the invisible Elohim, the first-born of all creation. Yes, Yahshua is the first 'person' who was born again from the dead as is confirmed in Colossians 1: 18. A second witness to Yahshua being the 'image' of Elohim comes from 2nd Corinthians 4: 4. It is clear therefore that we look like the image of Elohim, Yahshua. Only a few people have really understood the tremendous significance of this astounding truth – that Elohim is reproducing Himself and our destiny as human beings, are to become like Yahshua when He became the Son of Elohim, the literal 'children' of Elohim.

Continue with part 2 on the next page.

Chapter 2: What does it mean to be 'Born Again' 2?

We continue with the question we addressed partly in part 1 of this lesson. We have seen from John 4: 24 that Elohim is composed of spirit and we read from Genesis 2: 7 that mankind were made from dust. So, even though man is made in the likeness of Elohim, we are not presently composed of the same substance. However, by studying the Scriptures we will come to understand that Elohim's purpose was to eventually create him out of spirit, as Rav Shaul explains in 1st Corinthians 15: 45 & 46, saying: ***'So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam (meaning Yahshua) became a life-giving spirit. (46) However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.'*** Continuing in verses 47 – 49, ***'The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. (48) As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. (49) And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.'*** Clearly man is much more than any animal; Man has the potential to become spiritual born again sons and daughters of Elohim and Yahshua the Messiah came specifically to show us the way or how to become sons of Elohim. This is in fact the true meaning of John 3: 16. Astonishing as it may sound, Elohim is now in a process of creating His greatest creation of all – spiritual sons and daughters of Elohim with perfect spiritual characters. Elohim is slowly but surely molding and forming us as Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 64: 8, saying, ***'But now, O YHWH, Thou art our Father, we are the clay, and Thou our potter; and all of us are the work of Thy hand.'*** Man's creation in the Garden of Eden was only complete in the physical sense; Adam was created a perfect specimen, but not a perfect spiritual creation. He was created from dust; he was created corruptible – not incorruptible; he was created subject to death – not immortal. However, Elohim did not intend for man to remain this way!

Job understood that Elohim was developing a special creation in his life when he wrote in Job 14: 14 & 15, saying: ***"If a man dies, will he live again? All the days of my struggle I will wait, until my change comes. (15) Thou wilt call, and I will answer Thee; Thou wilt long for the work of Thy hands."*** True believers are being fashioned by Elohim for a specific purpose as Rav Shaul testified in Ephesians 2: 10, saying: ***'For we are His workmanship, created in Messiah Yahshua for good works, which Elohim prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.'*** The word 'we' in the Renewed Covenant, usually refer to Nazarene Jewish/Israelite believers, as Rav Shaul intended in verse 10. We then as called out believers are Elohim's workmanship and are at this time being created 'for good works'. When we are immersed into Messiah's saving name, we are given a portion of Elohim's Set-apart Spirit and over time it forms Elohim's perfect spiritual character in us. As we grow in grace and knowledge, asking Elohim for more of His Set-apart Spirit, our lives (souls) should begin to reflect Elohim's character to the world. Man's material creation is only the beginning phase of our creation. YHWH is now fashioning and molding us by experience, and with the help of the Set-apart Spirit, into the finished spiritual masterpiece. The Gospel that Yahshua brought to mankind was simply the good news about the coming Kingdom of Elohim. However, that Kingdom is dual as it is not only the ruling government which Messiah will establish on the earth, when He returns, but it will also be the Elohim Kingdom composed of Spirit begotten children of Elohim. Yahshua became the 'Son of Man' by being born as a 'human' to buy back the property we as members of the lost ten tribes lost due to idolatry, and to pay the penalty due for the sins of mankind as our kinsman redeemer. He became the 'Son of Elohim' when He was born-again by His resurrection to show us the way to become children of Elohim like Him, as witnessed in Romans 8: 28 & 29, as follows: ***'And we know that Elohim causes all things to work together for good to those who love Elohim, to those who are called according to His purpose. (29) For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren.'*** To be 'conformed to the image' of Yahshua means to become like Him – to be glorified and become part of the spiritual Family of Elohim, as witnessed in 2 Corinthians 3: 18, in this way: ***'But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Master, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from YHWH, the Spirit.'***

However, before flesh-and-blood believers can enter Elohim's spiritual Family, they need be changed into spirit beings as Rav Shaul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15: 49 – 51, saying: ***'And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. (50) 'Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of Elohim; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. (51) Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed.'*** If we are faithful true believers we are already in this life the children of Elohim as Rav Yochanan wrote in 1 John 3: 1 – 2, saying: ***'See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of Elohim; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. (2) Beloved, now we are children of Elohim, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall like Him because we shall see him just as He is.'*** In addition we are already heirs of the Kingdom of Elohim, as Rav Shaul wrote in Romans 8: 14 – 17, saying: ***'For all who are being led by the Spirit of Elohim, these are sons of Elohim. (15) For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Avinu! Father! (16) The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of Elohim, (17) and if children, heirs also, heirs of Elohim and fellow heirs with Messiah, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.'*** Even though we are already children of Elohim, we are only heirs – those who shall in the future inherit, since we are presently only begotten children and it is only when we are born of Elohim that we become inheritors of Elohim's Kingdom – spiritual members of the Family of Elohim.

Before the second phase of our spiritual creation can begin, Elohim the Father must first beget each of us by placing His Set-apart Spirit within us at immersion into Yahshua's saving name. At that time we are impregnated by the 'seed' of eternal life. Similar to the way a newly begotten physical embryo begins to grow in its mother's womb, we begin to grow in Spiritual Character after we are begotten of Elohim's Set-apart Spirit. This growth comes through prayer, study and obeying Elohim's Torah, the way in which Yahshua our Messiah showed us when He was on earth. The Set-apart Spirit makes us into the literal begotten sons of Elohim, as we are going to be just like our Heavenly Father when finally His creation is completed in us. And in this way spiritual-begotten believers have become the unborn children of Elohim, in the same way that an unborn human fetus is the child of its human parents. Because the Set-apart Spirit is Elohim's Divine Nature, the portion of the Set-apart Spirit that we receive at immersion and the laying on of hands by a teaching elder, we are given access of the Divine Nature of Elohim, as Rav Kepha wrote in 2 Peter 1: 2 – 4, saying: ***'Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of Elohim and of Yahshua our Master; (3) seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. (4) For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.'*** Once we have been given a portion of the Set-apart Spirit, we will also begin to reflect the fruits of the Spirit in our lives as recorded in Galatians 5: 22 & 23, as follows: ***'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.'*** We also see from Romans 13: 10 that love enables us to obey Elohim's Torah, in this way: ***'Love does no wrong to a neighbor; love therefore is the fulfillment of the law.'*** The Set-apart Spirit that a believer receives from Elohim at immersion can be compared to the seed of a human father. Elohim's Spirit transmits His spiritual attributes to us, even as a physical seed transmits a human father's attributes to his newly conceived offspring, The Set-apart Spirit; the seed by which we are spiritually begotten imparts to us the nature and life of Elohim our heavenly Father. Elohim placed within you the seed of eternal life. He begot you with the Set-apart Spirit just as the seed from a human father impregnates the egg of the mother. Your mind or the spirit in man can be compared to an egg or ovum. You were impregnated with the spiritual seed of eternal life, but are not yet born-again of Elohim and are therefore not yet immortal.

Yahshua told Nicodemus in John 3: 6, saying: ***“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”*** Since we are in the flesh, we are not yet born-again. When Messiah was resurrected or born again, He walked through a closed door, as recorded in John 20: 19 & 20, as follows: ***‘When therefore it was evening, on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Yahshua came and stood in their midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.” (20) And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples therefore rejoiced when they saw the Master.’*** Yahshua plainly said that you must become composed of spirit to enter the Kingdom of Elohim (in John 3: 3 & 5). Therefore the new birth is something yet to occur and those in Churchianity who claim to be born-again, whilst they are flesh and blood human beings are simply deceived. Rav Kepha encouraged true believers to grow in grace and knowledge in order to remain protected from being deceived by the error of unprincipled men in 2 Peter 3: 14 – 18, saying: ***‘Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, (15) and regard the patience of our Master to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Shaul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, (16) as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. (17) You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness, (18) but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Master and Savior Yahshua Messiah. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.’*** Messiah especially commissioned His disciples who completed His discipleship program to immerse and teach new believers whom YHWH calls from the lost sheep of the house of Israel, to return to the covenant relationship we had with Him, together with the house of Judah at Mount Sinai. Rav Shaul also tells us in Ephesians 4: 7 - 14 that Yahshua made provision to provide His congregations with different gifts, which will enable some to teach them, as follows: ***‘But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Messiah’s gift. (8) Therefore it says, “WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN.” (9) (Now this expression, “He ascended,” what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? (10) He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) (11) And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, (12) for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Messiah; (13) until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of Elohim, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Messiah. (14) As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; (15) but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Messiah.’***

In the same way that a human father begets a child in a human mother, our heavenly Father begets us with a portion of His Set-apart Spirit, as Rav Shaul explains in Ephesians 1: 13 & 14, in this way: ***“In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation – having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Set-apart Spirit of promise, (14) who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of Elohim’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.”*** The Father does not ‘bring forth’, the mother does that, later. After the father’s role which starts the process, there is always a lapse of time leading to birth. At the time of begetting, birth has not yet occurred. In the case of human beings, it follows about nine months later. In the intervening time, similar as a mother nourished and protects the unborn son or daughter in her womb during the gestation period, so the true congregation is commissioned to nourish and protect true believers. Elohim’s spirit-begotten children must be fed on the spiritual food provided by Elohim - the words of the Scriptures and live by every word of Elohim, in order to grow in spiritual character. If we are matured in spiritual character when Messiah returns, we will become born again spiritual children of Elohim as Rav Shaul explains in 1 Corinthians 15: 51 – 55, saying: ***‘Behold, I tell you a***

mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. (53) For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. (54) But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, “DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY. (55) O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?” This tells us clearly that once we are resurrected, we will no longer be subject to death. However, if a spirit-begotten child of Elohim does not grow spiritually such a believer may become a spiritual miscarriage and be aborted. Because Elohim is Spirit, when one is born of the heavenly Father, he will also be in Elohim’s likeness spiritually, as David who understood the concept confirmed in Psalm 17: 15, saying: *‘As for me, I shall behold Thy face in righteousness; I will be satisfied with Thy likeness when I awake.’* We will be given spiritual bodies just like Messiah’s after He was resurrected as shown in Revelation 1: 13 – 16 (quoted earlier), and all who are thus ‘born of Elohim’ will be able to see Elohim because they will be part of the divine family, in the Kingdom of Elohim.

Most Christians assume that they were ‘born again’ when they first accepted C*h*r*i*s*t* in their lives and by misapplying the King James Version’s translation of 1 John 3: 9, *‘Whoever is born of G-d doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of G-d,’* they also assume that they are no longer capable of sinning in this life. However, Rav Yochanan clearly shows in 1 John 1: 8 – 10 that this assumption is incorrect, as follows: *“If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”* Rav Yochanan further shows in 1 John 5: 18 that once a person is born-again he/she will not sin anymore, in this way: *‘We know that no one who is born of Elohim sins; but He (meaning Yahshua) who was born of Elohim keeps him and the evil one does not touch him.’* Once we are born of Elohim at the resurrection we will be able to live without ever sinning again, because we will possess the fullness of Elohim’s perfect character and divine nature. We will no longer possess a nature which can fall victim to sin. But as long as we are only ‘begotten’ of Elohim we must continue to resist the evil temptations of the flesh. When caught off guard in a moment of weakness, we can sin! But we do not any longer ‘practice (or continually live in) sin’ and are the begotten children of Elohim. Life, to the begotten believer, is a constant struggle against the wiles of Satan, temptations in the world and pulls of our own flesh. Although he has now received the begetting of Elohim’s divine nature, he still has human nature as well, and the one wars against the other, as we read from Galatians 5: 17, in this way: *‘For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.’*

But what about the men of Elohim in the Tanach? How can we prove whether any of them were either begotten or born of Elohim? We read in Psalm 51: 10 – 11 that David had the Set-apart Spirit and after His sin with Bathsheba, asked Elohim not to take His Set-apart Spirit from him. Rav Kepha tells us in Acts 2: 29 – 35 that David has not been born-again yet, but is still in his grave, in this way: *“Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. (30) And so, because he was a prophet, and knew that ELOHIM HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT one OF HIS DESCENDANTS UPON HIS THRONE, (31) he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID HIS flesh SUFFER DECAY, (32) This Yahshua Elohim raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. (33) Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of Elohim, and having received from the Father the promise of the Set-apart Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. (34) For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: ‘YHWH SAID TO MY MASTER, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, (35) UNTIL I MAKE THINE ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR THY FEET.”’* But, what about all the other patriarchs including

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? We see from the faith chapter in Hebrews 11: 35 that they all qualified to be in the better or first resurrection. But we also see from verses 39 & 40 that they are still waiting to be resurrected when Messiah returns, as follows: ***'And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, (40) because Elohim had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they should not be made perfect.'*** Yahshua our Messiah came to show us the way we are able to like Him one day, become children of Elohim through the resurrection. He was the *'first born from the dead'* as we read from Colossians 1: 18, in this way: ***'He is also head of the body, the congregation; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.'*** Now since these personages in the Tanach had Elohim's Set-apart Spirit, and yet Messiah was first to be born of Elohim by virtue of His resurrection, then it follows that those men of old were merely 'begotten' of Elohim. The same is also true of every true believer who died since Messiah's time.

Much of the confusion about being 'born again' has resulted from misinterpreting the original Greek translation of the Renewed Covenant. With the exception of James 1: 15 & 18, the Greek word used in reference to spiritual begetting and birth or salvation, is always *'gennao'*. This word means both 'to conceive' or 'to beget' and also 'to bear' or 'to be born' and all or any part of the process, which produces a new single human being; whereas in English we use two separate verbs, namely: 'begotten' and 'born'. Since both begetting and birth are included in the meaning of *'gennao'*, we must let the Scriptures interpret the Scriptures in order to know which meaning is intended in a specific passage. Here are a few examples where the Greek word should correctly have been translated as 'begotten' and not born: John 1: 12 – 13; 1 John 2: 29; 4: 7; 5: 1 (three times); 5: 4. The King James Version correctly use the word 'begotten' in 1 Corinthians 4: 15; Hebrews 1: 5 and 1 John 5: 1. At this point some might ask: 'What about the Scriptures that refer to Messiah as the only begotten in John 1: 14, 18; 3: 16 & 1 John 4: 9? Do these disprove the truth that true believers are only 'begotten' of Elohim's Spirit, growing toward being 'born' of Elohim at the resurrection? The answer is a definite no, since all these verses are referring to Messiah's miraculous begetting in His mother Miriam's womb. Messiah's physical begetting and birth *'gennao'* were unique. No other human has ever been begotten by the Spirit of the Father in a human mother's womb! In that sense He is, shall always be the 'only begotten' of Elohim. But many have been 'begotten again' (1 Peter 1: 3) to ultimately through the process of spiritual growth and birth become the spirit-born children of Elohim.

The physical creation of man spoken about in Genesis one was that of him made of the dust of the ground. That was the material being which Elohim planned to mold, shape and form into a perfect Spiritual creation. Elohim pictures man as a clay model, which He as the Master Potter is forming into the spiritual image of Himself. He uses the example of the human reproduction the process by which He is reproducing Himself, to show us how we will be born-again as His spiritual children. Each human since Adam and Eve started from a tiny ovum, the size of a pinpoint, produced in the body of the human mother. But the ovum or egg is incomplete of itself, since it only lives for about 48 hours and unless fertilized by the life-giving sperm cell from the human father within the limited time, it dies. A human life can only begin when that sperm cell impregnates the ovum. Spiritually speaking, each human mind (or the spirit in man) is like an egg. Each of us was born incomplete; able to live only a relatively short period of time. We were made to need the impregnating spiritual life of Elohim's Set-apart Spirit so we could be created in Elohim's spiritual 'image' and live forever. The physical ovum, once fertilized, becomes a begotten human life called an embryo. The mother's womb nourishes and protects it – carrying it in that part of her body where she may best protect it from physical injury, until it has grown enough to be born. After a number of weeks, the embryo develops to become a fetus, and at birth it is called a human baby. Likewise Elohim's congregation through its teacher/discipleship program protects and spiritually feeds begotten believers with the Word of Elohim so they grow spiritually (as per 2 Peter 3: 18) in the divine character of Elohim until ready to be born into His family. But, there is one major difference in this likeness. The physical fetus

does not attain physical and mental maturity before birth. Nevertheless, the spirit-begotten believer must attain a reasonable measure of spiritual maturity before he is spirit-born. The newborn physical baby's main growth occurs after birth, but this type of the spiritual growing which spiritually begotten Believers must do before their spiritual birth is as Rav Kepha wrote in 1 Peter 2: 1 -2, saying: ***'Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, (2) like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.'*** Messiah did not grow into spiritual perfection after He was resurrected, but during His 'human' life-time, setting us the example, being made perfect, as we read from Hebrews 2: 10, in this way: ***'For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.'***

Messiah was born-again as the very son of Elohim by the resurrection as witnessed in Romans 1: 4, as follows: ***'Who was declared the Son of Elohim with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the spirit of holiness, Yahshua Messiah our Master.'*** He was resurrected full grown. His disciples who became His apostles knew He was the same Yahshua after His resurrection, because Kepha, Yaa'cov and Yochanan saw Him in His glorified state before, when He was transfigured before them. He looked like He did before, except He had a spiritual resurrected body covered in glory. When we will be 'born again' and changed into spirit bodies at the resurrection, we, too shall look essentially as we do now, as far as physical features are concerned, but the resurrected body will be composed of spirit instead of flesh and blood and we will be covered in light or glory. Spiritual growth simply means character development; the ability as free moral agents, to discern right from wrong, by applying Torah to our lives and to make the right decisions, even against self-desire, impulse or temptation. We must develop spiritual character and grow toward spiritual adulthood during this life; not after we are born of Elohim at the resurrection. Our abhorrent carnal nature must be gradually changed by feeding on the Word of Elohim, through prayer and believing in the one whom YHWH has sent.

When Messiah returns to earth, those who remain faithful shall be resurrected, or instantaneously changed into spiritual bodies and our present physical bodies will be made like His glorified body, when we are born-again as Elohim's own immortal children to reign under Yahshua Messiah as His bride. Halleluyah!

Chapter 3: The Gospel of the Kingdom of Elohim.

Yahshua our Messiah revealed His primary purpose for coming to earth to His disciples in Matthew 10: 5 – 7, in this way: ***“These twelve Yahshua sent out after instructing them, saying, “Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; (6) but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (7) And as you go, “preach, saying, the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*** By the time Yahshua came to earth the first time, the house of Israel was taken into captivity more than 700 years earlier and was already on their way to be dispersed throughout the nations of the world. They became part of the nations into which they were scattered and have forgotten their language, culture and the covenant they made with Elohim, together with the house of Judah at Mount Sinai. After Yahshua’s resurrection and before His ascension to heaven, He therefore commissioned His disciples (and by extension also us, His modern day disciples), in Matthew 28: 18 – 20, saying: ***“All authority (the KJV reads: power) has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (19) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, immersing them in the name (singular) of the Father and the Son and the Set-apart Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*** In addition Yahshua told His disciples in Mark 16: 15, saying: ***“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”*** The reason for His disciples (or students) having to preach the good news into the entire world was obviously to reach members of the lost ten tribes literally spread world-wide, and are even more so during the latter days.

The question at this point is: what is the true gospel? Is the gospel the same ‘gospel’ proclaimed by most Christian churches today, namely John 3: 16, as follows: ***“For Elohim so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”*** This is indeed good news, but it is definitely not the Gospel as proclaimed by Yahshua our Messiah. Every time the word gospel (or good news) is used in the Scriptures it is associated with the coming Kingdom of Elohim. Now, there is a great deal of confusion regarding the ‘concept’ Kingdom of Elohim. Some hold that the Kingdom of Elohim simply means that YHWH rules in the hearts of true believers whilst others believe that since in places in the Renewed Covenant, it is referred to as the Kingdom of heaven, it means that after death believers simply go to heaven, to spend eternity there beholding the face of Elohim. However, Yahshua gives us a clue about the Kingdom of Elohim in the model prayer that He gave in Matthew 6, and specifically in verses 9 & 10, saying: ***“Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. (10) Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”*** Our Father’s will is already done in heaven and His Kingdom already exists there, but we need to pray for it to come down to earth. But why do we want Elohim’s will and kingdom to come down to earth? Most of us are aware that after 6000 years of mankind’s attempt to rule the earth without any involvement of Elohim, we have shown ourselves to be incapable of solving even the smallest problems facing mankind at present, and even though most don’t realize it, we desperately need Elohim to personally intervene to save us from ourselves.

Apart from the prayer Messiah taught His original disciples, we also read the prophecy in Daniel about four major world empires depicted by the statue in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream that will rule the world from Nebuchadnezzar’s time until the end of days, when Messiah will return to put an end to their rulership and start ruling the world for ever, as Daniel explained to Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2: 44 & 45, saying: ***“And in the days of those kings the Elohim of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. (45) Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great Elohim has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true, and its interpretation is trustworthy.”*** King Solomon who is according to the Scriptures one of the wisest men who ever lived, revealed a truism for us which not many today believe, in Proverbs 2: 21 & 22 saying: ***‘For the upright will live in the land, and the blameless***

will remain in it; (22) but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be uprooted from it. This is confirmed in Psalm 115: 16, as follows: ***‘The heavens are the heavens of YHWH; but the earth He has given to the sons of men.’*** From this we understand that mankind is assigned to dwell on earth. But, how does this correlate with the idea that good people go to heaven at death? According to 1 Peter 1: 4 our inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, is reserved for us in heaven. However, notice carefully, it does not mean that we need to go there to get our inheritance. It is simply reserved for us in heaven, similar to the way a Swiss bank account is used to keep money safe, for use at a later stage.

After Yahshua’s immersion by Yochanan the Immerser, the Spirit impelled Him to go into the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. Then after Yochanan the Immerser was taken into custody, Yahshua came into Galilee preaching the gospel of Elohim. Yes, here is the true gospel of Elohim being preached by Yahshua Messiah, at the very beginning of His three and a half year ministry, as recorded in Mark 1:15, as follows: ***“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of Elohim is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”*** Yahshua was very serious regarding preaching about the coming Kingdom of Elohim, as we read from Luke 4: 43, in this way: ***‘But He said to them, “I must preach the kingdom of Elohim to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose.”’*** Before YHWH entered into a covenant with the Israelites at Mount Sinai, after taking them out of captivity in Egypt and leading them to the Promised Land by the hand of Moses, He told them that they are to be to Him a royal priesthood, a holy or Set-apart nation, to show the rest of the world how to live in peace and prosperity by obeying and serving Him, the Creator and sustainer of the universe. The reason for so doing was that YHWH the Elohim of Israel, planned to come and dwell among His people to provide for and protect them, from the time of their exodus from Egypt (Exodus 19: 5 & 6). So it is clear therefore that the Good News or Gospel of Elohim’s coming Kingdom on earth, was actually introduced before Messiah’s earthly life. It is called an ***‘eternal gospel’*** in Revelation 14: 6 and we see in Hebrews 4: 2 that the Gospel was preached to ancient Israel, as follows: ***“For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.”*** The gospel was also preached to Abraham as we read from Galatians 3: 8, in this way: ***“And the Scripture, foreseeing that Elohim would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, ‘ALL THE NATIONS SHALL BE BLESSED IN YOU.’”***

The Good News about the glorious future of mankind has been (YHWH)’s plan from the beginning. It was proclaimed to King David and He wrote about the kingdom of Elohim in Psalm 145: 10 – 13 saying: ***“All Thy works shall give thanks to Thee, O YHWH, and Thy faithful (godly) ones shall bless Thee. (11) They shall speak of the esteem (glory) of Thy Kingdom, and talk of Thy power; (12) to make known to the sons of men Thy mighty acts, and the glory of the majesty of Thy kingdom. (13) Thy Kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Thy dominion endures throughout all generations.”*** Daniel knew about the coming kingdom of Elohim as recorded for us in Daniel 7: 27, in this way: ***“Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole earth will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.”*** Yahshua’s followers in the Scriptures also preached about the Kingdom of Elohim; in Matthew 3: 2 Yochanan the Immerser announced that ***“the kingdom of Heaven is at hand”***. Rav Kepha (Peter) also spoke about the Kingdom of Elohim in 2 Peter 1: 10 & 11, as follows: ***‘Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; (11) for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Master and Savior Yahshua Messiah will be abundantly supplied to you.’*** We also read about Phillip’s message in Acts 8: 12 in this way: ***“But when they believed Phillip preaching the good news about the kingdom of Elohim and the name of Yahshua Messiah, they were being immersed, men and women alike.”***

There is not one single verse in the Scriptures that says, human beings will go to heaven, when they die. In fact Yahshua confirmed this in John 3: 13, saying: ***“And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man.”*** Yes, we see set-apart people from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, which come out of the great tribulation; that washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, with palm branches in their hands in Revelation 7. We also see a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who came victorious from the beast and from the image of the beast, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of Elohim, and they sang the song of Moses and of the Lamb in Revelation 15. Next we read from Revelation 17: 14, the Lamb overcoming the beast and those who are in support of him; and those who are with the Lamb are the called, the chosen and the faithful. This is in fact confirmed in Zechariah 14: 4 – 9, where we read about Yahshua’s return to earth to rule the world from Jerusalem, when He will bring His set-apart ones with Him, as follows: ***‘And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. (5) And you will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then YHWH, my Elohim, will come, and all the set-apart ones with Him! (6) And it will come about in that day that there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle. (7) For it will be a unique day which is known to YHWH, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening time there will be light. (8) And it will come about in that day that living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter. (9) And YHWH will be king over all the earth; in that day YHWH will be the only one, and His name the only one.’***

So we see that when Yahshua returns one day, His elect will return to earth with Him to set-up His Kingdom for a thousand years, as recorded in Revelation 5: 10, in this way: ***“And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our Elohim; and they will reign upon the earth.”*** A second witness to this may be found in Revelation 20: 6, as follows: ***‘Blessed and set-apart is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of Elohim and of Messiah and will reign with Him for a thousand years.’*** After the thousand year reign of Yahshua Messiah and His spiritual team of first-fruits, Satan will be loosed once more; he will again deceive the nations which are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war. They will surround the camp of the saints in Jerusalem, but fire will come down from heaven and devour them, and Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire, where he will be tormented day and night forever and ever. After the great white throne judgment, death and the grave; and anyone whose name is not found written in the book of life, will be thrown into the lake of fire. Then at the end of the age, we see that Elohim will bring His abode with Him to come and dwell with us here on earth, as we read from Revelation 21: 1 – 3 in this way: ***‘And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. (2) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from Elohim, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. (3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of Elohim is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and Elohim Himself shall be among them.’***

Even so, we need to backtrack to immediately prior to where Yahshua proclaimed, ***‘the kingdom of Elohim is at hand’***. At that time, Yochanan the Immerser was sent in the spirit of Elijah, as prophesied in Isaiah 40: 3 and as he said in John 1: 23, to: ***‘MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF YHWH,’*** and to make a suitable place for Him who is set-apart to walk on the earth which became defiled. We see from Deuteronomy 23: 14 that Elohim will turn away from us if we are defiled, in this way: ***“Since YHWH your Elohim walks in the midst of your camp to deliver you and to defeat your***

enemies before you, therefore your camp must be holy; and He must not see anything indecent among you lest He turn away from you.” Heaven is Elohim’s habitation, as is confirmed in Deuteronomy 26: 15, as follows: **‘Look down from Thy Set-apart habitation, from heaven, and bless Thy people Israel, and the ground which Thou hast given us, a land flowing with milk and honey, as Thou didst swear to our fathers.’** When YHWH told Moses to build a Tabernacle, which means ‘a dwelling place’ for Him, He told Moses to ensure that he built everything strictly according to the pattern, that He has shown him, as we read from Exodus 25: 9, in this way: **“According to all that I am going to show you, as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, just so you shall construct it.”** The tabernacle in the wilderness and the Temple that Solomon built had to be exact copies as they were replicas of Elohim’s dwelling place in heaven, as we read from Hebrews 8: 1 - 5, as follows: **‘Now the main point in what has been said is this; we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, (2) a minister in the sanctuary, and in the true tabernacle, which YHWH pitched, not man. (3) For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; hence it is necessary that this high priest also have something to offer. (4) Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; (5) who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by Elohim when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, “SEE,” He says, “THAT YOU MAKE all things ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN WHICH WAS SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN.”’**

When King Solomon erected the Temple, which was a more permanent pattern of the heavenly Tabernacle, he recognized that this is what YHWH promised in 2 Chronicles 6: 1 & 2, in this way: **‘Then Solomon said, “YHWH has said that He would dwell in the thick cloud. (2) I have built Thee a lofty house, and a place for Thy dwelling forever.”’** Solomon’s kingdom was in fact a foretaste of Elohim’s coming Kingdom. However, we know that Solomon allowed his many foreign wives to bring idolatry into Israel, consisting of both houses of Judah and Israel. As a result YHWH split the united nation of Israel in two separate kingdoms. The name ‘Israel’ remained with the ten tribes given to Jeroboam, and ‘Judah’ was given to Rehoboam, who caused the rift because he would not lighten the burdens of his subjects, as is recorded for us in 1 Kings 12: 13 & 14, as follows: **‘And the king answered the people harshly, for he forsook the advice of the elders which they had given him, (14) and he spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying, “My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.”’** Since Jeroboam was from the tribe of Ephraim, ‘Ephraim’ became the ‘nom de plume’ of the ten tribes of Israel or the Northern Kingdom. We know that Ephraim’s namesake one of Joseph’s sons, was adopted by Jacob who put him in the position of his own firstborn son (as per Genesis 48). Jacob also specifically said in Genesis 48: 16, **‘The angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and may my name (Israel) live on in them (Ephraim and Manasseh), and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and may they grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.’** We see further that YHWH also calls Ephraim His first-born in Jeremiah 31: 9, as follows: **“With weeping they shall come, and by supplication I will lead them; I will make them walk by streams of waters, on a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is My first-born.”** So we see that the kingdom that used to be called Israel was now known as Ephraim.

But we are again ahead of the story, so, let’s backtrack a bit. We return to the account of Jeroboam and see that he was the direct cause for the eventual captivity and scattering of the nation throughout the world. Jeroboam was afraid that if the Israelites living in the Northern Kingdom were allowed to return to Jerusalem annually to observe the Feast Days of Elohim, they would return to King Rehoboam and be united with the Southern Kingdom again. So Jeroboam took the liberty of setting up alternatives to the Temple in Jerusalem, by building two temples, one in Dan and the other in Bethel, as we read from 1 Kings 12: 28 – 32, in this way: **‘So the king consulted, and made**

two golden calves, and he said to them, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem; behold your gods, O Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt." (29) And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. (30) Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan. (31) And he made houses on high places, and made priests from among all the people who were not of the sons of Levi. (32) And Jeroboam instituted a feast in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month, like the feast which is in Judah, and he went up to the altar; thus he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves which he had made. And he stationed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made.' Because Ephraim wanted to be like the nations around them, YHWH eventually scattered them throughout the world, as we read from Hosea 8: 8, as follows: *'Israel is swallowed up; they are now among the nations like a vessel in which no one delights.'* Eventually Judah was also taken captive, but they returned back to Jerusalem and the land of Israel 70 years later. Israel or Ephraim lost their identity, their language and their culture, but Judah who repented and returned to the Land, continue to obey the Torah of Elohim, including the festivals and the Sabbath. Even though these events were far from ideal, it was Elohim's doing, as we read from 1 Kings 12: 15, in this way: *'So the king did not listen to the people; for it was a turn of events from YHWH, that He might establish His word, which YHWH spoke through Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.'* However, we read from Romans 8: 28, *'And we know that Elohim causes all things to work together for good to those who love Elohim, to those who are called according to His purpose.'* It is as Joseph told his brothers in Genesis 50: 19 & 20, saying: *"Do not be afraid, for am I in Elohim's place? (20) And as for you, you meant evil against me, but Elohim meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive."*

Despite Ephraim's long estrangement from YHWH, Israel's calling was still irrevocable, as we read from Romans 11: 29, *'For the gifts and the calling of Elohim are irrevocable.'* This fellow believer affects you and me and gives a whole new perspective to what the true Gospel really is. In Genesis 48: 19 our father Jacob said that Ephraim's seed would become *'a multitude of nations'*. Reading from Romans 11, we find that Rav Shaul fully understood why Judah is blinded to the identity of Yahshua in verse 25 & 26, saying: *'For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation (many of those called at this time, are even at this time unaware of Yahshua's main purpose – the reason being that they always want to work things out for themselves, rather than accepting the word of Elohim), that a partial hardening has happened to Israel (In this case meaning Judah – as may be seen from verse 1) until the fullness of the Gentiles (those Israelites who believe that they are Gentiles and a few genuine Gentiles) has come in; (26) and thus all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB."* Notice, that even though our fathers in the faith went, or sent messengers to other countries to find brides for them and their children, they were still from the same family. Yahshua's future foreign bride will also be from the seed of Abraham and therefore not totally foreign, after all. Most of those responsive to the Gospel at this stage are 'Gentiles' only in a secondary sense. Even so, we read from Galatians 3: 29, *'(And) if you belong to Messiah, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.'*

Yahshua's apostles knew that the Kingdom of Elohim is the same thing as the Kingdom of Israel, and 40 days after His resurrection, just prior to His ascension to heaven, they came together asking Him in Acts 1: 6, saying: *"Master, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"* After Yahshua told them that they will soon receive the Set-apart Spirit and that they will witness about Him, in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth, He was lifted up in a cloud, in their sight and as they were gazing into the sky two angels told them that Yahshua will one day return the same way as He left. Even so, the point is that Yahshua's apostles were totally aware of what His mission was. They knew that Messiah came specifically to bring back the nation of Israel and then to reconcile them back to Judah and Elohim, as Rav Shaul explained in Ephesians 2:

11 – 22, and specifically in verse 12 – 16, as follows: ***‘remember that you were at that time separate from Messiah, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without Elohim in the world.*** (13) ***But now in Messiah Yahshua you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Messiah.*** (14) ***For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,*** (15) ***by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two (nations) into one new man, thus establishing peace,*** (16) ***and might reconcile them both in one body to Elohim through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.’***

Because of what Yahshua has already done for those of us whom He reconciled back to the Father, we are already a kingdom of priests, as Rav Kepha witnessed in 1 Peter 2: 5 – 10, saying: ***‘You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to Elohim through Yahshua Messiah.*** (6) ***For this is contained in Scripture: ‘BEHOLD I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.’*** (7) ***This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve, “THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone,”*** (8) ***and, “A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE”; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.*** (9) ***But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR Elohim’s OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*** (10) ***for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF ELOHIM; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.’*** It is for this reason that we already wear priestly garlands (a peer shaped head covering worn by priests) as prescribed for the priests in ancient Israel in Exodus 28: 40 & 29: 9. The Apostles were expressly commissioned to preach the good news of the coming Kingdom of Elohim until the return of our Master and as Prophesied in Zechariah 12: 7 – 10, He will return to save the tents of Judah first (verse 7). It is at that time that they will see His hands and He will pour on the House of David and on Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and of supplication (verse 10). They will mourn when they see His hands and accept Him as their savior, at which time the dead in Messiah will be resurrected as Rav Shaul also indicated in Romans 11: 15, saying: ***‘For if their rejection be the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?’*** After (YHWH)’s feet touch down on the Mount of Olives (as witnessed in Zechariah 14), the Kingdom of Elohim will be established on earth, as it is now in heaven. However, until that imminent day we are commanded to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom, as Yahshua taught in Matthew 24: 14, in this way: ***‘And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come.’*** Like the original apostles, we are sent to teach returning Israelites about the way of Elohim and His coming kingdom.

We read from Isaiah 52: 7, ***‘How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace and brings good news of happiness, who announces salvation, and says to Zion, “Your Elohim reigns!”’*** These same words are repeated in Nahum 1: 15, as follows: ***‘Behold, on the mountains the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace!’*** But we read further from verse 15 of Nahum 1, ***“Celebrate your feasts, O Judah; pay your vows. For never again will the wicked one pass through you; he is cut off completely.”*** Only by keeping the Feast Days of Elohim, according to the calendar ordained by Judah, could the plan of Elohim come to fruition and the Gospel retain its proper focus. Yes, the Good news about the coming Kingdom of Elohim is linked to the Feast Days of Elohim, given in Leviticus 23 and Deuteronomy 16, as they teach us the details of what Yahshua came (and will again come) to accomplish. YHWH also used the Prophet Isaiah to prophecy about Messiah’s main purpose in Isaiah 49: 5 & 6, saying: ***‘And now says YHWH, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, to bring Jacob back to Him, in order that***

Israel might be gathered to Him (For I am honored in the sight of YHWH, and My Elohim is My strength). (6) He says, "It is too small a thing that You (Yahshua) should be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel (the remnant of called out ones or Nazarenes); I will also make You a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Yahshua confirmed His primary purpose for coming to earth when He explained to the Canaanite woman who asked Him to heal her demon-possessed daughter, saying in Matthew 15: 24, saying: ***"I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."*** The reason for Yahshua having to bring the two houses of Israel together into one united commonwealth of Israel is because the Kingdom of Elohim over Israel cannot become a reality without both houses being present and a descendant of King David ruling them once again.

We conclude by reading a prophecy about Yahshua's return from Hosea 5: 15 – 6: 1 - 3, in this way: ***'I will go away and return to My place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face; in their affliction (tribulation) they will earnestly seek Me. (1) Come, let us return to YHWH. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us. (2) He will revive us after two days (two thousand years after He left); He will raise (resurrect or change) us up on the third day that we may live before Him. (3) So let us know, let us press on to know YHWH. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; and He will come to us like the rain, like the spring rain watering the earth.'"*** Yes, let's return to Elohim and His way, and proclaim the good news about His coming kingdom into the entire world, then the end of this present evil age shall come. Halleluyah!

Chapter 4: Did Elohim create Satan the devil?

To understand what is happening in the world today and what will happen in the near future, we must back track to events that occurred before the creation of mankind about 6,000 years ago. The account of how a high-ranking spiritual being of extraordinary beauty, power and intelligence, named Lucifer an anointed cherub and his angels became known as Satan and his demons is a fact most people are not even aware of today. But it is also one of the keys Elohim gave us to better understanding mankind's purpose and destiny, which is linked to the pre-historic conflict that began with Lucifer's rebellion against Elohim.

In fact many people alive today and in the past ridicule/d the Scriptural account of how the world began, because they find anomalies in archeological discoveries made throughout the past six thousand years, which they maintain, do not match up with what is recorded in the Scriptures. Here in South Africa school going children are nowadays taught about all the different religions of the world, including the theory of evolution; the idea is that when they grow up, they will be able to make an informed decision about which religion they should follow. An educational program presented to scholars on TV about evolution recently, ridiculed Churchianity for teaching that the world is only about six thousand years old. Fact is that most people are unaware of the fact that YHWH created the universe millions of years before He recreated the earth to be inhabited by spirit bearing mankind, who would eventually become His children. They also do not know that after Satan's rebellion, the universe became formless and void (transliterated as *'tohu-vav-vohu'* in the Hebrew Tanach); the condition the earth was in, in Genesis 1: 2. We need to understand that Elohim did not create the earth to be in the chaotic condition described in verse 2 of Genesis 1, as also witnessed by the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 45: 18, saying: ***'For thus says YHWH, who created the heavens (He is the Elohim who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited), "I am YHWH, and there is none else."***

YHWH is not the author of confusion, but of law and order, and of peace, as is confirmed in the first part of 1 Corinthians 14: 33, as follows: ***'For Elohim is not an Elohim of confusion but of peace.'*** YHWH did not create the world in disorder to later straighten it out again. But, what the Scriptures are telling us in Genesis 1: 1 is: ***"In the beginning Elohim created the heavens and the earth"*** and it was good, and in Genesis 1:2; ***'and the earth was (or became) formless and void...'*** or chaotic. So it is clear that in the period between the two verses, a rebellion took place, causing the once perfect earth to become a mess. We read about a discussion Elohim had with Job in Job 38: 4 – 7 saying to him: ***"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth! Tell Me, if you have understanding, (5) who set its measurements, since you know? Or who stretched the line on it? (6) On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, (7) when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of Elohim shouted for joy?"*** Verse 7 informs us that the angels sang together and shouted for joy after Elohim created the earth, implying a perfect and glorious creation. However their joy was in due course followed by disappointment, since verse 13 talks about a shaking of the earth to deal with the wicked.

Now, let's consider what the wickedness was that cause the physical destruction of the entire surface of the earth. We can be certain that it was definitely not due to any sin of humanity, since there had been no man on earth until the sixth day of the recreation of the earth. Even though the chaos that came about was not due to the wrongdoing of any human at that time, living beings populated the earth because a sin was committed on earth that resulted in the condition of confusion it was in before its recreation. But, what kind of life populated the earth, prior to Adam and the six days Elohim spent in recreating the earth? Rav Kepha gives us a hint to what happened in the first part of 2 Peter 2: 4, saying: ***'For if Elohim did not spare angels when they sinned.'*** Then in verses 5 & 6, Rav Kepha mentions the two occasions during which mankind sinned after the

recreation of the world when Elohim destroyed the perpetrators, saying: ***'And did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; (6) and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly thereafter.'*** Elohim destroyed the surface of the region in which these cities were located, because of the sins committed by those who lived in them, as an example for us not to live like their inhabitants did. Yet, today similar things are happening throughout the earth. Continuing with the same topic in Jude 6 & 7 we see a further description of what happened to the sinning angels, but also to the inhabitants of these two cities, as follows: ***'And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day. (7) Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example, in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.'*** From this we see that angels inhabited the earth together with pre-historic animals and plants before Elohim blotted out with water everything that Satan had done.

These angels abandoned their proper abode, but we have the assurance that the world to come will not be in subjection unto angles as we read in Hebrews 2: 5, in this way: ***'For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking.'*** This as well as the witness in 1 John 5: 19 informs us, that the present world is in subjection to fallen angels, as follows: ***'We know that we (those called and chosen at this time) are of Elohim, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.'*** But, how did these fallen angels obtain control over the world? We see that Satan is called the god of this world in 2 Corinthians 4: 3 & 4, in this way: ***'And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, (4) in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Messiah, who is the image of Elohim.'*** Yahshua also referred to Satan the devil as the leader of the fallen angels in amongst other in John 12: 31, saying: ***"Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world shall be cast out."*** In fact in agreement with this, we read from Revelation 12: 9, ***'And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with Him.'*** As the image of Elohim, Yahshua who existed from days of eternity (as per Micah 5: 2), saw when Satan was thrown out of heaven, as He told those whom He sent out to proclaim the coming kingdom of Elohim in Luke 10: 18, saying: ***"I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning."***

To see the account of Satan unfold, let's turn to Isaiah 14 and start reading from verses 3 & 4, where Isaiah speaks to the house of Jacob, saying: ***'And it will be in the day when YHWH gives you rest from your pain and turmoil and harsh service in which you have been enslaved, (4) that you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon, and say, "How the oppressor has ceased, and how fury has ceased!"*** But, who is this king of Babylon Isaiah is talking about? This tells us that he was the one who disrupted the earth, causing all the trouble over the past 6,000 years. It is only when we read further in Isaiah 14 that we discover his identity, but we also know from the prophecies described in Revelation 17 & 18 that he will be the future ruler over the resurrected Babylon or 'Holy Roman Empire', the system described in Revelation 13 which will receive power from Satan. We read further from verse 12 – 14 of Isaiah 14: ***"How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations! (13) But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars (angels) of Elohim, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north (where Elohim's throne is). (14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'*** The former archangel Lucifer was in charge over a third of the angels who followed him in rebellion. He had a throne, but wanted to invade heaven to dethrone Elohim.

We are given more details about this cherub who became Satan in Ezekiel 28. Reading from verse 2 we see that the human prince of Tyre, a type of the present system that will get much worse in the future, is referred to as being wealthy and surrounded by perfect beauty, thinking to himself, ***'I am a god, I sit in the seat of Elohim.'*** We see from 2 Thessalonians 2: 3 & 4, Rav Shaul telling the Thessalonians about the great falling away from the faith, before the coming of Messiah, when the man of sin will appear, saying: ***'Let no one in any way deceive you, for it (the coming of Messiah) will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, (4) who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of Elohim, displaying himself as being Elohim.'*** Then, similar to in Isaiah 14, the human type is elevated to the spiritual realm as Satan in verse 12 of Ezekiel 28, in this way: ***"Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says YHWH Elohim.'*** The entire prophecy beginning in Ezekiel 26 - 28 refers to Satan, and not to the ruler of the ancient city of Tyre, but to the immediate future before the coming of Messiah to remove Satan from his position as ruler of the earth. The prophecy focusses on the end of Satan's rulership over the nations of the earth. It, accordingly speaks about Satan himself, from the middle of verse 12 to 17 of Ezekiel 28, as follows: ***"You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. (13) You were in Eden, the garden of Elohim; every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald; and the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared. (14) You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain (Government) of Elohim; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. (15) You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you. (16) By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned; therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of Elohim. And I have destroyed (removed) you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. (17) Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, that they may see you.'*** This is definitely not talking about a human being, since Elohim would not say of a human that he seals up the sum of wisdom, beauty and perfection – this is talking about the created being as shown in verse 14.

This being was at the very throne of Elohim; he once was one of the cherubs depicted in the model of the heavenly throne of Elohim, which Moses had to make for the tabernacle in the wilderness, as described in Exodus 25: 17 – 20, in this way: ***"And you shall make a mercy seat of pure gold, two and a half cubits long and one and a half cubits wide. (18) And you shall make two cherubim of gold, make them of hammered work at the two ends of the mercy seat. (19) And make one cherub at one end and one cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim of one piece with the mercy seat at its two ends. (20) And the cherubim shall have their wings spread upward, covering the mercy seat with their wings and facing one another; the faces of the cherubim are to be turned toward the mercy seat."*** We see that Satan was once one of the cherubim whose wings spread out and covered the throne of Elohim, but was at that time thrown down to the earth, because of his rebellion against Elohim.

At this point, let's summarize what we've covered up to now. After creating the heavens and the earth in a perfect state, the angels shouted for joy. From this we understand that the earth was populated by angels from the time the universe was first created. At that time Lucifer, a super archangel sat on a throne and was part of the administration of Elohim's government, having been at the very throne of Elohim. Elohim placed Lucifer on the throne on earth to administer His government over the earth's angels. For thousands of years there was peace, joy and happiness on earth, until as it says in verse 15 of Ezekiel 28, unrighteousness was found in Lucifer. To be sure, Elohim did not create Satan the devil, but a perfect archangel named Lucifer. But because like with us, Lucifer and all the created angels were endowed with free moral agency – minds that could think

and reason, with the right to make choices and decisions. Eventually in the course of time Lucifer became arrogant because of his beauty and perfection and he became envious of Elohim's power. He therefore conspired with the angels under his authority to invade the third heaven, to take over Elohim's throne over the universe. In a similar way Satan will use his deceptive power to convince the 'Prince of Tyre' that will in the future cause this public figure to claim that he, a man is G-d. Lucifer was no longer the 'light bringer', but became Elohim's adversary. His third of the angels, united with him in his rebellion, and they fought against Elohim and the other angels, which resulted in chaos on the earth. Satan, who was perfect in all his ways prior to his rebellion, sinned with full knowledge, and as a result and because he was a spirit being, could not return to Elohim in repentance. As human beings we do not have all knowledge, and when YHWH dispelled Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden He also partially blinded them. As flesh and blood humans, we may return to Elohim in repentance and will be forgiven, provided we do not sin willfully.

David described Elohim's reaction to Satan's rebellion in Psalm 18: 7 – 15, saying: ***'Then the earth shook and quaked; and the foundations of the mountains were trembling and were shaken, because He was angry. (8) Smoke went up out of His nostrils, and fire from His mouth devoured; coals were kindled by it. (9) He bowed the heavens also, and came down with thick darkness under His feet. (10) And He rode upon a cherub and flew; and He sped upon the wings of the wind. (11) He made darkness His hiding place, His canopy around Him, darkness of waters, thick clouds of the skies. (12) From the brightness before Him passed His thick clouds, hailstones and coals of fire. (13) YHWH also thundered in the heavens, and the Most High uttered His voice, hailstones and coals of fire. (14) And He sent out His arrows, and scattered them, and lightning flashes in abundance, and routed them. (15) Then the channels of water appeared and the foundations of the world were laid bare at Thy rebuke, O YHWH, at the blast of the breath of Thy nostrils.'*** At this point the earth shook and quaked and went out of course, as the prophet Jeremiah described in Jeremiah 4: 23 & 24, saying: ***'I looked on the earth, and behold, it was formless and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light. (24) I looked on the mountains, and behold, they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro.'*** Rav Kepha also wrote about this event in 2 Peter 3: 5 & 6, saying: ***'For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of Elohim the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, (6) through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.'*** YHWH had to bring judgment upon Lucifer and as a result the contaminated earth perished. The earth's axial position shifted by more than 23 degrees and caused a pendulum effect to the waters of the earth, moving it back and forth, until it eventually came to rest. Evidence of animal hordes (including dinosaurs) and plant fragments destroyed by the churning waters, flooded the continents with animal fossils and destroyed plant life, bearing witness to this earth's shaking catastrophe. This was much worse than the flood at Noah's time, since the world in Noah's day was not destroyed and his ark drifted only a few hundred miles without sails. The catastrophe caused by Lucifer's rebellion carried masses of ice and rock for thousands of miles and the earth underwent a catastrophe, known by geologist as the 'Ice Age', during which all physical life forms perished and the earth became formless and void.

It was at that point that YHWH decided to recreate the heavens and the earth. He also decided not to create his future children as spiritual beings, but to initially create human kind from physical matter, in His image with the mind power to think and plan and 'create'. They too would have free moral agency to decide between good and evil. They had to prove throughout their lives that they would follow Elohim's way of life and ultimately develop His perfect character, by which time He will change them into spiritual beings. When YHWH originally created the universe through his word, He did not create darkness. But, even in Lucifer's rebellion when he caused the earth to be totally destroyed, the all-knowing Elohim used the darkness that resulted to provide night for physical man to rest in. In addition YHWH used the destruction that Satan caused to place fossilized fuels, such as

oil and coal, at our disposal for use in the advanced technology that He inspired us to develop during the past hundred years or so, before Yahshua's return to come and rule us, for a thousand years.

We need to understand that the three archangels, as well as all the other angels were never destined to become more than the servants of Elohim. They were never destined to become children of Elohim, and were not created to procreate themselves in any way. Not a single one of all the myriads of angels created by Elohim can be begotten of Elohim and born-again into the family of Elohim, as His children. After the rebellion of Satan, and the destruction of the universe, when YHWH recreated the earth, He created humans and for the first time gave them the potential to become born-again Sons of Elohim to rule the earth and ultimately the entire universe under Yahshua the Messiah. The problem facing mankind at this time more than before, is that Satan is fully aware of these truths and hates us with a vengeance. Satan and his demons view us as a serious threat to their way of life. With this perverted view, Satan who tried to usurp all Elohim's power and authority, considers human beings as opponents, since Elohim has destined mankind to replace him and his demons as rulers of this world. It is for this reason that Satan is the adversary of both Elohim and His future children, as is evidenced by his name in both Hebrew and Greek, given in Revelation 9: 11, in this way: ***'They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon (meaning destruction), and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.'*** Satan hates Elohim's plan of salvation for all mankind depicted by the annual Feast Days which He introduced to Moses in Leviticus 23 and Deuteronomy 16, and it is for this reason that he deceived especially those who claim faith in Messiah, about the pagan holy days that they are commanded to keep annually. Satan deceived Eve to believe she has an immortal soul in the Garden of Eden, when he told her in Genesis 3: 4, saying: *"Ye shall not surely die."* Since that time, he has succeeded in 'selling' his aspirations and ultimate destiny to gullible mankind, as their main religious doctrines – which are totally un-scriptural. Yes, Satan wanted to go to heaven, so the churches teach a doctrine of going to heaven. Lucifer is a spirit being and is therefore immortal – the churches teach that flesh and blood human beings are immortal. Messiah said that an everlasting fire awaits Satan and his demons – and similarly the churches teach that an everlasting fire awaits all sinners. This is what distracts these millions of deceived people from believing the true gospel about the coming Kingdom of Elohim.

Because Satan knows his time is short, Rav Kepha warned those of us living at the time of the end saying in 1 Peter 5: 8, ***"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."*** It is also for this reason that Rav Shaul warned us in Ephesians 6, to put on the whole armor of Elohim, saying in verse 12: ***'For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places (four kinds of demons).'*** We cannot afford to be ignorant of Satan's tactics as Rav Shaul warns in 2 Corinthians 2: 11, saying: ***'In order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.'*** Continuing in Ephesians 6: 13 Rav Shaul wrote: ***'Therefore, take up the full armor of Elohim, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.'*** He informs us in verses 14 – 17 what the full armor of Elohim consist of, saying: ***'Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH,*** (according to Psalm 119: 142 & 151, Torah and all Elohim's commandments are truth – so we need to study and obey the commandments of Elohim, to temper our animal instincts with Torah) ***and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS*** (we practice righteousness by doing what YHWH requires of us in Torah, such as keeping Elohim's Sabbaths, eating only kosher food; not stealing or killing, nor committing adultery, wearing tzitzit, etc.), (15) ***and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE*** (believing and proclaiming the gospel of the coming Kingdom of Elohim, knowing that despite the current hopeless condition of the world, there is something much better coming when Messiah will return to rule the world from Jerusalem.); (16) ***in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith*** (Elohim's plan of salvation for all mankind, depicted in His annual Feast Days given in Leviticus 23) ***with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. (17) And take THE***

HELMET OF SALVATION (faith in Messiah, the Helmet of Salvation, who came to redeem us from our indebtedness because of not obeying Elohim's commandments, to cover our sins), **and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of Elohim.**' This will ensure that we are protected from the attacks of these four kinds of demons, who targets different areas of our bodies, through the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, the pride of life and deception; namely our heads (minds), upper bodies (hearts), hands and loins (private parts), but also our legs and feet.

But this is not all, Rav Shaul continues in Ephesians 6: 18 – 20, saying: ***'With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, (19) and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, (20) for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.'*** This is the only way in which to overcome Satan and force him to flee from us. Fact is, that without knowing and preaching the true Gospel (the gospel about the coming kingdom of Elohim) and obeying Torah, modern Churchianity has no leg to stand on. It is as Yahshua taught in John 5: 46 & 47, saying: ***"For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote of Me. (47) But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"*** Moses wrote the Torah and Yahshua gave us the good news about the coming kingdom of Elohim, but sadly most church-goers today reject both the true gospel and the writings of Moses. Even though Satan has been cast down to the earth, he and his millions of demons are still trying to take dominion from Elohim. In fact Yahshua revealed that Satan will once again try to take rulership from Elohim, in Revelation 12: 7, saying: ***'And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. And the dragon and his angels waged war.'*** We see from verse 9 that Satan would be cast down again, in this way: ***'And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.'*** Verse 10 informs us that this will happen shortly before Messiah returns to establish Elohim's Kingdom on earth. It will be at that time that Satan will bring great wrath upon the entire earth, as witnessed in verse 12, as follows: ***"For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time."***

Even though Satan will bring great wrath to all the people on the earth, we see from verses 13 – 17, that his main aim will be to destroy Elohim's congregation of called out believers, in this way: ***'And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child. (14) And the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, in order that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. (15) And the serpent poured water (armies) like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. (16) And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth. (17) And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of Elohim and hold to the testimony of Yahshua.'*** After Satan is cast down to the earth for a second time, he will realize that his time is very short, before he will be restraint completely for the next thousand years whilst Messiah will rule the world from Jerusalem.

It is then when he will do everything in his power to try and destroy the remnant of believers called out of the world by Elohim – especially the ones not accounted worthy to escape. We see further from verse 14 – 16 above that Elohim will provide His congregation with protection away from Satan's wrath. But, because some in the congregation of Elohim will not be accounted worthy to escape, they will have to go through fiery trials in order to wake up spiritually as witnessed in Revelation 3: 14 – 19, as follows: ***"And to the angel of the congregation in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning (or beginner) of the creation of Elohim, says***

this: (15) I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot. (16) So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. (17) Because you say, 'I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,' and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, (18) I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich, and white garments (Torah), that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see. (19) Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent." We have been warned and have time whilst it is still 'today' to straighten out our lives; to start keeping Elohim's commandments and believe in what Yahshua did and taught whilst He was on earth, with all our hearts(what we believe) and souls (how we live our lives) . Think about it!

Chapter 5: Do we go to heaven at death?

Do you believe you will go to heaven when you die one day? Have you been taught by your parents and ministers of religion that good people go to heaven, whilst the wicked go to an eternal hell fire at death? Is that a 'truth' to be found in the word of Elohim, the Scriptures, or is it derived from the other religions of the world? Let's examine this very important question in our own Scriptures, to determine the truth of the matter. To begin with, if righteous people go to heaven at death, why did Peter (Rav Kepha) tell us in Acts 2: 29 – 34 that King David, a man after Elohim's own heart, as confirmed by Paul (Rav Shaul) in Acts 13: 22 (quoting from 2 Samuel 15: 25), is still dead and buried in His grave, saying: ***"Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.*** (30) ***And so, because he was a prophet, and knew that ELOHIM HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT one OF HIS DESCENDANTS UPON HIS THRONE,*** (31) ***he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY,*** (32) ***This Yahshua Elohim raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.*** (33) ***Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of Elohim, and having received from the Father the promise of the Set-apart Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.*** (34) ***For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'YHWH SAID TO MY MASTER, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, (35) UNTIL I MAKE THINE ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR THY FEET."***

What about our fathers in the faith, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? Surely they qualified for the ultimate reward after death? We will find out what happened to them during the course of this lesson, but let's at this point determine what Yahshua told His disciples regarding going to heaven? Yahshua's disciple John (Yochanan) recorded Yahshua's own words in John 3: 13, saying: ***"And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man."*** What an inconsistency! Millions today believe that the 'saved' go to heaven when they die. Yet, David did not. If the saved go to heaven when they die, why is there a need for the resurrection from the dead? Why must people be resurrected, if they have already received their reward? What very few people are aware of is that the belief in heaven after death is not limited to Christianity. People throughout the world have always believed in some sort of afterlife; a reward after death. Christians, Hindus, Muslims and pagans all believe the reward of the righteous after death, is to spend eternity in heaven. History tells us that many ideas of professing Christianity comes from the ancient Egyptians. But surprisingly as it may sound, neither Yahshua nor His apostles taught that the righteous go to heaven. In fact the early congregation of Nazarene believers in Messiah did not teach the concept of going to heaven at all. Such teachings only became popular long after the death of the apostles. Nevertheless, largely under the influence of Greek thought, ancient Egyptian mythology began to replace the teachings found in the Scriptures, as a source of doctrine. Prevailing concepts such as the immortality of the soul came directly from ancient pagan mythology. Today the idea of heaven being the 'reward of the saved' is universal among Protestant churches. The majority of professing Christians look forward to going to 'heaven' where the righteous sit on clouds, plucking harps and beholding the face of the Master for all eternity!

However, what is the basic truth about heaven and what do the Scriptures teach about the 'reward of the saved'? King Solomon who ruled the united nation of Israel after his father King David, wrote about the reward of both the upright and the wicked in Proverbs 2: 21 & 22, saying: ***'For the upright will live in the land, and the blameless will remain in it; (22) But the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be uprooted from it.'*** This agrees with what Yahshua Messiah taught in Matthew 5: 5, saying: ***"Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth."*** We need to understand that YHWH made a two-fold promise to Abraham through Isaac and Jacob, namely that he and his descendants after him will inherit the Promised Land eternally (as spiritual children of Elohim), provided they remain loyal to Him and His Torah, including to circumcise their male children at eight days old, as a sign of this everlasting covenant. The second part of the promise to Abraham

was that YHWH would bring a remnant of the children of Abraham known as the lost ten tribes, who lost their inheritance to the Promised Land because of idolatry, back to the covenant they made with Him, together with the house of Judah at Mount Sinai, through Abraham's One seed, Yahshua (as per Galatians 3: 16), through whom He will also eventually save the rest of mankind after the second resurrection during the 100 year period of Judgment to follow Messiah's millennium rule. A returning Israelite's hope depends totally on the subject covered in that greatly misunderstood passage in Galatians 3. While speaking to the Galatians, Rav Shaul was inspired to say in Galatians 3: 16, 26 – 29: ***'Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Messiah. (26) For you are all sons of Elohim through faith in Messiah Yahshua. (27) for all of you who were immersed into Messiah have clothed yourselves with Messiah. (28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Messiah Yahshua. (29) And if you belong to Messiah, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.'*** In fact this informs us that the relatively small number of real Gentiles among the Israelites, who are returning to the covenant we made with Elohim, together with the house of Judah made at Mount Sinai, also become Abraham's offspring through faith in Yahshua the Messiah.

What believers shall inherit if 'saved' - wherever they shall spend eternity, is a definite promise of Elohim. That promise was made to Abraham, called the *'father of the faithful'* in Galatians 3: 7. If a member of the lost ten tribes (including some real Gentiles) comes to believe in Yahshua the Messiah as his/her personal savior, then he/she becomes an heir of the promises made to Abraham, similar to the way the house of Judah are heirs of Abraham, as confirmed in Romans 11: 25 – 29, as follows: ***'For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to (Jewish) Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles (Members of the lost ten tribes who came to believe they are Gentiles, including a number of real Gentiles) has come in; (26) and thus all Israel (from both houses) will be saved; just as it is written. "THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB." (27) "AND THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS." (28) From the stand point of the gospel they (the house of Judah) are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of Elohim's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; (29) for the gifts and the calling of Elohim are irrevocable.'*** We see from Genesis 12: 2 - 3 & 6 – 7 that YHWH promised Abraham and his children through Isaac and Jacob the land of Canaan, eternally. The word 'seed' in the Scriptures mean descendants. Abraham went to Egypt for a short time (Genesis 12: 10) and when he returned to Canaan, Elohim repeated His promises to Abraham and his descendants in Genesis 13: 14 – 15, saying: ***"Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; (15) for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever."*** We are given the boundaries of the Promised Land in Genesis 15: 18, as follows: ***'On that day YHWH made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates."*** The land of Canaan, much of which is occupied by the Jews of today, was promised to Abraham and his descendants. That is why it is called the *'Promised Land'*. Notice that the Promised Land is on earth and not in heaven. In addition, notice that Elohim promised Abraham that he and his seed would possess the land for ever. Since the inheritance is to be an eternal inheritance, it of necessity involves and includes everlasting life. There is not a single word about heaven in this promise. Through Abraham, all true believers in Yahshua Messiah are promised the earth! Later YHWH made the same promise to Isaac in Genesis 26: 1 – 5 and also to Jacob in Genesis 35: 9 – 12. Jacob whose name was changed to Israel, had 12 sons and they became known collectively as Israel.

When YHWH made the promise with Abraham it was conditional upon his obedience to Elohim, and as a result he became known as the father of the faithful, as we read from James 2: 21 – 23, in this way: ***'Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? (22) You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of his works, faith was***

perfected; (23) and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED ELOHIM, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,” and he was called the friend of Elohim.’ We read further about Abraham’s obedience in Hebrews 11: 8, as follows: **‘By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.’** Elohim called Abram, as he was named at that time, to come out of Ur of the Chaldeans, the land of his birth. At that time the land where Abram and his family resided, was severely influenced by the political system that started at Babel, symbolic of the spiritual ‘Babylon’ in which we live today, and are also commanded to leave in the vision given John (Yochanan), Yahshua’s disciple, by Yahshua in a vision in Revelation 18: 1 – 4, in this way: **‘After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory. (2) And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! And she has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit and the prison of every unclean and hateful bird. (3) For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality.” (4) And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “Come out of her, my people, that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues.”’** We need to understand that Abraham was fully obedient to YHWH; first, he left his native land, his friends and relatives, his old ways of life, and followed where Elohim led.

Then he obeyed Elohim again in Genesis 17: 24, when he was circumcised as a sign of Elohim’s covenant with him, as follows: **‘Now Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.’** However, Elohim further tested Abraham, by instructing him to offer up Isaac, the son through whom YHWH told Abraham He will bless his descendants in Genesis 22: 1 & 2. Again Abraham obeyed YHWH as instructed and took his son Isaac up the mountain and eventually bound him on an altar, but when Abraham fully convinced to kill his son, lifted up his hand to slaughter Isaac, an angel of YHWH called to him from heaven in verse 11 of Genesis 22, saying, **“Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”** The angel continued in verse 12, saying: **“Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear Elohim, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.”** Elohim did not really want Isaac’s life, but wanted to see if Abraham was willing to obey Him in faith. Once Elohim was certain of Abraham’s willingness to obey Him no matter what, the angel of YHWH called to Abraham a second time in verses 16 – 18 of Genesis 22, saying: **“By Myself I have sworn, declares YHWH, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, (17) indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. (18) And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”** The promise was now unconditional, since Abraham had performed his part of the agreement with Elohim. We are given an additional reason why the nations on earth will be blessed by Abraham’s descendant in Genesis 26: 4 & 5 where YHWH told Isaac, saying: **“And I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; (5) because Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws.”**

Yahshua Messiah’s main purpose was to bring the lost sheep of the house of Jacob back to the covenant relationship we had together with the house of Judah at Mount Sinai, as He also confirmed in Matthew 15: 24, saying to the woman who asked Him to heal her daughter: **“I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”** We from the lost sheep of the house of Israel are identified by James (Yaa’cov) in Acts 15: 15 – 18, as the Gentiles who are called by Elohim’s name Israel – the covenant people of Elohim. Let’s notice how we, the people who used to be the covenant people of Elohim, are able to become heirs of the promises made to righteous Abraham and his descendants, once again. Since YHWH our Elohim does not lie, we as the lost ten tribes are able to return to the

covenant made with Him, together with Brother Judah at Mount Sinai, through Yahshua, Abraham's one seed, as mentioned in Galatians 3: 16 & 26 – 29 quoted previously. Luke's record of the genealogy of Yahshua through His mother Miriam in Luke 3: 23 & 34 prove that she was descended from Abraham as is confirmed in John 4: 22 when Yahshua told the woman at the well, saying: ***"You worship that which you do not know; we worship that which we know, for salvation (the meaning of the name Yahshua) is from the Jews."*** We read a second witness to this from Hebrews 7: 14, as follows: ***'For it is evident that our Master was descended from Judah, a tribe with reference to which Moses spoke nothing concerning priests.'*** Luke records Yahshua's genealogy through His mother Miriam, and Joseph mentioned in Luke 3: 23, was actually the son-in-law of Eli (or Heli), Miriam's father.

Rav Shaul tells those of us from the lost sheep of the house of Israel how Yahshua the Messiah actually reconciled us back to the Father as well as to the house of Judah, to once again become members of the commonwealth of Israel in one body with the house of Judah, as the body and future bride of Messiah (as confirmed in Jeremiah 31: 31 – 33¹⁰) in Ephesians 2: 11 – 16, saying: ***'Therefore remember, that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands— (12) remember that you were at that time separate from Messiah, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants (made with Abraham and David) of promise, having no hope and without Elohim in the world. (13) But now in Messiah Yahshua you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Messiah. (14) For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, (15) by abolishing in His flesh the enmity (the punishment of the Law due to us for breaking Elohim's commandments), which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances (or judgments payable for breaking the commandments and statutes), that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, (16) and might reconcile them both in one body (the congregation of YHWH or body of Messiah) to Elohim through the cross, by having put to death the enmity.'*** As people who believed they were mere Gentiles, the lost sheep of the house of Israel had no chance of becoming part of the promise YHWH made to Abraham, that his seed will dwell in the Promised Land eternally as Elohim's spiritual children, but through Yahshua, we are able to become Abraham's heirs again.

If after our immersion into Yahshua's saving name we as the house Israel who are 'far off' receive the Set-apart Spirit (as per Acts 2: 36 – 39¹¹) and if we remain faithful to YHWH and His Torah teachings until Messiah returns or when we die, we will again enter the Promised Land or the kingdom of Elohim over the commonwealth of Israel, with King David as our King again, as witnessed in the prophecy in Ezekiel 37: 19 – 24, in this way: ***"Say to them, 'Thus says YHWH Elohim, "Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will put them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand." (20) And the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their***

¹⁰Jeremiah 31: 31 – 33: ***"Behold, days are coming," declares YHWH, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the Land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares YHWH. "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares YHWH, "I will put My law within them, and in their heart I will write it; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people."***

¹¹Acts 2: 36 – 39: ***"Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that Elohim has made Him both Master and Messiah—this Yahshua whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Kepha and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" And Kepha said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be immersed in the name of Yahshua Messiah for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Set-apart Spirit. For the promise (to return to YHWH through Messiah Yahshua) is for you and your children, and for all who are far off (a phrase used by Daniel to describe the lost ten tribes in Daniel 9: 7), as many as YHWH our Elohim shall call to Himself."*** The last part of verse 39 shows that we should only immerse returnees from the house of Israel whom Elohim shall call during this age, and not Jews.

eyes.’ (21) *And say to them, ‘Thus says YHWH Elohim, “Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; (22) and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations, and they will no longer be divided into two kingdoms. (23) And they will no longer defile themselves with their idols, or with their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. And they will be My people, and I will be their Elohim. (24) And My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances, and keep My statutes, and observe them.”* We are again able to become heirs of the promise Elohim made to Abraham, but so will real Gentiles who come to believe in the true Messiah and are immersed in His saving name, as recorded in Galatians 3: 7, *‘Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.’* It is clear therefore that all true believers are heirs with Abraham to inherit Eternal life in the Promised Land, to rule under Yahshua as kings and priest as first fruit believers, provided we qualify to be in the first resurrection, as recorded in Revelation 20: 6, as follows: *‘Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of Elohim and of Messiah and will reign with Him for a thousand years.’*

But we see from Hebrews 11: 9 – 11 & 32 – 39 that our father Abraham, like king David and many other who qualified to be in the Promised land with him, did not inherit Eternal live in the Promised Land yet, in this way: *‘By faith he lived as an alien in a foreign land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; (10) for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is Elohim. (11) By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised. (32) And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, (33) who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, (34) quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. (35) Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, in order that they might obtain a better resurrection; (36) and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. (37) They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (38) (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground. (39) And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised.’* But, when will Abraham and his ‘children’ receive their inheritance? We read the answer from Hebrews 11: 40, as follows: *‘Because Elohim had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they should not be made perfect.’* These inspired Scriptures of Elohim are clearly telling us that every faithful believer who died up to now did so without having received the promises made to Abraham! They, and all Torah observant Jews and returning Nazarene believers who become Abraham’s children through Messiah, are now only heirs to the promises and have not received their inheritance yet.

After Messiah’s immersion by Yochanan the Immerser, He revealed the true gospel in Mark 1: 14 & 15, saying: *‘And after John had been taken into custody, Yahshua came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of Elohim, (15) and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of Elohim is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”* Continuing in Matthew 9: 35, we see that He carried on proclaiming the gospel, in this way: *‘And Yahshua was going about all the cities and the villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.’* In confirming the promises of eternal inheritance Elohim made to the ‘fathers’ in the faith, namely Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Messiah always preached the good news of the coming Kingdom of Elohim which is to occupy and govern the earth. Yahshua

confirmed that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and other righteous people will be in the kingdom of Elohim, in Luke 13: 28 & 29, saying: ***“There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth there when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of Elohim, but yourselves being cast out. (29) And they will come from east and west, and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of Elohim.”*** The promises Elohim made to our fathers in the faith, included entry into the Kingdom of Elohim and their inheritance will include eternal life in the kingdom of Elohim that is coming to earth when Messiah comes to rule the world from Jerusalem. This is also what every Torah observant Jew and returning Israelite (including a number of Gentiles), who remains faithful to the end will receive through Messiah. Matthew’s Gospel always uses the term ‘kingdom of heaven’ to express exactly the same thing that Mark, Luke and John express as ‘Kingdom of Elohim.’ It does not mean a kingdom in heaven, any more than it means a kingdom in Elohim. But it does mean a kingdom owned and ruled by Elohim whose throne and dwelling place is in heaven.

In Matthew 5: 5 Yahshua, in His ‘sermon on the Mount,’ said the ‘gentle’ shall inherit the earth, but in Matthew 5: 3, He said the ‘poor in spirit’ will inherit the kingdom of heaven. Is this a contradiction? No, it is not. The ‘gentle’ and ‘the poor in spirit’ are those believers from the lost ten tribes, who like the prodigal son, had become humble and gentle through the way they had to live among the Gentiles. Now that they are returning through Abraham’s one seed, Yahshua, they who once did not have the Set-apart Spirit like their Torah obedient Jewish Brothers have, are now able to receive it once again, when they are immersed into Yahshua’s saving name provided they remain faithful from that time forward. Such humble believers shall inherit the earth for an everlasting possession, and shall enter the ‘Kingdom of heaven’ which will be established on earth! Many people today have no idea of what is in store for the obedient and the inheritance that awaits every true believer surpasses anything ever dreamed about. It is as we read from 1 Corinthians 2: 9, ***“THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT ELOHIM HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.”*** The full extent of the inheritance Elohim has promised the righteous cannot even be remotely imagined by the natural mind of man, but Elohim does reveal it to us ‘by His Spirit’ (verse 10). But, no one can inherit the Kingdom of Elohim while still a mortal flesh and blood human as Rav Shaul confirms in 1 Corinthians 15: 50, saying: ***‘Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of Elohim; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.’*** However, Rav Shaul also explained what must happen to our mortal bodies in order to inherit and actually become part of that Kingdom in verses 51 – 53, saying: ***‘Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. (53) For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.’*** At the second coming of Yahshua Messiah on the Feast of Trumpets one day, all the dead in Messiah will be raised with new spirit bodies and those mortal believers still alive at His return will also be instantly changed into new spirit bodies which can inherit the Kingdom of Elohim. Without a resurrection, the dead would never live again and unless Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all deceased believers are resurrected from the grave at Messiah’s coming, they cannot inherit the promises! When Messiah comes to set up His Kingdom, Abraham and his spiritual children in Messiah shall be given immortality and inherit the Kingdom of Elohim – a world-ruling government headed and ruled by Messiah, occupying the very land promised to Abraham – the land stretching from the Nile to the Euphrates River. This Kingdom or government composed of immortal spiritual children of Elohim shall rule over all the nations of the earth composed of flesh and blood mortals!

Yahshua become the forerunner of our salvation through His suffering, death and subsequent resurrection to glory, as is confirmed in Hebrews 2: 9 & 10, saying: ***‘But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Yahshua, because of the suffering of***

death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of Elohim He might taste death for everyone. (10) For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.’ We see from Hebrews 1: 1- 2 what Yahshua has been appointed heir of by the Father, as follows: **‘Elohim, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, (2) in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.’** However, we also see witnessed from Romans 8: 14 – 17 that all who are being led by the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim will be co-heirs with Messiah, in this way: **‘For all who are being led by the Spirit of Elohim, these are sons of Elohim. (15) For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Avinu! Father!” (16) The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of Elohim, (17) and if children, heirs also, heirs of Elohim and fellow heirs with Messiah, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.’** Yahshua Messiah inherited all the promises made to Abraham at His resurrection and by living a sinless life He made it possible for those who accept His sacrifice to become co-heirs of the same promises with Him!

There is not a single verse in the entire Scriptures that promises heaven as the reward of the saved. Yet most people seem to be ignorant of the plain teaching of the Word of Elohim and have carelessly taken for granted, without question, the false idea of ‘going to heaven’ taught them by their parents and teachers of religion. Let’s notice a few more scriptures which have been either overlooked or carelessly interpreted by those who want to believe in this false doctrine. Revelation 5: 9 & 10 tells us clearly where resurrected believers will be and what they will be doing after Messiah’s return, as follows: **‘And they sang a new song saying, “Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for Elohim with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. (10) And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our Elohim; and they will reign upon the earth.”** But some insist that this is contradicting what Yahshua taught His disciples in John 14: 2 & 3, saying: **“In My Father’s house are many dwellings places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”** In this case the dwelling places refer to rooms in the Father’s house or Elohim’s Temple. In the Renewed Covenant times the rooms in the temple were occupied by Elohim’s priests. These rooms represent positions of authority, which true believers will be given as kings and priests ruling under Messiah in the coming Kingdom of Elohim. These positions will not be in heaven, Messiah plainly said that He was going to heaven to ‘prepare’ a position of authority for each true believer. But it is only when He comes to earth again that these positions will be awarded and the Scriptures declare that they will rule all nations here on earth, having positions of authority in Elohim’s Kingdom.

John 3: 13 state clearly that no one has gone to heaven, except Him who came from heaven. What about the ‘thief on the cross’? Did he not go to heaven with Yahshua that very day? Let’s read Luke 23: 43 with understanding to find the answer, as follows: **‘And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.”** Before jumping to conclusions, we need to understand, in the first place, Messiah Himself did not go to heaven that day. But, He was placed in the grave – in ‘hell’ – where He remained dead for the next three whole days and nights. Secondly, the word ‘paradise’ does not mean heaven at all. The word actually describes the earth when Elohim will dwell on it. “Paradise’ simply means the beautiful condition the earth was in during the time Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden. Thirdly, in many versions of the Scriptures, this verse is miss-punctuated. There were no commas in the Greek when the Renewed Covenant was translated into Greek. So when the translators supplied the commas in English, they were placed where the translators thought they should be. Actually, Messiah did not say, *“Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in paradise,”* but rather, *‘Truly I say to you today, you shall be with Me in Paradise.’* By using the word ‘today’, Yahshua was stressing the time of His promise, not the time He would be in

paradise. Yahshua discerned the man's repentant attitude and was able to tell him that he would actually live again, with Messiah, in a beautiful world. That paradise has not yet come to this earth and the repented thief is still dead.

In our lesson about the coming kingdom of Elohim we taught that Messiah is soon coming to earth to rule the world from Jerusalem for a thousand years. During Messiah's rule on the earth, the earth will be changed into a garden similar to Garden of Eden or paradise. However, when the millennium is over, when all the righteous will have been given immortality and eternal life, and all the wicked will have been burned to ashes, we see that there will be a new earth and a new heaven after the present earth's surface will have been destroyed as per 2 Peter 3: 7¹² and Revelation 21: 1¹³. Next we read from verse 2 & 3: ***'And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from Elohim, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. (3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of Elohim is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and Elohim Himself shall be among them.'*** Understanding the plans Elohim has made for the earth, and seeing that the Father Himself will ultimately move His headquarters to earth, why should anyone desire to go to heaven? To be with Elohim? Why, Elohim will be right here on earth. When Yahshua Messiah returns, will He say the words recorded in Matthew 25: 34 to you, ***'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'*** Will you be among those who will inherit the Kingdom of Elohim, along with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?

¹² 2 Peter 3: 7, ***'But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.'***

¹³ Revelation 21: 1, ***'And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.'***

Chapter 6: What is hell?

Millions of people are confused about what 'hell' is. Is it a literal place or perhaps a condition? Almost everyone imagines one of two extremes about 'hell'. Some people deny its existence, whilst others, including most Bible fundamentalists, picture hell as a terrible place of never-ending torment, where Satan rules and his demons 'roast' sinners like sausages on a barbecue spit. There is bitter weeping and wailing, cursing and screams from those being tormented. This is the idea mostly held by Christians, Hindus, Egyptians, Persians and Muslim theologians.

The question is: why have people come to believe what they do? A few prominent Christian religious leaders of the so-called 'Dark Middle Ages' recorded teachings which were universally believed and became accepted doctrine of the professing Christian world. Two of the most prominent of these influential writers were Augustine (234 – 430 CE.) and Dante Alighieri (1265 – 1321 CE.). Dante wrote a very popular poem called: 'The Divine Comedy', in three parts – hell, purgatory and paradise. Dante had a great influence on the course of civilization and his poem caught the attention of the world. It had a tremendous influence on Christianity. His 'Inferno' was based on Virgil and Plato. Virgil was a pagan poet (70 – 19 BCE), whilst Plato was born in Greece (427 BCE) and became a student of Socrates. Plato's famous literary work 'Phaedo' taught the immortality of the soul. Therefore the world's idea of 'hell' is admittedly a product of human philosophy and not based on Scriptural truth. Literally billions of people have lived and died without any knowledge of salvation, since they have never studied Elohim's manual for mankind, namely the Scriptures. The most populous countries on the earth, namely, China, India and other parts of Asia have never heard the only name (Yahshua) by which man may be saved (Acts 4: 12), despite all the efforts of Western missionaries. Let's consider what this means. If, as Christianity and others believe, the 'unsaved' immediately goes to 'hell' upon death, then more than half the people who ever lived have been condemned to this terrible punishment without ever having had a chance to escape. Do you really believe that is how an all-wise merciful, loving Father will treat the people He created? The Scriptures describe two resurrections in the future; the first resurrection to life for those who are called and chosen at this time, and who remain faithful until Yahshua returns; and the second resurrection to judgment. The resurrection to judgment will be one thousand years later. At that time the wicked and unsaved dead will be resurrected at the Great White Throne Judgment. However, it is important to understand that YHWH our Elohim does not have double standards – the unsaved billions deserve to have the same chance than those who are called at this time. Make no mistake, they will only be judged on what they did, after they learned about the salvation truth of Elohim. Nevertheless, numerous theologians and ministers of religion, being deceived themselves, try to imagine that Elohim will only save their 'friends' and relatives who were Christians, but will let the multitudes from ages past perish, without them ever coming to real repentance and true surrendering to the living Messiah. These religious leaders could not be more wrong.

The damnations that we read about in the Scriptures apply to the Jews who knew Torah and therefore what sin is, but also those of us from the lost sheep of the house of Israel (including some real Gentiles) who are being called and chosen during this age, whilst they are given salvation truths. We are being judged at this time and if we do not make it, will be burned to become ashes under the feet of the righteous as witnessed in Malachi 4: 1, as follows: ***"For behold, the day is coming (after the Great White Throne judgment period), burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze," says YHWH of hosts, "so that it will leave them neither root nor branch."*** For the unsaved billions of Buddhists, Muslims, Shintoism and those who believed in a false messiah, who came to do away with his Father's laws, both at present and in the past, the Scriptures will be opened to their understanding after the second resurrection. This will be similar to the way Yahshua opened the Scriptures to the understanding of His disciples, after His resurrection in Luke 24: 44 & 45, in this way: ***'Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which***

are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” (45) Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.’ This is therefore not a second chance – since these people were blinded by YHWH Himself in the past, as we will soon see. This will truly be the second harvest of human souls into Elohim’s everlasting kingdom.

Elohim’s purpose remains, He is not trying to save everyone during this age; if He was they would not all be saved. He is only calling out first fruits to rule under Yahshua during the Millennium and into eternity. The vast majority of blinded individuals will be brought back to life during the Great White Throne Judgment, when YHWH will open the books of the Scriptures for their spiritual understanding and will fill those who are willing with His Set-apart Spirit as may be read from Isaiah 25: 7 – 9, as follows: ***‘And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is stretched over all nations. (8) He will swallow up death for all time (this tells us that this will occur after the Great White Throne judgment when death and the grave will be thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone described in Revelation 20: 14), and YHWH Elohim will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; for YHWH has spoken. (9) And it will be said in that day, “Behold, this is our Elohim for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is YHWH for whom we have waited; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.”*** YHWH will grant these people salvation in His everlasting kingdom, but those who reject Elohim’s way of life will be burnt to ashes, with the wicked and those who sinned willfully after being called and given the knowledge of truth during this age, since there is no second chance, as witnessed in Hebrews 10: 26 – 28, in this way: ***‘For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, (27) but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES. (28) Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.’***

Now, let’s consider what YHWH has to say about ‘hell’ in the Scriptures? Yahshua our Messiah warned His disciples about the punishment those who know the truth would receive if they do not stop sinning in Mark 9: 43, saying: ***“And if your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled, than having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire.”*** The word ‘hell’ is an English word and If Mark wrote Messiah’s words in Greek, he would have used the word ‘*Gehenna*’. Since in this verse Messiah said that sinners will “*go into hell, in unquenchable fire*”, it follows that those who go to ‘*Gehenna*’ will receive punishment by fire. Human beings made from physical matter and without having received the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim at repentance and immersion do not have eternal life in them and are not immortal. When physical matter is thrown into fire, it burns until it becomes ashes, leaving ‘*neither root nor branch*’ as described in Malachi 4: 1 (quoted before). This tells us that when the wicked are thrown into the fire, after the second resurrection, they will not burn forever, but will be wiped out from remembrance. So we see eternity in an ever-lasting fire cannot be the fate of un-repentant human beings. To further explain the point, herewith an explanation of a Hebrew and three Greek words translated as ‘hell’ in most versions of the Scriptures:

1. **Sheol**: Sheol is the Hebrew word translated as ‘hell’ throughout the Tanach. It refers to the state and abode of the dead; hence the grave in which the body rests until it is resurrected one day. Considering the true meaning of the word, many more-recent versions of the Scriptures translate this word as ‘the grave’ (New International Version) whilst others leave it as Sheol (New American Standard Bible). We read that among those who knew that they were going to the grave or Sheol, were Jacob (Genesis 37: 35), Job (Job 14: 13), David (Psalm 88: 3) and Hezekiah (Isaiah 38: 10). It is therefore clear that Sheol or the grave is not a place of torment.
2. **Hades**: The Greek equivalent of Sheol is Hades and also refers to the grave in four verses in the Renewed Covenant. The word Hades appears in Matthew 11: 23; Luke 10: 15; Acts 2: 27 and 31.

As with the word Sheol, Hades simply means the grave and is rendered as 'the grave' or 'death' or left un-translated as Hades in some recent versions of the Scriptures. Hades is also not a place of fiery torment. In Acts 2: 27 and 31 we see that Yahshua was in 'Hades' or 'hell' during the time that He was in the grave, prior to His resurrection.

3. **Tartaroo:** Another Greek word also translated as 'hell' in the Renewed Covenant is Tartaroo. This word is used once in 2 Peter 2: 4 and refers to the place where the fallen angels are restrained before their judgment. 'The Expository Dictionary of Bible Words' explains that Tartaroo means 'to confine in Tartaros.' 'Tartaros' was the Greek name for the mythological abyss in which rebellious gods were confined (page 337). Kepha used the reference to the mythology of his time; to show the fate of sinning angels. YHWH *"committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment."* The angels were restrained awaiting the ultimate judgment for their part in the rebellion against YHWH and for their influence on mankind. Tartaros only applies to fallen angels or demons and never refers to a fiery hell in which human beings are punished after they die.
4. **Gehenna:** The only other word left, which is also translated as 'hell' is the Greek word Gehenna. Gehenna is derived from the Hebrew word Ga-Hinnom, meaning Valley of Hinnom. According to 2 Kings 23: 10, 13 and 14, Josiah defiled the valley of the son of Hinnom, with human bones and other corruptions to prevent the Israelites from making their sons and daughters pass through the fire for Molech (a pagan god). Because of this evil reputation, this valley bordering Jerusalem came to be used as the city's garbage dump. Trash was burned there along with bodies of dead animals and criminals. Fires that were stoked day and night burned the refuse. Gehenna is used 12 times in the Scriptures, with 11 of those being when Yahshua spoke about it. At the time, His listeners knew that this 'hell' was a consuming fire in which rubbish and the bodies of criminals were destroyed. He warned that this fire would be the fate of the hopelessly wicked sinners (see Matthew 5: 22, 29 – 30; 23: 15, 33; Mark 9: 43 and Luke 12: 5). However, when will this happen? The people who opposed Yahshua's teachings were amongst the religious leaders of His time; they were not treated as criminals and their bodies were not burned at the city dump. But we see from Revelation 20: 15 that unrepentant sinners will ultimately die after the Great White Throne Judgment.

In most of the passages of the Renewed Covenant where we see the word "hell," the original Greek word is not Gehenna. Most often it is hades, which does not refer to fire at all, but to a grave, a hole in the ground. Yet the translators have confused and obliterated the two entirely separate meanings of these words by indiscriminately rendering them both by the same English word "hell." The original Greek word which is translated by the English word "hell" in Acts 2: 31 is Hades. Hades means "grave," as its usage in this verse clearly shows! We can plainly see that the English word "hell" can have different meanings! So when we come to the word "hell" in the Renewed Covenant, we must keep in mind these two vastly different meanings and carefully determine by the context whether it refers to destruction by fire, or the grave where the dead lie buried. Whenever you are in doubt about the intended meaning of the word "hell" in the Renewed Covenant, look it up in an exhaustive concordance, such as Strong's or Young's, to see which Greek word it was translated from, and therefore its true meaning. In our recent two part sermon: *'What happens to us after death'*, we've learned that when a person dies and is buried in his grave, he knows absolutely nothing (Ecclesiastes 9: 5), but merely lies quietly there as if "sleeping", totally unaware of anything.

Let's now review this important truth. We see from Ecclesiastes 3: 19 & 20 that death befalls both man and beast and that they both go to the same place when they die, since both are made from dust, they also return to dust, as YHWH also told Adam in Genesis 3: 19. We see from John 1: 14 that Yahshua who was the Word of Elohim, before His human birth also became mortal flesh, as recorded in Hebrews 2: 14 & 15 as follows: ***'Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the***

power of death, that is the devil; (15) and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.' However, we also see from Acts 2: 31, that He was resurrected, in this way: **'He (meaning King David) looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of Messiah, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID HIS FLESH SUFFER DECAY.'** From what we have learnt, we know that the Greek word hades simply means the "grave." Yahshua's body did not see corruption (did not decompose in the grave) because He was resurrected after three days! You may have heard ministers preach that sinners go directly to the fiery tortures of "hell" when they die, but, that would mean they are condemned to "hell" before they were formally judged and sentenced! Nevertheless, we see from John 5: 28 & 29 where Yahshua taught that the wicked will only be judged after they are resurrected one day, saying: **"Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, (29) and shall come forth; those who did the good deeds, to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment."** Yahshua clearly said that the judgment of the wicked dead, who are now in their graves, is yet in the future. Then how could they now be receiving punishment when they have not, as yet been judged? The two beliefs clearly contradict each other! The dead will only be judged once they are resurrected and as Revelation 20: 13 prove there will also be a future resurrection to judgment. We also see from Revelation 20: 13 that those who are in watery graves (the "sea"), those who were killed by other means and left unburied and those who are in earthy graves are all to be resurrected at that time. It is clear therefore, that all the wicked dead on land or in the sea, wherever they may be, will be resurrected to "Judgment" in the future. That is when YHWH will formally sentence them! No one is, or ever has been, down in a fiery "hell" screaming in terror and torment! Elohim's time for judging and condemning the wicked has not arrived yet, and the idea that the 'souls' of the wicked are right now suffering torments in a fiery hell is a false pagan myth.

However, don't be mistaken, the ultimate penalty or wages of sin is death, as Rav Shaul wrote in the first part of Romans 6: 23. "Death" is the opposite of "life" and the final wages the irredeemable wicked will receive, will be the complete termination of life. As we've read from Hebrews 10: 27 & 28, those who receives the knowledge of truth in this life and go on sinning willfully can expect judgment **'and THE FURY OF FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.'** Yahshua compare false ministers who don't bring forth good works, to trees that don't bring forth "good fruit" in Matthew 7: 15 – 19. In verse 19 He said that: **"Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."** We know that wood put into a fire is not tormented eternally, but is burned up. Messiah clearly shows that all people who do not bring forth good fruit will likewise be cast into fire. In addition we read Yahshua's own words, about what would befall unrepentant sinners in Matthew 23: 33, saying **"You serpents, you brood of vipers, how shall you escape the sentence of hell?"** Those rebellious and stubborn religious leaders of Messiah's time understood Messiah's analogy well and they knew they were being threatened with complete destruction as just so much rubbish! Yahshua warned those who refuse to repent in Luke 13: 3, saying: **"I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."** The word 'perish' means to cease existing and does not mean to continue living. Life in eternal torment is not what YHWH has decreed for irredeemable sinners. Yes, the punishment revealed in the Scriptures is death, termination of life eternally. Eternal life is something we were not born with; it is a gift of YHWH which He will give to those who obey Him, during the first resurrection. Eternal life and death are contrasted throughout the Scriptures.

Yahshua clearly showed by His parable of the tares in Matthew 13 that there is to be a future harvest and likened the earth to a "field" (verse 24), the obedient people to "wheat" (verses 25, 29), and the disobedient to "tares" (verses 25, 29, 30) that will be burned afterward. Psalm 37: 20 also shows that the ultimate fate of the wicked will be destruction by fire. According to Malachi 4: 1 (quoted earlier) there is a day coming during which the wicked will be consumed in an extremely hot furnace that will leave them neither root nor branch, but ashes (as per verses 1 and 4). So, contrary

to what many believe, it will not be Satan who will burn the wicked to ashes, but YHWH of hosts (as per verse 3). The “hell fire” that the Scriptures speak about will be thousands of degrees hotter than the imaginary “hell fire” of most preachers which is only hot enough to torment. The Scriptural “hell fire” will totally consume the disobedient, never to exist again. The Scriptures clearly show that those who have known Elohim’s truth and still refuse to obey it, or willfully disobey, will reap the wages of sin, which is eternal death! The Scriptures mean what it says and the attempts of ministers of religion to “explain away” death and to “interpret” it as mere “separation from Elohim” cannot be found anywhere in the Scriptures. Death clearly does not mean “eternal life” in the horrifying torments of an eternal “hell.” The instigator of this pagan deception is none other than the father of lies, Satan the devil, as Yahshua called him in John 8: 44. If you have gullibly believed this false doctrine in the past and have suffered mental torment because of it, thank YHWH that He has opened your mind to understand the truth.

The burning question at this time is: What is the Gehenna fire and when will it occur? Most of us coming from other religions need to forget everything that we have learnt about this subject before and trust only the Scriptures to provide us with a truthful answer. We see from Revelation 21: 8 that whoremongers, murderers, liars all who break Elohim’s commandments will ultimately find themselves in a “lake of fire and brimstone” to be destroyed in the second death, as follows: ***“but for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”*** It is clear therefore that Gehenna and the lake of fire in Revelation 21: 8 are the same and would have the appearance of a fiery lake. It will cause the second death to the wicked after the Great White Throne Judgment. As mortals we all die once, but if anybody dies again the second time, such a person will have been judged by YHWH because of persistent disobedience and irredeemable rebellion, to die the second death. Revelation 20: 13 & 14 confirms that all irredeemable sinners will be cast into the lake of fire at that time and not at the time of their death. In the end, we see that all people, whose names have not been entered into the book of life, will at that time be cast into the lake of fire. We see from Revelation 19: 20 that the lake of fire will begin, after Yahshua our Messiah has returned to earth when the beast and false prophet will be seized and thrown alive into the lake of fire. Yahshua telling His disciples about the judgment of both the righteous and the wicked in Matthew 25: 41 also told them that the lake of fire will be an eternal fire, saying: ***“Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accused ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.’”*** However, the word ‘eternal’ or ‘everlasting’ is ‘*aionion*’ in Greek and is derived from the root word ‘*aion*’ which also means ‘age’. In this case the correct translation into English should be ‘age-lasting’ fire, indicating that this fire is going to burn throughout the Millennium, the ‘age’ of Messiah’s rule.

During the millennial reign of Messiah and His chosen people, the Valley of Hinnom will be kept burning continuously and the irredeemable wicked who will not ultimately bow before Yahshua the Messiah in rebellion against Elohim’s Laws will be thrown into the lake fire, as a witness to the rest of mankind. Later, after the Millennium the flames of the lake of fire will be used to purify the surface of the earth, as Rav Kepha wrote in 2 Peter 3: 7, saying: ***‘But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.’*** At that time, everything physical, including the people whose names were not found in the book of life and death and Hades will be thrown into the lake of fire to be destroyed. This is the Word of (YHWH)’s description of what the final “hell fire” will be like. It is still future and has not occurred yet. We see clearly that the wicked will be burned to become ashes and once they are reduced to ashes, they cannot be tormented any longer. The death they will have suffered will be an eternal, everlasting punishment, not an everlasting punishing by torment. There is a big difference between punishment and punishing. Yes, the wages of sin is death (as per Romans 6: 23), not eternal life in hell fire. Satan will be cast into the same fire that will destroy all irredeemable mortals, but because he is a spirit being, he will be tormented by the flames and not be destroyed by it. Satan

himself will be cast into the lake of fire and will not play the role of torturer as he is often presented by the religions of the world. We see clearly from Revelation 20: 10 that Satan himself is to be tormented *'forever and ever'*. Even though Satan's torment will last forever, the lake of fire will not. It will only last as long as there remains physical material to be burnt. Satan's torment will continue forever as a mental anguish resulting from seeing all he has striven toward, worked for, plotted for, burned up as the earth is purified by fire.

The word *"are"* in verse 10, The King James Version of the Scriptures is in italics, showing that it was inserted by the translators. It is not found in the Greek manuscripts and the sentence should read, "Where the beast and the false prophet were", the unwritten verb being understood to be in the same tense as the verb in the first half of the sentence. The Amplified Version of the Scriptures has it correct. These two mortal beings will have been destroyed more than a thousand years before Satan will be thrown into these flames. We see Yochanan the Immerser spoke about an unquenchable fire, saying that it will be Yahshua, not Satan who will burn the wicked in the lake of fire in Matthew 3: 11 & 12 as follows: ***"A for me, I immerse you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will immerse you with the Set-apart Spirit and fire (12) And His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor, and he will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."*** In Mark 9: 43 – 48, Yahshua used the phrase: ***"Where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED"*** three times. However, from this, people carelessly assumed that *'the fire that never shall be quenched'* shall burn forever into the future. But, this idea is absolutely incorrect, as may be seen from a prophecy YHWH gave through Jeremiah in Jeremiah 17: 27 in this way: ***"But if you do not listen to Me to keep the sabbath day holy by not carrying a load and coming in through the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day, then I shall kindle a fire in its gates, and it will devour the palaces of Jerusalem and not be quenched,"*** This fire occurred a few years later, and it destroyed all the houses of Jerusalem (Jeremiah 52: 13). Since Elohim said this fire "shall not be quenched" and since it is not burning today, it obviously went out by itself after destroying all the houses in Jerusalem, when everything that could burn, burnt out. We see from the punishment that Elohim meted out to Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19: 24, that it was a literal fire that destroyed the inhabitants and the homes in these two cities. We read about the event from Jude 7, as follows: ***'Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example, in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.'*** The expression "eternal fire" used in Jude 7 means the results of the fire was permanent or everlasting, not a fire that burns forever. Sodom and Gomorrah were utterly destroyed centuries ago and are not burning today. After these fires burnt up all the combustible material in these cities, it died out in a similar way that the fires that burned in the Valley Hinnom to consume the wicked, eventually died out after everything was consumed by it. These fires were never quenched by anyone, the flames merely died out after everything was burnt to ashes. Similarly will the final Gehenna fire not be quenched, but it will finally burn itself out.

However, there is another statement found in Mark 9: 44, 46 and 48 which is often misconstrued by the teachers in the churches of the world. In these verses, Yahshua also spoke about a worm that ***"does not die."*** The question is: Are there really immortal worms? Some think Yahshua was referring to people as worms, and that He was trying to say that these "people" never die but live on forever in agonizing torment. But those who believe this fail to notice that what Yahshua spoke about here was "their worm". So the wicked themselves are not the "worm". Yahshua clearly quoted from Isaiah 66: 24, where a similar statement is made about "their worm", the worms that one finds in dead "carcasses". For those of us who have ever seen a decaying animal carcass, the answer should be obvious. To put the matter beyond all doubt, we find that the Lexicons define as grub or maggot both the Greek and the Hebrew words translated as "worm" in Mark 9: 44 and Isaiah 66: 24. When a dead body occasionally gets stuck on a rocky ledge above the garbage fires of the Valley of Hinnom,

it was soon infested by maggots which hatched out of eggs laid by flies. It was simply these maggots or worms to which Messiah referred when He said, "their worm does not die". Yahshua did not mean that these worms continued to live forever, but the maggots, would hatch from eggs, eat the flesh, continue in the larval form for a few days, then go through metamorphosis and finally become flies. The worms did not die, they became flies and the flies later died. Any student of biology knows these facts, and Yahshua who created everything was also familiar with it.

Yahshua's parable of Lazarus and the rich man in Luke 16: 19 – 31 is one of the most outstanding texts used by those who attempt to prove there is an eternal hell fire. By carefully studying this portion of the Scriptures, we will understand the lesson Yahshua was aiming to teach using this parable. We see from Luke 16: 22 that Lazarus, a poor righteous beggar died. Later he was carried to 'Abraham's bosom'. We know according to Galatians 3: 29, that If we belong to Yahshua, YHWH considers us to be Abraham's "seed" or children, and we become heirs with Abraham to receive the promises Elohim made to him and his descendants. Through faith in Yahshua, Abraham's one seed, we the members of the lost ten tribes (plus a number of real Gentiles) may become heirs of Abraham once again (Galatians 3: 7). This is an intimate relationship with Abraham, a bosom relationship, spiritually speaking. We are to be in close contact with him in sharing faith in the promises to become Spiritual born again children of Elohim, at Messiah's return. This is the way in which righteous Lazarus was taken to "Abraham's bosom". But, when will Lazarus and Abraham receive the fulfillment of the promises that YHWH made to Abraham. We read the answer in Hebrews 11: 39 & 40, when Abraham and others who qualified to be in the coming Kingdom of Elohim, be resurrected as Spiritual children of Elohim, as follows: ***'And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, (40) because Elohim had provided something better for us, so that, apart from us they should not be made perfect.'*** But, what will happen to the sinful rich man?

We see from Luke 16: 22 that the rich man also died. Next we see him lifting up his eyes, showing that he has been resurrected and calling to Abraham for a few drops of water on his tongue. He is in mental agony since he realizes that he was resurrected as one who knew Torah, but lived a sinful life and will as a result be burnt to death. The rich man is pictured at the very moment of his coming up out of his grave in the second resurrection. Abraham and Lazarus will have already inherited eternal life in the Kingdom of Elohim, as witnessed in Matthew 25: 34, in this way: ***"Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'" They will have been immortal for over 1 000 years before the wicked rich man is resurrected to be burned in the lake of fire, as witnessed in Revelation 20: 4 – 5, 15, as follows: 'And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Yahshua and because of the word of Elohim, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Messiah for a thousand years. (5) The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. (15) And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.'*** Until then, the rich man will have been dead in his grave for many years, having no consciousness of the passing of time, as recorded in Ecclesiastes 9: 5, in this way: ***'For the living know they will die; but the dead do not know anything, nor have they any longer a reward, for their memory is forgotten.'*** At his resurrection, the rich man will see the flames of the lake of fire beginning to surround him. He knows these flames will destroy him forever. Being in great mental agony, he asks for just a little water to cool his tongue which has become dry from his mental anguish, but knows his request would be denied.

We read Abraham's answer to the rich man in Luke 16: 25 – 26, as follows: ***But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. (26) And besides all this, between us***

and you is a great chasm fixed, in order that those who wish to come over here to you may not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.' The great "chasm" between the two resurrections will be the difference between mortality and immortality. Those who will have been made immortal shall never die because they will have been born of Elohim. Abraham and the beggar will be on the immortal side of this gulf, the mortal rich man on the other side facing imminent eternal death by fire. Many of the condemned, like the rich man, will want their relatives warned, not realizing that more than a thousand years have passed since they died, and that all other people will already have had their chance to receive salvation. This parable of Lazarus and the rich man does not prove eternal life in a hell fire, but Yahshua is teaching His audience about the two resurrections from the dead for the righteous and the wicked, the one to eternal life and the other to the lake of fire.

YHWH created mankind from physical matter, to develop His set-apart, righteous character in them over time and to make them eligible to receive the gift of eternal life as children of Elohim. He created us from the dust of the ground, subject to death, so that if we fail to develop righteous character we could be released from our misery by death. YHWH has no desire to torment or torture anyone, He is love and will condemn no one because of ignorance, but will ensure that every single human being will ultimately learn the truth and have a real chance for salvation. If YHWH granted eternal life to those who persistently rebel and fail to develop righteous character, they would simply bring misery on themselves as well as others for all eternity, like Satan did. Thinks about it!

Chapter 7: What is meant by judgment in the Scriptures?

Let's consider some of the things Yahshua taught His disciples about true believers. Starting in Matthew 7: 13 & 14 as part of His sermon on the mount Yahshua said to His disciples: ***"Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. (14) For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it."*** Next we read from Matthew 18 where Yahshua warns His disciples about those who cause little children who believe in Him (including new believers) to stumble, adding that He came specifically to save that which is lost and that it is not our heavenly Father's will that these little ones perish, concluding in verse 20, saying: ***"For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst."*** We continue in Matthew 22 where Yahshua taught about the king who instructed His slaves to call those who had been invited to a wedding feast (the wedding feast that He referred to, since He spoke about the kingdom of Elohim, was the Feast of Tabernacles or Sukkot), but they refused to come. Yahshua ends the teaching in verse 14, saying: ***"For many are called, but few are chosen."*** Finally, we read from Luke 12 where Yahshua taught that we should not worry about what we shall eat, wear and drink concluding in verses 31 & 32, saying: ***"But seek for His kingdom, and these things shall be added to you. (32) Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom."***

These scriptures, and many others, seem to indicate that only a very small portion of humanity will eventually be saved. Think about it - even Yahshua Himself, Who had all knowledge, and was undoubtedly the best teacher ever, had only about 120 followers at the time of His death, after preaching and teaching to hundreds, even thousands, for three and a half years. As we look around us in this present evil world today, it seems that if there is a conflict between Satan and his demons on one side, and YHWH and His angels on the other - that Satan is winning hands down. Ever since Eve was deceived by the serpent's lie, man has rushed headlong into following the malicious ways of the adversary. This leaves us with only three options for mankind's future, namely; (1) that only a small number of people will be saved, whilst the rest will go into the lake of fire; (2) there is another way and mankind will be judged only on what they knew, and how well he did with that knowledge; and (3) there is more than one judgment, and we will all be judged, *"each in his own order"*, after having received knowledge of the truth as we'll see later in 1 Corinthians 15: 22 – 24. However, any serious student of the Scriptures knows that only the third option is worthy of consideration – if there were another way, Yahshua's death and resurrection was all in vain!

At this point we need to consider a question that many have been deceived about, namely: Just what is judgment? If you ask this question to people in the world or to those in most religions of the world, most will tell you that it refers to the day upon which mankind will be judged for what they did whilst they were alive on earth. In addition most believe that judgment takes place soon after you die, when G-d decides immediately that you are either destined to spend eternity in heaven or in an ever burning hellfire. This is perhaps why most people also fear death. But if death is so scary, why did King Solomon write in Ecclesiastes 7: 1, saying: ***'A GOOD name is better than a good ointment, and the day of one's death is better than the day of one's birth.'*** However, we must remember that it is (YHWH)'s desire that all come to repentance and be saved, as witnessed from 1 Timothy 2: 3 & 4, in this way: ***'This is good and acceptable in the sight of Elohim our Savior, (4) who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.'*** We read further how Rav Kepha tells us about our Father's mercy for each one of us whom He has called from 2 Peter 3: 9, saying: ***'YHWH is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.'*** This still leaves us with a number of questions and to put an end to the speculation about what most believe about judgment, let's turn to the Scriptures for the correct answer. Before discussing the subject in detail, let's summarize by saying that judgment is a process that takes place over a period of time. This is why Rav Kepha wrote in first Peter 4: 17 – 19, saying: ***'For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of Elohim;***

and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of Elohim? (18) AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER? (19) Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of Elohim entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.' Elohim's spiritual plan of salvation is depicted in the physical harvest seasons that He gave ancient Israel. After YHWH saved Israel from slavery in Egypt He wanted them to be a light and example to the nations around them, since He regarded them as first-fruits, as is witnessed in the first part of Jeremiah 2: 3, in this way: **"Israel was holy to YHWH, the first of His harvest."** But, sadly ancient Israel failed YHWH because of hardness of heart that lead to unbelief, as recorded in Hebrews 3: 19, as follows: **'And so we see that they were not able to enter (the Promised Land) because of unbelief.'**

Knowing the end from the beginning, YHWH made a two-fold promise to Abraham and His offspring Isaac and Jacob: Firstly that those of the children of Jacob who remained loyal to YHWH and His Torah, including to circumcise their male children at eight days old as a sign to the covenant, will inherit eternal life in the Promised Land. Secondly that a remnant of the lost ten tribes who lost their identity, language and forgot the covenant that YHWH made with them at Mount Sinai, whom YHWH is busy calling out of the nations of the world into which they were scattered to return to Him and His Torah through Abraham's one seed, Yahshua, through whom He will also save the rest of mankind after the Great White Throne Judgment. These two groups from both houses of Israel will, if they remain faithful to Elohim make up the body of Messiah or congregation of Elohim, to become His bride at His return one day in the near future, as witnessed in Ephesians 2: 11 – 16¹⁴ and Jeremiah 31: 31 – 33¹⁵. They are considered first-fruits to inherit the Promised Land or the Kingdom of Elohim, as Rav Yaa'cov wrote in James 1: 18, saying: **'In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, first fruits among His creatures.'** In fact we know that Yahshua our Master and savior became the first fruit offering when he was offered before Elohim on His impalement stake, as witnessed by Daniel in Daniel 9: 26 & 27, in this way: **"Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. (27) And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to the sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."** This offering was in accordance with Leviticus 23: 12 & 13, as follows: **'Now on the day when you wave the sheaf, you shall offer a male lamb one year old without defect for a burnt offering to YHWH. (13) Its grain offering shall then be two tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering by fire to YHWH for a soothing aroma, with its libation, a fourth of a hin of wine.'** Yahshua was offered as both our Passover Lamb and the wave sheaf first-fruit offering when He died on the impalement stake. When Yahshua died He said in Luke 23: 46, **"Father, INTO THY**

¹⁴ Ephesians 2: 11 – 16, saying: **'Therefore remember, that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands— (12) remember that you were at that time separate from Messiah, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants (made with Abraham and David) of promise, having no hope and without Elohim in the world. (13) But now in Messiah Yahshua you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Messiah. (14) For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, (15) by abolishing in His flesh the enmity (punishment of the Law due to us for breaking Elohim's commandments), which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances (or judgments payable for transgressing the commandments and statutes), that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, (16) and might reconcile them both in one body (the congregation of YHWH) to Elohim through the cross, by having put to death the enmity.'**

¹⁵ Jeremiah 31: 31 – 33: **"Behold, days are coming," declares YHWH, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the Land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares YHWH. "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares YHWH, "I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people."**

HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.’ And having said this, He breathed His last.’ This was when He was accepted as the first of the first-fruits, to become the first-born again from the dead three days and three nights later, when He was resurrected at the end of the weekly Sabbath.

It is for this very reason that we read from Romans 8: 28 & 29, **‘And we know that Elohim causes all things to work together for good to those who love Elohim, to those who are called according to His purpose. (29) For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that he might be the first-born among many brethren.’** Yes this is talking about those of us who will qualify to enter the Kingdom of Elohim at Messiah’s return. At this time we together with our Torah observant Jewish Brothers are first-fruits who come before Elohim for acceptance when we are waved as two loaves of bread baked with leaven on the Feast of First-fruits also known as Pentecost. If we are accepted and resurrected at Messiah’s return we will be born-again like Messiah was at His resurrection and will be part of many brethren spoken about Romans 8: 29. But, we need to understand that similar to the harvest seasons in the Land of Israel in the Middle East, not everyone is being called at this time. Millions, if not billions of people lived and died without ever hearing the name of Yahshua the Messiah, let alone obeying Him. Not even all the people who heard Yahshua speaking were being called at that time. This is why Yahshua said to His disciples in Mark 4: 11 – 12, **“To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of Elohim; but those who are outside get everything in parables, (12) in order that WHILE SEEING, THEY MAY SEE AND NOT PERCEIVE; AND WHILE HEARING, THEY MAY HEAR AND NOT UNDERSTAND LEST THEY RETURN AND BE FORGIVEN.”** Yahshua used very specific language here; either their time had not come, or Yahshua was a respecter of persons. Do you believe that He would have spoken in such a way that they could not understand; if it would have doomed them to be lost forever? The quoted section is rather a hard saying to some, especially in the light of what Rav Kepha wrote in 2 Peter 3: 9, saying: **‘YHWH is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.’** Considering the two quoted sections above, it seems like a contradiction at first glance. How is it possible that Elohim who is love could purposely blind some, and yet at the same time not be willing that any should perish? Remember that most of the people that He blinded, except for righteous Jews alive at this time whom Elohim blinded to Yahshua’s identity until His return (as per Zechariah 12: 7 & 10¹⁶), are already dead and buried. But the answer to the question is found in Isaiah 25: 7 – 9, talking about a time when YHWH will open their minds to His truth, in this way: **‘And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples. Even the veil which is stretched over all nations. (8) He will swallow up death for all time, and YHWH Elohim will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; for YHWH has spoken. (9) And it will be said in that day, “Behold, this is our Elohim for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is YHWH for whom we have waited; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.”’**

Based on these Scriptures, we understand that judgment is a period of time that begins when a person receives salvation knowledge and repents, when his/her eyes are opened to Elohim’s truth, and he/she accepts Yahshua as his/her personal Passover. Such peoples’ period of judgment lasts until they either die, or are changed at Yahshua’s return on Yom Teruah, at the first resurrection. This is essentially the resurrection of the righteous spoken about in Luke 14: 13 & 14, in this way: **“But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, (14) and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”** If we have been called by Elohim to come out of the religions of the world, and we obeyed, repented and were immersed into Yahshua’s saving name, we are being

¹⁶ Zechariah 12: 7 & 10, **“YHWH also will save the tents of Judah first in order that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not be magnified above Judah. And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born.”**

judged at this time. We are at this time doing what everyone who ever lived will have to do when they are resurrected after Messiah's Millennium rule. Yes, we should be bowing our knees before our Master and savior Yahshua Messiah at this time – meaning that we should be obeying what He taught and did whilst He was on earth. This is in line with what we read in Romans 14: 10 – 12, as follows: ***'But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Elohim. (11) For it is written, "AS I LIVE, SAYS YHWH, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO ELOHIM."*** (12) ***So then each one of us shall give account of himself to Elohim.'*** We the elect are at this time bowing the knee before Messiah. We do not only bow the knee in prayer, but we also confess with our tongues, giving account of ourselves on a daily basis. It is as we read from 1 Corinthians 11: 31 & 32, in this way: ***'But if we judged ourselves rightly, we should not be judged. (32) But when we are judged, we are disciplined by YHWH in order that we may not be condemned along with the world.'*** We bow the knee before Yahshua by being obedient to what He taught whilst He was on earth; by obeying the Torah and the Prophets and by keeping the Feast Days preserved for us by our Jewish brothers, the same Feast Days that He also observed during His lifetime. But also by keeping the Passover as a memorial to Messiah's death on the night during which He was betrayed the evening of the 14th of Nisan, 24 hours before the Jews of His day kept it.

We need to continuously temper our human nature with Torah, the law that leads to freedom from sin and its curses by comparing our every action and deed with what YHWH requires from us in His word. Perilous times are ahead – in fact, they are here now. We are going to be tested severely during the next few years, before Yahshua will finally return to save us from ourselves. Let us be diligent to make our calling and election sure and work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. This is what Rav Yaa'cov encapsulated in the second part of verse 19 of James 1 to verse 25, telling those of us who were called out of the world as first fruits, how we should live our lives, as follows: ***'But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; (20) for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of Elohim. (21) Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. (22) But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. (23) For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; (24) for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. (25) But one who looks intently at the perfect law*** (Torah according to Yahshua's interpretation in Matthew 5: 17 – 48), ***the law of liberty*** (because by obeying Torah we are free from punishment due to sin), ***and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.'*** If we evaluate ourselves properly in terms of the word of Elohim (the Scriptures), by keeping our lives in subjection until we are one day able to say like Rav Shaul did in 2 Timothy 4: 6 – 8, in this way: ***'For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. (7) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; (8) in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Master, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved*** (or look forward to) ***His appearing.'*** We will be given our crowns of righteousness at Messiah's return, if we remain faithful to the end.

As first fruits we are promised rulership under Messiah during the Millennium and beyond, as witnessed in Revelation 2: 26, as follows: ***'And he who overcomes*** (Satan, our own human nature, and the world), ***and who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS.'*** Yes, the first resurrection is the better resurrection, since those in the second resurrection are not promised rulership. In addition those in the first resurrection will be raised with our fathers in the faith listed in Hebrews 11, which is as confirmed in verse 35 indeed a better resurrection. The question is when will we rule the world with Messiah? We get the answer in Revelation 20: 4 – 6, in this way: ***'And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was***

given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Yahshua and because of the word of Elohim, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Messiah for a thousand years. (5) (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed.) This is the first resurrection. (6) Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of Elohim and Messiah and will reign with Him for a thousand years.' So we see that believers who remain faithful to the end will reign and judge with Messiah during the thousand years.

But, we will also judge after this period of a thousand years, since we are told that we will judge the world as well as the fallen angels, as is confirmed in 1 Corinthians 6: 2 & 3, as follows: ***'Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? (3) Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more matters in this life?'*** The believers who remain faithful and are in the first resurrection together with the rest of the dead who will be in the second resurrection, equals everyone who ever lived. Those of us who were called at this time and received the knowledge of truth, who are not in the first resurrection, because we did not remain faithful, are not judged yet. They will be in the second resurrected merely to be cast into the lake of fire. Let's see what Yahshua our Messiah had to say about this subject in Matthew 11: 20 – 24, as follows: ***'Then He began to reproach the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent. (21) "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. (22) Nevertheless I say to you, it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment, than for you. (23) And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You shall descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. (24) Nevertheless I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you.'*** We know that Tyre and Sidon were Gentile cities on the Mediterranean coast. Even though Tyre was destroyed long ago in accordance with the prophecy in Ezekiel 26, Sidon still exists. We are also aware that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah was destroyed in the days of Abraham and Lot.

But the point is, that these people who have been dead for thousands of years, are going to be resurrected during the day of Judgment, after the thousand year rule of Messiah. Those resurrected during this time will after the Scriptures have been opened to their understanding, be judged over a period of time, to see how they have applied what they have learnt in their lives, after they have been enlightened. This is what is meant in 1 Corinthians 15: 22 – 24 where Rav Shaul talks about the two resurrections, saying: ***'For as in Adam all die, so also in Messiah all shall be made alive. (23) But each in his own order: Messiah the first fruit, after that those who are Messiah's at His coming. (24) then comes the end (ones) when He delivers up the kingdom to the Elohim and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.'*** According to Colossians 1: 18 Yahshua ***'is also head of the body, the congregation; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.'*** Yahshua our Messiah was the first 'human being' to be resurrected and born-again from the dead. Next to be resurrected from the dead according to 1 Corinthians 15: 23, are those of us who believe in Messiah as our Master and Savior and remained faithful to the end, then after a thousand years, comes the end ones - meaning the rest of the dead. That is when they will be given knowledge of salvation, when according to Revelation 20: 12 ***'books were opened.'*** That is when every knee that did not bow before Yahshua during this age, will get their opportunity to do so. That is also the time spoken about in Isaiah 25: 7 & 8, when the veil will be removed from all nations and the books of the Scriptures will be opened to their minds in a similar way to what Yahshua did for His disciples after His resurrection in Luke 24: 44 & 45, as follows: ***'Now He said to them, "These are My words which I***

spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” (45) Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

Their ‘day of salvation’, their period of judgment will begin at that time. We see according to Isaiah 65: 17 – 20 that their period of judgment will be over a period of 100 years, in this way: ***“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. (18) But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem for rejoicing, and her people for gladness. (19) I will also rejoice in Jerusalem, and be glad in My people; and there will no longer be heard in her the voice of weeping and the sound of crying. (20) No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred shall be thought accursed.”*** There will be no premature deaths during this time, and those who repent and overcome during the 100 years, will be blessed with eternal life. They will be given the opportunity to accept Yahshua as their Master and Savior, or reject His way of life. Eternal life will be offered to all the people who ever lived. Those who accept Yahshua as their Savior and Passover will be immersed into His saving name, be given a portion of the Set-apart Spirit and be changed into spiritual children of Elohim. This will truly be the second harvest of human souls into the everlasting Kingdom.

Some have said that if this scenario is correct, there would be no incentive to repent now. Everyone would just “live like the devil now” and wait for the second resurrection. But there are plenty of incentives to want to be in the first resurrection, since it is called ‘***a better resurrection***’ in Hebrews 11: 35 and as we’ve read about the first resurrection from the last part of Revelation 20: 6, ***‘over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of Elohim and of Messiah and will reign with Him for a thousand years.’*** Priests will have the responsibility to under Messiah teach people during the millennium and beyond how to come to salvation through Yahshua the Messiah and serve YHWH for the benefit and blessing of all. The wicked – meaning those who sinned with full knowledge throughout the ages, including those of us who were called at this time and learnt Elohim’s salvation truth, but rejected it in the end, will be burned once for all and will not be tormented forever as some believe. Only spirit beings such as Satan and his demons have that fate awaiting them; human beings made from physical matter who sinned with full knowledge will only burn until they are turned to ashes as is confirmed in Malachi 4: 1, in this way: ***“For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze,” says YHWH of hosts, “so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.”***

The second resurrection is not a second chance, since these millions of unsaved people were blinded by YHWH Himself in the past, as shown (in Isaiah 25: 7 & 8 as well as) in Romans 11: 32, in this way: ***‘For Elohim has shut up all in disobedience that He might show mercy to all.’*** We need to remember that there is only one chance, and we are having it at this time. It behooves us to pay special attention to the words in Hebrews 10: 26 - 28: ***‘For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, (27) but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES. (28) Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses’*** Judgment takes place over the period of time after we come to the knowledge of Elohim’s truth, and is an evaluating of what we did with the knowledge that we received. Think about it!

Chapter 8: Is there more than one day of Salvation 1?

YHWH planned to bring forth beings that could become his children from the very beginning. These children would be like Him in every respect and would have His character reproduced in them by His Set-apart Spirit. YHWH commenced His plan to reproduce Himself by creating powerful spiritual beings called angels. These angels were free moral agents, with the ability to choose to go the way of Elohim – the way of giving and sharing, or the way of get. For many years these angels followed the correct way, until one day, Lucifer, decided in rebellion against Elohim, to take over the throne of Elohim in the third heaven (as revealed in Isaiah 14: 12 - 15¹⁷ and Ezekiel 28: 13 - 15¹⁸). Being a cherub, or one of the three original archangels, Lucifer, was in charge of a third of the angels: We know that in the Scriptures angels are referred to as stars (as explained in Revelation 1: 20¹⁹); Comparing the first part of Revelation 12: 4 with verse 9 we see that Satan was thrown down to the earth and a third of the angels of heaven under his control, were thrown down with him.

Satan and his angels fought against the other two archangels and their angels, still loyal to Elohim, but they were overcome and thrown down to earth, where they are now living as fallen angels or demons. These angels, who are spirit beings, could not change once they had decided to follow a life of wrongdoing and as a result of war between the angels and demons, the world was left formless and void. This is the condition we find the earth in when we open our Scriptures at Genesis 1: 2. At that time YHWH Elohim decided to recreate the heavens and the earth, but He chose not to create his future children as spirit beings again, but to (initially) create them from physical matter. He created them in His image with mind power to think, plan and ‘create’ and like the angels, they too had free moral agency to decide between good and evil. But, they had to prove throughout their lives that they would develop Elohim’s perfect character and follow His way of life. After creating mankind in His image, Elohim offered Adam and Eve the opportunity to receive eternal life through His Set-apart Spirit, as witnessed in Genesis 2: 8 - 9 & 16 - 17, in this way: ***‘And YHWH Elohim planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. (9) And out of the ground YHWH Elohim caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (16) And YHWH Elohim commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; (17) but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.”*** However, deceived by Satan, sin entered the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed Elohim and instead of eating from the ‘Tree of Life’, they chose to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, which Elohim had forbid them to do. YHWH therefore sentenced them and their offspring to 6,000 years of spiritual exile, during which they would be cut off from salvation. As a result Adam lost his opportunity to conquer Satan and replace him as ruler of this world; instead Adam obeyed Satan, placing himself and his descendants under Satan’s government.

¹⁷ Isaiah 14: 12 – 15: *“How you have fallen from heaven, o star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations! But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of Elohim, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit.”*

¹⁸ Ezekiel 28: 13 – 15: *“You were in Eden, the garden of Elohim; every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald; and the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of Elohim; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you.”*

¹⁹ Revelation 1: 20, *“As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven congregations, and the seven lampstands are the seven congregations.”*

After Elohim barred Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden and the 'Tree of Life' (symbolic of His Torah teachings by means of which He gives believers a portion of His Holy Spirit, provided they remain obedient to Him), the whole world became corrupt and YHWH destroyed all life from earth in the flood, except for Noah, his family and the animals which YHWH led to enter the ark that Noah built to protect them during the flood. After the initial failure of mankind was repeated after the flood with the rebellion at Babylon led by Nimrod, YHWH started over again with one man called Abram. YHWH entered into a two-fold covenant with Abram; namely that he and his descendants through Isaac and Jacob would eventually possess the Promised Land eternally – meaning they would one day be resurrected to become spiritual beings over which the second death has no power, provided they remain faithful to His commandments including circumcising their male children at eight days old. The second part of the promise was that those descendants of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob, who eventually disobeyed and were scattered into the world, would be able to return to the covenant through Abraham's one seed, namely Yahshua (the Word who became flesh – or the embodiment of Torah), through whom the rest of mankind will also be saved after Messiah's millennial rule, if they decide to follow Him when Elohim will open the Scriptures to their understanding (as per Isaiah 25: 7 - 9). Those who decide against following Messiah at that time will be burnt to ashes (as per Malachi 4: 1). As promised, YHWH later saved Jacob's children which by then became the nation of Israel from their enslavement in Egypt, during the first Passover. Fifty days after the First day of Unleavened Bread, YHWH entered into a covenant relationship with the united nation of Israel at Mount Sinai, by giving them a constitution in which He told them how to respond to Him as their Creator and Savior, but also to their fellow human beings.

Most of us are aware of the fact that YHWH is dealing with mankind over a period of 7000-years. Apart from the united nation of Israel, YHWH has allowed those from the house of Israel who rejected Him and His Torah and the rest of mankind to experiment with different forms of government, culture, education and religion, for most of the almost past 6000 years. The Torah observant Jews who remained faithful to Elohim because they knew and obeyed His Torah teachings from the time our forebears received it as a covenant between Elohim and the united Israel, have been given the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim²⁰, because of obedience (as per Acts 5: 32²¹). Similarly have those of the ten lost tribes and others whom YHWH is calling to return to Him and His Torah covenant, during this lifetime on earth and are immersed in Messiah's name, been given the Set-apart Spirit as a pledge to the redemption of Elohim's own possession to the praise of His glory (as per Acts 2: 38 & 39²²), provided they overcome Satan, the world and their own human natures from that time forward. Both these groups will be resurrected as Spiritual children of Elohim at Messiah's return, provided they remain faithful until then, or their dying day. But those millions of people who never heard or believed Elohim's true gospel and never knew the true Messiah, YHWH is allowing them to learn that by living life free of His leadership only leads to failure. This sounds unfair, but the good news is that YHWH wants everyone that He has ever created to be in His family one day. We read accordingly from 1Timothy 2: 3 & 4, ***'This is good and acceptable in the sight of Elohim our Savior, (4) who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.'*** Even so, it must also be understood that no one can come to Yahshua unless the Father who sent Him draws him, as we read from John 6: 44 & 65, as follows: ***"No one can come to Me, unless the Father who***

²⁰ Jews like all people have (or are) living souls (transliterated in Hebrew as 'nephesh') with the spirit of man or higher level soul in them (transliterated as 'neshamah'). Torah observant Jews also possess the Set-apart Spirit (transliterated as 'Ruach HaKodesh'), because of obedience to Elohim. Since returning Israelites lost the Set-apart Spirit due to idolatry and Sabbath breaking, they have to be immersed into the name of Yahshua (who came to reconcile them to Elohim & Brother Judah to re-establish the kingdom of Elohim over Israel at His return), to receive it again.

²¹ Acts 5: 32, ***'And we (Messiah's disciples) are witnesses of these things; and so is the Set-apart Spirit, whom Elohim has given to those who obey Him.'***

²² Acts 2: 38 & 39, ***'And Kepha said to them, "Repent, and let, each of you be immersed in the name of Yahshua Messiah for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Set-apart Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as YHWH our Elohim shall call to Himself."***

sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.” (65) ‘And He was saying, “For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me, unless it has been granted him from the Father.”

YHWH does not want to force us to be saved; He gave us free moral agency allowing us, once called, to come to Him out of our own free will. However, to become sons and daughters of Elohim takes more than just joining the local church on the street corner. It also takes more than just "*accepting J*e*s*u*s*" in some evangelical revival meeting filled with emotion. Those of us from the lost ten tribes (including a number of real Gentiles) whom Elohim is calling to return to the covenant our forefathers made with Him at Mount Sinai during this age; need to fully surrender our lives to our heavenly Father by means of a personal relationship with Yahshua the Messiah. We need to follow in the footsteps of Yahshua and learn to keep the Torah Commandments to the best of our ability, with the help of the Set-apart Spirit. Yahshua Himself said in John 14: 6: ***"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me."*** Comparing this quote with the previous one (in John 6:44) sounds like a bit of a contradiction. However, this is one example where we should let the Scriptures interpret the Scriptures. Let's therefore turn to Luke 10: 21 – 24, where we read: ***‘At that very time He (Yahshua) rejoiced greatly in the Set-apart Spirit, and said, “I praise Thee, O Father, Master of heaven and earth, that Thou didst hide these things from the wise and intelligent and didst reveal them to babes. Yes, Father, for thus it was well-pleasing in Thy sight. (22) All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him” (23) And turning to the disciples, He said privately, “Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see, (24) for I say to you, that many prophets and kings wished to see the things which you see, and did not see them, and to hear the things you hear, and did not hear them.”’*** Here Yahshua tells us that He will reveal the identity of the Father and the Son to whoever He desires to do so. However, He also tells us in John 14: 21 that there are certain prerequisites to be met before He will do so, in this way: ***“He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him.”*** It is as Yahshua said in John 10: 30, ***“I and the Father are one.”***

How then will Elohim accomplish His purpose to create a family of sons and daughters for Himself, with a perfect character like His own? (YHWH)'s plan of salvation for all mankind gives us the answer. A Remnant of the lost ten tribes and eventually all of mankind would be redeemed at a price of greater value than the value of the lives of all mankind put together. The price was as high as the life of our Creator himself, as Rav Kepha explained about returnees during this age in 1 Peter 1: 18 & 19, saying: ***‘Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, (19) but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Messiah.’*** It was for this reason that we read of Zechariah's prophecy in Luke 1: 68, in this way: ***“Blessed be YHWH Elohim of Israel, for He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people.”*** (YHWH)'s plan of salvation for all mankind tells us that mankind still has the potential of becoming sons of Elohim, as Yahshua the visible image of the invisible Elohim (as per Colossians 1: 15²³), died for us and was the first 'human' to be resurrected as a Spirit Being. He made it possible for us to go through the same process to be born again. YHWH died as the 'man' Yahshua, and was resurrected, to give us a second chance. Almighty YHWH did all this by Himself - without any god besides Him. This is in line with what we read from Psalm 49 verse 7 ***“No man can by any means redeem his brother, or give to Elohim a ransom for him.”*** And in verse 15 ***“But Elohim will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol; for He will receive me.”***

²³ Colossians 1: 15, ***‘And He is the image of the invisible Elohim, the first-born (again) of all creation.’***

The feast days that we as Nazarene Jews/Israelites are commanded to keep, picture Elohim's plan of salvation for all mankind. We read accordingly from Leviticus 23: 1 & 2: ***'YHWH spoke again to Moses saying: (2) "Speak to the sons of Israel, and say to them, (YHWH)'s appointed times which you shall proclaim as holy (Set-apart) convocations - My appointed times are these."*** These days were given to Israel and even though most other religions think that these are the feast days of the Jews only, YHWH says in Leviticus 23: 4 that ***"These are the appointed times of YHWH, holy (Set-apart) convocations which you shall proclaim at the times appointed for them."*** We read from Colossians 2: 16 - 17: ***'Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day— (17) things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Messiah.'*** We keep the Feast Days of Elohim as a shadow of things to come. Let's therefore consider each of the Feast Days in turn:

Passover: YHWH displayed His power to deliver Israel from slavery in Egypt by a series of plagues. He told the Israelites that on the night of the Passover, He would kill all the firstborn of Egypt to convince Pharaoh to let the Israelites go from slavery. YHWH protected the firstborn of Israel from death provided the sign of the blood of a lamb was seen on the doorposts of their homes. YHWH said that the Passover should be a memorial, which they shall keep as a feast to Him throughout their generations. This pointed forward to Yahshua's sacrifice to protect those of us from both houses of Israel who are first fruits destined to become first-born children of Elohim from the second death, but also to pay the death penalty for the rest of mankind, when they accept Him during His millennial rule, but also during the 100 year period of the great white throne judgment, as the lamb of Elohim who takes away the sins of the world. We partake of Unleavened Bread and Wine representing Yahshua's body and blood shed for us, and wash one another's feet during the annual Passover as per Messiah's example in John 13: 1 - 15. We keep Passover in remembrance of Yahshua's death in the evening of the 14th of Nisan, the night during which He was betrayed, according to 1 Corinthians 11: 23 - 26.

Days of Unleavened Bread: The First Day of Unleavened bread is the first annual Set-apart day or Sabbath of Elohim. Every year that the Israelites kept the days of unleavened bread they were and are still reminded that YHWH delivered them from Egypt. The Israelites coming out of Egypt foreshadowed us coming out of a life of habitual willful sin. Partaking of unleavened bread for seven days in our case means coming out of sin completely – seven meaning complete. We gladly get rid of the leaven in our homes for seven days to remind us of cleansing ourselves of sin and false doctrines. We eat unleavened bread for seven days, from the 15th through the 21st of Nisan (also known as Aviv); the 15th and the 21st being annual Sabbaths. The wave sheaf of the first fruit of the harvest, was waved on the day after the first annual Sabbath in the evening (erev) of the 16th of Nisan, from which time we count fifty days to get to Shavuot on the 6th of Sivan.

Pentecost (Shavuot): The Israelites arrived at Mount Sinai on the third day of the third month (Sivan) on the Hebrew calendar, as may be read from Exodus 19: 1. They camped in front of the mountain and Moses went up to Elohim, where He instructed Moses to go to the people and tell them to consecrate themselves for two days, during which time, they were to wash their clothes; refrain from marital relations and be ready on the third day – the 6th of Sivan. This is essentially the day on which the Torah was given to Israel at Mount Sinai. It is also the day, many years later, upon which the Set-apart Spirit was given, as recorded in Acts 2: 1 (KJV), as follows: ***'And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place'²⁴.*** It is by the indwelling of the Set-apart Spirit that we are able to keep the Torah with a Spiritual intent, thus worshipping the heavenly Father in Spirit and in Truth, as Yahshua said in John 4: 24²⁵. Pentecost or Shavuot is at the

²⁴ Note those who attended the first Pentecost after Messiah's resurrection all agreed on which day to keep the day of Pentecost.

²⁵ John 4: 24, ***"Elohim is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."***

time of the first small harvest of wheat in Israel. Rav Yaa'cov likens those of us called at this time as first fruits in James 1: 18 in this way: ***'In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures.'*** Rav Shaul wrote about Yahshua our Messiah in Romans 8: 29 as the ***"first-born among many brethren."*** Pentecost is also referred to as the Feast of First fruits, and is a shadow pointing to the initial harvest of souls at Messiah's return on Yom Teruah one day - a kind of first fruits unto YHWH. As first fruits we and our Jewish Brothers are being judged at this time, as Rav Kepha also wrote in 1 Peter 4: 17, saying: ***'For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of Elohim, and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of Elohim?'*** This is pictured by the two loaves spoken about in Leviticus 23: 17, when those from the two houses of Israel are waved before Elohim, to be accepted as first fruits unto YHWH, in this way: ***'You shall bring in from your dwelling places two loaves of bread for a wave offering, made of two tenths of an ephah; they shall be of a fine flour, baked with leaven as first fruits to YHWH.'*** Whereas the Matzos eaten during Passover are unleavened, these two loaves are baked with leaven; because the Matzos eaten at Passover represent Messiah's sinless body and the two loaves offered at Pentecost represent us, first fruits from the two houses of Israel – still prone to sin.

Feast of Trumpets: The Feast of Trumpets begins at the new moon on the seventh month and is a Set-apart convocation. We look forward with eager anticipation to the return of Yahshua the Messiah, for He will return at the sound of the last trumpet and the shout of the archangel. The Feast of Trumpets is two days long as may be read from Nehemiah 8: 2 & 13 and 1 Samuel 8: 5, 27 & 34. The blowing of trumpets was used to call Israel together to prepare for a journey, to summon the congregation for an assembly or for war. When Yahshua our Messiah returns to the Mount of Olives one day, the nations of the earth will gather together to fight against Him. Satan has deceived the whole world (Revelation 12: 9) and they will try to destroy the Messiah at His return. The Feast of Trumpets also signals the (first) resurrection of the dead in Messiah, as Rav Shaul wrote 1 Thessalonians 4: 13 – 17, as follows: ***'But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. (14) For if we believe that Yahshua died and rose again, even so Elohim will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Yahshua. (15) For this we say to you by the word of YHWH, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Master, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. (16) For the Master Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of Elohim; and the dead in Messiah shall rise first. (17) Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Master in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Master.'*** Yahshua described the Feast of Trumpets in Matthew 24: 29 – 31, as follows: ***"But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken, (30) and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. (31) And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other."***

Day of Atonement: The Day of Atonement on the tenth day of the Seventh Month is a time of fasting, "afflicting our souls," not eating or drinking for the 24-hour period from the evening of the 9th until evening of the 10th day. We read from Leviticus 23: 27 – 32, ***"On exactly the tenth day of this seventh month is the day of atonement; it shall be a holy convocation for you, and you shall humble your souls and present an offering by fire to YHWH. (28) Neither shall you do any work on this same day, for it is a day of atonement, to make atonement on your behalf before YHWH your Elohim. (29) If there is any person who will not humble himself on this same day, he shall be cut off from his people. (30) As for any person who does any work on this same day, that person I will***

destroy from among his people. (31) You shall do no work at all. It is to be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwelling places. (32) It is to be a sabbath of complete rest to you, and you shall humble your souls; on the ninth of the month at evening, from evening until evening you shall keep your sabbath." The Day of Atonement pictures our sins being covered; reconciliation with Elohim and the marriage of Yahshua, the Son of Elohim, to His bride the congregation, who has made herself ready, as witnessed in Jeremiah 31: 31 – 33, as follows: **"Behold, days are coming," declares YHWH, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,** (Yahshua have to remarry both houses of Israel again, since He divorced the house of Israel, but His death atoned for both houses as recorded in John 11: 49 – 52²⁶) **(32) not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares YHWH. (33) But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares YHWH, "I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people."** The reality that Torah observant Jews remained loyal to Elohim and His Torah, is borne out by the fact that He will only have to write His Torah on the hearts and minds of the house of Israel. The Day of Atonement also pictures the putting away of Satan for the duration of Messiah's millennium rule, as we read from Revelation 20: 1 – 3, in this way: **'And I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. (2) And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, (3) and threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.'**

Feast of Tabernacles: Once Satan has been bound hand and foot and thrown into the bottomless pit, Yahshua's thousand-year reign will commence from Jerusalem. We read from Leviticus 23: 34 – 43: **"Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'On the fifteenth of this seventh month is the Feast of Booths for seven days to YHWH. (35) On the first day is a holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work of any kind. (36) For seven days you shall present an offering by fire to YHWH. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation and present an offering by fire to YHWH; it is an assembly. You shall do no laborious work. (37) These are the appointed times of YHWH which you shall proclaim as holy convocations, to present offerings by fire to YHWH – burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and libations, each day's matter on its own day – (38) besides those of the Sabbaths of YHWH, and besides your gifts, and besides all your votive and freewill offerings, which you give to YHWH. (39) On exactly the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the crops of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of YHWH for seven days, with a rest on the first day and a rest on the eighth day. (40) Now on the first day you shall take for yourselves the foliage of beautiful trees, palm branches and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before YHWH your Elohim for seven days. (41) You shall thus celebrate it as a feast to YHWH for seven days in the year. It shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the seventh month. (42) You shall live in booths for seven days; all the native-born in Israel shall live in booths, (43) so that your generations may know that I had the sons of Israel live in booths when I brought them out from the land of Egypt. I am YHWH your Elohim.'"** During Yahshua's thousand-year rule from Jerusalem, He will restore all things to its former glory. Those of us, who qualified as first fruits, will be part of the first resurrection, will serve under Yahshua as kings and priests, assisting Him in the restoration of all things, as we read from the last part of Revelation 20: 4 and 6, in this way: **'and they came to life and reigned with Messiah for**

²⁶ John 11: 49 – 52: **'But a certain one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation should not perish." Now this he did not say on his own initiative; but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Yahshua was going to die for the nation (the house of Judah), and not for the nation only, but that He might also gather together into one the children of Elohim who are scattered abroad (the lost sheep of the house of Israel).'**

a thousand years. (6) Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of Elohim and of Messiah and will reign with Him for a thousand years.’ We read further from Revelation 5: 10, “And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our Elohim; and they will reign upon the earth.” Halleluyah!

Continue with part 2 on the next page.

Chapter 9: Is there more than one day of Salvation 2?

We continue with the question we addressed partly in part 1 by discussing the Last Great Day and related questions:

The Last Great Day: *'On the eighth day'* following the Feast of Tabernacles is the last High day of the year. It symbolizes the Great White Throne Judgment of Revelation 20, the final judgment and the Latter Harvest of human souls into Elohim's eternal Kingdom. (YHWH)'s spiritual plan of salvation is shown in the physical harvest season festivals that He gave to ancient Israel. We have seen previously in 1Timothy 2: 4, that YHWH desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. So what will happen to the millions who never knew (YHWH)'s plan of salvation for all mankind. We can read what happens to these people in the first part of Revelation 20 verse 5, as follows: ***'The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed.'*** In verse 11 & 12 of Revelation 20 we read: ***"And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. (12) And I saw the dead, the great and the small standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds."***

The Scriptures describes two resurrections in the future; the first resurrection to life, and the second resurrection to judgment. The resurrection to life will come at Yahshua's return to the earth. The resurrection to judgment will be one thousand years later. It describes a time in history during which all people who ever lived will come to realize the reason for being born. Because Elohim's judgment is positive explanation followed by correction, and not damnation, as described in Isaiah 30: 20 & 21²⁷; the Scriptures will be opened to their understanding at that time. It will be similar to when Yahshua opened His disciple's minds to understanding the Scriptures in Luke 24: 45, as follows: ***'Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.'*** Notice that Yahshua only opened his disciple's minds to The Scriptures after His resurrection. These people will then have their first opportunity to understand and know Elohim's way of life. They will be given a chance to make an informed decision as to whether they want to repent of their past sins, or not. Their *'day of salvation'*, their period of judgment will begin at that time. We see from Isaiah 65: 20 that this period will last for one hundred years, in this way: ***"No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred shall be thought accursed."*** There will be no premature deaths and those who repent and overcome during that period of time, will be blessed with eternal life. They will also be given the opportunity to accept Yahshua as their Master and Savior, or reject His way of life. Eternal life will be offered to the entire multitude who ever lived. Those who accept Yahshua as their Savior will be changed into spiritual sons and daughters of Elohim. However, there might be some that will never accept Elohim's way of life. Their fate is to be burned up once and for all. They will not be tormented forever, as only spirit beings such as Satan and his demons have that fate awaiting them. Unrepentant human beings made from flesh and blood will burn until they become ashes under the feet of the righteous, as witnessed in Malachi 4: 1 – 3, as follows: ***"For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze; says YHWH of hosts, "so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. (2) But for you who fear My name the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall. (3) And you will tread down the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day which I am preparing," says YHWH of hosts.'*** The Last Great

²⁷ Isaiah 30: 20 & 21, *'Although YHWH has given you bread of privation and water of oppression, He, your Teacher will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will behold your Teacher. And your ears will hear a word behind you, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left.'*

Day pictures a time when our Father YHWH will give all these millions of people a chance to be judged, but only after they have come to the knowledge of the truth.

At this point I hear many disagreeing and saying: We agree with you up to the Feast of Tabernacles, but where do you get the rest from? Are you making it up? No, I am not! Therefore for the sake of clarity, let's backtrack a bit. From the afore-going we've witnessed from the Scriptures that YHWH is at this time calling a group of people, to be kings and priest under Yahshua and to rule with Him on earth, during the millennium. YHWH calls us (John 6: 44) and Yahshua is the one who does the choosing, as may be read from Yahshua's parable of the king who gave a wedding feast for his son in Matthew 22: 1 – 14, where He concludes by saying in verse 14: ***"For many are called, but few are chosen."*** We read in the last part of Revelation 1: 5 & 6 ***'To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood, (6) and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His Elohim and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever, Amein.'*** To be a king and a priest means that we will have the opportunity, if we make it, to teach others Elohim's way of life. We are presently in training, learning to overcome our carnal human natures, Satan and the world, by the indwelling of the Set-apart Spirit. If we as first fruits make it into the first resurrection, we will be changed into spiritual sons and daughters of Elohim. Yahshua warned in Matthew 10: 37 that it will take sacrifice and forsaking families and friends when we are called, as follows: ***'He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.'*** He further said in verse 39, ***"He who has found his life shall lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake shall find it."*** This is telling us that if we come to a point where we believe that we have made it in life, i.e. that we have put in every effort to achieve our physical goals and are now enjoying the pleasures of life, because of our successes, we shall lose it. But if we have lost our lives because of time spent studying and serving YHWH, we will find (eternal) life. Are we willing to offer up our lives to take up the offer that YHWH extends to us? To sacrifice means to give up the things we value; to deny ourselves the things we would like to have in this life, because we are seeking the kingdom of Elohim. Even though we may forfeit worldly pleasures now, eternal joy awaits us.

We are called at this time to be first fruits unto YHWH (James 1: 18), and should put in every effort to make it into Elohim's eternal kingdom as Rav Shaul admonished in 1 Corinthians 9: 24 – 27, as follows: ***'Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. (25) And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. (26) Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; (27) but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.'*** Yahshua was the first of the first fruits who have fallen asleep as recorded in 1 Corinthians 15: 20; the first-born of many brethren as per Romans 8: 29. We, who have truly repented and have accepted His sacrifice to atone for our sins, are now His Spirit-begotten brethren, and if we qualify, will when He returns become Spirit-born into His Kingdom, as witnessed in 1 Corinthians 15: 21 - 24 in this way: ***'For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. (22) For as in Adam all die, so also in Messiah all shall be made alive. (23) But each in his own order: Messiah the first fruit(s) after that those who are Messiah's at His coming (those called out of the world at this time), (24) then comes the end (ones) when He delivers up the kingdom to Elohim and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.'*** We read further from 1 Corinthians 15: 50 – 52: ***'Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of Elohim; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. (51) Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.'*** First fruits are that part of a crop that is harvested first, around the Feast of First Fruits. The idea of us becoming first fruits, imply that there will also be second fruits. The second fruits are usually harvested after the Feast of Sukkoth in Israel. This is when grapes, olives and the rest of the produce are harvested in the land of Israel.

It is obvious that not everyone is now being called. Billions and billions of people have been born, lived and died, without ever hearing the Name of Yahshua our Messiah once, let alone obeying Him. Not even all those who heard the Savior Himself speak were being called at that time. In fact YHWH does not want to save all at this time is witnessed in Matthew 13: 11, 12 & 19, as follows: ***'And He (Yahshua) answered and said to them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. (12) For whoever has, to him shall more be given, and he shall have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. (19) When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.'*** This is specific language that is hard to be misunderstood. Either their time had not yet come or Yahshua was a respecter of persons, which we know is contrary to what is recorded in Acts 10: 34 & 35²⁸. Do you think the Savior would have spoken in a way that they could not understand him, if He knew that it would have doomed them to be lost forever? Are they hopelessly lost?

Let's read a few more related scriptures: In John 12: 37 – 40 we read: ***'But though he had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him; (38) that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke, "YHWH, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM HAS THE ARM OF YHWH BEEN REVEALED?" (39) For this cause they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, (40) "HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES, AND HARDENED THEIR HEART; LEST THEY SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED, AND I HEAL THEM."*** This is a hard saying to some, especially in light of what we read in 2 Peter 3: 9: ***'YHWH is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.'*** In addition we are told in Acts 4: 11 & 12 that Yahshua is the only name by which we may be saved, as follows: ***'He (Yahshua) is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, but WHICH BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone (upon which the congregation of YHWH is built). (12) And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.*** This seems like a contradiction, at first glance. How could YHWH purposely blind some, and at the same time not be willing that any should perish? We must also not forget that a large number of the ones spoken about here are already dead and buried. In Romans 10: 1 - 3 we read: ***'Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to Elohim for them (Jewish Israel) is for their salvation. (2) For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for Elohim, but not in accordance with knowledge. (3) For not knowing about Elohim's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of Elohim.'*** However, in the first part of Romans 11: 1 we read: ***'I say then, Elohim has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be?'*** We continue in verse 5: ***'In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to Elohim's gracious choice.'*** We, the ones being called now are that remnant. Continuing in verse 7, we read: ***'What then? That which Israel is seeking for, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened.'*** Next we read from verses 11 and 12: ***'I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous. (12) Now if their transgression be riches for the world and their failure be riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfillment be!'*** We make our Jewish brothers jealous by keeping the Feast Days of YHWH, like they do.

Continuing in verse 17 we read: ***'But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree.'*** And in verse 23: ***'And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in;***

²⁸ Acts 10: 34 & 35: ***'And opening his mouth, Kepha said: "I most certainly understand now that Elohim is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right, is welcome to Him."***

for Elohim is able to graft them in again.' If most of them are already dead, when will they 'not continue in their unbelief' and when will they be grafted in? Romans 11 is about Jews who are presently blinded to the identity of Yahshua mentioned earlier in John 12: 37 – 40. We know that they will be grafted in when Messiah returns one day, as recorded in Zechariah 12: 7 – 10, as follows: **'YHWH also will save the tents of Judah first in order that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not be magnified above Judah. (8) In that day YHWH will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the one who is feeble among them in that day will be like David, and the house of David will be like Elohim, like the angel of YHWH before them. (9) And it will come about in that day that I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. (10) And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born.'** We read accordingly in Romans 11: 25 - 28, **'For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation; that a partial hardening has happened to (Jewish)Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles (Israelites of the lost ten tribes who came to believe they are Gentiles, plus a number of real Gentiles) has come in; (26) and thus all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB. (27) AND THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS. (28) From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of Elohim's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers."** We read about our Father's mercy in verses 32 & 33, as follows: **'For Elohim has shut up all in disobedience that He might show mercy to all. (33) Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of Elohim! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!'** The reason for blinding the Jews to Yahshua's identity is as Yahshua said in Matthew 15: 24 **"I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."** Yahshua similarly instructed His disciples in Matthew 10: 5 & 6, saying: **"Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; (6) but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."** Rav Shaul also explains the same in Ephesians 2: 11 – 16, saying: **Therefore remember, that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Un-circumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands— (12) remember that you were at that time separate from Messiah, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise (made with Abraham, that he and his descendants will live eternally as spiritual children of Elohim in the Promised Land and the covenant made with David, that he and his descendants will rule over the re-established kingdom of Israel), having no hope and without Elohim in the world. (13) But now in Messiah Yahshua you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Messiah. (14) For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, (15) by abolishing in His flesh the enmity (punishment due for our sins), which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances (judgments for disobeying Torah), that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, (16) and might reconcile them both in one body (the congregation of YHWH or body of Messiah) to Elohim through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.'**

But, what about the rest of Mankind? Yahshua described a time during which people from all generations will be judged at the same time in Matthew 11: 20 – 24 as follows: **'Then He began to reproach the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent. (21) "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. (22) Nevertheless I say to you, it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment, than for you. (23) And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You shall descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom, which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. (24) Nevertheless I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in**

the Day of Judgment, than for you.” These people from ancient times will respond once they have had a genuine opportunity to understand the Scriptures. Even the perverts of Sodom will find it tolerable in the Day of Judgment, compared to those in Capernaum who personally knew Yahshua and rejected Him. The reason is that these ancient peoples – sinful as they were – had no knowledge of the true Elohim and His Torah. Messiah only appeared a number of years after them and they did not know Him or His Saving Name. Sodom and Gomorrah had been destroyed in Abraham’s day. Tyre and Sidon were Gentile cities on the Mediterranean coast. Tyre was destroyed as prophesied by Ezekiel and only a small insignificant village exists near the site of the original city today. The point is that these people have been dead for thousands of years and are going to be resurrected in the second resurrection, as well as being judged at that time.

A second witness describing a time during which people from all generations will be judged at the same time comes from Matthew 12: 41 & 42, in this way: ***‘The men of Nineveh shall stand up with this generation at the judgment, and shall condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. (42) The Queen of the South shall rise up with this generation at the judgment and shall condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.’*** The Queen of the South will be in the second resurrection and will be part of the second harvest of souls into the Kingdom of Elohim. She will repent and accept Yahshua our Messiah as her personal Savior. She will also accept and live by what is written in the books (the Scriptures) and her name will be entered into the book of life as witnessed in Revelation 20: 12. Those called out of the world to follow the way of Elohim at this time are first fruits to be harvested at Messiah’s return, whereas these people will be part of the second great harvest. After death, these individuals wait for the resurrection and judgment of YHWH, as witnessed in Hebrews 9: 27, as follows: ***‘And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.’***

We read more about those who will be in the second resurrection from Isaiah 25: 7 – 8, in this way: ***‘And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is stretched over all nations. (8) He will swallow up death for all time, and YHWH Elohim will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; for YHWH has spoken.’*** When will the veil which is over all nations be destroyed? When will death be swallowed up? After the Day of Judgment of course! The Day of Judgment for all the billions who lived over the past centuries will only come after the Millennial rule of Yahshua Messiah. We see that these people who were blinded in the past will have the veil, which is stretched over them, removed. Make no mistake; if these untold billions of formerly blinded people are merely judged by their works, many of them were thieves, prostitutes, dictators and false prophets will all perish in the lake of fire. They did not ever repent and were not immersed as we are taught to do in Acts 2: 38. They did not study the Scriptures as we read from 2 Peter 3: 18, as follows: ***‘But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Master and Savior Yahshua Messiah. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.’*** This is truly the time of (YHWH)’s Last Great Day. This is the time spoken about by Rav Shaul in Philippians 2: 9 - 11, in this way: ***‘Therefore also Elohim highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, (10) that at the name of Yahshua EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, (11) and that every tongue should confess that Yahshua Messiah is Master, to the glory of Elohim the Father.’*** We see from John 7: 37, that Yahshua stood up and cried out to His people on the last day, the great day of the feast, saying: ***“If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.”*** This indicates that all the unsaved dead are to be raised and given a final opportunity to kneel before Messiah. This provision to accept Yahshua as Master and Savior is what the Last Great Day is all about.

However, do not be mistaken. The second resurrection is the resurrection of the wicked and the unsaved dead. YHWH our Elohim does not have double standards – the countless unsaved billions deserve to have the same chance that we are having. Yes, they will only be judged on what they did, after they learn about the truth of Elohim. Yet, numerous Theologians and ministers, being deceived themselves, try to imagine that Elohim will only save their ‘friends’ and relatives who were Christians, but will let the multitudes from ages past perish, without them ever coming to real repentance and true surrendering to the living Messiah. These religious leaders could not be more wrong. The damnations that we read about in the Scriptures apply to us who are being called during this age. We are being judged during this age and if we do not make it, will burn to become ashes under the feet of the righteous. For the unsaved billions of Buddhists, Muslims, Shintoist and those who believed in a false messiah, who came to do away with his Father’s laws, both at present and in the past, the Scriptures will be opened to their understanding after the second resurrection. This is not a second chance – since they were blinded by YHWH Himself in the past. This is truly the second harvest of human souls into the everlasting kingdom.

YHWH our Elohim’s purpose remains. He is not trying to save everyone during this age; If He was, they would not all be saved. He is only calling out the first fruits to rule with Yahshua during the Millennium and into eternity. The vast majority of blinded individuals will be brought back to life during the Great White Throne Judgment. Then He will call them to spiritual understanding and will fill those who are willing with His Set-apart Spirit. He will grant them salvation in His kingdom. Those not willing will be burnt to ashes, with the wicked and those who sinned willfully after being called and given the knowledge of truth, during this age. There is no second chance, as witnessed in Hebrews 10: 26 - 28: ***‘For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, (27) but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES. (28) Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.’*** Think about it!

The seven annual festivals of Elohim depicting the steps in Elohim's Master Plan of salvation for mankind.			
Festival	Observed	Meaning	Scriptural references
Passover Pesach	14th day of 1st month after sunset	A memorial of the sacrifice of Yahshua Messiah, "our Passover," which made possible the forgiveness of our sins.	Lev. 23: 5; Jos. 5: 10 - 11; Luke 22: 15-20; John 13: 1 - 5, 14 - 15; 1 Cor. 5: 7; 1 Cor. 11: 23 -26.
Feast of Unleavened Bread	15th to 21st of first month	Pictures Elohim's people - the congregation - putting away sin and striving to obey Elohim's commandments.	Lev. 23: 6 - 8; Deut. 16: 3 & 4; Ex. 12: 15 - 20, 42; 1 Cor. 5: 6 - 8.
Pentecost - Shavuot (Feast of Weeks or First Fruits)	"Fiftieth" day after the first annual Sabbath (the 1st Day of Unleavened Bread), in the third month	Depicts the congregation as the first fruits of salvation, consisting of both Torah observant Jews and a remnant of the lost ten tribes, who returned to Elohim through Messiah, waved as two loaves on Pentecost for acceptance as the first to be spiritually begotten and born into Elohim's Family, when Yahshua returns on Yom Teruah.	Lev. 23: 15 -21; Num. 15: 17 - 21; Num. 28: 26; Deut. 16: 9 & 10; Acts 2: 1 - 4; Rom. 8: 23; 2 Thessalonians 2: 13; James 1: 18.
Feast of Trumpets - Rosh Hashanah (Yom Teruah)	First day of 7th month	Celebrates the Second Coming of Messiah to intervene in world affairs, the salvation of Judah and the resurrection of the first fruits, when YHWH will enter into a New Marriage Covenant with both houses of Israel and establish the Kingdom of Elohim on earth.	Lev. 23: 23 - 25; Job 14: 14 & 15; 19: 26; Isa. 11: 6 - 9; Ezek. 37: 15 - 28; Zech. 14: 4 & 5; Matt. 24: 30 - 31; 1 Cor. 15: 50 - 52; 1 Thessalonians 4: 16 - 17; Rev. 11: 15; Rev. 19: 11 - 16.
Day of Atonement - Yom Kippur	10th day of 7th month	Portrays the binding and removal of Satan for 1,000 years so that mankind at last may be made <u>at one</u> with Elohim.	Lev. 23: 26 - 32; Lev. 16: 7 - 31; Rev. 20: 1 - 3.
Feast of Tabernacles - Sukkot	15th to 21st of seventh month	Represents the 1,000 year rule of Yahshua Messiah and the Spirit-born again children of Elohim on earth, during which time salvation will open to all.	Lev. 23: 34 - 35, 39 - 42; Zech. 14: 16 -19; Isa. 2: 1 - 4; John 7: 2 - 36; Rev. 20: 4 & 6.
Last Great Day	22nd day of 7th month	Pictures the judgment when the vast majority of humanity will be resurrected to mortal life and given their first opportunity for salvation – they will be judged over 100 year period, after which those who refuse to repent will die in the lake of fire, with all whose names are not entered into the book of life by then.	Lev. 23: 36; Ps. 22: 29; Ezek. 37: 1 - 14; Isa. 25: 7 - 9; 26: 19 - 21; 65: 17 - 20; Matt. 12: 41 - 42; John 7: 37 & 38; Rev. 20: 5, 11 - 15; Malachi 4: 1 - 4; and Revelation 21: 1 - 3.

Chapter 10: What is man's destiny?

Very few people alive today realize that there is more to this life than what most believe or think. Don't you ever wonder about the purpose for mankind to be on earth? What is our ultimate destiny? The theory of evolution claims to show the 'pre-history' of mankind and how we came into being, but it failed dismally to show any purpose for man's existence. Most religious leaders have no idea, when it comes to answering these important questions and scientist desire to determine and understand the purpose of life.

Christianity and most other religions believe 'heaven' to be the reward of the saved, and as a result billions of people came to believe this falsehood. But most have never given much thought to what they will do when they get there. To them eternal life is depicted as an imaginary paradise awaiting those who pass the so-called 'pearly gates', to enter a never ending rest, beholding the face of Elohim. But if that is truly the reward of the saved, many elderly retired people already know its boredom, frustration and unhappiness. About 3000 years ago, king David asked these same questions in Psalm 8: 3 & 4, saying: ***"When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; (4) what is man, that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man, that Thou dost care for Him?"*** Rav Shaul gives us the answer to these questions in Hebrews 2, where he tells us about the questions King David asked in Psalm 8, but also continues to give us the answer in the second part of verse 8 to verses 11, saying: ***'For in subjecting all things to him (lower case h, meaning mankind), He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him. (9) But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Yahshua, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of Elohim He might taste death for everyone. (10) For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings. (11) For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren.'*** Rav Shaul was further inspired to write about man's awesome destiny in Romans 8: 16 & 17, saying: ***'The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of Elohim, (17) and if children, heirs also, heirs of Elohim and fellow heirs with Messiah, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.'*** Elohim intends that mankind should eventually inherit the universe with Yahshua the Messiah.

Because Yahshua Messiah overcame during His 'human life' and was born again by the resurrection, He is presently seated on His Father's throne, as He told Yochanan in Revelation 3: 21, saying: ***'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.'*** We see the reverse of what we read earlier in Hebrews 2: 8 happening to Yahshua right now in 1 Peter 3: 22, in this way: ***'Who is at the right hand of Elohim, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.'*** We see from Revelation 19: 16 what Messiah's title will be when He returns to earth one day soon, as follows: ***'And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND MASTER OF MASTERS.'*** We see further about Yahshua's reign from Isaiah 9: 7, in this way: ***'There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace.'*** Rav Shaul also witness how great the authority Messiah already inherited is, in Hebrews 1: 1 – 2, saying: ***'Elohim, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, (2) in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.'*** But, from what we have read so far, we understand that if we have become true Believers, we are now the spirit-begotten "children" of Elohim and are joint-heirs with Yahshua Messiah to inherit everything YHWH has created! The awesome destiny of mankind is rulership of the entire vast universe with Yahshua Messiah. But not until we have qualified and been "born again" as sons of Elohim. Thus far only Yahshua Messiah, the ***"firstborn among many brethren"*** (Romans 8: 29), has received this power. He alone has received the power and glory we shall receive when we too, are

born of Elohim at the resurrection. Are you beginning to grasp the enormity of these promises of Elohim?

As our Savior and elder brother Yahshua Messiah, *“the firstborn among many brethren”* has already qualified for the highest office under Elohim the Father in the coming Kingdom of Elohim. No one else can ever receive the position of rulership the Father has promised Him. However, certain other individuals have also been promised particular positions of responsibility in Elohim’s Kingdom. We read firstly about the promise to Abraham from Romans 4: 13, in this way: ***‘For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith.’*** Abraham’s children through Isaac and Jacob who remained loyal to the covenant they made with the Father at Mount Sinai, namely Torah observant Jews, will inherit the Promised Land eternally. But those of us from the lost ten tribes who came to believe that we are Gentiles only in the secondary sense, since we still have a little Israelite blood in our veins and are Gentiles who are called by Elohim’s name, i.e. Israelites (as identified by Acts 15: 17) and are now being called to return to the covenant we made with YHWH, through Abraham’s one seed Yahshua, become Abraham’s heirs according to the promise once again, as witnessed in Galatians 3: 7 – 9, 13 – 16 and 27 – 29, as follows: ***‘Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. (8) And the Scripture, foreseeing that Elohim would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “ALL THE NATIONS SHALL BE BLESSED IN YOU.” (9) So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer. (13) Messiah redeemed us from the curse (or punishment due to us for our sins) of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, “CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE” – (14) in order that in Messiah Yahshua the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith (similar to the way Brother Judah gets it through obedience). (15) Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is only a man’s covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it. (16) Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to His seed, He does not say, “And to seeds,” as referring to many, but rather to one, “And to your seed,” that is, Messiah. (27) For all of you who were immersed in Messiah have clothed yourselves with Messiah. (28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Messiah Yahshua. (29) And if you belong to Messiah, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.’***

After King Saul rebelled against Elohim, YHWH made Jesse’s son David king over the united Israel, as is confirmed in 2 Samuel 7: 8, in this way: ***“Now therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, ‘Thus says YHWH of hosts, “I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be ruler over My people Israel.”’”*** We also see from verses 15 & 16 that King David’s throne will be established eternally, as follows: ***“But My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. (16) And your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.”*** We see further from a prophecy about Messiah’s millennial rule that King David will once again rule over both houses of Israel in the Kingdom of Elohim in Ezekiel 37: 21 – 24, as follows: ***“And say to them, ‘Thus says YHWH Elohim, “Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; (22) and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations, and they will no longer be divided into two kingdoms. (23) And they will no longer defile themselves with their idols, or with their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. And they will be My people, and I will be their Elohim. (24) And My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances, and keep My statutes, and observe them.”’”*** Elohim first anointed Saul to be king over Israel, because the people wanted a human king to rule over them. If

King Saul yielded to Elohim and obeyed His Commandments and overcame the temptations of the flesh, he would have qualified to hold the same office in the Kingdom of Elohim during the millennium. However, Saul rebelled against Elohim and did not repent, thereby disqualifying himself from maintaining his position. This was when Elohim chose David, a man after His own heart, to rule in place of Saul. Even though David also made some serious mistakes and sinned shamefully against Elohim, his repentance was very sincere and he acknowledged that he was to blame for it, and he promised to obey Elohim from the heart in future. He strove to overcome and qualified to rule in Elohim's Kingdom. No one else can receive the office of king over Israel, because David is promised that function.

In addition to King David, we see that Yahshua also promised rulership positions in the Kingdom of Elohim to His disciples in Matthew 19: 27 - 29, in this way: ***'Then Kepha answered and said to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?" (28) And Yahshua said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (29) And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, shall receive many times as much, and shall inherit eternal life.'*** The apostles will rule over each of the twelve tribes of Israel under King David. Obviously Judas Iscariot failed to qualify for his position, and Yahshua chose another man, Matthias, to replace him (as recorded in Acts 1: 15 - 26). In addition to these, many other overcomers mentioned in Scripture have qualified for specific responsibilities in Elohim's ruling family, but these positions will only be made available after Messiah's return. We also read from 1 Corinthians 6: 1 - 3 that we the modern day believers should already in this life learn to judge, as follows: ***'Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? (2) Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? (3) Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, matters in this life?'*** Each one of Elohim's spirit-begotten children is busy qualifying for a position of great responsibility under Yahshua Messiah in the Kingdom of Elohim. These positions are the rewards Elohim will bestow on those of us who eventually qualify, in addition to the gift of eternal life (as per Romans 6: 23). However, to receive a reward, each of us must overcome our own human natures, Satan and the world, but also develop our abilities to judge and rule during this age.

In order to avoid any confusion regarding the "rewards" and the "gifts" YHWH promised to give His children, let's notice the difference between them. Most working people understand the word "reward" when an employee is "rewarded" with a bonus for outstanding work, or when a citizen earns a "reward" for supplying information to the police which lead to the arrest of a criminal. Most people also understand when a parent gives a child a gift. But why is it, that when it comes to what we read from the Scriptures regarding these two terms, people get confused? We are given the reason in Revelation 12: 9, in this way: ***'And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.'*** Since Satan has led Adam and Eve astray in the Garden of Eden, he is diligently working to deceive the rest of mankind, keeping them confused about Elohim's plan and purpose for mankind. As a result the majority of professing believers confuse the gift of eternal life with the rewards Yahshua will bring His true followers at His return. We read firstly from Romans 6: 23 what the gift of Elohim is for those who return to Him through Yahshua Messiah, as follows: ***'For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of Elohim is eternal life in Messiah Yahshua our Master.'*** Continuing in Ephesians 2: 7 - 9 we learn that Elohim's gift of eternal life comes by His grace and favor, in this way: ***'In order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Messiah Yahshua. (8) For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of Elohim; (9) not as a result of works, that no one should boast.'*** Yes, there is absolutely nothing we can do to earn it.

The question then is: How do we as returning Israelites qualify for Elohim's mercy, favor and pardon? We read the answer from Acts 2: 36 – 39, as follows: ***“Therefore let all the house of Israel (all ten tribes, excluding the house of Judah) know for certain that Elohim has made Him both Master and Messiah—this Yahshua whom you crucified*** (because of disobedience to Elohim's Torah teachings). (37) ***Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Kepha and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do? (38) And Kepha said to them, “Repent, and let each of you be immersed in the name of Yahshua Messiah for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Set-apart Spirit. (39) For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as YHWH our Elohim shall call to Himself.”*** The phrase far off comes from Daniel's prayer in Daniel 9: 7, where he referred to the house of Israel as the ones who are driven far away in all the countries where YHWH has driven them, because of their unfaithful deeds they have committed against Him. We are also told in Romans 6: 14 – 16 how to remain within Elohim's mercy, grace and pardon, in this way: ***‘For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace. (15) What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! (16) Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?*** Understanding that the phrase “under the Law” means being subject to the Torah's penalties, allows this verse to make sense to us as Nazarene Israelites. If you are truly led by Elohim's Set-apart Spirit you are not subject to the Torah's penalties and will not be led to disobey Elohim and be cursed. Rather, if you are truly led by the Spirit, you will naturally obey our Heavenly Father and His commandments and be blessed—as the Torah also tells us. We read further from 1 John 3: 22, as follows: ***‘And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.’*** The terms and conditions for coming within and remaining in Elohim's grace, by which He makes the precious “gift” of eternal life available, are that we repent of our sins, accept Yahshua's sacrifice for our sins, and then live a life of obedience to His spiritual laws, which are the way to true happiness and prosperity, as also witnessed in Hebrews 9: 15, in this way: ***‘And for this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.’***

Now, let's get to understand what is meant by the phrase ‘reward’ according to the Scriptures. What our occupation, rank or position will be during Messiah's millennium rule is a matter of the ‘reward’ we will receive at Messiah's return, as Yahshua told His disciples in Matthew 16: 27, saying: ***“For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and will THEN RECOMPENSE EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.”*** Our “reward” depends on the zeal and effort we put forth during this present life as Nazarene Israelite believers after receiving Elohim's Set-apart Spirit. The reward, our future position in the Kingdom of Elohim will be determined by our spiritual works. We see exactly how the rewards Elohim has in store for His children differ from His gift in 1 Corinthians 3: 13 – 16, in this way: ***‘Each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. (14) If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. (15) If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.’*** We need to understand that each man will be rewarded according to his own work. Our reward, then, is something we earn. It is payment given to the man who earns it by his work. The truth of the matter is that we might even lose most of our reward and still receive eternal life by Elohim's grace, as witnessed in 1 Corinthians 3: 15 above. The reward of the saved is therefore not the same thing as the gift of eternal life. Rewards will be paid to those who will have already received the ‘gift’ of eternal life. Consequently what are required is not grace or works, but grace and works. Grace will get us into Elohim's Kingdom and give us immortality as Elohim's gift and works will earn us a better

office, an opportunity for greater service, for doing more good, once we are born into Elohim's Family.

We see from Romans 2: 6 – 10 that some will receive good rewards, whilst others will receive punishment according to their deeds, as follows: ***'Who WILL RENDER TO EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS; (7) to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; (8) but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. (9) There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, (10) but glory and honor and peace to every man who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.'*** Yes, some will even receive the ultimate punishment as their reward, namely death, as we read earlier from Romans 6: 23. Everyone has works, either good or bad. Those who do good works will receive good rewards, whilst those who do evil works will be punished, unless their evil deeds are repented of and covered by the blood of Messiah. Un-repentant sinners will receive the wages for sin which they have earned, namely, death for all eternity. We see the principle of being rewarded for good and bad works also revealed in the Tanach, as we read from Isaiah 3: 9 – 11, in this way: ***'The expression of their faces bears witness against them. And they display their sin like Sodom; they do not even conceal it. Woe to them! For they have brought evil on themselves. (10) Say to the righteous that it will go well with them. For they will eat the fruit of their actions. (11) Woe to the wicked! It will go badly with him, for what he deserves will be done to him.'*** Every person who is born of Elohim will receive exactly the same gift; eternal life and an eternal inheritance, but there will be different degrees of rewards given to the saved. Elohim promised to give rewards to both the small and the great, as Yahshua showed Yochanan in Revelation 11: 18, saying: ***"And the nations were enraged, and Thy wrath came, and the time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to give their reward to Thy bond-servants the prophets and to the saints and to those who fear Thy name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth."*** Some Believers are worthy of greater rewards than others because they have produced greater spiritual works.

In the parable of the sower in Matthew 13: 3 – 8 Yahshua shows that some believers will bring forth more fruit than others, in this way: ***'And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, "Behold, the sower went out to sow; (4) and as he sowed, some seeds fell besides the road, and the birds came and ate them up. (5) And others fell upon the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. (6) But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. (7) And others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. (8) And others fell on the good soil, and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."*** Yahshua wants His followers to bring forth much and shows that we glorify our heavenly Father by the amount of fruit we bring forth in John 15: 5 – 8, saying: ***"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. (6) If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. (7) If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. (8) By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples."*** Rav Shaul tells us in Romans 8: 9 & 10 how Messiah dwells in us, saying: ***'However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of Elohim dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Messiah, he does not belong to Him. (10) And if Messiah is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.'*** Bearing good fruit involves spiritual works, and overcoming the works of the flesh. It involves letting Messiah live in us by means of the Set-apart Spirit, allowing us to bear the fruits of the Spirit in our lives mentioned in Galatians 5: 22 & 23, as follows: ***'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.'*** In Revelation 2: 26 & 27 Yahshua tells us what one of the greatest rewards is that He will give those who overcome to the end, saying: ***"And he who***

overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; (27) AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father.” In the Kingdom of Elohim there will be individuals having greater or lesser positions of authority and degrees of glory as Rav Shaul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15: 41 – 42, saying: **‘There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. (42) So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body.’** But every individual will have a great responsibility, a job function to perform, as an entirely new civilization must be built on earth and eventually throughout the universe, according to Elohim’s specifications.

These positions will be awarded to each Believer according to how much he grew and overcame spiritually in this life and how much good fruit he produced by his spiritual works. Each one will receive a job in Elohim’s Kingdom commensurate with the level of spiritual character he has developed in this life, as aptly explained in the parable of the minas in Luke 19. In this parable Yahshua pictures Himself as a young nobleman going to a far country (heaven) to receive a kingdom and to return to earth (Luke 19: 11 & 12). But before He left, He delegated certain responsibilities to each of his ten servants (verse 13). These servants represent every converted true Believer to whom YHWH has given His Set-Apart Spirit. After He returned, having obtained the Kingdom, we see from verse 15, how He will judge His servants, as follows: **“And it came about that when he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him in order that he might know what business they had done.”** Each pound or ‘mina’ contained an amount of silver worth several dollars in today’s money. This money is a symbol of spiritual value and represents the spiritual capabilities and opportunities Elohim has given to each Believer to be used to serve others and to develop spiritual character during this age. We see from verses 16 - 19 that each servant will be awarded in direct proportion to the degree he developed and overcame. In this way: **“And the first appeared, saying, ‘Master, your mina has made ten minas more.’ (17) And he said to him, “Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, be in authority over ten cities.’ (18) And the second came, saying, ‘Your mina, master, has made five minas.’ (19) And he said to him also, ‘And you are to be over five cities.’”** True Believers are the servants (or slaves) of Messiah as we’ve seen previously from Romans 6: 16. Some overcome more than others and accomplish more spiritual works with what they have been given and therefore develop more spiritual character than others. They will be given rulership over many cities during the Millennium, whilst others will have qualified to rule only a few cities. Each will be rewarded according to his works. The reward you receive whether great or small depends on you alone! It depends on how much effort you expend in overcoming and growing spiritually. It depends on whether you always willingly let Elohim mold you into His character image, or whether you tend to resist His correction. Finally we see from verses 20 – 24 of Luke 19, what will happen to those who fail to overcome and grow even a little, who fails to increase their spiritual usefulness and effectiveness, as follows: **‘And another came, saying, ‘Master, behold your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; (21) for I was afraid of you, because you are an exacting man; you take up what you did not lay down, and reap what you did not sow.’ (22) He said to him, ‘By your own words I will judge you, you worthless slave. Did you know that I am an exacting man, taking up what I did not lay down, and reaping what I did not sow? (23) Then why did you not put the money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?’ (24) And he said to the bystanders, ‘Take the mina away from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.’** The slave who gained nothing in this present life; who did not have any good works and did not overcome or grow spiritually, was not given any position and even had what was previously entrusted to him taken away. Elohim gives us salvation so we may serve others, and if we do not qualify to serve, even the salvation we thought we had, will be taken away, as Yahshua confirmed in verse 26, saying: **“I tell you, that to everyone who has shall more be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.”**

The Scriptures speaks a great deal about overcoming. We as Nazarene Israelites are specifically called to conform to the image of Elohim, Yahshua. Yahshua the Messiah came to show us the way to become children of Elohim and to assist us to return to the covenant we made with YHWH at Mount Sinai, as recorded in Hebrews 2: 17 & 18, as follows: ***‘Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to Elohim, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. (18) For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.’*** When Yahshua showed His disciples the way He walked or interpreted Torah for His followers in Matthew 5, He commanded His followers, true Believers, to become perfect in verse 48, saying: ***“Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”*** The word “be” in this verse should more correctly be translated “become.” Yahshua spoke of becoming perfect in character, a process which takes time. Each one of us has to overcome like Yahshua overcame and told His disciples in John 16: 33, saying: ***“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”*** Yahshua Messiah became perfect through the trials and tests of human experience. He overcame the temptations of the devil, His flesh and the world around Him. In spite of opposition and temptation, He kept Elohim’s commandments perfectly. In so doing He developed the perfection of spiritual character which enabled Him to become our Savior and elder brother. No one can overcome for you. Overcoming is something each person must do himself with the help of Yahshua Messiah living in him through the Set-Apart Spirit. And just as with Yahshua, our overcoming involves obedience to Elohim, service to others, personal sacrifice and struggle against sin. It requires putting forth effort to become the kind of spiritually minded person Elohim can use to rule the universe. By overcoming the pulls of the flesh, Satan and the world, we build the very character of Elohim. The more we overcome, the greater our character will become and the greater will be our reward. In Matthew 24: 45 - 47 Yahshua told His disciples that those who overcome to the very end, shall inherit Elohim’s Kingdom and receive a reward, saying: ***“Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their (Spiritual) food at the proper time? (46) Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. (47) Truly I say to you, that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.”*** Yahshua will not be satisfied with just a little overcoming now and then. He desires continual, constant overcoming and the obedience it entails. There is never a time to let down or grow fainthearted.

Spiritual growth is the development of the very character of Elohim in us. We must gradually become more and more like Him in the way we act and do things. Elohim’s character is the ability to discern what is right from wrong, choose what is right, and then do it regardless of pressures and circumstances to the contrary. It is the ability in a free moral agent to determine and direct one’s own actions always in the right direction, which is the way of righteousness – the way of obedience to Elohim, of giving, serving, helping others. It is the way which produces real and eternal happiness. This kind of character must be developed in Believers through independent free choice, combined with learning, experience, trials and tests. In addition to commissioning his disciples to immerse and teach new believers throughout the world in Matthew 28: 18 - 20, we also read Messiah’s instructions to Kepha but also to us in John 21: 15 – 17, saying: ***“Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Master; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend My Lambs (meaning to teach the children in the congregation, with care).” (16) He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Master; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Shepherd My sheep (meaning to guide the men of the congregation to remain on course).” (17) He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” Kepha was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Master, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Yahshua said to him, “Tend My sheep (meaning to teach the ladies in the congregation with the same care as the children).”*** Rav Kepha knew exactly what Yahshua meant and therefore instructed us in 1 Peter 5: 1 – 3, saying: ***‘Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Messiah, and a***

partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, (2) shepherd the flock of Elohim among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of Elohim; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness. Elohim has set his called and chosen teachers in His congregation to feed the flock as witnessed in Ephesians 4: 12 & 13: ***“For the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Messiah; (13) until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of Elohim, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Messiah.”*** Elohim’s teachers instruct, teach and council members of Elohim’s congregation and through Messiah’s discipleship program each believer is taught to ‘grow’ until he/she is ready to become a teacher him/herself, and to be born as the very sons and daughters of Elohim.

We were all born to rule, to be a part of governing, teaching and guiding this world during the millennium rule of Messiah and beyond; to assist Elohim in ruling the entire universe for all eternity. That is the incredible destiny that Elohim offers to mankind. Each one of us needs to be preparing to eventually reach that goal. We need to evaluate our own lives and characters honestly, to see if we truly obey Elohim. The point is: If you suddenly had great power in your control to direct a major city, would you be able to direct and exercise that power as you know Elohim would have used it? If you are currently directing the little powers in your control, such as your temper, your voice, your passions and emotions, and your comparatively small income, then you probably could be entrusted to properly control at least a slightly larger power. If you have not yet learned to control and constructively guide even these little powers Elohim has permitted you to use, then how could Elohim entrust you to handle awesome responsibilities in the Kingdom of Elohim? If you don’t learn to be faithful even in the use of your present income, who will entrust to your care the true riches, and the great powers of Elohim? We need to ask Elohim for wisdom, knowledge and understanding so that you can rightly direct the comparatively little powers and responsibilities we now have. Ask Elohim for wisdom and help in properly exercising and using the abilities you’ve been given so you can be a faithful and productive servant. Strive to learn to be faithful over what Elohim has already given you, so that you may one day hear Messiah’s words recorded in Matthew 25: 21, saying: ***‘Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master.’*** Praise the name of YHWH.

Bibliography and contact details of the publisher:

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1. **New American Standard Bible** quoted throughout, unless otherwise indicated and **Set-apart Names** corrected in quotes used in accordance with this Bible's 'Principles of Translation'.
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