

How do we choose the right teacher 1?

Salvation is a very serious subject, and once YHWH has started calling us to become part of His chosen royal priesthood, we need to make sure that we qualify for that purpose at the end of our lives, or when Messiah returns one day. YHWH calls His first fruit believers from the religions of the world, to start following Him the way He prescribes in His word. He calls us out of the many counterfeit religions of the world, to come and have a personal relationship with Him. However, because Satan's main purpose is to keep the world deceived and from knowing Elohim's truth, he makes sure that as soon as many new believers come out of the religions of the world, they get deceived into following just another counterfeit.

The question of how to make sure we follow the right teacher is therefore very important, as Satan has many agents disguising themselves as apostles¹ of Messiah, as Rav Shaul also warned about in 2 Corinthians 11: 13 – 15, saying: ***'For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers disguising themselves as apostles of Messiah. (14) And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. (15) Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.'*** Rav Shaul wrote a further warning about Satan's deceiving work in 2 Corinthians 4: 3 & 4, saying: ***'And even if our Gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, (4) in whose case the god of this world (Satan) 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.'*** The gospel of the Kingdom of Elohim is definitely not the false gospel that the churches of this world preach about the life, death and resurrection of Messiah, but it is the good news about the coming Kingdom of Elohim, during which Messiah will rule with His saints for a thousand years from Jerusalem, and then the Universe into eternity.

The fact that most of the groups who have been called out of the religions of the world, proclaim the good news of the coming Kingdom of Elohim, is not enough to make sure that we are taught the true good news about what Elohim has planned for all mankind. The good news of the coming Kingdom of Elohim does not end at the Feast of Tabernacles, which pictures the wedding reception of the Marriage of the Lamb and His bride the ecclesia of first born children of Elohim, resurrected at the return of Messiah on the Feast of Trumpets, one day in the near future. It also includes the rebirth of all people who ever lived after the thousand year rule of Messiah from Jerusalem. However, these people will be resurrected as flesh and blood human beings, who will be given a period of one hundred years during which to make an informed decision about accepting Yahshua as their personal Passover or not, after the Scriptures will be opened to their understanding (as per Isaiah 25: 7 – 9 and Isaiah 65: 17 – 20). Because some of the leaders of a number of Messianic/Nazarene Jewish/Israelite groups have never themselves been through the discipleship programs started by Messiah, not all of them are aware of what the Last Great Day of the Feast of Tabernacles depicts, let alone knowing about the existence of the 8th Day of the Feast of Tabernacles. Such teachers teach like most in Christianity that only those who are answering (YHWH)'s call at this time will eventually be saved, and the rest of mankind will be thrown into the 'eternal' lake of fire.

But, nothing could be further from the truth – as is actually depicted in the annual Feast Days of Elohim, commanded to be kept by all those who worship Him. By keeping the Feast Days of Elohim, we get to know Elohim's plan of salvation for all mankind. Whereas, the original Passover was specifically instituted to save the first born children of Israel, the Feast of Weeks also known as Shavuot pictures the time when the first fruits chosen from both houses of Israel are presented before Elohim, to be accepted to be born again as the first born children of Elohim, at Messiah's return one day soon. As part of the reward of the first fruits of Elohim, because of sacrificing their lives for the way of Elohim during this age, they will become kings and priests under Yahshua at His return on the Feast of Trumpets. It is also on the same Feast of Trumpets that Yahshua will save the tents of Judah, as witnessed in Zechariah 12: 7 – 10 in this way: ***"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***

¹ Apostles – the word apostle simply means someone who has gone through the same discipleship program as Messiah's original disciples did and is now sent forth to teach Torah and to proclaim the coming Kingdom of Elohim.

Judah. (8) In that day YHVH 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 YHVH 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.” This will be when our Jewish Brothers will like Messiah’s disciple Thomas, see His hands and accept Him as their Master and Elohim! If after reading the remainder of Ezekiel 12 and you do not recognize that this will happen when the Jews will be in their synagogues on Yom Teruah (known by them as Rosh Hashanah), when Yahshua returns at the sound of the last trumpet, and you still believe and keep a different calendar to what YHVH has ordained through Judah, then you are undoubtedly blinded to Elohim’s truths. This is indeed a glaring witness to the Hebrew calendar, which will ensure that those who are too anti-Semitic to keep to it, will like the five foolish virgins of Matthew 25, be too late for the wedding feast of the Lamb. Rav Shaul wrote about this event in Romans 11: 13 - 15, talking about the fact that our Jewish Brothers are presently blinded to the identity of Messiah, saying: **‘But I am speaking to you who are Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle of Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, (14) if somehow I might move to jealousy my fellow countrymen and save some of them. (15) For if their rejection be the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?’** Yes, at the moment when our Jewish Brothers accept Yahshua as their Master and Elohim, the dead in Messiah will be raised. It is at the sound of the last trumpet, that the remnant of first fruits from both houses of Israel will be born again as the Spiritual children to rule as kings and priests of Elohim, under Yahshua Messiah for a thousand years.

But, the designation first born children of Elohim also logically imply that there will be second born children of Elohim. This is essentially inferred by the annual Feast Days of Elohim commanded in Leviticus 23 and Deuteronomy 16. Similar to there being two harvest seasons in the Promised Land, so there will be two harvests of Human Beings into Elohim’s eternal Kingdom. Whereas the first annual harvest in Israel occur around the Feast of Weeks, 50 days after the First Day of Unleavened Bread (the first annual Sabbath of the year), the second great harvest occurs on the Feast of Ingathering after the Feast of Tabernacles, depicted by the Last Great Day of the Feast. The first fruit harvest around the Feast of Weeks consists of wheat depicting the first fruits unto YHVH, and the second great harvest is made up of grapes, olives, vegetables and other products propagated in the Land of Israel, depicting the rest of mankind to be resurrected during the period known as the Great White Throne Judgment, during which time the Scriptures will be opened to the minds of all mankind, allowing them to make an informed decision as to follow the way of Elohim or not. Having read many different teachers’ views on Elohim’s plan of salvation for all mankind, I came to the realization that not many teachers are aware and teach the truth about the Last Great day of the Feast Days of Elohim. These are therefore the first two ways to distinguish between a true and a misinformed teacher.

Having dealt with those who question the validity of the Hebrew calendar as well as with those who are totally oblivious of the meaning of the Last Great Day, we will now discuss the third area where many so-called teachers in our community are misinformed and deceive our people, namely the question of what it means to be born again. If we believe that the last named problem is unique to our time, we are wrong, since the same problem is discussed in John 3: 1 – 8, in this way: **‘Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; (2) this man came to Him by night, and said to Him “Rabbi, we know that You have come from Elohim as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless Elohim is with him.” (3) Yahshua answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of Elohim.”(4) Nicodemus said to Him, “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?” (5) Yahshua answered, “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.’ (8) 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.”’** In verses 9 Nicodemus answered and said to Yahshua:

“How can these things be?” In verse 10, Yahshua said to Nicodemus: ***“Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not understand these things?”*** So we see that this problem has been around from Yahshua’s time.

The truth is that Yahshua is the first ‘human being’ to be born-again from the dead as the Son of Elohim, as may be seen by reading Romans 1: 1 – 5 and Colossians 1: 15 - 18, 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 holy 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.”*** (Colossians 1: 15 – 18) ***‘And He is the image of the invisible Elohim, the first-born of all creation. (16) For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created by Him and for Him. (17) And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. (18) He is also head of the body the ecclesia; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.’*** The government that Yahshua is coming to establish upon the earth with Jerusalem as headquarters will be a ‘Spiritual Government’, by fully converted, Torah observing believers, who will be changed into Spirit beings, at Yahshua’s return. Those born again of Elohim’s Set-apart Spirit will be spirit beings, as much as those born of a human father are human beings. They will be born again at the first resurrection and will enter the Kingdom of Elohim as immortal spiritual beings. This is as Yahshua told Nicodemus; flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of Elohim, as we must be born again as spirit beings to enter.

Elohim’s plan of salvation requires that we, who were separated from Him because of sin, be reconciled to Him, through the penalty that Yahshua paid, by dying in our stead. Subsequently to dying for us, Yahshua was resurrected so that we may receive Elohim’s gift of the Set-apart Spirit, as a deposit with a view to Eternal life, but also to show us how we will one day be born-again as Elohim’s spiritual children, at His return, as witnessed in Romans 8: 29 & 30, in this way: ***‘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; (30) and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.’*** Yahshua ascended to the third heaven to become our High Priest, during which time we are being trained and developed, as fellow heirs of Elohim to assist Yahshua in the administration of Elohim’s Government. Whilst Yahshua was on earth, His disciples and others could not understand why He could not set-up the Kingdom of Elohim at that time. Similarly the Jewish leaders in Yahshua’s time expected Him to take over the rulership of the world, as prophesied about Him in Numbers 24: 17, in this way: ***“I see him, but not now; I behold him but not near; A star shall come forth from Jacob, and a scepter shall rise from Israel, and shall crush through the forehead of Moab, and tear down all the sons of Sheth (or tumult).”***

Nicodemus a Pharisee who believed in Yahshua came to Him privately; since he and other Pharisees understood Yahshua’s message about the Kingdom of Elohim and that it will replace all human governments. But, they feared because Yahshua, a Jew like them, was proclaiming the Kingdom of Elohim: They thought that He was planning to overthrow the Roman government immediately, which could result in them losing their power and perhaps be put to death for threatening to overthrow the government. That is why Yahshua clearly stated that the Kingdom of Elohim is not of this world, but of the world that is to come. We should not forget that Yahshua told Nicodemus that unless a man is born again from above, he cannot enter the Kingdom of Elohim. Nicodemus did not understand what Yahshua meant. He knew what it meant to be born as a little baby, but he did not understand the concept of being born again. Yahshua clearly told him that the Kingdom of Elohim will not be something which we as flesh and blood human beings could enter, but confirmed that if we are born again one day, we may enter.

Similar to when a baby is born, it is delivered from its mother’s womb into this world, so will a person being born again of the Spirit be delivered into the Kingdom of Elohim, at the resurrection of the dead. Rav Shaul explained in 1 Corinthians 15: 47 - 52 that even though we are presently flesh and blood beings, we will be changed into

spirit beings when we are born again, as follows: ***“The first man is from 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. (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 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.”*** Verse 53 of 1 Corinthians 15 witness how this change will come about: ***“For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.”*** We will only inherit eternal life in the Kingdom of Elohim, after the first resurrection. Continuing in the second part of Romans 8: 9, we read: ***‘But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Messiah, he does not belong to Him.’*** It is only by immersion into Yahshua’s saving name (as per Acts 2: 38) and after the laying on of hands by the elders (as per Acts 8: 12 – 16) that we receive a portion of Elohim’s Set-apart Spirit.

The Set-apart Spirit entering us could be compared to a sperm cell impregnating an ovum, thereby giving us spiritual life, later to be born again as spirit beings. A fertilized ovum is not yet a born human being; at conception life is passed on from the human father and in this way the father has begotten a new life, but at that point neither the embryo nor the fetus is ready to be born as a person yet. In similar way a spirit begotten human is not a Spirit being yet. But, we are told in 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.’*** So it is clear, there is a direct comparison between being born of the flesh, and being born again of Elohim. After a human father has impregnated an egg cell from the mother, the father has begotten the child, but it remains in the mother’s womb for the gestation period of nine months before it is delivered into this world. Similarly, the process of being born again begins when Elohim gives us a portion of His Set-apart Spirit after immersion, and the laying on of hands. The Set-apart Spirit from Elohim the Father combines with the spirit of man and we are begotten anew, to be born again as spirit beings when we are resurrected (or changed if we remain alive) at Yahshua’s return. The human mother’s womb serves the function of feeding the unborn child with physical food, so that it may develop and grow physically. After immersion, we also need to grow in grace and knowledge and are fed Spiritual food by those whom YHVH called into discipleship, before us. It is through the guidance of the Set-apart Spirit that our teachers feed us Spiritual food, but, it is important for us to make sure that what they teach us comes from The Scriptures.

Let’s now cover the few remaining points of how to identify the false prophets among us. We turn to 2 Peter 2: 1 – 3, where Rav Kepha warns us about such false teachers, saying: ***‘But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying*** (a word which comes from the Greek word *‘arneomai’*² meaning to deny, but also to contradict) ***the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. (2) And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be maligned; (3) and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.’*** It is clear that false teachers are people who contradict what Yahshua taught and did whilst He was on earth. In addition we see that such teachers are more concerned about *‘selling the word of Elohim’*, than teaching people freely as Yahshua said in Matthew 5: 8. This same warning is also repeated in the book of Jude verse 4, but here we are told that these people ***‘are marked out for this condemnation’*** meaning that they will not be in the Kingdom of Elohim as kings and priests, but will eventually be given a chance of salvation in the second resurrection, after they have repented of their deception from Satan. These false teachers are those who teach against the Oneness of Elohim; saying that they know He consist of two (YHVH)’s, but they are also those who teach contrary to what Yahshua taught: One example being that somehow they deny that the Pharisees, presently seated in Moses’ seat are responsible to name and proclaim the annual Feast Days of Elohim.

² *Strong’s Greek: 720. Ἀρνέομαι (arneomai) -- to deny, say no bible suite.com/Greek/720.htm 720 arnéomai – properly, deny (refuse); hence, contradict, refuse to affirm or to confess (identify with); disown (repudiate).*

We've also seen Rav Shaul's warning about brethren who will find for themselves teachers to teach them what they want to hear, instead of listening to Elohim's truth in 2 Timothy 4: 1 - 4, in this way: ***'I solemnly charge you in the presence of Elohim and of Messiah Yahshua, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearance and His kingdom: (2) preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. (3) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers according to their own desires; (4) and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.'*** Finally we read more about the methodology used by false teachers in Jeremiah 23: 14 – 17, as follows: ***"Also among the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen a horrible thing; the committing of adultery and walking in falsehood; and they strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one has turned back from his wickedness. All of them have become to Me like Sodom, and her inhabitants like Gomorrah. (15) Therefore thus says YHVH of hosts concerning the prophets, 'Behold, I am going to feed them wormwood and make them drink poisonous water, for from the prophets of Jerusalem pollution has gone forth into all the land.'"*** (16) ***Thus says YHVH of hosts, 'Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are prophesying to you. They are leading you into futility; they speak a vision of their own imagination, not from the mouth of YHVH. (17) They keep saying to those who despise Me, 'YHVH has said, "You will have peace"; And as for everyone who walks in the stubbornness of his own heart, they say, 'Calamity will not come upon you.'*** So we see that these false teachers strengthen the hand of the evildoers; they also give people false hope, instead of warning them to stop sinning; and they tell their congregants that no harm will come to them, despite their sins.

But there are also those who teach against the writings of Rav Shaul, without realizing that Yahshua personally appointed him to be a facilitator to reconcile us, a remnant of the lost ten tribes to the Father, but also to Brother Judah, as recorded in Ephesians 2: 11 - 19. It is for this reason that Rav Kepha warned about the writings of Rav Shaul, saying in 2 Peter 3: 13 – 16: ***'But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. (14) 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 Paul, 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.'*** Similarly was there in the recent past (2006) those who taught against the book of Hebrews, saying that it is anti-Torah also insinuating that it was originally written in Greek. However Eusebius in the fourth century referred to a now lost writing by Clement of Alexandria written around the year 200 C.E. which Eusebius cites as follows: ***"in the work called Hypotheses, to sum up the matter briefly he (Clement of Alexandria) has given us the abridged accounts of all the canonical Scriptures, the Epistle to the Hebrews he asserts was written by Paul, to the Hebrews, in the Hebrew tongue; but that it was carefully translated by Luke, and published among the Greeks."*** (Clement of Alexandria; Hypothesis (c.200 CE) referred to by Eusebius in Eccl. Hist. 6: 14:2) ***"For as Paul had addressed the Hebrews in the language of his country; some say that the evangelist Luke, others that Clement, translated the epistle."*** (Eusebius (4th Cent.); Eccl. Hist. 3: 38: 2-3). Because these people do not understand Rav Shaul's writings and reject a portion of the Scriptures, they are guilty of taking away from the word of Elohim, since Rav Kepha shows in verse 16 quoted above, that Rav Shaul's writings are part and parcel of the Scriptures or the word of Elohim.

Those who reject Elohim's way, after having received all the knowledge required to follow Him during this age, as well as those who reject His way after being given full understanding of His will and way, after the second resurrection, will simply be burnt to become ashes under the feet of the righteous, as witnessed in Malachi 4: 1 – 4. I hope and pray that these few pointers will help those of us called out of the world to follow the way of Elohim, to find suitable teachers to both immerse and teach them the things Yahshua taught His disciples, whilst He was on earth. Think about it!

For a better understanding of what it means to be born again, I attach a study of the Scriptures for those interested.

What does it mean to be 'Born Again'?

Nicodemus was a Rabbi belonging to the sect of the Pharisees. He 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 'deceiver of the people' and a 'heretic', he came to Yahshua at night.

Only a few people today, understand that being born again is directly linked to the gospel of the coming Kingdom of Elohim. This was also true in the time of Yahshua 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. Nicodemus was totally puzzled and he asked (in John3: 4): ***"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, saying (in verse 7): ***"Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'"*** But Nicodemus simply did not understand what Yahshua was talking about. Like with 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 said to Nicodemus (in verses 10 – 12): ***"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.

Two literal Births

Nicodemus was only familiar with the process of a physical birth, and understood when Yahshua said to him in verse 6 of John 3: ***"That which is born of the flesh is flesh."*** But then Yahshua explained that we must be born again, not again of the flesh, not a second time entering our mother's womb, as Nicodemus thought He meant; He 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 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, as follows: ***'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 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 will be born again one day. Adam was a perfect physical specimen. But, what Elohim created was a physical flesh and blood human being. He was a perfect 'clay' model which Elohim intended to mold and reshape into a perfect SPIRITUAL Son of Elohim. Adam was not created complete; he was created to need a second spiritual 'birth'. But how? When? Why? All these questions will hopefully be answered in this important lesson.

Who or What is Elohim?

To be able to understand what it means to be born again, it is necessary to understand the basic truths concerning who or what Elohim is, and the purpose for our existence. We read from Deuteronomy 6: 4, ***"Hear, O Israel! YHVH is our Elohim – YHVH is one!"*** How does YHVH who is the Almighty, define the word one. In Deuteronomy 32: 39, He says: ***"See now that I, I am He, And there is no god besides Me"***. However, we see further according to Genesis 1: 5 that 'One' may be composed of more than a single part, i.e. ***"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 YHVH and live. This is confirmed in 1st Timothy 6: 16, in this way: ***"Who alone possess immortality and dwells in an unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen."*** In addition we read from 1st Timothy 1: 17, ***"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only Elohim, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."*** 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; namely infinite.

Look at another person, a tree, or a computer. All these things are "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 the believer's spirit (merged with a portion of Elohim's Set-apart Spirit) which is invisible, returns to the Father who gave it to the believer at immersion. Even though the believer's borders have been removed, his memory and character (spirit) exists in another dimension. In support of this, Yahshua said to Martha in John 11: 25 & 26, ***"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"*** This is talking about the spirits of true believers, that go back to YHVH when we die, and are perfected in heaven according to Hebrews 12: 23, as follows: ***"to the general assembly and ecclesia 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."*** But as explained in a previous lesson, the believer's spirit containing a record of his character and memory is not conscious after death at all.

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 1st 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."*** So, we see here that man is composed of three component parts, namely: spirit, soul and body - yet as individuals we are one.

In exactly the same way is YHVH our Elohim composed of three parts as is 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. For since the creation of the world His invisible qualities (YHVH is invisible, and has no form), His eternal power (Yahshua is the power of Elohim³) and divine nature (The Set-apart Spirit is the divine nature***

³ 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 YHVH created

of Elohim⁴), ***have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.***” YHVH is not three persons in one, but like us, He consists of three component parts. The visible image of Elohim, Yahshua being Elohim’s body; His immortal soul (or eternal life) being YHVH; and the Set-apart Spirit being Elohim’s Spirit. 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, are a trinity or three persons in one. Instead it clearly 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.

YHVH in the Tanach

Has any human ever seen the Father? John 1: 18. What did Messiah say regarding the Father? John 5: 37. But did people ever look upon Elohim in the Tanach? Genesis 17: 1; 18: 1,22; 32: 30; Exodus 24: 9 – 11; 33: 18, 20 – 23 (Notice in Exodus 33: 18 that Moses had specifically requested to see YHVH in all His ‘glory’, but could not view Him directly in His glorified state lest he DIE from seeing His brilliance).

Comment: It is clear therefore, the Elohim that various people saw in the Tanach was not the invisible Elohim or the ‘Father’.

Who was called the ‘Rock’ in the Tanach? 2nd Samuel 22: 2 – 3. Did David call YHVH his ‘ROCK’ and his ‘Elohim’? Psalm 18: 1 – 2.

Comment: The King James Version of the Scriptures and some other translations use the word ‘LORD’ in capital letters, to translate the Hebrew name YHVH. The name YHVH means ‘to be’ or ‘to exist’. Therefore YHVH means ‘the self-existent One.’ One who lives from eternity, and to Eternity. In Revelation 1: 8 Yahshua explains the meaning of (YHVH)’s name, saying to Yochanan: ***“I am the Alpha and the Omega, says YHVH Elohim, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”*** This is also why Yahshua said in Matthew 28: 18, ***“All authority (The KJV read power) has been given to Me in heaven and on the earth.”***

According to 1st Corinthians 10: 4, who was and still is, the Rock?

Comment: Thus the Scriptures identify the ‘Rock’ as Messiah. How surprising to those who have assumed that the Elohim mentioned in the Tanach was the one the Renewed Covenant called ‘the Father’. So we see that ‘YHVH’ who spoke and was seen of men was always the one who became Yahshua Messiah. For no ‘mortal man’ has ever seen or heard the Father. (John 1: 18 & 5: 37)

Was it also the Word – the One who became Messiah – who spoke the Ten Commandments? Exodus 20: 1 – 2.

Comment: The Hebrew word for LORD in Exodus 20 is YHVH. So here again it was the Word or *the Logos*’, the ‘Spokesman’ – who later became Messiah, who actually spoke the Ten Commandments. But what is the

the heavens and the earth by His great power, as follows: ‘Ah YHVH 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: ***“YHVH 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 YHVH is His right hand and holy arm. He is also our Savior.

⁴ The spiritual essence of YHVH 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 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 fruit 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.

difference? It makes all the difference. Understanding the true identity of Elohim in the Tanach is vital to becoming re-born with the spiritual nature of Elohim.

The Nature of Elohim

What is the composition of Elohim? John 4: 24. But of what is man composed? 1st Corinthians 15: 47.

Comment: One of the great differences between the Elohim's Kingdom and a human kingdom is that Elohim is composed of invisible spirit, while man is mortal flesh and blood, made from the dust of the earth. Immediately before He was taken to be crucified, to what state did Messiah ask His father to restore Him? John 17: 5. Was Messiah again to share His Father's glory? Same verse. How does Messiah's glorified body appear? Revelation 1: 13 – 16. The 'Son of Man' mentioned here is the glorified Messiah!

What is another great difference between Elohim and man – what are Elohim's characteristics, attitude and general mental makeup? Psalm 99: 9. Is there anyone as Set-apart as Elohim? 1st Samuel 2: 2. Would you consider man of himself as being Set-apart (holy)? Romans 3: 10 – 18; 23; 8: 7 & Jeremiah 17: 9.

Comment: 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! When we are born-again one day , we will have the same power, esteem and set-apartness of Elohim.

A Father - Son Relationship

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.' What did YHVH say about Himself? Isaiah 43: 10 & 11. Is this in agreement with what Yahshua said about Himself and His 'Father' in heaven? John 10: 30. Yet, who is greater in authority? John 14: 28 & 1 Corinthians 11: 3.

Comment: YHVH appeared to different people at different times and different manifestations. These manifestations at different times were called 'the Word' or 'the Angel of Elohim, and as such did not indicate the heavenly beings or servants of the Eternal, but were the appearances of the Almighty HIMSELF! YHVH manifested Himself as the Word (Son), to show us that if we follow in the footsteps of the Son – we will like the Son be resurrected and born again as Spiritual children of Elohim. We read accordingly from Romans 8: 11, as follows: ***'But if the Spirit of Him who raised Yahshua from the dead dwells in you, He who raise Messiah Yahshua from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.'*** As the visible image of the invisible Elohim, Yahshua was always under the control of the Father – even before the Word became flesh.

Why did the Word (Messiah) become a flesh-and-blood 'human being'? Hebrews 2:9, 11 & 14.

Comment: All mankind has sinned (Romans 3: 23). And since the wages of sin is death (Roman 6: 23), the Word of Elohim became a mortal man so that He the Creator, could pay the death penalty for the sins of all mankind. Messiah 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 incarnate – Elohim made flesh. (John 1: 14 & 1st Timothy 3: 16).

But how did the Word of Elohim become composed of flesh and blood? Matthew 1: 18 – 21. What title did YHVH Elohim acquire as a result of this miraculous begettal? Matthew 18: 35 & John 1: 14.

Comment: Before Messiah – the Word – was conceived in Miriam, He was not the 'Son of Elohim'. 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 may be confirmed in Micah 5: 2. Before His 'human birth' Yahshua was not called the Son of Elohim.

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.

Man Created in Elohim's Image

Man is not merely another 'animal' as evolutionist claim. Elohim's purpose for creating man surpasses anything ever conceived by the mind of man. Let's turn to the book of Genesis and begin to understand the most astounding revelation in the Scriptures. After what 'kind' was the animals created? Genesis 1: 20 – 25.

Comment: These verses plainly say, without any interpretation, that Elohim created fish to reproduce after their own particular kind, and cattle after the cattle kind. Each kind may have many varieties within it, but all creatures reproduce only after their own kind. That is why dogs reproduce dogs, sheep reproduce sheep, monkeys reproduce monkeys, etc.

But what about man? After whose 'image' and 'likeness' was man created? Genesis 1: 26 – 27.

Comment: 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. So we look like the image of Elohim, namely Yahshua.

These scriptures refute the theory that man is merely the 'highest' 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), we also know 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. A second witness to Yahshua being the 'image' of Elohim comes from 2nd Corinthians 4: 4.

Only very few have really understood the tremendous significance of this astounding truth. But this is why Elohim is reproducing HIMSELF. Our destiny is to become the literal 'children' of Elohim.

Even though man is made in the likeness of Elohim, are both now composed of the same 'substance'? John 4: 24 & Genesis 2: 7.

Comment: There is a big difference between spirit and dust. Although man was created in the image and likeness of Elohim, he was Not created out of the same material. He was made from the dust of the earth, subject to decay. However, Elohim's purpose was to eventually create him out of spirit. We read from 1st Corinthians 15: 45 & 46, ***'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 the true meaning of John 3: 16.

Our incredible Potential!

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. Let's examine the overwhelming evidence:

Is Elohim still in the process of forming and molding man as a potter works with clay? Isaiah 64:8

Comment: Man's creation in the Garden of Eden was complete only 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!

Did Job realize Elohim was forming a special creation in his life? Job 14: 14 & 15. Are true believers being fashioned by Elohim for a specific purpose? Isaiah 43: 7 & Ephesians 2: 10.

The word we in the Renewed Covenant language usually refers to Nazarene Jewish/Israelite believers, as Rav Shaul intended in verse 10 (Ephesians 2). We, then as are called out believers are Elohim's workmanship. We are at this time being created 'unto good works'. Elohim's Set-apart Spirit that He gave us at immersion, forms a perfect spiritual character in us. Man's spirit and soul is so intertwined that only Elohim can separate it, as recorded in Hebrews 4: 12, in this way: ***'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 thought and intention of the heart.'*** Yes, we cannot hide anything from Elohim.

The spirit and soul (life) in man are so closely intertwined that the way man lives reflects his spirit or character of mind. When we are immersed into Messiah's saving name, we are given a portion of Elohim's Set-apart Spirit. 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. YHVH is now fashioning and molding us by experience, and with the help of the Set-apart Spirit, into the finished spiritual masterpiece.

What it Means to be 'Born Again'

The Gospel that Yahshua brought to mankind is simply the good news about the coming Kingdom of Elohim; and that Kingdom is dual. It is not only the ruling government which Messiah will establish on the earth, when He returns, but it is also the Family of Elohim - the Elohim Kingdom composed of Spirit begotten children of Elohim. Yahshua became the 'Son' of Elohim, not only to die for our sins and to be able to remarry His bride at His return, but also to show us the way as our perfect example.

Does Elohim clearly show us His purpose to increase His Elohim family by bringing many sons to glory? Hebrews 2: 10 & Revelation 21: 7. Isn't Yahshua Messiah actually the firstborn (again) of many brethren (children of Elohim). Romans 8: 29 and Colossians 1: 15 & 18.

Comment: To be 'conformed into the same image' of Yahshua (2nd Corinthians 3: 18) means to become like Him – to be glorified and become part of the spiritual Family of Elohim.

But what must happen to flesh-and-blood believers before they can enter Elohim's spiritual Family. 1st Corinthians 15: 49 – 51 & John 3: 3 – 8.

Comment: Yahshua said we must be 'born again'- changed into spirit. Yes, born again – this time of the Spirit of Elohim as spiritual children of Elohim.

Begotten Sons Now – not yet Born Again

If we are faithful true believers we are already in this life the children of Elohim? 1st John 3: 1-2. Are we already inheritors of the Kingdom of Elohim, or only heirs to it? Romans 8: 14 – 17

Comment: Even though we are already children of Elohim, we are only heirs – those who shall in the future inherit. Why? Because we are now 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.

Now compare Galatians 3: 26 and Ephesians 1: 5 with Romans 8: 14 – 17. Do these verses reveal that true believers are already Elohim' children – destined to inherit eternal life?

Comment: 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.

Do we actually receive of the divine nature of Elohim when begotten by the Set-apart Spirit? 2nd Peter 1: 2 – 4. What are some of the divine characteristics or 'fruits' of Elohim's nature that are made manifest in the lives of obedient believers after they are begotten by Elohim's Spirit? Galatians 5: 22 – 23.

Is charity (love) the greatest single attribute of Elohim's nature that is transmitted to us through the Set-apart Spirit? 1 John 4: 16; Romans 5: 5; 1st Corinthians 13: 1 – 13. Is this the same love that enables us to obey Elohim's Torah? Romans 13: 10.

Comment: The Set-apart Spirit that a person may receive from Elohim 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 (1st Peter 1: 23) by which we are spiritually begotten imparts to us the nature and life of Elohim our heavenly Father.

If you are truly the kind of believers described in the Scriptures, then you are now begotten children (or sons) of Elohim. 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 (essentially the spirit in man) can be compared to an egg or ovum. You were impregnated with the spiritual seed of eternal life so you are not yet born of Elohim, not yet immortal spirit.

Born Again at the Resurrection

Can flesh and blood inherit Elohim's Kingdom? 1 Corinthians 15: 50. What must happen before we can be born as spiritual children of Elohim? Verses 51 – 53.

Comment: Whatever is born of spirit is spirit, said Yahshua (John 3: 6). But we have not yet been born of spirit. We are still flesh and blood! If you think you have already been 'born again', then take the pin prick test. Stick a sharp pin into your finger. If you feel pain and your finger bleeds – then you are still flesh and blood and have not been born again. When Messiah was resurrected - born again – He walked through a closed door (John 20: 19 & 26). Do you think those Christians who claim to be born again, are able to walk through closed door, without injuring themselves. Yahshua plainly said that you must become composed of spirit to enter the Kingdom of Elohim (John 3: 3 & 5). And so the new birth is something yet to occur.

What are true believers exhorted to do in this life? 2nd Peter 3: 18 & Ephesians 4: 15. How and by whom are they to be fed and nurtured so they may grow into the stature of Messiah? 1st Peter 5: 1 - 2 & Ephesians 4: 11 - 13.

Comment: The Father begets. He 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 ecclesia is commissioned to nourish and protect true believers in her

womb. 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. We will then no longer be subject to death (Luke 20: 35 & 36). However if the spirit-begotten child of Elohim does not grow spiritually, such a believer can become a spiritual miscarriage or be aborted.

Speaking of the resurrection, when the second birth will occur, what did Rav Shaul say regarding the new body believers will receive? 1st Corinthians 15: 42 – 44. Will they become as Yahshua Messiah is today? Philippians 3: 20 – 21; 1st John 3: 2; Matthew 17: 1 – 2; Revelation 1: 13 – 16; Matthew 13: 43 and Daniel 12: 3.

Comment: Because Elohim is spirit, when one is born of his heavenly Father he will also be spirit – he will be composed of the same substance of which Elohim is composed. He will be given a spirit body just like Messiah's and will be Glorified and given tremendous SPIRITUAL POWER. The spiritual power and glory 'born again' believers shall receive at the resurrection will be so great that it will make their spirit bodies shine as the sun, and make their clothing dazzling white.

And all who are thus 'born of Elohim' will be able to see Elohim because they will be in the Kingdom (the divine family) of Elohim.

The difference between 'Begotten' and 'Born'

Most Christians assume that they were 'born again' when they first accepted C*h*r*i*s*t*. Then by misapplying the King James Version's translation of 1st 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, that assumption is incorrect, as the following will show:

Did Rav Yochanan say that believers do sometimes sin? 1st John 1: 8 – 10. Did he use the '*present tense*' of the verb in verse 8? Then he meant they sin after becoming believers, didn't he? Notice that he includes himself by saying 'we'.

Was Rav Shaul beset with recurring sin long after he repented and received the Set-apart Spirit? Romans 7: 14 – 25, Is there a just man on earth who does not at some time commit sin? Ecclesiastes 7: 20. So isn't it plain that believers in this mortal flesh are not perfect yet – not yet born of Elohim?

Now notice 1st John 5: 18. Does the verse further substantiate the fact that believers are not yet born of Elohim?

Comment: The person who has been finally 'born of Elohim' will not sin any longer. Once we are born of Elohim at the resurrection we will be able to live without ever sinning again. How? Simply because we will then 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 'keep ourselves' – we must continue to resist the evil temptations of the flesh. Such a one can commit sin. When caught off guard in a moment of weakness, we can sin! But we cannot 'practice (or continually live in) sin' and be the begotten children of Elohim, which is another possible meaning of 1st John 3: 9.

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 (2nd Peter 1: 4), he still has human nature as well, and the one wars against the other (Galatians 5: 17).

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? Psalm 51: 10 – 11. What about all the 'holy men of old,' including Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?

2nd Peter 1: 21; Romans 8: 14 & Luke 13: 28. And yet, was Yahshua the *'first born from the dead'*? Colossians 1: 15 & 18.

Comment: 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.

The Greek Word Gennao

Much of the confusion about being 'born again' has resulted from misinterpreting the original Greek translation of the Renewed Covenant. With one exception (James 1: 15 & 18) the Greek word used in reference to spiritual begetting and birth – spiritual salvation – is always gennao. This word means both 'to conceive' or 'to beget' and also 'to bear' or 'to be born' – all or any part of the whole process which produces a new individual human being; whereas in English we use two separate verbs – '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 particular passage. Here are a few examples where the Greek word should correctly have been rendered 'begotten', not born: John 1: 12 – 13; 1st John 2: 29; 4: 7; 5: 1 (three times); 5: 4. The King James Version is correct by using 'begotten' in 1st Corinthians 4: 15; Hebrews 1: 5 and 1st John 5: 1.

Now what about the scriptures that call Messiah the 'only-begotten'? (John 1: 14, 18; 3: 16 & 1st John 4: 9) Do these, after all, disprove the truth that true believers are only 'begotten' of Elohim's Spirit, growing toward being 'born' of Elohim at the resurrection? Of course not! The simple answer is that 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 the sense He is – and always shall be – 'only begotten'. But many have been 'begotten again' (1st Peter 1: 3) to ultimately become – through the process of spiritual growth and birth – the spirit-born sons of Elohim.

You Must be Born Again!

What Elohim created at the time described in the first chapter of Genesis was a physical creation. Man made of the dust of the ground, was the material being which Elohim planned to mold, shape and form into a perfect Spiritual creation. He pictures us as the clay, Himself being the Potter – forming us into the spiritual image of Himself. Elohim uses human reproduction to picture the process by which He is reproducing Himself. Each human since Adam and Eve started from a tiny ovum, the size of a pinpoint, produced in the body of the mother. But the egg is incomplete of itself. It lives only about 48 hours, according to some authorities. 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 ecclesia through its teacher/discipleship program protects and spiritually feeds begotten believers with the Word of Elohim so they grow spiritually (2nd Peter 3: 18) in the divine character of Elohim until ready to be born into His family.

However, there is one major difference in this resemblance. The physical fetus does not attain physical and mental maturity before birth. But, 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 (1st Peter 1: 23; 2: 1 -2).

Messiah did not grow into spiritual perfection after He was resurrected, but during His 'human' life-time, setting us the example, being made perfect (Hebrews 2: 10 and 5: 8 & 9).

Surely nobody will be foolish enough to suggest that when Messiah was born-again as the very son of Elohim by the resurrection (Romans 1: 4), He was resurrected full grown. How did the apostles know that He was the same Yahshua? Because they knew what Yahshua looked like – and in His resurrected body, He looked the same as He had before in the flesh, except that He was now composed of spirit instead of flesh and blood. When we are '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 a different body; composed of spirit instead of flesh and blood (1st Corinthians 15: 35 – 44)

Now what exactly is spiritual growth. It is CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT. Such character is the ability, as free moral agents, to discern right from wrong – the true values from the false – and then to make the right decision, even against self-desire, impulse or temptation; plus the will and self-discipline to resist the wrong and do the right. We must begin developing spiritual character and grow toward spiritual adulthood during this life; not after we are born of Elohim at the resurrection. Our abhorrent carnal nature (Roman 8: 7 & Jeremiah 17: 9) must be gradually changed now! This spiritual growth comes by feeding on the Word of Elohim, through prayer and assisting in doing the work of Elohim – proclaiming the good news into the world.

Then when Messiah returns to earth, we shall be resurrected, or instantaneously changed, into bodies that will be like His (1st John 3: 1 – 2). At that instant, our present physical bodies will be made like His glorified body – 'born again' as members of the Elohim Family; as Elohim's own glorious offspring with eternal life inherent within ourselves, as His immortal sons to reign under Yahshua Messiah (our elder brother).

The Oneness Truth	The Trinity Confusion
- Messiah is Elohim	- Messiah is Elohim
- Messiah is YHVH	- Messiah is not YHVH
- Messiah is the manifestation of YHVH Himself	- Messiah is the created Son of YHVH, a second 'Person'