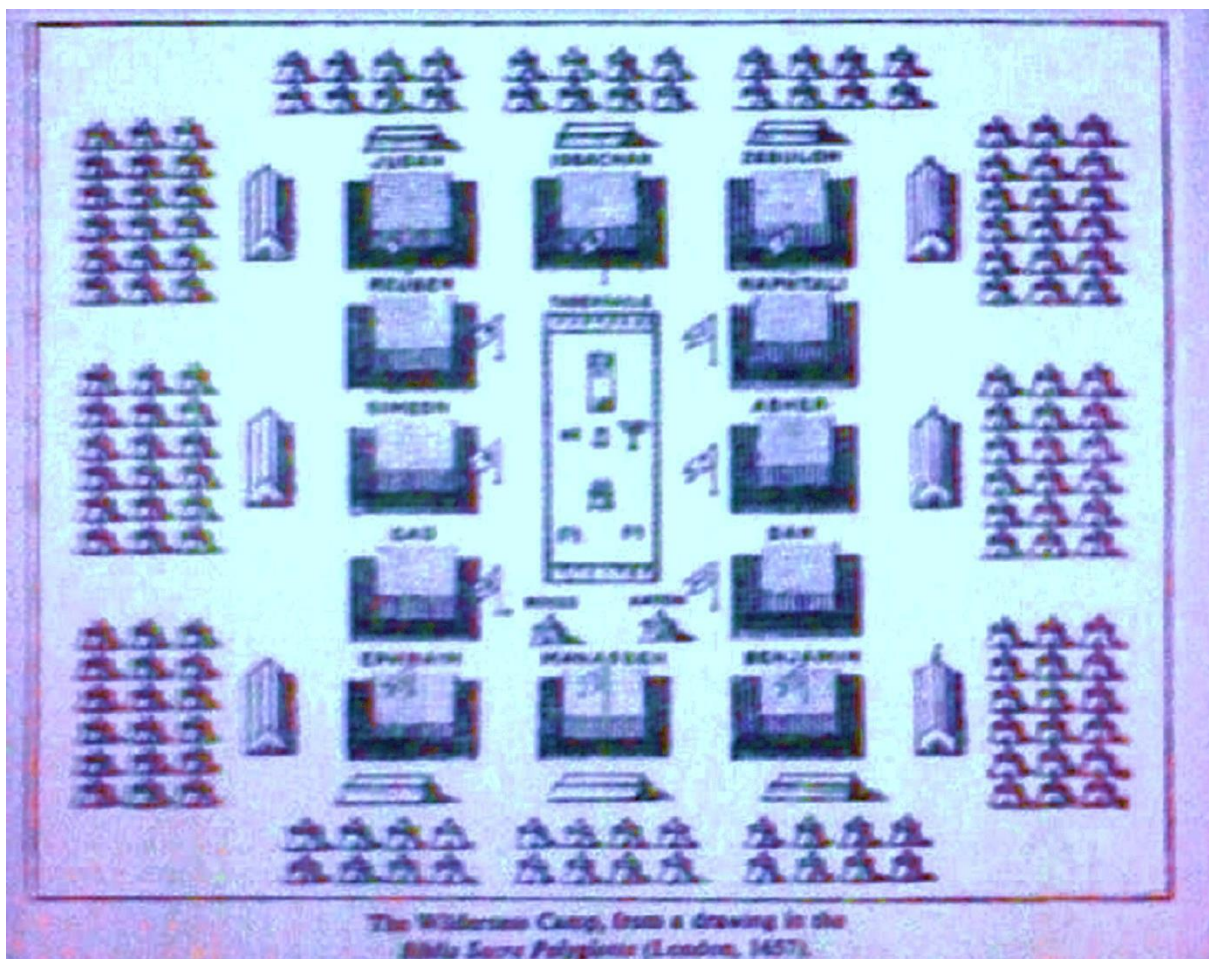


More basic tenets of our faith.

Jim Coetzee

Nazarene Israelite Two House Congregation of Port Elizabeth.



More basic tenets of our faith.

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 that I gave over the past few weeks and is intended to assist Nazarene Israelites believers in their daily living.

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’.

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Chapter 1: Why does YHVH our Elohim allow humans to suffer?

Most people who believe in YHVH because of His calling find it very easy to believe in Him when everything is going well. However as soon as a disaster strikes we quickly begin to question His existence. The spiritual condition of society has not been very inspiring since the beginning of the financial troubles in 2009. Because people do not understand why suffering is on the increase, they assume that neither Elohim nor religion provides answers for our problems.

Ever since World War I agnosticism has increased in Europe and the UK, because more than 10 million people died and about 20 million were injured during that conflict. The war of that time caused great damage to Christianity and their belief that G-d was in control, and since then most Europeans have come to believe that faith in Elohim cannot be justified. After the Nazi death camps of World War II there was a surge in the wave of doubt throughout Europe, resulting in the selling of empty churches for use as office space, bookshops and even nightclubs. This wave of doubt became so great that even some in the Jewish community started losing their faith in Elohim. The question is: How do we reconcile suffering and anguish caused by war with the Scriptural description of a loving Elohim? How is it possible that an all loving Elohim allows such terrible miseries to afflict mankind?

The truth is that from the beginning Elohim has given us freedom of choice. He will never force us to do anything that we do not want to do, but will always allow us to choose the way we want to go. However, from the beginning He told our ancient forebears in Israel in Deuteronomy 30: 19, saying: ***"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants."*** What are the advantages and disadvantages of our free will? We need to be mindful that freedom of choice allows for both good and evil outcomes. Truth is that in a world of freedom of choice, some choices predictably lead to damaging consequences, as Rav Shaul explains in Galatians 6: 7 – 10, saying: ***'Do not be deceived, Elohim is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. (8) For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life. (9) And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary, (10) So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.'***

Many centuries ago YHVH revealed to the prophet Hosea what He is going to do to the house of Israel because of their idolatry, violence and immorality. A few short years later the Assyrian army swept in from the east and slaughtered thousands of the northern kingdom of Israel and enslaved the survivors. Elohim showed Hosea exactly what was going to happen to Israel and also told them through the prophet, the reason why. It was inevitable that the house of Israel's sins would catch up with them. Elohim has similarly warned us about what will befall us at this time during which we live if we continue in our sin. However, when thousands die in natural disasters, such as tornadoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis we immediately blame Elohim. Yet Elohim told ancient Israel in Leviticus 26: 3 & 4, saying: ***"If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments so as to carry them out, (4) then I shall give you rains in their season, so that the land will yield its produce and the trees of the field will bear their fruit."*** The decisions made by our father's in the faith affected not only their own lives, but the lives of their children to the third and the fourth generations of those who hate YHVH. In this way the innocent often suffers because of the sins of others, which is but one of the consequences of bad choices.

By therefore analyzing suffering, we will learn a great deal, by tracing the circumstances back to their cause. We are warned about the long-term consequences of our actions in Proverbs 22: 3, in this way: ***'The prudent sees the evil and hides himself, but the naïve go on, and are punished for it.'*** When we consider major causes of suffering in our lives, we often need not look further than ourselves. Rav Shaul accurately described the human condition in Romans 3: 10 – 18, saying: ***"As it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; (11) THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS,***

THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR ELOHIM; (12) ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.” (13) “THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING,” “THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS”; (14) “WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS”; (15) “THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD, (16) DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS, (17) AND THE PATH OF PEACE HAVE THEY NOT KNOWN.” (18) “THERE IS NO FEAR OF ELOHIM BEFORE THEIR EYES.” The unfortunate thing is that not all of the suffering, misery and heartache resulting from the bad decisions that we make, come on us alone, but many of the consequences of our choices fall indiscriminately on innocent bystanders, like our children and grand-children. Often times those who had nothing to do with our bad choices suffer most from them. In fact Moses confirmed this principle in Numbers 14: 18, saying: **‘YHVH is slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations’**” The bad choices that mankind made in the past are the cause of most of the suffering we see today.

Even so, the Scriptures reveal the only true and lasting solutions for all human suffering. The reason why Elohim has not put an end to human suffering is not because He lacks control over what human beings do. YHVH our Elohim has a great purpose that He is working out here on earth. But His design requires that He allows people to exercise free will. We have options to make choices that may even oppose His perfect will for us. It is our free moral agency (our freedom of choice) that provides the answer to understanding why Elohim allows suffering and evil to exist. Mankind’s problem started in the Garden of Eden, where Elohim gave our forefathers a rule regarding the food they were allowed to eat in Genesis 2: 9, in this way: **‘And out of the ground YHVH Elohim caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.’** YHVH gave Adam and Eve a choice of two trees or ways of life. But He did not leave them in the dark regarding these two trees. He explained the consequences of their choices, but even commanded them not to make the wrong choice, as we read from Genesis 2: 16 – 17, as follows: **‘And YHVH Elohim commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; (17) but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.”’**

However, we know that our forebears did not obey YHVH and eventually made the wrong decision, as we read from Genesis 3: 6, in this way: **‘When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.’** Despite YHVH Elohim’s warning that man should not eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, He did not stop them from making wrong decisions. Elohim being the personification of holy righteous character has always chosen what is wise and good. Because His plan for us is to ultimately become like Him, He did not create us as robots. If He did, we could not build the same righteous character that He has. Even though we are made in His image and likeness, Elohim could not from the start create us in His spiritual image. The reason being, that character building requires that we evaluate the choices open to us, taking into account the consequences and then make the best decision. It requires that we choose between right and wrong, watchfulness and carelessness, wisdom and stupidity.

The fortunate thing is that YHVH has provided us with a manual, describing in detail how to live, ensuring that we honor Him as our creator and sustainer, and also how to live with our neighbor. But like with Adam and Eve, Satan has deceived most to believe that Elohim’s manual, the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation, but specifically the first five books where He gave Moses His commandments, statutes and judgments to record for all who wish to join themselves to YHVH the Elohim of Israel and serve Him, has been set-aside by Yahshua the Messiah. This was and still is clearly a hoax, whereby Satan has deceived the whole world, since Messiah being the image of the

invisible Elohim (part of the very Elohim), has not and will not ever teach people to forsake His Torah, as He aptly taught in John 5: 45 – 47, saying: ***“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?”***

If we take time to study the Scriptures we will soon learn what will happen to us if we make the wrong choices. We read for example from Proverbs 22: 8, ***‘He who sows iniquity will reap vanity.’*** Scriptural record shows that after Elohim commanded mankind what to do and what not to do in His word, He rarely interferes with man’s freedom to make decisions. Yes, He protected Abraham’s wife Sarah, from the immoral intentions of a king, and has at times intervened in human affairs to assist or protect His faithful servants. But in general, Elohim’s purpose functions best by Him giving us freedom to make our own decisions, even if it sometimes causes enormous suffering. Otherwise we will not learn the importance of developing righteous character, nor will we get to know the consequences of sinful behavior.

Here I want to give two important examples: Even though we as Nazarene/Israelite believers in YHVH are allowed to drink alcoholic beverages, He will never prevent us from drinking too much alcohol. In the same way that YHVH does not take away the freedom of choice of those who do; He also does not prevent them from suffering the consequences of the choices. However, He also warns those who regularly overindulge, but more specifically those of us whom He has called at this time through what Rav Shaul wrote in first Corinthians 6: 9 & 10, saying: ***‘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.’*** The reason we know that this is specifically talking about those of us called out of the world, is what Rav Shaul wrote in verse 11, saying: ***‘And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Master Yahshua Messiah, and in the Spirit of our Elohim.’*** I am sure this will help some understand why we cannot immerse people who simply live together, before they get legally married. A second example is where people do not ensure that they perform the necessary health laws to prevent diseases from spreading to other human beings, as commanded in Deuteronomy 23: 12 & 13, in this way: ***“You shall also have a place outside the camp and go out there, (13) and you shall have a spade among your tools, and it shall be when you sit down outside, you shall dig with it and shall turn to cover up your excrement.”*** If we do not do this, flies will soon land on the feces and spread germs by later landing on the food that you or someone else prepares. These laws are specified in Torah for our good, but it is as a result of disobedience to these laws, that we get sick and sometimes even die.

In addition to giving us His Torah, YHVH also provide those of us with the necessary help through Yahshua as we read from Hebrews 2: 16 – 18, as follows: ***‘For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham. (17) Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to Elohim, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. (18) For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.’*** Elohim’s ears are also open to the prayers of those who sincerely want to obey His Torah, as David wrote in Psalm 34: 15, saying: ***‘The eyes of YHVH are toward the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry.’*** Many have wondered; why didn’t Elohim create mankind as spirit beings from the beginning? Why did He decide to make us physical, flesh and blood human beings, and then only offer us eternal life if we earnestly resist the weaknesses of the flesh? If Elohim is omnipotent and can do everything, why did He not create us with a perfect character? Why did He create us to go through this difficult and trying physical life? Was it not possible for Him as our Creator to avoid all human suffering?

But, Elohim did not want to create us without the personal character that we need for making personal choices. It all has to do with our freedom of choice or the free moral agency that He gave each and every one of us. Elohim Himself had a choice about how He would create mankind. He could if He wanted to create us all to be exactly the same and to respond to Him like robots, whose actions would all be based purely on the instructions of our Maker. But He chose to create us like Him, able to make decisions that are limited only by our knowledge and character. This essentially required that we learn right from wrong and that our characters steadily develop by our decisions under His guidance and teachings contained in His word. As flesh and blood human beings, we need to understand that we are even now Elohim's workmanship – He is not finished with us. Throughout our lives, He is creating His righteous and holy character in us. As long as we are alive as physical human beings, our characters are not yet complete. As physical people we can change our minds and behavior based on our experiences. Yes, if we do not regularly study Elohim's word, the only other way in which we learn, is by our mistakes. Since we can change our minds and behavior, and repent from our wrongdoing, Elohim can change us even more and create in us the will to slowly but surely choose what is right over what is wrong, as Rav Shaul explains in Philippians 2: 12 & 13, saying: ***'So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; (13) for it is Elohim who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.'*** The main thing that Elohim wants us to do; is to recognize our incorrect behavior and be willing to correct our behavior by allowing His Spirit to empower us to make these changes. It is only then, when we can become *'a new person'* willing to obey Elohim, and thereby building His righteousness in us.

The Scriptures describe man's heart as our innermost thoughts, motives and attitudes. Elohim knows what is going on in the minds of each one of us. We see from Hebrews 4: 12 & 13, that He evaluates our intents and motives, in this way: ***'For the word of Elohim is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul (the way we live) and spirit (what we think, our intents and purposes), of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.'*** YHVH considers what we do in the light of what is in our hearts (or the thought that motivates us), as He says through the prophet Jeremiah in Jeremiah 17: 10, as follows: ***"I, YHVH, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds."*** We see from what the prophet Ezekiel wrote in Ezekiel 36: 26 & 27, that Elohim can effect a change in our hearts (the way we think), in this way: ***"Moreover, I will give you a new heart and will put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. (27) And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances."*** If we are prepared to give up our will and make His will and way, the way according to which we live, He will empower us through His Set-apart Spirit to live by the principles that He defines in His Torah. It is by studying Elohim's word that we learn to follow Elohim's way, as Rav Shaul wrote 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.'*** Elohim writes what we learn from His word in our hearts, as Rav Shaul further wrote in 2 Corinthians 3: 3, saying: ***'Being manifest that you are a letter of Messiah, cared for by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the Living Elohim, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts.'***

Elohim allows trials and difficulties in our lives so that He can know how committed we are to His way of life. He has to determine if our character will endure hardship and suffering, to entrust us with the powers that come from eternal life. It is true therefore that we are placed on earth not only to build Elohim's righteous character, but also that that character be tested. YHVH continually tests our character to ensure that we will ultimately measure up to the Standard that He set for us, in Yahshua our perfect example. YHVH similarly tested ancient Israel as recorded in Deuteronomy 8: 2, as follows: ***"And you shall remember all the way which YHVH your Elohim has led you in the***

wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.” We see further from first Peter 1: 6 & 7, that YHVH test our faithfulness and even our righteousness by various trials, in this way: **“In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, (7) that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Yahshua Messiah.”**

King David told us in Psalm 11: 5 that even the righteous are tested to see how faithful they remain to Elohim, as follows: **‘YHVH tests the righteous and the wicked, and the one who loves violence His soul hates.’** It is only when we face very difficult decisions that Elohim can see how truly committed we are to Him and His way. Only when we obey under very difficult circumstances accompanied by severe temptation that the depth of our character is made known to Elohim, as Rav Shaul witness in Romans 5: 3 & 4, saying: **‘And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; (4) and perseverance proven character, and proven character hope.’** But, we need to always be mindful that Elohim will never allow us to be tested beyond what we can endure, as Rav Shaul witnessed 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.’**

One of the greatest mysteries for many believers is why Elohim allows upright people to suffer. Such believers usually question the benefit of suffering for those who are trying to live according to Elohim’s word. Rav Kepha gives us the answer in the first book of Peter, where he distinguishes between suffering for righteousness (which brings us closer to Elohim) and suffering for mistakes we make. Even so, it is important to be aware that we need Elohim’s help during both types of suffering. Commencing therefore in first Peter 2: 19 - 21 Rav Kepha wrote: **‘For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward Elohim a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. (20) For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with Elohim. (21) 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.’** Just prior to His impalement, Yahshua explained to His disciples in John 15: 19 & 20, saying: **“If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of this world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. (20) Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than His master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.”** In addition Rav Shaul further tells us in 2 Timothy 3: 12, saying: **‘And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Messiah Yahshua will be persecuted.’**

Rav Kepha explains that much of the persecution directed at true believers in Messiah, is directed at Messiah Himself. The life that He now lives in us through the Set-apart Spirit is the real target, as Kepha wrote in first Peter 4: 12 & 13, saying: **“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; (13) but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Messiah, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice in exaltation.”** Because sin is a major cause of suffering, a great deal of unnecessary suffering can be avoided by obeying Elohim. It is for this reason that Rav Kepha continued in verses 14 – 16, saying: **‘If you are reviled for the name of Messiah, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of Elohim rests upon you, (15) By no means let any of you suffer as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; (16) but if anyone suffers as a Nazarene (a believer in Messiah), let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify Elohim.’** Obviously those who ignore this advice suffer as we read from Proverbs 1: 29 – 32, in this way: **“Because they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of YHVH. (30) They**

would not accept my counsel, they spurned all my reproof. (31) So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way, and he satiated with their own devices. (32) For the waywardness of the naïve shall kill them, and the complacency of fools shall destroy them."

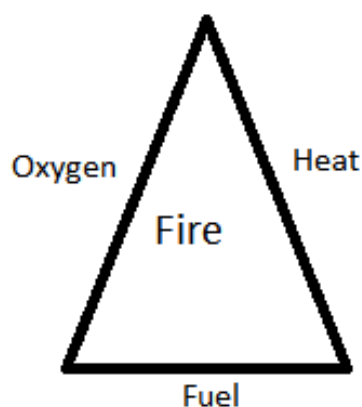
Even though we cause a great deal of our own suffering, Elohim's preference is that we experience just the opposite. If we believe that Elohim takes pleasure in human suffering, we definitely misunderstand His character completely. In fact He says just the opposite in Ezekiel 33: 11, where He tells Ezekiel: ***"Say to them, 'As I live!' declares YHVH Elohim, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?'"*** In fact YHVH often postpones punishment in the hope that we will repent, as Rav Kepha wrote in 2 Peter 3: 9, saying: ***'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.'*** YHVH wants everyone that He ever created to achieve salvation in His kingdom, as He inspired Rav Shaul to write in first Timothy 2: 3 & 4, saying: ***'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.'*** Think about it!

Chapter 2: Will any of us survive the coming great tribulation?

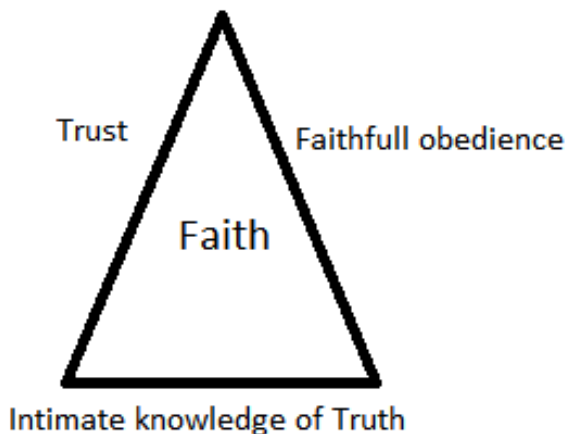
Most of us are aware of the recent blood moon that people saw around the world after Passover of 2014 (or 5774 according to the Hebrew calendar). People have been fascinated by the signs of the night sky for many years. In fact when Yahshua was on the earth about 2000 years ago, He remarked in Matthew 16: 2 - 4, saying: ***"When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.'*** (3) ***And in the morning, 'There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times?*** (4) ***An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and a sign will not be given it, except the sign of Jonah."*** It is when we consider Scriptural prophecy, which well-meaning people have associated with world political events and or natural disasters, and conclude that prophecy is being fulfilled before our very eyes.

But, when such events do not turn out the way these *'prophets'* predicted for those who would like it to happen, but do not realize the consequences they are hoping for, they are disappointed. In fact YHVH warned such false prophets in Ezekiel 13: 2 – 9, saying: ***"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!' (3) Thus says YHVH Elohim, 'Woe to the foolish prophets who are following their own spirit and have seen nothing. (4) O Israel, your prophets have been like foxes among ruins. (5) You have not gone up into the breaches, nor did you build the wall around the house of Israel to stand in the battle on the day of YHVH. (6) They see falsehood and lying divination who are saying, 'YHVH declares,' when YHVH has not sent them; yet they hope for the fulfillment of their word. (7) Did you not see a false vision and speak a lying divination when you said, 'YHVH declares, 'but it is not I who have spoken?'" (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."***

The point is that such false alarms have happened before and will occur again. But one day these astonishing but frightening Scriptural prophecies will be fulfilled. Are we going to be ready when they do? I do not mean physically prepared, but spiritually. Many Nazarene/Messianic and like-minded teachers teach their disciples a number of survival tricks, from stocking up on blankets, canned and other food products, to how to start a fire without lighters. But, will their people be spiritually prepared for such events? The point is we are going to need a lot of faith to make it into Elohim's eternal kingdom. Many do not even understand what *'true faith'* in the way of Elohim entails. To help us understand what faith involves let me explain by the way every firefighter is taught the fireman's triangle depicted here under:



To have a fire you need (1) **Fuel** plus (2) **Oxygen** plus (3) **Heat**. By removing anyone of these three essential components the fire is extinguished. By studying the word *'Faith'* or more specifically faithfulness which is transliterated as *'emunah'* in Hebrew, it can in the same way be represented by means of a tri-angle containing three essential components. To have scriptural faith (emunah), we need (1) **Knowledge of truth**; i.e. Knowledge of the word of Elohim as Yahshua defined it in John 17: 17 plus (2) **Faithful obedience** plus (3) **Trust** in YHVH as the rewarder of those who believe in Him. By removing any of these three component parts, you cannot have true scriptural faith or faithfulness. It is as



Rav Yaa'cov explained in James 2: 17, in this way: **'Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead being by itself.'** To start with, a new believer is required to grow in grace and knowledge of Elohim's word in order to understand what He requires of us (as per 2 Peter 3: 18). In addition such a believer has to start obeying the commands that he/she learned by realizing that once we start following the way of Elohim, we are placed into a covenant relationship with Him. It is similar to the way the ancient Israelites were placed in a covenant relationship with Elohim on the very first Pentecost or Shavuot that they observed on the 6th of Sivan at Mount Sinai, when He gave them the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20. It is important to understand that only

those who remain faithful to the end will be in the kingdom of Elohim, as may be understood from reading from Revelation 17: 14, as follows: ***"These (the ten kings who will receive authority from the beast) will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Master of masters and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful."***

To be able to remain faithful to the end, we require an intimate knowledge of truth, and trust in YHVH to be able to marry Yahshua the bridegroom at His return, as explained in the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25. The oil spoken about in Matthew 25 is knowledge of truth that is taught in a discipleship program similar to the one Messiah started with His disciples, and commissioned them to continue until He returns one day soon, as per Matthew 28: 18 – 20¹ and Matthew 24: 45 & 46². This is why the five prudent virgins tell the foolish virgins in the last part of Matthew 25: 9, saying: ***'Go instead to the dealers (those who teach Torah) and buy some for yourself.'*** Yahshua's bride is supposed to make herself ready at this time, by washing her robes in the word of truth – cleaning up their lives using Torah. Even though the main purpose for us is to get ourselves ready for Messiah's return, some are only interested in the signs of the times, to save their and the lives of their family members. They are not really interested in getting to know what YHVH requires of us. It was for this reason that Yahshua told His disciples in Matthew 16: 25, saying: ***"For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it."*** They misinterpret what Yahshua told His followers in Matthew 24: 42 (KJV), saying: ***'Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Master doth come.'*** Some say Yahshua meant that we should watch the signs of the times, by reading newspapers and magazines to see how what is happening in the world around us ties up with prophecies of His return one day.

This is indeed true, however, I believe it means more specifically that we should watch ourselves and the way we live; to see how it conforms with the example He left us whilst He was on earth. When reading Matthew 16: 25 together with verse 24, we understand that this is really what Yahshua meant, in this way: ***'Then Yahshua said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let Him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me."'*** Even though Scriptural prophecy is important for us who live at this end time, we need to be more concerned about the way we live than its

¹ Matthew 28: 18 – 20: ***'And Yahshua came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority (power) has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, immersing them in the name of the Father and the son and the Set-apart Sprit, teaching them to observe all that I command you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."'***

² Matthew 24: 45 & 46: ***"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? Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes."***

fulfilment, for then at least we will be ready when the Master comes. We also read Yahshua's warning in this regard in Matthew 7: 21 – 23, as follows: ***'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."***

Even so, the Scriptures are also clear that both good news and bad news lie ahead. Although we will before long face the darkest days, these dark days is really the prelude to a wonderful world such as we have never seen before or can even begin to imagine. Yahshua our Messiah in answering His disciples' question about the end of this age, said to them in Matthew 24: 4 – 8, ***"See to it that no one misleads you. (5) For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Messiah,' and will mislead many. (This is talking about the many false teachers who will come in Yahshua's name misleading people into false ways of attaining salvation.) (6) And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. (7) For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. (8) But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs."*** These are in fact the same birth pangs that Rav Shaul wrote about in Romans 8: 19 – 23, as follows: ***'For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of Elohim. (20) For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope (21) that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of Elohim. (22) For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. (23) And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.'*** We need to understand that Elohim is always in control and does everything for a purpose, even if we do not always understand that purpose. Elohim knows our nature and has since the creation of mankind seen how we as a human race regularly brought enormous suffering on ourselves through our bad choices. It is as the Scriptures point out in Galatians 6: 7 & 8, in this way: ***'Do not be deceived, Elohim is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. (8) For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life.'*** Prophecy reveal that man will bring himself to the brink of self-extinction, but also reveal how we will survive.

Mankind has always wondered what lies in the future. Throughout the ages people have sought out seers and fortune tellers to predict the future for them. However, most of what these self-proclaimed prophets predict usually comes to naught. The few correct predictions or their lucky guesses that they have are greatly outnumbered by their misses. The Scriptures however, are different, in that it contains numerous detailed prophecies which were fulfilled many years later. Because Scriptural prophecy is sure to happen, it can really be seen as history given in advance. We see from Isaiah 46: 9 & 10 that Elohim does tell us what is yet to occur, saying: ***"Remember the former things long past, for I am Elohim, and there is no other; I am Elohim, and there is no one like Me, (10) declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure."*** But, we also see from Amos 3: 7, that He allows people to understand what will occur in the future, as follows: ***"Surely YHVH Elohim does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets."*** The point is Elohim will ensure that whatever He planned to happen in the future, will happen as He told us through Isaiah in the second part of Isaiah 46: 11, saying: ***"Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it."*** So, it is one thing to predict the future, but it is something else to have the power to make it happen.

The Scriptures speak clearly of different ages, as may be seen in the following two Scriptures: In Luke 18: 29 & 30, Yahshua speaks of an age to come, saying: ***“Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of Elohim, (30) who shall not receive many times as much at this time and in the age to come, eternal life.”*** Rav Shaul speaks of the present age in Galatians 1: 3 & 4, saying: ***‘Grace to you and peace from Elohim our Father; and the Master Yahshua Messiah, (4) who gave himself for our sins, that He might deliver us out of this present evil age, according to the will of our Elohim and Father.’*** In fact we see from what Yahshua’s disciples asked Him in Matthew 24: 3 that He told them about what is to happen during *‘the end of the age’* during which we are living at present. Yahshua predicted specific events and conditions that would pave the way of His return, saying in Luke 21: 27 & 28: ***“And then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD with power and great glory. (28) But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”*** Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21 are parallel accounts of Messiah’s Olivet prophecy, given by Him immediately before His impalement and subsequent resurrection. As we’ve seen in Matthew 24, 3 & 4, Yahshua started with a warning about the many false prophets who will deceive many in His name. Religious deception will be widespread right up to and even after the coming great tribulation, as He indicated in verses 21 -24, saying: ***“For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall. (22) And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short. (23) Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Messiah,’ or ‘There He is,’ do not believe him. (24) For false Messiahs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.”***

We need to study the words of Messiah and His apostles, especially where they warned us regarding a great religious movement - using His name, which would lead most people in the world astray. We read from 2 Corinthians 11: 13 - 15, where Rav Shaul also warned about this, saying: ***‘For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Messiah. (14) And no wonder for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. (15) Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.’*** The approach of this religious deception would be to preach about another messiah and a different gospel, as Rav Shaul showed in 2 Corinthians 11: 3 & 4, saying: ***‘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 (one who came to abolish His Father’s strict adherence to Torah), or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel (a gospel about the life, death and resurrection of Messiah, rather than the gospel of the coming kingdom of Elohim) which you have not accepted, you bear it beautifully.’*** He continues in Galatians 1: 6 & 7 saying: ***‘I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Messiah, for a different gospel; (7) which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Messiah.’***

Even so, despite the deception that will take place, the true gospel will also be preached into the world, as Yahshua predicted in Matthew 24: 14, saying: ***“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness (not to convert) to all the nations, and then the end shall come.”*** In addition to religious deception Yahshua also predicted the wars that occurred and will yet occur before His return in verses 6 & 7 of Matthew 24. World War I started in 1914 and barely twenty years later World War II commenced. During both these wars millions of people were killed, whilst millions of others were wounded or maimed. In addition the world has witnessed numerous other wars and conflicts since the end of World War II. Messiah also predicted famines; pestilences and earthquakes that will occur before the great tribulation, saying that these will be only the beginning of sorrows (in verse 8 of Matthew 24). Then finally before Messiah’s return, there will be

the greatest tribulation ever. Fortunately, Messiah told His disciples that He will shorten the period that the great tribulation will last, in order to save His elect alive. Even though Messiah told us about all these occurrences, He did not predict exactly when these events will come to pass. In fact He told His disciples in Matthew 24: 36, saying: ***“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.”*** The absolute speed at which these things will occur will come as a surprise to many people as we read Yahshua’s words in verse 37 – 39 of Matthew 24, in this way: ***‘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.’***

However, those of us whom YHVH has called at this time, will have a general idea of when these events will occur, as Rav Shaul wrote in first Thessalonians 5: 1 – 6, but especially in verse 5, saying: ***‘For you are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of night nor of darkness.’*** Since those of us called out of the world by Elohim, have been keeping His annual Feast Days as He commanded in Leviticus 23 and Deuteronomy 16, we are aware that Messiah will return in the near future on the Feast of Trumpets or Rosh Hashanah as our Jewish Brother refer to it. Continuing in verses 6 – 11 of first Thessalonians 5, Rav Shaul told us how to prepare for these momentous events, saying: ***‘So then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. (7) For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. (8) But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. (9) For Elohim has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Master Yahshua Messiah, (10) who died for us, that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. (11) Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another, just as you also are doing.’*** Yahshua echoed what Rav Shaul said in Luke 21: 34 – 36, saying: ***“Be on guard, that your hearts may not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day come on you suddenly like a trap; (35) for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. (36) But keep on the alert at all times, praying in order that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man .”*** Rav Yochanan also recorded Yahshua’s words in Revelation 3: 3 many years after His ascension into heaven, where He said: ***“Remember therefore what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. If therefore you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come upon you.”***

Elohim’s word gives us adequate direction in order to be spiritually prepared for these coming events, saying that we should watch (ourselves in terms of Torah and the rest of His words) and be sober, put on the breastplate of faith (doing righteous deeds like keeping His Sabbaths, etc.), put on the helmet of salvation (believe in what Yahshua taught and did whilst He was on earth), be on alert (be aware of your every deed to ensure it complies with the way Yahshua lived) and pray to have the strength to escape these things. But, Rav Shaul predicted that mankind will be doing just the opposite in the latter days in 2 Timothy 3: 1 – 4, saying: ***‘But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. (2) For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, (3) unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, (4) treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of Elohim.’*** Sad to say, only those who are totally naïve will disagree that most people are exactly like Rav Shaul prophesied we will be like at this time. Just as predicted people who are alive at this time are utterly selfish and self-absorbed, and as a result they have become blinded to the danger signs around them, and will most likely be taken by surprise. If we do not follow Elohim’s instructions to be sober-minded and watchful, we could fall asleep and become spiritually unprepared, and will suffer the penalties of our neglect.

In fact we have reached a period of time during which some assume that Yahshua our Messiah will not return any longer. We read fittingly from 2 Peter 3: 3 & 4: ***‘Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, (4) and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.”’*** However Rav Kepha reminds such doubters about Elohim’s perspective of the timing of Messiah’s return in 2 Peter 3: 8 & 9, saying: ***‘But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with YHVH one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (9) YHVH is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any (of those called at this time) to perish but for all to come to repentance.’*** Yes, YHVH would love to get those who used to follow His way, but were deceived and have since become lukewarm in their love for Him, to return. Kepha was saying here that some will misunderstand the conditions leading up to Messiah’s return, because they have a limited human view, rather than Elohim’s perspective. In addition to giving us details of His imminent return in His Olivet prophecy recorded in the books of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Yahshua also gave us additional details about these events in the book of Revelation.

By carefully comparing what is recorded in Revelation 6, with Yahshua’s Olivet prophecies, we see that it is in total agreement. The white horse in verse 2 represents a powerful, conquering religious deception, which is different to the white horse in Revelation 19: 11 – 16, with Yahshua the word of Elohim, as its rider. The red horse and its rider is representative of war. The black horse and its rider depict famine; and the pale horse represents sickness and disease that usually follow warfare and famine. According to this prophecy, the coming war, famines and diseases will take the lives of hundreds of millions of people. Yahshua depicts the events He discussed in His Olivet Prophecy in Revelation by means of seven seals. Revelation 6 describes the opening of the first six seals, in this way:

- First seal in verse 2 represents religious deception as Messiah described in Matthew 24: 4 & 5.
- Second seal in verses 3 & 4 represents war as described by Messiah in Matthew 24: 6 & 7.
- Third seal in verses 5 & 6 represents famine as described by Messiah in Matthew 24: 7.
- Fourth seal in verses 7 & 8 represents disease as described by Messiah in Matthew 24: 7.
- Fifth seal in verses 9 – 11 represents tribulation and persecution of true believers in Yahshua as described in Matthew 24: 9 – 13 and Luke 21: 12 – 19.
- Sixth seal in verses 12 – 14 represents a major earthquake and heavenly signs, the real cause of the final blood moon before Messiah’s return described in Matthew 24: 7 and Luke 21: 11.

We see from Revelation 8: 1 & 2 that the seventh seal is different, in this way: ***‘And when He broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. (2) And I saw the seven angels who stand before Elohim; and seven trumpets were given to them.’*** We see that the seventh seal is made up of seven trumpets which lead up to Messiah’s return. These events are described as ***‘The seven trumpet plagues.’*** The events to occur at the blast of the first six trumpet plagues are described in Revelation 8 & 9, summarized as follows:

- First trumpets in verse 7 of Revelation 8: devastation of the earth’s vegetation.
- Second trumpet in verses 8 & 9: devastation of the world’s oceans and seas.
- Third trumpet in verses 10 & 11: devastation of rivers and fresh water.
- Fourth trumpet in verse 12: the sun, moon and stars darkened.
- Fifth trumpet in Revelation 8: 13 & 9: 1 – 12: Satan inspired war.
- Sixth trumpet in Revelation 9: 13 – 21: A 200 million strong army killing a third of mankind.

However, we see from Revelation 9: 20 – 21 that even after all these terrible events the people still alive at that time will not repent, as follows: ***‘And the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; (21) and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.’*** Next, we see what happens at the blast of the seventh Trumpet in Revelation 11: 15, 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 our Master and of His Messiah; and He will reign forever and ever.”’*** The sound of the seventh trumpet announces the return of Yahshua the Messiah, as Rav Shaul also described in first Corinthians 15: 51 – 53, saying: ***‘Behold I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (52) in a moment in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. (53) For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.’*** Yahshua our Messiah will return to earth in the same way as He left the day on which He ascended to heaven from the Mount of Olives about 2000 years ago, as is also recorded in Zechariah 14: 4, in this way: ***‘And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.’*** We were given the reason for Messiah’s return in John 18: 37, as follows: ***‘Pilate therefore said to Him, “So You are a king?” Yahshua answered, “You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth (that He is coming to establish the kingdom of Elohim on earth). Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”*** Pilate asked Yahshua if the rumors about Him being a king is true; so Yahshua confirmed that He was indeed a king, but said before in verse 36: ***“My kingdom is not of this world.”*** Messiah’s purpose at that time was not to overthrow the Roman government and restore the kingdom of Israel. Yes, Yahshua was destined to rule, but His kingdom was not of the time during which He came the first time. However, when He returns one day He will be King of kings and Master of masters over all the earth.

The world was predicted to become a very dangerous place at the time of the end. The actions of mankind have brought us to the edge of self-annihilation. What is the reason for our rebellious and self-destructive ways? The main reason is the influence that Satan the devil had since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden. Satan is still the major reason for mankind’s spiritual blindness as Rav Shaul wrote in 2 Corinthians 4: 3 & 4, in this way: ***‘And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, (4) in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Messiah, who is the image of Elohim.’*** Satan has influenced people from the time of Adam and Eve and has successfully turned mankind away from Elohim. Satan has brought about untold misery. To fully understand the reason for so much sorrow, we need to look no further than Satan. The problem for us living at the end of the age, is that he is particularly active just before Messiah’s return. We read accordingly from Revelation 12 : 12 , 13 & 17, ***‘For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time.’*** (13) ***And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child. (17) And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of Elohim and hold to the testimony of Yahshua*** (what He taught and did whilst He was on earth).’

In a similar way that Satan hated Yahshua Messiah and worked out the events that brought about His execution, he also hates those in the assembly of Elohim. He is in fact the main force behind the persecution of those who faithfully keep Elohim’s Torah and Yahshua’s testimony. Yahshua

confirmed that His followers will be persecuted, the same way He was persecuted, in Luke 21: 16 - 19, saying: ***"But you will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death, (17) and you will be hated by all on account of My name. (18) Yet not a hair of your head will perish. (19) By your endurance you will gain your lives."*** Yahshua foretold that as events come to the peak prior to His return, some of our brethren will lash out at those who remain faithful to Elohim. Some of us will be imprisoned and some will be killed, but if we remain faithful even to the point of death, we will be given eternal life in Messiah's kingdom.

Once Yahshua our Messiah returns one day on Yom Teruah, Satan will be bound hand and foot and cast into the abyss for a thousand years, as may be seen from Revelation 20: 1 – 3, in this way: ***'And I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. (2) And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, (3) and threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.'*** At that time Satan will be banished and his power will be broken so that he cannot influence humanity any more. Only once Satan is completely out of the way, will mankind begin to obey Elohim's law and Yahshua Messiah's rule over us, as Isaiah prophesied in Isaiah 2: 3, saying: ***'And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain (government) 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.'*** Satan has influenced mankind for the past six thousand years. He has ensured that his nature controls human nature and we became like him, full of vanity, greed, lust and selfishness. But once Yahshua returns to rule the earth, He will ensure that Satan's influence is totally removed, as we read from Isaiah 11: 9, as follows: ***"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."*** Once the spiritual blindness is removed from mankind, the earth will be changed into a place of peace and plenty. Halleluyah!

Chapter 3: Return to YHVH; return to David; return to the temple.

The book of Hosea is a prophecy about the way the house of Israel forsook YHVH their Elohim, but also David their king and Temple worship or Torah. To determine what went wrong with the ancient nation of Israel, we need to look at the time immediately prior to King Solomon's death. Most believers know that ancient Israel's problems really started before King Solomon's death, when he appointed Jeroboam over all the forced labor of the house of Joseph, as recorded in first Kings 11: 26 – 28, in this way: ***'Then Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite of Zeredah, Solomon's servant, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow, also rebelled against the king. (27) Now this was the reason why he rebelled against the king: Solomon built the Millo (or citadel), and closed up the breach of the city of his father David. (28) Now the man Jeroboam was a valiant warrior, and when Solomon saw that the young man was industrious, he appointed him over all the forced labor of the house of Joseph.'*** Because King Solomon was a very wise man he saw that even though Jeroboam was rebellious, he had other good qualities.

However, when reading the rest of the account from first Kings 11, we see from verses 29 – 39, that it was Elohim who specifically chose Jeroboam to take the rulership of the house of Israel away from the house of David, as follows: ***'And it came about at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him on the road. Now Ahijah had clothed himself with a new cloak; and both of them were alone in the field. (30) Then Ahijah took hold of the new cloak which was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces. (31) And he said to Jeroboam, "Take for yourself ten pieces; for thus says YHVH, the Elohim of Israel, 'Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and give you ten tribes (32) (but he will have one tribe, for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel), (33) because they have forsaken Me, and have worship Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcom the god of the sons of Ammon; and they have not walked in My ways, doing what is right in My sight and observing My statutes and My ordinances, as his father David did. (34) Nevertheless I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, but I will make him ruler all the days of his life, for the sake of My servant David whom I chose, who observed My commandments and My statutes; (35) but I will take the kingdom from his son's hand and give it to you, even ten tribes. (36) But to his son I will give one tribe, that My servant David may have a lamp always before Me in Jerusalem, the city where I have chosen for Myself to put My name. (37) And I will take you, and you shall reign over whatever you desire, and you shall be king over Israel. (38) Then it will be, that If you listen to all that I command you and walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight by observing My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build you an enduring house as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you. (39) Thus I will afflict the descendants of David for this, but not always."*** Notice the only proviso Elohim gave Jeroboam to rule the house of Israel, was to obey YHVH the Elohim of Israel the way King David did before him.

King Solomon's son Rehoboam started ruling in Solomon's place after his death. King Solomon ruled all twelve tribes of Israel for forty years, during which time the nation lived peacefully, because he demanded heavy taxes from the citizens, allowing them to dominate their neighbors economically and militarily. However, this heavy tax burden caused significant resentment among the citizens of Israel and because of Jeroboam's effective administration over the forced labor in Israel, the nation requested him to be their spokesman to try and lighten the tax burden under King Rehoboam. We pick up the account in 1 Kings 12: 4, where Jeroboam said to Rehoboam, ***"Your father made our yoke hard; therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you."*** Rehoboam required some time to consider the nation's request through Jeroboam and consulted with the elders who served under his father, who advised him in verse 7 of first Kings 12, saying: ***"If you will be a servant to this people today, will serve them, grant them their petition, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."*** But,

Rehoboam did not listen to the counsel of the elders, and consulted with the young men who grew up with him. The young men's counsel to Rehoboam is recorded in verses 10 & 11, as follows: ***"Thus you shall say to this people who spoke to you, saying, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, now you make it lighter for us!' But you shall speak to them. 'My little finger is thicker than my father's loins! (11) Whereas my father loaded you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.'"*** When the nation of Israel saw that Rehoboam did not listen to them they answered the king, saying in verse 16 of first Kings 12: ***"What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse; to your tents, O Israel! Now look after your own house, David!" So Israel departed to their tents.'*** We see further from verse 20 that Israel subsequently made Jeroboam king over all Israel and only the tribe of Judah followed the house of David.

Rehoboam immediately assembled all the house of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin to fight against the house of Israel. Even so, we read from first Kings 12: 22 – 24, ***'But the word of Elohim came to Shemaiah the man of Elohim, saying, (23) "Speak to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all the house of Judah and Benjamin and to the rest of the people, saying, (24) 'Thus says YHVH, "You must not go up and fight against your relatives the sons of Israel; return every man to his house, for this thing has come from Me.'"*** However, we see that despite of YHVH informing Jeroboam that He has chosen him to rule over the ten tribes of Israel, Jeroboam feared that if the house of Israel returned to Jerusalem to keep Elohim's Feast days, they will want Rehoboam to be their ruler once again. We read from verse 28 – 33 of first Kings 12, how Jeroboam went off the track, because of his fear motivated by jealousy, as follows: ***'So the king consulted, and made two golden calves, and he said to them (the house of Israel), "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem; behold your gods, O Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt." (29) And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. (30) Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan. (31) And he made houses on high places, and made priests from among all the people who were not of the sons of Levi. (32) And Jeroboam instituted a feast in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month, like the feast which is in Judah, and he went up to the altar; thus he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves which he had made. And he stationed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made. (33) Then he went up to the altar which he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised in his own heart; and he instituted a feast for the sons of Israel, and went up to the altar to burn incense.'***

King Jeroboam's personal agenda led to spiritual mistakes that would bring untold misery on the house of Israel and their descendants. Soon after taking over the leadership of Israel, Jeroboam led the nation away from worshipping YHVH the Elohim of Israel, in the way that He prescribed in the Scriptures. Jeroboam's counterfeit worship, with its own festivals and priesthood was the primary reason for the house of Israel's downfall. Jeroboam like us was specifically chosen by Elohim to rule His people, but he failed to use the opportunity given him by Elohim. Similarly today, there are some leaders whom YHVH specifically called to lead His people, by teaching them to keep His weekly and annual Sabbaths specified in the Scriptures, but because of their personal agendas, motivated by fear and jealousy of other leaders, and or because of anti-Semitism, they contradict what the word of Elohim teaches. Elohim pronounced a sobering judgment against Jeroboam, through Ahijah the prophet in 1 Kings 14: 7 – 10, as follows: ***"Go, say to Jeroboam, 'Thus says YHVH Elohim of Israel, "Because I exalted you from among the people and made you leader over My people Israel, (8) and tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you—yet you have not been like My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed Me with all his heart, to do only that which was right in My sight; (9) you also have done more evil than all who were before you, and have gone and made for yourself other gods and molten images to provoke Me to anger, and have cast me behind your back— (10) therefore behold, I am bringing calamity on the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam every male person, both bond and free in Israel, and I***

will make a clean sweep of the house of Jeroboam, as one sweeps away dung until it is all gone."
 Because of Jeroboam's sin, YHVH also rejected Israel as is recorded in verses 14 – 16, in this way:
"Moreover, YHVH will raise up for Himself a king over Israel who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam this day and from now on. (15) For YHVH will strike Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water; and He will uproot Israel from this good land which He gave to their fathers, and will scatter them beyond the Euphrates River, because they have made their Asherim, provoking YHVH to anger. (16) And He will give up Israel on account of the sins of Jeroboam, which he committed and with which he made Israel to sin."

The major reason why Messianic Jews (who are mostly from the tribe of Benjamin) are wrong in their effort to proselytize the house of Judah, is if they truly believed what Yahshua the one they say they came to believe in taught, they will realize that the House of Judah are the ones who remained close to YHVH and His Torah, and are not the ones needing to be saved. If they like many in Christianity fully understand what Yahshua taught, they will concentrate on proclaiming the Gospel of the coming Kingdom of Elohim into the world as a witness, specifically to reach the lost sheep of the house of Israel and not to Judah. We see Yahshua's own words to the Canaanite woman who asked Him to heal her demon-possessed daughter, saying to her in Matthew 15: 24, ***"I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."*** In addition when Yahshua sent out His disciples the first time in Matthew 10: 5 – 7, He said to them: ***"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.'"*** Yahshua also told the Pharisees who asked His disciples why He eats and drinks with tax-gatherers and sinners, saying in Luke 5: 31 & 32: ***"It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. (32) I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."***

It is vitally important for those of us from the lost ten tribes of Israel to understand that we are the ones spoken about in Daniel's prayer in Daniel 9: 7 as being far away from YHVH, in this way: ***"Righteousness belongs to Thee, O YHVH, 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."*** We see from Ephesians 2: 11 – 19, that Yahshua came to reconcile us to the Father, but also to Brother Judah, 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 (meaning the commonwealth of Israel consisting of both houses, which were ruled by King David), and strangers to the covenants of promise³, having no hope and without Elohim in the world. (13) But now in Messiah Yahshua you who formerly were far off (this is talking to us from the lost ten tribes who lost our faith in YHVH and the covenants that He made with our fathers in the faith) have been brought near by the blood of Messiah. (14) For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, (15) by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, (16) and might reconcile them both in one body to Elohim through***

³ The covenants of promise include, (1) the promise made to the Fathers in the faith Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – that they and their descendants will inherit the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession and that YHVH will be their Elohim (essentially entailing eternal life in the Promised Land) ; and (2) the promise that YHVH made with David as we read from Psalm 89: 3,4, 34 – 37, in this way: ***"I have made a covenant with My chosen; I have sworn to David My servant, I will establish your seed forever, and build up your throne to all generations (also meaning eternally). My covenant I will not violate, nor will I alter the utterances of My lips. Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David. His descendants shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before Me. It shall be established forever like the moon, and the witness in the sky is faithful."***

the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. (17) AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR; (18) for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. (19) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of Elohim's household.'

We from the lost ten tribes of Israel are the ones Yahshua mentioned to our Jewish Brothers in John 10: 14 – 17, but especially in verse 16, when He said to them: ***"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 (Jewish) fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock with one shepherd. (17) For this reason*** (to reconcile them to the Father, but also to you— meaning Judah) ***the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again."*** Yahshua died to reconcile us back to YHVH, by paying the certificate of debt against us for breaking Torah or the marriage covenant that He made with us and our forefathers at Mount Sinai. Accordingly, we are also the ones who should be immersed into Yahshua's saving name for the forgiveness of our sins, as Rav Kepha also explained in Acts 2: 38 & 39, saying: ***"Repent, and let each of you be immersed in the name of Yahshua Messiah for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Set-apart Spirit. (39) For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off*** (meaning that this is only for the lost ten tribes, who have stopped obeying YHVH and His Torah), ***as many as YHVH our Elohim shall call to Himself."*** This is saying that we should only immerse those from the lost ten tribes, plus some Gentiles who are truly called by the Father, who come to believe in Yahshua because of the Good News about the coming kingdom of Elohim that we are commissioned by Yahshua to proclaim – as a witness into the world.

Think for a moment – what have we just said? If Yahshua came to bring us back to the faith of the fathers in the faith, and we know that He was Jewish, it should be clear at this point; that He came specifically to bring us back to Judaism – meaning faith in YHVH. Yahshua did not start a new religion, but as is recorded in Acts 2: 8 – 11 the people who attended the first Pentecost or Shavuot after His ascension to heaven, were mostly Jews or converts to Judaism, as follows: ***'And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born? (9) Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, (10) Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, (11) Cretans and Arabs – we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of Elohim.'*** The people whom Rav Kepha was talking to in Acts 2: 39, were people who used to worship and know YHVH, who eventually moved far away from the land of Israel, but also from their original faith in Him – those Rav Kepha and Rav Shaul referred to as *'all who are far off.'* We see further from Acts 15, that Messiah's disciples, who were at that time already sent out to proclaim the good news about the coming kingdom of Elohim, included some from the sect of the Pharisees who believed in Him or what He taught (verse 5). We see further from verses 19 – 21 Rav Yaa'cov's recommendation regarding new believers, including returnees from the house of Israel and some Gentiles who come into the faith for the first time, who were not yet circumcised, saying: ***"Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning 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*** (not eating meat with blood in it, as well as complying to the Torah laws regarding childbirth and menstruation). ***(21) For Moses*** (meaning what is written in Torah) ***from ancient generations has in every city those who preach him, since he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath."*** It is vitally important for us to realize that this ruling of Rav Yaa'cov is endorsing the return, restoration and establishment of the 12-tribe kingdom of Israel based on the Torah of YHVH as taught by the Levites (the Rabbinical Jews) in the Jewish synagogues today.

We read about the house of Israel from Deuteronomy 32: 15 – 17, ***“But Jeshurun (a pet name for Israel) grew fat and kicked— you are grown fat, thick, and sleek— then he forsook Elohim who made him, and scorned the Rock of his salvation*** (the same rock Yahshua mentioned in Matthew 7: 24 & 25; and 16: 18). (16) ***They made Him jealous with strange gods; with abominations they provoked Him to anger.*** (17) ***They sacrificed to demons who were not Elohim, to gods they have not known, new gods who came lately, whom your fathers did not dread.”*** As mentioned before Yahshua who was a Jew, did not come to start a new religion at all. The way of the Nazarene only meant the way Yahshua as a Jewish Rabbi interpreted Torah, as may be read in Matthew 5, 6 & 7. Yes His way of walking out Torah was in fact stricter than the Jews of His day, but he did not come to do away with Judaism at all, as He also said in verses 17 – 20 of Matthew 5, 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.*** (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 reason why Messiah’s interpretation of Torah was stricter than that of the Jews of His day was not because their interpretation was less strict or wrong, but because He knew that the returning Israelites were prone to idolatry and fornication, as Rav Yaa’cov also showed in his ruling in Acts 15.

So what were the new gods who came lately spoken about in Deuteronomy 32 above? J*e*s*u*s* who is definitely a different person to the Yahshua we have just read about in Matthew 5, who did not abolish any of the Torah commands given in Torah, is one of the new gods who came up lately. Yahshua’s mother or His disciples did not ever call Him by the name J*e*s*u*s* and to say that it is merely an English translation of the name Yahshua is pure nonsense. A person’s personal name is never changed from one language to another. The name of Vladimir Putin of Russia remains the same in any language; else people in other parts of the world would not know who you are talking about. In the same way is Bill Clinton known throughout the world. Yes most English speakers know that Bill is short for William, as much as believers in Messiah know that Yahshua is short for Yahushua or Yehoshua the same name of the book of Scriptures immediately following Deuteronomy, which has been shortened to Joshua, which also means salvation (as does Hosea). Because Israel lightly esteemed the name of Elohim, He rejected them, as we read in Deuteronomy 32: 15 and as Nehemiah wrote about them in Nehemiah 9: 26 - 29, saying in his prayer to YHVH: ***“But they became disobedient and rebelled against Thee, and cast Thy law behind their backs and killed Thy prophets who had admonished them so that they might return to Thee, and they committed great blasphemies.*** (27) ***Therefore Thou didst deliver them into the hand of their oppressors who oppressed them, but when they cried to Thee in the time of their distress, Thou didst hear from heaven, and according to Thy great compassion thou didst give them deliverers who delivered them from the hand of their oppressors.*** (28) ***But as soon as they had rest, they did evil again before Thee; therefore Thou didst abandon them to the hand of their enemies, so that they ruled over them. When they cried again to Thee, Thou didst hear from heaven, and many times Thou didst rescue them according to Thy compassion,*** (29) ***and admonished them in order to turn them back to Thy law. Yet they acted arrogantly and did not listen to Thy commandments but sinned against Thine ordinances, by which if a man observes them he shall live. And they turned a stubborn shoulder and stiffened their neck, and would not listen.’*** It is for this reason that YHVH sent the house of Israel a strong delusion, as Rav Shaul wrote in 2 Thessalonians 2: 11 & 12, saying: ***‘And for this reason Elohim will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false,*** (12) ***in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth*** (which is Torah according to Psalm 119: 142), ***but took pleasure in wickedness.’***

But J*e*s*u*s* is one of a number of new gods that came up in the latter days. J*e*s*u*s* was never the name of the Messiah Yahshua – it is a made-up name which is false! This is why the prophet Hosea wrote in Hosea 13: 1 – 4, saying: ***‘When Ephraim spoke, there was trembling. He exalted himself in Israel, but through Baal (the Lord) he did wrong and died. (2) And now they sin more and more, and make for themselves molten images, idols skillfully made from their silver, all of them the work of craftsmen. They say of them, “Let the men who sacrifice kiss the calves!” (3) Therefore, they will be like the morning cloud, and like dew which soon disappears, like chaff which is blown away from the threshing floor, and like smoke from a chimney. (4) Yet I have been YHVH your Elohim since the land of Egypt; and you were not to know any god except Me, for there is no savior besides Me.’*** Yes Yahshua is not a second person in the so-called trinity, He is the image of the invisible Elohim; He is YHVH the word (or form) of Elohim who became flesh! Yahshua was YHVH in the flesh, sent specifically to bring the lost ten tribes back to their original covenant relationship with YHVH – to Yahudaism – the faith of David and their other fathers in the faith.

But because of Israel’s sins another strange god came up lately, despite YHVH warning us in Revelation 18: 2 - 4 to come out of Christianity, the religion which J*e*s*u*s* the C*h*r*i*s*t* supposed to have started. This is the false church spoken about in Revelation 17. This was in fact the same religion that Nimrod started in Babylon when they built a tower to reach heaven and said in Genesis 11: 4, ***“Come let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name (for our god to worship – despite the fact that by then believers in YHVH already called on His correct name as may be seen from Genesis 4: 26); lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”*** What these people feared most happened to them; but the same also happened to the house of Israel, when Jeroboam rejected YHVH, David and the Temple or Jewish way of worshipping Him. We read from Daniel 9: 11 why yet another god has been allowed to come up after the start of Christianity, in this way: ***“Indeed all Israel has transgressed Thy law and turned aside, not obeying Thy voice (or word, Yahshua); so the curse (alah in Hebrew) has been poured out on us, along with the oath which is written in the law of Moses the servant of Elohim, for we have sinned against Him.”*** The prophet who prophesied about Yahshua in Malachi 4: 4 – 6, wrote: ***“Remember the law of Moses My servant, even the statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel. (5) Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of YHVH (this was talking about Yochanan the Immerser who came before Yahshua as we are also told in Luke 1: 13 – 17, but since there is duality in operation throughout the Scriptures, this is also talking about those of us who are again teaching returning Israelites that YHVH is our Elohim). (6) And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children (i.e. bringing the right relationship between latter day children and their parents), and the hearts of the children to the fathers (meaning to teach returning Israelites to return to the hearts or faith of our fathers in the faith, namely Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and even King David), lest I come and smite the land with a curse (meaning alah).”***

What is the curse mentioned here? People, this is telling those of us from the lost ten tribes of Israel who in our recent past espoused Christianity, to come completely out of the Babylon of confusion! Yes it is as Yahshua told Yochanan to write in Revelation 18: 4 & 5, in this way: ***‘And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “Come out of her, my people, that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues; (5) for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and Elohim has remembered her iniquities.”’*** What we see happening in the western world today, is exactly what YHVH warned us will happen if we do not return to the original faith of our fathers in the faith, which Yahshua reintroduced to the lost sheep of the house of Israel as Nazarene Judaism, a sect of the Pharisees . YHVH does not want us to continue to espouse Christianity with all its paganism and false ways of worshipping Him. Fact is they may worship YHVH as sincerely as they are able, as long as they are not doing it the way He prescribes in Torah, they are sincerely wrong! In addition, the prophecy in Malachi clearly tells us if we do not return to Torah, He is going to send us the curses described in Torah – or more specifically Alah!

Despite Yahshua telling His disciples in Matthew 19: 17, saying in the second part: ***“But if you wish to enter into (eternal) life, keep the commandments”***, Christianity insists that Torah is not applicable to them any longer. Whereas most will agree that 2 Corinthians 3: 14 is talking about our Jewish Brothers regarding the identity of the true Messiah (as also witnessed in Romans 11: 5), verses 15 – 17 are definitely talking about Christianity (even though they will vehemently deny it), as follows: ***‘But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; (in fact I would like you to try this yourself: Read a portion from Leviticus 11 regarding Kosher food to a very good Christian, and observe their reaction) (16) but whenever a man turns to YHVH (Christianity will tell you that the word Lord here refers to C*h*r*i*s*t* – however we will see in the next verse where John 4: 24 is quoted that the Lord here refers to YHVH our Elohim in Yahshua’s own words⁴) the veil is taken away. (17) Now YHVH is the Spirit and where the Spirit of YHVH is there is liberty.”*** This is the same liberty used by Rav Yaa’cov 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 (the law that set us free from sin, if we obey it), and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed (and not cursed) in what he does.’***

Why did YHVH allow the Church of G-d to slowly but surely disappear? Even though I believe they were responsible to call many from the lost ten tribes back to follow YHVH in the way He prescribes in the Scriptures, they did not reform the Catholic Church all the way and insisted to be part of Christianity, the false religion that YHVH wants us to come out of. They also did not do what the original believers in Messiah did (i.e. study both the Torah and Haftarah (Prophets) portions, together with a regular teaching of exhortation) every Sabbath, even though we as Nazarenes are not allowed in Jewish synagogues any longer, as is witnessed in Acts 13: 14 & 15, in this way: ***‘But going on from Perga, they arrived at Psidian Antioch, and on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. (15) And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets the synagogue officials sent to them, saying, “Brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say it.”’*** Yes, even though I still believe that their members are fellow Nazarene believers in Messiah with us, I believe that YHVH wanted them to go back to the faith of our fathers in the faith, namely Judaism – although, we as Nazarenes need to get back through Yahshua and cannot attend local synagogues any longer. However, I hope that despite our faith in Yahshua the Messiah, we (including our brethren from the now almost defunct Church of G-d) will one day become one sheepfold with our Jewish Brothers, before Messiah returns.

If we are too anti-Semitic to even contemplate that from happening, we need to be aware of Isaiah’s warning in Isaiah 24: 1 – 6: ***‘Behold YHVH lays the earth waste, devastates it, distorts its surface, and scatters its inhabitants. (2) And the people will be like the priest, the servant like his master, the maid like her mistress, the buyer like the seller, the lender like the borrower, the creditor like the debtor. (3) The earth will be completely laid waste and completely despoiled, for YHVH has spoken this word. (4) 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 covenant. (6) Therefore, a curse (alah) 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.’*** Yahshua came specifically to bring the house of Israel back to worshipping YHVH or Yahudaism; so that the kingdom of Israel, with David ruling us once again under Yahshua, may be established eternally. However, the house of Israel like the whole world have been deceived by Satan, to believe in a false messiah who abolished his strict old father’s law and have started worshipping the host of heaven.

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

It is for this very reason that YHVH have sent us another false god, namely Alah in these latter times⁵, so that if it is still possible, we will see the error of our ways and return to YHVH through Yahshua our Messiah. But also return to King David's united Israel and worship YHVH at the times that He showed those Israelites who remained loyal to Him, namely our Jewish Brothers. Yes, we from the lost ten tribes of Israel have to return to worshipping YHVH as our Elohim, but we also need to return to studying and obeying Torah (on a weekly basis) once again. When king David ruled Israel, he confirmed that YHVH revealed to them (including us) the way to worship Him in Psalm 147: 19 & 20, in this way: ***'He declares His words to Jacob, His statutes and His ordinances to Israel. (20) He has not dealt thus with any nation; and as for His ordinances, they have not known them. Halleluyah!'*** This is obviously talking of the time during which David ruled the united Israel consisting of both houses of Israel. But as we've seen before, the house of Israel lost all knowledge of YHVH and His ways, when He scattered us into the nations of the world, because of idolatry and keeping different Set-apart Days to the ones kept in Judah. The warnings regarding the curse that YHVH will unleash upon us is already happening, because even though numbers of believers have answered (YHVH)'s call to come out of Christianity, many have not returned to the faith of David, where each one is even now following calendars which are different to the one our Jewish Brothers observe.

The second false god that came up lately will continue at an ever increasing pace, and because this false religion is not like any other, in that they will not tolerate any other religion, but their own – you and I will either accept it at their preaching, or be killed! Our only weapon against them is to return to YHVH, to David and to Temple worship – the way the united nation of Israel used to do under King David's rulership! It is like Hosea wrote in Hosea 14: 9, saying: ***'Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them. For the ways of YHVH are right, and the righteous will walk in them, but transgressors will stumble in them.'*** Think about it!

⁵ It is estimated that within the next twenty years there will be enough Muslim voters in the USA, Britain, Canada and Australia to elect their own heads of government.

Chapter 4: Isaiah – a summary of the Scriptures.

The book of Isaiah derives its name from the author whose name means the same as Yahshua our Messiah's as well as Joshua's and Hosea's, namely 'YHVH is salvation.' The book of Isaiah is quoted more than 65 times in the Renewed Covenant; it is not only a single book, but a collection of 66 with themes ranging across the history of mankind and when fully understood, it reaches into eternity. Isaiah prophesied during the period of the divided kingdom of Israel, aiming the major impetus of his prophecy at the house of Judah. He condemned the idolatry into which many of the people had fallen and prophesied the coming captivity of Judah by king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. The first verse in the book of Isaiah is vitally important to understanding its contents, since it is where he defines the purpose of his prophecy and to whom it is directed, as follows: ***'The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem which he saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.'*** Based on the time of the reigns of these kings of Judah, Isaiah wrote this book during 740 – 685 BCE.

Fulfillment of some of his prophecies in his own lifetime provided his credentials for being a prophet inspired by Elohim. One example being that many years before Cyrus the king of Persia came to the fore, Isaiah named him as the deliverer of Judah from the Babylonian captivity (Isaiah 44: 28 & 45: 1). The fulfillment of Messiah's first coming have given him further credence (Isaiah 7: 14). The examples of the literal fulfillment of his already-fulfilled prophecies give us the assurance that prophecies about Messiah's second coming will also occur in the foreseeable future. Even though there is nothing in the book of Isaiah that reveals the extended period dividing the two comings of Messiah, we know for certain that whereas John the Immerser was the first one to come in the spirit of Elijah to prepare the way for Messiah's first coming, there will also be a second person or group who will prepare the way for His second coming as may be understood from Isaiah 62: 10, in this way: ***'Go through, go through (twice) the gates; clear the way for the people; build up, build up the highway; remove the stones, lift up a standard (meaning Yahshua) over the peoples.'***

Even though Isaiah's message is historical, in that his prophecy occurred in a specific place and time, we need to understand; despite the fact that part of his predictions already occurred, his message is universal, for people of all ages everywhere, and as such it requires that we pay close attention to it. But what should be of concern to all those whom YHVH is calling out of the world at this time, is who instructed Isaiah to record these words for people like us? Isaiah gives us the answer in verse 2 of Isaiah 1, saying: ***'Listen, O heavens, and hear, O earth; for YHVH speaks, "Sons I reared and brought up, but they have revolted against Me."*** This tells us that YHVH is the source of Isaiah's prophecy, as is also confirmed in Hebrews 1: 1 & 2, in this way: ***'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.'*** The prophet Isaiah's vision comes directly from YHVH the King of the Universe, with a special message to Judah at the time of his prophecy, but also to the entire world and especially us who are alive at this end time.

Elohim called Isaiah around 740 BCE when king Uzziah died, as he also wrote in Isaiah 6: 1 – 3, saying: ***'In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw YHVH sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. (2) Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. (3) And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is YHVH of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory."*** Here in what Isaiah saw in a vision, is the source of his message. Here is ultimate authority. We read from John 12: 37 - 41 that Isaiah actually saw Yahshua the salvation of YHVH in Isaiah 6: 1, where he in prophecy showed that our Jewish Brothers will be blinded to the identity of Yahshua the arm of YHVH (spoken about in Isaiah 53: 1), saying: ***'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 HE HARDENED THEIR HEART; LEST THEY SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED, AND I HEAL THEM.” (41) These things Isaiah said, because he saw His glory, and he spoke of Him.’ In order to remove any doubt that Yahshua the image of the invisible Elohim was the power or right hand of Elohim (as also witnessed by King David in Psalm 98: 1 – 3⁶) before He became the Son of Man (YHVH in the flesh), Yahshua in verses 44 & 45 of John 12 cried out saying: **“He who believes in Me does not believe in Me, but in Him who sent Me. (45) And he who beholds Me beholds the One who sent Me.”** Only Elohim can call a prophet and prepare him to utter a divine message. We see from verses 5 & 6 of Isaiah 6, that Elohim cleansed Isaiah’s lips with a burning coal allowing him to say or write this important prophecy. But what was Isaiah’s message?

Isaiah was truly a prophet who revealed the Oneness of Elohim as well as the purpose of Yahshua the Messiah to us, and starting in Isaiah 4: 2, talking about Yahshua’s rulership during the millennium, saying: **‘In that day a Branch of YHVH will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth will be the pride and the adornment of the survivors of Israel.’** This is followed about the vision of Yahshua in Isaiah 6: 1 and by His human birth as Immanuel, meaning Elohim with us as in Isaiah 7: 14. Next he tells us about Immanuel who will be from the tribe of Judah, who will hide His face from them saying in Isaiah 8: 8 – 17: **“Then it will sweep on into Judah, it will overflow and pass through, it will even reach to the neck; and the spread of its wings will fill the breadth of your land, O Immanuel. (9) Be broken, O peoples (goiim), and be shattered; and give ear all remote places of the earth. Gird yourselves, yet be shattered; Gird yourselves, yet be shattered.** (This means that even though there was a fulfilment before, it will happen once again.) **(10) Devise a plan but it will be thwarted; state a proposal, but it will not stand, for Elohim is with us.” (11) For thus YHVH spoke to me with mighty power and instructed me not to walk in the way of this people, saying, (12) “You are not to say, ‘It is a conspiracy!’ In regard to all that this people call a conspiracy, and you are not to fear what they fear or be in dread of it. (13) It is YHVH of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, and He shall be your dread. (14) Then He shall become a sanctuary; but to both houses of Israel, a stone to strike and a rock to stumble over, and a snare and a trap for the inhabitants of Jerusalem. (15) And many will stumble over them, then they will fall and be broken; they will even be snared and caught. (16) Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples. (17) And I will wait for YHVH who is hiding His face (identity) from the house of Jacob; I will even look eagerly for him.”** Even though Judah is presently blinded to the identity of Yahshua ((YHVH)’s face or visible image⁷), they trust Elohim is with them – and even if the Arab world, as well as many others are planning to destroy them, YHVH will thwart these plans and ultimately shatter those who are devising evil against His people. We also read from this section that both houses of Israel will stumble over the identity and or purpose of Yahshua the rock of our salvation, but we understand from Romans 11 that the blinding of Judah, is (YHVH)’s doing, to allow those of us from the lost ten tribes (plus a number of Gentiles), whom He is presently calling out of the world, to return to Him; and when the full number of those whom He wants to return has been reached, all Israel (both houses) will be saved.

Isaiah confirms the Oneness of Elohim, throughout the book saying in chapter 43: 3, 10 – 15: **“For I am YHVH your Elohim, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush**

⁶ Psalm 98: 1 – 3: **‘O sing to YHVH a new song, for He has done wonderful things, His right hand and His holy arm have gained victory for Him. YHVH has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered His loving-kindness and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our Elohim.’**

⁷ We read about YHVH hiding His face in Isaiah 45: 15, where He also reveals His identity to us, saying: **‘Truly, Thou are an Elohim who hides Himself, O Elohim, of Israel, Savior!’**

and Seba in your place. (10) You are My witnesses,” declares YHVH, “And My servant whom I have chosen, in order that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He (Yes, ‘I am’ means that YHVH is the Eternal, but as used in this verse, YHVH the speaker also tells us that He (Himself) is His servant whom He has chosen). Before Me there was no Elohim formed, and there will be none after Me (yes, as explained in the previous lesson, the gods who came up later – are no gods). (11) I, even I, am YHVH; and there is no savior besides Me. (12) It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed; and there was no strange god among you; so you are My witnesses.” Declares YHVH, “And I am Elohim. (13) Even from eternity I am He; and there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?” (14) Thus says YHVH your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, “For your sake I have sent to Babylon, and will bring them all down as fugitives, even the Chaldeans, into the ships in which they rejoice. (15) I am YHVH, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.” How many times does YHVH have to tell us that He only is Elohim? YHVH also tells us through Isaiah that He cannot forget us and even though many fall over the stumbling stone (mentioned in Isaiah 8), eventually all people will know His identity, as recorded in Isaiah 49: 15, 16 & 26, in this way: “Can a woman forget her nursing child, and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. (16) Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; your walls are continually before Me. (26) And I will feed your oppressors with their own flesh, and they will become drunk with their own blood as with sweet wine; and all flesh will know that I, YHVH am your Savior, and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.”

Ask yourself, who is coming back one day? We find the answer in Zechariah 14: 4 – 9, as follows: **“And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives which is in front of Jerusalem in the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. (5) And you will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah.** (It seems almost prophetic how Uzziah’s name comes up again in Zechariah’s prophecy about Messiah’s return, similar to the vision Isaiah had in Isaiah 6: 1 after Uzziah’s death, when he saw Messiah on His throne.) **Then YHVH, my Elohim, will come, and all the holy ones (those of us who qualify to make it into the kingdom of Elohim) with Him! (6) And it will come about in that day that there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle. (7) For it will be a unique day which is known to YHVH, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening time there will be light. (8) And it will come about in that day that living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter. (9) And YHVH will be king over all the earth; in that day YHVH will be the only one, and His name the only one.”**

We also see from Isaiah 30: 18 – 20 that YHVH promised that He will eventually reveal His face to His people once again during Messiah’s rule from Jerusalem, as follows: **‘Therefore YHVH longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For YHVH is an Elohim of justice; how blessed are all those who long for Him. (19) O People in Zion, inhabitants in Jerusalem, you will weep no longer, He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you. (20) Although YHVH 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.’** Our Jewish Brothers will also recognize Yahshua as their Teacher and Elohim like Thomas did after Yahshua showed him His hands and side when Thomas exclaimed in John 20: 28, **“My Master (Rabbi or Teacher) and my Elohim!”** This will happen at Yahshua’s return one day on Yom Teruah, known to our Jewish Brothers as Rosh Hashanah as witnessed in Zechariah 12: 7 – 10, in this way: **“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. (This is when Yahshua is prophesied to return one day in the near future) ***(10) And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace*** (by which we are saved) ***and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born.***" This is one of many irrefutable witnesses that the calendar observed by our Jewish Brothers is correct. The next few verses in Zechariah 12 show that they will undoubtedly be in their synagogues on that day, with their men sitting separately from their ladies. Will those of us called out of the world, also observe the Feast of Trumpets on the same date at Messiah return?

Isaiah's second message mirrors the good news or gospel about the coming kingdom of Elohim, as recorded in the Renewed Covenant. The book of Isaiah is one of the books of the Tanach mostly quoted by Yahshua Messiah. The book is therefore correctly referred to as a summary of the entire Scriptures. The crux of the book of Isaiah is the good news about the coming Kingdom of Elohim, with Messiah ruling as King of kings and Master of masters, as Isaiah wrote in chapter 52: 7, saying: ***'How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace and brings good news of happiness, who announces salvation, and says to Zion, "Your Elohim reigns!"'*** This is obviously a vision after Yahshua our Messiah returned to rule the world from Jerusalem, as we read from verses 8 – 10, in this way: ***'Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices, they shout joyfully together; for they will see with their own eyes when YHVH restores Zion. (9) Break forth, shout joyfully together, you waste places of Jerusalem; for YHVH has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. (10) YHVH has bared His holy arm in the sight of all the nations, that all the ends of the earth may see the salvation (Yahshua) of our Elohim.'***

We read from Isaiah 9: 6 & 7 about both Yahshua's human birth, but also about His ultimate purpose to come and rule the world from Jerusalem during His second coming, as follows: ***'For a child will be born to us, and a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Elohim, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. (7) There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of YHVH of hosts will accomplish this.'*** Continuing is Isaiah 11: 1 – 9: We read about Yahshua's human ancestry and how He will change the face of the earth during His millennial rule, in this way: ***'Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. (2) And the Spirit of YHVH will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of YHVH. (3) And He will delight in the fear of YHVH, and He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make a decision by what His ears hear; (4) 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. (6) 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.'***

Even so, we do not hear a lot of good news at this time. In the same way things did not go well in Isaiah's time and this is why he wrote in Isaiah 1: 4 - 6, saying: ***'Alas, sinful nation, people weighed down with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, sons who act corruptly! They have abandoned YHVH, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they have turned away from Him. (5) Where will you be***

stricken again, as you continue in your rebellion? The whole head is sick, and the whole heart is faint. (6) From the sole of the foot even to the head there is nothing sound in it, only bruises, welts, and raw wounds, not pressed out or bandaged, nor softened with oil. This almost sounds like a description of us in the western world today. We have been in financial trouble since 2008, but in the same way our moral and familial lives are threatened by disaster. Nothing is safe any longer! Even so, Isaiah's prophecy remained one of hope for the future. Although he was bemoaning the sad condition of his people, he confidently encourages those who listened to him in Isaiah 1: 16 – 17, saying: ***“Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil, (17) learn to do good; seek justice, reprove the ruthless, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.”***

These are not the words of an antiquated political reformer – in fact they describe current state of affairs in the world. Even so, Isaiah offers comfort to the people, no matter how badly they failed as fathers and husbands, saying in verse 18: ***“Come now, and let us reason together,” Says YHVH, “Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool.”*** Isaiah draws a line between right and wrong; and perhaps why his and other prophets in the Scriptures are not taken seriously is mankind's proclivity to get trapped in a maze of uncertain moral standard. At the core of the Israelite nation's slide to lawlessness is confusion about what is right and what is wrong. Isaiah describes, but also condemns such moral disorder, saying in Isaiah 5: 20 – 23: ***‘Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; who substitute bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter. (21) Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and clever in their own sight! (22) Woe to those who are heroes in drinking wine, and valiant men in mixing strong drink; (23) who justify the wicked for a bribe, and take away the rights of ones who are in the right!’*** We live and work in a society that does not exalt Elohim; our priorities are upside down. It is for this reason that YHVH asks through Isaiah in chapter 51: 12 & 13, saying: ***“I, even I, am He who comforts you. Who are you that you are afraid of man who dies, and of the son of man who is made like grass; (13) that you have forgotten YHVH your Maker, Who stretched out the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; that you fear continually all day long because of the fury of the oppressor, as he makes ready to destroy? But where is the fury of the oppressor?”*** Yes, we do not have to fear anybody, if we remain close to Elohim. Yahshua stated the same principle in a more-optimistic manner in Matthew 6: 31 - 33, saying: ***“Do not be anxious then, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘With what shall we clothe ourselves?’ (32) For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. (33) But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.”*** Elohim's Kingdom is the key and once it becomes a reality, all these futuristic prophecies will find their ultimate fulfillment.

Yahshua came specifically to bring the lost ten tribes back to worshipping YHVH, as he also told the Canaanite woman who asked Him to heal her demon possessed daughter, saying in Matthew 15: 24, ***“I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”*** In fact Isaiah also prophesied about Messiah's purpose in Isaiah 49: 5 – 7, saying: ***‘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 (or remnant) of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” (7) Thus says YHVH, the Redeemer of Israel, and its Holy One, to the despised One, to the One abhorred by the nation, to the Servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes shall bow down; because of YHVH who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel who has chosen You.”*** Isaiah revealed Messiah's purpose to bring back a remnant of the lost ten tribes to once again serve David their King, and YHVH their Elohim, and to eventually when He returns to also make priests and Levites of some, as witnessed in Isaiah 61: 6, 9 – 11, saying: ***“But you will be called the priests of YHVH; you will be spoken of as ministers of our Elohim. You will eat the wealth of***

nations, and in their riches you will boast. (9) Then their offspring will be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples. All who see them will recognize them because they are the offspring whom YHVH has blessed. (10) I will rejoice greatly in YHVH, My soul will exult in my Elohim; for He has clothed me in garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland (a peer-shaped head covering like that worn by a priest), and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. (11) For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes the things sown in it to spring up, so YHVH Elohim will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.” A second witness to this comes from Isaiah 66: 20 & 21, where YHVH tells our Jewish Brothers that He will also make some of us priests, in this way: *“Then they shall bring all your brethren from all the nations as a grain offering (first fruits) to YHVH, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem,” says YHVH, “just as the sons of Israel bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of YHVH. (21) I will also take some of them as priests and for Levites,” says YHVH.’*

Finally, but more importantly Isaiah also tells us about the people who will be resurrected in the second resurrection before the Great White Throne judgment saying in Isaiah 25: 7 – 9, *‘And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is stretched over all nations. (8) He will swallow up death for all time (this will only happen after the great white throne judgment when the books of the Scriptures will have been opened to the understanding of those in the second resurrection, as may be seen from Revelation 20: 12 – 14), And YHVH Elohim will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth (at the moment Judah and the Israelite nations are some of the most hated people on 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; lets us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.”*

The people who will be in the second resurrection will be given a period of time in which to learn about Elohim and His ways, after which they will be able to make an informed decision as to whether they want to follow His ways or not. They will upon acceptance of Yahshua as their personal Passover, be given the Set-apart Spirit and be changed into immortal children of Elohim, after which the ones whose names are not written in the book of life, will be burnt up as per Revelation 20: 15 and also mentioned 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 about the period of a hundred years in Isaiah 65: 17 – 20, in this way: *“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. (18) But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem for rejoicing, and her people for gladness. (19) I will also rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people; and there will no longer be heard in her the voice of weeping and the sound of crying. (20) No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred shall be thought accursed.”*

According to the Talmud King Manasseh of Judah was responsible for Isaiah’s death at ninety years of age. One vague Scriptural record that we have about this comes from 2 Kings 21: 16, as follows: *‘Moreover, Manasseh shed very much innocent blood until he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; besides his sin with which he made Judah sin, in doing evil in the sight of YHVH.’* A second hint at Isaiah’s death comes from Hebrews 11: 32 - 38, in this way: *‘And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, (33) who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, (34) quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the*

*sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. (35) Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, in order that they might obtain a better resurrection; (36) and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. (37) They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword, they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (38) (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.’ It was because of Manasseh’s sin that the nation of Judah was eventually taken captive by king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, as witnessed in 2 Kings 24: 3 & 4, as follows: **‘Surely at the command of YHVH it came upon Judah, to remove them from His sight because of the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he had done, (4) and also for the innocent blood which he shed, for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; and YHVH would not forgive.’** We are truly thankful that YHVH blessed us with prophets like Isaiah to foretell what is awaiting mankind in the foreseeable future. Halleluyah!*

Chapter 5: The Scriptures is the foundation of knowledge.

YHVH spoke to the prophet Daniel about the time of the end in Daniel 12: 3 & 4, saying: ***“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. (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.”*** From this we understand that we are definitely living during the end times, as it is only during the last 70 years since World War II that mankind has been traveling across the globe at great speed, but more importantly is the fact that we live in a dynamic age of information driven by scientific communications and digital innovation.

Both scientific knowledge and knowledge about the way of Elohim are being ‘discovered’ at an ever increasing pace. In line with Daniel’s prophecy, Yahshua 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.”*** Even though there is an excess of information available about almost any subject that man’s mind can contemplate, humanity is unfortunately lacking the basic knowledge so essential for their well-being. Yes, we are at this time drowning in an information over-load, but starved of knowledge about Elohim and His ways. But, what is the problem? Why doesn’t mankind understand the way of Elohim? We get the answer in Hosea 4: 1 (KJV), where Isaiah wrote: ***‘Hear the word of YHVH, ye children of Israel: for YHVH hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth (Torah)⁸, nor mercy, nor knowledge of Elohim in the land.***

Yes, something vitally important to the very existence of mankind is lacking. However, notice carefully that it is not missing because it cannot be found any longer, but it is missing because people have rejected the available knowledge and will as a result be destroyed, as Hosea wrote further in verse 6 of Hosea 4, saying: ***‘My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law (Torah) of your Elohim, I also will forget your children.’*** The prophet Jeremiah prophesied about our people (Israel) in Jeremiah 2: 8, saying: ***“The priests did not say, ‘Where is YHVH?’ And those who handle the law did not know Me; the rulers also transgressed against Me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal (the Lord) and walked after things that did not profit (them spiritually).”*** Jeremiah continues in verses 11 – 14, telling us Israelites why we are being punished at this time, saying: ***“Has a nation changed gods, when they were not gods? But My people have changed their glory for what does not profit. (12) Be appalled, O heavens, at this, and shudder, be very desolate,” declares YHVH. (13) For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. (14) Is Israel a slave? Or is he a home born servant? Why has he become prey?*** Jeremiah gives us the answer in verse 19, saying: ***“Your own wickedness will correct you, and your apostasies (backsliding) will reprove you; know therefore and see that it is evil and bitter for you to forsake YHVH your Elohim, and the dread (fear) of Me is not in you,” declares YHVH Elohim of hosts.’*** Ever since the late 1980’s with the invention of internet and the world-wide web mankind has amassed information previously unheard of. But what concerns YHVH is our lack of spiritual knowledge. Rav Shaul accurately described many people of our time who are always searching more information on the internet, saying in 2 Timothy 3: 7, they are ***‘always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.’***

Why is it that we who are so much better educated than our parents know so much less? By the way, It is senseless to look for the answer on the internet. Yes you will find lots more information, but will still not know the true answer. The reason is that the answer is only available in the word of

⁸ Psalm 119: 142, ***‘Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Thy law is truth.’***

Elohim. YHVH tells us through Jeremiah the prophet, talking specifically to those of us who think of ourselves as being 'learned' saying in Jeremiah 9: 23 & 24: ***'Thus says YHVH, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast in his riches; (24) but let him who boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am YHVH who exercises loving-kindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares YHVH.'*** It is only when we humble ourselves before YHVH that we will learn anything. If we come to Sabbath services for teachings, thinking and believing we know it all, we will not learn anything. Yahshua told His disciples about spiritual knowledge concerning the coming kingdom of Elohim in Matthew 13: 16 & 17, saying: ***"But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. (17) For truly I say to you, that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it; and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."*** Let me tell you, knowing Elohim's word is priceless – it is indeed the foundation of understanding all knowledge.

But why has mankind rejected true knowledge from Elohim? We find the answer in 2 Corinthians 4: 3 & 4, in this way: ***'And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, (4) in whose case the god of the 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.'*** Most people do not believe that Satan is the god of this world. In fact many modern Christians are uncomfortable with the reality of Satan; nevertheless, we read from first John 5: 19 as follows: ***'We know that we are of Elohim, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.'*** It is also for this reason that Rav Shaul wrote about Yahshua our Messiah in Galatians 1: 1 – 4, saying: ***'Shaul, an apostle (not sent from men, nor through the agency of man, but through Yahshua Messiah, and Elohim the Father, who raise Him from the dead), (2) and all the brethren who are with me, to the congregations of Galatia: (3) Grace to you and peace from Elohim our Father, and the Master Yahshua Messiah, (4) who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us out of the present evil age, according to the will of our Elohim and Father.'*** One reason for Messiah's coming to the world was to disarm Satan, as witnessed in Hebrews 2: 14, in this way: ***'Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.'***

Messiah's death was the first step in Elohim's plan of salvation for all mankind. Satan would dearly love us to cut Elohim's plan short, with Yahshua still remaining on the cross, as portrayed in the Roman Catholic Church. It is for this reason that Rav Shaul wrote in Romans 5: 10, saying: ***'For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to Elohim through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.'*** One way in which Satan has managed to deceive believers in Messiah, is by allowing them to believe that the Scriptures contain two sections; the one old and outdated, and the other new and to be seen as a separate book. The problem with Satan's disinformation is that mankind had been fed so much erroneous teachings for many centuries that even intelligent people started believing that the two parts of the Scriptures represent two totally opposite views, namely that of the so-called *'Old Testament'* with a strict old G-d of wrath as opposed to the *'New Testament'* with a much more lenient G-d of love. It is also for this reason that some believe the so-called *'Old Testament'* became obsolete and had to be replaced by the *'New Testament'* and as a result they have neglected three quarters of Elohim's inspired word to their own peril.

Many who say they believe in Messiah today reject most of what is recorded in the Tanach, but specifically the Torah written by Moses. Even though these people claim to believe in Messiah, most of what they believe is directly opposite to what Yahshua the Messiah taught whilst He was on earth. In fact we see from what He personally told His audience in John 5: 46 & 47, that unless we believe the Torah written by Moses, we cannot believe in Him, in this way: ***'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?" In full support of this we see that after Yahshua's death and resurrection He met up with His disciples before His ascension teaching them in Luke 24: 44 & 45, saying: ***"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.'***

If we are truly interested in how the two parts of Elohim's word join seamlessly into His complete revelation to us, we will recognize how the book of Malachi speaks about *'Elijah who is to come'* in Malachi 4: 4 – 6, and how the book of Matthew in Matthew 11: 13 & 14, in the words of Messiah, says: ***"For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until (or concerning) John (the Immerser) (14) And if you care to accept it, he himself is Elijah, who was to come.'*** Luke in Luke 1: 16 & 17, wrote about Yochanan the Immerser, saying: ***"And he will turn back many of the sons of Israel to YHVH their Elohim. (17) And it is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous; so as to make ready a people prepared for the Master."*** In fact Yahshua the Messiah confirmed historical accounts in the Scriptures in His teachings, one of which being His Olivet prophecy where He referred to the creation of the world in Genesis 1, saying in Matthew 24: 21, ***'For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall.'*** He further spoke about Noah's time in verses 37 & 38, saying: ***"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.'*** Yahshua also confirmed that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob have already qualified to be in the kingdom of Elohim, where He warned in Luke 13: 28, saying: ***"There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth there when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of Elohim, but yourselves being cast out."*** Messiah therefore authenticated the Tanach, by accepting Scriptural history and quoting the same in His teachings.

Elohim takes His word very seriously and Yahshua tells us at the end of the book of Revelation in Chapter 22: 18 & 19, saying: ***'I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them Elohim shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book; (19) and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, Elohim shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.'*** We know that the warnings given here in Revelation extends to all the other books of the Scriptures, as is witnessed in Deuteronomy 4: 2, in this way: ***"You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of YHVH your Elohim which I command you."*** Yahshua confirmed as recorded in Matthew 4: 4 and Luke 4: 4 that as human beings we need to eat daily, but also to study the word of Elohim to survive both physically and spiritually, saying: ***"It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF ELOHIM.'"*** How can words be more important to human survival than food? Elohim gave us His commandments for our own good – if we live by what He taught in His word, we will not only benefit in this life, but also inherit eternal life in Messiah's Kingdom to come.

We need to understand that human life is more than an existence from the cradle to the grave. YHVH has a plan for every human life lived on earth and wants to use our earthly life as a training period in preparation for an eternal position in the universe to come. Each one of us needs to get to know how to cooperate with YHVH to be able to handle the responsibility He planned for us in the future. It is for this reason vitally important that we start cooperating with YHVH in this life and learn to do His will, at this time; right Now! It was for this very reason that immediately after Yahshua's immersion that He preached the gospel of Elohim, saying in Mark 1: 15: ***"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of Elohim is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."*** It is important to understand that the Scriptures are the words that YHVH is communicating to each one of us on an individual

basis. It was for this reason that Yahshua said in John 6: 63, ***“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.”*** This tells us that Scriptural principals are empowered by spiritual forces that cannot be seen. It is for this reason that we read from John 1: 1, ***“In the beginning was the word, and the word was with Elohim, and the word was Elohim.”*** YHVH talks to us through His word – we must therefore respect it as we would YHVH Himself!

Yes, Elohim’s word is truly the foundation of knowledge. It gives us important information not readily available from other sources. An example being where YHVH forbids the eating and or cooking of meat of an animal in its mother’s milk in Exodus 23: 19; 34: 26 and Deuteronomy 14: 21. To most people’s minds this is one law that does not make sense at all. I am sure for many years since the giving of this command many struggled to find reasons for YHVH to have such a command. However, with hindsight and with medical science having discovered the problem that many of us have with cholesterol, it is beginning to make sense for those with discerning minds. Yes, it is simply a health law which YHVH has given along with laws forbidding the consumption of fat and blood, the last named also mentioned by Rav Yaa’cov in Acts 15: 20, as one of four initial commandments that new believers need to obey when they are called into the faith by YHVH; but the main point is that if we do not obey these so called least commandments – we are disobedient to Elohim. Elohim’s word also provides us with a framework with which we may apply other knowledge. For example the Jewish clock reads 5774 years, but scientist estimate the universe to be more than 13 billion years old. We need to understand that both these views are correct; but that Torah looks forward in time from different time space coordinates, when the universe was small. Since then the universe has expanded and because space stretches, the stretching totally changes the perception of time.

This fact is recorded on the NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory webpage, in this way: *“Our universe burst into existence in an event known as the big bang 13.8 billion years ago, moments later space itself ripped apart, expanding exponentially in an episode known as inflation.”* The universe is not static; it has been expanding from the very beginning when it was first created. The Scriptures attest to this in the first part of Job 9: 8, where Job said: ***“Who alone stretches out the heavens.”*** A second witness comes from Psalm 104: 1 & 2, where David wrote: ***‘Bless YHVH, O my soul! O YHVH my Elohim, Thou art very great; Thou are clothed in splendor and majesty, (2) covering Thyself with light as with a cloak, stretching out heaven like a tent curtain.’*** The prophet Isaiah mentioned the stretching out of the heavens a number of times, one of which appears in Isaiah 42: 5, saying: ***‘Thus says Elohim YHVH, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and its offspring, who gives breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk in it.’*** According to scientists our moon has slowly moved away from the earth by a few feet annually. The moon is presently about 239,000 miles away from earth. If we could turn the clock a few thousand million years back, the moon would be very close or even joined to the earth. That means that creation must have taken place less than a thousand million years ago, with the moon being created some distance away from the earth. In other words there was a beginning. Even though the world of man was created about 4000 BCE the universe including the earth were created at an earlier time.

Einstein taught that the Big Bang theory does not only bring space and matter into existence, but that there is also a time dimension to be taken into account. How we see time is from where we are viewing it. Einstein’s equation $E = MC^2$, informs us that energy can change into matter. Once it changes, time starts. Energy is said to travel at the speed of light, namely 300 million meters per second. At the speed of light, time does not pass, it only grabs hold or starts when matter is present. The moment of time prior to the clock starting for the Scriptures lasted 1/100,000 of a second - a very short time. But in that time the universe expanded from a tiny speck, to the solar system. That is when energy changed to matter and time started. The Theory of Relativity informs us that the difference in the rate at which time passes in different frames of reference, depends on the ratio of the strengths of the gravitational fields in the systems. For example a minute on the moon goes

faster than a minute on the earth. Similarly is a minute on the sun slower than a minute on the earth. If you could look from one system to another, you would see time differently. Because, depending on factors like gravity and velocity, you observe time in a way that is very different. For example there are planets in the universe where time is so stretched out that in the time we live out about one year on earth, only one and a half minute go by on such planets. If one could look down on earth from such a planet, our perception of earth time would be that everyone on earth is moving very fast. If we could look up at that planet from earth, our perception would be that it moves very slowly. But which is correct? Like I said earlier, both are correct, since both are happening at the same time. There are numerous locations in the universe, where if you could put a clock, it would tick so slowly from our perspective (if we could live that long) 13 billion years would go by, but the clock at that remote location would tick away only six days. So even though the universe is more than 13 billion years old, Torah looks forward in time, from very different time-space coordinates, when the universe was small. However, since the universe has expanded, space stretched out, and as a result the perception of time has totally changed.

King David similarly used foundational knowledge to summarize Elohim's plan of salvation in five short verses. He described in seven steps how mankind needs to be prepared to ultimately share the universe with Elohim in Psalm 103. The first two steps deal with mankind's responsibility to trust and obey YHVH, and to confirm this by willingly accepting His instructions, then YHVH will do all the rest to ensure our place in eternity with Him. We read from verse 1 of Psalm 103, ***'Bless YHVH, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name'***.⁹ The transliterated Hebrew word for bless is 'Baruch' – meaning to give oneself to YHVH without reservation and to respect Him as the Almighty. It means that we should let His will become our will and trust that everything that He does is for our good in preparing us for life as His spiritual children. But, the word 'Baruch' also implies the thought of giving; in this case giving YHVH the honor and respect due to Him. If the principle given in Psalm 115: 8¹⁰ also applies to YHVH the only Elohim, then if we trust in Him, we will become like Him. Therefore if we admire YHVH and His ways, we will eventually become like Him. It is perhaps for this reason that we are told by Rav Shaul to conform to the image of Yahshua in Romans 8: 29 & 30, in this way: ***'For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; (30) and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.'***

We read the second step from verse 2 of Psalm 103, as follows: ***'Bless YHVH, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits.'*** This means that we are to claim (YHVH)'s benefits and remind ourselves and others that YHVH loves to give them. If we conform to the image of Elohim, we will like Yahshua become heirs of Elohim, as we are told in Romans 8: 16 – 17, in this way: ***'The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of Elohim, (17) and if children, heirs also, heirs of Elohim and fellow heirs with Messiah, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.'*** (YHVH)'s greatest gift is of Himself. The prodigal son described in Luke 15 asked his father to give him everything due to him, but when he came to himself, he understood his own shortcomings and with a changed attitude said ***'make me as one of your hired men.'*** If we truly understand what Yahshua taught here, this should become our approach to (YHVH)'s throne.

The third step in David's plan in Psalm 103: 3, i.e. ***'Who pardons all your iniquities'***, to prepare us to share the universe with YHVH is to establish our current status as needing forgiveness as sinners and by our own nature unworthy of Elohim's goodness and grace. It is for this reason that we read from

⁹ To be able to bless (YHVH)'s holy name, we need to be taught about it by someone before we can do so, as Rav Shaul wrote in Romans 10: 13 & 14, saying: ***'For "WHOEVER WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF YHVH WILL BE SAVED." How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?'***

¹⁰ Psalm 115: 8 states that ***"Those who make them will become like them, everyone who trusts in them."***

Romans 3: 23, ***'For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of Elohim.'*** Yes, we all need forgiveness of our sins, which is effected by us acknowledging our sins; the transgression of the Law, and returning to Torah obedience, but also accepting Messiah as our Passover lamb, acknowledging that He shed His blood for the forgiveness of the sins of the world, including ours. The fourth step, i.e. ***'Who heals all our diseases'*** deals with provision of physical and spiritual healing. Even though we need medical doctors to set broken bones, to prevent blood loss, to identify viruses and treat infections, we need to understand that YHVH is ultimately our healer. The fifth step, i.e. ***'Who redeems your life from the pit'*** (or destruction) only applies to those who have gone through the four previous steps. Those who will ultimately not bow before Yahshua the Messiah will be destroyed as per Malachi 4: 1. The words ***'who redeems your life from destruction'***, refers to the whole man; that his body, soul and spirit be preserved complete without blame at the coming of our Master Yahshua Messiah, as per 1 Thessalonians 5: 23.

The sixth step, i.e. ***'Who crowns you with loving kindness and compassion'***, refers to the coronation of those in the first resurrection as Rav Shaul assured us as in 2 Timothy 4: 7 & 8, saying: ***'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; (8) in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Master, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearance.'*** The seventh step, i.e. ***'Who satisfies your years'*** (desire) ***with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle.'*** The words ***'good things'*** do not mean material things, but involve adornment of your spiritual character, when you will be fitted for the next perfect world. This is implied in the reference to the eagle. The Imperial Eagle is the king of birds. The eggs of the Imperial Eagle hatch in 35 days, as compared to all other eagles which hatch in 28 days. They mate for life and have a life span equal to that of mankind. When they get old, their feathers are torn and disarrayed from long use, they sit in their nests day after day doing nothing, and without food and water, as if awaiting translation. After some time the body shrinks, the old feathers drop off and the wrinkled skin appears, to leave a sorry looking mess behind. But soon new skin appears to take new life and color. A little while longer and the bird is covered with fuzz, which eventually turns into feathers, and within a few weeks he is again covered with new plumage. Like a miracle, one day he lifts his powerful feathered wings and soars off into the sky in search of a new life. King David under Divine inspiration likens this miraculous transformation to that of a believer in the hands of His Creator, using the invisible Word and Spirit to remove the weaknesses of human life in favor of spiritual life in the Kingdom of Elohim.

YHVH wants us to like David apply the basic knowledge that He provides to understand the deeper things in life. The point is that Elohim commands us to live in harmony with His revealed way of life. His laws define the true values and He expects us to get to know them to the point where they become a way of life. The Scriptures are contained in a single book of spiritual instructions that reflect both Elohim's mind and character. Yahshua our Messiah as the image of the invisible Elohim is not a separate entity away from YHVH our Elohim, but is very much part of Elohim, and as such did not view the laws that YHVH gave through Moses in a different light. We read accordingly from Matthew 22: 35 – 40, ***'And one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, (36) "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" (37) And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE YHVH YOUR ELOHIM WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' (38) "This is the great and foremost commandment. (39) The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' (40) "On these two commandments depend the whole law and the prophets.'*** Elohim's Laws are spiritual according to Romans 7: 14 and is based on love – since Elohim gave it for our good. Elohim's laws define love toward Him as our Creator, as well as to our neighbor. Messiah cited both these commandments from the Torah and thereby authenticated the same. Similar to the law of gravity, YHVH put laws of cause and effect in place from the beginning. He also gave mankind His word, the Scriptures as a manual on how to apply these laws, to live happy productive lives. The Scriptures also inform us to continue to grow in the grace (mercy) and knowledge of our Master and Savior Messiah Yahshua. In other words, in

addition to obeying Torah, we need to study the words and life of Yahshua the Messiah whilst He was on earth and start living the way that He lived. Yes, it is as we read earlier in Romans 5: 10, ***'we shall be saved by His life'***; meaning the life that He now lives in us.

From Genesis to Revelation the Scriptures is a book of spiritual instruction. Its main focus is on Elohim's spiritual Law, which is embodied and summarized in the Ten Commandments. As the foundation of all knowledge the Scriptures show the root cause of every problem that has plagued mankind since creation. Elohim's word reveals true values by which we are required to live, if we need to solve our enormous relationship problems and other insolvable problems that threaten to overwhelm us. Messiah's disciples left a permanent record or testimony in the Renewed Covenant about His life and teachings for believers in Messiah to follow as witnessed in John 20: 30 & 31, in this way: ***'Many other signs therefore Yahshua also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; (31) but these have been written that you may believe that Yahshua is the Messiah, the Son of Elohim; and that believing you may have life in His name.'*** Think about it!

Chapter 6: Obedience?

The Scriptures repeatedly state how we show our love to Elohim; and it is definitely not acceptable to just know and feel in your heart that you love Him, the way some in the biggest group of believers in G-d say they do. Elohim created mankind to have a loving relationship with Him and reveals Himself to those of us who love Him as our heavenly Father. When Yahshua was on earth He taught His disciples a model prayer known in English as the 'Our Father' which is transliterated in Hebrew as 'Avinu'. The title Avinu is reserved for our heavenly Father only, since the title for our earthly fathers, transliterated in Hebrew would simply be 'Abba'. It is for this reason that Jewish people disapprove of the way that some refers to YHVH as our Abba instead of Avinu.

Obedience is a main component of true faithfulness in the way of Elohim. YHVH our Elohim is not interested in our offerings and sacrifices, since everything belongs to Him anyway. As Israelites YHVH tells us through Moses in Deuteronomy 10: 12 & 13 saying: ***"And now, Israel, what does YHVH your Elohim require from you, but to fear YHVH your 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."*** Similarly, when you ask any parent how they know their children love them, they will tell you they know, because their children usually do what they tell them to. We read from Hebrews 2: 10 & 11, ***'For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings. (11) For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren.'*** Yes, YHVH is presently busy 'bringing many sons to glory' so that we will eventually be of the same family.

Many people who confess belief in Messiah regard this close Elohim-mankind loving relationship exclusively a 'New Testament' idea and simultaneously believe the 'Old Testament' to be strictly a relationship of commandments and enforced obedience. However, if we truly know YHVH the Elohim of our fathers in the faith, we will understand that love and obedience are not two mutually exclusive concepts. When a certain lawyer asked Yahshua in Luke 10: 25, saying: ***"Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"*** Yahshua answered in verse 26, saying to him: ***"What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?"*** Knowing the Torah, the lawyer quoted Deuteronomy 6: 5, saying (IN VERSES 27): ***"YOU SHALL LOVE YHVH YOUR ELOHIM WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."*** Yahshua's reply in verse 28 was: ***"You have answered correctly; DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE."*** So, it is clear, if we want to inherit eternal life in the kingdom of Elohim as His children we must love Elohim. But what does that mean? One thing is certain, love is not only a fuzzy warm feeling toward Elohim, but it involves action. A perfect example showing how action is involved in love, is in the way Elohim has already proven His love for us as witnessed in John 3: 16 & 17, in this way: ***"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. (17) For Elohim did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him."***

Even though love can be both a noun and a verb, it is clear from the above that love is shown by an action – something has to be done. If we love someone, we show our love by spending time with the one we love. We get to know the person better and try to do things that are pleasing to him/her. How do we know that we love Elohim? By getting to know Him; finding out from His word what is pleasing to Him and to obey Him as our loving Father. Elohim begins the Ten Commandments in both Exodus 20: 2 and Deuteronomy 5: 6, saying: ***'I am YHVH your Elohim, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.'*** Here YHVH tells us that because of His love for the ancient nation of Israel, He freed them from slavery in Egypt to establish a new nation out of them. Elohim offered kindness to Israel, by doing something for them, which they did not earn. However,

as with most lovers we also read from verses 7 - 10 of Deuteronomy 5, ***'You shall have no other gods before (or besides) Me. (8) You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on earth beneath or in the water under the earth. (9) You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, YHVH your Elohim, am a jealous Elohim, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, and on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, (10) but showing loving-kindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.'***

Here we see a theme that is found throughout the Scriptures; i.e. that loving Elohim is clearly linked with obedience to His commandments. Elohim informs us that we show our love for Him by obedience to His Torah teachings. Yahshua our Messiah, who is the image of the invisible Elohim, told believers in Him the same thing in John 14: 15, saying: ***"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."*** Even though the exhortation is clear, there is a great deal of confusion regarding this verse. The confusion about this verse is not because Yahshua told believers to observe something, but it has to do with which commandments was He talking about here. Because some teach that Yahshua abolished His Father's strict commandments and introduced new commandments for His followers, some believe that when Yahshua says in the Sermon on the Mount (in Matthew 5 – 7) that He came to specifically 'fulfill' the Torah and the prophets, He thereby did away with them. Messiah's Sermon on the Mount was in fact His stricter way of interpreting Elohim's Torah for the returning lost ten tribe believers in Him (whom the Father is busy calling out of the world), than the way the scribes and the Pharisees interpreted the same. The reason for doing so was not because the interpretation of Jewish believers such as the scribes and the Pharisees were too lax, but because returning Israelites needed to keep a great deal closer to Elohim, because of their tendency to eat unclean foods and idolatry. Messiah's comments in this message on the Law and the Prophets are the higher standards that He expected from His followers from the lost ten tribes and laid the foundation for understanding His instructions to keep Elohim's commandments, statutes and judgments.

Prophecies in the Tanach describe what would occur when the promised Messiah returns to earth. Isaiah 42 describes Messiah's teaching on the Law of Elohim. Commencing in verse 1 of Isaiah we read: ***"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."*** We read further about the fantastic work that Yahshua came specifically to do for returning Israelites from the lost ten tribes as in verses 16 – 21: ***"And I will lead the blind by a way they do not know, in paths they do not know I will guide them. I will make darkness into light before them and rugged places into plains. These are the things I will do, and I will not leave them undone."*** (17) ***They shall be turned back and be utterly put to shame, who trust in idols, who say to molten images, "You are our gods."*** (18) ***Hear you deaf! And look you blind, that you may see.*** (19) ***Who is blind but My servant*** (note this is talking about a different servant to the One mentioned in verse 1, since this one is written using the lower case's'), ***or so deaf as My messenger whom I send? Who is so blind as he that is at peace with Me, or so blind as the servant of YHVH?*** (20) ***You have seen many things, but you do not observe them; your ears are open, but none hears.*** (21) ***YHVH was pleased for His righteousness' sake to make the law great and glorious.'*** Yahshua had to come and do this simply because the house of Israel had adopted the wrong view of Elohim's Torah and was not obeying it. He was prophesied to come and lead a remnant from the lost ten tribes, who were excluded from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants and promise, to reconcile us with Brother Judah and ultimately back to the Father as explained in Ephesians 2: 11 – 19. In addition He was prophesied to come specifically to magnify the Torah for those of us returning to the way of Elohim, so that in keeping it better than the scribes and Pharisees, we will make our Jewish Brothers jealous, as explained in Romans 11: 5 – 11.

The prophet Ezekiel typifies the common view the house of Israel had of Elohim's law in Ezekiel 18: 25, saying: ***"Yet you say, 'The way of YHVH is not right.' Hear now, O house of Israel! Is My way***

not right? Is it not your ways that are not right? YHVH continues to exhort the house of Israel to return in verses 26 – 32, saying through Ezekiel: ***“When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies because of it, for his iniquity which he has committed he will die. (27) Again, when a wicked man turns away from his wickedness which he has committed and practices (do over a period of time) justice and righteousness (Torah), he will save his life. (28) Because he considered and turned away from all his transgressions which he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. (29) But the house of Israel says, ‘The way of YHVH is not right.’ Are My ways not right, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are not right? (30) Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, each according to his conduct,” declares YHVH Elohim. “Repent and turn away from all your transgressions, so that iniquity may not become a stumbling block to you. (31) Cast away from you all your transgressions which you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! For why will you die, O house of Israel? (32) For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies, declares YHVH Elohim. “Therefore repent and live.”*** Ezekiel writes about this conspiracy by the house of Israel’s wicked leaders in Ezekiel 22: 26, saying: ***“Her 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 and the clean; and they hide their eyes from My Sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.”*** Is this not exactly what they do in Christianity? Yet, there are those who try and defend what they do!

Elohim gave the prophets in the Tanach visions regarding Messiah’s ministry, but also how He will successfully accomplish this magnification process when He returns. The prophet Jeremiah wrote about this in Jeremiah 31: 31 – 33, 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. (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.”*** From this we understand that YHVH regarded the covenant that He made with both houses of Israel at Mount Sinai, as a marriage covenant. Secondly, we notice that YHVH will make a new (marriage) covenant with both houses at Messiah’s return. However, we see from verse 33 that He will only write His Torah (as specified in Deuteronomy, which is essentially the renewed covenant) on the hearts of the house of Israel, since the Jews who remained faithful are already Torah observant, and because He only gave the house of Israel a writ of divorce (as per Jeremiah 3: 8). But, we also know that Yahshua is already busy writing His Torah on the hearts of the remnant of the returning lost ten tribes, who repented and were suitably immersed into His saving name¹¹, and partake of His annual Passover – His blood ratified the new covenant (as He said in Luke 22: 20) similar to the way the blood of young bulls ratified the original covenant in Genesis 24: 5 – 8.

We see from Hebrews 8: 6 and 9: 15 that obedience to this new covenant, will result in better promises including eternal life, in this way: ***‘But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises. (9: 15) And for this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.’*** What is noteworthy here, is that there is not a single scripture that states that the New Covenant is based on new laws. Rather, the New Covenant is based on the same laws that were given in the Tanach! However, also notice that the New Covenant is the availability of Elohim’s Set-apart Spirit,

¹¹ At Immersion we are betrothed to Messiah in that He set us apart for His use only, and if we remain faithful to the end, He will remarry us as His bride at His return.

which enables us to understand the deeper spiritual intent of Elohim's law and obey it. Elohim explains this through Ezekiel in chapter 36: 21 - 27, saying: ***"But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations where they went. (22) Therefore, say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says YHVH Elohim, "It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went. (23) And I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst, Then the nations will know that I am YHVH." Declares YHVH Elohim, "when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight. (24) For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands, and bring you into your own land. (25) Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. (Note: It is the house of Israel who are prone to uncleanness due to eating unclean foods and fornication, as well as idol worship) (26) Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. (27) And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances."***

In His Sermon on the Mount Yahshua laid the foundation for separation of His followers from the lost ten tribes specifically, from the pagan ways they accepted over time from their neighbors. From the start of His ministry He introduced repentance as a fundamental shift in the direction of the theology of the day and so prevalent in society today, saying in Mark 1: 15, ***"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of Elohim is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."*** What did Yahshua mean when He said ***'the kingdom of Elohim is at hand.'*** Yes, we all know that when Yahshua returns one day in the now near future, He is going to establish Elohim's Kingdom on earth, but He also meant that if we believe that the Kingdom of Elohim is at hand, we will start making YHVH King in our lives, and make His rule of law applicable in our lives right now – not wait until Yahshua returns one day. Our Jewish Brothers have ever since their return from captivity in Babylon, started addressing YHVH as the King of the universe, commencing most of their prayers with the words: ***"Blessed are You, Adonai, our Elohim, King of the universe, ..."*** Yahshua in a similar way to the other Rabbis of His day, build hedges around Elohim's commandments in Matthew 5,6 & 7 to teach His followers and especially those of us who are from the lost ten tribes that a mere letter-of-the-law approach with its focus on minimal standards are simply not acceptable.

In Matthew 5: 17, Yahshua as the word of YHVH made flesh could perceive attitudes, and it was for this reason that He said: ***"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill."*** Even though the meaning of destroy is easy to understand, Yahshua's use of the word ***'fulfill'*** has been a source of confusion for many readers of the Scriptures. But, as Yahshua continued to teach in Matthew 5, He clarified what He meant by ***'fulfill'***. The word ***'fulfill'*** as used in verse 17 of Matthew 5, comes from the Greek word ***'plenosai'*** meaning fill. Some believe this meant that Yahshua somehow fulfilled the need to keep the law for His followers, thus freeing them to obey it in the future. It is also because of this belief that such people do not ever take the rest of what is written in the Tanach seriously and somehow neglect to understand or even read prophecies such as the one given by Isaiah in chapter 42: 21 (KJV), where he foretold that Yahshua ***'will magnify the law, and make it honorable.'*** Even so, the remainder of Yahshua's words in Matthew 5 clearly show that by using the word ***'fulfill'*** he confirmed the meaning of Torah and made it more binding, by adding the necessary hedges required to keep the remnant of the lost ten tribes from missing the mark. In fact in Matthew 5: 21 – 48 we find the crux of the magnification of the law, filling up the meaning that Elohim intended from the beginning. Yahshua therefore concluded with the words: ***"Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."*** This means that we from the lost ten tribes need to follow Messiah's way of obeying Torah in order to eventually conform to the image of Elohim.

Notice some of the many examples that show the connection between love and obedience. We read from Deuteronomy 6: 5 & 6, YHVH saying: ***‘And you shall love YHVH your Elohim with all your heart*** (belief system) ***and with all your soul*** (the way you live) ***and with all your might.*** (6) ***And these words, which I am commanding you today*** (refers to the commandment given in Deuteronomy 5), ***shall be on your heart.***’ This is the verse quoted by the lawyer when he spoke to Messiah mentioned earlier. Continuing in Deuteronomy 11: 1 Moses says: ***“You shall therefore love YHVH your Elohim, and always keep His charge, His statutes, His ordinances, and His commandments.”*** The theme of loving Elohim by obeying His commandments are continued in verses 13 and 22, in this way: ***“And it shall come about, if you listen obediently to my commandments which I am commanding you today, to love YHVH your Elohim and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.*** (22) ***For if you are careful to keep all this commandment which I am commanding you, to do it, to love YHVH your Elohim, to walk in all His ways and hold fast to Him.”*** From verse 22 we get to understand that we need to be careful to keep all the commandments – it takes conscious effort on our part to know that what we are doing conforms to what YHVH requires in Torah. We need to become aware of everything we do and say, to make sure that we live in accordance with (YHVH)’s requirements. If we become more aware of our every action and word in life; we will recognize the bad habits that we allowed to slip into our way of life, and slowly but surely start replacing it with good habits.

Deuteronomy 13: 1 - 4 warns us about false prophets (and messiahs) who even if they are able to predict something to come to pass, or are able to perform miracles like healing the sick, if they say we need not obey Elohim’s Torah, then we as Elohim’s people should not pay attention to them. Elohim tells us in verse 3 that He uses such false prophets to prove and test us, ***‘to find out if you love YHVH your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul.’*** It is no wonder that our Jewish Brothers reject the C*h*r*i*s*t* of Christianity, who believe he taught his followers that he came to abolish Torah. But, how then do we prove to Elohim that we love Him? We find the answer in verse 4 of Deuteronomy 13, as follows: ***“You shall follow YHVH your Elohim and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.”*** The theme of love by obedience is continued in Deuteronomy 30: 6 & 8, in this way: ***“Moreover YHVH your Elohim will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love YHVH your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul, in order that you may live.*** (8) ***And you shall again obey YHVH, and observe all His commandments which I command you today.”*** Circumcising the heart is also spoken about in Ezekiel 44 and means conversion of the mind by immersion as may be understood from Colossians 2: 11 & 12. We see in verses 7 & 9 of Ezekiel 44 that those men from the house of Israel who will become priests during the millennium will need to be circumcised in both the heart and the flesh. We see from the last part of Deuteronomy 30: 9 and verse 10, that: ***‘YHVH will again rejoice over you for good, just as He rejoiced over your fathers; (10) If you obey YHVH your Elohim to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law, if you turn to YHVH your Elohim with all your heart and soul.’***

Love is a two way street, and should accordingly flow both ways. The reason why we are required to love Elohim is given in first John 4: 19, as follows: ***“We love, because He first loved us.”*** Rav Yochanan explained further in verses 9 – 11 of this chapter, saying: ***‘By this the love of Elohim was manifest in us, that Elohim has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.*** (10) ***In this is love, not that we loved Elohim, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*** (11) ***Beloved, if Elohim so loved us, we also ought to love one another.’*** In fact Rav Yochanan defined love exactly the same way as it was defined in the Tanach, by stating in first John 5: 3, ***‘For this is the love of Elohim, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.’*** As mentioned earlier, love requires action. How do we know that we love Elohim? The Scriptural answer is given again and again; that we know that we love Elohim, if we obey His commandments! Think about it!

Chapter 7: Trust?

In a recent study we've learnt that there are three component parts essential to start a fire, namely fuel, oxygen and heat, but also that the same fire may be extinguished by removing anyone of these three essential component parts. In addition we learnt that Scriptural faith or more specifically faithfulness, transliterated in Hebrew as *'emunah'* likewise depends on three essential component parts, namely (at the foundation level) an intimate knowledge of truth, (faithful) obedience and trust. Again without any of these three components parts present, our faith is worthless. So, contrary to what many in the biggest group of believers in G-d say, there is more to faith, than just to *'believe'*. In Psalm 119: 142 King David agreed with most Rabbis that the entire revelation of Elohim's truth is contained in Torah, saying: ***'Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Thy law is truth.'*** Even doctrines about the Messiah appear in texts such as Genesis 3: 15, Genesis 49: 10 and Numbers 24: 17. The Torah is the most essential and fundamental revelation ever given to mankind. It remains true that if a particular doctrine or teaching is not found in the Torah, at least at an intimated level; then it is to be rejected.

Yahshua the Messiah the one in whom Christianity say they believe, also declared in the real Master's prayer recorded in John 17, that Elohim's word the Scriptures is truth in verse 17. If we bear in mind that the only section of the Scriptures available during Messiah's lifetime was the Tanach, then it is clear that He also agreed in principle with King David and most Rabbis of today. However, for those of us from the lost ten tribes, called specifically by the Father to conform to the image of His Son, are also required to have faith in the testimony of Yahshua our Messiah – meaning what He taught and did whilst He was on earth¹². Since we've already discussed (in the previous lesson) how obedience as one of the essential components of faithfulness is the only way in which to show our heavenly Father that we love Him, we will now concentrate on to the third and final essential component necessary for faithfulness; namely trust or specifically trust in Elohim the rewarder of those who believe in Him. This begs me to ask the following questions: Do you know someone you can trust explicitly with anything and everything you possess? Are you someone that can be trusted by your closest friend? A rather lengthy but necessary dictionary definition of the word trust is: A reliance or resting of the mind on the integrity, genuineness, justice, friendship of another person; a firm reliance on promises or on laws or principles; hope, belief without examination to take the transfer of goods, property, etc. in confidence of future reward or payment; the state of being confident in another's care and guard, safe-keeping, management, law, the conveying of property to one party (trustee) in confidence that he will apply it for the benefit for a specified purpose or person.

Most of us have another human being that we know we can trust explicitly, but also knowing the saying: *'that everyone has a price'* to be true, we should think carefully about trusting any other human being! The price need not always be money or riches. Ask yourself: If the person you trust in's life or the lives of his/her children are in jeopardy unless he/she betrays you, will he/she still be trustworthy? This might sound unreasonable at this time, but there might be a time in the future where it could become a reality¹³. It is perhaps for this reason that Psalm 118: 8 said to be the middle or center-point of the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation, reads: ***'It is better to take refuge in YHVH than to trust in man.'*** In fact this is exactly what Yahshua the Messiah or Emanuel (Elohim with us) did, He died for the sins of all the human beings that He ever created, who will eventually accept Him as their personal Passover, to give them eternal life. This is also what we are

¹² As believers in Messiah, we are referred to in the Scriptures as saints, and as such we read from Revelation 14: 12: ***'Here is the perseverance (meaning the drive and purpose) of the saints who keep the commandments of Elohim and their faith in (or the faith of) Yahshua.'***

¹³ Talking about the last days Yahshua said in Matthew 24: 9 & 10: ***"Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name. And at that time many will fall away and will deliver up one another and hate one another."***

promised in John 3: 36, in this way: ***“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but He who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of Elohim abides on Him.”*** What’s more this is exactly what YHVH promised Moses in Deuteronomy 18: 18 & 19, saying: ***‘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.’***

We the modern day disciples of Messiah (like His original disciples) have been granted the mysteries of the kingdom of Elohim¹⁴, since we, if we qualify, will become the bride who will remarry Messiah at His return, together with our Jewish Brothers who remain Torah observant until then. Our Jewish Brothers already believe in the coming kingdom of Elohim, with Messiah administering Elohim’s Laws. But, YHVH has at this time blinded their minds to the identity of Messiah, until such time as the fullness of the Gentiles (or more correctly those who used to believe they are Gentiles, plus some real Gentiles) have come in, then, He will remarry His bride united Israel as per Jeremiah 31: 31 – 33. It is in fact as Rav Shaul wrote in Romans 11: 15; when Yahshua returns one day on Yom Teruah, He is going to save the tents of Judah first (Zechariah 12: 7), when He goes to their synagogues and when they see His hands they will accept Him (Zechariah 12: 10), at which time the dead in Messiah will be resurrected (first Corinthians 15: 50 – 52). Those who are resurrected or changed from mortal to immortal at Messiah’s coming will have qualified to reign with Him for a thousand years as witnessed in Revelation 20: 6, in this way: ***‘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.’*** This confirms what Rav Shaul wrote in Galatians 3: 26 – 29, saying: ***‘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.’*** The question is: what was promised to Abraham?

To find the answer we turn to Genesis 12, where YHVH first spoke to Abram when he was already 75 years old, telling him to leave Haran in Mesopotamia and go south to the land of Canaan, saying to him in verses 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, (3) and I will bless you and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; 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.”*** Immediately after Abram’s arrival in the land of Canaan, YHVH appears to him a second time and saying to him in verse 7 of Genesis 12: ***“To your descendants I will give this land.”*** In these few verses in Genesis 12 we find the beginning of Elohim’s plan of redemption, which He initiates through Abraham, and it involves both a promise of ‘seed’ or offspring and a promise of ‘soil’ or land. These are the two indispensable components of Elohim’s Redemptive Plan through Abram, and as recorded in the next few chapters in Genesis, it was to involve a specific group of his lineal descendants and their strategic possession of a specific land. Elohim continued to appear to Abraham over the next 25 years, and confirmed these promises to him repeatedly. Even though Abraham’s other children were also to be blessed, the offspring who are to fulfill these seven initial promises are to come through Isaac, his son born by his wife Sarah, as recorded in Genesis 17: 15 – 19, in this way: ***‘Then Elohim said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. (16) And I will bless her, and indeed I will give you a son by her.***

¹⁴ When asked by His disciples, why He speaks in parables, He answered them in Matthew 13: 11 & 12, saying: ***“To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them (who are not His disciples) it has not been granted. 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.”***

Then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.” (17) Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old? And will Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” (18) And Abraham said to Elohim, “Oh that Ishmael might live before thee!” (19) But Elohim said, “No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.”

Reading from Genesis 13: 16 we see that these descendants through Isaac are to become ***‘as the dust of the earth’***; and further from Genesis 22: 17, ***‘as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore’***. To be sure Abraham’s offspring were to become so numerous that he is properly called not only the father of a great nation, but the father of many nations. These promises were repeated to Isaac and later to Jacob, who received both the birthright and the blessing, as witnessed in Genesis 26: 3 – 5, as follows: ***“Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham. (4) And I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; (5) because Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws.”*** The language and terminology that Elohim used in speaking to Jacob is even more interesting. When Elohim appeared to Jacob in a dream, the first time, He gave him the amazing promise recorded in Genesis 28: 13 & 14, saying: ***“I am YHVH, the Elohim of your father Abraham and the Elohim of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants. (14) Your descendants shall also be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.”*** A few years later, when Jacob’s name was changed to *‘Israel’*, YHVH gave him more details in Genesis 35: 11, saying: ***“I am Elohim Almighty; be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company (or commonwealth) of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come forth from you.”*** We understand from these verses that the Hebrew term for people (*am*) and nations (*goyim*) are used interchangeably. Even so, the descendants of Abraham through Isaac were to become an assembly of peoples, which is more than the tribal designation used for the descendants of Ishmael and Esau, who were both Abraham’s offspring, but not part of this *‘seed’* and *‘soil’* promise. Ishmael was to become a great nation, but never was it said that he would become *‘many’* nations or an *‘assembly’* of peoples. Ishmael became the father of the Arabian people, consisting of many tribes, but still only spoken about as one nation. The descendants of Esau listed in Genesis 36, are likewise seen as the Edomite people, despite numerous tribal divisions. The Hebrew word translated *‘assembly’* literally carries the notion of a large group or commonwealth of many nations.

Nevertheless, the most common way in which this language is understood, is in reference to the twelve tribes of Israel, descended from the sons of Jacob. Even so, the words Jacob himself used when he blessed the two sons of Joseph, immediately prior to his death shows otherwise. It seems that the *‘multiplicity’* of Abraham’s seed will be accomplished specifically through Ephraim and Manasseh, Joseph’s two sons. Jacob started in Genesis 48: 4 by reminding Joseph that YHVH had promised him years before that he, Israel, would become *‘a company of people’*. Jacob continued blessing his grandsons in verse 16, saying: ***‘The angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and may my name (Israel) live on in them, and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and may they grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.’*** When Joseph question Jacob for blessing Ephraim first, using his right hand, he explained that while Manasseh the firstborn would become a *‘great people,’* his younger brother Ephraim would in fact become even greater, as recorded 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.”*** This special position of the tribes of Joseph is further revealed in the blessings which Jacob pronounced upon all twelve tribes on his deathbed in Genesis 49.

Even though each of the sons of Jacob received an equitable share, Joseph was undoubtedly singled out by the most extraordinary language, as witnessed in Genesis 49: 22 – 26, as follows: ***“Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a spring; its branches run over a wall. (23) The archers bitterly attacked him, and shot at him and harassed him; (24) But his bow remained firm, and his arms were agile, from the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob (from there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel), (25) From the Elohim of your father who helps you, and by the Almighty who blesses you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb. (26) The blessings of your father have surpassed the blessings of my ancestors up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills; may they be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of the one distinguished among his brothers.”*** An important element to note about the blessings of the various tribes, is that they are to be fulfilled mainly ***‘in the days to come’***, meaning the last days as is recorded in Genesis 49: 1. Even though the tribes of Joseph were amongst the largest and most affluent tribes of ancient Israel, they achieved an extraordinary level of greatness after 1800 CE. Moses mentions these tribes in particular, saying in Deuteronomy 33: 16 & 17: ***‘And with the choice things of the earth and its fullness, and the favor of Him who dwell in the bush. Let it come to the head of Joseph, and to the crown of the head of the one distinguished among his brothers. (17) As the first-born of his ox, majesty is his, and his horns are the horns of the wild ox; with them he shall push the peoples, all at once, to the ends of the earth. And those are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and those are the thousands of Manasseh.*** These blessings seem to indicate the global influence of these two tribes, during their best years, which are fast coming to an end because of their sins.

The book of Hosea contains a blistering message and warning to the lost ten tribes of Israel, but more specifically for the United States and British Commonwealth of which South Africa was once part and still is in the mind of YHVH. The day of reckoning that we have been warned about since the 1920 by people like Herbert W Armstrong is upon us. We are at this time being punished and the severity of the punishment is slowly increasing, but most do not even realize that YHVH is like a loving father busy correcting us. Instead of turning to YHVH at this time these Israelite nations are seeking alliances with those nations who persecuted them in the past, as YHVH described through Hosea in chapter 2: 6 – 9, in this way: ***“Therefore, behold, I will hedge up her way with thorns, and I will build a wall against her so that she cannot find her paths. (7) And she will pursue her lovers, but she will not overtake them; and she will seek them, but will not find them. Then she will say, ‘I will go back to my first husband, for it was better for me then than now!’ (8) For she does not know that it was I who gave her the grain, the new wine, and the oil, and lavished on her silver and gold, which they used for Baal. (9) Therefore, I will take back My grain at harvest time and My new wine in its season. I will also take away My wool and My flax given to cover her nakedness.”*** In South Africa and the other parts of Joseph’s inheritance (The USA and the British commonwealth) YHVH has been punishing us through violent strikes by workers, and inclement weather conditions, such as floods and excessive heat waves.

The latest development is that the government in South Africa is planning to take half of all white owned farms, and give it to the farm laborers. This could only result in great losses to both the farmers and the country and will result in even greater food insecurity. If the system was based on a model wine farm in the Western Cape, where the owners gave 33.33% of the share value of the farms to the laborers, meaning they do not actually own the land, but shares in the farming business. In addition to payment for their labor, they also get paid dividends based on the successful operation of the farm annually. When they want to retire one day, or leave the farm for another reason, they may sell their shares back to the owner, who will then re-allocate the same to new employees. This makes perfect economic sense since it motivates workers to help increase the profits earned by the business, and it results in a win-win situation for all. Let’s pray that this more sensible idea gets communicated to the powers that be, as it will definitely improve the position of the workers, as well as us food security.

Now that we have narrowed down whom the recipients were, who essentially received a double portion as the first-born of Jacob in place of Reuben who defiled his father's bed, let's again consider the promises that YHWH made to our father in the faith, Abraham. We see from Galatians 3: 8, ***"And the Scripture, foreseeing that Elohim would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "ALL THE NATIONS SHALL BE BLESSED IN YOU."*** Yes, the gospel was preached directly to Abraham by Elohim. The quoted section here comes from Genesis 22: 18, in this way: ***'And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.'*** This blessing was to come from the 'seed' of Abraham's body. The gospel was the promise to Abraham that all nations would be blessed through his seed. At this point we do not know what the blessing is, and we do not know who the 'seed' is. To find out additional details, we jump thousands of years ahead, to the time of Stephen the martyr, when he was on trial before the Sanhedrin. At that time he related the account of Abraham and the promise given to him becomes clear in Stephen's report. We read consequently from Acts 7: 2 – 5: ***'And he said, "Hear me, brethren and fathers! The Elohim of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, (3) and said to him, 'DEPART FROM YOUR COUNTRY AND YOUR RELATIVES, AND COME INTO THE LAND THAT I WILL SHOW YOU.' (4) "Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and settled in Haran. And from there, after his father died, Elohim removed him into this country in which you are now living. (5) And He gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot of ground; and yet, even when he had no child, He promised that HE WOULD GIVE IT TO HIM AS A POSSESSION, AND TO HIS OFFSPRING AFTER HIM."'***

Although at that time, Abraham had no children – no seed through whom the promised blessing could come, Elohim promised the land of Canaan to him as an inheritance. He was to inherit and possess the land that Elohim allowed him to dwell in, through his promised seed. In Romans 4: 13 Rav Shaul told the Nazarene congregation in Rome, that Abraham was promised the world, in this way: ***'For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith.'*** We see from verses 10 & 11 of Romans 4, that Abraham was circumcised as a seal of the righteousness through faith, which he had while he was uncircumcised. Even though these verses make it clear that the blessing promised to Abraham included the inheritance of land, he did not inherit one square foot whilst he was alive. We find another passage in the Scriptures regarding the blessing that was promised Abraham in Hebrews 11: 8 - 13, 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; (10) for he was looking for a city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is Elohim. (11) By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised; (12) therefore, also, there was born of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN IN NUMBER, AND INNUMERABLE AS THE SAND WHICH IS BY THE SEASHORE. (13) All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.'***

The gospel message is in part about inheriting the world, and was also foretold a number of times in the Tanach, one example being in Isaiah 52: 7, in this way: ***'How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace and brings good news of happiness, who announces salvation, and says to Zion, "Your Elohim reigns!"'*** We see here that the gospel has to do with salvation with Elohim reigning once again as King in Israel. Isaiah continues telling us how YHWH is about to redeem His people saying in verses 9 & 10 of Isaiah 52, ***'Break forth, shout joyfully together, you waste places of Jerusalem; for YHWH has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. (10) YHWH has bared His holy arm in the sight of all the nations, that all the ends of the earth may see the salvation of our Elohim.'*** Isaiah explained further in Isaiah 53 that when Messiah

comes the first time, He would be pierced for our transgressions (verse 5), but when He comes the second time, as shown in verse 7 above, He is coming to rule the world from Jerusalem. A second example where the gospel is proclaimed in the Tanach comes from 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.'*** Here, as we have learnt, the good news about the coming kingdom of Elohim is directly related to the Feast Days of Elohim, given in Leviticus 23 and as kept by Judah. It is also for this reason that our Jewish Brothers already believe in the gospel of the coming kingdom of Elohim.

The truly Torah obedient Jews already have the faithfulness required for salvation and it is for this reason that Yahshua did not have to come for them during His so-called first advent. This is then also why He indicated a number of times that His first advent was specifically to come and save those from the lost ten tribes of Israel (as per Matthew 15: 24). Even so, because Yahshua is the only name by which we may be saved, He is coming to save the tents of Judah first at His second coming (as per Zechariah 12: 7 – 10). It is also for this reason that Rav Shaul wrote about our Jewish Brothers in Romans 10: 11 – 19, saying: ***'For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."*** (12) ***For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Master is Master of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him;*** (13) ***for "WHOEVER WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF YHVH WILL BE SAVED."*** (14) ***How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?*** (15) ***And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!"*** (16) ***However, they did not all heed the glad tidings; for Isaiah says, "MASTER, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?"*** (17) ***So faith comes from hearing and hearing by the word of Messiah.*** (18) ***But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? Indeed they have; "THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD."*** (19) ***But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? At the first Moses says, "I WILL MAKE YOU JEALOUS BY THAT WHICH IS NOT A NATION, BY A NATION WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING WILL I ANGER YOU."*** YHVH is at this time calling a remnant from the Lost ten tribes (as per Romans 11: 5) specifically to make the Jews jealous and keep them on their toes until Yahshua's second coming (as per Romans 11: 11). Are we busy doing that?

This brings us to an apparent insoluble problem. Abraham had an inheritance pending, but he already died. To understand the situation better, we need to consider the promise involving Abraham's 'seed'. Firstly, who is this seed of Abraham? We are given the answer to the identity of this seed in Galatians 3: 16, as follows: ***'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.'*** We read accordingly from Hebrews 1: 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.'*** We have already read from Galatians 3: 29, ***'if you belong to Messiah, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.'*** Elohim considers an inheritance in the same way that we as human beings look at an inheritance. Earthly parents in a similar way will at the end of the day give their earthly possessions to their children, provided they meet the conditions specified in the parent's will. However, our inheritance from Elohim differs from any earthly inheritance as flesh and blood human beings, in that we will die, never to live again, unless obviously Elohim absolves us of the penalty due to us, because of our sins; and unless He resurrects us from the grave; our spiritual inheritance will be of no benefit. Rav Shaul explains how we are able to conquer these problems, how the death penalty was abolished and how we may become everlasting inheritors like Abraham was. We read from verse 13 of Galatians 3, ***'Messiah redeemed us from the curse of the law*** (the death penalty due to us for breaking the law), ***having become a curse for us – for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE."***

Messiah even though He never sinned, took our curse of the law upon Himself like a law breaker, by dying on our behalf. Why did He do that? Rav Shaul continues explaining in verse 14, saying: ***'In order that in Messiah Yahshua the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles (those of us who think that we are Gentiles and some real Gentiles), so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.'*** This is telling us, that if we are properly immersed in the Name of Yahshua and are given the Set-apart Spirit with the laying on of hands by a teaching elder of the congregation (as per first Timothy 4: 14), we will again become part of the commonwealth of Israel and will share in the promise to Abraham (as per Ephesians 2: 11 – 19). It means that we will live again, since Messiah paid the death penalty due to us, as our kinsman redeemer. Rav Shaul further explained to the Ephesian congregation in Ephesians 1: 13 & 14, saying: ***'In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation— having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Set-apart Spirit of promise, (14) who is given as a pledge (or deposit) of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of Elohim's own possession, to the praise of His glory.'*** This is in fact similar to what he (Rav Shaul) explained to the congregation in Rome in Romans 8: 10 – 11, saying: ***'And if Messiah is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. (11) But if the Spirit of Him who raised Yahshua from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Messiah Yahshua from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.'*** It is no wonder that Yahshua answered the Jews of his day in John 8: 56, saying: ***"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.'*** The reason was that He already satisfied the promise made to Abraham. Even though the blessings that the tribes of Israel received were physical and they received a great deal of it in this life, the one blessing that came through Messiah the single seed of Abraham, and the promise of eternal life through Him is available to all who eventually accept Him as their personal Passover.

But the second part of the promise that Abraham did not receive as yet – the part where he and his descendants will inherit the world with Jerusalem as headquarters, he will only receive later as explained in Hebrews 11: 39 & 40. In this way: ***'And all these (our fathers in the faith, as well righteous people mentioned in the Tanach, and those of us who already died in Messiah), having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, (40) because Elohim had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they should not be made perfect.'*** Yes, Abraham and those who will be in the first (better) resurrection, because of their faith in His one 'seed' (namely Yahshua the salvation of YHVH) will only inherit the Promised Land eternally, after they are resurrected at Messiah's return. That is when those in Messiah will all be made perfect, as explained in first Thessalonians 5: 23, as follows: ***'Now may the Elohim of peace Himself sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of Yahshua Messiah.'*** But, that is also when we will as co-heirs with Messiah rule the world and ultimately the universe, as witnessed in Romans 8: 16 & 17, in this way ***'The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of Elohim, (17) and if children, heirs also, heirs of Elohim and fellow heirs with Messiah, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.'***

Rav Kepha knew exactly what Yahshua meant when He told him that he was a building block (or stone) that will together with the other disciples and we who came later be used to build the temple of Elohim, on Him (Yahshua) himself as the foundation stone (as per first Peter 2: 5 – 9). Rav Kepha also confirmed in Acts 4: 11 & 12 that Yahshua is the only name by which we may be saved, saying: ***"He is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, but WHICH BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone. (12) And there is salvation is no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."*** Do you trust in the promise made to Abraham to inherit the Promised Land for an everlasting possession once you have been glorified with eternal life, or are you also going to be excluded like the ancient Israelites were because of unbelief (as per Hebrews 3: 19)? Do you believe in the gospel of the coming kingdom of Elohim, by

not only trusting in His promises to us through Abraham, but getting to know His Word intimately and by obeying His voice?

Yes YHVH blessed our forefathers as David confirmed He would in Psalm 105: 42 – 45, saying: ***‘For He remembered His holy word with Abraham His servant; (43) and He brought forth His people with joy, His chosen ones with a joyful shout. (44) He gave them also the lands of nations, that they might take possession of the fruit of the peoples’ labor, (45) so that they might keep His statutes, and observe His laws, Hallelujah!’*** Even though our forefathers failed miserably in their role to teach the nations about the true gospel, YHVH will remain faithful, and if we show our faithfulness to Him, by obtaining a solid knowledge of His truth; showing our love to Him by obeying His truth, and trusting in His promise to Abraham, we have a guarantee (pledge) of our inheritance in the Kingdom of Elohim with our fathers in the faith, as Spiritual children of Elohim! Baruch HaShem YHVH!

Chapter 8: A new beginning?

YHVH our Elohim is not the cruel old taskmaster the way some groups who confesses faith in Messiah, betray Him. In fact just the opposite is true as witnessed in Ezekiel 18: 23 & 32, in this way: ***“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? (32) For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies,” declares YHVH Elohim. “Therefore, repent and live.”*** Elohim’s Torah is like the law of gravity for our benefit, as long as we do not transgress it. We need to walk around with our wits about us all the time, if we want to avoid sinning. Similarly we need to walk around with our eyes wide open when walking around in unfamiliar territory - we need to be aware of sudden slopes and uneven steps on the way, or else we could fall down to the ground.

Even those of us who are busy practicing righteousness by keeping Elohim’s Torah to the best of our ability in a very imperfect world, miss the mark on a daily basis. We are all familiar with baseball; in the game of baseball the batter is out after only three strikes. At the beginning of the season and at the start of a game this is a limiting factor to ensure that the game remains exiting to both who watch and play. However, when a batter is playing in the final innings of the game at the end of the season and his team members are counting on him to pull them out of the throes of another defeat and keep them in the race for the championship, he does not want to hear the words – strike three, you’re out! Our struggle with sin is much like a game of baseball, except that instead of a professional player spending up to 15 years in the game, we spend 60 to 80 years in our fight against sin.

Like in professional baseball despite our competition being very strong and highly skilled, we as believers need to keep coming back to the plate. Some might ask why we continue in our struggle to overcome the pulls of the flesh. The answer is partly in the gift of salvation which depends on the way we lived our lives, striving against sin and doing battle against the enemy – as a result of Messiah’s sacrifice and our repentance of sin. Because most Nazarene believers in Messiah are familiar with the parable of the talents in Matthew 25, we would all like to hear our Master say to us (as Messiah explained in verse 21): ***‘Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter the joy of your master.’*** That is something that lies in the future for all of us alive at this time, but people like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob has already qualified to be in the kingdom, as Yahshua warned in Luke 13: 24 – 28, saying: ***“Strive to enter by the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. (25) Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, ‘Master, open up to us!’ then He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know where you are from.’ (26) Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets’; (27) and He will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you are from; ‘DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.’ (28) There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth there when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of Elohim, but you yourself being cast out. (29) And they will come from east and west, and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of Elohim. (30) And behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last.”*** What did Yahshua mean by saying: ‘some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last’?

We find the answer in Hebrews 11: 39 & 40, where talking about our fathers in the faith we read: ***‘And all these having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, (40) because Elohim had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they should not be made perfect.’*** The Scriptures assures us that if we continue in our fight against the pulls of Satan, the world and our own human nature, we will ultimately succeed as long as we continue to strive to the end, as witnessed in 2 Peter 1: 10 & 11, in this way: ***‘Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these***

things, you will never stumble; (11) for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Master and Savior Yahshua Messiah will be abundantly supplied to you.' Elohim created mankind because He has a fantastic plan for us all. Rav Shaul wrote about Elohim's plan for us in first Timothy 2: 3 & 4, saying: **'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.'** This tells us that salvation requires that we obtain knowledge of the truth (the word of Elohim as Yahshua said in John 17: 17), and thereafter obviously practice the truth we have learnt from the word of Elohim, the Scriptures, to be saved (eternally). Elohim knows the depths we sink into when we fail to meet His standards for us. Elohim knows the penalties that He put in place for breaking His commandments, and as His potential future spiritual sons and daughters He wants a great deal better for us.

If Elohim kept a record of the times we failed Him, no one could ever hope to succeed; we would all be lost, as king David also observed in Psalm 130: 1 – 3, saying: ***'Out of the depths I have cried to Thee, O YHVH. (2) Master, hear my voice! Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications. (3) If Thou, YHVH, should mark iniquities, O Master, who could stand?'*** Even so, YHVH tells us through King Solomon in Ecclesiastes 7: 20, saying: ***'Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and never sins.'*** By righteous men Solomon means people who walked with Elohim, such as Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and even David. At times we might feel that we are the worst of sinners, we are definitely not alone in our battles; people like David walked this path before. Elohim did not leave us in a hopeless situation. He is aware that as flesh and blood human beings we need help to make it into His glorious Kingdom, and He does provide that help for us, as David witnessed in Psalm 34: 4, 6, 7, 15 - 19, saying: ***'I sought YHVH, and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. (6) This poor man cried and YHVH heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. (7) The angel of YHVH encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them. (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 the memory of them from the earth. (17) The righteous cry and YHVH hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. (18) YHVH is near to the broken hearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit. (19) Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but YHVH delivers him out of them all.'*** If we get to know YHVH as a loving Father and trust and obey YHVH, He will deliver us, as David wrote in Psalm 130: 4, saying: ***'But there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared.'*** But, we need to understand that our merciful Father is also Almighty YHVH the Elohim of Israel, and as His chosen people He promised to redeem us as also witnessed in verses 7 & 8 of Psalm 130, in this way: ***'O Israel, hope in YHVH; for with YHVH there is lovingkindness, and with Him is abundant redemption. (8) And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.'***

Elohim is our redeemer, who paid the penalty for our sins with His own blood, as Rav Shaul declares in Acts 20: 28, saying to those who teach Elohim's people: ***"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Set-apart Spirit has made you overseers to shepherd the congregation of Elohim which He purchased with His own blood."*** Those who believe in two (YHVH)'s like to emphasize the point that that Elohim provided a redeemer for us, but we see here as also witnessed in Psalm 34: 22, where David wrote: ***'YHVH redeems the soul of His servants; and none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.'*** This is confirmed in Psalm 49: 7 & 15, as follows: ***'No man can by any means redeem his brother, or give to Elohim a ransom for him— (15) But Elohim will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol (the grave); for He will receive me.'*** Yes, some like the Institute for Scripture Research (Pty) Ltd in South Africa, who published their version of 'The Scriptures' in 1998 and believed in two (YHVH)'s at the time, added as a footnote to Thomas' exclamation in Yochanan 20: 28 where he said to Yahshua after seeing His hands: ***"My Master and my Elohim!"***, that: ***'יהושע(Yahshua) is also Elohim.'*** Yahshua is not also Elohim He is Elohim in the flesh or Immanuel, Elohim with us! It is when we want to separate Elohim that we come up with ideas that there are two different sets of law – one given by YHVH and the other by Yahshua, which is as shown in our previous lesson a fallacy. It is as YHVH said in Deuteronomy 4: 39, ***"Know***

therefore today, and take it to your heart, that YHVH, He is Elohim in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other.” It is for this reason that I prefer to use the ‘New American Standard Bible’ which even though it is aimed at mainly a Christian audience, most of us are aware of the few mistakes in it compared to say the King James Version. I believe most Scriptures specifically written for groups like the Messianic believers and/or Assemblies of YHVH always contain the agendas of those who wrote them, as is the case with the version published by the Institute for Scripture Research mentioned earlier.

Different to human beings, Elohim has an enormous capacity to forgive. It does not give us leeway to sin or treat Elohim’s redemption lightly. As mentioned before, Elohim knows our heart, but He also knows the power of sin. If we trust Him when we step back on the plate when it is our turn to bat again, and this time we hit the ball, getting to first base, and eventually home, he will be there when we need His help. He paid for our sins once for all and will continue to forgive us up to the time when the season of our life is over, as Yochanan wrote in first John 1: 9, saying: ***‘If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.’*** Knowing that Elohim is all-knowing David knew that Elohim was fully aware of His sins, and that he could not blame anyone for what had happened. Therefore, after he was approached by Nathan, he wrote Psalm 51: 3 - 13, saying: ***‘For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. (4) Against Thee, Thee only, I have sinned, and done what is evil in Thy sight, so that Thou art justified when Thou dost speak, and blameless when Thou dost judge. (5) Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. (6) Behold, Thou dost desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part Thou wilt make me know wisdom. (7) Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (8) Make me to hear joy and gladness, let the bones which Thou hast broken rejoice. (9) Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. (10) Create in me a clean heart, O Elohim, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. (11) Do not cast me away from Thy presence, and do not take Thy Holy Spirit from me. (12) Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, and sustain me with a willing spirit. (13) Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners will be converted to Thee.’***

As David requested, Elohim’s mercy and forgiveness shown him, is a strong motivator for us today, knowing that despite David’s sins, because he acknowledge his transgressions YHVH willingly forgave him and referred to David, as ‘A MAN AFTER MY HEART’, as witnessed in first Samuel 13: 14. When we get to the point where we are ready to turn back to YHVH, the only proviso for Him to forgive us for our past sins is that we must be willing to go before Elohim and acknowledge personal responsibility for our past sins or our transgressions of His Torah commands. Tell YHVH that you are truly sorry for bowing before the image of a man Christianity calls J*e*s*u*s* who even though He was buried, resurrected and ascended to heaven, are still portrayed wearing a thorn crown on a cross; and stop doing it. Tell Him you have come to understand His command given in Exodus 20: 4 & 5¹⁵, and understand that you did wrong in times past. Tell Him that you are sorry for not obeying His commandments about His weekly and annual Sabbaths; for not being careful to ensure that all the fat and blood from the meat you eat from kosher animals have been removed, as per Leviticus 3: 17. It is only once, we have committed our hearts to doing what YHVH requires, can we expect the forgiveness Elohim makes possible. Even because of our hurried lifestyle we at times consume meat and milk products together without being totally aware of our every action, we must never give up. Every time you are at the plate staring the enemy in the face, you need to ask Elohim to provide you with the means to live up to the standard that He requires. It is important for us to measure our

¹⁵ Exodus 20: 4 - 6: ***“You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness (including pictures of J*e*s*u*s* as shown in some Bibles where he is portrayed with long blond hair) of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them, for I, YHVH your Elohim, am a jealous Elohim, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”***

every action against Torah and to know how much we need Elohim's guidance, direction and protection every time we bat.

If we truly want to be in the kingdom of Elohim and want victory in the game of life, Elohim will provide us help to overcome those sins which so beset us, as the prophet Hosea assured us in Hosea 14: 1 - 4, saying: **'Return, O Israel to YHVH your Elohim, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity. (2) Take words (Torah) with you and return to YHVH. Say to Him, "Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously, that we may present the fruit of our lips. (3) Assyria will not save us, we will not ride on horses; nor will we say again, 'Our god,' to the work of our hands; for in Thee the orphan finds mercy."** (4) **I will heal their apostasy, I will love them freely, for My anger has turned away from them.'** However, it takes the right attitude as YHVH told Solomon in 2 Chronicles 7: 13 & 14, saying: **"If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, (14) 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.'** Elohim provides a Nazarene believer the opportunity for a new beginning— not only once, but numerous times. In fact He has given us His annual Passover to remind and encourage us of His help.

Rav Shaul wrote about his personal battle to encourage us in Romans 7: 22 – 25, saying: **'For I joyfully concur with the law of Elohim in the inner man, (23) but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. (24) Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? (25) Thanks be to Elohim through Yahshua Messiah our Master! So then on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of Elohim, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.'** Rav Shaul found a way to start over again and even though we may be overwhelmed with regret because of our sins, we have the same help which Rav Shaul had. Rav Shaul wrote accordingly in Hebrews 9: 8 – 14, saying: **'The Set-apart Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing, (9) which is a symbol for the present time. Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshipper perfect in conscience, (10) since they relate only to food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation. (11) But when Messiah appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; (12) and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. (13) 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?**

Messiah our Passover is a power greater than anything physically available to us, and much more valuable than the cost of human sin. It is so important for us to know who Yahshua is, and it was for this reason that in explaining about His power to forgive sin, even the sin of those in the second resurrection, such as the sinners who lived anciently in the land of Sodom (in Matthew 11: 23 & 24), He said in Matthew 11: 25 – 27, **"I praise Thee, O Father, Master of heaven and earth, that Thou didst hide these things from the wise and intelligent and did 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."** When we understand the meaning of Messiah's memorial Passover, we should be strengthened because we will realize that we can start afresh, in spite of our mistakes. Continuing in verses 28 – 30, Messiah promised that He will give us rest in the Kingdom of Elohim, if we take His yoke (meaning His stricter way of interpreting Torah) upon us and learn from Him, saying: **"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will**

give you rest. (29) Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and YOU SHALL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. (30) For My yoke is easy, and My load is light." If those who are called by Elohim hears and understands the gospel of the Kingdom of Elohim, will act upon it and realize despite our present physical nature, we will ultimately become sinless as children of Elohim, as witnessed in Hebrews 2: 11, in this way: **'For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren.'**

To demonstrate His ability as well as His willingness to help us to start over, we read from Matthew 9: 1 – 6, as follows: **'And getting into a boat, He crossed over, and came to His own city. (2) And behold, they were bringing to Him a paralytic, lying on a bed; and Yahshua seeing their faith said to the paralytic, "Take courage, My son, your sins are forgiven." (3) And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This fellow blasphemes." (4) And Yahshua knowing their thoughts said, "Why are you thinking evil in your hearts? (5) For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, and walk'? (6) But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" – then He said to the paralytic— "Rise, take up your bed, and go home."**" The forgiveness of sins is the healing of a person's life, release from thoughts that may be crippling to him and an opportunity to a new beginning. However, our forgiveness is also depended upon the way we show our love to our neighbors. Though we cannot grant anyone a new beginning in the spiritual sense, we are able to help make the way easier for others. By so doing it helps us understand Elohim's will for us and help us to develop some of His character. After asking Yahshua how often we shall forgive our neighbor for sinning against us, Yahshua answered in Matthew 18: 22, saying: **"I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."** Yahshua explained the idea of forgiveness to His disciples when he taught them the prayer to model their prayers after in Matthew 6, saying in verses 12 – 15: **'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, Amein.'** (14) **For, if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. (15) But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.**" Although we cannot provide a fellow human being with a guilt-free conscience, by being forgiving, we are busy developing Elohim-like character necessary to conform to the image of His Son. In addition, we know that when we repent a new beginning is ours every time we need one.

It is also for this reason that we as Nazarene believers in Yahshua, are appointed as watchmen by Elohim to warn like-minded believers of their sins, as we read from Ezekiel 33: 7 – 11, in this way: **'Now as for you, son of man, I have appointed you a watchman for the house of Israel; so you will hear a message from My mouth, and give them warning from Me. (8) When I say to the wicked, O wicked man, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require from your hand. (9) But if you on your part warn a wicked man to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he will die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your life. (10) Now as for you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have spoken, saying, surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we are rotting away in them; how then can we survive? (11) Say to them, As I live! Declares YHVH Elohim, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from you evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?'** A second witness to this comes from Isaiah 58: 1, as follows: **"Cry loudly, do not hold back; raise your voice like a trumpet, and declare to My people their transgression, and to the house of Jacob their sins."** Even though as watchmen we are required to warn fellow Israelites about their sins, I am often criticized for writing 'harsh' sermons. But, knowing that YHVH our Elohim is a merciful Father Who forgives those who return to Him and His way, I write these sermons to try and bring back some of our brethren who were misled by the likes of king Jeroboam who instituted a feast a month

later than the one kept in Judah, and have as a result fallen away from the faith once delivered to the saints.

It is important for those of us who are called by YHVH to come out of the world, not to become rebellious because of unbelief like our forefathers did in ancient Israel, and were not allowed to enter the Promised Land (as per Hebrews 3: 19). We read from Ezekiel 20 : 33 – 38, that the same fate is awaiting the rebels among (YHVH)'s elect, 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 about it!

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