

He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

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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: Do you know the way to peace and prosperity?

Most normal people would like to live in peace with other human beings and despite a major problem with ongoing racism instigated by political leaders in South Africa, over a million Christians of different denominations and races recently got together at the mid-point in South Africa outside Bloemfontein, to pray for peace and prosperity in our country. Even though these sincere people got together for this prayer meeting on a Sabbath, they did not consider the Sabbath Day as such, but their reason was that it was a convenient time for most working people in the country to attend such a meeting. Obviously, most people who truly observe the Sabbath command did not attend this meeting, since it involved a great deal of traveling to and from the venue on the Sabbath Day.

It is now a few months since this prayer meeting and instead of any improvement in the problems being experienced in our beloved country, things have gone from bad to worse, since farm and other murders have increased and a number of disasters have struck in various parts of the country, such as the severe fires in Knysna, floods and storm damage in the Kwa-Zulu Natal and Gauteng provinces and a severe drought in the Eastern and Western Cape provinces resulting in water restrictions in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and the surrounding areas. But, why are things not improving, despite people humbling themselves in prayer before G-d? Why does our Father not answer the prayers of all these very sincere believers? The answer to this question is to be found in two Scriptural witnesses, that are part of the immutable laws of Elohim and of which we always need to be mindful, when making prayer requests to Him. These two witnesses come from Proverbs 28: 9 and Ezekiel 22: 26 respectively, as follows:

- Proverbs 28: 9, ***'He who turns away his ear from listening to the law, even his prayer is an abomination'*** and
- Ezekiel 22: 26, ***'Her (talking specifically about the house of Israel as per verse 18) priests have done violence to My law and have profaned My holy things; they have made no distinction between the holy and the profane, and they have not taught the difference between the unclean (meat – such as pig meat, ostrich, lobsters, crayfish, etc.) and the clean (beef, chicken, lamb, antelope, deer, etc.); and they hide their eyes from My Sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.'***

Yes, it is true that we should pray to Elohim for the only lasting solution to the many problems facing all of mankind in the world today, namely that His Kingdom should come on earth, as it is now in heaven. However, the problem with most of Churchianity is that they do not believe and understand what Yahshua the real Messiah taught whilst He was on earth. Most are totally oblivious to His mission to reconcile us from the lost sheep of the house of Israel to the Father and to Brother Judah. Because of this misunderstanding and the fact that most of the descendants of Israel who were scattered into the world because of idolatry has no idea that they belong to the ancient nation of Israel and call themselves Christians, the world is in a total mess and despite the efforts of religious and political leaders throughout the ages, mankind has failed to live peacefully with one another from the time when Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden. Even since Yahshua's first advent two thousand years ago, mankind did not experience universal peace. The reason being, that Satan has since the recreation of the world been deceiving and influencing the inhabitants of the entire world to believe his lies and deception.

Right from the beginning of creation YHVH set in motion spiritual laws of cause and effect and even though He explained the same to mankind, under Satan's influence, we chose to follow our own ideas of what is right and wrong. As may be understood from the Scriptures, YHVH initially explained His Laws to His people; examples being to Noah in Genesis 6: 9, and to Abraham in Genesis 26: 5. When Elohim's people Israel became more numerous, He led them out of Egypt and gave them His Torah as a user manual, giving details how He as their Creator wants them to live, to enjoy happy abundant lives. But, because most of us do not want to be prescribed to how to live, we like Adam and Eve partake of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil on a daily basis. Furthermore

those who are supposed to teach the word of Elohim, have been so deceived by Satan and his agents, that they themselves do not know Elohim's truth any longer, as witnessed in Jeremiah 23: 1 & 2, as follows: ***“Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of My pasture!” declares YHVH. (2) Therefore thus says YHVH Elohim of Israel concerning the shepherds who are tending My people: “You have scattered My flock and driven them away, and have not attended to them; behold, I am about to attend to you for the evil of your deeds,” declares YHVH.*** Most of us who have been studying Elohim's word for some time are aware that YHVH gave us His commandments for our good. But, the majority of those who say that they believe in Messiah have been led to believe that they no longer need to obey Torah, since He already *‘fulfilled’* it for them.

The problem with this thinking is; how will those who say they serve Yahshua (or J*e*s*u*s*) ever experience peace and an abundant life, if they are taught by their shepherds that they need not obey Torah any longer? It is certain that these shepherds have never read Deuteronomy 28 – as they stubbornly believe that (YHVH)'s strict laws have been abolished by His Son. Most of us are aware that Deuteronomy 28 describes the blessings that will ensue, if we choose to obey Elohim's Torah teachings, but it also describes the curses which will befall us if we don't obey. The blessings are discussed in the first 14 verses of Deuteronomy 28, and the curses in the rest of the chapter. Some of the blessings include what we read from verses 9 & 10, in this way: ***“YHVH will establish you as a holy (set-apart) people to Himself, as He swore to you, if you will keep the commandments of YHVH your Elohim, and walk in His ways. (10) So all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of YHVH; and they shall be afraid of you.”*** The curses by far outnumber the blessings and include what we read from verses 58 & 59, as follows: ***“If you are not careful to observe all the words of this law which are written in this book, to fear this honored and awesome name, YHVH your Elohim, (59) then YHVH will bring extraordinary plagues on you and your descendants, even severe and lasting plagues, and miserable and chronic sicknesses.”*** These problems are pandemic throughout the world today. The question is: How will these deceived people solve the problems facing the world, if they are taught that they are free from obeying Torah, which is in fact the root cause of our problems? It is true; Yahshua came to set us free, but free from sin – the transgression of Torah, not free from Torah as most Christians believe. Without understanding this, they are definitely not able to come up with any viable lasting solution, unless and until they change their entire outlook on life. This is why it is so important for those of us called out of the religions of the world, to realize that it takes a paradigm shift to come out of the lies and deception that we have been taught in the past. Think for a moment, how many Christian people are truly healthy and happy? Are they healthier and happier than their pagan neighbors? Why, if Yahshua took away the curses of the law, will a Christian who sleeps around, contract aids or another sexually transmitted disease, like anyone else doing the same and who does not believe in C*h*r*i*s*t*? The reason being, that when we come to believe in Yahshua and are immersed in His saving name, He takes away the curses or punishment due to us for our past sins, but if we continue to practice sin after we came to the knowledge of the truth, we will again curse ourselves and our children. The Scriptures is clear, only once we and all other human beings start obeying the teachings of Elohim, will we have peace and prosperity as Elohim's creation.

Yahshua never abolished any of Elohim's commandments, as He is the exact representation of Elohim's nature as witnessed in Hebrews 1: 1 to the first part of verse 3, 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. (3) And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.’*** Without repeating the basic tenets of our faith, we need to understand that Yahshua being the visible image of the invisible Elohim, will never do away with His own Laws, as He is the embodiment of Torah. Throughout the Tanach we read about Yahshua's first and second coming. We read from Isaiah 42: 21 how Yahshua came to make the law great and glorious, during His first advent. This is in fact the meaning of the word *‘fulfill’* in Matthew

5: 17, as can be understood, if the rest of the chapter is read from verse 18 to 48. Yahshua came to make the Law more binding and as our perfect example, He showed us to obey Torah with a spiritual intent, to lead us to perfection, as He also concluded in verse 48 of Matthew 5, saying: ***“Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”*** Rav Yaa’cov explained the way in which to reach perfection in James 1: 22 – 25, saying: ***‘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), the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.’*** We see over and over throughout the Scriptures that those who obey Elohim’s word are blessed in all they do.

When Messiah appeared on earth, He taught and practiced peace, but His first coming did not leave the world a legacy of peace. Despite the fact that an angel with a multitude of heavenly hosts appeared at Messiah’s birth, praising Elohim, and saying (in Luke 2: 14): ***“Glory to Elohim in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased”***, the inhabitants of earth have seen very little real peace, since then. The world as well as the Land of Israel in the Middle East has seen war after war and conflict after conflict and left to our own devices we are incapable of securing peace. In fact the world has rejected the peace that Elohim offered through Messiah - Mankind has not only rejected Yahshua as the real Messiah, but also the message He taught whilst He was on earth. But how and why have human beings rejected Yahshua and His message? Most of what Yahshua taught has been distorted by those who say that they believe in Him. But, how has this happened? The problem started soon after Messiah’s death, resurrection and ascension to heaven, when the Nazarene Jewish congregation became infiltrated by former pagans, who slowly but surely substituted the Hebrew origins of the congregation with their pagan practices. This was essentially the first part of Satan’s deception to change the Jewish roots of Elohim’s congregation to nothing other than falsehood and paganism. After having severed the believers from their Jewish roots, he continued to remove their belief in the only Scriptures available to them at the time, namely the Tanach. But, that was only the beginning of the deception, as the main obstacle to our Nazarene Jewish faith, lies in accepting and understanding who and what Yahshua the Messiah is. I am also positive that unless and until you and I have fully settled this truth in our minds, we will not be able to serve YHVH in the way that He intended for us from the beginning. We need to realize once and for all, that Yahshua’s first coming was to reconcile us from the lost ten tribes to the covenant we made with our heavenly Father at Mount Sinai, together with Brother Judah who remained loyal to Him, ever since their return from captivity 2500 years ago. We also need to be aware of His own words in Matthew 15: 24, saying: ***“I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”*** Even though the Jews of His day rejected Him, we need to understand that He did not come for them at that time. YHVH has blinded their minds to the identity of the true Messiah as recorded for us in John 12: 37 – 40¹ and Romans 11: 32², until His return one day on Yom Teruah (or Rosh Hashanah), when He will save the tents of Judah first (as per Zechariah 12: 7³) and when they will see His hands and accept Him as their Messiah (as per Zechariah 12: 10⁴), the dead in Messiah will be resurrected as witnessed in Romans 11: 15, as follows: ***‘For if their*** (the house of Judah)

¹ John 12: 37 – 40, ***‘But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him; that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke, “YHVH, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM HAS THE ARM OF YHVH BEEN REVEALED?” For this cause they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, “HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES, AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART; LEST THEY SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED, AND I HEAL THEM.”’***

² Romans 11: 32, ***‘For Elohim has shut up all in disobedience that He might show mercy to all.’***

³ Zechariah 12: 7, ***“YHVH 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.”***

⁴ Zechariah 12: 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.”***

rejection (of Yahshua) be the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?'

But, if you believe that only our Jewish Brothers are blinded to who and what Yahshua is, you are wrong! We need to recall Yahshua's own words to the chief priests and the elders in Matthew 21: 42 – 44, where He asked: **"Did you never read in the Scriptures, 'THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone; THIS CAME ABOUT FROM YHVH, AND IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES'?"** (43) **Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of Elohim will be taken away from you** (meaning the Jews of His day who knew the prophecies about Him in the Tanach and saw the miracles that He performed, but also those in Churchianity and Nazarene/Messianic Israelites and like-minded believers who reject Him as the chief corner/foundation stone of Elohim's congregation but also as YHVH in the flesh and therefore decide for themselves when and/or how to obey Him, will not serve as kings and priests in Elohim's Kingdom one day), **and be given to a nation producing the fruit of it.** (44) **And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust."** Even so, we need to realize that it is not by our own intelligence that we will discover who and what Yahshua is, as He also confirmed in Matthew 11: 25 – 27, saying: **"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.** (26) **Yes, Father, for thus it was well-pleasing in Thy sight.** (27) **All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son, except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father, except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him."** I firmly believe that belief in anything other than the Oneness of Elohim is a major obstacle to obedience of Elohim's Torah.

Rav Shaul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12: 3 regarding the identity of Yahshua, saying: **'Therefore I make known to you, that no one speaking by the Spirit of Elohim says, "Yahshua is accursed"; and no one can say, "Yahshua is Lord** (or MarYah, an Aramaic word meaning Master YHVH, translated as Lord in most English versions of the Scriptures),**"except by the Set-apart Spirit."** Similarly when Rav Kepha identified Yahshua correctly in Matthew 16, Yahshua told him in verse 18, saying: **"And I also say to you that you are Peter** (meaning a pebble or stone), **and upon this rock** (meaning Yahshua Himself, as may also be understood from Matthew 7: 24⁵ and other Scriptures) **I will build My congregation; and the gates of Hades** (the grave) **shall not overpower it** (meaning that it will still exist at Yahshua's return)." Rav Kepha fully understood what Yahshua meant, as he later explained in 1 Peter 2: 4 – 9, saying: **'And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of Elohim,** (5) **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** (that Yahshua is YHVH the rock of our salvation and the foundation of His congregation). **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.'** The problem with not believing Yahshua's words in John 10: 30⁶, is that as humans we know that no two persons will always agree about all things all of the time, even if they are identical twins. It is therefore difficult for us as humans to understand how two 'leaders' will always be in total agreement. Consequently it is easy to understand, how, if Yahshua was not YHVH or if there were indeed two (YHVH)'s; how Yahshua's administration could differ from that of YHVH. This is also why Christianity and those

⁵ Matthew 7: 24, **'Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock.'**, meaning Yahshua the rock of our salvation.

⁶ John 10: 30, **"I and the Father are one."**

Nazarene/Messianic and like-minded believers, who believe in two (YHVH)'s or that Yahshua is the second person in the trinity, came to decide for themselves, when and how to serve YHVH our Elohim. However, as YHVH in the flesh, Yahshua said to the Jewish leaders of His day in John 10: 37 & 38, ***'If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; (38) but If I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.'*** Later Yahshua in answer to Philip's question in John 14: 8⁷, said as recorded in verse 9, ***'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?''***

To recap, Jews are presently blinded to the identity of Yahshua, but as we know from the Scriptures, this was (YHVH)'s doing, so that those of us called by YHVH at this time may be reconciled to Him as well as to Brother Judah. Once the fullness of the Gentiles (those of the lost ten tribes who used to think that they are Gentiles have come in to the way of Elohim) then all Israel will be saved as witnessed in Romans 11: 25 – 27. Even so, it is not only the Jews who are presently blinded; Christianity also stumble over Yahshua's identity as being fully YHVH in the flesh and it is for this very reason that they hold that Yahshua and (YHVH)'s laws or the administration thereof, are different. Because they also do not understand the true gospel, they are unaware that the very same Torah will one day be the rules according to which the coming Kingdom of Elohim will be governed. But, there are also Nazarene/Messianic and like-minded believers among us, who like the Catholic Church stumble over the truth about Messiah being the rock, or foundation upon which the congregation of Elohim is built, because they misinterpret Yahshua's words to Rav Kepha in Matthew 16: 18, believing that Yahshua promised to build His congregation upon Kepha and the other disciples (and therefore by extension also meaning them his modern day disciples) and not on Himself. As a result they hold that they have been given the position to determine how and when to worship Elohim. But as shown before, Rav Kepha was fully aware what Yahshua said to him; as was also correctly understood by Rav Shaul in 1 Corinthians 3: 11, where he wrote: ***'For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Yahshua Messiah.'***

Those who therefore mistakenly came to believe that they have been given the Oracles of Elohim, are in so doing usurping the authority of the Levites among the Jews and are accordingly referred to by Yahshua in Revelation 3: 9 as the synagogue of Satan, where He also pronounce a punishment over them, saying: ***'Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews (by usurping their authority), and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them to come and bow down at your feet, and to know that I have loved you.'*** YHVH made all the rules according to which we should worship Him, and Yahshua the word of Elohim confirmed the same by being our living example. A truism about those who believe that they have been given the right to determine how and when to worship Elohim, by Yahshua, are in the most also believers in two (YHVH)'s, Yahshua being the lesser YHVH. Their belief in a lesser YHVH also supports the idea that Yahshua has less authority than YHVH. This is perhaps why these believers are able to (easily) invalidate Yahshua's teachings, one of which being what He said in Matthew 23: 2 & 3⁸. However, we need to be ever mindful of Yahshua's own words in Matthew 28: 18, where He said: ***"All authority (or power) has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."*** As also witnessed in 1 Corinthians 1: 22 - 24, in this way: ***'For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; (23) but we preach Messiah crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, (24) but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Messiah the power of Elohim and the wisdom of Elohim.'***

Ultimately every knee will bow before Yahshua, even those who died without ever knowing His name, as is confirmed in Psalms 22: 26 – 29, in this way: ***'The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;***

⁷ John 14: 8, ***'Philip said to Him, "Master, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."***

⁸ Matthew 23: 2 & 3: ***"The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things, and do not do them (since they are only human)."***

those who seek Him will praise YHVH. Let your heart live forever! (27) All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to YHVH, and all the families of the nations will worship before Thee. (28) For the kingdom is (YHVH)'s, and He rules over the nations. (29) All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship, all those who go down to the dust will bow before Him, even he who cannot keep his soul alive.' Even though very few truly believe in the salvation of YHVH, namely Yahshua, mankind will ultimately believe in Him, as He is coming back to save us from ourselves and to rule us right here on the earth. Even though Yahshua confirmed in Mark 12: 29 & 30, that **"The foremost (command) is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! YHVH OUR ELOHIM IS ONE YHVH; (30) AND YOU SHALL LOVE YHVH YOUR ELOHIM WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.'**, the Oneness of Elohim has been a problem at His first coming and will be so until He returns. As long as people continue to contradict the foremost command by their actions, they are not serving YHVH the only Elohim – but are simply fooling themselves! The point is that each and every one of us who believe that we are children of Elohim, through our faith in Messiah as recorded in Galatians 3: 26 need to realize that the only way in which we will be fully able to serve and obey Elohim, is if we realize that He is the one and only ONE!

Even though this appears to be a closing statement, there is much more; in that Yahshua did not finish what He said in the quoted section above, but added in verse 31 of Mark 12, saying: **"The second is this, 'You SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these."** At this point I need to ask those of us, who say and fully believe that we are Israel (whether they believe that we are bloodline Israelites, or the Israel of Elohim described in Galatians 3, 4, and more specifically 6: 16, and Romans 9: 6 & 7, it does not matter); **Who is your neighbor?** Before answering this question, let me point out that most of us, like our Christian Brothers, have been missing the point! As I said in the beginning, Yahshua came to reconcile us to both the Father and to Judah (our neighbor), as Rav Shaul explained at length in Ephesians 2: 11 - 22. It is true YHVH has been hiding His face from us, because of our disobedience in the past. But, we are told in Proverbs 25: 2 that, **'It is the glory of Elohim to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.'** We who are called to be first fruits at this time, need to ask YHVH to let His Set-apart Spirit guide us to see His face (like Moses did) and we will soon discover that He has been hiding Himself in Yahshua, the image or form of Elohim as may be seen from Isaiah 45: 15, in this way: **'Truly, Thou art an Elohim who hides Himself, O Elohim of Israel, Savior!'** A second drawback is that most of us who came to believe that we are Israel, fail to understand who our real neighbor is! Without understanding these two truths, there can never be peace on earth, as these two foremost commandments contain all of Torah.

In fact these two commandments, which even Christianity, say they believe and obey, have been mankind's problem from the start. Ask yourself; why did Yahshua our Messiah come as a Jew? Why did He not come as a Scot or a South African? The reason is that despite what we personally believe or think, the Jews are the most hated race upon the face of the earth and if YHVH, America and a few Christian/Messianic believers in Yahshua, did not realize the importance of the nation of Israel in the Middle East, or more specifically the Jews, they would have been wiped from the face of the earth many years ago. As mentioned earlier, Yahshua as a Jew came to reconcile us to the Father, but also to Brother Judah. If we understood Yahshua's parable of the prodigal son, we would have realized this long ago. But as Israel we are like blind men and most will only understand this when Yahshua returns. It is as I explained when I discussed Yahshua's miracles, where He healed the blind man in Mark 8: 22 – 25, as follows: **'And they came to Bethsaida. And they brought a blind man to Him, and entreated Him to touch him. (23) And taking the blind man by the hand, He brought him out of the village; and after spitting on his eyes, and laying His hands upon him, He asked him, "Do you see anything?" (24) And he looked up and said, "I see men, for I am seeing them like trees, walking about." (25) Then again He laid His hands upon his eyes; and he looked intently and was restored, and began to see everything clearly.'**

The nation of Israel who has been blinded by Satan, do not understand the good news about the coming kingdom of Elohim, and the fact that Yahshua is going to remarry His bride, the commonwealth of Israel, at His return. In Ezekiel 34: 30 & 31 YHVH said through Ezekiel, ***“Then they will know that I, YHVH their Elohim, am with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are My people,” declares YHVH Elohim.*** (31) ***“As for you, My sheep, the sheep of My pasture, you are men, and I am your Elohim,” declares YHVH Elohim.*** In Mark 8: 24, the blind man says that he sees men walking like trees. In Mark 8: 25, we see that after Yahshua laid hands on the blind man (Israel) for the second time, he saw things clearly, like most humans will, at the second coming of Messiah. This section about the trees in Mark 8: 24 is endorsed by Jeremiah 11: 16 & 17, where YHVH refers to the united Israel as an olive tree, as follows: ***‘YHVH called your name, “A green olive tree, beautiful in fruit and form”; With the noise of a great tumult He has kindled fire on it, and its branches are worthless. (17) And YHVH of hosts, who planted you, has pronounced evil against you because of the evil of the house of Israel and of the house of Judah, which they have done to provoke Me by offering up sacrifices to Baal.’*** Without revisiting another related subject, suffice it to say that by now we know that the olive tree spoken about here is the same olive tree discussed in Romans 11.

When studying the parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15, from verse 11 on, we see that the eldest son never left the father. Yes, he became jealous when, at the return of his younger brother, his father welcomed him with a celebratory homecoming, because it was difficult for him to understand why his reckless brother deserved such a welcome. However, we see that after the prodigal son’s attitude had become humble, repenting and trusting, his father said in Luke 15: 32: ***‘But we had to be merry and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found.’*** This is exactly what our Father YHVH does for us, when we repent and return to Him. Because some Messianic/Nazarene and like-minded believers do not realize that Judah is our neighbor, they contradict the words of Yahshua who is YHVH in the flesh, when it comes to the authority of Levi, and more specifically the Levites among our Jewish brothers, as regards the oracles of Elohim. The rebellion of Israel, after Korah’s rebellion discussed in Numbers 16, should be a witness against such deceived believers, but, most of them do not study the annual Torah portions like most Jews, including Nazarene Jews/Israelites do. Korah’s rebellion triggered another challenge from the sons of Israel, when they grumbled against Moses and Aaron, saying in verse 41 of Numbers 16, ***“You are the ones who have caused the death of (YHVH)’s people.”*** Next the congregation assembled against Moses and Aaron, and they turned to the tent of meeting. Afterward the cloud covered the tent of meeting and the glory of YHVH appeared. When Moses and Aaron came to the tent of meeting YHVH spoke to Moses saying that they should get away from the people, so that He may consume the congregation. Even so, Moses instructed Aaron to quickly take his censor and put fire from the altar in it and burn incense on it, thus making atonement for the congregation, for the wrath of Elohim has gone forth from YHVH and a plague started. Aaron did as Moses told him and took his stand between the dead and the living, and so the plague was checked. However, we see that 14,700, besides Korah and his men, died in this plague.

Continuing in Numbers 17, we see that YHVH having now gained the attention of the nation, tells Moses to take the rods of all the leaders according to their father’s households and write their names on their rods. YHVH also tells Moses to write Aaron’s name on the rod of Levi. Then YHVH tells Moses to deposit the rods in the tent of meeting in front of the Ark of the testimony, saying that it will come about that the rod of the man whom YHVH chooses will sprout. Moses did as YHVH told him and the next day, he saw that Aaron’s staff not only sprouted buds, but also bear flowers and almonds. Moses brought the rods out in the presence of YHVH showing it to all the sons of Israel. Each man took his rod, but YHVH instructed Moses to put Aaron’s rod before the Ark to bear testimony, to be kept against the rebels that they may put an end to their grumbings against YHVH, so that they should not die. This should also serve as a warning to those of us whom YHVH has called out of the world, to follow Him and not entertain thoughts of rebelling against Him and the Levites among Judah, who preserved the timing of the Sabbath, the Feast Days, the Hebrew Language and

the kosher food laws of Elohim for us. If we who have been called by YHVH at this time choose to remain disobedient to the two foremost commandments, we will simply not make it into the Kingdom of Elohim. In addition, as Ambassadors of the future Kingdom, we are responsible to show the people in the world how YHVH should be obeyed. Nevertheless, world peace and prosperity will elude mankind, until Messiah's return one day.

Knowing this, what should we do? Our role as the remnant of returning former Israelites are to make Judah jealous, by keeping Torah with a spiritual intent, as we read from Romans 11: 11, in this way: ***'I say then, they (Judah) 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.'*** Secondly, and before you think I am only out to criticize other believers, I want to urge our people to stand by the nation of Judah who are also presently preserving the Promised Land for us, and like some of those *'Messianic believers'*, who remain with one foot in Christianity, support our Jewish Brothers in the Land of Israel financially, when possible. Thirdly, as Nazarene Israelite watchmen we are also commanded in Isaiah 62: 6 & 7 to continually remind YHVH, to make Jerusalem a place of praise in the earth. But, most of all, those of us who believe in the Oneness of Elohim should not neglect the foremost command and without any doubt in our minds, recite the Shema as commanded in Deuteronomy 6: 4 – 9 twice daily. Think about it!

Chapter 2: Why is prayer important in our lives?

Prayer is vitally important in the life of every believer who should be aware that it is an opportunity to talk to YHVH the almighty King of the Universe who is attuned to effective heartfelt prayer as Rav Yaa'cov assures us in the second part of James 5: 16, saying: ***'The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.'*** As kings and priests in the making we should pray at least twice a day, but possibly even three times a day as King David wrote in Psalm 55: 16 & 17, saying: ***'As for me, I shall call upon Elohim, and YHVH will save me. (17) Evening and morning and at noon, I will complain and murmur, and He will hear my voice.'***

Nevertheless, it is important for us as servants of Elohim to know that there are certain prerequisites to ensure that our Father hears and answers our prayers. We read appropriately from Isaiah 59: 1 & 2, ***'Behold, (YHVH)'s hand is not so short that it cannot save; neither is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. (2) But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your Elohim, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear.'*** A second witness to this is found in John 9: 31, as follows: ***"We know that Elohim does not hear sinners; but if anyone is Elohim-fearing, and does His will, He hears him."*** This is also confirmed in Psalm 34: 14 – 16, in this way: ***'Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace and pursue it. (15) The eyes of YHVH are toward the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. (16) The face of YHVH is against evildoers, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.'*** Elohim does not hear those who are actively involved in breaking His commandments - in fact sin forms a barrier between us and Elohim, which diminish the working of His Set-apart Spirit within us, as we read from Isaiah 63: 10, as follows: ***'But they rebelled and grieved His Set-apart Spirit; therefore, He turned Himself to become their enemy, He fought against them.'*** So it is abundantly clear that obedience brings us in line with Elohim's will and opens the required communication channels with Him.

Apart from obedience there are also other requirements necessary for a successful prayer life. Firstly YHVH requires that we approach Him in a humble attitude, as we read from Isaiah 66: 2, in this way: ***"For My hand made all these things, thus all these things came into being," declares YHVH. "But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word."*** We read two additional requirements for worshipping YHVH from John 4: 22 - 24, as follows: ***"You worship that which you do not know; we worship that which we know, for salvation is from the Jews. (23) But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. (24) Elohim is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*** But the most important requirement remains obedience to Elohim's teachings as we read from 1 John 3: 21 & 22, in this way: ***'Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before Elohim; (22) and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.'*** If we come to YHVH in a humble attitude He will definitely hear us, as we are ensured in (the often quoted) 2 Chronicles 7: 14, as follows: ***'and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.'*** We may with confidence approach our heavenly Father if we seek Him according to His will, as we read from 1 John 5: 14 & 15, ***'And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. (15) And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.'***

Being followers of Yahshua our Messiah, we also need to consider the principles that He taught including the model prayer that He gave His followers in Matthew 6: 5 – 13, in this way: ***"And when you pray, you are not to be as the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners, in order to be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in***

full. (6) But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will repay you. (7) And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition, as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. (8) Therefore do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him. (9) 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. (11) Give us this day our daily bread. (12) And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (13) And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.’ As Nazarene Israelites we all know the model prayer that our Master Yahshua communicated to His disciples, when He taught them how to pray. Nonetheless, we should not forget that in addition to giving them the specific elements to include in their daily prayer requests to our heavenly Father (Avinu), He also told them not to use meaningless repetition, as the Gentiles do, as they believe they will be heard for their many words. This means that we may use elements of the model prayer in Matthew 6: 9 – 13 in our daily prayers, but should not like some in Christianity recite the same prayer over a number of times at a time. YHVH wants us to talk to Him from the heart, but in so doing we need to be ever mindful that He is our Creator and He demands that we come before Him respectfully. We should also remember that we can only come to YHVH the Father in and through the blood of Messiah, and therefore always conclude our prayers in and through the name of Yahshua our Messiah, adding the words Amen (meaning, ‘so be it’) at the end.

Because we are human most of us have or are experiencing feelings of pain because a loved one said or did something to offend us; or sorrow that will not go away, or guilt that keep us captive; or even bitterness that promotes hatred of others because of the grief they caused us. When someone offends us, or sin against us; our first reaction is usually to hit back by saying or doing something equally nasty. However, if we truly believe in what Yahshua taught whilst He was on earth, we will recall His words in Matthew 5: 38 & 39, as follows: **“You have heard that it was said, ‘AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.’ (39) But I say to you, do not resist him who is evil; but whoever slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.”** Yahshua did not here abolish a Torah command, but merely informed His disciples that the section that He quoted from in Deuteronomy 19: 21, namely: **“Thus you shall not show pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,”** was reserved for capital punishment meted out by a court of law, and not for interaction between people. In reading from verses 43 – 48 of Matthew 5, we see that Yahshua was actually associating verbal abuse to physical violence against us, in this way: **“You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR, and hate your enemy.’ (44) But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you (45) in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. (46) For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same? (47) And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? (48) Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”** It is clear; the starting point for our healing is to obey the teachings and advice of our Master Yahshua the Messiah.

Resuming His lesson about prayer Yahshua added in Mark 11: 25 & 26, saying: **“And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your transgressions. (26) But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions.”** If we truly want to be in the kingdom of Elohim one day, we will take these words of Messiah very seriously, since we cannot enter the Kingdom, without being forgiven our past sins. Yes, we are forgiven our sins, conditionally that we also forgive those who sin against us! Forgiveness is vital in us getting rid of bitterness, animosity and hatred. When Kepha asked Yahshua in Matthew 18: 21, saying: **“Master, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”** In answering Kepha, Yahshua related the parable in verses 22 – 35 to him, saying: **“I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times**

seven. (23) *For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a certain king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. (24) And when he had begun to settle them, there was brought to him one who owed him ten thousand talents. (25) But since he did not have the means to repay, his master commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. (26) The slave therefore falling down, prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will repay you everything.'* (27) *And the master of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. (28) But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him saying, 'Pay back what you owe.'* (29) *So his fellow slave fell down and began to entreat him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.'* (30) *He was unwilling however, but went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. (31) So when his fellow slaves saw what happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their master all that had happened. (32) Then summoning him, his master said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you entreated me. (33) Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, even as I had mercy on you?' (34) And his master, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. (35) So shall My heavenly Father also do to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."*

As human beings we react in accordance with our emotions and the destructive influence that Satan continues to broadcast into our minds, as he is fully aware of the condition required by YHVH for forgiveness and wants us to be permanently antagonistic toward each other. Most of us who count the Omer will recall that in day 32 of counting the Omer we considered the attribute of Endurance in Humility transliterated in Hebrew as *'Netzach of Hod'*. Endurance in humility stresses the fact that real humility does not make you into a spineless person for others to walk all over; but gives you enduring strength, so that others do not take advantage of you. We should learn to react to curses and negative comments about us by blessing and making positive comments/remarks about those who abuse us verbally. However, this is easier said than done and because of our pride we sometimes refuse to forgive, as at times we consider someone's sin against us as purely 'too great to forgive'. This is when we feel that the offender needs to be taught a lesson, before we will even consider forgiving him or her. If we feel this way, we need to realize that our own foolish pride often prevents us from forgiving others. Such reasoning is loaded with emotion and overlooks the basic Scriptural principle that it is not within us to know what is right and wrong, as we cannot on our own determine what is important to Elohim and what is not, as we read from Proverbs 14: 12, in this way: ***'There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.'*** That is why the on-going study of Torah is important, so that we remain mindful of our Father's will and way. Reading Rav Shaul's admonition in Romans 12: 17 – 21, we see that Elohim's words do not allow us to take revenge, as follows: ***'Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. (18) If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. (19) Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of Elohim, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says YHVH. (20) "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS UPON HIS HEAD."*** (21) ***Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.'***

We read the example Rav Shaul left us regarding forgiveness and his admonition of the brethren in Corinth to forgive a sinner amongst them, whom he expelled from the congregation earlier for his sins, in second Corinthians 2: 6 – 8, saying: ***"Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which was inflicted by the majority, (7) so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, lest somehow such a one be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. (8) Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him."*** It is essential for us to stay in a forgiving frame of mind, as the peace that is produced by a forgiving attitude is far better than incapacitating hatred and resentment. We need to be ever mindful that Yahshua our Messiah gave His very life for the forgiveness of our sins, as He said when He gave His disciples the cup at His last Passover in Matthew 26: 27 & 28, saying:

“Drink from it, all of you; (28) for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.” Even though it is very difficult to suddenly develop a forgiving attitude if we have been our worldly self for most of our lifetime, it is possible for us to change as we are assured by Yahshua in Mark 9: 23, where He said: ***‘All things are possible to him who believes.’*** In addition we read from Hebrews 9: 13 & 14: ***‘For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled, sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, (14) how much more will the blood of Messiah, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to Elohim, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living Elohim?’*** We simply need to deeply convince ourselves to forgive others and ask Elohim to help us do so. We need to understand that just as insincere forgiveness will not remove feelings of animosity and bitterness, so faith without works is dead as witnessed by Rav Yaa’cov in James 2: 26⁹. We need to comfort ourselves with the knowledge that Elohim will never allow trials to come upon us that are more than we can bear. He always provides us with a way to escape and the wherewithal to handle our problems, as Rav Shaul assures us in first Corinthians 10: 13, saying: ***‘No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and Elohim is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.’***

YHVH gave us the ability to forgive as a way to escape – provided we personally choose to do so. The alternative is to remain captive by our feelings of guilt and resentment. We need to ask ourselves: When we at times ask Elohim to heal such feelings, do we reject the ways that He provides to accomplish the healing? Do we ignore the fact that spiritual as well as emotional healing requires our forgiveness, i.e. by putting our faith into works? One thing is certain; forgiveness does not ignore or condone crime. However it requires an understanding for the transgression and a readiness to help the offender with his problem. As we practice forgiveness, we will learn that by doing so, we are released from our feelings of guilt and resentment. As soon as we forgive we also start the healing process. In addition to getting rid of our suffering and sorrow, we are also assured forgiveness of our own personal sins, when we repent. Rav Yochanan tells us in first John 1: 9, ***‘If we confess our sins, He (Elohim) is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.’*** YHVH tells us through David in Psalm 103: 12 & 13, saying: ***‘As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. (13) Just as a father has compassion on his children, so YHVH has compassion on those who fear Him.’*** The prophet Isaiah tells us in Isaiah 1: 18 that Elohim’s forgiveness is absolute, as follows: ***“Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool.”*** We may remind YHVH of His promise that Yahshua gave us in and at the end of the model prayer that He gave His disciples in Matthew 6: 12 & 14, by including it in our daily prayers, as follows: ***‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (14) For if you forgive men their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.’*** It is necessary to understand that it is easier to forgive someone, if we do not obsessively turn their wrong actions over in our minds. We need to stop ourselves before we become hardhearted and eventually bitter and twisted. We also need to ask Elohim to forgive those who sin against us and to lead them to repentance. By so-doing we become co-workers with Elohim in pursuing the wrongdoer’s forgiveness, as Yahshua our example how to follow the way of Elohim did when they impaled Him in the first part of Luke 23: 34, saying: ***Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”***

We need to remember that Yahshua suffered much more injustice and rejection than what most of us ever will as we witnessed in John 1: 10 & 11, ***‘He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. (10) He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.’*** We read accordingly from the prophesy in Isaiah in chapter 53: 2 & 3, ***‘For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground; He has no***

⁹ James 3: 26, ***‘For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.’***

stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. (3) He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.' Yahshua was never concerned about His own feelings, but always considered that of others. The rebellious condition into which the house of Israel progressed after YHVH our Elohim scattered us into the nations of the world, required that He come as *'one of us'* to pay the penalty for our sins, so that we may be reconciled back to Him in a sinless state, but also as our kinsman redeemer to buy back our piece of the Promised Land that we lost because of idolatry. This is so aptly put in Romans 8: 2 to the first part of verse 4, as follows: ***'For the law of the Spirit of life in Messiah Yahshua has set you free from the law of sin and of death. (3) For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, Elohim did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, (4) in order that the requirements of the Law might be fulfilled in us.'*** Yahshua endured by patiently accepting and waiting on Elohim for the reconciliation of Israel and ultimately all of mankind. We who claim to be His followers should therefore do as He did.

However, it will take a lot of practice to overcome our normal antagonistic fight or flight nature. It can be likened to a body builder who has to continue to push and pull against huge weights in resistance training until his body is sculptured into that of a champion. It takes months, even years for a body builder to develop from a skinny or overweight body to what is required to enter into competitions. Because forgiveness is not something that we can do naturally; we have to learn and practice to forgive. Similar to a body builder we have to practice to overcome our resistance to forgive those who sin against us, if we eventually want to be awarded the crown that Rav Shaul spoke about in 2 Timothy 4: 7 & 8, in this way: ***'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 YHVH, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.'*** If we practice forgiveness daily, it will become a habit with us and slowly but surely we will conform to the image of Elohim, namely Yahshua our Messiah who left us a perfect example of forgiveness. However, we should understand that the model prayer given us by Yahshua should also not be repeated many times over, as that will simply be meaningless repetition that He warned about in this prayer. Our prayers should at times include some of the elements that Yahshua mentioned in His model prayer; one of which is to ask for our daily supply of food. Note it does not say we should pray for our annual supply of groceries. We should also remember that when we do use some of the elements of the model prayer, we should give it some thought, so that it has meaning to us; we may also expand and refine the elements that Yahshua gave us. Most of all we should remember that YHVH is our loving Father, who wants us to share with Him our needs and successes in life.

But YHVH also wants us to thank Him for all that He does for us. The point is that we should sometimes sit still and think (meditate) about all the good things that YHVH continually provides for us – this will help us to thank Him for His loving kindness toward us. We read fittingly from Philippians 4: 6, ***'Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to Elohim.'*** Everything that we have and are comes from YHVH our Elohim, and only He is worthy of our thanks for what He has done and will do for us in the future. We should praise YHVH through Yahshua as we read from Hebrews 13: 15, as follows: ***'Through Him (Yahshua) then, let us continually offer up sacrifice of praise to Elohim, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.'*** Even though YHVH knows what we need, we should make our needs known to Him, as Rav Kepha wrote in 1 Peter 5: 6 & 7, saying: ***'Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of Elohim, that He may exalt you at the proper time, (7) casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.'*** We read further instructions regarding prayer from Proverbs 2: 1 – 6, in this way: ***'My son, if you will receive my sayings, and treasure my commandments within you, (2) Make your ear attentive to wisdom, incline your heart to***

understanding; (3) For if you cry for discernment, lift your voice for understanding; (4) If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; (5) Then you will discern the fear of YHVH, and discover the knowledge of Elohim. (6) For YHVH gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.'

A major portion of our prayers should be for others, as that is one way in which we may love our neighbor as ourselves, as we read from 1 Timothy 2: 1 – 4, as follows: **'First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, (2) for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. (3) 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.'** A second witness to this comes from Ephesians 6: 18 & 19. in this way: **'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 (meaning fellow believers), (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.'** Since we as humans sin knowingly and unknowingly on a daily basis, it behooves us to come boldly before YHVH our Father in the blood of Yahshua our Messiah, asking for His forgiveness. We read the example that Yahshua gave us in a parable in Luke 18: 9 – 14, as follows: **'And He also told this parable to certain ones who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: (10) Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-gatherer. (11) The Pharisee stood and was praying thus to himself, "Elohim, I thank thee that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax-gatherer. (12) I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get." (13) But the tax-gatherer, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, "Elohim be merciful to me, the sinner!" (14) I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted.'** A second witness to this comes from 1 John 1: 9, in this way: **'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'**

If you and I are sure of our calling, then we may also be assured of Elohim's commitment to us; He called us because He knew that we have the potential to make it into His eternal kingdom. It is as Rav Shaul writes in Philippians 1: 3 – 6, saying: **'I thank my Elohim in all my remembrance of you, (4) always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, (5) in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. (6) For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Messiah Yahshua.'** In fact Yahshua confirmed this in John 10: 27 – 30, 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. (30) I and the Father are one."** Nevertheless, even though it is impossible for Satan or anybody else to snatch us out of our Father's hand, we ourselves are able to let go of the one faith once delivered to the saints, if we through a dangerous root of bitterness come to disbelief through the hardness of our hearts, as clearly described in Hebrews 3: 12 – 4: 1, as follows: **'Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living Elohim. (13) But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (14) For we have become partakers of Messiah, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end; (15) while it is said, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME.'" (16) For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? (17) And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? (18) And to whom did He swear that they should not enter His rest, but to those who**

were disobedient? (19) And so we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief. (4: 1) Therefore, let us fear lest, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it.'

Fellow believers, this is very serious since it has been prophesied to happen again with some of those of us whom YHVH is presently busy calling out of the world, as is witnessed by the prophet Ezekiel in Ezekiel 20: 33 – 38, in this way: ***“As I live,” declares YHVH Elohim, “surely with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out, I shall be king over you. (34) And I shall bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out; (35) and I shall bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I shall enter into judgment with you face to face. (36) As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you,” declares YHVH Elohim. (37) “And I shall make you pass under the rod, and I shall bring you into the bond of the covenant; (38) and I shall purge from you the rebels and those who transgress against Me; I shall bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they will not enter the land of Israel. Thus you will know that I am YHVH.*** Think carefully about it!

Chapter 3: Are we in Bondage to Elohim?

Fifty day after YHVH Elohim brought the ancient nation of Israel out of Egypt, He entered into a marriage covenant with them at Mount Sinai, as He explained through Jeremiah in Jeremiah 31: 31 & 32, saying: **“Behold, days are coming,” declares YHVH, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, (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 YHVH.**’ Even though YHVH eventually divorced the house of Israel because of idolatry, He especially sent Yahshua the Messiah to bring the lost sheep of the house of Israel back to the covenant that He made with us, jointly with the house of Judah at Mount Sinai.

In agreement with His promise to Abraham, YHVH is busy calling a remnant from the house of Israel to return to Him and the covenant that He made with our forefathers at Mount Sinai, through Abraham’s one seed, Yahshua, as Rav Shaul explained in Galatians 3: 15 – 29. Yahshua Messiah our kinsman Redeemer came as the Son of Man to buy back our piece of the Promised Land that we lost because of idolatry and to pay the penalty due for our past transgressions of the Law, so that we may once again become Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise. He became the Son of Elohim through His resurrection (as per Romans 1: 1 – 4¹⁰) to show us how we may live eternally in the Promised Land as spiritual children of Elohim. Despite having the same Scriptures that we have, most of Christianity have no idea of the promise that YHVH made to Abraham and are therefore not familiar with the gospel of the coming Kingdom of Elohim. The house of Israel has been in captivity by Esau (Rome) for almost 1800 years and came to believe that they are nothing but Gentiles, who were never part of the eternal Torah covenant that YHVH made with the ancient nation of Israel. Although we as Nazarene Jews/Israelites believe in Yahshua as the Messiah, they view us in the same light as our Jewish Brothers, because of our Torah obedience and for the past almost 2000 years they wanted us to get rid of the ‘burden’ of Torah and anything to do with the Jewish faith. As a result, evil forces in the spirit of Esau and Ismael were determined to destroy our faith, namely Nazarene Judaism since its commencement, and because of sustained attacks, the movement almost disappeared by the fourth century. Fortunately, it never really died out as there have always been Torah observant individuals who believed in Yahshua as their Messiah. These evil forces against Torah observance are the same forces that are against our Jewish brothers, namely Anti-Semitism or more correctly lawlessness. Lawlessness and anti-Semitism are at the root of the destruction of any group who ever tried to return to their Hebrew roots. One such group was the World-wide Church of G-d and even though they were never fully Torah observant, the fact that they claimed to be Christian and obedient to most Torah commands, eventually upset the nominal Christian community who did everything in its power to either destroy or make them conform to their non-Torah point of view.

Even though we know and believe that we are not saved by obedience to Torah, it is by being law abiding citizens that we and all Jews show our love to our heavenly Father and our neighbors. In a non-religious context; if we do not obey the traffic laws and start jumping traffic lights, we will endanger the lives of our neighbors and their children. In fact it is because we (and all Jews) love our neighbor, that we do not commit adultery; steal our neighbor’s car or other property; or kill him and his family. Like all Jews, we are obliged to go in defense of a neighbor if his/her life is endangered by a burglar or animal. Many today think/believe that even though Elohim freed the ancient Israelites from bondage in Egypt, He did so, only to enslave them again, to His harsh rules, written by Moses in

¹⁰ *Romans 1: 1 – 4: ‘Shaul, a bond-servant of Messiah Yahshua, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of Elohim, which He promised beforehand through the prophets in the holy Scriptures (the Tanach), concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, 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.’*

the Torah. Others assume that the Torah was only meant for the nation of Israel and that those who accept Messiah as Savior need not keep the so-called 'Old Testament' laws any longer. The question is: what did the original Nazarene Jews teach about the Torah? From about 150 BCE there were three different sects or branches of Judaism; namely the Pharisees, the Sadducees and the Essenes, of which the Pharisees were the most numerous. Their name means '*the separated ones*' and they were scrupulous in observing the written and oral Torah. They taught in synagogues and their beliefs in the resurrection of the dead and the coming of Messiah, influenced the majority of the Jewish nation. They came into conflict with the Sadducees and were at one stage excluded from the Sanhedrin. After the destruction of the Temple the sacrificial system came to an end, and the Pharisees became the dominant group in the Jewish community. They are in fact the modern day Rabbinic Jews of today.

The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection of the dead, and only kept to the written Torah. Their opposition to the oral Torah was the reason for their existence, but the Karaite Jews, who are the modern day successors to the Sadducees, also developed a sizable body of laws outside of Torah, comparable to the Oral Law kept by the Rabbinical Jews. The Essenes was a very basic sect at the end of the second Temple period and their religious outlook was closer to that of the Pharisees. However, they formulated their own specific beliefs and observances. Their beliefs are described in detail in the Dead Sea Scrolls. This sect appears to have been completely destroyed in the Jewish War of 66 – 70 CE. Then during the third decade of the first century CE, Yahshua and His followers established Nazarene Judaism, a sect of the Pharisees, as may be seen from Acts 15: 5¹¹; 24: 5, 14¹²; and 26: 5. At that time all these sects of Judaism considered Torah as supreme Law, but they differed in matters of interpretation and living out the Torah. The way in which the different sects of Judaism interpreted the way in which they applied the Torah is known as their specific '*halacha*'. So they basically agreed with the Pharisees in the way they interpreted Torah, but for the fact that they followed Yahshua, who's '*halacha*' was stricter in a number of instances, as he explained in Matthew 5, 6 & 7, since His main purpose was to bring the lost sheep of the house of Israel, who were scattered abroad because of idolatry, back to the faith into which He was born, because they were prone to idolatry and extremely susceptible to Lawlessness.

A point to remember about the way in which we follow Torah, or the '*halacha*' that we follow, is that a *Halachic* ruling should never cause a person to violate the Torah. The main reason for setting up '*halacha*' is to instruct believers how to keep Elohim's Torah and to judge between people on religious matters. In fact this practice was started by Elohim, when he appointed Moses to judge the people, as we read from Exodus 18: 13 & 16, as follows: ***'And it came about the next day that Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood about Moses from the morning until the evening. (16) "When they have a dispute, it comes to me, and I judge between a man and his neighbor, and make known the statutes of Elohim and His laws."*** However, later upon the advice of his father-in-law, Moses appointed a council of Elders to assist him in this task, as may be read from Deuteronomy 1: 15 – 18, in this way: ***"So I (Moses) took the heads of your tribes, wise and experienced men, and appointed them heads over you, leaders of thousands, and of hundreds, of fifties and of tens, and officers for your tribes. (16) Then I charged your judges at that time, saying, 'Hear the cases between your fellow countrymen, and judge righteously between man and his***

¹¹ Acts 15: 5, ***'But certain ones of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed, stood up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses."*** If we continue reading the rest of Acts 15, we will see that eventually returning members of the lost ten tribes were and are even required to be circumcised as they learn to obey the rest of the commandments given in the Torah, as they attend services in the synagogues of the Jews as is confirmed in verse 21 of Acts 15.

¹² Acts 24: 5 & 14: ***'For we have found this man (meaning Shaul) a real pest and a fellow who stirs up dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the Elohim of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law, and that is written in the Prophets."***

fellow countryman, or the alien who is with him. (17) You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small and the great alike. You shall not fear man, for the judgment is Elohim's. And the case that is too hard for you, you shall bring to me, and I will hear it.' (18) ***And I command you at that time all the things that you should do."*** We see here that these Elders or Judges showed the people the way in which to follow Elohim's Torah; and their judgments were regarded as the judgment of Elohim Himself.

We see further from Deuteronomy 17: 8 – 12 (and especially verse 11) that the rulings of these Judges were regarded as Torah, as follows: ***"If any case is too difficult for you to decide, between one kind of homicide or another, between one kind of lawsuit or another, and between one kind of assault or another, being cases of dispute in your courts, then you shall arise and go up to the place which YHVH your Elohim chooses. (9) So you shall come to the Levitical priest or the judge who is in office in those days, and you shall inquire of them, and they will declare to you the verdict in the case. (10) And you shall do according to the terms of the verdict which they declare to you from that place which YHVH chooses; and you shall be careful to observe according to all they teach you. (11) According to the terms of the law which they teach you, and according to the verdict which they tell you, you shall do; you shall not turn aside from the word which they declare to you, to the right or the left. (12) And the man who acts presumptuously by not listening to the priest who stands there to serve YHVH your Elohim, nor to the judge, that man shall die; thus you shall purge the evil from Israel."*** Here we have recorded the establishment of the Sanhedrin by Moses – the council of Levitical priests in office, who were responsible to determine the 'halacha' or the way in which Israel was supposed to apply the Torah in their daily lives. The Sanhedrin was in office right up to the time before Judah was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar. In Jeremiah 32, YHVH in a prophecy tells Jeremiah that even after the captivity of Judah, they will return to the land of Israel, and will again sell and buy property in the land. In verses 7 & 8 of Jeremiah 32 YHVH instructs Jeremiah to buy the field of his uncle's son Hanamel at Anathoth. He pays for the piece of land and had the deed of purchase signed before the Jews who were sitting in the court of the guard (or the Sanhedrin) at that time. We see further from Nehemiah that even though the nation of Judah was taken captive for a period of seventy years, when they returned he was inspired to write in Nehemiah 9: 14, ***"So Thou didst make known to them Thy Holy (or set-apart) Sabbath, and didst lay down for them commandments, statutes and law, through Thy servant Moses."*** This confirms that Judah retained jurisdiction over the 'halacha' or way in which Israel should apply Torah in their daily lives. Rav Shaul also corroborates this fact in Romans 9: 3 & 4, as follows: ***'For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Messiah for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh (the Jews), (4) who are Israelites (yes the Jews are also Israelites), to whom belongs the adoption as sons and the glory (esteem) and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the (timing of) temple service and the promises.'*** Not many Nazarene/Messianic Israelites and like-minded believers are prepared to accept the literal meaning of this Scripture, for obvious reasons.

But we see from a prophecy in Ezekiel 13: 2 – 9, and specifically in verses 2, 8 & 9 that those of the house of Israel who wants to dictate the way they follow Elohim, will not have a place in the Sanhedrin, in this way: ***"Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy from their own inspiration. 'Listen to the word of YHVH!' (8) Therefore, thus says YHVH Elohim, 'Because you have spoken falsehood and seen a lie, therefore behold, I am against you," declares YHVH Elohim. (9) So My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and utter lying divinations. They will have no place in the council of My people, nor will they be written down in the register of the house of Israel, nor will they enter the land of Israel, that you may know that I am YHVH Elohim."*** We need to be careful not to usurp the authority that YHVH assigned to Judah, or more specifically the Levites, who remained with Judah when the two houses split in two after King Solomon. Even so, we read the prophecy in Deuteronomy 18: 17 - 19, about a time when Yahshua will arrive on the scene, as follows: ***"And YHVH said to me (Moses),***

'They have spoken well. (18) I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. (19) And it shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him.' Yahshua our Messiah witnessed to these two announcements that YHVH made to Moses; the first being that ***'he shall speak to them all that I command him'***, in John 12: 49, saying: ***"For I did not speak on my own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me commandment, what to say, and what to speak."*** The second witness about (YHVH)'s words to Moses in Deuteronomy 18, is found in John 5: 43, where Yahshua said: ***"I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another should come in his own name, you will receive him."***

Yahshua was the one and only person who could correct and establish the way in which we as Nazarene Israelites should apply Torah to our daily lives. This brings us to Messiah's view of Torah in Matthew 5: 17 – 20, in this way: ***"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill (or to make it more binding – as may be read from verses 21 - 48 of Matthew 5). (18) For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished. (19) Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (20) For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and the Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven."*** Yahshua stated that He did not come to do away with the Torah and the Prophets; and contrary to what Christianity deduce from reading verse 17 of Matthew 5, Yahshua confirmed in Matthew 19: 16 – 17, that the Torah of Elohim must be obeyed if we want to have eternal life, in this way: ***'And behold, one came to Him and said, "Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?" (17) And He said to Him, "Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.'*** Those who believe that the Torah is no longer binding are those who view obedience to any laws as a form of bondage.

However, subjection to a set of laws is not in itself a form of bondage, as all the citizens living in a free democratic country are required to live by the laws of the country anyway. In fact, every nation in the free world has laws according to which their countries are administered. South Africa, like the USA, is a nation with a constitution guaranteeing freedom of association to all its citizens. We should also understand that true freedom or liberty is not freedom from law, but freedom within the law, as righteous laws secure our freedom. It is as Rav Yaa'cov wrote in James 1: 22 – 25, saying: ***'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, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.'*** Rav Yaa'cov referred to Elohim's commandments as the law of liberty, not slavery. In fact Rav Shaul, who was referred to as the ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes, confirmed this in Romans 2: 13, as follows: ***'For not the hearers of the Law are just before Elohim, but the doers of the Law will be justified.'*** When YHVH brought Israel out of Egypt, He liberated them, not enslaved them. Elohim delivered His people from their cruel task masters and promised them a life of peace in their own country. YHVH gave the Israelites His laws, statutes and judgments which guaranteed their safety, as recorded in Deuteronomy 4: 1, in this way: ***"And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I am teaching you to perform, in order that you may live and in go and take possession of the land which YHVH, the Elohim of your fathers, is giving you.'*** When YHVH gave the Law to our forefathers, through Moses, all He wanted from them was obedience, as we read from Jeremiah 7: 22 & 23 as follows: ***"For I did not speak to your fathers, or command them in the day***

that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices. (23) But this is what I commanded them, saying, 'Obey My voice, and I will be your Elohim, and you will be My people; and you will walk in all the way which I command you, that it may be well with you.'" As Nazarene Jews/Israelites we know that we cannot be justified by keeping the Torah. Even so, we show our heavenly Father that we love Him, by being obedient to His teachings, as we read from 1 John 5: 3, **"For this is the love of Elohim, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome."**

Contrary to popular belief, Yahshua's 'halacha' was quite narrow compared to that of the scribes and the Pharisees. One of the main purposes of 'halacha' is to build a fence or boundary around the Torah. For example, the commandments say: **"You shall not commit adultery."** Orthodox 'halacha' holds that: **"You shall not be alone with a woman, other than your wife or family member."** In Matthew 5: 28, Yahshua said: **"but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart."** Therefore Yahshua's 'halacha' is narrower, acting as a boundary around the Torah commandments of adultery, thus safeguarding believers in Him from breaking it. This is also why Yahshua said in Matthew 7: 13 & 14, **'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.'** Even though Yahshua's 'halacha' was narrower than that of the scribes and the Pharisees, he did not overrule their teachings. This is why He said in Matthew 23: 2 & 3, **"The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; (3) therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things, and do not do them** (since they are only human – and humans sometimes miss the mark)." Despite the fact that we as Nazarene believers follow Yahshua's 'halacha', it is important that we nevertheless believe in the writings of Moses or the Torah, as Yahshua said in John 5: 45 – 47, in this way: **"Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope. (46) 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?"**

This is in fact one of the most disputed sections of the Scriptures amongst Messianic/Nazarene Jews/Israelites and likeminded believers these days. The second being, what Rav Shaul wrote in Romans 3: 1 & 2, as follows is: **'Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? (2) Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of Elohim.'** We know there are some who say that even though this is true, YHVH took the Oracles away from the Jews because of unbelief. But this is not true as Rav Shaul confirmed in verses 3 & 4 of Romans 3, saying: **"What then? If some did not believe, their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of Elohim, will it? (4) May it never be! Rather, let Elohim be found true, though every man be found a liar, as it is written. "THAT THOU MIGHTEST BE JUSTIFIED IN THY WORDS, AND MIGHTEST PREVAIL WHEN THOU ART JUDGED."** Perhaps those who always jump to conclusions should read the rest of the applicable Scriptures, before making a wrong decision. Yahshua's 'halacha' is the only way in which we may become more righteous than the scribes and the Pharisees, and not by showing superiority to them, as Rav Shaul warns in Romans 11: 18, as follows: **'do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you.'** We may try as much as we like, there are certain traditions taught by the scribes and the Pharisees that even Yahshua referred to and kept, as we read from Luke 5: 34, as follows: **And Yahshua said to them (the scribes and the Pharisees), "You cannot make the attendants of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them, can you? Yes, Yahshua was talking about Himself as being the bridegroom, but He was also reminding them of an Oral Torah command that they were familiar with. The point is that Torah requires certain traditions, as not all details of how to obey certain commandments are given in the written Torah. A case in point is that nowhere in the Scriptures are we given the distance that we may travel on a**

Sabbath day, but in Acts 1: 12, which is very much part of the Renewed Covenant, we read: ***'Then they (the apostles) returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.'***

We also read about other traditions which we as Nazarene Israelites believe, as Rav Shaul explained in 1 Corinthians 11, where we are told about the tradition for married ladies to wear head coverings during worship services; as well as our tradition to keep the Passover in remembrance of Messiah's death, on the night before our Jewish brothers keep their Passover, in verses 23 – 26. Even though these traditions were taught us by Rav Shaul, it is as he wrote in verse 1 & 2 of 1 Corinthians 11, saying: ***'Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Messiah. (2) Now I praise you because you remember me in everything, and hold firmly to the traditions, just as I delivered them to you.'*** Why were the oral traditions written down? After the destruction of the second Temple and the house of Israel became dispersed into the nations, it became necessary to write down oral traditions. However, the house of Israel forgot most of their traditions, their culture and their religion. Most Nazarene Jews/Israelites are aware that we do not eat the sinew of the hip in the thigh of kosher animals that split the hoof and chew the cud, as we are instructed in Genesis 32: 32, as follows: ***'Therefore, to this day the sons of Israel (both houses) do not eat the sinew of the hip which is on the socket of the thigh, because he touched the socket of Jacob's thigh in the sinew of the hip.'*** The way to remove the sinew in the hip is not described anywhere in the Torah. So how do ladies know how to perform this fairly difficult task? This is something that we are taught by our forefathers from generation to generation. How many of you can recall how your mothers or Grannies removed the sinew from a leg of lamb, prior to cooking it? If you can, you are most probably an Israelite. Even though most modern ladies have forgotten how this was done, it was taught from mother to daughter throughout many generations – probably before the captivity of Israel by the Assyrians in 721 BCE. Because this is a fairly difficult task, Kosher Butchers rarely sell you a leg of lamb or of any other kosher animal.

As Nazarene Israelites, we base our Torah walk on Yahshua our Messiah, whom YHVH sent to be our perfect example. We better make sure that we do what Yahshua taught and not contradict Him by our words or actions, as He explained in Matthew 7: 19 – 27, in this way: ***"Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. (20) So then, you will know them by their fruits. (21) Not everyone who says to Me, 'Master, Master,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. (22) Many will say to Me on the day, 'Master, Master, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' (23) And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.' (24) Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock (meaning Yahshua). (25) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the wind blew, and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock. (26) And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. (27) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall."*** Yahshua was the only one who could correct the 'halacha' of the Pharisees; He came to bring revival of Torah among the faithful remnant of the lost ten tribes, and to restore the oral tradition which was passed down to us by Moses. Yahshua kept all of the Feast Days of Elohim, at the same time as the Jews of His day did. He only changed (or corrected) the timing of the Passover, when He kept it with His disciples, the night during which He was betrayed as mentioned earlier.

Rav Shaul who was specifically trained by Yahshua to bring the lost sheep of the house of Israel from the way of Satan to the way of Elohim, where they will once again inherit the Promised Land or

Kingdom of Elohim (as witnessed in Acts 26: 15 – 18¹³), goes on to explain that since there are only two different ways, namely the way of Elohim and the way of Satan, we become slaves to Elohim, for our good, in Romans 6: 1 – 7 and 12 – 18, saying: ***‘What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? (2) May it never be! How shall we who dies to sin still live in it? (3) Or do you not know that all of us who have been immersed into Messiah Yahshua have been immersed into His death? (4) Therefore we have been buried with Him through immersion into death, in order that as Messiah was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. (5) For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection, (6) knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin; (7) for he who has died is freed from sin. (12) Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts, (13) and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to Elohim as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to Elohim. (14) 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? (17) But thanks be to Elohim that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, (18) and having been freed from sin, you became slaves to righteousness.’***

The road that we as Nazarene Jews/Israelites walk is a narrow and lonely road, and like with any Jew, even though we are slaves to righteousness, we do not feel in bondage to Elohim. In fact obeying the Torah is not bondage – it is freedom for us and since Yahshua redeemed us from our past sins, it is the road to eternal life. Baruch HaShem YHVH!

¹³ Acts 26: 15 – 18: ***“And I said, ‘Who art Thou Master?’ And the Master said, “I am Yahshua whom you are persecuting. But arise, and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; delivering you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles to whom I am sending you, to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to Elohim, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.’ The inheritance we as returning Israelites receive through faith in Messiah, is to become heirs of Abraham.***

Chapter 4: Why are some people hell-bent, even with knowledge of the truth?

Those of us who have been teaching Elohim's people for more than ten years, often get despondent when we realize that either not all of those whom we taught understand the seriousness of our quest for the kingdom of Elohim, or they are hell-bent to self-destruct even with knowledge of the truth? Some left the churches of the world and have been playing 'church' in small groups or on their own so long, that they have totally forgotten the seriousness of our call to come out of the churches of the world to follow YHVH and His way.

It is similar to today's youth culture that has gone mad, where there are no bounds to what young people will do any longer. Take for example body piercing: it has progressed from earrings for ladies, to earrings for men, to multiple piercing for both men and woman in literally every part of the body; the tongue, the nose, eyebrows, lips, cheeks, naval, breasts and even the things you do not want to know about. Tattooing, something that is specifically prohibited in the Scriptures (Leviticus 19: 28), is done in the same progression to the extremes. The forbidden are what attract people. They are so confused and rebellious that they even worship Satan. But that is not the end of these bizarre stories. There are those who are known as 'bug-chasers' who go all out to be infected with the AIDS virus. For them this is the ultimate sexual experience. Then there are the 'self-mutilators'. These are young people who purposely cut their bodies with knives or razors to get relief from emotional conflict. Physical pain and the sight of oneself bleeding become solutions due to their ability to overpower the strength of those feelings. It usually begins with feelings of anger, pain or anxiety. When such an individual becomes overwhelmed with one of the emotions mentioned he/she will knock something over or throw an object against the wall or floor. If this does not help, such an individual will plunge his/her fist into a wall or closed window, or even bang his/her head against a wall. A self-mutilator is ashamed of the mental pain that he/she experiences and cannot describe the feeling to others. It seems that such a person has found that physical pain can be a cure for emotional pain.

What is the cause of today's weird youth culture that has gone mad? The answer is found in Ephesians 6: 12, as follows: ***'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.'*** Mankind's history is full of times and places, when something sweeps over a particular society. People are drawn to this something, as into a vacuum, into societies that have lost their way, and have listened to the voice of deceitful leaders and philosophies. We know that in the 1940's an evil spirit swept over Germany, leading to terrible crimes against millions of Jews and other people who were considered undesirables. We have seen similar things happening in Africa during the past 10 – 20 years. We have also seen the spread of the maniacal jihad suicide cult that is attracting thousands of Muslims. The cause of all this is nothing other than peer pressure, going a bit further like a mass hypnosis, where large numbers of people adopt the same bizarre mindset, practices or beliefs at the same time. It is in fact the spiritual possession of society, considered ripe for rebellion against YHVH. It may almost be compared with the number of people who are today being called by YHVH to consider their so-called Hebrew roots, except that this is the exact opposite. It is in fact Satan who is the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience, as per Ephesians 2: 2. When I was young we used to say that cocktail parents have ducktail children. Immediately following the Second World War, our parents became more aware of recreational activities, than their parents ever were. They held fancy parties, serving the best of food and a variety of cocktails. Dancing, drinking and partying were the craze – to help them forget the horrors and shortages that the war caused. Some of those parents eventually became alcoholics and divorce was rampant during the fifties and sixties. We, their children grew up in the so-called ducktail era of the sixties. The rebellion that we see today is against the entire society or the children of the 1960's, a time which birthed free sex, drugs and rock and roll.

There are no more heroes and even the elected leaders are criminals and/or sex-offenders. Not many westerners who have been around for some time can forget the escapades of Bill Clinton and his secretary a decade or so back. In South Africa, we have the likes of Jacob Zuma, who is alleged to have embezzled millions from the arms deal with a European nation, was accused of rape and built a luxury housing compound for him and his eight wives and many children using state money, even though he is only an elected official. These escapades of our 'leaders' have everything to do with the explosion of the sex and drug adventures in our schools in the western world. The lying politicians, our school system and society are responsible for what is happening to our children. Very little have changed - we are simply going from bad to worse. It reminds me of wise words written by a Greek slave and fable author Aesop who lived from 620 BC to 560 BC, stating: **"We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office."** Our children are rebelling and the insane hell-bent culture of today, are waiting in the wings to welcome them with open arms. What has arisen out of the pits of today's world is the same ageless rebellious spirit now indwelling many people 'freed' from Elohim and His laws by Churchianity. Why might you ask? The same reason as always: **So that they can be their own gods and make up their own rules.** In the past, even if parents were imperfect or corrupt, their children still had a reasonable chance of growing up correctly, because the rest of society still more or less reflected Judeo-Christian values. The child could bond with a teacher, a minister of religion, a mentor or organization that could provide stability and a healthy direction. But, because of the corrupt, hell-bent society in which we live, if parents fail to guide and protect their children today, our youngsters get swallowed up by the child-molesting monster called culture.

So far we have spoken in the most about the young people of today. But what about the average citizen of South Africa, the United States of America or any other western nation? We read in Ezekiel 22: 26 about modern day Churchianity as follows: **"Her priests have done violence to My law and have profaned My Set-apart things; they have made no distinction between the Set-apart and the profane, and they have not taught the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they hide their eyes from My Sabbaths, and I am profaned among them."** Everything near and dear to our Father YHVH is being changed and profaned. Even in so-called Christian nations, you name a Torah command and the people will do the opposite. It is like when you tell a child not to smoke since it is detrimental to his/her health and he/she will go right ahead and start smoking. Almost everyone today wants to be the master of his own destiny. We do not want to be told what to do by anyone. We have become so self-reliant that we believe in ourselves, only. Our Father, who is the Creator of all that exists, made things like the Sabbath and kosher foods, specifically for us. However, humanity prefers to establish standards of their own. They have changed the Sabbath to either Friday or Sunday, depending on which so-called deity they follow (i.e. either Allah or Jesus). What about those of us who refer to ourselves Nazarene Jews/Israelites? Are we totally happy with following YHVH, or are we also making changes to reflect our superior intellect. There are groups of like-minded believers in the United States of America and here in South Africa, who are using the exact phases of the moon quoting the time of sunset, moonset, and conjunction around the time when the first crescent of the moon becomes visible every month and use such information to determine the timing of their Holy Day calendar. They believe this to be more correct than the Hebrew calendar ordained by Elohim in the Scriptures. A case in point is the Day of Atonement specified in Leviticus 23: 27, for example, we are told: **"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 and offering by fire to YHVH."** These folk insist that their calculations are far superior to that of the Hebrew calendar established when the Sanhedrin still existed many years ago.

However, the quoted section in Leviticus is essentially saying that the Day of Atonement can only be on one specific day of the year, and not when we want it to be. How many refuse to accept the Scriptural authority in both the Tanach and the renewed Covenant that Judah is Elohim's lawgiver (in Psalms 60: 7 and Romans 3: 1 – 2). Instead many choose to put their own thumb print on things. They want to specify how and when to worship their G-d, despite Yahshua saying to us in John 5: 46 – 47, ***“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?”*** Do we believe the word of Elohim, or are we contradicting our only Master as we are warned about in Jude 4, as follows: ***‘For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our Elohim into licentiousness (permissiveness) and deny (contradict) our only Master and Adonai, Yahshua Messiah.’*** The word deny here is translated from the Greek word ‘arneomai’ which can also mean ‘contradicting’. We are warned about dishonoring our Father's name, by ensuring that we keep His Feast Days at the times ordained by Him through the Levites who are amongst the Jews in Malachi 2: 1 – 8¹⁴. Do we follow and obey what Yahshua taught and did whilst He was on earth, or not? We need to recall that Yahshua our Messiah was both circumcised and immersed when He was about 30 years of age. Do we follow His example, or do we say that it is not necessary any longer, like Churchianity does. We read Yahshua's teachings when He expounded Torah to His disciples in Matthew 7: 21 – 24, saying: ***“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Master, Master,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. (22) Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Master, Master, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in your name perform many miracles?’ (23) And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’ (24) Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock.”*** The underlined section means that we should build our faith on Messiah, the Rock of our salvation, and not on Peter (Greek – Petros: meaning a stone), like the Roman Catholics and some Assemblies/congregations of YHVH and like-minded groups do, when they determine their own ‘more correct’ calendars to keep Elohim's Feast Days.

Ask yourself: Do you listen to the word of YHVH (Yahshua), when He says that we should follow the Pharisees and do what they tell us to do, but not do according to their deeds in Matthew 23: 1 – 3, or do you contradict Him? When studying the Scriptures we will soon realize that Yahshua promised to return on Yom Teruah or the Feast of Trumpets one year in the near future. We see from a prophecy about the timing of His return in Zechariah 12: 9 - 14 that our Jewish Brothers will be in their synagogues on that important Day keeping Rosh Hashanah, with their ladies sitting separate from their men, as follows: ***“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. (11) In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo. (12) And***

¹⁴ Malachi 2: 1 – 8: ***“And now, this commandment is for you, O priests. If you do not listen, and if you do not take it to heart to give honor to My name, says YHVH of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings; and indeed, I have cursed them already, because you are not taking it to heart. Behold, I am going to rebuke your offspring, and I will spread refuse on your faces, the refuse of your feasts; and you will be taken away with it. Then you will know that I have sent this commandment to you, that My covenant may continue with Levi, says YHVH of hosts. My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him as an object of reverence; so he revered Me, and stood in awe of My name. True instruction was in his mouth, and unrighteousness was not found on his lips; he walked with Me in peace and uprightness and he turned many back from iniquity. For the lips of a priest should preserve knowledge and men should seek instruction from his mouth; for he is the messenger of YHVH of hosts. But as for you, you have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble by the instruction, you have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says YHVH of hosts.”***

the land will mourn, every family by itself; the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; (13) the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the Shimeites by itself, and their wives by themselves; (14) all the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves." The question we need to ask: are we also going to be celebrating the Feast of Trumpets on that very day, or will we keep it according to a calendar that is 'more accurate' than that of the Jews? Rav Shaul also remarked on this event where he tells us that in that day when Yahshua returns and our Jewish Brothers accept Him as their Messiah, the dead in Messiah will be resurrected in Romans 11: 15, saying: ***'For if their rejection be reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?'*** Rav Shaul completes the picture for us in 1 Thessalonians 4: 13 – 16, saying: ***'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 the Master, 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 an archangel, and with the trumpet of Elohim; and the dead in Messiah shall rise first.'*** After reading these Scriptural evidences in your own Scriptures, are you still in two minds about which calendar to follow?

It is true, this is something I taught recently, but, need I remind you that we as Nazarene Israelites learn by repetition as indeed all people do. That is why we read the annual Torah portions over yearly and also why we keep the Feast Days of YHVH our Elohim from year to year, until Yahshua our Messiah's return to rule us from Jerusalem. I pray that even though most of us were taught and followed false doctrines for many years that we repent and return to full Torah observance. Let us follow the pattern that we were taught for many years i.e. do Torah, and then learn Torah. This is the lesson of tefillin: tefillin are bound on the left arm (since it is close to the heart) and then on the forehead. If we do it the other way round, we will try and work things out with our own intelligence, before we start doing it. The problem with most are that despite the fact that they call themselves Nazarene/Messianic or even Christian, they do not follow the one whose name they use, and obey His teachings. Many do not even know what sin is. An example is the idea of many in Churchianity thinks that the drinking of alcoholic beverages is sin. Yet in Deuteronomy 14: 26 we read (paraphrased), that we may spend our annual Festival Tithes at the Feast of Tabernacles, on whatever our heart desire; oxen, sheep, wine or strong drink. O yes, I may even buy double distilled Jameson Irish Whiskey, if I so desire. But, I don't, since I prefer not to drink other than a little wine at the Passover and since my diabetic condition does not allow for it. Sin is the transgression of the Torah commands of YHVH. Drinking alcoholic beverages is not sin, unless we overdo it and get drunk. Drunkards and other sinners will not make it into the kingdom of Elohim, as we see in 1 Corinthians 6: 9 & 10, in this way: ***'Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of Elohim? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, (10) nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of Elohim.'*** My point is: Do we have double standards. If we do, then our children will also have double standards. It is only by being a genuinely caring and loving parent, who does not compromise when it comes to the Torah of YHVH that we are giving our children the best chance possible to not follow every new craze or culture that is going around. This will also ensure their success and the blessings of YHVH as it says in Exodus 20: 6, as follows: ***"but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."***

But, let's get to the reason why Churchianity and even some of the people that Elohim called out of the churches of the world, are going contrary to what our heavenly Father require of us in His word, the Scriptures. Initially Christianity was a counterfeit of Nazarene Judaism mentioned in Acts 24: 5 &

14, and people could not easily identify it as a counterfeit of the real thing. However, with the passing of time it became easy to identify it from the truth, by the many pagan practices, such as Xmas and Easter, which they adopted from pagan groups. Even so, Satan does not sleep and he has since Yahshua's death, resurrection and ascension to heaven introduced other counterfeit religions, close to Nazarene Judaism, and as with Christianity, his overriding motive remains Anti-Semitism. These dear folk are doing a fantastic job; in that they preach for the remnant of the lost ten tribes to come out of the Babylonian false religion represented by Christianity. However, we need to be careful of those who lead people from one counterfeit into another, because of anti-Semitism. We know from the Scriptures that in the latter days, immediately prior to Messiah's return, a remnant of the lost ten tribe nation of Israel, will again unite with Judah, as we read from Ezekiel 37: 15 – 28. Do these people not understand what Rav Shaul is saying in Romans 11? Yes, our Jewish Brothers are presently blinded to the identity of Yahshua, but few realize that YHVH has done the blinding to allow those of us from the lost ten tribes to return to the covenant He made with our forefathers, ancient Israel at Mount Sinai. It is for this reason that Rav Shaul writes in verses 25 – 29 of Romans 11, saying: ***'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 Israel (meaning Jewish Israel) until the fullness of the Gentiles (those of the lost ten tribes, who used to believe that they are Gentiles, plus a few real Gentiles) has come in; (26) and thus all Israel (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 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; (29) for the gifts and the calling of Elohim are irrevocable.'***

Our Jewish brothers are the most hated and maligned people on the earth, yet YHVH says through Zachariah in verse 23 of Chapter 8, ***"Thus says YHVH of hosts, 'In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that Elohim is with you.'"*** Unless and until we the remnant of the lost ten tribes understand that the Jews have the Oracles as far as determining the timing of Elohim's Feast Days (as we read from Romans 9: 4) – and unless we realize that even if the Jews were unfaithful, YHVH remains faithful and cannot lie. It is much like when they quote Yahshua's words in Matthew 5: 17 – 19, stating that He did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to make it more binding, they never quote verse 20. As a Nazarene Israelites (or watchmen) we are according to Isaiah 58: 1, responsible to warn fellow believers, so that per chance those who are deceived by people who are so blinded by anti-Semitism, that they cannot understand what Rav Shaul wrote, be stirred to return to the way of Elohim, and put an end to their blatant anti-Semitism. We may argue as much as we want, but the Scriptures tell us that the Jews have the Oracles of Elohim. They preserved the Hebrew language, the Torah, including the Sabbath and annual Feast Days of YHVH for us – as well as the timing of these Set-apart Days. Yes, some of them did not believe, but their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of Elohim (as is recorded in Romans 3: 3 & 4). The problem is that these folk do not ever read or quote verses 3 & 4. We see that YHVH is pleased with the Feast Days that they keep in Nahum 1: 15, as follows: ***'Behold, on the mountains the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace! "Celebrate your feasts, O Judah; Pay your vows. For never again will the wicked one pass through you; He is cut off completely."*** We need to make sure that we do not twist the Scriptures to suit our own agenda, as we read in 2 Timothy 2: 15, ***'Be diligent (use your time to study) to present yourself approved to Elohim as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.'*** We read about the coming Day of YHVH from 2 Thessalonians 2: 3, in this way: ***'Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.'*** Don't let people lie to you about what sin is. Sin is the transgression of the law or lawlessness, as may be seen in 1 John 3: 4. Despite this Churchianity teaches heresies such as:

- “Just believe and you will be saved.” – Yet in James 2: 24 we read: ***‘You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone.’*** O, yes we are saved by grace, but we prove our love to our Father, by keeping His commandments as Rav Yochanan wrote in 1 John 5: 2 & 3, saying: ***‘By this we know that we love the children of Elohim, when we love Elohim and observe His commandments. (3) For this is the love of Elohim, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.’***
- ‘The commandments were nailed to the cross.’ – Yet in Colossians 2: 14 we read: ***‘having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.’*** It was not the law that was nailed to the cross, but our certificate of debt, that was nailed to the cross.
- ‘YHVH knows what I mean when I call him by names like G-d.’ In Exodus 23: 13 we read: ***“Now concerning everything which I have said to you, be on your guard; and do not mention the name of other gods, nor let them be heard from your mouth.”*** We also read from Isaiah 52: 6, ***“Therefore My people shall know My name; therefore in that day I am the one who is speaking, ‘Here I am.’”***

We read from Romans 8: 2, ***‘For the law of the Spirit of life in Messiah Yahshua has set you free from the law of sin and death.’*** Yes, Yahshua set us free from the penalty of sin, which is eternal death, but He definitely did not abolish the Torah, since it can never be abolished, as Rav Shaul wrote in the first part of Romans 7: 14, saying: ***‘For we know that the Law is spiritual.’*** Being made free from sin, we have become servants of righteousness, as we read in Romans 6: 18, ***‘and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.’*** Yes, my fellow believer, we establish the law through faith, as we read in Romans 3: 31, in this way: ***‘Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.’*** In Galatians 4: 3 we read: ***‘So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world.’*** This does not say ‘in bondage under the law’ or does it? When we read in the second part of Galatians 4: 9 ***‘turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?’*** It shows clearly that this does not mean the Torah, but the lifestyle that we followed before coming into the truth. The Laws of Elohim and the penalty that we earn by breaking the Law, i.e. sin and death are two different things. We read accordingly in Galatians 3: 13 ***“Messiah redeemed us from the curse (penalty) of the Law, having become a curse for us – for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.’”*** We have been made free from the penalty of the Law. Yes, the Torah of YHVH is for us and is to be used to bring us to life through Yahshua our Messiah. If we now read Colossians 2: 20 – 22 we understand it much better: ***‘If you have died with Messiah to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, (21) “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!” (22) (which all refer to things destined to perish with the using) – in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?’*** If we are immersed in Messiah Yahshua’s name, we have died with Him to the elementary principles of the world. In addition we see in verse 22 that verse 21 is not talking about the Torah, which tells us not to touch the unclean. Verse 21 is talking about manmade laws of some groups; who insist that we should only eat fish, instead of meat on Fridays and laws which forbid priests to marry.

There is a lot of talk about ‘state capture’ in South Africa, since a major portion of the members of the ruling party have been ‘captured’ or more correctly bribed to do according to the dictates of a now well-known family that recently moved here from India. However, the house of Israel has similarly been held captive for the past 1800 years by Esau or more specifically the Roman Catholic Church and her Christian daughters. The problem with Churchianity is that Satan has deceived the whole world, and very few people are truly aware of our captivity. It is also for this reason that Yahshua advised Yochanan who wrote down the visions Yahshua showed him in the book of Revelation and specifically in Revelation 18: 4 & 5 saying: ***“Come out of her, my people, that you***

may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues; (5) for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and Elohim has remembered her iniquities.” We need to keep the commandments of YHVH and believe that Yahshua made us free from the penalty of breaking the commandments in the past, by dying in our place on His execution tree. We further read Rav Shaul’s advice to believers in Romans 2: 13 and 23, saying: ***‘For not the hearers of the Law are just before Elohim, but the doers of the Law will be justified.’*** (23) ***‘You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor Elohim?’*** Are those who teach people to keep feasts according to calendars of their own design¹⁵ or pagan¹⁶ festivals, not dishonoring YHVH our Elohim? Let us therefore strive to fulfill the requirements of the law, as is recorded in Romans 8: 4, ***‘in order that the requirements of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.’***

Let us also with renewed zeal study and apply Torah in accordance with the way Yahshua taught and lived and as preserved for us by our Jewish Brothers, so that we may not be easily deceived, as Rav Shaul inspired us in Ephesians 4: 14, saying: ***‘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.’*** But, most of all let us heed Rav Shaul’s warning in Hebrews 10: 23 – 28, as follows: ***‘Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; (24) and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, (25) not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near. (26) 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 carefully about it!

¹⁵ *Feast Days at the incorrect times as mentioned before in Malachi 2: 1 – 8 (quoted earlier).*

¹⁶ *Such as: Xmas, Easter and Sunday services.*

Chapter 5: Why is Messiah's resurrection of utmost importance to us?

The resurrection of Yahshua Messiah is central to the lives and objectives of His followers, and ultimately also the whole human race. Unless there is a resurrection of the dead, there is no such thing as eternal life. The Scriptures inform us in Hebrews 9: 27, stating: ***'it is appointed for men to die once.'*** But it also shows in 1 Corinthians 15: 22 – 24 that we will all be resurrected to life, but each in his own order, as follows: ***'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 fruits, 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.'*** However, it all begins with Yahshua Messiah.

At this point in time the only resurrection to eternal life has been that of our Savior, Yahshua Messiah. The first Scriptural record of Yahshua's death and resurrection was written 6,000 years ago, about 4,000 years before Messiah's birth. In Genesis 3: 15 Elohim pronounced judgment against Satan, who had subtly enticed Adam and Eve to disobey YHVH their Creator, saying: ***"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed (meaning Messiah, since a woman does not have seed); He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."*** The 'Seed' of the woman would bruise Satan's head – putting a permanent end to his influence over mankind, and Satan would 'bruise him on the heel': i.e. bring about Messiah's crucifixion. But, ironically enough, Yahshua's crucifixion and resurrection, makes eternal life possible for us. Messiah's death on the stake makes possible the forgiveness of our sins and our reconciliation with Elohim. But that is only the first step in Elohim's plan to save humanity. Through Messiah's resurrection to eternal life about 2,000 years ago, we, through our own resurrection, can also receive eternal life. Just as Elohim commanded that the harvest in ancient Israel could not begin until He accepted the wave-sheaf offering, so the harvesting of mankind could not begin until Yahshua Messiah was accepted by the Father. Yahshua was represented by the male lamb without blemish in Leviticus 23: 12, which was symbolic of Messiah's sinless state. He was also represented as the fine flour mixed with oil in Leviticus 23: 13, symbolic of the beating and scourging through which He was perfected. The accompanying hin of wine also mentioned in Leviticus 23: 13, was symbolic of Messiah's blood to pay the penalty for our sins, as confirmed in 1 John 1: 7, as follows: ***'But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Yahshua His Son cleanses us from all sin.'*** According to Jewish Encyclopedia.com the wave sheaf mentioned in Leviticus 23: 10 & 11 was cut off prior to the 16th of Aviv and therefore had to be on the 14th of Aviv, the day before the first annual Sabbath (or First Day of Unleavened Bread) on the 15th of Aviv, to be waived by the Priest in the evening of the Second Day of Unleavened Bread on the 16th of Aviv. In similar way was the first Passover kept in Egypt in the evening of the 14th Aviv, thus saving the first-born of Israel from the angel of death that same night, as all the first-born in Egypt died. The Israelites left Egypt in the light of the full moon in the evening of 15th Aviv and forty seven days from the next evening (erev 16 Aviv) the Israelites arrived at Mount Sinai in the 3rd Month on the same day, meaning the 3rd Day (as per Exodus 19: 1). Moses instructed the people to consecrate themselves for the next two days; to wash their clothes and refrain from marital relations during the next two days and be ready on the third day, the 6th day of Sivan, when Elohim gave Moses the Commandments, ordinances and judgments on Mount Sinai. This was exactly fifty days after the second day of unleavened bread, and is even today the day on which the Feast of Weeks or Shavuot is celebrated according to the Hebrew calendar.

Yahshua was killed as the Passover Lamb on the 14th Aviv, when He was impaled at about 9 o'clock in the morning. At about 12 o'clock until 3 o'clock in the afternoon darkness fell over the whole land, as testified in Luke 23: 44 & 45, as follows: ***'And it was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour, (45) the sun being obscured; and the veil of the temple was torn in two.'*** This is when Yahshua died (or was cut off) as prophesied in Daniel 9: 26 & 27, in

this way: ***“Then after 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; desolation 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 sacrifice and grain offering.”*** Yahshua died as the Passover Lamb, but was also offered as the wave sheaf (or grain) offering on the impalement stake before YHVH, as witnessed in verse 46 of Luke 23, crying out in a loud voice He said: ***“Father, INTO THY HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.”*** ***And having said this, He breathed His last.*** When the veil of the Temple was torn in two, Yahshua’s death atoned for the sins of whoever believes in Him and He was accepted as the first of the first-fruits; to be resurrected three days and three nights later at the end of the weekly Sabbath as the first-born from the dead. We read accordingly from Romans 5: 6, ***‘For while we were still helpless, at the right time Messiah died for the ungodly’***, so that they could be given salvation in Elohim’s Kingdom and the harvest of humanity for eternal life could begin. If we as first-fruits offered at Shavuot as two leavened loaves of bread are accepted, we will be born again at Messiah’s return, when we will be resurrected or changed as per 1 Corinthians 15: 51 & 52, as follows: ***‘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.’***

According to Romans 8: 11, Messiah’s resurrection provides us with hope that Elohim’s Set-apart Spirit, given us at immersion will also give life to our mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells us. The Scriptures clearly reveal that certain of the personalities in the Tanach had this same hope. The patriarch Job knew Elohim’s plan for man after death. He lived and died knowing that he would eventually be resurrected, as witnessed in Job 14: 10 – 14, in this way: ***“But man dies and lies prostrate. Man expires, and where is he? (11) As water evaporates from the sea, and a river becomes parched and dried up, (12) so man lies down and does not rise. Until the heavens be no more, he will not awake nor be aroused out of his sleep. (13) Oh that Thou wouldst hide me in Sheol, that Thou wouldst conceal me until Thy wrath returns to Thee, that Thou wouldst set a limit for me and remember me! (14) If a man dies, will he live again? All the days of my struggle I will wait, until my change comes.”*** Job knew he would be resurrected, but until then he would wait in his grave until his ‘change comes’ – from physical to spiritual, from mortal to immortal, as explained in 1 Corinthians 15: 53 & 54, as follows: ***‘For the 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.’*** We read further about his understanding in Job 19: 26 & 27, where he wrote: ***“Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see Elohim; (27) Whom I myself shall behold, and Whom my eyes shall see and not another. My heart faints within me.”*** This was Job’s hope as it is also ours – eternal life which Elohim, who cannot lie, promised before time began, as recorded in Titus 1: 2. Rav Shaul told the Roman officials who questioned him about his beliefs in Acts 24: 14 & 15, saying: ***“But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the Elohim of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law, and that is written in the prophets; (15) having a hope in Elohim, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.”*** If Yahshua had not been resurrected, we would have no hope of living forever. But we have the assurance that Elohim, through Messiah, will resurrect all who have ever died.

But as Rav Shaul testified in Acts 24 that there will be more than one resurrection. Rav Yochanan wrote of a vision he received from Yahshua Messiah in Revelation 20: 4, stating: ***‘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.’*** Here

we see a group of those who have been faithful to Messiah given thrones, authority and rulership with Yahshua for 1,000 years. These are the ones described in 1 Thessalonians 4: 16, as follows: ***'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.'*** Continuing with Yochanan's description of events accompanying Messiah's return, he writes in Revelation 20: 6, saying: ***'Blessed and holy is the one who has 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.'*** Notice that Rav Yochanan calls this the first resurrection; if there is the first resurrection, then obviously there is more than one resurrection. Yochanan goes on to tell us in verse 5, saying: ***'The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed.'*** This is the second resurrection, a bringing back to physical life that will take place at the conclusion of the Millennium rule of Messiah.

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. First fruits are that part of a crop that is harvested around the Feast of First Fruits in the land of Israel. 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. It is obvious that not everyone is now being called. Billions of people have been born, lived and died, without ever hearing the name of Yahshua the Messiah once, let alone obeying Him. Not even all those who heard the Savior speak were being called at that time. In fact YHVH does not want to save all at this time as 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, ***'And opening his mouth, Kepha said: "I most certainly understand now that Elohim is not one to show partiality.'*** 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?

We read further from John 12: 37 – 40: ***'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, "YHVH, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM HAS THE ARM OF YHVH 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*** (to the fact that Yahshua Messiah is the right hand and holy arm of Elohim through whom He created the heavens and the earth, as confirmed in Jeremiah 32: 17¹⁷), ***AND I HEAL THEM"*** This is a hard saying to some, especially in light of what we read in 2 Peter 3: 9: ***'YHVH 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. (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 -- how could Elohim purposely blind some, and at the same time not be willing that any should perish? We must also not forget that most of the ones spoken about here are

¹⁷ Jeremiah 32: 17, ***'Ah, Adonai 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'***

already dead and buried. 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: ***‘YHVH 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 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.’*** 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 Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; (26) and thus all Israel will be saved (even those who now think they are Gentiles); 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!’***

According to John 1: 1 – 3 & 14, Yahshua was the word of Elohim before He became the Son of Man, as follows: ***‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with Elohim, and the Word was Elohim. (2) He was in the beginning with Elohim. (3) All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. (14) And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we behold His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.’*** In confirmation with what we read in verse 3 above, we also read from Psalm 33: 6, ***‘By the word of YHVH the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host.’*** Because many are not familiar with Messiah’s main purpose to bring the lost sheep of the house of Israel back to the covenant they made with Elohim, together with the house of Judah at Mount Sinai, they do not understand the relationship between our heavenly Father and Him as the Son of Man being One! It was for this reason that we read from Isaiah 53: 1, ***‘Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of YHVH been revealed?’*** Even though the fact that Yahshua became known as the Son of Man and later after He was resurrected from the dead, as the Son of Elohim, it does not in any way change the concept of YHVH our Elohim, being the One and only YHVH, a fact which the house of Judah believed to be undisputable, and rightly so. However, the reason for their strong stance on this point is both the fact that He only came for the house of Israel as He told the Canaanite woman who asked Him to heal her demon-possessed daughter in Matthew 15: 24¹⁸ and that are presently blinded to Messiah’s identity.

Let’s at this point explain the Son’ship of Yahshua to remove any doubt from the fact that as the arm of, or word of YHVH He will always be part of the one and only Elohim, despite many who do not understand the concept. The fact that somehow we as Nazarene Israelites came to understand these truths, is simply because Yahshua revealed it to us, as He confirmed in Luke 10: 21 – 24, in this way: ***‘At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Set-apart Spirit, and said, “I praise Thee, O Father, Adonai of heaven and earth, that Thou dost 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***

¹⁸ Matthew 15: 24, ***‘But He (Yahshua) answered and said, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’***

Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.” (23) **And turning to His 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 which you hear, and did not hear them.”**” Yahshua otherwise known as Emanuel (or Elohim with us) is YHVH in the flesh, even though many stumble over Him as both the foundation and cornerstone of the congregation of Elohim, as Yahshua also told the chief priest and the elders in the Temple in Matthew 21: 42 saying to them: **“Did you never read in the Scriptures, ‘THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone; THIS CAME ABOUT FROM YHVH AND IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES?’”** Yahshua became the Son of Man so that those members of the lost sheep of the house of Israel whom YHVH calls out of the churches of the world, could have a kinsman redeemer from the commonwealth of Israel, but specifically from the house of Judah who remained loyal to YHVH and His Torah, who redeemed their piece of the Promised Land which they lost, the same way Boaz redeemed Ruth’s (or more specifically her late husband’s) property in accordance with the Torah described in Leviticus 25: 23 – 25, as follows: **“The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are but aliens and sojourners with Me. (24) Thus for every piece of your property, you are to provide for the redemption of the land. (25) If a fellow countryman of yours becomes so poor he has to sell part of his property, then his nearest kinsman is to come and buy back what his relative has sold.”** Yes, Yahshua’s death redeemed us from our past sins, but in dying He also bought back our piece of the Promised Land that we lost because of idolatry.

After Messiah’s death He became the Son of Elohim through the resurrection, as we read 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 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 Adonai.’** He became the first born from the dead (as per Colossians 1: 18¹⁹) to show us by example how we can one day at His return be born-again as sons and daughters of Elohim, as Rav Shaul also taught in Romans 8: 28 & 29, saying: **‘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.’** Once Yahshua has succeeded in bringing the two houses of Israel together at His return, He will remarry His bride consisting of both houses as we read from Jeremiah 31: 31 – 34, as follows: **“Behold, days are coming,” declares YHVH, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, (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 YHVH. (33) But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares YHVH, “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.”** Then will come about what we read about in Ezekiel 37: 21 - 24, in this way: **“And say to them, ‘Thus says Adonai 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**

¹⁹ Colossians 1: 18, **‘He is also the head of the body, the congregation; and He is the beginning, the first-form from the dead so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.’**

ordinances, and keep My statutes, and observe them.” At that time the commonwealth of Israel will as Elohim’s model nation start showing the rest of mankind how living the way of Elohim, will be to the benefit of all nations.

But, what about the rest of Mankind who are not saved during the first resurrection? 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 only respond once they have had a real opportunity to understand the Scriptures. Note that even the perverts of Sodom will find it more tolerable in the Day of Judgment, compared to those in Capernaum who personally knew and rejected Yahshua. The reason is that they 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. These people, who have been dead for thousands of years, are going to be resurrected in the second resurrection and be judged at that time. We read 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 YHVH Elohim will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For YHVH has spoken.’** When will the veil which is over all nations be destroyed? When will death be swallowed up? Obviously only after the Day of Judgment. 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. If these innumerable formerly blinded people are simply judged by their works, many of them who were thieves, prostitutes, dictators and false prophets will perish in the lake of fire. They did not ever repent and were not immersed as we are instructed 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 Elohim’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 of the Feast described in Leviticus 23: 36 is all about. The prophet Daniel prophesied about that time in Daniel 12: 2, saying: **“And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.”** Yahshua Himself compared death with sleep. Before the resurrection of a young girl in Luke 8: 52, He comforted those who were grieving by saying, **“Stop weeping, for she has not died, but is asleep.”** He similarly compared the death of Lazarus to sleep before Lazarus was brought to life in John 11: 11 – 14, in this way: **‘This He said, and after that He said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, that I may awaken him out of**

sleep.” (12) *The disciples therefore said to Him, “Master, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover. (13) Now Yahshua had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep. (14) Then Yahshua therefore said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.”* Elohim’s plan for human life and our goal is for us eventually to be changed into spirit, shining as the stars forever, as witnessed in Daniel 12: 3, as follows: *“And those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”* We are destined to be part of Elohim’s family, to be Spirit, as He is Spirit, as we read from 1 John 3: 2 & 3, in this way: *‘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 be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. (3) And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.’* In Elohim’s plan, the resurrection to eternal life of all those who desire this gift can come only through a resurrected Yahshua Messiah. Otherwise the remainder would never experience everlasting life. Rav Shaul explains this in detail in 1 Corinthians 15: 12 – 21, saying: *‘Now if Messiah is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? (13) But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Messiah has been raised; (14) and if Messiah has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. (15) Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of Elohim, because we witnessed against Elohim that He raised Messiah, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. (16) For if the dead are not raised not even Messiah has been raised; (17) and if Messiah has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. (18) Then those also who have fallen asleep in Messiah have perished. (19) If we have hoped in Messiah in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. (20) But now Messiah has been raised from the dead, the first fruit(s) of those who are asleep. (21) For since by man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead.’*

Our resurrection to eternal life is firmly based on a resurrected Messiah. As He lives (even after His death), so we will live, as we read from Hebrews 6: 17 – 20, in this way: *“In the same way Elohim, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, (18) in order that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for Elohim to lie, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us. (19) This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, (20) where Yahshua has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.’* But what about the irredeemable wicked? Scriptures show that the wicked will also wake up during the second resurrection. All human beings will ultimately either receive life forever or be destroyed forever. Those who stubbornly refuse to repent will be consumed by fire. Their resurrection is for a negative reason, but for the believer with spiritual understanding, it also serves as a sobering warning: The fate of the irredeemable wicked is a reminder that we have entered into a serious covenant with Elohim through Yahshua Messiah. Once we set our hearts and minds on Elohim, we must never turn back to the wicked ways of this evil world. Finally we need to remember that Elohim does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked as witnessed in Ezekiel 18: 23, as follows: *“Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked,” declares YHVH Elohim, ‘rather than that he should turn from his ways and live?’* Think about it!

Chapter 6: What is prophesied to happen next?

Those of us from the lost ten tribes of Israel who discovered our identity as part of the commonwealth of Israel, the people with whose forefathers YHVH the Elohim of Israel made a covenant at Mount Sinai, fifty days after leading them out of the land of Egypt by the hand of Moses, about 3500 years ago, should be most grateful. Over a little more than a century ago a number of people in Great Britton and the USA discovered the identity of the lost ten tribes of Israel and as trailblazers started teaching those they got interested in these truths to start observing the Sabbaths of Elohim given in Leviticus 23 and Deuteronomy 16 and also started eating meat from animals declared kosher according to Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14. In addition our Jewish Brothers also revealed the same truths about the missing ten tribes of Israel about 25 – 30 years ago when Yair Davidiy and others in Israel published a number of books on the subject.

At this time the two houses of Israel are two separate and distinct groups of people. However, despite being two separate entities they remain bound to the calling which they inherited from Jacob, to be a chosen nation of kings and priests. But, we are given the two house truth in Isaiah 8: 14, as follows: ***“Then He shall become a sanctuary; but to both the houses of Israel, a stone to strike and a rock to stumble over, and a snare and a trap for the inhabitants of Jerusalem.”*** As long as Israel and Judah stumble and take offense over the One who is their Rock, they will remain two separate entities. Today, the house of Judah is made up of Jews who have been preserved by Almighty YHVH and never lost their identity. On the other hand the house of Ephraim, which was sown into the nations of the world has become the fullness of nations, as Jacob said in Genesis 48: 19, in this way: ***“I know, my son, I know; he also shall become a people and he also shall be great. However, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations.”*** The Olive tree mentioned in Romans 11, is the same olive tree planted by YHVH in Jeremiah 11: 16 & 17, as follows: ***‘YHVH called your name “A green olive tree, beautiful in fruit and form”; with the noise of a great tumult He has kindled fire on it, and its branches are worthless. (17) And YHVH of hosts, who planted you, has pronounced evil against you because of the evil of the house of Israel and of the house of Judah, which they have done to provoke Me by offering up sacrifices to Baal.’*** The root of the olive tree is Yahshua as seen in Isaiah 11: 10 and Revelation 22: 16. As explained by Rav Shaul in Romans 11 the house of Judah is presently blinded to Yahshua’s identity to allow a remnant of the lost ten tribes who are being called out of mainly Christianity to return to obeying YHVH and His Torah teachings, according to Elohim’s gracious choice (verse 5). They are once again keeping the Feast Days of Elohim, in accordance with the calendar preserved by Judah and are making Judah jealous (verse 11), because they are keeping the same Feast Days with understanding Elohim’s plan of salvation for all mankind. They are studying Torah with a view to clean up their lives of sin and becoming Torah observant, to eventually become acceptable to Brother Judah as worshippers of YHVH and become Jewish in nature. From a portion of the Amidah prayer recited in synagogues every Sabbath, it is clear that our Jewish Brothers are expecting us back, but they believe that we are fully Jewish, meaning that we are completely Torah observant, as can be seen from that portion of the prayer given below:

Blessing of the Ingathering of Exiles – Sound the shofar for our freedom, raise the banner to gather our exiles and gather us together from the four corners of the earth. Blessed are You, YHVH, who gathers in the dispersed of His people of Israel.

It is therefore important that we touch base with them, to determine where we are still lacking. This is after all what is prophesied to start happening during our time as witnessed in Zechariah 8: 23, as follows: ***“Thus says YHVH of hosts, ‘In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment (the tallit to which tzitzit is attached) of a Jew saying, “Let us go with you, for we have heard that Elohim is with you.””*** I believe it is time for us to ask our heavenly Father in prayer to facilitate such meetings with Brother Judah so that we may start cooperating towards our common goal. Our reason for wanting to do so should be Scriptural and therefore obvious to them, since it is

only once all hostility between our two groups are removed, that the Arab hordes around the Jewish nation of Israel in the middle-east will be conquered, as witnessed in Obadiah verses 18 & 19, as follows: **“Then the house of Jacob will be a fire and the house of Joseph a flame; but the house of Esau will be as stubble. And they will set them on fire and consume them, so that there will be no survivor of the house of Esau,” for YHVH has spoken.** (19) **Then those of the Negev** (the south country) **will possess the mountain of Esau, and those of the Shephelah** (the foothills) **the Philistine plain; also, they will possess the territory of Ephraim and the territory of Samaria, and Benjamin will possess Gilead.**’ This is also confirmed in Isaiah 11: 14, in this way: **‘And they will swoop down on the slopes of the Philistines on the west; together they will plunder the sons of the east; they will possess Edom and Moab; and the sons of Ammon will be subject to them.’**

A key to understanding the end time scriptures is to watch for Judah’s lead. Judah never lost their identity, the covenants, and their faith, and has been preserved by YHVH, as He promised through Hosea the prophet in Hosea 1: 7, as follows: **“But I will have compassion on the house of Judah and deliver (save) them by YHVH their Elohim, and will not deliver them by bow, sword, battle, horses or horsemen.”** This is in fact confirmed by Yahshua in Matthew 24, where He told His disciple what world conditions will be like immediately prior to His return, saying in verse 34: **“Truly I say to you, this generation (race) will not pass away until all these things take place.”** We read further about these end time events from Isaiah 11: 12, **‘And He (YHVH) will lift up a standard (Yahshua) for the nations, and will assemble the banished ones of Israel (Ephraim) and will gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth** (this has and is happening since 1948).’ We see also from the first half of Ezekiel 37: 16, that Judah is gathered first, in this way: **“And you, son of man, take for yourself one stick and write on it, ‘For Judah and for the sons of Israel, his companions.”** We also see that since that time the stick of Joseph/Ephraim is also being gathered as we read in the remainder of verse 16 & 17, as follows: **“Then take another stick and write on it, ‘For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and all the house of Israel his companions.’ (17) Then join them for yourself one to another into one stick, that they may become one in your hand.”** We know that Joseph is made up of the English speaking nations of the world, but here we see that the other tribes are also included, when Judah and the 10 lost tribes of Israel will come together in the end of days.

Since the re-establishment of the Jewish nation in the land of Israel in the Middle East, the nations surrounding them were hostile and became more so over time. Because of the aid that nations like the USA and the UK have given the small nation of Israel, the Arab nations have also launched terrorist attacks against them. As a result we are living in a dangerous uncertain world. With war and other catastrophic events looming, it is necessary for us to gain an understanding of the prophetic perspective about to play out in the short time ahead. According to the prophets of the Scriptures, our days are marked with wars and great chaos. However, when we realize that all of this has been predicted before, we can rejoice in the knowledge that our redemption is near. The two houses of Israel will soon be united. We read a prophesy about Yahshua from Hosea 5: 15 – 6: 4 in this way: **‘I will go away and return to My place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face; in their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.’** (Since the beginning of 2009 things started going wrong and the world’s economy is in turmoil; for the first time the predictions that we were warned about during the seventies started happening. During the next few years it will go from bad to worse; so much so that most of those who doubted in the past will turn to Yahshua/YHVH for help.) (1) **“Come let us return to YHVH. 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; He will raise us up on the third day that we may live before Him.** (Yahshua will return after 2000 years and resurrect those who died in Him) (3) **So let us know, let us press on to know YHVH. 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.”** (4) **What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? For your loyalty is like a morning cloud, and like the dew which goes away early.’** We are told here that Yahshua will not return until we, the remnant of

the lost ten tribes has become fully Torah observant. It will only be once we are fully Torah observant that Judah will recognize us as their brother.

This is in agreement with what Yahshua taught in Matthew 5: 17 – 20, as follows: ***“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. (18) For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished. (19) Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (20) For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.”*** The last verse does not say that the scribes and the Pharisees shall not be in the kingdom, but the statement by Yahshua is aimed at us from the lost sheep of the house of Israel, who are more prone to idolatry and lust all sorts of unclean foods. When we observe all the Torah commandments better than the Pharisees, i.e. from the heart; then our Jewish Messiah will return. This is one of the conditions that have to be satisfied before Yahshua will come to cut short the duration of the great tribulation in order to save the lives of the elect. A second condition which Yahshua himself mentioned, was as given in Matthew 24: 14, as follows: ***‘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.’*** Judah cannot rebuild the nation of Israel alone. There might be Jews who believe in their hearts that the lost ten tribes are lost forever and that they will have to rebuild the nation on their own, but there are also Nazarene/Messianic Israelite and likeminded believers such as the Churches of G-d and the Assemblies of YHVH who believe that they will be saved without Brother Judah. But both these groups are mistaken, despite being very sincere.

There are many Scriptural proofs that both Judah and Israel will be saved together, one of which is recorded in Jeremiah 33: 6 - 11, as follows: ***‘Behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them; and I will reveal to them an abundance of peace and truth. (7) And I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and I will rebuild them as they were at first. (8) And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against Me, and I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have sinned against Me, and by which they have transgressed against Me. (9) And it shall be to Me a name of joy, praise, and glory before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear of all the good that I do for them, and they shall fear and tremble because of all the good and all the peace that I make for it. (10) “Thus says YHVH, ‘Yet again there shall be heard in this place, of which you say, “It is a waste, without man and without beast,” that is, in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man and without inhabitant and without beast, (11) the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who say, “Give thanks to YHVH of hosts, for YHVH is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting”; and of those who bring a thank offering into the house of YHVH. For I will restore the fortunes of the land as they were at first,’ says YHVH.’*** The question is why do some in the two camps think and believe that they can make it on their own. The reason is a jealousy in both groups which will only disappear near the end of this age, as prophesied in Isaiah 11: 13, in this way: ***‘Then the jealousy of Ephraim will depart, and those who harass Judah will be cut off; Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah, and Judah will not harass Ephraim.’***

We also read about the same restoration of the fortunes of both Israel and Judah from Jeremiah 30. This will occur during a time of great distress, when YHVH will intervene for His people once again, as we read from verses 2 – 9, ***“Thus says YHVH, the Elohim of Israel, ‘Write all the words which I have spoken to you in a book. (3) For, behold, days are coming,’ declares YHVH, ‘when I will restore the fortunes of My people Israel and Judah.’ YHVH says, ‘I will also bring them back to the land that I gave to their forefathers, and they shall possess it.’” (4) ‘Now these are the words which YHVH spoke concerning Israel and concerning Judah.’ (5) “For thus says YHVH, ‘I have heard a sound of terror, of dread, and there is no peace. (6) Ask now, and see, if a male can give birth. Why do I see***

every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in childbirth? And why have all faces turned pale? (7) Alas! for that day is great, there is none like it; and it is the time of Jacob's distress, but he will be saved from it. (If you are part of Jacob, you will already be distressed; Israelites are in deep trouble, especially those from the USA, the UK, South Africa and most of the western world). (8) 'And it shall come about on that day,' declares YHVH of hosts, 'that I will break his yoke from off their neck, and will tear off their bonds; and strangers shall no longer make them their slaves. (9) But they shall serve YHVH their Elohim, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.' Torah observant Jews remained faithful to YHVH as we read from the correct translation of Hosea 11: 12 in the King James Version of the Scriptures, in this way: *'Ephraim compasseth me about with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit: but Judah yet ruleth with Elohim and is faithful with the saints.'* Because of their persecution and sufferings over the past 2500 years, YHVH has written Judah's sins on their hearts, as witnessed in Jeremiah 17: 1, as follows: *'The sin of Judah is written down with an iron stylus; with a diamond point it is engraved upon the tablet of their heart, and on the horns of their altars.'* After the Second World War, there were some Jews who like their European counterparts, lost their faith, but many remained loyal to YHVH and *'yet ruleth with Elohim.'* Our Jewish brothers are presently blinded to the identity of Yahshua and are keeping Torah, to show their good works, and not by faith, as confirmed in verses 32 & 33 of Romans 9, in this way: *'Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, (33) just as it is written, "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENCE, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."* Their fear of disobedience ensures that they are very meticulous about keeping the Oracles entrusted to them by Elohim, as we read from Romans 3: 1 - 4.

Rav Shaul, talks about the Jews, being his blood relatives in Romans 10: 1 – 3, as follows: *'Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to Elohim for them (Judah) 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.'* Because of fear, the Jews have an almost mechanistic view of Torah and do not fully understand Elohim's righteousness. They keep Torah because they try to establish their own righteousness and do not subject themselves to Elohim's righteousness. They do not fully understand that without Yahshua, who is the way the truth and the life, we have no righteousness. He is the goal of the Torah for those who believe, as we read from verse 4, in this way: *'For Messiah is the end (goal) of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.'* It is as we read from verses 5 – 10 of Romans 10, in this way: *'For Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on law shall live by that righteousness. (6) But the righteousness based on faith speaks thus, "DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, 'WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?' (that is, to bring Messiah down), (7) or 'WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?' (that is, to bring Messiah up from the dead)." (8) But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"— that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, (9) that if you confess with your mouth Yahshua as Master, and believe in your heart that Elohim raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; (10) for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.'* However, according to Romans 11: 25 – 28, we need not be concerned about their *'lack'* of faith, since we are the ones who are required to return to Elohim at this time, 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 Israel (meaning Judah) until the fullness of the Gentiles (members of the lost ten tribes who believe that they are 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.'*

As called out believers in the word of Elohim we need to concentrate on two things at this time. The first being what Yahshua taught in Luke 12: 31, ***“But seek for His kingdom, and these things shall be added to you.”*** If we do everything in our power to please YHVH and to make it into His Eternal Kingdom, our needs in this life will also be met. Secondly, we should hold Torah up like a mirror to determine our shortcomings. We need to understand that sin is the transgression of the law (as per first John 3: 4), and if we want to stop sinning we should stop transgressing Torah. We should even keep and teach those commandments considered least, as Yahshua taught in Matthew 5: 19. However, we need to understand that we cannot keep the commandments on our own. As witnessed in first Corinthians 2: 11 & 12 human beings cannot understand the Spiritual things of Elohim, unless we have a portion of His Set-apart Spirit indwelling us, as follows: ***‘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. (12) 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.’*** It is important therefore, that those of us called by Elohim at this time be immersed in the saving name of Yahshua our Messiah to receive the Set-apart Spirit (as per Acts 2: 38). We need to understand that Torah shows us what is sin, and if we start practicing righteousness; eating only kosher (including not mixing meat and milk products); keeping the weekly and annual Sabbaths of Elohim; wearing tzitzit; circumcise both our hearts (being immersed) and flesh (only applicable to men), as well as keeping all other commands applicable to us as kings and priests in the making, we do what YHVH requires of each one of us, as recorded in Deuteronomy 10: 12 & 13, as follows: ***‘And now, Israel, what does YHVH your Elohim require from you, but to fear YHVH you Elohim, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve YHVH your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul, (13) and to keep (YHVH)’s commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?’***

When Yahshua our Messiah returns His government will replace all the existing governments on the earth as King David prophesied in Psalm 2: 2 – 9 in this way: ***‘The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers take counsel together against YHVH and against His Anointed (Messiah): (3) Let us tear their fetters (restraining chains) apart, and cast away their cords from us! (4) He who sits in the heavens laughs, YHVH scoffs at them. (5) Then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury: (6) “But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy (set-apart) mountain. (7) I will surely tell of the decree of YHVH: He said to Me, ‘Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee. (8) Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Thine inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Thy possession. (9) Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron, Thou shalt shatter them like earthenware.’”*** As King of kings and Master of masters, Yahshua will rule with divine force and make major changes in the way nations are governed at this time. We read accordingly from Isaiah 2: 4, ***‘And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.’*** We read further from Isaiah 11: 4 & 5, about Messiah’s rule, in this way: ***‘But with righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; and He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. (5) Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, and faithfulness the belt about His waist.’***

Messiah will reestablish the nation of Israel as a model nation to the rest of the world. He will gather the descendants of the ancient house of Israel from where He has scattered them and join them to the house of Judah, so that they will again become the united nation of Israel, as witnessed in Isaiah 11: 11, as follows: ***‘Then it will happen on that day that YHVH will again recover the second time with His hand the remnant of His people, who will remain, from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and from the islands (or coastland) of the sea.’*** Yahshua will rule the united nation of Israel from King David’s throne, as YHVH promised David many years ago. At that time He will institute Elohim’s New Covenant with the united nation of Israel, as recorded in Jeremiah 31: 31

- 33, in this way: ***“Behold, days are coming,” declares YHVH, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, (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 YHVH. (33) But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares YHVH, “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.”*** We also see from Jeremiah 33: 7 & 8, how Yahshua will accomplish it, as follows: ***‘And I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and I will rebuild them as they were at first. (8) And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against Me, and I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have sinned against Me, and by which they have transgressed against Me.’*** After having changed Israel into the model nation that YHVH wanted them to be from the time He called them out of Egypt, the other nations will see the results of Israel’s obedience to Elohim and will also begin to serve and obey Him, as we are told in Isaiah 2: 3, in this way: ***‘And many peoples will come and say, “come, let us go up to the mountain of YHVH, to the house of the Elohim of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways, and that we may walk in His paths.” For the law will go forth from Zion, and the word of YHVH from Jerusalem.’***

Yes, as prophesied in Isaiah 42; 21 Yahshua will make the law honorable, as follows: ***‘YHVH was pleased for His righteousness’ sake to make the law great and glorious.’*** At that time all the people alive in the world will respect and obey the Torah commands of YHVH our Elohim and Yahshua will restore the world to the condition it was in before Adam and Eve sinned and was expelled from the Garden of Eden. So we see that the restoration of the united nation of Israel will only be the beginning of what Yahshua will come to do at His return, as YHVH says in Isaiah 42: 1, in this way: ***“Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations (or Gentiles).”*** Yahshua will give these nations a choice, rather than conquering them by force, they can change their ways and cooperate with Him to receive the same blessings that they will be able to see in Jerusalem and the land of Israel. If these nations obey and keep the Feast days of Elohim, they will also be blessed, but if they don’t, they will not receive any rain, as we read about in Zechariah 14: 16 - 19, as follows; ***‘Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, YHVH of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of booths. (17) And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, YHVH of hosts, there will be no rain on them. (18) And if the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no rain will fall on them; it will be the plague with which YHVH smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths. (19) This will be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.’*** Finally the world will be in the condition we read about in Isaiah 11: 6 – 10, in this way: ***‘And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them. (7) Also the cow and the bear will graze; their young will lie down together; and the lion will eat straw like the ox. (8) And the nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra. And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper’s den. (9) They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of YHVH as the waters cover the sea. (10) Then it will come about in that day that the nations will resort to the root of Jesse, who will stand as a signal for the peoples; and His resting place will be glorious.’***

Even though going green and using less electricity and fuel will go a long way to save our planet and some money, it will not solve the environmental problems facing the world today. YHVH wants us to understand that the coming Kingdom of Elohim is the only lasting solution to all the problems facing the world at this time, as we are suitably warned in Isaiah 24: 4 – 6, in this way: ***‘The earth mourns and withers, the world fades and withers, the exalted of the people of the earth fade away. (5) The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants, for they transgressed laws, violated statutes, broke the***

everlasting covenant²⁰. (6) Therefore, a curse devours the earth, and those who live in it are held guilty. Therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left.’ We need to realize that the only way in which we are able to save our planet is if we all start obeying Elohim’s Torah. We should also all pray as Yahshua taught us in the model prayer in Matthew 6: 9 – 13, as follows: **“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. (11) Give us this day our daily bread. (12) And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (13) And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.”** We need to realize that the tabernacle of David spoken about in Acts 15: 16 will only be restored after the two houses of Israel are again ruled by a descendant of King David. That will be when the Kingdom of Elohim will again be established on earth as it is in heaven, but also was when King Solomon ruled the commonwealth of Israel, as is confirmed in 1 Chronicles 28: 4 & 5, in this way: **‘Yet, YHVH, the Elohim of Israel, chose me from all the house of my father to be king over Israel forever. For He has chosen Judah to be a leader; and in the house of Judah, my father’s house, and among the sons of my father He took pleasure in me to make me king, over all Israel. (5) And of all my sons (for YHVH has given me many sons), He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of YHVH over Israel.’** Think about it!

²⁰ According to Exodus 31: 16, the Sabbath is Elohim’s everlasting covenant with His people, as follows: **“So the sons of Israel shall observe the Sabbath, to celebrate the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual (everlasting) covenant.”**

Chapter 7: What is normal?

There is a major difference in what society deems to be normal behavior and how YHVH the Elohim of Israel wants His people to behave. When YHVH called Israel out of Egypt about 3500 years ago, He wanted them to become a people specifically set-apart for use by Him as an example or light to the world and therefore gave them His Torah according to which He wanted them to show their love and concern for Him, but also for their fellow Israelites. He introduced the weekly Sabbath to them by providing them with manna during their journey from Egypt to Mount Sinai, where He entered into a marriage covenant with them to provide for and protect them in exchange for their obedience to His commandments, which were all for their wellbeing. YHVH gave the Israelites manna for the first five days of the week in the same portions, but on the sixth day of the week He gave them a double portion, enough to last for the seventh day (or Sabbath), when He did not give them any. Those who obeyed His command and collected double their normal daily requirements on the sixth day had food for the Sabbath, but those who did not had to go without anything to eat for the day. In addition those who collected more than their daily requirement soon discovered that whatever was collected extra, turned bad.

The covenant that YHVH the Elohim of Israel made with His people at Mount Sinai, fifty days after they left Egypt was to express His love and concern for them by giving them a constitution by which He would benefit and bless them for observing His commandments, statutes and judgments for their good, but also to meet out punishment commensurate with their disobedience, according to a law of cause and effect which He introduced from the time He created Adam and Eve. The nation of Israel was to become a nation of kings and priests and was supposed to become a model nation to show the rest of mankind how serving YHVH their Elohim would be for their good as recorded in Exodus 19: 5 and the first part of verse 6, as follows: ***'Now then, If you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; (6) and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'*** YHVH gave His people special signs to identify them as His people, but also to show the world that He is their Elohim. In addition to these signs YHVH made a two-fold promise to Abraham and his descendants after him. Firstly, YHVH promised Abraham that he and his descendants through Isaac and Jacob will live eternally in the Promised Land, provided they remain loyal to Him and His Torah and as a sign to the covenant, to circumcise their sons at age eight days old. Secondly, YHVH promised that a remnant of those descendants of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob, who eventually disobeyed and were scattered into the nations of the world, would in the latter days be called by Him to return to the covenant through Abraham's one seed, Yahshua, through whom He will also save the rest of mankind after Messiah's millennial rule, as described in Galatians 3: 13 – 16 & 23 – 29, as follows: ***'Messiah redeemed us from the curse of the Law (judgments or punishment due for contravening Torah), 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 (to live in the Promised Land eternally as spirit born-again children of Elohim) might come to the Gentiles (who are called by Elohim's name – returnees from the house of Israel), so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. (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 (meaning that only those sons of Abraham who are circumcised in the flesh will inherit the Promised Land and no religious teacher can change that requirement). (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. (23) But before faith (in Messiah) came, we were kept in custody under the (sacrificial) law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. (24) Therefore the (sacrificial) Law has become our tutor (teaching us that sin can only be forgiven by the shedding of blood) to lead us to Messiah, that we may be justified by faith. (25) But now that (Messiah became the Sacrifice and) faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of Elohim through faith in (the blood of) Messiah Yahshua (shed for the forgiveness of the sins***

of returnees to the covenant with Elohim). (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.'***

As most are aware, a sign is something that you wear, like a uniform, something displayed like a flag, or it can be something you do. Some clubs have special handshakes so that people, who may never have met before will, by just shaking hands, immediately know they are members of the same club. This is a "secret" sign that only members know about. But most signs are open and obvious, like those we have already mentioned. Similar to the way in which circumcision is a sign which not everyone may see, YHVH also gave our ancient forefathers obvious signs to identify them as His chosen people, but also Him as their Elohim. This same signs identifies the people of YHVH today and becomes obvious to the people in the world who observe the way they live, as we read from Exodus 31: 12 – 13, in this way: ***"And YHVH spoke to Moses, saying, (13) 'But as for you, speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'You shall surely observe My Sabbaths; for this is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am YHVH who sanctifies you.'"*** The word 'sanctify' means "to set apart." YHVH told Moses that the Israelites who observe the Sabbath Day by worshipping Him on it, would be set-apart from others who do not, as a perpetual covenant, as He further explained in verses 16 & 17 of Genesis 31, saying: ***'So the sons (or children) of Israel (who was known as Jacob before his name was changed) shall observe the Sabbath, to celebrate the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual (or everlasting) covenant.'*** (17) ***"It is a sign between Me and the sons of Israel forever; for in six days YHVH made heaven and earth, but on the seventh day He ceased from labor, and was refreshed,"*** It would identify the special people of YHVH down through the ages – "throughout your generations." In Moses' generation, the children of Israel were chosen by YHVH as His people, but ever since Yahshua's first arrival on earth, until this very day, only the house of Judah chosen by YHVH the Father and those whom He is busy calling from the house of Israel (first part of John 6: 44²¹) through Yahshua and who are being led by the Set-apart Spirit are His people as testified in Romans 8: 14, in this way: ***'For all who are being led by the Spirit of Elohim, these are sons of Elohim.'***

But notice again in Genesis 31: 13 (quoted before), YHVH said His people are to keep His *Sabbaths* (plural). He repeated this command in Ezekiel 20: 12, 20, saying: ***"And also I gave them My Sabbaths to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am YHVH who sanctifies them."*** Did YHVH mean only the weekly Sabbaths? Just what are the days YHVH calls *HIS Sabbaths*? In addition to the weekly Sabbath, YHVH also calls the *annual set-apart days* His Sabbaths. We are therefore required to keep His weekly and annual Sabbaths set-apart. Those who do not keep these annual set-apart days do not understand Elohim's plan of salvation for all mankind. For these set-apart days or annual Sabbaths, picture Elohim's plan to accomplish His purpose for mankind, one step at a time. The purpose of YHVH our Elohim is that all who have ever lived be given the opportunity to be born-again as His spiritual children into His eternal Family. By making an intense study of the fall (or autumn) festivals (in the northern hemisphere) we will learn that it pictures the time when YHVH will soon intervene in the affairs of mankind. He will begin to teach all nations His way of life – that obedience to His Torah will result in peace, happiness and great prosperity. But YHVH will not teach mankind His ways all by Himself. Nor will Yahshua be the only Teacher. We read in the last part of Isaiah 30: 20 what YHVH, speaking of the Millennium, says: ***'Although Adonai 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.'*** Before YHVH sends Yahshua to restore the government of YHVH on earth, He must first train a group of people who will be a special *team of teachers* to work with Yahshua. They will reign as kings and priests and will assist Yahshua in teaching the Torah of YHVH to all nations.

²¹ John 6: 44 ***'No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him.'***

Similar to the way the original Passover saved the first-born children of Israel from death, so Messiah's memorial Passover instituted by Him the night during which He was betrayed to die on the impalement stake the next day, when the house of Judah slaughtered their Passover lamb at three o'clock in the afternoon to keep their Passover the night of the 15th of Nissan when our forefathers left Egypt, will save the first-fruit children from both houses to be born-again at Messiah's return from the second death during the great white throne judgment. The Day of Pentecost, which comes during the spring festival season, shows us that YHVH is calling only a very few at this time. He is teaching and training these few (who have repented and are striving to obey His Torah) to live the way of life that produces peace, happiness, joy and that leads to eternal life in His Family. Then, in the very near future when Yahshua returns to the earth, He will have His "Team" ready and prepared to work and rule with Him, as witnessed in Revelation 2: 26 as follows ***"And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS."*** A second more detailed witness comes from 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."*** In the same way as a cap or uniform identifies the members of a baseball team, both the weekly and annual Sabbaths identify those who keep them as the team of people of Elohim, who are now being taught to become teachers during the Millennium and beyond. Everyone will then be keeping these days, as shown in Isaiah 66: 23, as follows: ***"And it shall be from new moon to new moon and from sabbath to sabbath, all mankind will come to bow down before Me," says YHVH.*** YHVH is now calling only a few first fruits to learn to become teachers (kings and priest) with our Jewish Brothers under Yahshua during the Millennium, as Rav Yaa'cov explained 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, the first-fruits among His creatures.'*** The term 'first-fruits' logically imply that there will also be second fruits after Messiah's millennial rule, when YHVH will resurrect all those who ever lived and will give them a chance to repent during the Great White Throne Judgement period.

The word judgment in the Scriptures means positive explanation and correction not condemnation as some teaches. YHVH will give everyone who ever lived, are alive today and are still to be born an opportunity to come to the knowledge of the truth. We, together with our Jewish Brothers who are chosen by YHVH at this time, are being taught knowledge of salvation at this time, since we as first-fruits will be responsible to assist Messiah during the millennium and the great white throne judgment, when He will open their minds to understand the books of the Scriptures in the same way He opened the minds of His disciples after His impalement, death and resurrection, as per 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.'*** After everyone has been taught Elohim's salvation truth, they like us (who are judged during this age, as per 1 Peter 4: 17²²) will be judged by what they have done with the knowledge of truth that He is graciously giving us, as Rav Shaul also suitably warned us in Hebrews 10: 23 – 29, saying: ***'Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; (24) and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, (25) not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near. (26) 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. (29) How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the***

²² 1 Peter 4: 17, ***'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?'***

Son of Elohim, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace.'

Our Father YHVH destined us as returning Israelites to be different to the other people of the world. He sent Yahshua His word to bring us back into the covenant we made with Him, together with the house of Judah at Mount Sinai. There is no denying that the house of Judah remained with YHVH after the house of Israel was scattered into the nations of the world as was prophesied in Hosea 1: 1 – 9 and specifically in verse 7²³, and even though Yahshua came only for those of us from the lost sheep of the house of Israel, His death also atoned for the house of Judah, as recorded in John 11: 49 – 52, in this way: ***'But a certain one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, (50) 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."*** (51) ***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, (52) and not for the nation (of Judah) only, but that He might also gather together into one the children of Elohim who are scattered abroad.'*** Why are our people so stiff-necked not to understand these truths given us in detail in both the Tanach and the Renewed Covenant? The reason is two-fold; firstly our people do not read the Scriptures any longer, since they believe someone has to interpret it for them, and secondly the Christian ministers taught their members falsely that the Torah has been abolished by Messiah. These poor blinded people were taught that Yahshua nailed the Torah to His impalement stake and use different teachings of Rav Shaul to try and deceive their audiences every Sunday. The two portions of the Scriptures penned by Rav Shaul used most often by these false ministers to teach people that Yahshua nailed the Torah to His impalement stake are Colossians 2: 13 & 14 and Ephesians 2: 14 – 16. However, to fully understand these two portions from the correct perspective we need to know that Torah consists of commandments, statutes and judgments. Whereas the commandments give us a summary of all the rules and regulations according to which we should live, the statutes break the commandments down in more detail. The commandment might read: 'You shall not commit adultery'; the statutes will give us more details as to what is meant by adultery and the judgments (or ordinances) spell out the punishment due to us for transgressing the commandments. With this in mind let's consider these two Scriptures to understand what Rav Shaul is saying, as follows:

- Colossians 2: 13 & 14: ***'And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, (14) having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us (meaning the judgments due to us for having transgressed the commandments) and which was hostile to us (since some of our sins required that we be stoned to death); and He has taken it (the certificate of debt, not the commandments contained in the Law) out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.'*** With the bits that I inserted in brackets to explain the verse, it is clear that it was not the Law or Torah that Yahshua nailed to the cross, but the certificate containing our judgments for transgressing the Law that was nailed to the cross. It is similar to when someone who pays a traffic fine for you, because you did not stop your motor vehicle at a red traffic light and the traffic officer caught you 'red handed' so to speak. The fact that someone paid the fine does not mean you may continue to drive across red traffic lights again. Similarly, the fact that Yahshua paid for our sins does not mean we may continue to sin.
- Ephesians 2: 14 – 16: ***'For He (Yahshua) Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one (talking about the house of Israel and the House of Judah), and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall (the barrier of the dividing wall that keeps us from the house of Israel away from the covenant that YHVH made with both houses is our sins which we continued in, in arrogance, since we have forgotten what sin was, because we falsely believed the Law was abolished), (15) by abolishing in His flesh the enmity (or punishment due to us), which is the Law of***

²³ Hosea 1: 7, ***"But I will have compassion on the house of Judah and deliver them by YHVH their Elohim, and will not deliver them by bow, sword, battle, horses, or horsemen."***

commandments contained in ordinances (again the judgment portion of the Law which describes the punishment to be meted out to us for transgressing the commandments, such as bowing before an image, keeping Set-apart Days other than those ordained by Elohim, etc.), **that in Himself He might make the two** (groups) **into one new man** (the commonwealth of Israel as Rav Shaul told us in verse 12 of Ephesians 2²⁴), **thus establishing peace**, (16) **and might reconcile them both in one body** (the congregation of Elohim – or body of Messiah as Rav Shaul explained in Ephesians 1: 18 – 23²⁵) **to Elohim through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.** As it clearly tell us in Isaiah 49: 5 & 6, Yahshua came specifically to bring the lost sheep of Israel back to YHVH and the covenant we made with Elohim at Mount Sinai, as follows: **‘And now says YHVH, 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 YHVH, and My Elohim is My strength), (6) He says, “It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”**

But, these false ministers do not only deceive their congregants to believe that Torah is abolished, they also ensure that there is disdain or hatred amongst their people for others who are keeping these commandments diligently. It is perhaps for this reason that the Pope recently declared that they will rewrite especially the Tanach, since the current Bible has become ‘outdated’. In fact the Pope and his predecessors have long ago already changed the Law and timing of Elohim’s Feasts days to Sunday, Christmas and Easter as the prophet Daniel prophesied in Daniel 7: 25, saying: **‘And he will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.’** Fortunately we see from the next two verses in this prophesy by Daniel, how YHVH is planning to bring an end to this deception, saying (verse 26): **‘But the court will sit for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever. (27) Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven 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.’** It is therefore abundantly clear from this prophecy, that the grip that the Roman Catholic Church and her protestant daughters, otherwise known as Esau have over the house of Israel; the descendants of Jacob who were taken into Europe by Assyria and became Christianized through the ages, will be destroyed. However, this prophecy further shows that the house of Israel will soon join their brethren the house of Judah better known as the Jews and return to the covenant that they made together with YHVH at Mount Sinai. When Yahshua returns, YHVH will enter into a Renewed Covenant with both houses as the body or bride of Messiah, when He remarries them, as testified in Jeremiah 31: 31 – 33, as follows: **“Behold, days are coming,” declares YHVH, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, (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,” declared YHVH. (33) But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares YHVH, “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.”** Notice the Law need only be written on the hearts of the house of Israel and not on that of the house of Judah, since they have

²⁴ Ephesians 2: 12, **‘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.’**

²⁵ Ephesians 1: 18 – 23: **‘I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Yahshua, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the congregation, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.’**

been keeping Torah and YHVH was their Elohim all along. **Are those who reject the house of Judah as brothers and who want to teach them about J*e*s*u*s* too blind to see this?**

Brethren, why does most of the world hate Jews? The reason being that most people know that the house of Judah remained Elohim's chosen people (as confirmed in Psalm 78: 67 & 68²⁶). We have two choices, either we can join those who have changed the Bible and will ultimately be destroyed forever at Messiah's coming, or we can join those who keep Elohim's Torah and live eternally as His children. The decision remains ours! But, if we decide to follow the way of Elohim, we will have to start keeping the Feast Days of Elohim that Judah preserved for us the past 3500 years, including the weekly Sabbath, but also only eat the foods that YHVH set-apart for us, as His Set-apart people. If we start doing so, we become eligible for positions of kings and priests in Elohim's coming Kingdom, as Yahshua showed Yochanan as he testified in Revelation 20: 6, saying: ***"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."*** Revelation 5: 10 quoted earlier shows clearly that this will be on earth. But, I hear some say under their breath: 'Why not in heaven' as the ministers in the Churches taught us? The reason is that as Yahshua taught His disciples in John 3: 13, saying: ***"And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man."*** In addition Yahshua taught His disciples to pray in Matthew 6: 9 & 19, 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.'" Even though YHVH our heavenly Father's kingdom is presently in heaven, we know that when Yahshua returns, He is coming to establish Elohim's kingdom on earth, as Rav Shaul promised in 1 Thessalonians 4: 13 – 17, saying: '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 you 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 Adonai, 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 (on the Feast of Trumpets – or Rosh Hashanah); 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 (after we have been changed from physical to spiritual beings as Rav Shaul told us in 1 Corinthians 15: 50 -53²⁷) to meet the Master in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Master.'***

After Yahshua's death and resurrection, He ascended to heaven from the Mount of Olives and we know that He will return to that very mountain in the same way as He left, as witnessed by the two angels in Acts 1: 9 – 11, as follows: ***'And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. (10) And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them; (11) and they also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Yahshua, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."*** When Messiah returns, the dead in Messiah will be resurrected and those still alive will be changed to become spiritual beings. They will then as spirit beings appear at will on the Mount of Olives to meet Messiah, to become rulers with Him in His everlasting kingdom and will not have to be raptured, as some falsely teach. These truths might not be as easy to believe as the falsehood taught by Churchianity, but Yahshua nevertheless proclaimed the coming kingdom of Elohim on

²⁶ Psalm 78: 67 & 68 *'He also rejected the tent of Joseph, and did not choose the tribe of Ephraim, but chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which He loved.'*

²⁷ 1 Corinthians 15: 50 – 53: *'Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of Elohim; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.'*

earth as it is now in heaven 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.”*** Our position on earth will thus be secured as is also confirmed by Solomon 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.’*** However, Satan will also make sure that not all will understand these truths whilst he is around, as Yahshua also taught His disciples (but also us His modern day disciples) in Matthew 13: 11, 12 & the first part of verse 19, saying: ***‘And He 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.’***

Those of us who like the Jews, have now also been chosen graciously by Elohim as confirmed in Romans 11: 5²⁸ and believe in the coming Kingdom of Elohim in which Messiah will rule as King of kings and Master of masters, need to keep Torah during this age, since that will be the Law by which Elohim will administer His coming Kingdom during the millennium and beyond. Elohim’s normal (or norm) should therefore become our normal and we should not be concerned by what other people believe to be normal. We should not let other people prescribe to us how we should live, but should live by what YHVH the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Israel prescribed for our good. Think about it!

²⁸ Romans 11: 5, ***‘In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to Elohim’s gracious choice.’***

Chapter 8: Root of bitterness.

When YHVH renewed the covenant that He made with Israel at Mount Sinai, with the children of Israel before they entered the Promised Land, He told Moses and those who were about to enter the land that He is not only making the covenant with them alone, but with every Israelite who lived since that time, including us their latter day descendants in Deuteronomy 29: 10 – 16, saying: ***“You stand today, all of you, before YHVH your Elohim: your chiefs, your tribes, your elders and your officers, even all the men of Israel, (11) your little ones, your wives, and the alien who is within your camps, from the one who chops your wood to the one who draws your water, (12) that you may enter into the covenant with YHVH your Elohim, and into His oath which YHVH your Elohim is making with you today, (13) in order that He may establish you today as His people and that He may be your Elohim, just as He spoke to you and as He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (14) Now not with you alone am I making this covenant and this oath, (15) but both with those who stand here with us today in the presence of YHVH our Elohim and with those who are not with us here today (16) (for you know how we lived in the land of Egypt, and how we came through the midst of the nations through which you passed.”***

YHVH continued to warn that we should be careful not to turn away from Him and the covenant that He made with us as the commonwealth of Israel for our good, in verses 17 – 20, saying: ***“Moreover, you have seen their abominations and their idols of wood, stone, silver, and gold, which they had with them); (18) lest there shall be among you a man or woman, or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from YHVH our Elohim, to go and serve the gods of those nations; lest there shall be among you a root bearing poisonous fruit and wormwood. (19) And it shall be when he hears the words of this curse, that he will boast, saying, ‘I have peace though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart in order to destroy the watered land with the dry,’ (20) YHVH shall never be willing to forgive him, but rather the anger of YHVH and His jealousy will burn against that man, and every curse which is written in this book will rest on him, and YHVH will blot out his name from under heaven.”*** It is therefore incumbent on each of us who have proved our lineage right back to one of the twelve tribes of Israel and who accordingly entered into the Renewed Covenant with Him at that time, to ensure that our hearts (meaning our belief system) do not turn away from Him, else we will be destroyed. Even though all of mankind was created in the image of Elohim and has the greatest potential of everything that YHVH our Elohim created on earth, He created each one of us with mind power to make our own decisions and has given us an inherent ability to like Him be ‘masters of our own destiny’. But, this presented us with a major problem since human nature has been prone to being rebellious against Elohim from the time mankind was created. The Scriptures are full of examples for us to either follow, or to avoid. Yahshua our Messiah, the image of Elohim (as recorded in Colossians 1: 15²⁹), came to leave those of us called by Elohim from the churches of the world, a perfect example of how to live, as we read from 1 Peter 2: 21, in this way: ***‘For you have been called for this purpose, since Messiah also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps.’***

Similarly our forefathers, the ancient Israelites, called to come out of Egypt, left us various examples, what not to do, as we read from 1 Corinthians 10: 1 - 6, as follows: ***‘For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; (2) and all were immersed into Moses in the cloud and in the sea (all of them were immersed like us); (3) and all ate the same spiritual food; (they were taught the same lessons that we are taught today) (4) and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Messiah. (Like us they also were in touch with Messiah.) (5) Nevertheless, with most of them Elohim was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. (6) Now these things happened as examples for us, that we should not crave evil***

²⁹ Colossians 1: 15, *‘And He is the image of the invisible Elohim, the first-born (of the dead as per Colossians 1: 18) of all creation.’*

things, as they also craved. As we study the annual Torah portions from one year to another, YHVH wants us to slowly but surely learn, not to follow the examples left us by our ancient Israelite forefathers, during their forty years of wandering in the wilderness. The question is: do we learn from these examples, or do we like Churchianity think and say; *'all we have to do is, believe'*, without fully understanding what it means to have faith. Faith or more correctly faithfulness is attained by making an in depth study of the Word of YHVH (the Scriptures) and is accordingly based on a thorough knowledge of the promises YHVH made to our fathers in the faith, trusting enough that YHVH will deliver what He has promised in His coming Kingdom, to ensure our obedience with our hearts (belief system), and souls (the way we live our lives). Rav Shaul defines faith in Hebrews 11: 1 and 2 and adds that without it, we cannot please Elohim in verse 6, saying: ***'Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (2) For by it the men of old gained approval. (6) And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to Elohim must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.'***

Bearing in mind the examples our ancient forefathers left us of how not to serve YHVH our Elohim, we read Rav Shaul's warning from Hebrews 3: 12 – 19, in this way: ***'Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living Elohim. (13) But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (14) For we have become partakers of Messiah, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end; (15) while it is said, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME." (16) For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? (17) And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? (18) And to whom did He swear that they should not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? (19) And so we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.'*** The apostle Jude also warned us the modern day disciples of Messiah not to contradict what He taught His disciples in the letter of Jude. Even though Yahshua chose His own disciples, we also know that one of them was chosen specifically to betray Him. An explanation of this may be read in Jude verses 3 & 4, as follows: ***"Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints (called out believers). (4) For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our Elohim into licentiousness and deny (contradict) our only Master Yahshua Messiah."*** Rav Shaul puts it like this in 1 Corinthians 11: 19, ***'For there must also be factions among you, in order that those who are approved may have become evident among you.'*** A point to remember is that the Israelites were at that time observing the Sabbaths (weekly and annual), the kosher food laws and the other commandments of Elohim. Rav Shaul wrote about them in Romans 9: 31 - 33, as follows: ***'but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. (32) Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, (33) just as it is written, "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.'*** Rav Kepha talking about Yahshua says in 1 Peter 2: 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.'*** It is sad to say that many of those called by Elohim at this time, are even now stumbling over Yahshua our Messiah, the very corner stone upon which the congregation is built. Jude therefore warns us about the great falling away that started even during the time of the apostles and will continue right up to the time when Yahshua our Messiah returns to rule us from Jerusalem.

We see from verse 4, quoted before that ungodly (profane) people who turn the grace of Elohim, into licentiousness, denying or more correctly contradicting both YHVH and Yahshua, have crept into the body of believers, who were like Judas Iscariot, marked out for condemnation. But how do they

contradict YHVH and Yahshua, might you ask? Yahshua Himself answered the question in John 5: 43 – 47, saying: ***“I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another shall come in his own name, you will receive him³⁰. (44) How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another, and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only Elohim? (45) Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope. (Yahshua was talking to the Jews of His day here, but is also talking to us, His modern day congregation of called-out believers.) (46) 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?”*** Yahshua confirmed that if we do not believe Torah we will not believe what He taught. Jude continued in verses 5 - 8 of Jude, saying: ***‘Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that YHVH, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe. (6) And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode (described in Isaiah 14: 12 - 15³¹), He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day (in Revelation 20: 10). (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. (The result of the fire is permanent – and since flesh and blood is physical it will only burn until it is reduced to ash.) (8) Yet in the same manner these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties.’*** Even though these people who sow discontent among us, do not actually commit divination, or idolatry; YHVH said to King Saul, through Samuel, in 1 Samuel 15: 23, ***“For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry.”*** They are therefore guilty of such sins. Still talking about those who crept in unnoticed to turn us away from the truth, Jude writes in verse 10, ***‘But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed.’*** This is talking about such things as the mystery of our faith, which we read about in 1Timothy 3: 9 & 16: that is, that Elohim was revealed in the flesh as Yahshua. Continuing from verse 11 of Jude, we read: ***‘Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain (full of hatred), and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.’***

We turn to the book of Genesis to discover what the way of Cain is, and where it started. Turning to Genesis 6: 5, we read: ***‘Then YHVH saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.’*** The thoughts of mankind are focused upon evil all day. Man failed to recognize each other as human beings created in the image of Elohim. Torah teaches the truth that all mankind came from a single father and mother created in the image of Elohim. The sin of non-recognition prevailed upon the earth and may perhaps be best understood where a group of human beings deny the right of other human beings to live and work to provide for their own families. This distorted consciousness manifested in the words of Cain, when he said in Genesis 4: 9, ***“Am I my brother’s keeper?”*** Notice that the question remains unanswered by Elohim. This is a typical response by those who turn their backs on the homeless, the widow, and the orphan. The Torah is clear; we are our brother’s keeper. The origins of cruelty lie in the sin of not recognizing the image of Elohim in one another. YHVH warned Cain to change his outlook in life and not feel rejected, alienated, or disappointed, or sin would overtake him. By

³⁰ An example of such a contradiction is where Yahshua said that He will be in the grave for three days and three nights, like Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three full days and three full nights, yet very few believe Him today, evidenced by their belief that He was buried on a Friday afternoon at sunset and raised from the grave on Sunday morning – one and a half days later. A second example is where we read from Deuteronomy 4: 3, ***“To you it was shown that you might know that YHVH, He is Elohim; there is no other besides Him.”*** After reading this Scriptural witness, those who insist that there are two (YHVH)s are contradicting YHVH Himself.

³¹ Isaiah 14: 12 – 15: ***“How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the Dawn! (the KJV calls him Lucifer) 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 (angels) of Elohim, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north (meaning Elohim’s throne). 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.”***

harboring emotions of envy, anger and violence, Cain opened the door to sin. Sin is the inflated puffed up presumption of the ego which takes over the functions of self! Rav Yaa'cov explained this in James 1: 14 & 15, as follows: **'But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. (15) Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.'** In slaying his brother Abel, Cain destroyed generations of his descendants. A murderer not only kills his victim, but something in the lives of the victim's survivors as well. Elohim said to Cain, that Abel's blood is crying to Him from the ground. We may not hear the cries of innocent blood of future generations that are destroyed due to mankind's neglect for his brother. We read fittingly from Psalm 94: 3 – 9, **'How long shall the wicked, O YHVH, how long shall the wicked exult? (4) They pour forth words, they speak arrogantly; all who do wickedness vaunt themselves. (5) They crush Thy people, O YHVH, and afflict Thy heritage. (6) They slay the widow and the stranger, and murder the orphans. (7) And they have said, "YHVH does not see, nor does the Elohim of Jacob pay heed." (8) Pay heed, you senseless among the people; and when will you understand, stupid ones? (9) He who planted the ear, does He not hear? He who formed the eye, does He not see?'** YHVH asked Cain, **"What have you done?"** When confronted with his sin Cain justified his violent behavior towards Abel with an insolent answer. We can try and justify our lack of compassion and love towards our neighbor with false excuses, but in the end we will be held accountable for our actions in this life. Survivors of the Holocaust not only remember the murderous Nazis, but also the cold indifference of their neighbors who looked on and did nothing as they were being led away to the camps and death. Those who stand by idly and watch the innocent die due to the cruelty and injustices of mankind are also accountable for their silence.

Torah contrasts the command to *'love your neighbor as yourself'* with the prohibition *'not to stand idly by while another is in need'*, as witnessed in Leviticus 19: 16 – 18, as follows: **'You shall not go about as a slanderer among your people, and you are not to act against the life of your neighbor, I am YHVH. (17) You shall not hate your fellow countryman in your heart; you may surely reprove your neighbor; but shall not incur sin because of him. (18) You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am YHVH.'** We read accordingly from Genesis 9: 5 & 6, **'And surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man. (6) Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of Elohim He made man.'** As Israel we have a commandment to attain to the qualities of goodness and kindness. We should rid ourselves of jealousy, hatred, falsehood, conceit and prejudice and strive to acquire the virtues of humility, kindness, truth and love. But, how can we achieve this? By recognizing that each and every human being, made in the image of Elohim, have the potential to become the very sons or daughters of Elohim. Even so, what is the cause of conflict? Rav Yaa'cov gives us the answer in James 4: 1 - 3, in this way: **'What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? (2) You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. (3) You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.'** Rav Yaa'cov continues to give us the antidote for such wrongful behavior in verses 4 – 7, as follows: **'You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward Elohim? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of Elohim. (5) Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us?" (6) But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "ELOHIM IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE (the teachable)." (7) Submit therefore to Elohim. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (8) Draw near to Elohim and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double minded.'** We commit sin with our hands and serve YHVH with our hearts; YHVH is not interested in lukewarm followers who are double minded. No, He wants us to follow Him whole heartedly. Rav Yochanan wrote about this in 1 John 2: 9 – 11, in this way: **'The one who says he is in**

the light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. (10) The one who loves his brother abides in the light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. (11) But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.’ He continues in 1 John 4: 20 – 21, saying: *‘If someone says, “I love Elohim,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love Elohim whom he has not seen.’* If a fellow human being needs help it is part of your test in life, a message to you, to see if and how you will help him. The Talmud asks, *‘Why was Adam created alone? So that every person should say, “the entire world was created just for me.”*’ This is recognition that everything- including the needs of every other human being – was specifically created for you.

The error of Balaam was that he determined to curse Elohim’s people because of greed. History repeats itself because we see that similarly the embodiment of Esau or more specifically the Roman Catholic Church and her protestant daughters continue to curse the house of Israel which they took captive about 1800 years ago, and started teaching them falsehood for payment. They will receive their due reward as prophesied by Yahshua in a vision to Yochanan in Revelation 18: 8, saying: *“For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for YHVH Elohim who judges her is strong.”* The rebellion of Korah spoken about here has to do with our Feast Days, as we read from verse 12 of Jude, in this way: *‘These men are those who are hidden reefs in your love feasts (the Feast days of Elohim, which we keep because we obey Him from the heart) when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted.’* The people spoken about here are double-minded and will keep the Feast days of Elohim with you one year, but will follow different Feast days the next year – blown around by every wind of doctrine. Let’s now consider Korah’s rebellion from Torah, to see what we should not do – if we want to qualify to enter the kingdom of Elohim. Korah questioned the leadership of Moses and Aaron the two people whom YHVH chose to lead the united nation of Israel. Korah and his followers were all chosen in the assembly; men of renown who challenged the authority of Moses and Aaron, saying to them in verse 3 of Numbers 16, *“You have gone far enough, for all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and YHVH is in their midst; so why do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of YHVH?”* Moses was shocked to hear Korah’s accusation and therefore challenged Korah and his followers to a test to prove their authority, by letting Elohim choose the appropriate leader for the congregation. In verse 12 - 15 of Numbers 16, we read, *‘Then Moses sent a summons to Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab; but they said, “We will not come up. (13) Is it not enough that you have brought us up out of the land flowing with milk and honey to have us die in the wilderness, but you would also lord it over us? (14) Indeed, you have not brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey, nor have you given us an inheritance of fields and vineyards. Would you put out the eyes of these men? We will not come up!’* At this point Moses really became angry, and said to YHVH in verse 15, *“Do not regard their offering! I have not taken a single donkey from them, nor have I done harm to any of them.”* Moses also instructs Korah and his men to take firepans and put incense on it, and tell them to each bring a censer before YHVH. He also told Aaron to do likewise. The next morning Korah assembled the entire congregation at the doorway of the tent of meeting. Then YHVH spoke to Moses and Aaron in verse 22, saying: *“Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them instantly.”* So Moses and Aaron fell on their faces, saying to YHVH (in verse 22): *“O Elohim, Thou Elohim of the spirits of all flesh, when one man sins, wilt Thou be angry with the entire congregation?”*

Next YHVH tells Moses to move the congregation away from Korah and his men. Moses obeys YHVH and said to the congregation in verse 28 - 30 of Numbers 16, *“By this you shall know that YHVH has sent me to do all these deeds; for this is not my doing. (29) If these men die the death of all men, or if they suffer the fate of all men, then YHVH has not sent me. (30) But if YHVH brings about an*

entirely new thing and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that is theirs, and they descend alive into Sheol, then you will understand that these men have spurned YHVH.”

When Moses finished speaking, the earth opened up and swallowed Korah and his men, with all their households and their possessions. The nation fled at the outcry of Korah and his cohorts and then fire also came forth from YHVH and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering the incense. We might not in this day and age be destroyed by YHVH in the same way that He did Korah and the 250 with him, but we see that the wicked are warned of a similar fate in Malachi 4: 1, 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 YHVH of hosts, “so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.”** We read further in verses 2 & 3 of Malachi 4, what will happen to those who fear the name of YHVH enough to do what is required of them, as follows: **“But for you who fear (revere) 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 YHVH of hosts.’** After this YHVH told Moses to tell Eleazar the son of Aaron that he should take up the censers out of the midst of the fire as they are set-apart. In addition Moses told him to take the censers and let them be made into hammered sheets for a plating of the altar, since they are set-apart and shall be a sign to the sons of Israel. Eleazar obeyed and made an altar as a reminder to the sons of Israel that no layman who is not of the descendants of Aaron, should come near to burn incense before YHVH, that he might not become like Korah and his company – just as YHVH spoke to him through Moses, we should not ever burn incense before YHVH.

However, this initial outburst triggered another challenge from the sons of Israel, when they grumbled against Moses and Aaron, saying in the last part of verse 41 of Numbers 16, **“You are the ones who have caused the death of (YHVH)’s people.”** Next the congregation assembled against Moses and Aaron, and they turned to the tent of meeting. Afterward the cloud covered the tent of meeting and the glory of Elohim appeared. When Moses and Aaron came to the tent of meeting YHVH spoke to Moses saying that they should get away from the congregation, so that He may consume the entire congregation. But, Moses instructed Aaron to quickly take his censer and put fire from the altar in it and burn incense on it, thus making atonement for the congregation, for the wrath of Elohim has gone forth from YHVH and a plague started. Aaron did as Moses told him and took his stand between the dead and the living and so the plague was checked. However, we see that 14700, besides Korah and his men, died by the plague because of their rebellion. Continuing in Numbers 17, we see that YHVH has now gained the attention of the entire nation, He tells Moses to take the rods of all the leaders according to their father’s households and write their names on their rods. YHVH also tells Moses to write Aaron’s name on the rod of Levi. Then YHVH instructed Moses to deposit the rods in the tent of meeting, saying that it will come about that the rod of the man whom YHVH chooses will sprout. Moses did as YHVH told him and the next day, he saw that Aaron’s staff not only sprouted buds, but also bear flowers and almonds. Moses brought the rods out in the presence of YHVH showing it to all the sons of Israel. Each man took his rod, but YHVH instructed Moses to put Aaron’s rod before the Ark to bear testimony, to be kept against the rebels that they may put an end to their grumbings against YHVH, so that they should not die. This is in support of Malachi 2: 2 – 8, where YHVH through Malachi tells us that the Levites, who are among Judah today, are still in control of the timing of His Feast Days. This should also serve as a warning to those of us whom YHVH has called out of the world to follow Him, not to entertain thoughts of rebellion against Him and His will for us. We all understand that the way of Elohim is a way of giving and sharing, as opposed to that of Satan and the world - which is a way of get. We notice from Numbers 16: 1 that Korah ‘took’. He was one of those people in the world who are simply out to get, usually something that they don’t have. I am certain that most of us know people in all three categories mentioned in Jude 11 – people like Cain who are jealous of the property or the ability that Elohim gave to others; those who like Balaam curse Elohim’s people by teaching them to disregard His Torah for financial

gain and those who like Korah rebelled against Elohim's chosen spiritual leaders (the Levites). Let us therefore determine not to go the way of Cain, or for payment rush headlong in the way of Balaam, or perish in rebellion like Korah but do as Jude wrote in verses 20 & 21, saying: ***'But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most set-apart faith; praying in the Set-apart Spirit; (21) keep yourselves in the love of Elohim, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Master Yahshua to eternal life.'***

Finally we read Elohim's warning to the rebels in the house of Israel through Ezekiel in Ezekiel 20: 30 – 38, saying: ***'Therefore, say to the house of Israel, Thus says YHVH Elohim, 'Will you defile yourselves after the manner of your fathers and play the harlot after their detestable things? (31) And when you offer your gifts, when you cause your sons to pass through the fire, you are defiling yourselves with all your idols to this day. And shall I be inquired of by you, O house of Israel?' As I live, declares YHVH Elohim, I will not be inquired of by you. (32) And what comes into your mind will not come about, when you say: 'We will be like the nations, like the tribes of the lands, serving wood and stone.' (33) "As I live," declares YHVH Elohim, "surely with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out, I shall be king over you. (34) And I shall bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out; (35) and I shall bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I shall enter into judgment with you face to face. (36) As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you," declares YHVH Elohim. (37) And I shall make you pass under the rod, and I shall bring you into the bond of the covenant; (38) and I shall purge from you the rebels and those who transgress against Me, I shall bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they will not enter the land of Israel. Thus you will know that I am YHVH.'*** Think about it!

Chapter 9: Understanding the Renewed Covenant from a Hebraic perspective.

When asking an average Christian to tell you about the gospel revealed in the first four books of the Renewed Covenant, he/she will immediately quote 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.”*** In addition he/she might add that the true gospel is all about the life, death and resurrection of their savior. We can all agree that this is indeed good news, but it is definitely not the Gospel as proclaimed by Yahshua our Messiah. Every time the words good news (or gospel) is used in the Scriptures, it is associated with the kingdom of Elohim, to be established on earth as it is now in heaven, when Messiah comes the first time for the house of Judah and returns for the house of Israel. Like most informed Jews, when a Jewish Rabbi that we are associated with first read the Renewed Covenant as a young man, he told us that he immediately thought by himself: But, there is nothing new to him as an average Jew, since it is similar to the prophecies in the Tanach about the coming kingdom of Elohim, soon to replace the kingdoms of the world, as the prophet Daniel also wrote in Daniel 7.

If we read the prophesy by Daniel in Daniel 7: 17 – 27, we will agree that this Rabbi is spot on with His understanding, as follows: ***‘These great beasts, which are four in number, are four kings (or empires) who will arise from the earth (and will rule the earth from Nebuchadnezzar’s time, right up to the time Messiah and His saints made up of members of both houses of Israel will come to rule the earth). (18) But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come. (19) Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, and which devoured, crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet, (20) and the meaning of the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, and before which three of them fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts, and which was larger in appearance than its associates. (21) I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them (22) until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom. (23) Thus he said: The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms, and it will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it. (24) As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings. (25) And he will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. (26) But the court will sit for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever. (27) Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven 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.’*** The four great world empires from the time of Nebuchadnezzar right up to the time of Messiah’s return, are the Babylonian Empire, the Persian Empire, the Greek Empire and the Roman Empire who ruled from before Messiah’s first advent and will still be the ruling Empire when He returns. Those familiar with the work of the Jewish Sage Rambam (1135 – 1204 CE.) will recall that he wrote about the coming of Messiah as follows: *“The Moshiach King will arise and restore the sovereignty of the House of David to its previous status as it was during {David’s} original rule, build the {Beis} HaMikdash and gather in the Diaspora of Israel. Additionally, during his days, all the {Torah’s} laws will be re-implemented as they were previously: people will bring offerings and Shemita, and Yovel years will be practiced according to all of their rules specified in the Torah.”* All Jews including us as Nazarene Jews/Israelites believe in the coming of Messiah to rule the world, but also to bring a remnant of the lost ten tribes back into the covenant that our forefathers made at Mount Sinai with YHVH our Elohim.

Those of us who claim faith in our Jewish Messiah, Yahshua, need to be aware that He quoted the Renewed Covenant from the books of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms, according to the original Hebrew translations as He also confirmed to His disciples when He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, after His death, burial and resurrection recorded in Luke 24: 44 & 45, saying: ***'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." Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.'*** Even though many assume that the Tanach has become obsolete, these very books are quoted more than 240 times and referred to frequently in the Renewed Covenant. The question is: What did Yahshua our Messiah, who was supposed to have done away especially with the first five books of Torah, had to say about it? If Yahshua wanted to communicate the impression that the Tanach was obsolete, He would have done so during His three and a half year ministry on earth, but, instead He warned those teaching His people at this time in Matthew 5: 19 saying: ***"Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."*** Resuming to magnify the Law as was prophesied about Him in Isaiah 42: 21, He taught in Matthew 7: 12 – 16, saying: ***"Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. (13) Enter by the narrow gate (meaning His stricter way of interpreting Torah, as He explained in Matthew 5, 6 & 7); 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 (eternal) life, and few are those who find it. (15) Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. (16) You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor figs from thistles, are they? YHVH made a covenant with ancient Israel that if they will follow the teachings of His mouth, by the hand of Moses, He would provide and protect them. They were to become a model nation that would lead other nations to worship YHVH their Elohim alone, however they became entangled in the worship practices of the pagan nations around them and instead of influencing these nations for the better, YHVH made them wander in the wilderness for 40 years, where most of the older generation died out.***

History being something that repeats itself shows that after Yahshua's death, resurrection and ascension to heaven, only a few hundred years elapsed when the congregation was no longer Hebrew in character. The house of Israel scattered into the world because of idolatry, was taken into Europe by the Assyrians and became Christianized over a period of time and eventually rejected the Hebrew religion, leading them to despise the Mosaic Laws given to man by YHVH Himself. Even though Christianity claims to follow Messiah, it has absorbed many strange doctrines without any Scriptural basis. As a result they eventually rejected the so-called 'Old Testament' and lost a great deal of the blessings to be had, by keeping the commandments. They also lost the knowledge about the true Sabbath and Feast Days of Elohim, and as a result accepted the false doctrines introduced to mankind by Satan. Continuing His teaching in verses 21 -23, Yahshua said: ***"Not everyone who says to me, 'Adonai, Adonai,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. (22) Many will say to Me on that day, 'Adonai, Adonai, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' (23) And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'" The Scriptures as originally given by Elohim to those inspired to pen the same was indeed the inspired word of Elohim, but were since translated into other languages and many errors crept in. This is all Satan's doing, as we read in Revelation 12: 9, as follows: ***'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 earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.'*** We read from Genesis 3: 4, how Satan started deceiving mankind when he told Eve that she would live forever, and that she has an immortal soul. Since then Christianity and most other religions believe this lie and even though Satan does not speak to us directly any longer, he controls the minds of his many human agents, whom he inspires to introduce false doctrines and lies to dissuade people from***

believing in YHVH on an ongoing basis. It is as Rav Kepha wrote 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 important that we understand that the main source of all the errors and false doctrines that even some amongst us come up with from time to time, is Satan. Even though the Scriptures which YHVH gave to us originally were undefiled, problems began when translations were made from one language to another. Portions were added in and others left out, making it easier to deceive the uninformed. Satan uses the truth to get our attention, but inter-mixed with enough lies to make us fall for his scheming. Satan makes humans believe that they are acting piously, while he makes them to ignore the Commandments of YHVH! Yahshua is completely the opposite and since He is the embodiment of Torah He came to show us Elohim's way of life. Yahshua was a Rabbi, went to the Synagogue and read Torah (first five books of the Scriptures). He explained in Hebrew or Aramaic, the language of His people as recorded in Matthew 4:23, as follows: ***'And Yahshua was going about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.'*** To understand why YHVH can use our adulterated translations of Scriptures today to our and His benefit, we have to read what YHVH revealed to Rav Shaul in Romans 15: 4, in this way: ***'For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.'*** Rav Shaul continued in 2 Timothy 3: 16 -17, saying: ***'All Scripture is inspired by Elohim and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; (17) that the man of Elohim may be adequate, equipped for every good work.'*** Even our polluted translations can be used by YHVH to guide us through the Set-apart Spirit when reading Scriptures.

It was originally the purpose of Churchianity to convert pagans and bring them into their fold, but it worked just the other way round: Churchianity absorbed and retained most of the pagan practices, symbols and holidays to help the pagans understand their religion better. The battle between light and darkness is not new. In fact it came from before the fall of man, when Satan rebelled against Elohim's government, and he wanted to take over the throne of YHVH, as recorded in Isaiah 14: 12 – 15³². This resulted in YHVH throwing Satan and his angels down to the earth, as was shown in Revelation 12 (quoted before). Many of the religious ideas, festivals and practices such as Easter, Xmas and Sunday worship services, may be traced back to our pagan forebears. If Israel did not persist in corrupting the truth, Churchianity might have had a chance. However, because of the failings of Israel, Churchianity reads the Scriptures, without seeing a connection between them and ancient Israel. As a result they cannot even learn from the mistakes that our forebears made. The point is that as human beings, we cannot do what Elohim requires of us, as we are reminded in Romans 8: 7 & 8, in this way: ***'Because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward Elohim; for it does not subject itself to the law of Elohim, for it is not even able to do so; (8) and those who are in the flesh cannot please Elohim.'*** We read Elohim's condemnation of the city of Jerusalem for their wickedness and idolatry in Isaiah 29: 13, as follows: ***'Then YHVH said, "Because this people draw near with their words and honor Me with their lip service, but they remove their hearts far from Me, and their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote."'*** In fact the very same may be said about Churchianity today, since they are very sincere in their worship, but they are sincerely wrong. We have been warned about mixing pagan customs with the way people worship in Leviticus 18: 3, as follows: ***'You shall not do what is done in the land of Egypt where you lived, nor are you to do what is done in the land of Canaan where I am bringing you; you shall not walk in their statutes.'***

³² 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 (angels) of Elohim, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north (meaning Elohim's throne). 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."***

Just as much as the Jehovah Witnesses based their entire religion on a false name, so Christianity as well as the Messianic faith is based on the incorrect assumption that Yahshua our Messiah came to Christianize the world, including to teach Jews about J*e*s*u*s*. Modern day Christianity was started soon after Yahshua started a movement which would eventually be able to join the house of Judah as equal partners, in harmony with His main purpose for coming to earth, as He told the Pharisees who were with Him in John 10: 11 – 16, saying: ***“I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. (12) He who is a hireling, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, beholds the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep, and flees, and the wolf snatches them, and scatters them. (13) He flees because he is a hireling, and is not concerned about the sheep. (14) I am the good shepherd; and I know My own, and My own know Me, (15) even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. (16) And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock with one shepherd.”*** Yes, Yahshua’s main purpose was not the Christianize the world including the house of Judah, but to eventually bring us back to the covenant we made with Elohim and reconcile us with the house of Judah. Yahshua came as a Jew and there is no record that He ever changed His religion, as most assume. Believe it or not, Yahshua confirmed this when He told the woman who asked Him to heal her demon-possessed daughter in Matthew 15: 24, saying: ***“I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”*** This was also prophesied about Him when He will return to come and correct the problems caused by the jealousy of Esau and the fact that he manipulated the house of Israel through the Roman Catholic Church and her protestant daughters for the past 1800 years in Jeremiah 23: 1 – 6, as follows: ***“Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of My pasture!” declares YHVH. (2) Therefore thus says YHVH Elohim of Israel concerning the shepherds who are tending My people: “You have scattered My flock and driven them away, and have not attended to them; behold, I am about to attend to you for the evil of your deeds,” declares YHVH. (3) Then I Myself shall gather the remnant of My flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and shall bring them back to their pasture; and they will be fruitful and multiply. (4) I shall also raise up shepherds over them and they will tend them; and they will not be afraid any longer, nor be terrified, nor will any be missing,” declares YHVH. (5) Behold, the days are coming,” declares YHVH, “when I shall raise up for David a righteous Branch; and He will reign as king and act wisely and do justice and righteousness in the land. (6) In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely; and this is His name by which He will be called, ‘YHVH our righteousness.’”***

We further read from Matthew 10: 5 – 8 that when Yahshua first sent out His apostles, He instructed 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.’ (8) Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons; freely you received, freely give.”*** Rav Shaul’s mandate given him by Yahshua was exactly the same as Yahshua’s main purpose, as we read from Acts 9: 15, in this way: ***‘But the Master (Yahshua) said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel.”*** It is important to remember that in the days of Rav Shaul’s ministry the exiles of the lost sheep of the house of Israel, was universally known. Josephus a historian who recorded Jewish history for the Roman Empire and who was a contemporary of Rav Shaul, mentions large groups of the ‘lost Israelites’ that lived across the Euphrates River at that time. Rav Shaul informs us in the book of Romans 11 and especially in verses 25 – 32 that Elohim concealed this matter right up to the time we live in at present, 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 (called by Elohim’s name – those of the house of Israel who came to believe that they are Gentiles, plus a small number of real Gentiles) has come in; (26) and thus all Israel (both houses) will be saved, just as it is written, “THE***

DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION (meaning He is a Jew), **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;* (29) *for the gifts and calling of Elohim are irrevocable.* (30) *For just as you once were disobedient to Elohim, but now have been shown mercy because of their disobedience,* (31) *so these also now have been disobedient, in order that because of the mercy shown to you they also may now be shown mercy.* (32) *For Elohim has shut up all in disobedience that He might show mercy to all.’* He concludes that the house of Judah’s rejection of Yahshua the Nazarene as Messiah was Elohim’s doing to allow a full number of a remnant of the lost ten tribes of the house of Israel to return to the covenant that they made with Elohim, together with the house of Judah at Mount Sinai through Yahshua, Abraham’s one seed, before all Israel will be saved at Messiah’s imminent return. Here the Renewed Covenant confirms, but also approves the rejection of Yahshua as the Messiah, until He returns one day in the near future.

The fact that Yahshua’s main purpose was to bring the lost sheep of the house of Israel back into the faith into which He was born, namely Judaism, is authenticated by His half-brother and disciple Yaa’cov in Acts 15: 15 – 21, saying: **“And with this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written,** (16) **‘AFTER THESE THINGS I will return, AND I WILL REBUILD THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID WHICH HAS FALLEN, AND I WILL REBUILD ITS RUINS, AND I WILL RESTORE IT,** (17) **IN ORDER THAT THE REST OF MANKIND MAY SEEK YHVH, AND ALL THE GENTILES WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME** (meaning the house of Israel),’ (18) **SAYS YHVH, WHO MAKES THESE THINGS KNOWN FROM OF OLD.’** (19) **Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning** (or returning) **to Elohim from among the Gentiles,** (20) **but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood.** (21) **For Moses from ancient generations has in every city those who preach him, since he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath.**” Rav Yaa’cov is giving us the four things returnees have to start doing when they have been immersed in Yahshua’s name, after which they will start learn to become fully Torah obedient by keeping the Sabbaths (weekly and annual) ordained by Elohim, eating only kosher food, put Mezuzahs on the doorposts of their homes, wearing tzitzit and for those men who were not circumcised at the age of eight days old, to be circumcised, as they attend a Rabbinical synagogue in the area where they live or obtain such information from an internet ministry such as ours.

In his letter to the Ephesians Rav Shaul made it clear in Ephesians 2: 11 – 16 that Yahshua’s main purpose was to reconcile the lost sheep of the house of Israel to the house of Judah in one body – known as the body of Messiah or His congregation whom He will again marry as his bride at His coming, as follows: **“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, having no hope and without Elohim in the world.** (13) **But now in Messiah Yahshua you who formerly were far off** (the house of Israel as identified by the prophet Daniel in Daniel 9: 7³³) **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** (judgment portion of 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 body of Messiah or congregation of YHVH) **to Elohim through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.’** Rav Shaul continues to tell us about the mystery of Messiah in Ephesians

³³ Daniel 9: 7, **“Righteousness belongs to Thee, O Adonai, but to us open shame, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and all Israel, those who are nearby and those who are far away in all the countries to which Thou hast driven them, because of their unfaithful deeds which they have committed against Thee.”**

3: 1 – 6, saying: ***‘For this reason I, Shaul, the prisoner of Messiah Yahshua for the sake of you Gentiles—(the house of Israel who adopted the falsehood of the nations into which they were scattered and became like Gentiles³⁴) (2) if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of Elohim’s grace which was given to me for you; (3) that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. (4) And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Messiah, (5) which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; (6) to be specific, that the Gentiles (from the house of Israel) are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Messiah Yahshua through the gospel.’*** Wow, if you fully understand what Rav Shaul was saying here, you will definitely praise YHVH.

As I said recently, all this knowledge was hidden until the time of the end for you and I to discover, exactly as YHVH told the prophet Daniel in Daniel 12: 1 – 4, saying: ***“Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people (Judah and Israel), everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. (2) And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. (3) And those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. (4) But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.”*** It was Elohim’s plan all along that during this end time the truth that was hidden throughout the ages was revealed to those of us who seek to serve YHVH, the only Elohim with all our hearts (believe systems) and souls (the way we live our lives). I am sure that most of us to whom these truths hidden from our ancestors until now, understand that the good news given in the Renewed Covenant is the same good news or gospel preached to our forefathers in the Tanach. We should also at this time understand that the gospel does not free us from all obligations as Churchianity taught for almost 1800 years, but because we believe in the good news about the coming kingdom of Elohim, we are obligated to obey the Torah of Moses ‘better’ than our Jewish Brothers do, as Yahshua taught in Matthew 5: 20, saying: ***“For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.”*** When Yahshua said this, He did not mean that the scribes and Pharisees will not make it into the kingdom, but because we from the house of Israel are more prone to idolatry. In addition this is also in agreement with the way the proselytes who join the Jewish synagogue are expected to live, for the same reason.

We as returnees to the covenant relationship we had with Elohim, before He scattered us into the nations of the world, because our forefathers followed Jeroboam the king of Israel in worshipping idols after the kingdom of Israel split into two. By now it should also be abundantly clear why our Jewish Brothers do not accept a Torah-rejecting Messiah as portrayed by Christianity. We should all be aware that Elohim is perfect and does not change. The gospel of salvation proclaimed in the Renewed Covenant offers the same benefits to all mankind, but at this time He needs us to be able to support Him as priests or more correctly teachers during the world tomorrow and beyond to help teach the billions of people who will be alive during the millennium and beyond about His salvation truth, when He will open the minds of all to understanding as revealed in Isaiah 25: 7 – 9, in this way: ***‘And on this mountain (meaning His government) 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 YHVH Elohim will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; for YHVH 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 YHVH for whom we have waited; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation (Yahshua).’*** This will take care of all the people

³⁴ First part of Amos 9: 7, ***“Are you not as the sons of Ethiopia to Me. O sons of Israel?” declares YHVH.***

who were ever created, during the Great White Throne period, but as mentioned before, the kingdom of Elohim cannot be established by the house of Judah alone and as YHVH promised King David, He is going to rebuild the tabernacle of David and reestablish the commonwealth of Israel as the kingdom of Elohim over which King David will rule. It is for this reason that YHVH promised us through Moses, that He will bring us back to the Promised Land as He promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in Deuteronomy 4: 25 – 31, saying: ***“When you become the father of children and children’s children and have remained long in the land, and act corruptly, and make an idol in the form of anything, and do that which is evil in the sight of YHVH your Elohim so as to provoke Him to anger. (26) I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you shall surely perish quickly from the land where you are going over the Jordan to possess it. You shall not live long on it, but shall be utterly destroyed. (27) And YHVH will scatter you among the peoples, and you shall be left few in number among the nations, where YHVH shall drive you. (28) And there you will serve gods, the work of man’s hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. (29) But from there you will seek YHVH your Elohim, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul. (30) When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days, you will return to YHVH your Elohim and listen to His voice. (31) For YHVH your Elohim is a compassionate Elohim; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them.”***

Finally we read a prophecy by Amos about the rebuilding of the tabernacle of David from Amos 9: 8 – 15, as follows: ***“Behold, the eyes of YHVH Elohim are on the sinful kingdom (meaning the house of Israel), and I will destroy it from the face of the earth; nevertheless, I will not totally destroy the house of Jacob,” declares YHVH. (9) For behold, I am commanding, and I will shake the house of Israel among all nations as grain is shaken in a sieve, but not a kernel will fall to the ground. (10) All the sinners of My people will die by the sword, those who say, ‘The calamity will not overtake or confront us.’ (11) In that day I will raise up the fallen booth of David, and wall up its breaches; I will also raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old; (12) that they may possess the remnant of Edom (since Edom or Esau will be totally destroyed according to the prophecy in Obadiah – the remnant of Edom refers to those from the house of Israel who became Christianized, but who will ultimately come out during Jacob’s trouble as the great multitude spoken about in Revelation 7: 9³⁵, because of the good news of Elohim’s coming kingdom, proclaimed at this time.) and all (ten) the nations who are called by My name,” declares YHVH who does this. (13) “Behold, days are coming, declares YHVH, when the plowman will overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; when the mountains will drip sweet wine, and all the hills will be dissolved. (14) Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, and they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them, they will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, and make gardens and eat their fruit. (15) I will also plant them on their land, and they will not again be rooted out from their land which I have given them, says YHVH your Elohim.”*** Think about it!

³⁵ Revelation 7: 9, *‘After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands.’*

Chapter 10: What is Messiah's commission to His disciples?

Yahshua the Nazarene never instructed His disciples including us His modern day disciples to convert anybody to Christianity, but commissioned them and therefore also us to proclaim the gospel of the coming kingdom of Elohim into the world, where we could reach the lost sheep of the house of Israel, YHVH scattered us into the world because of idolatry as witnessed in Matthew 24: 14³⁶ and Mark 16: 15³⁷. Most of what Yahshua Messiah taught was focused on the establishment of the kingdom of Elohim to replace the kingdoms of the world at the end of this age after 6,000 years of mismanagement under Satan's influence. The most important reason why we don't hear anything about the Kingdom of Elohim in the sermons preached by Christianity, is that it was not meant for them, as Yahshua also told His disciples in Matthew 13: 11 & 12, saying: ***"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."***

The fact that Messiah's disciples understood and have or are busy accomplishing the commission He gave them, allows them to ultimately qualify to be born-again as children of Elohim to become co-rulers under Messiah at His return during the first resurrection, since it also obligates them to obey Torah. This is the exact opposite of what most of Churchianity is currently teaching their followers, showing that they were never ordained by Messiah, the one they claim to believe in. The reason for them contradicting Messiah's teachings is that Satan has succeeded in selling his own desires as well as his final destination through deception to the churches of the world, as their most important teaching. Prior to mankind's creation, Satan wanted to go to heaven to take over Elohim's throne in rebellion, as witnessed in Isaiah 14: 13 – 14, as follows: ***"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. (14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'" Most of Christianity, Moslems, Hindus and other religions believe that 'good' people go to heaven, beholding the face of Elohim for all eternity, when they die. Nevertheless, this doctrine inspired by Satan, is nowhere to be found in the Scriptures, as Yahshua Himself confirmed in John 3: 13, saying: "And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man." As one of the original archangels, Satan as a spirit being is immortal and has deceived mankind to believe that they are also immortal. We also see from reading Revelation 20: 10 what will happen to Satan the devil before the Great White Throne Judgment, in this way: "And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever." Many in Christianity and some other religions teach accordingly, that the wicked will be tormented in an everlasting fire.***

However, human beings made from physical matter and without having received Elohim's Set-apart Spirit at repentance and immersion, do not have eternal life in them and are not immortal. When physical matter is thrown into a fire, it burns until it becomes ashes as will happen to the wicked, who will not ultimately accept Yahshua as their Savior after the second resurrection, as recorded 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 YHVH 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 YHVH of hosts.*** This tells us that when the wicked are thrown into the fire, after the second resurrection, they will not burn

³⁶ Matthew 24: 14, ***"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all nations, and then the end shall come."***

³⁷ Mark 16: 15, ***'And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."***

forever, but will be wiped out from remembrance. So we see clearly that eternity in an ever-lasting fire cannot be the fate of un-repentant human beings. Whilst Yahshua was alive, His disciples understood His messages about the Kingdom of Elohim – the burning question is why does only a few understand His teachings recorded in the Scriptures today? Messiah’s disciples understood the crystal clear message that Yahshua proclaimed about the establishment of Elohim’s Kingdom on earth; they knew that He spoke about an actual government under the power and authority of the very Elohim. In fact some of the rulers in Messiah’s time understood that His message had political implications which could threaten their authority and control, as witnessed in Luke 23: 2 & 3, in this way: ***‘And they began to accuse Him, saying, “We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, and saying that He Himself is Messiah, a King.” (3) And Pilate asked Him, saying, “Are You the King of the Jews?” And He answered him and said, “It is as you say.”’***

Many today believe that Yahshua taught a different message to what is found throughout the Tanach, but the message about the Kingdom of Elohim is actually the primary theme of the Tanach. The prophets foretold the coming of Messiah to save His people from their sins, as well as to come and rule them from Jerusalem during the Millennium and on into eternity. The phrase *‘the millennium’* meaning a thousand years, was coined by historians, because Yahshua revealed it to Rav Yochanan in Revelation 20, where he wrote that Yahshua will reign with His saints made up of members of both houses of Israel, who will be resurrected or changed (from mortal to immortal beings) at His return, for a thousand years, as witnessed in 1 Corinthians 15: 49 – 54, as follows: ***‘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 (as the ruling class under Yahshua); 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. (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.’*** Even so, we need to be mindful that the Kingdom of Elohim and the Millennium are not identical, but they intersect. Messiah’s rule of a thousand years will be the beginning of Elohim’s eternal reign, as we read from Daniel 7: 13 & 14, in this way: ***“I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. (14) And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.”*** Even after Yahshua ascended to heaven, the apostles did not change their minds, as we read from Acts 3: 19 – 21 where Rav Kepha explained, as follows: ***“Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of YHVH; (20) and that He may send Yahshua, the Messiah appointed for you, (21) whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which Elohim spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.”*** It is important to note that these early believers connected Yahshua’s return to descriptions of a new world given by the prophets. It also informs us that we will get further evidence of early Renewed Covenant beliefs in the writings of the ancient Hebrew prophets. We read for example from Revelation 11: 15, that the Kingdom of Elohim will come at Messiah’s return, in this way: ***‘And the seventh angel sounded; and there arose loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of YHVH, and of His Messiah; and He will reign forever and ever.’***

But, to understand how most of the house of Israel became ‘blinded’ to the gospel Yahshua and His disciples proclaimed, we need to consider what occurred before Messiah’s first advent to earth.

After the house of Israel consisting of ten tribes separated from the house of Judah, during the time Jeroboam was king over the house of Israel, the Assyrians took them captive during 721 - 718 and took the majority with them into Europe where some remained, whilst the rest went on to England, the United States of America and later to what became known as the commonwealth of England, namely Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Whilst in Europe the lost sheep of the house of Israel was initially hidden amongst the people of Greece which were absorbed by Rome and over time they lost their language, culture and religion and were again taken captive by the Roman Catholic Church and became Christianized. At that time YHVH sent Yahshua the Messiah to bring a remnant of the lost sheep of the house of Israel back to the covenant they made with Him, together with the house of Judah at Mount Sinai, when He became the first-fruit grain offering and sacrifice for the sin of the northern ten tribes who were in the spiritual state of an adulterous woman. They were divorced from YHVH and could not be restored to the fellowship of the covenant without paying the death penalty. As a result, Yahshua paid for their sins on His impalement stake. Even so, the dispensational theology of the Roman Church that suggests that the grace of YHVH was then transferred from Judah to the assembly of Messiah has no Scriptural basis, instead we read from John 11: 49 – 52 that Yahshua’s death atoned for both houses, as follows: ***‘But a certain one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all, (50) 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.” (51) 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, (52) and not for the nation (of Judah) only, but that He might also gather together into one the children of Elohim who are scattered abroad.’*** This dispensational lie was a later invention by the covetous men of the Church to disinherit Judah from the Abrahamic Covenant – the same wickedness perpetrated by Esau. As a side light, it is important to mention that there is Scriptural proof that the days of punishment as given by Ezekiel in Ezekiel 4 and also in Deuteronomy 26 of Ephraim and Judah are over. Judah was sentenced to 360 days (390 + 40 – 70) multiplied by 7 amounts to 2530 years. Their sentence began in 572 BCE and ended in 1948 CE, when they returned to the Promised Land as the modern nation of Israel. Ephraim (or the lost ten tribes) was sentenced to 390 days multiplied by 7 amounts to 2730 years. The sentence began in 721 BCE and ended in 2009 CE. The day when Judah and Ephraim will no longer be separate households is therefore very near, at which time they will be united as the redeemed nation of Zion. Yahshua will return during a time of great trouble, bringing the Torah to His people Israel. He will gather the dispersed of Israel out of the countries where they are scattered and bring them into the wilderness of the peoples. He will make them pass under the rod and bring them into the band of the covenant, just as He confirmed the covenant with united Israel at Mount Horeb more than 3000 years ago. At that time any rebels who rebel against Torah will be purged out of the camp of Israelites (as per Ezekiel 20: 33 – 28).

The house of Israel has been deceived for more than 1800 years and the deception is still ongoing. When and how did the deception start and will there ever be an end to it? For the answer to this question, we need to turn to what is the only true source of information available to us today – and which is because of the many translations, also not 100% reliable. 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.’*** It is very difficult for most to understand how the accounts taken from verses in the Bible and given in sermons from the pulpits of churches around the world, can be untrue. They do not understand that a verse quoted out of context may even though it comes from the very word of Elohim, be turned into a lie. Rav Shaul warned believers in 2 Corinthians 11 about those who twist the Scriptures to teach people a different gospel; i.e. that the birth, life, death and resurrection of Yahshua is the true gospel of Messiah, instead of the good news about the coming Kingdom of Elohim, as Messiah Himself proclaimed in Matthew 4: 17; Mark 1: 14 & 15; and indeed throughout the four gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We pick up the warning in verses 3, 4, 13 & 14 of 2 Corinthians 11, as follows: ***‘But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his***

craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Messiah. (4) For if one comes and preaches another Yahshua, whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully. (13) 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.' We read another warning from the prophet Jeremiah about the so-called shepherds who attend Elohim's people today, from Jeremiah 23: 1 - 4, saying: **"Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of My pasture!" declares YHVH. (2) 'Therefore thus says YHVH Elohim of Israel concerning the shepherds who are tending My people: "You have scattered My flock and driven them away, and have not attended to them; behold, I am about to attend to you for the evil of your deeds," declares YHVH. (3) Then I Myself shall gather the remnant of My flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and shall bring them back to their pasture; and they will be fruitful and multiply. (4) I shall also raise up shepherds over them and they will tend them; and they will not be afraid any longer, nor be terrified, nor will any be missing," declares YHVH.'**

Yahshua told us in John 8: 42 – 45 that Satan introduced lies, deception and rebellion against Elohim's truth from the very beginning, saying: **"If Elohim were your Father, you would love Me; for I proceeded forth and have come from Elohim, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. (43) Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. (44) You are of your father the devil and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies. (45) But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me."** If we start following Yahshua in the way He kept Torah with a spiritual intent, we become His sheep. We will accordingly believe everything He taught in the Scriptures, and not contradict Him in any way. Rav Shaul confirmed that Satan hides the truth from people, so that they cannot believe the gospel of the coming Kingdom of Elohim, as proclaimed by Yahshua, as we read from 2 Corinthians 4: 3 & 4, as follows: **'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.'** This is in fact in total agreement with what Rav Yochanan wrote in 1 John 5: 19, Saying: **'We know that we are of Elohim, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.'** Recalling Yahshua's teaching in Matthew 24: 29 – 47 we read: **"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. (32) Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender, and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; (33) even so you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door. (34) Truly I say to you, this generation (or race) will not pass away until all these things take place. (Meaning that the Jewish race will still be around when Messiah returns.) (35) Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away. (36) But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone (i.e. the one who alone possesses immortality and dwells in an unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see). (37) For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. (38) For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, (39) and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so shall the coming of the Son of Man be. (40) Then there shall be two men in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. (41) Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left. (42) Therefore be on**

the alert, for you do not know which day your Master is coming. (43) But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. (44) For this reason you be ready too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will. (45) Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? (Note that this is talking about spiritual food {or teachings} which should be given at Sabbath services and during the Feast Days of Elohim.) (46) ***Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.*** (If we remain loyal and teach new believers in Elohim about the coming Kingdom of Elohim, until Yahshua returns.) (47) ***Truly I say to you, that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.*** Yes, Yahshua promised us rulership under Him, if we continue to teach new believers the true gospel. It is only when we consider these words of Messiah that we come to the realization that it has still to occur.

Even though most theologians agree that the Kingdom of Elohim is discussed throughout the pages of the Scriptures, most of them do not believe, or have lost faith about what is written in The Scriptures. We read from the book of Acts 26: 6 & 7, where Rav Shaul (as ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes) tells King Agrippa that He is on trial for his hope in the Kingdom of Elohim, as follows: ***“And now I am standing trial for the hope of the promise made by Elohim to our fathers; (7) the promise to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly serve Elohim night and day. And for this hope, O King, I am being accused by Jews.”*** Even under persecution we should not become weary of waiting for the coming of our Messiah, as we are admonished in Hebrews 10: 35 – 39, in this way: ***‘Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. (36) For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of Elohim, you may receive what was promised. (37) FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY. (38) BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM. (39) But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.’*** Hebrews 10: 38 is a direct quote from Habakkuk 2: 4, where we are reminded that ***‘the righteous will live by his faith.’*** Nevertheless, we need to understand that unless YHVH opens our minds to understanding His truths, we will not see it, as Yahshua explained in John 6: 44 & 65, as follows: ***“No one can come to Me, unless the Father who 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.***

More than 2700 years ago YHVH through the Prophet Isaiah described how corrupt His people the united nation of Israel have become in their disrespect for His Torah. Today, politicians in Israelite countries make promises before elections, which they full well know that they cannot keep. Newspapers print lies and half-truths and present it as facts. When Yahshua returns to rule us from Jerusalem, all deception will come to an end, as we witnessed in Isaiah 11: 9, in this way: ***‘They will not hurt or destroy in all My set-apart mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of YHVH as the waters cover the sea.’*** During the coming millennium, people who survive the Great Tribulation will at last have access to spiritual knowledge that they never knew before. We also read about that time from Jeremiah 31: 29 – 34, as follows: ***“In those days they will not say again, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge.’ (30) But everyone will die for his own iniquity; each man who eats the sour grapes, his teeth will be set on edge. (31) Behold, days are coming,” declares YHVH, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, (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 YHVH. (33) But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares YHVH, “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. (As I***

mentioned before, the Torah will only be written on the hearts and minds of the house of Israel, since the House of Judah obeyed Torah all along.) (34) ***And they shall not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know YHVH,' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares YHVH, "For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."***

Those believers who keep (YHVH)'s annual Feast Days during this age, are slowly but surely learning about Elohim's plan of salvation for all mankind. These believers are in fact learning to practice righteousness, by obeying the instructions that YHVH gave in His Torah. The coming Kingdom will eventually change the entire world, in that once the united nation of Israel are on the right track, to serve YHVH as His model nation, they will show the rest of the world by example, how mankind should serve YHVH the Creator and Elohim. We see from Isaiah 42: 21, that Messiah came the first time to exalt the Law, but it will only be during Yahshua's return to earth, that He will begin to restore all things, as witnessed in Acts 3: 19 – 21, in this way: ***'Repent therefore and return (to Torah obedience), that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of YHVH; (20) and that He may send Yahshua, the Messiah appointed for you, (21) whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which Elohim spoke by the mouth of His set-apart prophets from ancient time.'*** The restoration of the united kingdom of Israel is only the start of the universe-wide Kingdom of Elohim. During the millennium, Yahshua the Messiah will institute Elohim's way in all the nations throughout the world. We read aptly from Isaiah 60: 3, ***"And nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising."*** We read further from verses 4 & 5, ***"Lift up your eyes round about, and see; they all gather together, they come to you. Your sons will come from afar, and your daughters will be carried in the arms. (5) Then you will see and be radiant, and your heart will thrill and rejoice; because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you, the wealth of the nations will come to you."*** Like during the time of King Solomon the nations around the world will again bless the nation of Israel, as witnessed in verse 11 of Isaiah 60, ***"And your gates will be open continually; they will not be closed day or night, so that men may bring to you the wealth of the nations, with their kings led in the procession."*** We see more details about the restoration of Israel and Judah in Jeremiah 33: 7 – 9, in this way: ***'And I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and I will rebuild them as they were at first. (8) And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against Me, and I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have sinned against Me, and by which they have transgressed against Me. (9) And it shall be to Me a name of joy, praise, and glory before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear of all the good that I do for them, and they shall fear and tremble because of all the good and all the peace that I make for it.'***

It is because we know that these promises of YHVH our Elohim are true and will definitely come to fruition, that we need to proclaim the wonderful world that is about to be ushered in when Yahshua our Messiah returns. It is most important that at this time, we the called out congregation of Elohim confess the lies that our fathers taught us as we read from Jeremiah 16: 19: ***'O YHVH, my strength and my stronghold, and my refuge in the day of distress, to Thee the nations will come from the ends of the earth and say, "Our fathers have inherited nothing but falsehood, futility and things of no profit."*** We should stop living a lie serving people and things, as if they are the providers of all our needs. We need to recall Yahshua's own words in Matthew 19: 17, in this way: ***'And He said to him (the young man who asked him what he should do to inherit eternal life), "Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter life, keep the commandments."*** The Prophet Daniel described a ferocious monster to arise after the Babylonian, Persian, Greek and Roman Empires; the Roman Empire being the dominant power at the time of Messiah's crucifixion and continuing for 2000 years strenuously to destroy the people of the covenant as the embodiment of Esau himself. Likewise the Christian Church with its unscriptural doctrines, dispensational theology and anti-Semitic actions has shown itself to be complicit with the Roman Church rather than the emissary of Yahshua, which it purports to be. The little horn or anti-

messiah to come (described by Daniel in Daniel 7: 20) will most probably also be descended from Esau since the goal of the anti-messiah is to break Jacob's possession of the covenant.

When Messiah returns, Judah and Ephraim will together overcome the anti-messiah when Esau (or Rome) is finally destroyed, as prophesied in Zechariah 9: 10 – 16, as follows: ***'And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem; and the bow of war will be cut off. And He will speak peace to the nations; and His dominion will be from sea to sea, and from River (Euphrates) to the ends of the earth. (11) As for you also, because of the blood of My covenant with you, I have set your prisoners free from the waterless pit (false church). (12) Return to the stronghold, O prisoners who have the hope; this very day I am declaring that I will restore double to you. (13) For I will bend Judah as My bow, I will fill the bow with Ephraim. And I will stir up your son, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece (meaning the Roman Catholic Church and her daughters); and I will make you like a warrior's sword. (14) Then YHVH will appear over them, and His arrow will go forth like lightning; and YHVH Elohim will blow the trumpet, and will march in the storm winds of the south. (15) YHVH of hosts will defend them, and they will devour, and trample on the sling stones; and they will drink, and be boisterous as with wine; and they will be filled like a sacrificial basin, drenched like the corners of the altar. (16) And YHVH their Elohim will save them in that day as the flock of His people; for they are as the stones of a crown, sparkling in His hand.'***

It has therefore become time to come out of the false Babylonian religious systems of the world – the confusion which was started in the city of Babel by Nimrod, where they also built a tower to 'go to heaven'. It is time to start obeying YHVH and do what He tells us in His word; it is time to stop spreading ambiguous half-truths, thus contradicting what our Master, who bought us, taught. But most of all, it is time to pray earnestly for the Kingdom of Elohim to come on earth, as it is in heaven! Only then will all the lies and temptation of Satan come to an end. Halleluyah!

Chapter 11: The truth about Galatians 4 revisited.

The majority of the Christian world has been misled by the book of Galatians, due to the technical discussions regarding Scriptural topics ranging from circumcision to 'so-called freedoms' in Messiah. To begin with, they allege that this chapter does away with the need to keep the Torah, including the Feast Days of Elohim, which according to Leviticus 23 in the last part of both verses 21 & 31, ***"..is a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwelling places."*** This in no uncertain terms informs us that these Feast Days are forever and part and parcel of Elohim's Torah. Christianity believe that since Yahshua the Messiah died on the impalement tree, their followers are free from Torah (the Law) and need not any longer be enslaved by it.

Let's therefore turn to Galatians 4 to see if this is true. We start by reading from verses 1 & 2 of Galatians 4, as follows: ***"Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, (2) but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father."*** This is basically talking about a property, such as for example a farm, which a minor son of a farmer inherits when his father dies pre-maturely. In this case the father stipulated a date when the son turns 21 or 25, when he will officially become the owner of the farm. In the meantime the son is to work on the farm, to learn how to eventually, when he comes of age, become the farmer/owner. During the time that the son is under age, the father stipulated that guardians or managers be appointed to farm the land. During this period, the son does not differ from the slaves working on the farm, even though he being the heir of his late father is the legitimate owner of the farm. However, this talking about the way believers in Messiah from the lost sheep of the house of Israel (including a small number of real Gentiles), who lost their piece of the Promised Land because of spiritual adultery, become heirs according to the promise made to father Abraham, once again. We continue reading from verses 3 – 5, in this way: ***"So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. (4) But when the fullness of the time came, Elohim sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under law, (5) in order that He might redeem those who were under law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."*** Even though some translations of The Scriptures, add the word 'the' before the final word in the 4th verse and also makes the 'L' in the word law a capital letter, the New International Version of the Scriptures has it correctly as given above. In The New American Standard version of The Scriptures, the final two words of verse 4 reads the Law, but the side note listed against it, states that it should read law only. This also applies to the word law in the 5th verse.

However, to fully understand what Rav Shaul is talking about in Galatians 4 we need to determine what it means to be under the law. As explained before the Law or Torah consists of commandments, statutes and judgments. Whereas the commandments give us a summary of all the rules and regulations according to which YHVH wants us to show our love and respect towards Him, as well as to our neighbors, the statutes provide additional details regarding the way we should obey each of the commandments and the judgments (or ordinances) specify the punishment due for transgressing the commandments. Accordingly, when you obey the commandments and statutes like the Torah observant members of the house of Judah have been doing since their return from captivity in Babylon about 2500 years ago, there are no curses, provided you repent and return to full Torah obedience, whenever you sin – you are therefore not under the (curses of the) law. On the contrary, the judgments due to us from the lost ten tribes for transgressing the commandments without understanding what sin was, after being scattered into the nations of the world because of idolatry and lost our language, faith and culture and deceived by the Roman Catholic Church and her (protestant) daughters came to believe Torah is obsolete, is death by stoning, but also the curses described in Deuteronomy 28, thus putting us under (the judgment of) the law. Once YHVH calls us out of the churches of the world and we are immersed into Yahshua's saving name, accepting that His death atoned for our past sins, He redeems us from the curse of the law. Yahshua specifically

came to bring us back into the faith into which He was born and the covenant that we made with Elohim, together with the house of Judah at Mount Sinai. We read accordingly from Galatians 3: 13, ***“Messiah redeemed us from the curse (penalty) of the Law, having become a curse for us – for it is written, ‘CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE.’”*** We have been redeemed from the penalty or judgments due to breaking Elohim’s commandments and are reconciled to the Father to once again become heirs of Abraham through faith in Messiah (as recorded in Galatians 3: 26 – 29), provided we obey Elohim’s commandments, statutes and laws as Abraham did (as witnessed in Genesis 26: 5), then we shall inherit the Promised Land (or Kingdom of Elohim) promised to him and his descendants forever.

Christians incorrectly interpret the curse of the law as Torah. However, both verses 4 and 5 are talking about ***‘the law applicable to inheritance’***, discussed in principle in verses 1 & 2 and definitely not about Torah. The phrase ***‘under the elemental things of the world’*** in verse 3 does also most certainly not mean YHVH’s Torah or the Law. Rav Shaul did not refer to the Torah or the Law as the elemental things of the world here and in Romans 7: 12 said: ***‘So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.’*** In addition he said in the first part of verse 14: ***‘For we know that the Law is spiritual’***, meaning it is eternal. Some go a bit further to say that this is saying that Yahshua was indeed born under Torah, because Miriam, His mother did not break Torah, since we know that she was pregnant as a result of what we read in Luke 1: 35 as follows: ***‘And the angel answered and said to her, “The Set-apart Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;”*** and not as a result of fornication. I agree fully that Yahshua’s mother did not violate Torah at all, but that is not what is being discussed in Galatians 4: 4. What verse 4 is really saying is that Yahshua was specifically born to redeem us, the wayward descendants from the lost ten tribes who made the covenant with Elohim at Mount Sinai from our curses of the law and therefore ***came under the law on our behalf***. Even so, the entire chapter 4 of Galatians is about ***‘the law of inheritance’*** and talking about us becoming children of Elohim, because we like Isaac are children of promise, despite the fact that we were doomed to die as a result of the sins of our forefathers. A second point misunderstood by Christianity is: what these promises were, that we like Isaac will one day inherit? What were the promises made to Abraham? YHVH said to Abram in Genesis 12: 1 - 3, ***“Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you; (2) and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; (3) and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*** According to the transliterated Hebrew words for ***‘Go forth’*** namely ***‘Lech lecha’***, Abram was told to get out of the land of his fathers, for his own good. YHVH commanded Abram and on the condition that he obeyed, he was made an eternal two-fold promise. From this point forward YHVH started the world with an individual person who obeyed Him.

When YHVH told Abram to leave, he did not argue at all, but as we read from Genesis 12: 4, ***‘(So) Abram went forth as YHVH had spoken to him.’*** YHVH established Abram, whose name He later changed to Abraham, as the father of Israel, because he believed Elohim, and ***‘it was reckoned to him as righteousness.’*** However Abram had to obey and leave his country of origin, namely Ur of the Chaldeans, ***which was in the land of Babylon***, as well as his family and friends behind. He had to go and start all over again in a country where YHVH told him to go. ***This is similar to the way that YHVH is calling us to come out of the false religious systems (the confusion of Babylon) that we served in the past, in order to qualify to eventually go and dwell in the land eternally promised to our fathers in the faith.*** YHVH promised the land of Canaan to Abram and his descendants, for an everlasting possession. YHVH said to him in Genesis 17: 10 & 11: ***“This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you; every male among you shall be circumcised. (11) And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you.”*** YHVH said of this new nation that He started in Isaiah 43: 21, ***“The***

people whom I formed for Myself, will declare My praise.” This specific prophesy will only truly come to fruition in the foreseeable future, when a remnant of Israel and Judah will be saved as first fruits to YHVH. Few people today realize that there is a principle of duality which runs throughout the plan that YHVH is carrying out here on earth. There was the first Adam, physical and earthly, and there is Messiah, who is the second Adam, who is spiritual and eternal. YHVH made man mortal from the dust of the ground and of the human kind; but by obedience to Torah (for the house of Judah) or through Messiah (the returnees of the lost ten tribes) we may be begotten immortal, spiritual and of the Elohim kind. Similarly there were two phases to the promises that YHVH made to Abraham; one being material and national, and the other spiritual and individual. Most students of the Scriptures are aware of the spiritual promise of Messiah and salvation through Him: Most realize that YHVH gave Abraham a spiritual promise of the Messiah to be born as his descendant, and that mankind will be saved through Him. Even so, most do not understand what salvation is, i.e. the promise that we receive through Messiah and how and when we receive it.

YHVH made a dual promise to Abram in Genesis 12: 2 & 3, saying: ***‘And I will make you a great nation (a promise of race), and I will bless you, and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing; (3) and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed (a promise of grace or unmerited pardon).’*** This last promise is repeated in Genesis 22: 18, as follows: ***“And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”*** It is at this point where Christianity has fallen into error, or spiritual blindness. As already mentioned, they understand the promise of spiritual salvation through Messiah, but miss the point that YHVH gave Abraham promises of both physical race and spiritual salvation in the Land of Israel. They incorrectly assumed that believers are promised eternal life in heaven after death. However, the promise of *‘a great nation’* refers to race and not only to the one *‘seed’* spoken about in Galatians 3: 16, in this way: ***‘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.’*** Messiah became the Son of Elohim after His resurrection, but He was also born as the Son of Man, a descendant of Abraham. It was Elohim’s intention for Israel to become a multitude of nations as witnessed by the promises given in Genesis 17: 1 - 5, as follows: ***‘Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, YHVH appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am Elohim Almighty; walk before Me, and be blameless. (2) And I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and I will multiply you exceedingly.” (3) And Abram fell on his face, and Elohim talked with him, saying, (4) “As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. (5) No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I will make you the father of a multitude of nations.”*** Also understand that this promise was conditional upon Abraham’s obedience and blameless living. At this time the *‘great nation’* becomes a *‘multitude of nations’* and can definitely not refer to a single seed, namely Messiah only.

We read from verse 6 of Genesis 17, ***“And I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come forth from you.”*** This tells us that Abraham’s offspring will become many nations with a number of kings ruling them, but it also tells Abraham about the first-fruits who will become kings and priests during Messiah’s Millennial rule, ruling over nations and cities, as Yahshua promised in Revelation 2: 26, in this way: ***‘And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS.’*** We read further from verses 7 and 8 of Genesis 17, YHVH saying: ***“And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be an Elohim to you and to your descendants after you. (8) And I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their Elohim.”*** Note that the land promised to the numerous descendants of whom YHVH is *‘their’* and not *‘his’* Elohim. The future of all the important nations of

the world depended on the promises that YHVH made to Abraham. The hope of life after death for the lost sheep of the house of Israel at Messiah's return, depends upon the spiritual promise of mercy and favor through Messiah, the 'one seed' of Abraham, through whom the rest of mankind will also eventually be saved after the second resurrection. Because the house of Judah only believe in the Tanach, they correctly believe in the coming Kingdom of Elohim on earth ruled by a Messiah (as prophesied in the Tanach), Christianity have been led to believe that the promise to Abraham was eternal life (salvation), but they have no idea where it will be spent. It is because they do not fully grasp what was promised to Abraham, that they do not understand the Gospel of the Kingdom of Elohim.

Nevertheless, we see according to Hebrews 11: 8 - 10, that Abraham and his descendants have not yet inherited the promises made to them yet, even though they fulfilled their side of the covenant agreement, 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. (9) By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise** (eternal life through Messiah in the promised land); (10) **for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is Elohim.**" We know that this is talking about the Kingdom of Elohim which will come to earth when Yahshua returns to rule the world from Jerusalem one day, but also ultimately when Elohim will come to dwell on earth in the New Jerusalem, which will come down from heaven, to tabernacle among His people (who will by that time all be spiritual born-again children of Elohim) as we read from Revelation 21: 1 - 3. Turning to verses 39 & 40 of Hebrews 11 we see the reason why they did not receive the promises made to them yet, in this way: **'And all these** (our fathers and mothers in the faith listed from verses 8 - 32), **having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised,** (40) **because Elohim had provided something better for us** (the latter day descendants of Abraham who now also believe in the two fold promises made to Abraham, namely eternal life in the coming Kingdom of Elohim), **so that, apart from us they should not be made perfect.'** That is also why we cannot inherit the Promised Land before our father in the faith gets the inheritance promised him by YHVH, as a son cannot inherit anything which does not belong to his father, yet. The 'us' mentioned in verse 40 are a remnant of the twelve tribes of Israel, plus a small number of Gentiles who are at this time called out of the churches (or religions) of the world and came to believe in Messiah Yahshua (as Yahshua explained in John 6: 65) to be saved during the first resurrection, as witnessed from Romans 9: 27, **'And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, "THOUGH THE NUMBER OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL BE AS THE SAND OF THE SEA, IT IS THE REMNANT THAT WILL BE SAVED"'** But, similar to the conditions which Abraham had to fulfill to ultimately at Yahshua's return receive the promises made to Him, we the **'remnant according to Elohim's gracious choice'** have to go back to the faith of the fathers in the faith, before the coming of the great and terrible day of YHVH as recorded in Malachi 4: 4 - 6. The question is: What was the faith of the fathers in the faith? Let us at this point consider the faith of our fathers (in the faith), namely Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Firstly we understand from verses 8 - 11 of Hebrews 11 (quoted earlier), that our fathers in the faith were fully aware of the coming Kingdom of Elohim. In other words they believed in the true gospel of Elohim, as proclaimed by Yahshua the Messiah in amongst other Mark 1: 14 & 15. They not only believed in the Gospel of Elohim, they also believed that they would be part of it when they are in the first (better) resurrection!

Apart from believing the Gospel of Elohim, our father Abraham also knew about and believed in the saving work that Yahshua was going to do in what was yet future to him. We read part of Yahshua's answer to the Jews in John 8: 56 - 58, as follows: **"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."** (57) **'The Jews therefore said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"'** (58) **'Yahshua said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."'** We know that Yahshua was telling the Jews here that He was the Eternal I am.

From reading Hebrews 11: 17 – 19, we understand that Abraham believed in the resurrection of the dead, in this way: ***‘By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac; and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; (18) it was he to whom it was said, “IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED.” (19) He considered that Elohim is able to raise men even from the dead; from which he also received him back as a type.’*** As we’ve seen before, Abraham knowing that Yahshua was going to be impaled and resurrected in what was future to him, received Isaac back as a type of Yahshua. Lastly our father Abraham also obeyed YHVH and kept Torah (without the sacrificial laws which was added 430 years later because of the sin of the golden calf as witnessed in Galatians 3: 17) as we read from Genesis 26: 5, as follows: ***“because Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws.”*** This included the covenant that YHVH made with Abraham and his decedents or heirs of the everlasting covenant to inherit the Promised Land in Genesis 17: 9 & 10, where Elohim said to Abraham: ***“Now as for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. (10) This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised.”*** Believing In Yahshua means that we believe in His saving name, but also do what He did whilst He was on earth. He was the perfect example that YHVH sent us to conform to and since He was both circumcised and immersed, we should do likewise. Faith in the salvation of YHVH saves us from eternal death, when we are immersed into His saving name, but it does not fulfill the second part of what was promised to Abraham, namely eternal life in the Promised Land (the Kingdom of Elohim), if we do not perform our part of the agreement made between YHVH and Abraham in Genesis 17: 6 – 8 (already quoted), i.e. to be circumcised (as male descendants of Abraham) and obey the rest of Torah to retain Elohim’s Set-apart Spirit and qualify to live in the Promised Land with Abraham as children of Elohim eternally.

Armed with this understanding of Galatians 4, let’s read again from verse 4 - 8: ***“But when the fullness of the time came (the set date mentioned in verse 2), Elohim sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under (the curse of) law, (5) in order that He might redeem those (of the house of Israel) who were under (the curse of the) law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. (6) And because you are sons, Elohim has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Avinu! Father!” (7) Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through Elohim. (8) However at that time, when you did not know Elohim, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods.”*** Do you get that; when we did not know Elohim, we were slaves to the elemental things of this world – those which by nature are no gods. In verse 9, 10 and 11 of Galatians 4, Shaul exhorts us who are now heirs of Elohim to not go back to our old ways of life and worthless elemental things and be enslaved by them all over again. These things are pagan holidays such as birthdays, Easter, Christmas and New Year’s Day, not the Feast Days of Elohim as Christianity assume. Shaul carries on exhorting the Galatians (and us) to remain loyal until verse 20. From verse 21 at the end of the chapter, Shaul explains the law of inheritance again as follows: ***“Tell me, you who want to be under law, do you not listen to the law (Torah)? (22) For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman (Hagar) and one by the free woman (Sarah). (23) But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman through the promise (That is why father Abraham was circumcised: so that he might know that Isaac was his child through promise and not through his own strength). (24) This is allegorically speaking: for these women are two covenants, one proceeding from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar. (25) Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. (26) But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother. (27) For it is written, “REJOICE, BARREN WOMAN WHO DOES NOT BEAR; BREAK FORTH AND SHOUT, YOU WHO ARE NOT IN LABOR; FOR MORE ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE DESOLATE THAN OF THE ONE WHO HAS A HUSBAND.” (28) And you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise. (29) But as at that time he who was born according to the flesh (Ismael) persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit (Isaac), so it is now also. (30) But what does the Scripture say? “CAST OUT THE***

BONDWOMAN AND HER SON, FOR THE SON OF THE BONDWOMAN SHALL NOT BE AN HEIR WITH THE SON OF THE FREE WOMAN.” (31) So then, brethren, we are not children of a bondwoman, but of the free woman.”

If you read the entire chapter in the light of what is explained in verses 1 & 2 you will agree that this Chapter has nothing to do with the abolition of Torah or the Feast Days of YHVH our Elohim. We know that the Torah is Spiritual and will never pass away. In this chapter Shaul is explaining ‘the law of inheritance’ to us, the children of promise. We read further from Galatians 6: 16, **‘And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of Elohim.’** Now, what is the rule spoken about here? We get the answer in Romans 9: 6 & 7, as follows: **“But it is not as though the word of Elohim has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel; (7) neither are they all children because they are Abraham’s descendants, but: “THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED.”** For further confirmation let’s read from verse 26 through 29 of Galatians Chapter 3 as follows: **“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.”** And yes, therefore according to the covenant made with father Abraham in Genesis 17, to be able to live in the land promised to Abraham and his descendants, we have to do our part in the covenant agreement, and let all our male children be circumcised at 8 days old. But this does not end there, since before we may partake of the Passover, where we accept Yahshua Messiah as our Passover lamb we need all be circumcised in heart (immersed) and flesh (for male members of the congregation only), as recorded in Exodus 12: 47 - 49, **“All the congregation of Israel are to celebrate this. (48) But if a stranger sojourns with you, and celebrates the Passover to YHVH, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near to celebrate it; and he shall be like a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person may eat of it. (49) The same law shall apply to the native as to the stranger who sojourns among you.”** Our father in the faith, Abraham was circumcised at a very old age, but, in his case he believed YHVH before he was circumcised. When he was circumcised as a sign of the covenant between him and YHVH, his name was changed to Abraham. Since then all Israelites and their children were circumcised at the age of eight days old. However, many of us who lost our identity as Israel, became like Gentiles and stopped circumcising our children, because we believed that the Torah was done away with. In some of our cases, our renewed belief in Yahshua our Messiah also came first and we were circumcised later, as we learnt to obey all of Torah. Since repentance is a process as Rav Shaul also explained in Galatians 5, new believers are required to meet the initial four requirements given in Acts 15 first, then as they attend services in a synagogue or ministries like ours, they will learn to obey Torah fully and out of their own will come to the decision to be circumcised, as may be understood from reading Acts 15: 21. Nevertheless, we do not do it for salvation, but to show our Father that we love Him and eventually as heirs of Abraham to inherit the Promised Land. In agreement with this Yahshua’s disciples understood and believed the restoration of the two houses of Israel to be synonymous with the coming Kingdom of Elohim, hence their question to Yahshua in Acts 1: 6 before He ascended to heaven, as follows: **“Master, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”**

The original covenant made with Abraham is the same covenant made at Mount Sinai with Moses and the Israelites. The only difference being, that because of sin, the Sacrificial Law practiced by the Levitical Priesthood was added. The only thing that was different is not Torah, but how the administration for the remission of sins was carried out. The sacrificial law, the tutor mentioned in Galatians 3: 16 - 19, was then added to the covenant to attend to the problem of sin, until Messiah became the sacrifice – the lamb who died for the sins of the world. The sacrificial system was changed and not Torah. Circumcision was never part of the sacrificial system. The book of Hebrews

explains this and is a key to understanding the book of Galatians, showing how remission of sin through the payment of debt through animal sacrifices was replaced with justification through the blood of Yahshua. This means that anyone who comes to believe in Yahshua as Messiah has to be immersed to receive the promise of the Set-apart Spirit. We know that both Yahshua our Messiah and Rav Shaul, being Jewish were circumcised when they were only eight days old and that both of them were also immersed. We read accordingly from Matthew 3: 16, in this way: ***'And after being immersed, Yahshua went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of Elohim descending as a dove, and coming upon Him.'*** We also read about Rav Shaul's immersion in Acts 9: 18, as follows: ***'And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he arose and was immersed.'*** Rav Shaul was taught for three years after his immersion, to become one of Yahshua's apostles as witnessed in Acts 9: 22 – 23, in this way: ***'But Shaul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this Yahshua is the Messiah. (23) And when many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him.'*** We see that the many days spoken about here, are in fact three years as recorded in Galatians 1: 1, 2 & 15 – 18, as follows: ***'Rav Shaul, an apostle (not sent from men, nor through the agency of man, but through Yahshua Messiah, and Elohim the Father, who raised Him from the dead), (2) and all the brethren who are with me, to the congregations of Galatia.'*** (Rav Shaul was an apostle to the exiles of Yah or the lost ten tribes dispersed throughout the nations.) (15) ***But when He who had set me apart, even from my mother's womb, and called me through His grace, was pleased (16) to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, (17) nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus. (18) Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas (Rav Kepha), and stayed with him fifteen days.'*** It took three years for Rav Shaul to learn the Way of Elohim (Halacha) that Yahshua taught, even though he was a Jew by birth. The other apostles were similarly taught by Yahshua for about three and a half years, before they were ready to immerse other believers and teach them the Halacha that Yahshua taught them – bearing in mind that they were also mostly Jews by birth (and therefore already circumcised).

But, why is the requirement of circumcision only applicable to males? The reason is as Rav Shaul taught in 1 Timothy 2: 15, saying: ***"But women shall be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint."*** Obviously this is talking about a woman believer in Messiah, who regards marriage as sacred and will during the consummation of her marriage to a fellow believer lose her virginity, in the process to have children. We see further that no uncircumcised individual will be able to enter the capital city of the world to come, namely Jerusalem, when Yahshua returns one day, as we read from Isaiah 52: 1 as follows: ***"AWAKE, awake, clothe yourself in your strength, O Zion; clothe yourself in your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city. For the uncircumcised and the unclean will no more come into you."*** Believers in Messiah must get away from those who preach against Torah and distort the Scriptures to continue to deceive their followers as Rav Kepha warned in 2 Peter 3: 13 – 16, saying: ***'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 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.'*** Think carefully about it!

Bibliography and contact details of the publisher:

I wish to thank the following for providing me with valuable information used in this book:

- 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'.**
- 2. 'Jewish Secrets Hidden in the New Testament' Rabbi Avraham Feld and OvadYah Avrahami.**
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