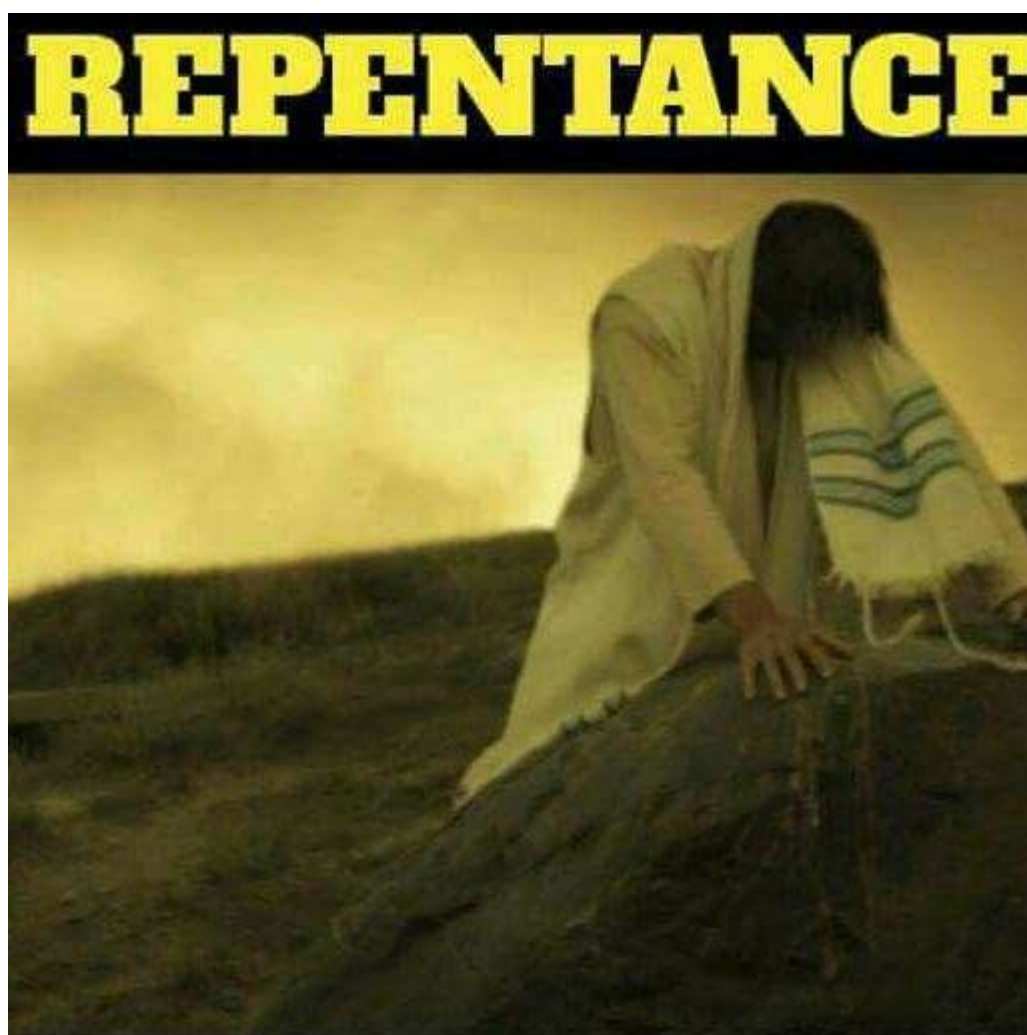


**A call to repentance.**

**Yaakov Coetzee**

Nazarene Israelite Two House Congregation of Port Elizabeth.



### **A call to repentance.**

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

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

**“The Proper Name of God in the Old Testament:**

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

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## Chapter 1: The Two House doctrine in the Scriptures.

The 'Two House Doctrine' is found throughout the Scriptures and even though most Messianic Jews deny it, Rabbinical Jews in Israel and even some in South Africa have confirmed their belief in the same, in the writings of Yair Davidi of Britam from Israel and an article in a recent booklet<sup>1</sup> that I received from a synagogue in Johannesburg. Every year since I came to know that I am an Israelite descended from both houses of Israel in 1971 and especially during the past few years, YHWH our Elohim has been adding to my understanding of the two house doctrine on almost an annual basis. Let's therefore work through the Scriptures to confirm our belief in the two house doctrine which is also the missing key for unlocking the numerous Scriptural prophecies in respect of the modern day descendants of the ancient house of Israel and for understanding the word of Elohim better.

To begin with it is necessary to recall that the original nation of Israel ruled by King David, split in two after King Solomon died, because of idolatry and formed the two nations, known as the house of Judah and the house of Israel. During the years 721 – 718 BCE the house of Israel (consisting of the Northern ten tribes) were invaded by the Assyrians, and taken captive. Over time they migrated northwest into what is today known as Europe, but they lost their identity, their culture and language. The other two tribes forming the house of Judah were also later taken into captivity by king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, but they retained their language, culture and faith in the one true Elohim. Some of the two tribes making up the house of Judah were later resettled in their homeland, when they returned during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah. There was a 'sprinkling' of returnees from the House of Israel amongst these returnees, but the ten-lost-tribes never returned en masse as with Judah at that time. Most importantly, almost 70 years ago, their descendants who were also eventually dispersed throughout the world, started resettling in the land which is known as Israel today. Even so, only a few people understand that a major portion of the prophecies given in the Scriptures about Israel and Judah, were given for the end time. Even so, the trouble in Israel started before the time of King David, when the nation asked Samuel for a king to rule them, as recorded in first Samuel 8: 6 & 7, in this way: ***'But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to YHWH. (7) And YHWH said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have rejected Me from being king over them."*** When Israel rejected YHWH as King; He gave them King Saul – who was great in his own eyes. The Hebrew name Saul is transliterated in Hebrew as Shaul (שאול). Shaul is related to the word Sha'al (שאל) meaning demand or ask. Israel demanded a king, and YHWH gave them Shaul (שאול) which can also mean sheol or the grave. So in the end YHWH gave Israel what they asked for.

Let's focus for a moment on Israel's first king – King Saul. King Saul failed the test which YHWH gave him when he offered up a burnt offering – something which only a priest could do. We read the account in first Samuel 13: 5 – 9 as follows: ***'Now the Philistines assembled to fight with Israel, 30,000 chariots and 6,000 horsemen, and people like the sand which is on the sea shore in abundance; and they came up and camped in Michmash, east of Beth-aven. When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait (for the people were hard-pressed), then the people hid themselves in caves, in thickets, in cliffs, in cellars, and in pits. Also some of the Hebrews crossed the Jordan into the land of Gad and Gilead. But as for Saul he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him with trembling. Now he waited seven days, according to the appointed time set by Samuel, but Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattering from him. So Saul said, "Bring to me the burnt offering and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering.'*** In verse 13 and the 1<sup>st</sup> part of verse 14 of first Samuel 13 we read: ***'And Samuel said to Saul, "You have acted foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of YHWH your Elohim, which He commanded you, for now YHWH would have established your kingdom over Israel for ever. But now your kingdom shall not endure."*** Saul lacked faith in YHWH and failed. We are told in Hebrews

11: 6 that it is impossible to please YHWH, without faith, in this way: ***'And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to Elohim must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.'***

In addition we read from first Samuel 15: 1 – 3, ***'Then Samuel said to Saul, "YHWH sent me to anoint you as king over His people, over Israel; now therefore, listen to the words of YHWH. Thus says YHWH of hosts, 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he set himself against him on the way while he was coming up from Egypt. Now go and strike Amalek and utterly destroy all that he has, and do not spare him; but put to death man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'"*** We read further from first Samuel 15: 9 that Saul disobeyed YHWH, when he saved Agag the king of Amalek, as well as the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that were good. When Samuel questioned Saul about this in first Samuel 15: 13 - 15, he blamed the people for his indiscretion. This is when YHWH rejected Saul from being king over Israel as recorded in first Samuel 15: 23, in this way: ***"For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and insubordination is an iniquity and idolatry. Because you (Saul) have rejected the word of YHWH, He has also rejected you from being king."*** But, let's continue through the pages of the Scriptures to see how YHWH rejected the nation of Israel, after warning them through the prophets. We turn to the book of Hosea where Elohim instructs the prophet Hosea to marry a harlot named Gomer, to show to the house of Israel that because they stopped following the way of Elohim and committed whoredom, they will be scattered amongst the nations of the world. We see from verse 3 that Gomer conceived and bore a son and in verses 4 & 5 of Hosea 1 YHWH speaks to Hosea, saying: ***"Name him Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will punish the house of Jehu for the bloodshed of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. (5) And it will come about on that day, that I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel."*** The name 'Jezreel' means 'Elohim will scatter' showing that the house of Israel would be scattered into all the nations of the world to become known as Gentiles. Hosea had two more children with Gomer; a daughter called 'Lo-ruhamah' meaning 'she obtained no compassion or mercy' and another son named 'Lo-ammi' meaning 'not my people'. YHWH was showing through the prophet Hosea that, as a result of Israel's idolatry He had no mercy and scattered Israel into the world, where they will not be considered His people any longer.

But despite this judgment, Elohim promised that He would nonetheless fulfill the covenant that He made with Abraham in Genesis 12: 2 & 3. We read accordingly from verses 10 & 11 of Hosea 1, ***'Yet the number of the sons of Israel will be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered; and it will come about that, in the place where it is said to them, "You are not My people," it will be said to them, "You are the sons of the living Elohim."*** (11) ***And the sons of Judah and the sons of Israel will be gathered together, and they will appoint for themselves one leader, and they will go up from the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel."*** The day of Jezreel refers to the end time tribulation, which has already started for some of the modern day Israelites. We see further that during these turbulent times that the house of Israel will again unite with the house of Judah, despite some doubting it. YHWH promised in Deuteronomy 4 that if we are in distress in the latter days and return to Him, He will not forget the covenant that He swore to our forefathers, as recorded in verses 25 – 31, as follows: ***'When you become the father of children and children's children and have remained long in the land, and act corruptly, and make an idol in the form of anything, and do that which is evil in the sight of YHWH your Elohim so as to provoke Him to anger, (26) I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you shall surely perish quickly from the land where you are going over the Jordan to possess it. You shall not live long on it, but shall be utterly destroyed. (27) And YHWH will scatter you among the peoples, and you shall be left few in number among the nations, where YHWH shall drive you. (28) And there you will serve gods, the work of man's hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. (29) But from there you will seek YHWH your Elohim, and you will find Him if you search for***

**Him with all your heart and all your soul. (30) When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days, you will return to YHWH your Elohim and listen to His voice. (31) For YHWH your Elohim is a compassionate Elohim; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget, the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them.'**

Rav Kepha talking specifically to those of us called from the lost ten tribes at this time in first Peter 2: 1 – 10, said: **'Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander** (the sort of problems many of those of us called-out of the world, suffer from), **(2) like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,** **(3) if you have tasted the kindness of YHWH.** **(4) And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of Elohim,** **(5) you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a Set-apart priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to Elohim through Yahshua Messiah.** **(6) For this is contained in Scripture; "BEHOLD I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, And he who believes in him shall not be disappointed."** **(7) This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone,"** **(8) and, "A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.** **(9) But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR Elohim's OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;** **(10) for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF ELOHIM; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY."** How, fantastic is this; YHWH became a man in Yahshua to pay for our sins (Law breaking) as our kinsman redeemer.

Those of us called mostly from Christianity are in fact a remnant of the lost ten tribes, who were scattered into the world. The question is; why did YHWH call us at this time? The answer is found in Romans 11: 5 -11, as follows: **'In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to Elohim's gracious choice.** **(6) But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.** **(7) What then? That which Israel is seeking for, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened;** **(8) just as it is written, "ELOHIM GAVE THEM A SPIRIT OF STUPOR, EYES TO SEE NOT AND EARS TO HEAR NOT, DOWN TO THIS VERY DAY."** (YHWH has at this time blinded the minds of the Jews to Yahshua's identity) **(9) And David says, "LET THEIR TABLE BECOME A SNARE AND A TRAP, AND A STUMBLING BLOCK AND A RETRIBUTION TO THEM.** **(10) LET THEIR EYES BE DARKENED TO SEE NOT, AND BEND THEIR BACKS FOREVER."** **(11) I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous.'** We need to realize that the house of Israel was called **'not a people'** to understand our role in provoking the house of Judah to jealousy in the end of days, as Rav Shaul explained in Romans 9 through 11. Today, we who were once **'not a people'** have become **'sons of the living Elohim'** by Elohim calling us out of modern day Christianity through Yahshua our Messiah's redemptive work on the impalement tree.

In fact Moses prophesied about Judah in Deuteronomy 32: 21, saying: **'They have made Me jealous with what is not Elohim; They have provoked Me to anger with idols. So I will make them jealous with those who are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.'** Rav Shaul quoting from Deuteronomy 32: 21 in Romans 10: 19, writes in verse 20 that Isaiah is very bold when he referred to the house of Israel as being a people who were **'not a people'** or **'not called by Elohim's name'**, stating: **"I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO SOUGHT ME NOT, I BECAME MANIFEST TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME."** In fact going back to Isaiah 65: 1, where this is quoted from we read: **'I permitted Myself to be sought by those who did not ask for Me; I permitted Myself to be found by those who did not seek Me. I said, 'Here am I, here am I,' to a nation which did not call**



*on My name.'* Notice, this is talking about *'a nation'* and not *'the nation'*. Rav Shaul wrote in Colossians 1: 25 & 26: ***'Of this congregation I was made a minister according to the stewardship from Elohim bestowed on me for your benefit, that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of Elohim, that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations; but has now been manifested to His saints (true believers).'*** Yes, Rav Shaul had a major role to play in this important revelation.

The nation who was *'not called by My name'* was the house or nation of Israel of whom it was said that they were *'not a people'* of Elohim in Hosea 1. The so-called Gentiles in Romans 9: 24 are in fact the house of Israel spoken about in Hosea 1. Rav Shaul makes it clear in Romans 9: 25 – 26, but goes on saying in verse 27: ***'And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, "THOUGH THE NUMBER OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL BE AS THE SAND OF THE SEA, IT IS THE REMNANT THAT WILL BE SAVED<sup>1</sup>."*** In the book of Daniel (chapter 9: 7), Judah is the part of the united nation of Israel who is *'near'* and Israel is part of the nation who is *'far away in all the countries to which Thou has driven them, because of their unfaithful deeds which they have committed against Thee.'* We see further that Rav Shaul uses more or less these exact same words in Ephesians 2: 11 - 14, saying: ***'Therefore remember, that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Un-circumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hand—(12) remember that you were at that time separate from Messiah, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without Elohim in the world. (13) But now in Messiah Yahshua you who formerly were far off 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.'*** Isaiah talks about this dividing wall in Isaiah 11: 13, in this way: ***'Then the jealousy of Ephraim will depart, and those who harass Judah will be cut off; Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah, and Judah will not harass Ephraim.'***

The wall of partition was the separation (or divorce) in the marriage between YHWH and Israel that Yahshua died for to restore. We read from verses 15 & 16 of Ephesians 2, ***'by abolishing in His flesh the enmity (punishment we earned), 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 the cross by it having put to death the enmity.'*** Those who are *'far off'*, who were once according to Jeremiah 3: 8 divorced, have now been brought near by the blood of Messiah. We read further from Ephesians 2: 17 (which is a quote from Isaiah 57: 19): ***'AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR;'*** Continuing in verse 18 – 22, we read: ***'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, (20) having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, Messiah Yahshua Himself being the corner stone, (21) in whom the whole building being fitted together is growing into a set-apart temple in the Master; (22) in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of Elohim in the Spirit.'***

The one new man spoken about in verse 15 of Ephesians 2 is the remnant of the lost ten tribes, believers called out of the world (or more specifically from the Christian Church) and the Jews who remain faithful to YHWH and His Torah, until Yahshua returns one day on Yom Teruah. This is when according to Zechariah 12: 10, ***'they will look on Me whom they have pierced'***. Yahshua is the root of the olive tree spoken about in Romans 11, as testified in Revelation 5: 3 – 5, as follows: ***'And no one in heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth, was able to open the book (scroll), or to look into it. (4) And I began to weep greatly, because no one was found worthy to open the book, or to look into it (this is something that we need to remember; only Yahshua is worthy – not the Pope or***

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<sup>1</sup> Only those called at this time will if they overcome Satan, the world and their own human nature will become first-fruits to rule as kings and priests under Yahshua during the millennium.

any human being; that is why we come before YHWH in and through Yahshua our Messiah and Savior); (5) ***and one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals."*** We also read Yahshua's own words in Revelation 22: 16, in this way: ***"I, Yahshua, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the congregation. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star."***

We know that according to Romans 11: 32 that it is (YHWH)'s doing that the Jews are blinded to the identity of Yahshua. It is for this reason that we read from Romans 11: 17 – 24, ***'But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree. (18) do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you. (19) You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." (20) Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear; (21) for if Elohim did not spare the natural branches, neither will He spare you. (22) Behold then the kindness and severity of Elohim; to those who fell severity, but to you, Elohim's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off. (23) And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in; for Elohim is able to graft them in again. (24) For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more shall these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree?'*** Contrary to what the Christian Church teach, it is ultimately (YHWH)'s plan to save most of the human beings who ever lived. Only those who after learning the truth in this life, during the millennium, or after the second resurrection and reject the same will become ashes under the feet of the righteous, as we read from Hebrews 10: 26 - 28, as follows: ***'For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, (27) but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES. (28) Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.'***

Those worried about whether brother Judah is going to be there, should stop worrying, as we read from Romans 11: 25 – 29, in this way: ***'For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel (in this case meaning Judah) until the fullness of the Gentiles (the total number of first fruits from the lost ten tribes, including some real gentiles) has come in: (26) and thus all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS (lack of faith) FROM JACOB. (27) AND THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS." (28) From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of Elohim's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; (29) for the gifts and the calling of Elohim are irrevocable.'*** When will YHWH forgive the house of Judah their sins? When Yahshua returns one day, as may be read from Zechariah 12: 7 – 10, as follows: ***'YHWH also will save the tents of Judah first in order that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not be magnified above Judah. (8) In that day YHWH will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the one who is feeble among them in that day will be like David, and the House of David will be like Elohim, like the angel of YHWH before them. (9) And it will come about in that day that I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. (10) And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace (we are saved by grace) and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born.'*** As I mentioned in a number of previous sermons, this will be similar to what happened to Yahshua's disciple known as the unbelieving Thomas, as we read from John 20: 26 – 29: ***'And after eight days again His disciples were inside,***



***and Thomas with them. Yahshua came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst, and said, "Peace be with you." (27) Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand, and put it into My side; and be not unbelieving, but believing." (28) Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Master and my Elohim!" (29) Yahshua said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."***

Rav Kepha wrote the entire first book of Peter to the chosen remnant of the house of Israel in exile, as we read from 1 Peter 1: 1, in this way: ***'Peter, an apostle of Yahshua Messiah, to those who reside as aliens scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen.'*** Both the words *'aliens'* and *'scattered'* agree with what we've read in Hosea 1; Ephesians 2; and Romans 11. We also see in 1 Peter 5: 13, that at that time there were even some chosen ones in Babylon, as follows: ***'She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark.'*** Whether you like it or not, both houses of Israel are sisters, as is witnessed in Ezekiel 23: 1 – 4, in this way: ***'The word of YHWH came to me again saying, (2) "Son of man, there were two women, the daughters of one mother; (3) and they played the harlot in Egypt. They played the harlot in their youth; there their breasts were pressed, and there their virgin bosom was handled. (4) And their names were Oholah the elder and Oholibah her sister. And they became Mine, and they bore sons and daughters. And as for their names, Samaria is Oholah, and Jerusalem is Oholibah.'*** This is obvious; the Northern kingdom (Israel) is Samaria and the Southern kingdom (Judah) is Jerusalem.

We see that during the time of the apostles, believers from both houses attended Set-apart days as may be understood from reading Acts 2: 6 – 11, as follows: ***'And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were bewildered, because they were each one hearing them speak in his own language. (7) And they were amazed and marveled, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? (8) And how is 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.'*** Here we have listed aliens, Jews and proselytes. The aliens are the same ones written about in 1 Peter 1: 1. In Acts 2: 36 & 39, Rav Kepha is addressing ***'all the house of Israel'*** and in verse 39 He wrote: ***"For the promise is for you and your children (after you), and for all who are far off, as many as YHWH our Elohim shall call to Himself."*** So the promise spoken about here is for us – who are far off. We also know that Rav Shaul wrote an entire epistle (letter) to the exiles in Galatia.

Yahshua came specifically to bring the house of Israel back to the house of Judah and to the Father, as He said to the Canaanite woman who asked Him to have mercy on her daughter who was possessed by demons in Matthew 15: 25, ***"I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."*** This is also what He told His disciples in the parable about the prodigal son in Luke 15: 11 – 32. The parable is essentially about us the lost ten tribes of the house of Israel who asked the Father for our portion of our inheritance and then went away and squandered it on loose living. When this son comes to himself in the end of days, he decides to return to the Father, as prophesied by YHWH in Deuteronomy 4. Yahshua explained that when the prodigal son returns to his father, the elder brother (Judah) who remained with the Father ever since Ezra and Nehemiah and the Jews returned to worshipping YHWH the Elohim of Israel over 2500 years ago, being jealous of his returning younger brother in a discussion in verses 26 – 32 Luke 15, in this way: ***"And he summoned one of the servants and began inquiring what these things might be. (27) And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' (28) But he became angry, and was not willing to go in; and his father came out***

**and began entreating him. (29) But he answered and said to his father, ‘Look! For so many years I have been serving you, and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a kid, that I might be merry with my friends; (30) but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with harlots, you killed the fattened calf for him.’ (31) And he said to him, ‘My child, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours. (32) But we had to be merry and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found.’”** Judah is not pleased with us returning to YHWH after being away for so long, but they will eventually accept us, when Yahshua returns one day.

Even so, turning to the book of Isaiah, we see that in the last days there will be descendants of Jacob who will again get to know that they are part of the lost ten tribes of Israel, as we read from Isaiah 44: 1 – 5, in this way: **“But now listen, O Jacob, My servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen: (2) Thus says YHWH who made you and formed you from the womb, who will help you, do not fear, O Jacob My servant; and you Jeshurun whom I have chosen. (3) For I will pour out water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring, and My blessing on your descendants; (4) And they will spring up among the grass like poplars by streams of water. (5) This one will say, ‘I am (YHWH)’s; and that one will call on the name of Jacob; and another will write on his hand, ‘Belonging to YHWH,’ and will name Israel’s name with honor.’** Do you realize that this is in fact happening right now! Yes, we are part and parcel of the remnant of the lost ten tribes, returning to YHWH our Elohim and His Torah and calling ourselves **Israel**. The jealousy of Judah will be provoked even more one day, when they see that after we returned in obedience to our Father YHWH, like the prodigal son and He accepts us back as His long lost son.

(YHWH)’s plan of salvation for all mankind includes getting both Israel and Judah back to worshipping Him as He originally set out in His word. We read from Jeremiah 3: 1 – 18, where Jeremiah prophesied about a century after the northern kingdom of Israel was taken into captivity by the king of Assyria, in this way: **‘Elohim says, “If a husband divorces his wife, and she goes from him, and belongs to another man, will he still return to her? Will not that land be completely polluted? But you are a harlot with many lovers; yet you turn to Me,” declares YHWH. (2) Lift up your eyes to the bare heights and see; where have you not been violated? By the roads you have sat for them like and Arab in the desert, and you have polluted a land with your harlotry and with your wickedness. (3) Therefore the showers have been withheld, and there has been no spring rain. Yet you had a harlot’s forehead; you refused to be ashamed. (4) Have you not just now called to Me, ‘My Father, Thou art the friend of my youth? (5) Will He be angry forever? Will He be indignant to the end? Behold, you have spoken and have done evil things, and you have had your way.” (6) Then YHWH said to me in the days of Josiah the king, “Have you seen what faithless Israel did? She went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and she was a harlot there. (7) And I thought, ‘After she has done all these things, she will return to Me’; but she did not return, and her treacherous sister Judah saw it. (8) And I saw that for all the adulteries of faithless Israel, I had sent her away and given her a writ of divorce, yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear; but she went and was a harlot also. (9) And it came about because of the lightness of her harlotry, that she polluted the land and committed adultery with stones and trees. (10) And yet in spite of all this her treacherous sister Judah did not return to Me with all her heart, but rather in deception,” declares YHWH. (11) And YHWH said to me, “Faithless Israel has proved herself more righteous than treacherous Judah. (12) Go and proclaim these words toward the north and say, ‘Return, faithless Israel,’ declares YHWH; I will not look upon you in anger, for I am gracious,’ declares YHWH; ‘I will not be angry forever. (13) Only acknowledge your iniquity, that you have transgressed against YHWH your Elohim and have scattered your favors to the strangers under every green tree, and you have not obeyed My voice,’ declares YHWH. (14) “Return, O faithless sons,” declares YHWH; ‘For I am a master to you, and I will take you one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion.’** (This is specifically talking about us, the remnant of the lost

ten tribes.) (15) *Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you on knowledge and understanding.* (16) *And it shall be in those days when you are multiplied and increased in the land,” declares YHWH, “they shall say no more, ‘The ark of the covenant of YHWH.’ And it shall not come to mind, nor shall they remember it, nor shall they miss it, nor shall it be made again.* (17) *At that time they shall call Jerusalem ‘The Throne of YHWH,’ and all nations will be gathered to it, to Jerusalem, for the name of YHWH; nor shall they walk anymore after the stubbornness of their evil heart.* (18) *In those days the house of Judah will walk with the house of Israel, and they will come together from the land of the north to the land that I gave your fathers as an inheritance.”* For the past few decades YHWH has been calling a remnant from the lost ten tribes to return to Him in obedience and as we’ve read from verse 18, the house of Israel will walk with the house of Judah once again.

Everything that our Father YHWH does, He does with a purpose. YHWH is our creator and as we read in the book of Malachi, He decides to whom He shows favor and to whom not. We read in Malachi 1: 2 – 4, *“I have loved you,” says YHWH. But you say “How hast Thou loved us?” “Was not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares YHWH. “Yet I have loved Jacob; (3) but I have hated Esau, and I have made his mountains a desolation, and appointed his inheritance for the jackals of the wilderness.” (4) Though Edom says, “We have been beaten down, but we will return and build up the ruins”; thus says YHWH of hosts, “They may build, but I will tear down; and men will call them the wicked territory, and the people toward whom YHWH is indignant forever.”* The same thought is resumed in Malachi 2, where reading from verses 2 to 17 we understand that YHWH has chosen the nation of Judah, to be the defender of the covenant that He made with Levi, concerning His Feast Days. We read in verse 10 of Malachi 2: *“Do we not all have one father? Has not one Elohim created us? Why do we deal treacherously each against his brother so as to profane the covenant of our fathers?”* The note alongside verse 10 in the New American Standard Bible refers us to Isaiah 63: 16, which states: *‘For Thou art our Father though Abraham does not know us, and Israel does not recognize us. Thou, O YHWH, art our Father, Our Redeemer from of old is Thy name.’* This undoubtedly has to do with the way we are dealing with Judah (and the other way round). In verse 11 of Malachi 2, YHWH tells us through Malachi that Judah, like her sister Israel, has dealt treacherously towards Him. In verse 12 & 13 we read: *“As for the man who does this, may YHWH cut off from the tents of Jacob everyone who awakes and answers, or who presents an offering to YHWH of hosts. (13) And this is another thing you do: you cover the altar of YHWH with tears, with weeping and with groaning, because He no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand.”* We see here, YHWH saying that everyone who awakes and answers (those who wake up to the truth and who answer His call to become the first fruits<sup>2</sup>), or who presents an offering to YHWH of hosts (those keeping His Set-apart Days), and deals treacherously against his brother, shall be cut off from the tents of Jacob (the people of YHWH). Malachi likens it to a man who has dealt treacherously with the wife of his youth. In verse 16 YHWH tells us that He hates divorce and him who covers his garment with wrong. We read before that YHWH divorced Israel because of all her adulteries, but did not divorce Judah for doing the same.

Continuing in verse 17 of Malachi 2, we read: *‘You have wearied YHWH with your words. Yet you say, “How have we wearied Him?” In that you say, “Everyone who does evil (meaning Judah) is good in the sight of YHWH, and He delights in them,” or “Where is the Elohim of justice?”’* What is the real meaning of this? Reading between the lines, we may conclude that it has to do with believers who assume that even though the Scriptures affirm Judah to be the custodians of among others, the Set-apart Days of Elohim, they believe that they have now been given this function, because of the unbelief of the Jews. They are those who refuse to accept the Hebrew calendar, because Judah has also profaned the sanctuary of Elohim. As a result they have decided to

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<sup>2</sup> In James 1: 18 we read that: *‘In the exercise of His (Elohim’s) will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures.’*

determine the 'correct' timing for their feasts (and in some cases when the Sabbath starts) from the guidelines they 'found' in the Scriptures rather than to follow the calculated calendar that the Jews observe. Malachi 2 further declares that by so doing, these called out believers are questioning Elohim's judgment, inferring that He delights in those who do evil in His sight, meaning Judah. Malachi argues that since YHWH is our creator, He like a master potter has the right to decide our destiny. YHWH accordingly states in verse 9 of Malachi 2: ***"So I also have made you despised and abased before all the people, just as you are not keeping My ways, but are showing partiality in the instruction."*** The question that we need to answer is: How long are we going to deal treacherously with Brother Judah? When we learn to obey the word of Elohim, we will also stop corrupting Elohim's covenant with Levi. The Scriptures contain all the information we require for existing peacefully with our neighbor (and Brother Judah) and respond to YHWH in an acceptable way. All we need to do is follow His teachings, and not that of men. YHWH divorced Israel and even though Judah followed Israel in harlotry, He did not divorce her, as is explained in Malachi 2: 11 – 17. But, the point is, that YHWH is the potter and we are the clay—consequently we do not have the right to question His motives, as we read from Isaiah 45: 9, as follows: ***"Woe to the one who quarrels with his Maker—an earthenware vessel among the vessels of the earth! Will the clay say to the potter, 'What are you doing?' Or the thing you are making say, 'He has no hands?'"*** We read further from Jeremiah 18: 6, ***"Can I not, O house of Israel, deal with you as this potter does?" declares YHWH. "Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel."*** Perhaps this is why YHWH says in Malachi 3: 6, ***"For I, YHWH, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed."*** Let's therefore humble ourselves before YHWH our creator in obedience.

Yahshua came specifically to save the lost sheep of the house of Israel, and not for any other nation or for Judah. He came to reconcile us back to the Father as well as to Brother Judah, but also to be able to remarry His bride Israel whom He divorced. It is for this reason that His final word on the impalement stake was *'kalah'* meaning it is finished, but also My bride. By saying this when He died Yahshua was in fact saying, that now that He died, He will be able to remarry His bride when He is resurrected and when He returns one day to come and rule the world from Jerusalem. This is all aptly explained in Romans 7: 1 – 4, where Rav Shaul talks about the Law of divorce and remarriage. Since according to Romans 6, we died to our sins when we were immersed into Messiah's saving name, and because Yahshua died on the impalement stake, He is now free to remarry us again at His return. But the fact that He died means that He will also have to remarry Judah, since He left her in widowhood. We read therefore from Jeremiah 31: 31 – 33, ***"Behold, days are coming," declares YHWH, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, (32) not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them, declares YHWH. (33) But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares YHWH, I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people."*** YHWH will remarry both the house of Israel and the house of Judah, but will only have to write His Torah upon the hearts of the house of Israel, since Judah have remained faithful to Him since their return from captivity.

What is also interesting is the duality principal that runs throughout the Scriptures. An example being what we read in first Corinthians 15: 22 & 45, as follows: ***'For as in Adam all die, so also in Messiah all shall be made alive. (45) So also it is written, "The first MAN ADAM, BECAME A SOUL." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.'*** When Israel rejected Elohim as their king He gave them Shaul – or the grave as explained in the beginning. However, since Yahshua came to reconcile us back to the Father and also to Brother Judah, YHWH called Shaul who used to persecute and kill Nazarene believers in Yahshua, to help us realize how we are able to return to our Father and once again are able to become part and parcel of the commonwealth of Israel. There are many new

believers called out of the nations making up the lost ten tribes of Israel who misunderstand the writings of Rav Shaul, or who have been deceived by the agents of Satan to reject his epistles to the galutYah. However, few realize the important role that YHWH is performing through this man who has the same name as King Shaul – the king Israel asked for to replace YHWH as King over them. Rav Shaul has in fact written many Scriptures explaining how we are able to come from sheol (the grave) to the light of Elohim. Rav Shaul explains a very important fact to those who are so anti-Semitic that they refuse to believe that our Jewish Brothers were entrusted with the oracles of Elohim, in Romans 11: 15, saying: ***‘For if their rejection be reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?’*** The time when our Jewish Brother’s accept Yahshua as their Master and Elohim will be on Yom Teruah (or Rosh Hashanah as they refer to it) one day when He returns at the sound of the seventh and last trumpet, as witnessed in Zechariah 12: 7 – 10. Once the house of Judah accepts Yahshua as their Messiah and savior, the dead in Messiah will be resurrected to life as recorded in 1 Corinthians 15: 51 & 52, in this way: ***‘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.’*** Hopefully this will help those who were previously deceived to reject the Hebrew calendar, to have second thoughts, and return to the one true faith once delivered to the saints.

Very soon now Israel and Judah will get together as prophesied in Ezekiel 37: 15 – 28. Yes the first part of Ezekiel 37 might be talking about both houses of Israel in the second resurrection, but from verse 15 on, it is talking about us getting together just prior to and at Messiah’s return, as we read from verse 21 & 22, as follows: ***“And say to them, ‘Thus says YHWH Elohim, “Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them to their own land; (22) and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations, and they will no longer be divided into two kingdoms.”*** Believe it or not, we the remnant of the lost ten tribes of Israel will begin to get together with Brother Judah, just prior to our Messiah’s return to rule us for a thousand years. Halleluyah!



## Soul workout Monday 6th Kislev - November 23rd

### BOOK OF HAMITZVOT

*Pos Commandment 121*



#### Leaving Fallen Stalks while Reaping

Leviticus 23:22 "Nor shall you gather any gleanings of your harvest..., you shall leave them to the poor and to the stranger"

The farmer is obliged to provide the poor people with their share in the field by leaving fallen stalks.

As the produce is reaped, individual stalks often fall to the ground. The Torah commands us to leave them on the ground so the poor can collect them afterwards



#### MOSHIACH

*The lost tribes of Israel*

The Jewish people were made up of twelve tribes. Ten of the Tribes were exiled during the First Temple Era - over 2,000 years ago, and have been separated from the rest of Jewry ever since.

Yet will they return and be reunited in the messianic era... or are they lost forever? This and other questions will be analysed in the days ahead.

An explicit prophecy from Jeremiah at the time of the exile of the ten tribes (Efraim) from the remaining tribes (Judah) describes the reunion of the tribe of Yosef (Efraim) with Yehudah. Yosef (Efraim) represents the ten tribes which were exiled. The reunion will also be a tearful one, "With cries they will come, and with mercy I will lead them" (Jeremiah 31:8)

The Prophet Ezekiel (33: 19:22) speaks of this reunion:

"I am taking the rod of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel - his friends, and I will put on them the rod of Judah, and I will make them into one rod, and they will be one in my hand . . Now I am taking the sons of Israel from the nations to which they went, and I will gather them from around and bring them to their land. And I will make them into one nation, in the land, in the mountains of Israel. And one king will rule over them, and no longer will they be two nations, and they will not separated into two kingdoms anymore."

i.e. Until now there has been separation within Jewry. First in the form of two kingdoms and later they were separated completely. When Moshiach comes, G-d will make us "into one nation and no longer will we be divided into two nations."



#### HALACHAH

*Greeting*

Rabbi Israel Salanter, a great 19th century sage, taught that the expression on our face can affect the mood of those around us; thus, our face is considered in the "public domain," not within the "private domain."

One cannot do as he pleases in the public domain as it affects others around him.

## Chapter 2: What is death?

There is absolutely nothing that supports the idea that man is an immortal soul in a physical body. In addition science can provide no evidence of the existence of an immortal soul, since modern science only deals with physical, material substance and behavior, which can be observed via the five senses. The spiritual is totally outside the sphere of physical science and therefore not subject to the scientific method, since science cannot measure any life apart from matter. However, what science has learned can nevertheless help a great deal in understanding the composition of man.

For example, science has discovered that all living matter in its simplest form is protoplasm; a substance which compose the cells of plants and animals as well as man. They also know that individuals who died on the operating table and were subsequently revived through direct heart massage and other means, remembered absolutely nothing about the occurrence and went nowhere! They were simply unconscious and were resuscitated on the operating table as if they had been sleeping and because brain deterioration occurs very quickly when deprived of oxygen, some of their thought, reasoning and memory faculties may deteriorate. These proofs indicate that an 'immortal soul', if it exists, is completely unable to think, reason and remember when separated from the body. As a result science acknowledges that it has no evidence of an immortal soul in man. But let's examine the Scriptures the foundation of all knowledge to see what it says about the matter. In it the Creator of everything that exists including mankind, has revealed a great deal of knowledge totally beyond man's ability to discover for himself, including the knowledge and understanding of what man is and what his ultimate destiny is. Yahshua confirmed in John 3: 6 that man is composed of flesh, different to that which is 'born of spirit', which is Spirit. Yahshua told Nicodemus plainly that if one is born of, and accordingly composed of flesh, he cannot be born of spirit. He has to be either one or the other. This verse alone provides convincing evidence that man is not an immortal soul in a body of flesh.

But in order to understand whether man has an immortal soul, let's go back to creation, when the first man was formed, to discover exactly what happened. In Genesis 2: 7 Elohim created the first man and tells us what He made him from, so there would be no doubt as to what we really are, as follows: ***'Then YHWH Elohim formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being (or soul).'*** We see further from Genesis 3: 19 that the whole man was composed of dust, in this way: ***'By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'*** After Elohim had formed the man and made every cell in his body, He breathed into him the breath of life. Elohim blew air; 'the breath of life' containing oxygen, into the man's lungs through his nostrils and the man began to live. This verse does not say that Elohim breathed an immortal soul into the man, since as confirmed in Genesis 7: 21 & 22, the source of life in man and animals is the same, as follows: ***'And all flesh that moved on the earth perished, birds and cattle and beasts and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind; (22) of all that was on the dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died.'*** If therefore the breath of life meant that man have an immortal soul, then so do animals, birds and insects such as flies, bugs, mosquitoes and fleas. The truth is man does not have a soul; man is a soul.

The 'soul' then, is merely life that is subject to death and decay. It is not immortal! When man stops breathing he dies and becomes a dead soul. This is confirmed in Ezekiel 18: 4, as follows: ***"Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die."*** Man is simply mortal as is also confirmed by Job in Job 4: 17 (KJV), in this way: ***'Shall mortal man be more just than Elohim? Shall a man be more pure than his maker?'*** Because man is a soul and the soul is mortal, he is subject to death. It is for that reason that the Scriptures call human beings mortal man. We see further from Ecclesiastes 3: 19 & 20 that man and beast go to the same place at death, as follows: ***'For the fate of the sons of men and the fate of beasts is the same. As***

**one dies so dies the other, indeed, they all have the same breath and there is no advantage for man over beast, for all is vanity. (20) All go to the same place. All came from the dust and all return to the dust.'** In fact we see from verse 21 that Solomon ridicules the doctrine of the 'immortal soul' believed by the religions of the world, asking: **'Who knows that the breath of man ascends upward and the breath of the beast descend downward to the earth?'** The famous Greek philosopher Plato who lived during 429 and 347 BCE and was a student of Socrates wrote in his book entitled: *'The Phaedo'*: **'Death is merely the separation of soul and body.'** Solomon therefore asks a question which no pagan can answer. Man is a living, breathing mortal creature; a living soul in whose nostrils is air. When man takes a breath of air, it passes through his trachea, into the lungs and into little sacs called alveoli. There oxygen is absorbed from the air and goes into the blood vessels from the lungs on the way back to the heart and is pumped again throughout the body, the oxygen is carried by red blood cells throughout the body, to the individual cells. Each of man's 60 trillion cells uses oxygen to 'burn' his food to make energy required to operate his organs and muscles, and to maintain body heat. The life of man clearly depends on the blood and blood needs 'the breath of life' to keep the body active and alive, as is confirmed in Deuteronomy 12: 23, in this way: **"Only be sure not to eat the blood, for the blood is the life, and you shall not eat the life with the flesh."** In this verse the Hebrew word '*nephesh*' is translated as life. Therefore the word '*nephesh*' refers to the life of man which depends on his blood. From Isaiah 53: 10 & 12 we understand that Messiah offered His body to be impaled and allowed His life blood (or soul) to be poured out, thus bearing the sin of many.

We see clearly from Ecclesiastes 9: 5 when a person dies, he loses all consciousness, as follows: **'For the living know they will die; but the dead do not know anything, nor have they any longer a reward, for their memory is forgotten.'** A second witness come from Psalm 146: 3 & 4, in this way: **'Do not trust in princes, in mortal man, in whom there is no salvation. (4) His spirit departs, he returns to the earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.'** Since these verses in the Scriptures clearly show that the dead are not conscious of anything, we can logically conclude that man is not born with an immortal soul which is conscious and aware of things happening around it after death. In addition we read from Psalm 115: 17, **'The dead do not praise YHWH, nor do any who go down into silence.'** Nevertheless, Christianity and Muslims teach that they have immortal souls and their reward for belief in their particular deity, is to spend eternity in heaven, with Muslims adding the benefit of 72 virgins to pass the time. This despite King David reminding us in Psalm 6: 5, saying: **'For there is no mention of Thee in death; in Sheol (meaning the grave) who will give Thee thanks?'** We need to understand once for all, that death is the opposite of life. In Matthew 10: 28 Yahshua showed that the soul is not immortal and can therefore be destroyed, saying: **"And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."**

Although some people use this text to support their belief of the immortality of the soul, it clearly shows that the soul is something that can be destroyed in hell and therefore the 'soul' is not immortal. The Greek word translated as soul here, is '*psuche*' and it refers to the same thing as the Hebrew word '*nephesh*' meaning life. In Matthew 10: 28, Messiah used this word to refer to 'life' that man cannot destroy; but which Elohim can. The question is: What kind of life did He refer to? Yahshua was talking about life which Elohim restores by the resurrection and mankind cannot 'destroy' a life that Elohim restores by the resurrection. However, Elohim can destroy it permanently by casting the resurrected person into the lake of fire, never to be resurrected again. In fact Luke makes the scripture easier to understand in Luke 12: 4 & 5, saying: **"And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. (5) But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who after He has killed has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!"** Elohim not only has the power to take our present physical life, but also has the power to resurrect us and if we have proved disobedient and irredeemable; to cast us into the lake of fire from which there will be no future resurrection, as witnessed in Revelation 20: 14 –

15, in this way: ***'And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. (15) And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.'*** Although men may kill their bodies, true believers know that men cannot take their hope of eternal life from them.

Nevertheless, the fact that man does not have an immortal soul does not mean he is a mere animal. We see from Genesis 1: 21, 24 & 25 that animals were created after their own kind, as follows: ***'And Elohim created the great sea monsters, and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind; and every winged bird after its kind; and Elohim saw that it was good. (24) Then Elohim said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind", and it was so. (25) And Elohim made the beast of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and Elohim saw that it was good.'*** We see further from verses 26 & 27 that Elohim created man in His image and likeness and that man was created to rule over all the other creatures, in this way: ***'Then Elohim said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing, that creeps on the earth. (27) And Elohim created man in His own image, in the image of Elohim He created him; male and female He created them.'*** When Elohim made Adam out of dust, he was shaped in the outward appearance of Elohim Himself. Elohim didn't form any other creature to be an exact clay model of Himself but gave His unique form and shape to man alone. Elohim gave man the ability to speak, think and make decisions and intended man to develop the very mind and character of Elohim. Even though each animal was created with a brain suited for each animal kind, no animal was given the gift of mind power; the special attribute of mind and character that separates men from animals. We also see from Genesis 1: 11 & 12, YHWH saying: ***"Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit after their kind, with seed in them, on the earth"; and it was so. (12) And the earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit, with seed in them, after their kind; and Elohim saw that it was good."*** We see from this that whereas animals and mankind were created (transliterated as 'Barah' in Hebrew), the seeds of plants were already in the ground, because of the original creation which Elohim destroyed after Satan's rebellion, He simply instructed the earth to bring forth the different plants already in it.

The difference between plants and animal life is that animals like human beings have or are living souls (or creatures). Animals do not have reasoning or self-conscious minds like man, but instinctively follow habit patterns in their feeding, nesting, migration and reproduction. Elohim 'encoded' their brains with instinctive aptitudes and as a result beavers build dams and birds build nests. This is also why thousands of birds flock south each year as winter approaches in the northern hemisphere. They do not know why they are doing it and do not plan ahead for the trip. At a given signal they simply leave their summer feeding habitation in the northern hemisphere and travel thousands of miles south. Scientists, who observe this instinctual operation of the birds annually, do not have a clue as to why the birds are doing it. Each species of bird builds different nests, feeds on different foods and migrates on different routes at different times to different places, the way Elohim programmed the instinct into each kind at creation. But, man is totally different; man is able to understand and devise various ways of doing any one thing. Man can reason from memorized facts and knowledge, draw conclusions, make decisions and acts according to a predetermined plan. Each human being may build a different house, eat different foods and live totally differently from every other human being. Man being a free moral agent can originate ideas and evaluate scientific knowledge, because his mind is patterned after Elohim's mind. Man can design, plan and ensure his plans are completed, because of the 'creative' powers he has been given. Only man is self-conscious and can speculate as to why he was born, the reason for life and what happens when he dies. Unlike animals, man not only knows how to do certain things, but also knows that he knows; meaning he understands that he has knowledge. Man's attributes of mind and character make him Elohim's



unique physical creation, since Elohim shared some of His own qualities with man, expecting him to ultimately develop Elohim's perfect mind and set-apart character.

Even though many animals have physical brains as large as or even larger than man's brain, not one has the powers of intellect, logic, self-consciousness and creativity. The reason for man's brain being different to that of animals is because there is a 'spirit in man', and while man does not have an immortal soul within him, Elohim will use the spirit in man, after death and complete dissolution of his body and brain to reproduce each individual at the resurrection, as witnessed in Zechariah 12: 1, in this way: ***'The burden of the word of YHWH concerning Israel. Thus declares YHWH who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him.'*** A second witness to the spirit in man is described in 1 Corinthians 2: 9 – 14, as follows: ***'But just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, and which HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT ELOHIM HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM." (10) For to us Elohim revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of Elohim. (11) For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of Elohim no one knows except the Spirit of Elohim. (12) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from Elohim, that we might know the things freely given to us by Elohim, (13) which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. (14) But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of Elohim; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.'*** Job conforms this about the spirit in man in Job 32: 8, saying: ***"But it is the spirit in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives them understanding."*** Notice, the spirit is not the man, but is something that is in man. The spirit in man joined with his physical brain, forms the human mind. It provides man's brain with his unique powers of intellect and personality and gives him the ability to think rationally and make decisions. It gives him the ability to learn mathematics, languages and any other knowledge required to make a living.

However, the spirit in man does not provide him with an 'immortal soul'. To distinguish between the spirit in man and the Spirit of Elohim, namely His Set-apart Spirit, Job continues in context to use two separate Hebrew transliterated words 'ruach' for the Spirit of Elohim and 'neshamah' for breath (or spirit in man) in Job 33: 4, saying: ***"The Spirit of Elohim has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life."*** When a human being dies, the spirit in man returns to Elohim, as Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 12: 7, saying: ***'Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to Elohim who gave it.'*** The spirit in each individual person does not only provide him/her physical brain with the power of intellect, but also becomes a spiritual pattern of the entire person, preserving his/her memory, knowledge and character. When a person dies the spiritual 'recording' of him/her returns to Elohim and is stored away until the time that Elohim will resurrect him/her to life again, with the identical personality. The reason why so few people heard this truth before is simply because the whole world has been deceived (as per Revelation 12: 9<sup>3</sup>). In addition, the human mind, having only the human spirit of man, cannot understand the Spiritual thing of Elohim, as we've seen in 1 Corinthians 2: 11 (above). It is impossible for man to see, hear or feel Spiritual things. Therefore the human mind, even though it can receive knowledge and understanding about human matters, cannot receive or understand the Spiritual knowledge of Elohim, without the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim. In a similar way that an animal brain cannot understand human matters, so can no human mind understand the Spiritual things of Elohim, unless and until it has been given a portion of Elohim's Set-apart Spirit, either because of Torah obedience for the house of Judah, or by being immersed in Yahshua's saving name for returnees from the lost ten tribes.

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<sup>3</sup> Revelation 12: 9, ***'And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.'***



In fact the truth about the 'spirit in man' is so important that Satan lied about it from the time that Adam and Eve were created. Although YHWH Elohim told Adam that he may not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, else he will die, Satan contradicted what YHWH told Adam, and deceived Eve, as recorded in Genesis 3: 4 as follows: ***'And the serpent said to the woman, "You surely shall not die!"'*** This was the beginning of the 'immortality of the soul' doctrine preached by Christianity and others today. Satan told Eve she would not surely die, meaning she had an immortal soul allowing her to live forever. Not only did Eve believe this lie, but the whole world is deceived about this matter today. The devil has deceived the whole world on nearly every point of Elohim's truth and almost the entire world believes this lie today. Satan has deceived the world with a counterfeit doctrine that distorts the truth about the 'spirit in man' and with his clever counterfeit, has deceived most of mankind about the 'spirit in man' and the need for him to be resurrected from the dead. We see from 1 Timothy 6: 12 - 16 that only Elohim has immortality, in this way: ***'Fight the good fight of faith, take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. (13) I charge you in the presence of Elohim, who gives life to all things, and of Messiah Yahshua, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, (14) that you keep the commandment (given in verse 12) without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Master Yahshua Messiah, (15) which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Master of masters; (16) who alone possesses immortality and dwells in an unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amein!'*** We see further from 1 Timothy 1: 17, that Elohim is incorruptible, as follows: ***'Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only Elohim, be honor and glory forever and ever.'*** The Greek word in this verse, translated as immortal, is 'aphtharos', meaning incorruptible. Elohim is incorruptible, not man. Rav Shaul confirms in 1 Corinthians 15: 53 & 54 that is not immortal, saying: ***'For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. (54) But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.'*** Rav Shaul also gives us the timing when man will be clothed with immortality in verse 52, saying: ***'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.'*** He gives us additional details about the first resurrection in 1 Thessalonians 4: 13 - 16, saying: ***'But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. (14) For if we believe that Yahshua died and rose again, even so Elohim will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Yahshua. (15) For this we say to you by the word of the Master, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Master, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. (16) For the Master Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of Elohim; and the dead in Messiah shall rise first.'***

Rav Shaul tells us from the house of Israel in 2 Timothy 1: 8 - 10 that it was Messiah who brought us the knowledge of how to receive eternal life and immortality, saying: ***'Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Master, or of me His prisoner; but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of Elohim, (9) who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Messiah Yahshua from all eternity, (10) but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Messiah Yahshua, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.'*** Rav Shaul also tells us that we should seek immortality by our perseverance in righteousness in Romans 2: 7, saying: ***'To those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life.'*** Yahshua the Messiah came specifically to show those of us from the lost sheep of the house of Israel through His resurrection how we will receive eternal life as children of Elohim, since He was the first human being to be born-again from the dead, as confirmed in Colossians 1: 18, in this way: ***'He (Yahshua) is also head of the body, the congregation; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, so that He himself might come to have first place in***

**everything.’** Even though David has not been resurrected yet, and is still in his grave, Rav Kepha gives us details of Messiah’s resurrection and how King David described it in Acts 2: 29 – 35, saying: **“Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. (30) And so, because he was a prophet, and knew that ELOHIM HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT one OF HIS DESCENDANTS UPON HIS THRONE, (31) he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of Messiah, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID HIS flesh SUFFER DECAY. (32) This Yahshua Elohim raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. (33) Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of Elohim, and having received from the Father the promise of the Set-apart Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. (34) For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: ‘YHWH SAID TO MY ADONAI, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, (35) UNTIL I MAKE THINE ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR THY FEET.””** We see however, from Jeremiah 30: 9 that King David will be resurrected from the dead to become King over the united Israel consisting of the house of Judah and the house of Israel, as follows: **‘But they shall serve YHWH their Elohim, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.’**

If man was truly an immortal soul in a physical body and if at death of the body the soul is released, then there would be no need for a resurrection to immortal life. Man would merely continue living after death. The fact that the Scriptures teach the resurrection from the dead finally proves that man does not possess an immortal soul. It was for this reason that Rav Shaul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15: 13 – 18, saying: **‘But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Messiah has been raised, (14) and if Messiah has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. (15) Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of Elohim, because we witnessed against Elohim that He raised Messiah, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. (16) For if the dead are not raised, not even Messiah has been raised; (17) and if Messiah has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. (18) Then those also who have fallen asleep in Messiah have perished.’** Nevertheless, even Messiah warned the unrepentant man will perish in Luke 13: 3, saying: **“I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”** A dictionary definition of the word perish tells us that it means to stop living. A pertinent question then would be: If man was an immortal soul, how could he actually perish? But we have Messiah’s assurance regarding the resurrection of the dead in John 5: 25, saying: **“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of Elohim; and those who hear shall live.”** Rav Shaul also confirmed this in 1 Thessalonian 4: 16 (quoted earlier). The point is that the dead cannot ‘hear’ unless they are first restored to life. They are pictured throughout the Scriptures as being asleep in their graves, awaiting the day of the resurrection. Notice Yahshua’s words when describing the death of Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, in John 11: 11 – 14, as follows: **‘This He said, and after that He said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, that I may awaken him out of sleep.” (12) The disciples therefore said to Him, “Master, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.” (13) Now Yahshua had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep. (14) Then Yahshua therefore said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.”’** Death is pictured as a sleep. Death, like sleep is a condition in which people are not conscious and from which they shall be awakened. We also read evidence of the resurrection from the Tanach in Daniel 12: 2, in this way: **‘And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.’** Death is described as a sleep dozens of times in the Scriptures when referring to the kings of Israel and Judah, one of which is found in 1 Kings 2: 10, in this way: **‘Then David slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David.’** Notice that it does not say ‘the body slept while the soul was conscious.’ It plainly states **‘David slept.’** It was the conscious person who fell ‘asleep’ in death showing clearly that the dead are not conscious and that they do not have conscious ‘immortal souls’.

Yahshua came to show us how we will ultimately like Him become children of Elohim as Shaul testifies in Romans 8: 28 – 29. Saying: **‘And we know that Elohim causes all things to work together**

**for good to those who love Elohim, to those who are called according to His purpose. (29) For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren.”** King David who knew Elohim’s plan of salvation knew this when He wrote in Psalm 17: 15, saying: **‘As for me. I shall behold Thy face in righteousness; I will be satisfied with Thy likeness when I awake.**’ We also see that Yochanan, Messiah’s disciple witnessing to this in 1 John 3: 2, saying: **‘Beloved, now we are children of Elohim, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.’** After Adam and Eve sinned they were not permitted to eat of the tree of life, to prevent them from living eternally as sinners, as witnessed in Genesis 3: 22 & 23, as follows: **‘Then YHWH Elohim said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”--- (23) therefore YHWH Elohim sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.’”** The ‘tree of life’ symbolized the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim; Adam and Eve could have eventually gained eternal life and become spirit beings by eating of the fruit of the ‘tree of life’. But, by taking from the ‘tree of knowledge of good and evil’ and disobeying Elohim’s commandment, he was not allowed to take of the ‘tree of life’ to live forever, yet another proof that man does not have eternal life inherent within himself.

Those in Christianity who believe they have immortal souls, use Philippians 1: 23 & 24 as proof. Let’s therefore read these verses to see what Rav Shaul meant, as follows: **‘But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Messiah, for that is very much better; (24) yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.’** Rav Shaul clearly showed that he has a desire to be with Messiah. In fact all believers should have the same desire, but this verse does not state when Rav Shaul would be with Messiah, even if some try to read their ideas into it. We see that Rav Shaul knew exactly when he will one day be with Messiah, when he wrote in 2 Timothy 4: 6 – 8, saying: **‘For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. (7) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; (8) in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Master, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.’** The prophet Isaiah wrote about the time when Messiah will bring His reward with Him in Isaiah 40: 10, saying: **‘Behold, Adonai Elohim will come with might, with His arm ruling for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him.’** Those who are dead in their graves are not conscious and have no knowledge of passing time. The very next moment of their consciousness will be the time of the resurrection. That is what Rav Shaul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5: 9 – 10, saying: **‘Therefore also we have as our ambition (whilst we are alive), whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. (10) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Messiah, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.’** Yes, we will only receive our reward at the judgment when Messiah returns. That is also when Rav Shaul expected to receive the reward of his labors and to be with Messiah, as is confirmed in 2 Timothy 4: 1, in this way: **‘I solemnly charge you in the presence of Elohim and of Messiah Yahshua, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom.’**

To summarize then, we as Nazarene Israelites believe that according to 1 Thessalonians 5: 23 human beings are composed of bodies, souls and spirits. Jews who always remained faithful to YHWH and His Torah obtain the Set-apart Spirit because of obedience (as per Acts 5: 32). We who are called by YHWH to return to Him through Abraham’s one seed, Yahshua, are given a portion of Elohim’s Set-apart Spirit when we repent of past lawlessness and are immersed into Yahshua’s saving name, accepting that His death removed the record of our transgressions. The Set-apart Spirit combines with the spirit in man and we like our Torah observant Jewish Brothers are begotten anew. This gives us the opportunity to like Yahshua be resurrected at His return, as is confirmed in Romans 8: 11, as follows: **‘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.'* When we are immersed into Yahshua's saving name we are given a deposit of our inheritance of eternal life, as we read from Ephesians 1: 13 & 14, in this way: ***'In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation –having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Set-apart Spirit of promise, (14) who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of Elohim's own possession, to the praise of His glory.'*** When we die our bodies and souls are buried and our spirits goes back to the Father who gave it, as is also confirmed in Ecclesiastes 12: 7, in this way: ***'Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to Elohim who gave it.'*** Whilst our spirits are in heaven, it will be perfected as we read from Hebrews 12: 23, as follows: ***"to the general assembly and the congregation of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to Elohim, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of righteous men made perfect."*** When Yahshua returns He will bring back our perfected spirits and will resurrect our bodies and souls. Our imperishable bodies and souls will merge with our perfected spirits from heaven and we will become kings and priests under Yahshua during His Millennial rule.

Man is mortal with a temporary life and has no eternal life inherent within himself. But YHWH entered into a two-fold covenant with the commonwealth of Israel, Abraham's children through Isaac and Jacob, that if they remain obedient to His Torah teachings, including circumcising their children as a sign of the covenant, they will inherit eternal life. The second part of the covenant specifically catered for those of us from the house of Israel who were scattered into the world through idolatry. Once we return to the covenant with Elohim through Yahshua, we become heirs of Abraham, making it possible to once again receive the gift of immortality and eternal life at the resurrection of the dead. Will you qualify to receive His gift?

### Chapter 3: What is the significance of the tallit we wear on the Sabbath?

Have you ever wondered why the tallit we wear on Sabbath is white. The practice of wearing a tallit or tallit-katan on the Sabbath has a deeper meaning for us who understand some of the deeper things of Torah. On the Sabbath and other Set-apart Days of Elohim, we wear a tallit that is white, as we want to express the symbolism of the white garments that we find in the Scriptures. We know that white is prophetic clothing that symbolizes the coming Messianic Kingdom.

But on the deeper level, it is a symbol of something Adam and Eve possessed in the Garden of Eden. Wearing a white tallit is not just for teachers, but for all members of the congregation of Elohim. Whereas men wear white tallit's, woman may wear white scarfs to cover their hair during prayer and worship services as Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 9: 8, saying: ***'Let your clothes be white all the time, and let not oil be lacking on your head.'*** What does the Hebrew idiom mean? Does it mean we should wear white clothing every day, or is it speaking of something deeper? We read a quote from the **Zohar Book 3, 174B and 175A** (The Zohar being a sod level commentary of the Torah), as follows: *'Come see. What did he see? He saw standing before him, the angel, and Rabbi Isaac said: What does this tell us? That every man who in this world does not wrap himself in the ceremonial garb and clothe himself there with, when he enters the other world, is covered with filthy garments. It is brought up for trial. Many of the garments prepared for man in this world, and he who does not acquire the garments of religious observance, is in the next world, clad with the garment which is known to the masters of Gey-Hinnom and woe to the man who is clad therein for he is seized by many officers of judgment and dragged down to Gey-Hinnom and therefore king Solomon cried aloud at all times, let thy garments be white.'* Now this statement from the Zohar is not foreign to those familiar with Yahshua's parable of the king who gave a wedding feast for His son in Matthew 22, where after those who had been invited to the wedding refused to come and eventually the king later told his slaves to go and invite all they can find in the streets, both evil and good. When the wedding hall was filled the king came to look over the wedding guests as recorded in verses 11 – 14, in this way: ***"But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw there a man not dressed in wedding clothes, (12) and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes? And he was speechless. (13) Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*** (14) ***For many are called, but few are chosen."*** But is there still a deeper meaning in this? Is there another garment that our white tallit is symbolic of? We read an explanation from Daniel 12: 10, as follows: ***"Many will be purged, purified and refined; but the wicked will act wickedly, and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand."*** Daniel tells us that many shall be purified, and made white. Does that mean they will have white skins? Not at all, since we find out that according to the Scriptures, the color white is symbolic of the Divine Nature of Elohim, also known as mercy transliterated as 'chesed' in Hebrew.

Now let's find a few additional places in the Renewed Covenant where the word white is mentioned in regard to the coming Kingdom of Elohim. Commencing in Matthew 17 where Yahshua was transfigured before three of His disciples to show them what His resurrected body will look like, after His death on the annual Passover, we read from verses 1 – 9, in this way: ***'And six days later Yahshua took with Him Kepha and Yaa'cov and Yochanan his brother, and brought them up to a high mountain by themselves. (2) And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. (3) And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. (4) And Kepha answered and said to Yahshua, "Master, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah."*** (5) ***While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"*** (6) ***And when the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were much afraid. (7) And Yahshua came to them and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid."*** (8) ***And lifting up***



***their eyes, they saw no one, except Yahshua Himself alone. (9) And as they were coming down from the mountain, Yahshua commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead,"*** Yahshua's disciples had a glimpse of what He would look like after His resurrection, but also how they will also look after they have been resurrected in the coming Kingdom of Elohim. They saw Him standing with Moses and Elijah; the one representing Torah and the other the Prophets, and Yahshua being the middle pillar or the embodiment of Torah. The fact that they suggested to Him to build three tabernacles or sukkot for Him, Moses and Elijah, shows that the vision was symbolic of the Messianic Kingdom.

But we see this is also what Yahshua appeared like, when long after His resurrection and ascension to heaven, He appeared to Yochanan in a vision to show him what will take place before, during and after His return to rule the world from Jerusalem, as recorded by Yochanan in Revelation 1: 12 – 15, saying: ***'And I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; (13) and in the middle of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His breast with a golden girdle. (14) And His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire; (15) and His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been caused to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters.'*** Yahshua in addressing the seven 'church' eras during the past 2000 years since He ascended to heaven in Revelation 2 & 3, addresses the congregation in Sardis in verses 4 & 5 of Revelation 3, saying: ***"But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white; for they are worthy. (5) He who overcomes shall thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels."*** He continues to address the congregation in Laodicea in verse 18, saying: ***"I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich, and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see."*** The underlined words in verse 18 are almost the same wording Elohim used in the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve realized that they had lost the garments that Elohim had given them at creation, and they saw they were naked. This was when Elohim asked them in Genesis 3: 11, saying: ***"Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"*** In Revelation 3: 18, Yahshua advised the congregation in Laodicea (near the end of the 2000 years) to buy white garments from Him that they may put on clothes so that their shame will not be seen. That is exactly what Elohim did for Adam and Eve, since they lost their original garments of light. He gave them 'garments' of skin, to cover their nakedness, but which also resulted in them returning to the dust from which they were made. The word nakedness is dealing with the concept we know as sin, as with sin comes shame.

Moving on to Revelation 6: 9 – 11, we read about those who were killed because of their testimony to faith in the word of Elohim, as follows: ***'And when He broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of Elohim, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; (10) and they cried out with a loud voice saying, "How long, O Adonai, holy and true, wilt Thou refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (11) And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, should be completed also.'*** We read from Revelation 7: 9 about the sealing of the 144,000 from the nation of Israel, in this way: ***'After these things I looked and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands.'*** Notice, they have palm branches in their hands, which is also indicative of the Feast of Tabernacles or Sukkot, which takes us back to Zechariah 14, where we see that during the millennium kingdom all nations will journey to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. In verses 13 & 14 of Revelation 7, we see who this multitude mentioned in

verse 9 of Revelation 7 is, as follows: ***‘And one of the elders answered, saying to me, “These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and from where have they come?” (14) And I said to him, “My master, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”’*** They are before the throne of Elohim and serve Him day and night in His Sukkah, and He shall dwell among them.

That is after all what the Feast of Tabernacles is all about. In the Sukkah we experience the manifest presence of Elohim transliterated as His *‘Shekinah’*. The quoted verses in Revelation 7 above tells us that this great multitude came out of great persecution and took their robes and dipped it in the blood of the Lamb and it came out white. We also see from verses 15 – 17, that they will be cared for by the Lamb, in this way: ***“For this reason, they are before the throne of Elohim; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne shall spread His tabernacle over them. (16) They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; (17) for the Lamb in the center of the throne, shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and Elohim shall wipe every tear from their eyes.”*** Then to confirm that this is when Yahshua returns to rule the world from Jerusalem and to remarry His bride made up of all twelve tribes of Israel, we read from Revelation 19: 5 - 7, as follows: ***‘And a voice came from the throne, saying. “Give praise to our Elohim, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great.” (6) And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude and as the sound many waters and as the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, “Hallelujah! For Adonai our Elohim, the Almighty, reigns. (7) Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.”’*** A wife, in order to make herself ready for marriage goes to the mikvah to cleanse her of any ritual impurity and then puts on her white wedding garments. When we come into the Sukkah, we come under the Chuppah. During the Millennial Kingdom, (YHWH)’s name shall be One (as per Zechariah 14: 9) and we are told that because of the Renewed (marriage) Covenant that He will enter into with both the house of Judah and the house of Israel (as per Jeremiah 31: 31 – 34), that all people, great and small will know Him, from the least of them to the greatest of them. We have gone through Yom Teruah (Rosh Hashanah), experienced the fast on the Day of Atonement transliterated as *‘Yom HaKippurim’*, have been cleansed and enter the Sukkah rejoicing with the bridegroom, as shown in Revelation 19: 8 & 9, in this way: ***‘And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (9) And he said to me, “Write, “Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb”’ And he said to me, “These are true words of Elohim.”*** The marriage of the Lamb to His bride the commonwealth of Israel is the theme of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Next we turn to the Tanach and read from 1 Chronicles 15: 25 – 29, as follows: ***‘So it was David, with the elders of Israel and the captains over thousands, who went to bring up the ark of the covenant of YHWH from the house of Obed-edom with joy (the Feast of Tabernacles is known as a season of Joy transliterated in Hebrew as *‘simcha’*). (26) And it came about because Elohim was helping the Levites who were carrying the ark of the covenant of YHWH, that they sacrificed seven bulls and seven rams (here we have again the cycle of seven). (27) Now David was clothed with a robe of fine linen with all the Levites who were carrying the ark, and the singers and Chenaniah the leader of the singing with the singers. David also wore an ephod of linen. (28) Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of YHWH with shouting, and with sound of the horn, with trumpets, with loud-sounding cymbals, with harps and lyres. (29) And it happened when the ark of the covenant of YHWH came to the city of David, that Michal the daughter of Shaul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and making merry; and she despised him in her heart.’*** We see here that because the presence of Elohim returned to the city of David, there was a great celebration. We hear the voice of the shofar and cymbals being played. It is important that we really understand what Sukkot is about. We continue to read in the Tanach from 2 Chronicles 6: 37 – 41, in

this way: ***'If they take thought in the land where they are taken captive, and repent and make supplication to Thee in the land of their captivity, saying, 'We have sinned, we have committed iniquity, and have acted wickedly'; (38) if they return to Thee with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, where they have been taken captive, and pray toward their land which Thou hast given to their fathers, and the city which Thou hast chosen, and toward the house which I have built for Thy name, (39) then hear from heaven, from Thy dwelling place, their prayer and supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive Thy people who have sinned against Thee. (40) Now, O my Elohim, I pray Thee, let Thine eyes be open, and Thine ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place. (41) Now therefore arise, O YHWH Elohim, to Thy resting place, Thou and the ark of Thy might; let Thy priests, O YHWH Elohim, be clothed with salvation, and let Thy godly ones rejoice in what is good.'***

The priests were clothed with salvation in white linen garments that they wore in the Tabernacle. White is symbolic of our salvation and the forgiveness of our sins. We also read from Psalm 132: 7 – 9: ***'Let us go into His dwelling place; let us worship at His footstool. (8) Arise, O YHWH, to Thy resting place; Thou and the ark of Thy strength. (9) Let Thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let Thy godly ones sing for joy.'*** In the Renewed Covenant the word 'white' is translated from the Greek word *'lukos'*, the same word as the name Luke. Lukos not only means 'Light, bright and brilliant, brilliant for whiteness or dazzling white.' White is also the garments of angels and those exalted to splendor of the heavenly state. Shining or white garments worn on festive or state occasions are a sign of innocence and purity of the soul (life). We also read from the **Talmud in section Yoma 19, A:** *'The cell of hewn stone, there the Sanhedrin of Israel were sitting and judging the priest, Kohanim and whoever was found unfit for duty would be put on a black dress and wrap himself in black and go out and go his way. And one in whom no blemish was found, would put on a white garment and wrap himself in white enter the sanctuary and officiate with his brethren.'* Do you now see how important it is to wear a white garment of the Sabbath and Set-apart Days? Leviticus 13: 15 – 17 deals with the Torah of the leper. Notice that the leper who has been an outcast from society because of a skin disease is unable to enter into the sanctuary. He has to go to the priest, who shall examine the raw flesh and pronounce him to be unclean; since raw flesh is unclean, it is leprosy. Leprosy can also be symbolic of sin. But, if the flesh changes again and it is changed to white, he shall again go to the priest to be examined. If the priest sees the skin has turned white, then he shall pronounce the leper clean. So, we see raw flesh means one is unclean but if the flesh turns white again, he is pronounced clean. Raw flesh means he is naked and you can see his shame, but once it turns white again, he is clean.

We read from Isaiah 1: 16 - 18: ***"Wash yourselves (be immersed), make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil, (17) learn to do good (from Torah), seek justice, reprove the ruthless; defend the orphan, plead for the widow. (18) Come now, let us reason together," Says YHWH, "though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool."*** The color of raw flesh is red. Here YHWH tells us through the Prophet Isaiah that they shall become white if we return to Him; if we are willing to obey Him we shall partake of the good of the land. An interesting side light about Atonement: After the death of Yahshua the supernatural events which used to occur on Yom Kippur ceased to happen. Elohim's rejection of the blood atonement available in the Temple through the High Priest became obvious when the red cord of wool, ceased to turn white on Yom Kippur, after Yahshua's impalement. The Talmud records the astonishing event that occurred approximately forty years before the destruction of the Temple by Titus' army in 70 CE in **Tractate Yoma 39, B**, which was the approximate time of Yahshua's death on the cross, as follows: *'Forty years before the Holy Temple was destroyed the following things happened: The lot for the Yom Kippur goat ceased to be supernatural; the red cord of wool that used to change to white (as a symbol of God's forgiveness) now remained red and did not change and the western candle in the candlestick in the sanctuary refused to burn continually while the doors of the Holy temple would open of themselves.'*

Moving on as part of our analogy, we need to mention the law of niddah. When a woman is niddah, her husband is not to have any type of physical relations with her. When the period of her niddah comes to an end, she is to examine herself for seven days, which had to pass without any further discharge and she becomes clean and may have contact with her husband again. If we take this deeper and we understand that when she examines herself for seven days, we arrive at the 7<sup>th</sup> Millennium, when she can be joined to her husband again. This pictures when Messiah will return on the seventh millennium to marry His bride. On the Sabbath the high priest wears four white garments. These four garments represent the four letters of the name of Elohim, namely: Y, H, V, H. The name YHWH represent mercy transliterated as ‘chessed’, or lovingkindness towards us. We are told that the white clothing worn by the priests is actually a manifestation of what the sages call the surrounding light and that light surrounds and permeates into our clothing. The priests were given white linen garments and turbans to reflect their glory and honor. They were to serve as a substitute garment until the resurrection of the body. The white linen garments were to be worn by the priest who was righteous and could be a servant in the dwelling place of Elohim. After Adam’s sin they were given coats of skin. The skin they were given is good for the body, but not for the soul (life). Since they were unfit to serve as priests within the Garden of Eden, which environment the Tabernacle was to recreate, in order to allow the Presence of Elohim to dwell there and as a result of Adam’s sin mankind was given a garment of skin, but those in the first resurrection will be given garments of light which is indicative of eternal life. The tallit is a temporary replacement and symbolic garments to show our fitness for the priesthood. This is why we wear head coverings and the tallit. All these were given to us by Elohim as temporary symbolic substitutes, or a shadow of things to come, until the reality manifests.

We read from the **Zohar book 2, 229 B**: *‘Observe that man’s Neshamah (the spirit in man) does not ascend to appear before the holy king unless she is first worthy to be attired in supernal raiment, likewise the Neshamah does not descend into this world, until clad in the garments of this world. Similarly, the holy heavenly Angels of whom it is written: Who maketh thy angels into wind and thy ministers unto flaming fire. When they have to execute a message in this world they do not come down to it until they clothe themselves in the garments of this world (the attire has to always be in harmony with the place visited). The Neshamah can only ascend when it is clad in the right raiment. Adam in the Garden of Eden was attired in supernal raiment of celestial radiance, As soon as he was driven from the Garden of Eden and had need of form to be suited to this world, scripture says, YHWH Elohim made for Adam and his wife garments of skin and clothed them. Formerly they were garments of light. To wit of the celestial light of which Adam ministered, so he was a priest, he ministered, served, he was to keep and guard it as a priest. He was to keep and guard the Garden of Eden. For as much as it was resplendence of the celestial light that ministers in the Garden of Eden. When first man entered into the garden, the holy one, blessed is He. Clothed him first in the raiment of that light (this explains why the Priests had to wear white linen garments when they went to do their service in the tabernacle or the temple. It was another Garden of Eden.)’* We do not wear the tallit that we wear on the Sabbath on the other six days of the week. So here they also made residue garments to minister in the holy place so as to enable the wearer to enter the sanctuary.

Now we have already been taught, that a man’s good deeds done in this world draw from the celestial splendour of that light garment with which he may be endowed with in the next world when he comes to appear before Elohim. Man’s soul is dust and his spirit is clothed in raiment of the lower world. The spirit in those who remained close to Elohim is also clothed with the heavenly world, or the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim, provided they remain Torah observant throughout their lives, as confirmed in Luke 10: 25 – 28, in this way: **‘And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” (26) And He said to Him, “What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?” (27) And he answered and said, “YOU**

**SHALL LOVE YHWH 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.” (28) And He said to him, “You have answered correctly; DO THIS, AND YOU WILL LIVE.”** The remnant of the lost sheep of Israel being called out of the religions of this world, to return to Elohim through Messiah and who are immersed in His Set-apart name are similarly clothed with the heavenly world (namely the Set-apart Spirit), also giving them access to the world to come, as confirmed in Romans 8: 11, as follows: ***“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.”***

In the book of Revelation we read that the white raiment is the righteous deeds of the set-apart ones. There is no conflict or contradictions of what was written in the Zohar and what was written in the book of Revelation. Throughout the Scriptures it is talking about the garment of salvation and righteousness. Righteousness is right living, right deeds and right actions. There is an imputed righteousness we receive when we wash those garments in the blood of the Lamb, but there is a walking out of that righteousness in Him. Walk with Him and you shall put on white raiment and serve as His priests in His dwelling place before His throne for ever. Amein!



#### Chapter 4: Torah the garment of the soul.

Most of us who have been studying the Scriptures for a number of years, know that mankind consist of three component parts, namely; body, soul (transliterated in Hebrew as 'Nefesh') and the spirit in man (transliterated as 'Neshamah'). The Hebrew word 'Nefesh' simply means life and 'Neshamah' means the higher level life or the spirit in man which is his mind power giving him the ability to speak, think and make decisions. However, like all created beings, such as animals, fish and birds, mankind is mortal subject to death. But, different to them, the spirit in man also records his actions, experiences and character in his memory as a testimony to his life – to be used to resurrect him to life again, sometime in the future.

When YHWH started dealing with Abraham, He promised him and his descendants eternal life, provided they remain obedient to His teachings which He imparted to Abraham over a period of time, but especially after He entered into a covenant with Abram in Genesis 17 telling him that if he walks before Him blamelessly, He will multiply his seed exceedingly and make him the father of a multitude of nations. He also told Abraham after He changed his name that He will give him and his descendants the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession (meaning they will eventually live in it forever), if they obey Him and as a sign to the covenant circumcise the male children at eight days old. Therefore the children of Israel, Abraham's offspring through Isaac and Jacob, will obtain eternal life if they obey the covenant that YHWH later made with them at Mount Sinai after leading them out of Egypt, provided they always remain obedient to His Torah teachings. In addition, the promise even catered for those children whom YHWH eventually scattered into the nations of the world because of idolatry, in that He promised Abraham that He will finally during the last days bring a remnant of them back to the covenant they made with Him, together with the house of Judah at Mount Sinai, through Abraham's one seed Yahshua, through whom he would also save the rest of mankind during the Great White Throne judgment period. The main component that imparts eternal life to Abraham's offspring is the Set-apart Spirit, which they obtained by being obedient to Elohim's Torah as witnessed in Acts 5: 32<sup>4</sup>. For the house of Judah the word obedience means to obey and live according to Elohim's Torah, but for the house of Israel, it means to be immersed in Yahshua's saving name for the forgiveness of past Torah breaking and the gift of the Set-apart Spirit, after which both houses need to remain faithful to the end, to retain the Set-apart Spirit, giving them access to eternal life, as witnessed in Deuteronomy 30: 19 & 20, as follows: ***"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, (20) by loving YHWH your Elohim, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which YHWH swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give them."*** So we see that Torah is (YHWH)'s will and wisdom revealed to Israel.

Yes, Torah is Elohim's eternal instructions to all Israel and is a guideline to keep us from sin as is also defined in the Renewed Covenant in 1 John 3: 4, in this way: ***'Everyone who practices sin, also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.'*** The fact is, that Torah keeps us within the boundaries that YHWH decreed as commands, but also help us to show self-control over our fleshly desires and lusts as we allow the Set-apart Spirit to guide us into all truth – which is according to John 17: 17 and Psalm 119: 142 Torah. Even so, the commandments are designed and purposed by Elohim for a deeper meaning. The purpose for studying Elohim's Word is to obtain understanding of His will and to learn to live by His Word. In addition YHWH expects those who diligently study His Word to take action as recorded in Hebrews 4: 11 – 13, as follows: ***'Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall through following the same example of disobedience. (12) For the word of Elohim is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of***

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<sup>4</sup> Acts 5: 32, ***"And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Set-apart Spirit, whom Elohim has given to those who obey Him."***

*soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (13) And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.’* The Scriptures also tells us in Hebrews 11: 6, *‘And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to Elohim must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.’* Our fathers in the faith Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, as well as the prophets and apostles all experienced the reality of Elohim in a personal way. In ancient times Elohim established personal contact with certain chosen people, as we read from Exodus 3: 2 – 4, *‘And the angel of YHWH appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. (3) So Moses said, “I must turn aside now, and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up.” (4) When YHWH saw that he turned aside to look, Elohim called to him from the midst of the bush, and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”’*

Elohim appeared to Moses and later revealed His divine words, which Moses carefully recorded for future generations, as we read from the first part of Exodus 24: 4, in this way: *‘And Moses wrote down all the words of YHWH.’* Elohim whom Moses encountered was the Elohim Abraham had a personal conversation with in Genesis 18. Initially Moses was fearful in the presence of Elohim, but later he overcame his fear and asked to see Elohim personally as is recorded in Exodus 33: 18. Today there are many who do not know who and what Elohim is. The prophet Hosea expressed sorrow because the house of Israel had willingly lost knowledge about Elohim with tragic consequences for them, in Hosea 4: 1 – 6, saying: *“Listen to the word of YHWH, O sons of Israel, for YHWH has a case against the inhabitants of the land, because there is no faithfulness or kindness or knowledge of Elohim in the land. (2) There is swearing, deception, murder, stealing, and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed. (3) Therefore the land mourns, and everyone who lives in it languishes along with the beasts of the field and the birds of the sky; and also the fish of the sea disappear. (4) Yet let no one find fault, and let none offer reproof; for your people are like those who contend with the priest. (5) So you will stumble by day, and the prophet also will stumble with you by night; and I will destroy your mother. (6) My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your Elohim, I also will forget your children.’* But as we are assured by Rav Shaul in 1 Thessalonians 5: 23 & 24 that those of us whom YHWH called; who were immersed into Yahshua’s saving name and had hands laid upon us by the elders of Elohim’s congregation; and accordingly received a portion of the Set-apart Spirit will if they remain faithful to the end, be preserved blameless at Messiah’s return, saying: *‘Now may the Elohim of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Master Yahshua Messiah, (24) Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.’*

Although Elohim is Spirit and therefore eternal, the prophet Isaiah wrote about Him in Isaiah 57: 15, saying: *‘For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, “I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly of spirit in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite (remorseful).”’* To further support Elohim’s willingness to forgive us, Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 55: 6 & 7, saying: *‘Seek YHWH while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. (7) Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to YHWH, and He will have compassion on him; and to our Elohim, for He will abundantly pardon.’* Even though YHWH inhabits eternity and is not constraint by time and space, He is quick to forgive those who return to Him and His Torah teachings with a repentant attitude. YHWH specifically sent Yahshua, the image of the invisible Elohim to the house of Israel, to reconcile them to Him, but also to Brother Judah. The reason for so doing is because the house of Israel was always prone to idol worship, since they cannot like Judah worship an invisible Elohim. This is perhaps why Jeremiah wrote fittingly in Jeremiah 10: 1 & 2, saying: *‘Hear the word which YHWH speaks to you, O house of Israel. (2) Thus says YHWH, “Do not learn the way of the nations,*

***and do not be terrified by the signs of the heavens although the nations are terrified by them.”***

Because YHWH is all knowing, He knew that Israel will eventually forsake Him and as a result He will scatter them throughout the nations of the world. This is why He told Jacob that his offspring Israel will become a multitude of nations in Genesis 48: 19, but also why He foretold through Moses in Deuteronomy 4: 25 – 31, saying: ***‘When you become the father of children and children’s children and have remained long in the land, and act corruptly, and make an idol in the form of anything, and do that which is evil in the sight of YHWH your Elohim so as to provoke Him to anger, (26) I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you shall surely perish quickly from the land where you are going over the Jordan to possess it. You shall not live long on it, but shall be utterly destroyed. (27) And YHWH will scatter you among the peoples, and you shall be left few in number among the nations, where YHWH shall drive you. (28) And there you will serve gods, the work of man’s hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. (29) But from there you will seek YHWH your Elohim, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul. (30) When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days, you will return to YHWH your Elohim and listen to His voice. (31) For YHWH your Elohim is a compassionate Elohim; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them.’*** However, Isaiah informs us that only a comparatively small number of members of the house of Israel will eventually return to YHWH during this age, in Isaiah 10: 22, saying: ***‘For though your people, O Israel, may be like the sand of the sea, only a remnant within them will return; a destruction is determined, overflowing with righteousness.’***

The Torah commandments are one way that YHWH established to make contact and have a relationship with His people Israel. We need to understand that between people, any personal contact or relationship of unequal status or stature creates a sense of elevation in the meaning of the life of the person of lower status; therefore how much more can we benefit and gain knowledge of our true purpose and the meaning of life from our relationship with YHWH by Torah observance. The word commandment transliterated in Hebrew is *‘mitsvah’* but it also means companionship or even union. Therefore, one who fulfills or keeps a commandment becomes united in, or companionship with the very essence of Elohim, who has ordained this principle in Torah. We read accordingly from Jeremiah 7: 22 & 23: ***“For I did not speak to your fathers, or command them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices. (23) But this is what I commanded them saying, ‘Obey My voice, and I will be your Elohim, and you will be My people; and you will walk in all the way which I command you, that it may be well with you.”*** Obeying and living a Torah way of life gives to the person a higher existence and also places the Commander and commanded in a mutual relationship. It allows them to have communion or fellowship with one another as Yochanan also testified in 1 John 1: 6 – 7, saying: ***‘If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth (Torah); (7) but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Yahshua His Son cleanses us from all sin.’*** The Torah is Elohim’s will revealed to all twelve tribes of Israel. It is the essence of His will and wisdom and forms a single oneness, since He is One with His word. Elohim put all His wisdom and will into the 613 commandments of Torah and it became flesh and dwelt among us (as per John 1: 14). Yahshua our Rabbi and Messiah was the living incarnation of the Torah, will and wisdom of YHWH. Therefore when we obey and live by the commands of Torah, we become one with His will and wisdom, as Yahshua indicated in His prayer in John 17: 20 & 21, saying: ***“I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; (21) that they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me.”***

The divine will and wisdom of YHWH can be clothed in material things, through the material objects that we use to remind us to obey His Torah teachings, such as tzitzit, tefillin and the mezuzah, as witnessed in Acts 19: 11 & 12, in this way: ***‘And Elohim was performing extraordinary miracles by***

***the hands of Shaul, (12) so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.*** These material objects that He commands us to use to remind us to obey Him, even though it seems far removed from His Being, can join us to Him and we can experience His presence. The union with Elohim is not affected by their materiality, because it is like embracing Him, when we obey Him, as witnessed in the portion of the Shema we say recorded in Deuteronomy 11: 20 & 21, as follows: ***“And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, (21) so that your days and the days of your sons may be multiplied on the land which YHWH swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens remain above the earth*** (meaning eternally).” Wow, do you grasp that – if we obey the command of writing Elohim’s commandments on the doorposts and gates of our homes, we will inherit the Promised Land eternally with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Do you believe that, or are you trying to spiritualize it away like our Christian brothers are doing? How does this union between us and Elohim take place through obeying and studying Torah? To understand this, we need to understand the relationship between YHWH, Israel and Torah. The Three are joined as One, Israel, the Torah and YHWH, but all on different levels of spirituality. They cannot be separated from one another and are linked like rings in a chain. This union with YHWH actually exists in the soul of every Nazarene Israelite and like-minded believer, because they know Yahshua the Messiah.

From this we can conclude that Torah is the garment or food of our souls and just as physical food and clothing are necessary for the wellbeing of a person, so are the spiritual food and clothing provided by Torah necessary for the wellbeing of our souls or the spirits in us. It is as we read from Deuteronomy 8: 3, in this way: ***“And He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of YHWH.”*** When Yahshua taught His disciples (and by implication us His modern day disciples) in the model prayer to ask our heavenly Father for our daily bread in Matthew 6: 11, He did not only speak about material food for our bodies, but also Torah to feed the Set-apart Spirit that YHWH gave us to unite with the spirit in us and ultimately to give us access to eternal life, provided we remain in touch with Him through His word. Because of this understanding of ‘food’ one should begin to understand the purpose of the command of Kashrut, Matzos and the lessons YHWH is teaching us by its observance. This also help us understand why YHWH was angry when the Israelites rejected the manna He provided daily, except on the Sabbath and wanted flesh to eat to satisfy their lust for flesh instead of the bread of life! This is a picture of those Israelites who reject the Torah of YHWH and would rather listen to and partake of the teachings of men. Therefore the study of Torah is the same as ‘food’ for the spirit of man that will eventually provide him with eternal life. We need to understand that when our intellect ‘ingests’ a certain portion of Torah or perform a particular command, it encompasses Divine Wisdom which becomes food for the spirit which is so closely intertwined with our souls, that it reflects the Set-apart Spirit in us. We become one with Torah as it is absorbed into our lives. That is when we become conformed to the image of Elohim, Yahshua, since He is the embodiment of Torah and the incarnation of the Wisdom and Will of Elohim, as witnessed in Colossians 2: 2 & 3, as follows: ***‘That their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding resulting in a true knowledge of Elohim’s mystery, that is , Messiah Himself, (3) in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.’***

We read Yahshua’s words in John 6: 53 – 58, where He said in a Synagogue in Capernaum: ***“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. (54) He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (55) For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. (56) He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. (57) As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me. (58) This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate, and died, he who eats this bread shall live***



**forever.”** Yahshua was in fact not speaking about ‘communion’ with bread and wine as taught by Christian churches, but about Torah, since He was Torah in flesh and blood and was the very life for the spirits of the people of the house of Israel. The Jewish sages teach that the Torah scroll may be destroyed but its spirit is immortal and cannot be destroyed as much as YHWH is immortal. This is exactly what the Set-apart Spirit will quicken in us at the resurrection to bring the righteous dead back alive from the grave. It is for this very reason that we read from Deuteronomy 32: 45 - 47, **‘When Moses had finished speaking all these words to all Israel, (46) he said to them, “Take to your heart all the words with which I am warning you today, which you shall command your sons to observe carefully, even all the words of this law. (47) For it is not an idle word for you; indeed it is your life. And by this word you shall prolong your days in the land, which you are about to cross the Jordan to possess.”’** The spirit in man has three forms of expression; namely thoughts, speech and deeds. These are the garments through which his life is expressed or clothed. When we observe the commandments in our deeds, and study, discuss and teach Torah through speech, and grasp all the deep things of Torah that our minds or intellect can grasp by thought, then the spirit and soul (or life) of man become clothed in the garment of Torah and are united with Elohim. The person’s life is raised beyond its natural status. It is like being clothed in royal garments. Just as a person’s physical garments may grant him prestige beyond his nature, so the observance of Torah clothes us with spiritual garments that raise our status spiritually.

As much as garments in the natural can be taken off and changed because of defilement; in like manner the Torah may change the garments of our speech, thoughts and deeds, which are under control of the mind or intellect of a person. It is for this reason that Rav Shaul wrote in Romans 13: 12, saying: **‘The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Let us therefore lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.’** Rav Shaul further taught the Ephesians in Ephesians 4: 22 – 25, saying: **‘That, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, (23) and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, (24) and put on the new self, which in the likeness of Elohim has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth (Torah). (25) Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH, EACH ONE of you, WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.’** Recall now the chain – Israel, Torah and YHWH. This chain connection allows the garments of heaven or the Set-apart Spirit to come down and clothe the spirit life of the Israelite. The Divine Soul descends via the Set-apart Spirit downward and clothes the life of man and he is clothed from on High, as we read from the first part of Psalm 132: 9, in this way: **‘Let Thy priests be clothed with righteousness.’** This is how YHWH is presently clothed, as we read from the first part of Psalm 104: 2, as follows: **‘Covering Thyself with light as with a cloak.’** But this is also what Rav Shaul tells the Galatians in Galatians 3: 27, saying: **‘For all of you who were immersed into Messiah have clothed yourselves with Messiah.’** The Scriptures are in perfect harmony and therefore teach us that our righteous or unrighteous deeds and words can clothe us with clean or defiled garments – it is not talking about literal physical clothes, but the spiritual garments of the soul.

As can be seen from Ezekiel 44: 18, the resurrected priests during the millennium will wear clean white garments, which is pictured as linen, the actual material of the priesthood in the Temple, as follows: **“Linen turbans shall be on their heads, and linen undergarments shall be on their loins; they shall not gird themselves with anything that makes them sweat.”** We also read about the bride of Messiah from Revelations 19: 7 & 8, in this way: **“Let us rejoice and be glad and give glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.” (8) And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.’** It is interesting that Adam (the first priest) was originally clothed with garments of light as YHWH is clothed, but when he sinned he lost his garments of light and YHWH clothed him and Eve with skin, the garments which resulted in them to return to the dust from which they were made. The transliterated Hebrew word for naked is ‘arom’ which means to be partially clothed. After the fall of man he became totally naked and the transliterated Hebrew word ‘erom’ meaning totally



naked was used. In Hebrew the word (אור) Ohr - 'alef-vav-resh' means light and (עור) also pronounced as Ohr - 'ayin-vav-resh' means skin. In Hebrew, following the rule of temurot (exchange of letters) - the 'alef' being replaced by an 'ayin' represent spiritual descent. The 'alef' is symbolic of Elohim Himself – the numerical value of 1 and the 'ayin' alludes to sin – transliterated as 'ayin-vav-nun' or 'avon'.

All the garments the priest wore had to be placed on the body over the head, showing that it came from YHWH above. These garments covered the priest's heart and vital organs and this is where YHWH places His Torah, as witnessed in Jeremiah 31: 31 – 33 as follows: ***"Behold, days are coming," declares YHWH, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, (32) not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares YHWH. (33) But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares YHWH, "I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people."*** The breaches or pants had to be lowered and pulled over the priest's nakedness – a type of sin. The garments of the priesthood provided Israel with a picture of the blueprint in heaven (Torah). Even today in synagogues the Torah scroll is clothed in a mantle, sash, breastplate and crown to represent the garments of the High Priest. As the congregants in the synagogue reach to touch or kiss the scroll during the Torah procession, we as Nazarene Israel have the knowledge that it is a representation of our High Priest, Yahshua Messiah the living Torah. It was for this reason that David also wrote in Psalm 2: 12 (KJV), saying: ***'Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.'*** Today the tallit and kippah serve the same purpose. The tzitzit symbolize the 613 commandments as we clothe ourselves in the Torah and (YHWH)'s name.

The connection or union with Elohim through the Torah and commandments mean for the Nazarene Israelites soul (life), what vitamins and nutrients and clothing mean for his body. As these physical elements sustain the body, Torah sustains the Set-apart Spirit which combines with the spirit in man because of obedience, and is reflected in the way he lives his life. It is the bread from heaven (since Yahshua is the embodiment of Torah). We cannot be like Ephraim of old and eat 'unclean' food from Assyria, as Hosea warns in Hosea 9: 3, saying: ***'They will not remain in (YHWH)'s land, but Ephraim will return to Egypt, and in Assyria they will eat unclean food.'*** The garments of the soul, the performance of the commandments, therefore enable one's spirit to take hold of Elohim. By donning the garments of Torah and the living Torah Yahshua, an Israelite becomes united with Elohim. In that way man's behavior can actually bring his live to a higher level that it can never achieve without Torah. Only by living and studying Torah does one clothe himself with Elohim's character. This is how we receive Yahshua the Messiah; we put Him on as a garment, since He is the living Torah. Our garments have become washed in His blood, cleansing us from our Torah breaking and as a result He has already made us to be priests to Elohim, as witnessed in Revelation 1: 5 & 6, in this way: ***'And from Yahshua Messiah, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood, (6) and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His Elohim and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever.'*** We need to understand that the true bride of Messiah consisting of both houses of Israel can only be a Torah observant people, who love the name of YHWH and clothed themselves in garments of Torah. It is also for this reason that Yahshua in the parable of the king who gave a wedding feast for his son concludes with the words recorded in Matthew 22: 11 – 14, saying: ***"But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw there a man not dressed in wedding clothes, (12) and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes? And he was speechless. (13) Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness, in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' (14) For many are called, but few are chosen."*** Think about it!

## **Chapter 5: How important are Elohim's Feast Days to Him?**

When YHWH brought Israel out of Egypt, He intended for them to be a model nation to the rest of the nations around them, as He told them through Moses His servant in Deuteronomy 4: 1 – 8, in this way: ***“And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I am teaching you to perform, in order that you may live and go in and take possession of the land which YHWH, the Elohim of your fathers, is giving you. (2) You shall not add to the word which I commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of YHWH your Elohim which I am command you. (3) Your eyes have seen what YHWH has done in the case of Baal-peor, for all the men who followed Baal-peor, YHWH your Elohim has destroyed them from among you. (4) But you who held fast to YHWH your Elohim are alive today, every one of you. (5) See, I have taught you statutes and judgments just as YHWH my Elohim commanded me, that you should do thus in the land where you are entering to possess it. (6) So keep and do them, for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ (7) For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as is YHWH our Elohim whenever we call on Him? (8) Or what great nation is there that has Statutes and judgments as righteous as this whole law which I am setting before you today?”*** Our forefathers were supposed to be an example to the nations around them; to show these nations that Elohim's way of life produces abundant blessings.

However, we know that the ancient Israelites failed YHWH and as a result of their unbelief, were not allowed to enter the land that YHWH promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, as Rav Shaul wrote reminding us in Hebrews 3: 16 – 19, saying: ***‘For who provoked Him (YHWH) when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? (17) And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? (18) And to whom did He swear that they should not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? (19) And so we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.’*** Similar to our forefathers YHWH is calling us out of our previous lives of sin (or our personal Egypt) to start following Him and to be an example to the rest of the people in the world. His purpose with us is similar to what it was for our ancient forefathers; ultimately He wants those whom He calls at this time to be first-fruits to qualify to enter the coming Kingdom of Elohim as kings and priests under Yahshua, but if we return to Elohim's covenant through Yahshua at this time and be immersed into His saving name for the forgiveness of our sins, has released us as the lost sheep of the house of Israel from our sin and already made us a kingdom of priest to Elohim, as Yahshua showed Yochanan in Revelation 1: 4 – 6, in this way: ***‘Yochanan to the seven congregations that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come; and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne; (5) and from Yahshua Messiah, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood, (6) and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His Elohim and Father; to Him be the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amein’*** Rav Kepha confirmed this in 1 Peter 2: 5 – 10, saying: ***‘You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to Elohim through Yahshua Messiah. (6) For this is contained in Scripture: “BEHOLD I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.” (7) This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve, “THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone,” (8) and, “A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE”; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed. (9) But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE for Elohim's OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (10) for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE of Elohim; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.’*** Rav Yaa'cov also confirms our calling by the Father in James 1: 17 & 18, saying: ***‘Every good thing bestowed and***

***every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow. (18) In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first-fruits among His creatures.'***

Even though some believe that YHWH failed to make our ancient forefathers into an example for the rest of the world; in their failing Him, Rav Shaul tells us that they became examples to us their modern day descendants of what not to do in 1 Corinthians 10: 1 – 11, saying: ***'For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; (2) and all were immersed into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; (3) and all ate the same spiritual food; (4) and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Messiah. (5) Nevertheless, with most of them Elohim was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. (6) Now these things happened as examples for us, that we should not crave evil things as they also craved. (7) And do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY." (8) Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty three thousand fell in one day. (9) Nor let us try YHWH, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. (10) Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. (11) Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.'*** It is therefore important for those of us called at this time, to keep studying the Torah year after year, until Yahshua returns to rule the world from Jerusalem, as it will remind us not to follow the bad examples set by our ancient forefathers.

The problems with our forefathers started when Moses 'delayed' to come down from Mount Sinai. The Israelites were only a few months away from Egypt and the Egyptian way of worship was still fresh in their minds; so Aaron and the people decided to merge these Egyptian ways with the instructions they recently received from YHWH. Our forefathers started doing what many in Christianity are doing today; they blended the beliefs and practices of different religions of the world into worshipping their god. We also see from Exodus 32: 5, ***'Now when Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it (the golden calf); and Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a feast to YHWH."'*** As we've read from the quoted Scriptures in 1 Corinthians 10 above, Elohim was definitely not pleased with them, and we see His reaction, when He said to Moses in verses 7 & 8 of Exodus 32, ***"Go down at once, for your people, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. (8) They have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them. They have made for themselves a molten calf, and have worshiped it, and have sacrificed to it, and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt.'"*** Those of us called out of the world by Elohim should after a reasonable period of time be familiar with what He expects from us and not fall back into old religious practices. As a result of not listening to YHWH He took away their first-born priesthood and gave it to the tribe of Levi, who was prepared to kill three thousand of the rebels from amongst the Israelites that day.

But now that YHWH has redeemed us and made us a priesthood once again, as confirmed in Revelation 1: 6 (quoted earlier), He expects more from us. He has bestowed upon us the highest honor and is creating in us beings that are higher than angels, to rule the universe under Yahshua, as were read from Hebrews 2: 1 – 11, as follows: ***'For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. (2) For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense, (3) how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through YHWH, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, (4) Elohim also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Set-apart Spirit according to His own will. (5) For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking. (6) But one has testified somewhere (King David in Psalm 8), saying, "WHAT IS MAN, THAT THOU REMEMBEREST HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT THOU ART CONCERNED ABOUT HIM? (7) THOU***

**HAST MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN ANGELS; THOU HAST CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAST APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF THY HANDS; (8) THOU HAST PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET.” For in subjecting all things to him (lower case h – meaning mankind), He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him. (9) But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Yahshua, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of Elohim He might taste death for everyone. (10) For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings. (11) For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren.’**

Once we have come to understand Elohim’s truth, we are required to obey Him; we also understand that the instructions and examples in His Word were written for our benefit and edification, as we read from Romans 15: 4, in this way: **‘For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.’** Those who built the golden calf did not fully trust or obey YHWH. They eventually became afraid to enter the Promised Land and Elohim caused them to wander in the wilderness for the next 40 years, until all those who refused to follow Elohim’s instructions died. Only after their death did YHWH prepare the next generation to enter the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh. YHWH again warned the next generation of Israelites against merging pagan customs into their worship practices, as we read from Deuteronomy 12: 29 – 32, as follows: **“When YHWH your Elohim cuts off before you the nations which you are going in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land, (30) beware that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, ‘How do these nations serve their gods, that I also may do likewise?’ (31) You shall not behave thus toward YHWH your Elohim, for every abominable act which YHWH hates they have done for their gods; for they even burn their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. (32) Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take away from it.”** We know that even after entering the Promised Land our forefathers failed to heed Elohim’s warnings. But, YHWH continued to warn them through His servants the prophets. We read one such warning in Jeremiah 10: 1 – 5, in this way: **‘Hear the word which YHWH speaks to you, O house of Israel. (2) Thus says YHWH, “Do not learn the way of the nations, and do not be terrified by the signs of the heavens although the nations are terrified by them; (3) For the customs of the peoples are delusion; because it is wood cut from the forest, the work of the hands of a craftsman with a cutting tool. (4) They decorate it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers so that it will not totter. (5) Like a scarecrow in a cucumber field are they, and they cannot speak; they must be carried, because they cannot walk! Do not fear them, for they can do no harm, nor can they do any good.”** This was a warning against pagan practices of worshipping the host of heaven, such as the sun on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December. But it is also a warning about the pagan custom of bringing Xmas trees, colorful lights and mistletoe and the like into our homes. YHWH is here again warning against learning the way of the Gentiles and teaching the same to our children.

We read a prophecy about what is going to happen to those called out by YHWH at this time from Jeremiah 16: 9 to 21, as follows: **‘For thus says YHWH of hosts, the Elohim of Israel: “Behold, I am going to eliminate from this place, before your eyes and in your time, the voice of rejoicing and the voice of gladness, the voice of the groom and the voice of the bride. (10) Now it will come about when you tell this people all these words that they will say to you, ‘For what reason has YHWH declared all this great calamity against us? And what is our iniquity, or what is our sin which we have committed against YHWH our Elohim?’ (11) Then you are to say to them, ‘It is because your forefathers have forsaken Me,’ declares YHWH, ‘and have followed other gods and served them and bowed down to them; but Me they have forsaken and have not kept My law. (12) You too have done evil, even more than your forefathers; for behold, you are each one walking according**



*to the stubbornness of his own evil heart, without listening to Me. (13) So I will hurl you out of this land into the land which you have not known, neither you nor your fathers; and there you will serve other gods day and night, for I shall grant you no favor.* (14) *Therefore behold, days are coming,” declares YHWH, ‘when it will no longer be said, ‘As YHWH lives, who brought up the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’ (15) but, ‘As YHWH lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of the north and from all the countries where He had banished them.’ For I will restore them to their own land which I gave to their fathers. (16) Behold, I am going to send for many fishermen,” declares YHWH, “and they will fish for them; and afterwards I shall send for many hunters, and they will hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and from the clefts of the rocks. (17) For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity concealed from My eyes. (18) And I will first doubly repay their iniquity and their sin, because they have polluted My land; they have filled My inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable idols and with their abominations.” (19) O YHWH, my strength and my stronghold, and my refuge in the day of distress, to Thee the nations will come from the ends of the earth and say, “Our fathers have inherited nothing but falsehood, futility and things of no profit.” (20) *Can man make gods for himself? Yet they are not gods! (21) Therefore behold, I am going to make them know — this time I will make them know My power and My might; and they shall know that My name is YHWH.”**

At this time many people assume that the so-called ‘Old Testament’ instructions condemning the inclusion of paganism, such as worshipping on Sundays, Xmas and Easter (including forefather worship) in worshipping YHWH our Elohim, were done away with during the times of the apostles. But they could not be more wrong! We see by reading from 2 Corinthians 6: 14 – 18 & 7: 1, where Rav Shaul was telling these believers that pagan customs and practices had no place among the people of Elohim, in this way: ***‘Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? (15) Or what harmony has Messiah with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? (16) Or what agreement has the temple of Elohim with idols? For we are the temple of the living Elohim; just as Elohim said, “I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR ELOHIM, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. (17) “Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE,” says YHWH. “AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; and I will welcome you. (18) “And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me,” says YHWH Almighty. (1) ‘Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness (set-apartness) in the fear of Elohim.’*** We see that the people from Thessalonica who were called out of paganism, followed Elohim fully, as we read from 1 Thessalonians 1: 8 & 9, as follows: ***‘For the word of YHWH has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward Elohim has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. (9) For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to Elohim from idols to serve a living and true Elohim.’*** Even so, there are those who insist that since we now live under the so-called dispensation of grace, we need not be overly concerned about strict adherence to the Torah. But we read from Romans 6: 1 – 6, Rav Shaul saying: ***‘What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? (2) May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? (3) Or do you not know that all of us who have been immersed into Messiah Yahshua have been immersed into His death? (4) Therefore we have been buried with Him through immersion into death, in order that as Messiah was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. (5) For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection, (6) knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.’*** For those who recall the day of their immersion; Romans 6: 3 – 8 was part of the ceremony that we used.

Whereas, we like all Jews follow a cycle of Feast and fast days ordained by YHWH Himself; Christianity and their feast days and other customs were never based upon revelation from YHWH.



Most of us are aware that after king Solomon died, the kingdom of Israel was divided into two separate nations. This is when king Jeroboam started ruling the northern 10 tribes. He was responsible to change the date of the Feast of Tabernacles from the seventh to the eighth month of the Hebrew calendar, as we read from 1 Kings 12: 28 – 32, in this way: ***‘So the king consulted, and made two golden calves, and he said to them (his subjects), “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 (in the north of Israel). (31) And he made houses (of worship) 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.’*** It is because of this idolatry that the ten tribe nation of Israel were later taken captive and were eventually dispersed throughout the world. But today, almost two thousand years after Messiah walked the earth, Ezekiel describes the priests in Christianity 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.”*** These are serious charges against the churches from where most of us are being called out at this time before Messiah’s return.

We, who are called out of the paganism of the world, should therefore be very careful not to condone the feast days observed by the religions around us, in any way. We need to heed the words of our Master and Savior Yahshua Messiah in Mark 7: 6 - 8, as follows; ***‘And He said to them, “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. (7) BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.’ (8) Neglecting the commandment of Elohim, you hold to the tradition of men.’*** Yes it is true, Yahshua was addressing the Pharisees here, talking specifically about their tradition of washing their hands excessively before eating, but this equally applies to the many pagan traditions of Christianity who insist that they follow Messiah, the one they refer to as ‘C\*h\*r\*i\*s\*t, but instead of keeping Elohim’s Feast Days and eating only kosher foods, they insist that He abolished or obeyed Torah for them and they need not worry about it any longer. However reading from Matthew 5: 17 – 20, we see that He in fact taught just the opposite, saying: ***“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 other, 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.”*** By reading the rest of Matthew 5, we actually see that Yahshua made Torah more binding and did not abolish it, in any way. Rav Shaul also warns believers in Colossians 2: 8 not to be fooled to follow the false doctrines introduced by the churches of the world, saying: ***‘See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principle of the world, rather than according to Messiah.’*** We conclude therefore by reading about the false Babylonian religious systems of the world that only leads to confusion and are suitably warned to come out of it 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.’*** The choice at this time remains ours – if we keep the Feast days ordained by Elohim, we are definitely on the right track. Think about it!

## Chapter 6: What was prophesied to happen at Armageddon?

Ever since 2009, YHWH has been warning the Israelite nations of the world by causing severe weather conditions and natural disasters to try and bring us back to worshipping Him the way He intended the commonwealth of Israel to do, since He entered into a covenant relationship with them at Mount Sinai. But because most of the nations belonging to the lost ten tribes of Israel have lost our identity, culture and all knowledge about our covenant with Elohim, we are not even aware of the fact that YHWH is busy punishing us to try to get us to return to Him, as He tells us in Amos 3: 4 – 6, saying: ***‘Does a lion roar in the forest when he has no prey? Does a young lion growl from his den unless he has captured something? (5) Does a bird fall into a trap on the ground when there is no bait in it? Does a trap spring up from the earth when it captures nothing at all? (6) If a trumpet is blown in a city will not the people tremble? If a calamity occurs in a city has not YHWH done it?’***

Most people and governments blame the changes in the weather to natural phenomenon and air pollution caused by having too many factories and motor vehicles which have been destroying the ozone layer that protects us from the Sun’s rays. They hold seminars world-wide to try and get the developed countries to stop polluting the environment and even though going green and using less electricity and fuel will go a long way to save our planet and some money, it is not the final solution for the problems facing the world today, as Isaiah prophesied in Isaiah 24: 4 – 6, saying: ***‘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 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.’*** Whilst most are too blind to understand that if we begin to obey the commandments given in the first five books of the Scriptures known as Torah, others believe that faith in the Messiah did away with the need to obey Torah any longer. This despite Messiah’s own words in John 5: 43 – 47 where He said clearly: ***“I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive (or believe) Me; if another shall come in his own name (like for example a pastor or Christian teacher), you will receive him. (44) How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another, and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only Elohim? (45) Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope. (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?”*** Even though Christianity claims faith in Yahshua our Messiah, they contradict most of what He taught in the Scriptures. In addition, there are many who are happy with the world as it is and have never truly prayed for Elohim’s kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven, but instead mock those who are proclaiming the gospel of the coming Kingdom of Elohim into the world, as Rav Kepha warned in 2 Peter 3 & 4, saying: ***‘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.”***

Since the introduction of the internet, e-mail, cell phones, web pages and social media, people have access to information that was never as readily available as we have it today. This made it possible for people to surf the internet and discover webpages containing various prophecies and predictions based on heavenly signs about how close some believe we are to the end of the age, based on some of the prophesied information available in the word of Elohim, the Scriptures and by Yahshua the Messiah himself in the books of Matthew, Mark and Luke, but also in the book of Revelation. This brings us to our question at the beginning, namely: What was prophesied to happen at Armageddon? Many believe that a nuclear war destined to annihilate all of mankind will occur in a place (in Israel) in the Middle East, called Armageddon. The word Armageddon is taken from two Hebrew words, namely Har-Megiddo, meaning the mountain or hill of Megiddo. We read about Armageddon in Revelation 16: 16, as follows: ***‘And they gathered them together to the place which***

*in the Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.'* Even so, notice that it does not say that the armies are gathered together to attack each other, but in preparation for a great battle to take place there. We read from verses 13 & 14 of Revelation 16, that these armies are demon inspired to gather together in this area, in this way: ***'And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs; (14) for they are spirits of demons performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of Elohim, the Almighty.'*** It is important to understand that by this time the events mentioned in Revelation 6, leading up to and including the Great Tribulation, have already happened.

So let's backtrack to the events mentioned in Revelation 6, to get the full picture. We start reading from Revelation 6: 1 & 2 with the opening of the seven seals, as follows: ***'And I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, "Come." (2) And I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him; and he went out conquering, and to conquer.'*** The breaking of the first seal is the start of the things that will usher in the end time events. The white horse has to do with religion; we know that when Yahshua returns one day, He will also come on a white horse, but, as we see in Revelation 19: 15, He will come with a sword, with which to smite the nations. The one riding the white horse in Revelation 6 will have a bow in his hand. This is one who goes out conquering and to conquer. The question is: Conquering what? I do not believe that this is talking about the religious groups who go out preaching hell and damnation to scare people into believing their false doctrines, as this has been happening since the start of Christianity. In fact, talking about the end of the age, Yahshua identified this as the beginning of the events that will lead up to His return. We read his warning in Matthew 24: 4 & 5, as follows: ***"See to it that no one misleads you* (talking to His disciples and by implication also us, His modern day disciples). ***(5) For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Messiah,' and will mislead many."*** Yes, this is talking about false teachers teaching about the false Messiah, which Christianity calls 'J\*e\*s\*u\*s\* C\*h\*r\*i\*s\*t', but there is much more to this warning.**

Those of us who know and use the correct name of Yahshua our Messiah, will not easily be taken in by those who preach using the incorrect name and title for the Savior of mankind. Even though this also warns against those who preach about the false Messiah who came to do away with His Fathers Torah, as we read from 2 Corinthians 11: 4, ***'For if one comes and preaches another Yahshua whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel* (a gospel about the person of J\*e\*s\*u\*s\*, rather than the good news about the coming kingdom of Elohim) ***which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.'*** Belief in the coming kingdom of Elohim on earth as explained in Revelation 5: 10, essentially differs from the teaching that 'good' people go to heaven, and 'bad' people go to hell, upon death, to be tormented forever and ever. The deception spoken about here has in the main, to do with those who preach a different doctrine, as we are warned about in 1 Timothy 6: 3 – 5, as follows: ***'If anyone advocates a different doctrine* (i.e. that believers in J\*e\*s\*u\*s\* are already born again and will go straight to heaven upon death, instead of, that those of us called at this time need to follow the way of Elohim, in the footsteps of Yahshua our perfect example, until the day we die, or upon His return to usher in the Kingdom of Elohim, on earth as it is in heaven.), ***and does not agree with sound words, those of our Master Yahshua Messiah, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness* (the way we live our lives), ***(4) he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words* (such as: {a} saying that all food is clean based on 1 Timothy 4: 4, provided you receive it with thanksgiving and prayer, without reading verse 5, which clearly tells us that YHWH already sanctified certain meats for human consumption, whilst other meats are considered unclean as recorded in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14; and {b} not to judge people in respect of what they eat and which festival, new moon or Sabbath day they keep as per Colossians********

2: 16, neglecting to mention that the congregation or body of Messiah is responsible to make such decisions, based on His teachings regarding obedience to Torah and not any outsider), ***out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, (5) and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.***' This is also talking about people who are selling religious teachings according to the example set them by Simon Magus in Acts 8: 18 - 21<sup>5</sup>, instead of doing it for free, as Messiah taught His disciples in Matthew 10: 5 -8.

The deception further includes those who deceive fellow believers to keep the Feast Days at different times to those ordained by YHWH our Elohim, which will ultimately result in them not keeping the Feast of Trumpets (Yom Teruah or Rosh Hashanah) when Yahshua returns on that day. But, also those who purposely hide the Set-apart names of YHWH and Yahshua; which leaves us with the questions raised by Rav Shaul in Romans 10: 13 & 14, namely: ***'for "WHOEVER WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF YHWH 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?*** However, it is equally important not to teach unbelievers the Set-apart Names, since that will lead to them not giving proper honor to Elohim's name when 'blessing' unclean foods or keeping pagan holidays in His name, as we are suitably warned about in Malachi 2: 2 – 8. We also need to understand that the 'blessing' of food is purely a Christian habit, since the foods that Elohim sanctified in the Scriptures is already blessed, as long as we prepare them properly. Instead, we as Nazarene Jews/Israelites, like all Jews should bless Elohim for providing us with food and drink we require from the earth. The word 'Bless' transliterated in Hebrew as '*Baruch*' is only used for Elohim. We say a person is blessed transliterated in Hebrew as '*Asheri*', as Yahshua mentioned in His 'Sermon on the Mount' in for example Matthew 5: 8, saying: ***'Blessed (Asheri) are the pure in heart, for they shall see Elohim.'***

Yahshua warned in Matthew 24: 5, that even though false teachers teach that He is the Messiah, they will mislead many using His correct Set-apart Name and title. We read about the way in which this deception takes place in 2 Corinthians 11: 3, as follows: ***'But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Messiah.'*** These agents of Satan are called out believers, who were somehow in their walk, misled by Satan and his agents, as is confirmed in 2 Corinthians 11: 13 - 15, in this way: ***'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.'*** This deception to win converts to help teaching falsehood will continue right up to the time of Yahshua's return, as we read from Matthew 24: 24, as follows: ***"For false Messiahs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect."*** So, even those of us who have been around for many years could be deceived by Satan and his human agents. The point is that we need to continue to study the Scriptures to validate the doctrines that we believe.

We see from Revelation 6: 3 & 4 that besides the religious deception the tribulation will also include war, as follows: ***'And when He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come." (4) And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth and that men should slay one another; and a great sword was given to him.'*** The red horse represents war, and this is talking about ongoing wars that will ultimately escalate

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<sup>5</sup>Acts 8: 18 – 21: ***'Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of hand of the apostles, he offered the money, saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Set-apart Spirit." But Kepha said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of Elohim with money! You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before Elohim"'***



into World War III, as Yahshua warned in Matthew 24: 6 & 7, saying: ***‘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.’*** The world that we live in is in a very dangerous and unstable place and the Scriptures tells us that it will get increasingly worse. Nevertheless, we read Yahshua’s teaching from verse 8 of Matthew 24, saying: ***“But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.”*** Still talking about the Great Tribulation, we read about the third seal broken in Revelation 6: 5 & 6, as follows: ***‘And when He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, “Come.” And I looked, and behold, a black horse (famine); and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. (6) And I heard as it were a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.”’*** Famine is soon followed by pestilence as we read in verses 7 & 8 of Revelation 6, in this way: ***‘And when He broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come.” (8) And I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. And authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.’*** This is talking about major misfortunes that will soon be facing humanity, as is confirmed by Yahshua in Matthew 24: 21 & 22, 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.”***

This takes us back to Revelation 16, where we are busy discussing the final battle of Armageddon. At this time in history, the kings or leaders of nations still alive will have banded together in support of the beast mentioned in Revelation 17. These leaders and their people will be of one mind and will give their power to the beast as witnessed in verses 12 & 13 of Revelation 17. In this way: ***“And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. (13) These have one purpose and they give their power and authority to the beast.”*** These leaders are absolutely driven by Satan and his demons; we saw from Revelation 16: 13 – 16 (quoted previously) that Satan and his demons will perform miraculous signs to influence the remaining leaders of the world to gather their armies together for the battle of Armageddon. Since Israel is the mid-point of the world, these leaders will invade its land for a showdown over who will finally rule the world. However, they will not be there to fight each other; instead, they will prepare to fight Messiah when He returns. Normally, people make war against other people, but here the Scriptures show us that men will actually prepare to fight against the returning Messiah. At that time, these end time leaders will be so power hungry that they will try and fight with the very Elohim, hoping that their ‘superior’ nuclear arms will help them succeed. However, because Elohim knows that these nuclear arms are powerful enough to destroy all life on earth, He will intervene to save us from ourselves. To Satan, these remaining armies appear strong enough to accomplish his final task of destroying all human beings still alive at this time. But what he and his human helpers don’t realize (and won’t accept), is that Elohim allows him to deceive these arrogant leaders into believing that they are able to win this final battle, to control the world. This is when Elohim will enter into battle with the remaining Satan inspired world leaders, to stop them from destroying the world.

Now that we have a better understanding of the purpose of the final battle known as Armageddon, we read again from the last part of Revelation 16: 14, as follows: ***‘to gather them together for the war of the great day of Elohim, the Almighty.’*** This event is also confirmed by the prophet Zechariah in chapter 14: 1 - 4, in this way: ***‘Behold, a day is coming for YHWH when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you. (2) For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished, and half of the***



*city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city. (3) Then YHWH will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. (4) 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.'* This as we know from other Scriptural witnesses, is talking about the visible image (or part) of Elohim, namely Yahshua. These rulers who are preparing for war are also mentioned by the prophet Joel in chapter 3: 9 & 10, as follows: ***'Proclaim this among the nations; prepare a war; rouse the mighty men! Let all the soldiers draw near, let them come up! (10) Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears; let the weak say, "I am a mighty man."*** These leaders will be so determined to make war that they will transform all their farming and other implements into weapons of war. The armies will get together in the plain of Megiddo and will deploy their forces throughout the land of Israel. As we read from the quote in Zechariah above, this war will actually take place around Jerusalem. But, this battle will not be much of a contest, since Elohim is planning to destroy those arrogant enough to fight against Him. Armageddon, is therefore representative of a great battle between the forces of good and evil. This day is spoken about in a number of Scriptures, as 'the day of YHWH'.

We continue with the prophesy in Joel 3: 12 – 14, in this way: ***'Let the nations be aroused and come up to the valley of Jehoshapat, for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. (13) Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread, for the wine press is full; the vats overflow, for their wickedness is great. (14) 'Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of YHWH is near in the valley of decision.'*** This is in agreement with the revelation of Yahshua Messiah, to His bond-servant Yochanan (John) recorded in Revelation 14: 14 – 19, as follows: ***'And I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud was one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head, and a sharp sickle in His hand. (15) And another angel came out of the temple, crying out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle and reap, because the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe." (16) And He who sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth; and the earth was reaped. (17) And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle. (18) And another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Put in your sharp sickle, and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe." (19) And the angel swung his sickle to the earth, and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of Elohim.'*** We see from Revelation 19: 15, that it is Yahshua who will tread the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty Elohim. We also see from Revelation 14: 20 that the bloodshed will not be limited to the immediate vicinity of Jerusalem, in this way: ***'And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles.'***

Even though mankind will be on the brink of extinction, Elohim will intervene to save us from ourselves, as is confirmed in Daniel 12: 1, as follows: ***"Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued."*** Just in time Yahshua our Messiah will deliver His followers from the wrath to come. We read in 1 Thessalonians 5: 9 the very comforting portion of Scriptures, in this way: ***'For Elohim has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Master Yahshua Messiah.'*** We read a second witness to this from Romans 5: 9 & 10, as follows: ***'Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of Elohim through Him. (10) 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.'***

At this time Yahshua the Lamb of Elohim will finally be recognized as the Redeemer and Savior of mankind. We read from Revelation 17: 14, ***‘These 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 the chosen and faithful.’*** This tells us that it takes more than being called; we need to also be chosen by Yahshua and will have to remain faithful to the end. Yes, the doctrine of ‘once saved, always saved’ is simply not true! Satan controlled the affairs of mankind for many years, but after this final war, Elohim will again be the Supreme ruler of the earth. This will be the start of the thousand year reign of Yahshua our Messiah and His elect, who will rule the world, inhabited by flesh and blood human beings. Those of mankind, who survived the great tribulation and the Day of YHWH, will live on into the millennium and enjoy unprecedented peace and prosperity on earth. Even so, there are those who do not believe that there will be physical people alive during the millennium, where they will not have to contend with Satan’s influence in their lives, since they believe that this will be unfair to the rest of mankind. But, if we bear in mind that the millennium is at this time, represented by the Sabbath day (and Feast of Tabernacles), then there is no need to feel envious towards those who will live during that wonderful time. It is certain that there will be human survivors living during the 1000 year reign of Yahshua and they will not have Satan to contend with, as he will be bound in the abyss during that time. The period of a thousand years of peace and prosperity has been foretold in Revelation 20: 4 – 6, and is pictured vividly in Isaiah 11: 1 – 10, as follows: ***‘Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. (2) And the Spirit of YHWH will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of YHWH. (3) And He will delight in the fear of YHWH, 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 YHWH as the waters cover the sea. (10) Then it will come about in that day that the nations will resort to the root of Jesse, who will stand as a signal for the peoples; and His resting place will be glorious.’***

We see further from Micah 4: 1 – 3 that during the Millennium the reverse of what occurred before the war of Armageddon, where the kings converted farm and other implements to weapons of war, will happen, as follows: ***‘And it will come about in the last days that the mountain (government) of the house of YHWH will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it. (2) And many nations will come and say, “Come and let us go up to the mountain of YHWH and to the house of the Elohim of Jacob, that He may teach us about His ways and that we may walk in His paths.” For from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of YHWH from Jerusalem. (3) And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war.*** So there is no denying; this is talking about flesh and blood people who will be alive, after the establishment of Yahshua’s kingdom here on earth. The plus minus 200 million people who will survive the Great Tribulation and the Day of YHWH (i.e. a tenth of a third of the present-day population of the earth) will again have families and repopulate the earth, and their number will be like the sand of the seashore at the end of the Millennium. Half of these survivors will be Gentiles who will in the main remain obedient during the Millennium. But, when the thousand years are

completed, Satan will be released from his prison and will again gather the nations at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, together for war. They will surround the camp of the true believers in Jerusalem, but fire will come down from heaven to devour them. This will be their end, as they will have sinned with full knowledge, gained during the millennium.

Even though Armageddon is a symbol for destruction of evil forces, it is also the beginning of mankind's salvation. Eventually Armageddon will bring an end to fear, pain and destruction. Yahshua our Messiah will replace the current economic, political, educational and religious systems of the world, with a system based on the way of Elohim, when Elohim's Kingdom will be on earth as it is in heaven. Halleluyah!

## **Chapter 7: Do you sigh and groan for all the abominations committed in Israel?**

Because we are human and endowed with emotional feelings, we are usually fairly desponded after the annual Fall Feast Days of Elohim. After spending more than a week away from the world and its worries, it is most disconcerting to return home and realize how small the capacity of Elohim's people is to learn to apply Torah in their lives, because of years of deception and lies that kept us away from Elohim's truth, and the reality that most became so calloused through continual noncompliance of Scriptural rules we mistakenly believed to be unimportant, that we sin habitually and it has become very difficult to unlearn past misguided habits. The point is that YHWH our Elohim is a merciful Elohim and always willing to forgive those who return to Him and His ways as He showed us in Ezekiel 3: 4 - 11 where He instructed the prophet Ezekiel to speak to the nation of Israel to try and get them to return to Him and His Torah teachings for our good, as follows: ***'Then He (Elohim) said to me (Ezekiel), "Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them. (5) For you are not being sent to a people of unintelligible speech or difficult language, but to the house of Israel, (6) nor to many peoples of unintelligible speech or difficult language, whose words you cannot understand. But I have sent you to them who should listen to you; (7) yet the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, since they are not willing to listen to Me. Surely the whole house of Israel is stubborn and obstinate. (8) Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads. (9) Like emery harder than flint I have made your forehead. Do not be afraid of them or be dismayed before them, though they are a rebellious house." (10) Moreover, He said to me, "Son of man, take into your heart all My words which I shall speak to you, and listen closely. (11) And go to the exiles, to the sons of your people, and speak to them and tell them, whether they listen or not, 'Thus says YHWH Elohim.'"***

We need to understand that YHWH has appointed those of us whom He has called out of the religions of the world, to become watchmen over the house of Israel and as watchmen you and I have to warn our people to stop sinning, as we witnessed in Ezekiel 3: 17 – 21, in this way: ***'Son of man, I have appointed you a watchman to the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from My mouth, warn them from Me. (18) When I say to the wicked, "You shall surely die"; and you do not warn him or speak out to warn the wicked from his wicked way that he may live, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. (19) Yet if you have warned the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered yourself. (20) Again, when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I place an obstacle before him, he shall die; since you have not warned him, he shall die in his sin, and his righteous deeds which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand. (21) However, if you have warned the righteous man that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; and you have delivered yourself.'*** We as Elohim's watchmen have to remain ever vigilant to warn Elohim's people, whether they are good or wicked. If we do not, we might perish with them – it is therefore very important that we continue to warn especially fellow Israelites, as Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 58: 1, saying: ***"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."*** However, the problem facing us today is the fact that almost the entire house of Israel has been deceived by Satan and his many human agents. When some read the heading of this lesson, they immediately think this has to do with what the Jewish nation in the piece of land in the Middle East, known as Israel, are doing and what they are doing wrong. Very few realize that there are at most only three tribes of the ancient nation of Israel ruled by King David present in the land of Israel, namely the tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Levi, also known in the Scriptures as the house of Judah, today. The remaining ten tribes known as the house of Israel were scattered throughout the nations of the world, because of idolatry, and are to be found amongst mainly the western nations of the world today. Fewer, understand that the house of Israel has been in captivity by Esau (Rome) for almost 1800 years, but that in the end Babylon will be destroyed, when the nation of Zion has been born again when the

two houses of Israel are united as the commonwealth of Israel, during a final conflict which will result in the destruction of the beast and the false prophet in the lake of fire, during a late northern hemisphere autumn.

Even though some of the evils being committed in the world are also being done in the modern state of Israel in the Middle East, most of the abominations that are being committed in the western world can be ascribed to the lost ten tribes of the house of Israel, as Ezekiel wrote in Ezekiel 22: 23 – 29, saying: ***‘And the word of YHWH came to me saying, “Son of man, say to her, ‘You are a land that is not cleansed or rained on in the day of indignation.’ (25) There is a conspiracy of her prophets in her midst, like a roaring lion tearing the prey. They have devoured lives; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in the midst of her. (26) 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. (27) Her princes within her are like wolves tearing the prey, by shedding blood and destroying lives in order to get dishonest gain. (28) And her prophets have smeared whitewash for them, seeing false visions and divining lies for them, saying, ‘Thus says YHWH Elohim,’ when YHWH has not spoken. (29) The people of the land have practiced oppression and committed robbery, and they have wronged the poor and needy and have oppressed the sojourner without justice.”*** We see from verses 18 – 20 of Ezekiel 22 that YHWH is talking specifically to the house of Israel, as follows: ***“Son of man, the house of Israel has become dross to Me; all of them are bronze and tin and iron and lead in the furnace; they are the dross of silver. (19) Therefore, thus says YHWH Elohim, ‘Because all of you have become dross, therefore, behold, I am going to gather you into the midst of Jerusalem. (20) As they gather silver and bronze and iron and lead and tin into the furnace to blow fire on it in order to melt it, so I shall gather you in My anger and in My wrath, and I shall lay you there and melt you.”*** The question is: Are we as called out believers in YHWH and His Torah, in the least concerned about what is happening in the world around us? Do we mourn when we see the sins being committed by so-called religious people around us? Are we concerned about the children and parents who have been deceived to continue to believe the lies about Xmas and birthdays that they are supposed to remember?

But even worse, are we worried about those of us who have become less committed due to worries of the world and difficult circumstances. Brethren we need to be particularly concerned about a root of bitterness that enters our people because of an unbelieving heart, resulting in them not being able to enter the Kingdom of Elohim, as Rav Shaul warned in Hebrews 3: 12 – 17 and 4: 1, in this way: ***‘Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living Elohim. (13) But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (14) For we have become partakers of Messiah, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end; (15) while it is said, “TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME.” (16) For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? (17) And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? (18) And to whom did He swear that they should not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? (19) And so we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief. (1) Therefore, let us fear lest, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it.’*** You and I need to pray and encourage one another daily as there are very difficult times ahead which will test our faith to the absolute limit. We read Rav Shaul’s admonition about the times and conditions we live in today in 2 Timothy 3: 1 – 9, 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; (5) holding to a form of godliness (or religion), although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these. (6) For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak woman weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, (7) always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. (8) And just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected as regards the faith. (9) But they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all, as also that of those two came to be.'*

We read a further warning about this root of bitterness from Deuteronomy 29: 14, 15 & 18, as follows: *"Now not with you alone am I making this covenant and this oath (talking about the covenant that YHWH renewed with the children of Israel as they were about to enter the Promised Land), (15) but both with those who stand here with us today in the presence of YHWH our Elohim, and with those who are not with us here today (meaning us the progeny of the Israelites who were ready to enter the Promised Land); (18) 'lest there shall be among you a man or woman, or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from YHWH our Elohim, to go and serve the gods of those nations; lest there shall be among you a root bearing poisonous fruit and wormwood.'"* The problem with those who harden their hearts through a root of bitterness is that there is a point of no return, after which we cannot return to YHWH, even if we try as Rav Shaul also warned in Hebrews 6: 4 – 6, saying: *'For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Set-apart Spirit, (5) and have tasted the good word of Elohim and the powers of the age to come, (6) and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of Elohim, and put Him to open shame.'* Continuing in Ezekiel 9: 4 – 10 we read Elohim's instruction to Ezekiel about those who are concerned about fellow believers, as follows: *'And YHWH said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, even through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations which are being committed in its midst." (5) But to the others He said in my hearing, "Go through the city after him and strike; do not let your eye have pity, and do not spare. (6) Utterly slay old men, young men, maidens, little children, and women, but do not touch any man on whom is the mark; and you shall start from My sanctuary." So they started with the elders who were before the temple. (7) And He said to them, "Defile the temple and fill the courts with the slain. Go out!" Thus they went out and struck down the people in the city. (8) Then it came about as they were striking and I alone was left, that I fell on my face and cried out saying, "Alas, YHWH Elohim! Art Thou destroying the whole remnant of Israel by pouring out Thy wrath on Jerusalem?" (9) Then He said to me, "The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is very, very great, and the land is filled with blood, and the city is full of perversion; for they say, "YHWH has forsaken the land, and YHWH does not see!" (10) But as for Me, My eye will have no pity nor shall I spare, but I shall bring their conduct upon their heads.'"* Yes, YHWH is at this time marking those of us who are deeply concerned about the things happening in the world around us, in order to later make a distinction between the righteous and the wicked who continue to deceive innocent children through Xmas trees and beautifully colored sparkling lights, using Satan's tactic of tempting people through the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life, thereby perpetuating the lies their parents tell them from one generation of Israelites to the next.

The problem is that most in Churchianity have become so blind over the last two centuries, that they do not even know they are committing sin – instead most believe they are worshipping 'G-d' and keeping these pagan feast days in His honor. The major problem being that Churchianity have been deceived by Satan that Messiah, the one they call C\*h\*r\*i\*s\*t\*, has abolished Torah for them. As a result they are totally unaware of Elohim's command in Deuteronomy 12: 29 – 32, in this way: *"When YHWH your Elohim cuts off before you the nations which you are going in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land, (30) beware that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying,*

***‘How do these nations serve their gods, that I also may do likewise?’ (31) You shall not behave thus toward YHWH your Elohim, for every abominable act which YHWH hates they have done for their gods; for they even burn their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. (32) Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take away from it.”*** You might say: ‘But modern day Israelites do not burn their children to their gods’. If you believe that to be true, ask yourself: How many unborn aborted Israelite children have been burned since most Israelite nations introduced abortion on demand in their countries? Yes, they do not believe they do it to their gods, but similarly do they not believe a Xmas tree to be a god. But, how does YHWH view their actions? Most members of the lost ten tribes of Israel who were scattered throughout the world do not have an inkling that they are in fact part of the people for whom at least 90% of the Scriptures were written, including the Tanach (which they refer to as the ‘Old Testament’).

A major role player in the fact that people do not understand the Scriptures is that Satan is continually blinding the minds of unbelievers to Elohim’s true gospel, as witnessed 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.’*** Even so, we see from verse 1 & 2 and 5 & 6 of 2 Corinthians 4, that we should not lose heart but continue to shine as lights in this dying world, as follows: ***‘Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, (2) but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of Elohim, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of Elohim. (5) For we do not preach ourselves but Messiah Yahshua as Master, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Yahshua’s sake. (6) For Elohim, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of Elohim in the face of Messiah.’*** Yes, by keeping Elohim’s Sabbaths and not those of the world, and by not eating the unclean foods that they partake of at that time of the year, we are a manifestation of truth to every man’s conscience in the sight of Elohim, be it only for a very short time. The truth is that by keeping away from these pagan practices, we somehow are doing Elohim’s work to believe in the One whom He sent, and witnessing against the things people are doing in the world. In this way YHWH might eventually call some who are now distant to come near to Him. In addition, when the great tribulation commence and the tire hits the road, many of those to whom Elohim’s people witnessed to in the past, will search them out to have Elohim’s truth explained to them. These are the ones spoken about in Revelation 7: 9 – 14 as the great multitude, who will eventually also come to repentance, but because they did not follow the way of Elohim, when He called them at first, they will not be part of the 144,000 believers who will become kings and priests under Yahshua.

Yes, we should therefore not lose heart but continue to tell people about the coming Kingdom of Elohim, as we have witnessed in 2 Corinthians 4: 13 – 18, as follows: ***‘But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE,” we also believe, therefore also we speak; (14) knowing that He who raised the Master Yahshua will raise us also with Yahshua and will present us with you. (15) For all things are for your sakes, that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of Elohim. (16) Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. (17) For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, (18) while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.’*** We need to look at things beyond this world, which is like us only temporary. We should look at the world to come and the city for which our father Abraham looked. We see witnessed in 2 Corinthians 5: 1 – 4, that those of us who received Elohim’s Set-apart Spirit at immersion, should look forward to a time when after we died, we will be resurrected as Spiritual children of Elohim, in this way: ***‘For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is***

***torn down, we have a building from Elohim, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (2) For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven; (3) inasmuch as we, having put it on, shall not be found naked. (4) For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed, but to be clothed, in order that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.*** When Adam and Eve sinned YHWH took away the light which was their covering prior to sinning, and covered them in skin, but for those who obey Elohim's Torah and hold to the testimony of Messiah, He will again dress us in His Shekinah glory or light after we are resurrected to life after Messiah's return, as Yochanan wrote in 1 John 3: 2, saying: ***'Beloved, now we are children of Elohim, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.'***

We should at this time show the Israelites amongst whom we live, how to live as people who made Elohim King in our lives. It is as Rav Shaul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5: 18 - 21, saying: ***'Now all these things are from Elohim, who reconciled us to Himself through Messiah, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, (19) namely, that Elohim was in Messiah reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. (20) Therefore, we are ambassadors for Messiah, as though Elohim were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Messiah, be reconciled to Elohim. (21) He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of Elohim in Him.'*** As ambassadors of the coming Kingdom of Elohim, we need to teach fellow believers how living in obedience to Elohim's commandments will reap the blessings He promised in His word. Yahshua came to bring the lost sheep of Israel back to our Father, but also the faith that our Jewish Brothers preserved for us. We who are alive at the end time are truly Jacob's heel who will suffer the worse persecution ever by Satan and his agents, as witnessed in Ezekiel 7: 1 - 4 as follows: ***'Moreover, the word of YHWH came to me saying, (2) "And you, son of man, thus says YHWH Elohim to the land of Israel, 'An end! The end is coming on the four corners of the land. (3) 'Now the end is upon you, and I shall send My anger against you; I shall judge you according to your ways, and I shall bring all your abominations upon you. (4) For My eye will have no pity on you, nor shall I spare you, but I shall bring your ways upon you, and your abominations will be among you; then you will know that I am YHWH!' We as the descendants of the house of Israel are much more likely to follow pagan customs than the house of Judah. It was for this reason that Jeremiah warned in Jeremiah 10: 1 - 5, saying: 'Hear the word which YHWH speaks to you, O house of Israel. (2) Thus says YHWH, "Do not learn the way of the nations, and do not be terrified by the signs of the heavens although the nations are terrified by them; (3) For the customs of the peoples are delusion; because it is wood cut from the forest, the work of the hands of a craftsman with a cutting tool. (4) They decorate it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers so that it will not totter (move). (5) Like a scarecrow in a cucumber field are they, and they cannot speak; they must be carried, because they cannot walk! Do not fear them, for they can do no harm, nor can they do any good.'*** Now, some might argue that this has nothing to do with the custom of putting Xmas trees in their homes and even if they are correct, this is a warning not to follow the customs of the nations amongst whom we were scattered because of idolatry, started by king Jeroboam who ruled the house of Israel after King Solomon.

How long are the people from the house of Israel going to continue in their rebellion against YHWH and His anointed? Even amongst those of us whom YHWH is currently calling out of the religions of the world, there are some who know that they are from the lost ten tribes, and that the house of Judah remained faithful to YHWH, but because of an inherent jealousy or downright anti-Semitic attitude, refuse to follow the calendar and kosher laws that they preserved for us since their return from captivity 2,500 years ago when Ezra and Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls of the city and the Temple. The point is; if an Israelite or Gentile wants to become a Nazarene Jew/Israelite he or she must attach him/herself to the tree of Israel through Abraham, to be truly considered a Nazarene according to Jewish Halacha. Yes, to return to YHWH, we have to become

part of the commonwealth of Israel, whose faith was always Jewish, as we read from Ephesians 2: 11 – 14, in this way: ***‘Therefore remember, that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Un-circumcision” by the so-called ‘Circumcision,’ which is performed in the flesh by human hands—(12) remember that you were at that time separate from Messiah, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without Elohim in the world. (13) But now in Messiah Yahshua you who formerly were far off 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.’*** Yes, we have to go back to Judaism, but we cannot just go to the synagogue and announce that we are back. No, we have to go back to the Father and Brother Judah through the blood of Messiah, by being immersed and taught the way, before we will finally become one in the hand of YHWH, when Messiah returns. Yahshua never renounced the Jewish faith into which He was born. He did not come to start a new religion called Christianity; no He came specifically to bring the lost sheep of the house of Israel back to their original faith in YHWH. He came as the Son of Man to be our kinsman redeemer, paying for our sins so that we may once again return to the Father, as He also confirmed in Matthew 15: 24, saying: ***‘But He answered and said, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’***

How long are we going to contradict the Master who redeemed us? How long are we going to believe false doctrines which are nowhere to be found in the Scriptures? Even though YHWH started calling people out of the religions of the world since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the great falling away spoken about by Rav Shaul in first Timothy 4: 1 – 5, has already started during the mid-1990’s and is continuing at this time, as follows: ***‘But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, (2) by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, (3) men who forbid marriage (like the Roman Catholic clergy) and advocate abstaining from foods (like meat on Fridays), which Elohim has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth. (4) For everything created by Elohim is good, and nothing is to be rejected, if it is received with gratitude; (5) for it is sanctified by means of the word of Elohim and prayer.’*** People have become so thick skinned that they do not even know they believe a lie and the first thing that those who object to eating kosher refer to is verse 4 quoted above, however, the point is fortunately clarified in verse 5, where it tells us clearly that YHWH has long ago Set-apart or sanctified food suitable for human consumption in both Leviticus 11, and Deuteronomy 14. But, what does it mean to fall away from the faith? Which faith? There is only one faith according to Ephesians 4: 5, which was once delivered to the saints – the called out ones as per Jude 3, in this way: ***‘Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.’*** Continuing in verse 4, we read Jude’s warning, as follows: ***‘For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our Elohim into licentiousness and deny (from the Greek word ‘arneomai’ also meaning to contradict) our only Teacher and Master, Yahshua Messiah.’*** The congregation of YHWH was not started by Yahshua’s disciples in 31 CE after His ascension to heaven, but is as witnessed in Acts 7: 37 & 38 the same one started by Moses in the wilderness, as follows: ***“This is the Moses who said to the sons of Israel, ‘ELOHIM SHALL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN.’ (38) This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness together with the angel who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai, and who was with our fathers; and he received living oracles to pass on to you.”*** These oracles which Moses passed on to our fathers in the faith were retained for us by our Jewish Brothers as Rav Shaul wrote in Romans 3: 1 – 2, saying: ***‘Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? (2) Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of Elohim.’***

If we want to make it into the Kingdom of Elohim, we need to continue in that faith until Messiah's return or when we die, as we read in Revelation 14: 12: ***'Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of Elohim and their faith in Yahshua.'*** Yes, Torah cannot be removed from faith as is confirmed in Psalm 119: 29 & 30, ***'Remove the false way from me, and graciously grant me Thy Law (Torah).*** (30) ***I have chosen the faithful way; I have placed Thine ordinances before me.'*** Those who teach against Torah should always be reminded of Yahshua's own words in John 5: 43 – 47, where He says: ***"I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another shall come in his own name, you will receive him.*** (A case in point is Christianity's belief in going to heaven at death – despite Yahshua clearly saying in John 3: 13, ***'no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man'***, people still hold onto the myth sold to them by Satan.) (44) ***How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another, and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only Elohim?*** (45) ***Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father, the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope.*** (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?'*** Those who say they believe in J\*e\*s\*u\*s\* and reject Elohim's Torah penned for us by Moses are deceiving themselves and are cursing themselves and their children. But they are doing so without knowing, since they are blinded at this time. However, that does not give us as Elohim's watchmen the right to sit on our haunches doing nothing until the Kingdom of Elohim comes!

So many today want to go back to their Hebrew Roots, but what are those Hebrew Roots other than Judaism! Yes, we are still part of the other flock of sheep spoken about by Yahshua in John 10: 16, saying: ***'And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock with one shepherd.'*** It should be part of our hope and dream to ultimately be united with Judah in the hand of YHWH one day soon when Messiah returns. Think about it!



## **Chapter 8: What does it mean to be a disciple of Messiah?**

The transliterated Hebrew word used for disciple in the Scriptures is *'Talmidim'* simply meaning student or follower. To be a true student or follower of Messiah, we must believe or hold to the testimony of Yahshua. The testimony of Yahshua bear witness to the way He lived His life and what He taught whilst He was on earth as recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, but also what was prophesied about Him in the Tanach and the prophecies that He gave his disciples about His return in Matthew, Mark, Luke and the book of Revelation. Yahshua our Messiah came specifically to bring the lost sheep of the house of Israel back to the covenant they made with Elohim, together with the house of Judah at Mount Sinai, as He said in Matthew 15: 24<sup>6</sup>, but also as prophesied by Caiaphas in John 11: 49 – 52 as follows: ***'But a certain one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, (50) nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation should not perish."*** (51) ***Now this he did not say on his own initiative; but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Yahshua was going to die for the nation, (52) and not for the nation (of Judah) only, but that He might also gather together into one the children of Elohim who are scattered abroad*** (meaning the lost sheep of Israel, scattered abroad by YHWH because of idolatry as prophesied in Hosea 1: 1 – 10).'

In the parable of the prodigal son Yahshua describes the two houses of Israel that was split into two separate kingdoms after King Solomon's rule of the commonwealth of Israel, because he started following the pagan gods of the many foreign wives that he married after which the tabernacle of King David came to an end. However, as Yahshua indicated in the parable, the prodigal son eventually came to his senses and decided to return to his father's house after many years of spending his inheritance on loose living and eventually having to eat pig's food as a religious diet. Obviously, after spending years away from his father, squandering his inheritance and living it up in the world, the eldest son became jealous when the father slaughtered the fatted calf for his returning wayward son, who because of loose living (idolatry) squandered his inheritance, whilst the eldest son always remained loyal to the father. The way we as the prodigal son lived in the past deserves the death penalty by stoning, but Yahshua our Messiah who was prophesied to bring the lost sheep of the house of Israel back, paid the death penalty on our behalf, in amongst other Isaiah 49 and specifically in verses 5, 6, 15 & 16, in this way: ***'And now says YHWH, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, to bring Jacob back to Him, in order that Israel might be gathered to Him (For I am honored in the sight of YHWH, and My Elohim is My strength), (6) He says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth."*** (15) ***"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,"*** We also read Rav Yaa'cov's words regarding the re-establishing of the Tabernacle of David by Yahshua in Acts 15: 15 – 18, as follows: ***"And with this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written, (16) 'AFTER THESE THINGS I WILL RETURN, AND WILL REBUILD THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID WHICH HAS FALLEN, AND I WILL REBUILD ITS RUINS, AND I WILL RESTORE IT, (17) IN ORDER THAT THE REST OF MANKIND MAY SEEK YHWH, AND ALL THE GENTILES WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME*** (meaning Israel the covenant people of Elohim),' ***(18) SAYS YHWH, WHO MAKES THESE THINGS KNOWN FROM OF OLD."***

Rav Shaul likewise confirms Yahshua's purpose to bring the house of Israel together with the house of Judah into the body or congregation of Messiah in Ephesians 2: 11 – 22, saying: ***'Therefore remember, that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Un-circumcision" by the so-***

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<sup>6</sup> Matthew 15: 24, ***"I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."***

*called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands-* (12) *remember that you were at that time separate from Messiah, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise* (given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but also to David), *having no hope and without Elohim in the world.* (13) *But now in Messiah Yahshua you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Messiah.* (14) *For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups* (the house of Judah and the house of Israel) *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* (the punishment due to breaking the commandments), *that in Himself He might make the two into one new man* (the Israel of Elohim), *thus establishing peace,* (16) *and might reconcile them both in one body to Elohim through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.* (17) **AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY**(the house of Israel), **AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR** (the house of Judah); (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,* (20) *having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Messiah Yahshua Himself being the corner stone,* (21) *in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Master;* (22) *in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of Elohim in the Spirit.'* Even though these Scriptures cannot make the fact that Messiah came specifically to bring the two houses of Israel back into the commonwealth of Israel as His body and future bride any clearer, there are still people in nominal Christianity as well as in the Seventh day Adventist movement who are doing their utmost to malign the house of Judah in order to ensure that Esau (Rome) with its anti-Semitic teachings does not lose its grip of more than 1800 years on the house of Israel. Some preach against the use of the true name of Elohim preserved for us by the house of Judah, but honored so much by them, that most encyclopedias on Judaism acknowledge the same, but clearly state that it is never pronounced! Others might use the correct names of Elohim and Messiah, but because they do not obey the calendars preserved for us by the Levites amongst the Jews, they are blatantly dishonoring it, as witnessed in Malachi 2: 2 – 8. Their aim, like that of Satan is to make sure that the bride is kept from the bridegroom and that we fail in our quest for a position in the Kingdom of Elohim, by calling on the incorrect name during the great tribulation and day of YHWH, or by being a day or two late when Messiah returns one day on Yom Teruah.

Today, there are literally hundreds of different Christian denominations all confessing faith in our Jewish Messiah Yahshua, nevertheless they prefer to call Him J\*e\*s\*u\*s\* the C\*h\*r\*i\*s\*t\*. Most professing Christian groups also maintain that they have a calling from YHWH, the one they refer to as the LORD. In addition, many non-Christian religious groups regard themselves as being chosen of (their) G-d. In fact most religious groups, whether they are Christian, or not, believes that they have a personal calling from (their) deity and it is no wonder that there are millions of intelligent people throughout the world, who are very suspicious of any religion. The question is: Is it possible to find the truth amongst all the different religious groups in the world today? One thing is as certain as the nose on your face, Yahshua the Messiah is real! Even though His name was changed by Christianity and most have been deceived to believe the true gospel to be about His birth, life, death and resurrection and that He came to fulfill Elohim's commandments for them – so that they need not obey Torah any longer, He fulfilled all the prophecies in the Tanach about His first advent, proclaimed the gospel about the coming Kingdom of Elohim and most of His chosen disciples testified about Him in their writings, which eventually became canonized as the Renewed Covenant. Most people in the western world are familiar with Yahshua's Latinized Greek name, but very few truly know and believe what He taught and why He came to earth. The question at this time is: who are Yahshua's true disciples today, and what makes them different from all the millions who say they believe in Him?

Do you realize that most people in Churchianity simply ignore what Yahshua taught, especially if they disagree with it. Even so, Yahshua our Messiah warned those who wish to be His true disciples

that His way is a narrow lonely road, as recorded in Matthew 7: 13 & 14, in this way: ***‘Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. (14) For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it.’*** Even if one becomes a true disciple of Messiah, a real danger is that he/she can be deceived by Satan and his many agents to go right back to where he/she comes from, or follow another counterfeit religion, slightly closer than Christianity to the one true faith once delivered to the saints or true believers, as Rav Shaul warned about in 2 Corinthians 11: 3 & 4, saying: ***‘But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be lead astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Messiah. (4) For if one comes and preaches another Yahshua whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.’*** Rav Shaul was astonished how easily believers flung aside his teachings, instead of imitating him as he imitated Messiah; to embrace a counterfeit gospel together with a counterfeit Messiah. Satan as the master counterfeiter has managed to deceive the majority of believers to accept falsehood, even if some once embraced the truth. This happens time and time again; as people are called out of the counterfeit of the original Nazarene Jewish faith, namely Christianity, they are deceived to follow just another counterfeit faith, where people decide for themselves how and when to worship YHWH our Elohim. Even though it is very difficult to deceive those called out of the world, Satan and his agents are persuasive teachers peddling a counterfeit of righteousness, very close to the one true faith, once delivered to the saints or true followers of Messiah. Rav Shaul writes about such teachers in 2 Corinthians 11: 13 – 15, in this way: ***‘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.’*** No wonder so many varieties of what some call the truth and righteousness is taught under the name of Yahshua Messiah. Yes, there is also a great deal of falsehood taught under the name of J\*e\*s\*u\*s\*, but it is not so easy to deceive those of us who have learnt the true name of our Messiah. We have over a period of time discovered that most of what Christianity teaches in the name of Messiah is based on lies and paganism.

However, we need to be very careful of those who come to us in the true name of our Messiah and Savior. When Yahshua addressed His disciples privately in Matthew 24: 4 & 5, ***“See to it that no one misleads you. (5) For many will come in My name*** (we need to realize that Yahshua knew His true name and did not ever refer to Himself as the ‘Christ’), ***saying, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will mislead many.”*** Like His false name, Yahshua’s true name serves as a façade or disguise for religious viewpoints that did not originate with Messiah. Yahshua said in Matthew 7: 22 & 23, ***“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.’”*** If we practice lawlessness, which is the opposite of truth or Torah, we negate all other good deeds. As soon as we follow the teachings of teachers who contradict the words of Messiah and YHWH, we are not following truth any longer. Lawlessness is the main component in the counterfeit righteousness taught by these false teachers. Under Satan’s influence mankind has been blinded to the true gospel of Messiah, who is the image of Elohim. The problem is as identified by the prophet Jeremiah as human nature in chapter 17: 9, as follows: ***“The heart is more deceitful than all else and desperately sick*** (the KJV reads wicked); ***who can understand it?”*** Rav Shaul agreed with the prophet Jeremiah in Romans 8: 7 - 9, in this way: ***‘Because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward Elohim; for it does not subject itself to the law of Elohim, for it is not even able to do so; (8) and those who are in the flesh cannot please Elohim. (9) However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of Elohim dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Messiah, he does not belong to Him.’*** It is plain to see that, alternatives to the true message of Yahshua our Messiah have been contrived to accommodate mankind’s natural unwillingness to obey Elohim. The sad thing about this is that most

people who accept these false lawless ideas are totally sincere, as Rav Shaul wrote in 2 Thessalonians 2: 7 - 12, saying: ***'For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. (8) And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Master will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; (9) that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, (10) and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. (11) 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, but took pleasure in wickedness.'***

The question at this point is: What is the difference between a true and a false disciple of Messiah? Yahshua our Messiah gave us a hint in the parable in Matthew 22: 14, when He said in conclusion of His message, ***"For many are called, but few are chosen."*** Both the ideas of being called and chosen are Scriptural, however, they are seldom understood and are as a result often misapplied. But what did Yahshua meant, when He used these two words in the quoted section? We need to understand that Elohim's purpose is to eventually give eternal life to most of mankind, as witnessed in John 3: 17, as follows: ***"For Elohim did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him."*** Even so, all of mankind are not being saved during this age, as may be understood from Ephesians 1: 7 – 12, in this way: ***'In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, (8) which He lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight (9) He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him (10) with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Messiah, things in the heavens and things upon the earth. In Him (11) also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, (12) to the end that we who were the first to hope in Messiah should be to the praise of His glory.'*** It is only once we both learn and obey the truth, that Elohim chooses a person to receive eternal life.

Righteousness goes together with truth and is revealed in the Tanach to be Torah, as we read from Psalms 119: 142, as follows: ***'Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Thy law (Torah) is truth.'*** When Yahshua was on the earth as a 'man', the only Scriptures (or word of Elohim) available at that time was the Tanach and in His prayer immediately prior to His betrayal by Judas, He also identified it as truth, as recorded in John 17: 17, in this way: ***"Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth."*** So it is clear that truth is what YHWH revealed to us in His word, the Scriptures. Those who want to be saved from the second death must both learn and accept the Scriptures (truth) and apply it in their lives; this is known as putting their faith into action. We read Rav Shaul's exhortation in this regard from first Timothy 2: 1 – 4, as follows: ***"First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, (2) for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. (3) This is good and acceptable in the sight of Elohim our Savior, (4) who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."*** After we have come to the knowledge of truth, by guidance of a teacher and intensive self-study, we need to repent and clean up our lives in accordance to what we have learnt from the Scriptures. As said many times before, repentance is a process which takes many years of studying and learning; and YHWH allows us a period of time to get our lives in order, as witnessed in second Peter 3: 9, in this way: ***'The Master is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish (in the second death) but for all to come to repentance.'*** True repentance (or Teshuvah the transliterated Hebrew word for it) means that we stop sinning (breaking the Torah teachings of Elohim) and return to obeying the commandments that we broke or neglected in the past. True repentance also involves believing in the one and only true Elohim, calling on His name. However, once called out of the religions of this world, we need someone who has completed Messiah's discipleship program to guide and teach us in the way of Elohim, before we are able to follow the



lonely narrow road that our Messiah walked whilst He was on earth. Rav Shaul puts it like this in Romans 10: 13 & 14, saying: ***‘For “WHOEVER WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF YHWH 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?’*** We need to be taught by teachers who teach Torah righteousness in the name of Elohim and who are themselves faithful to His word; who teach that true repentance involves turning from sin to full Torah obedience, as we read from 1 John 3: 4, in this way: ***‘Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.’***

To fully understand the difference between the phrases ‘called’ and ‘chosen’, we need to see what the Scriptures have to say about it. We read therefore from second Thessalonians 2: 13 & 14, where Rav Shaul explains: ***‘But we should always give thanks to Elohim for you, brethren beloved by the Master, because Elohim has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. (14) And it was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Master Yahshua Messiah.’*** So we see that YHWH called believers by the preaching of the gospel (the good news about the coming Kingdom of Elohim); they are given knowledge of the truth (the Scriptures) and as a result need to repent of their lawlessness (or sin). Those believers who respond by believing the word of truth are then chosen for salvation. But how do they respond? They respond by accepting Yahshua as their Passover Lamb and are immersed in His saving name; after which they are given a portion of the Set-apart Spirit as a pledge of their salvation, as confirmed in Ephesians 1: 13 & 14, as follows: ***‘In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Set-apart Spirit of promise, (14) who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of Elohim’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.’***

It all begins when Elohim calls us to come out of darkness into His marvelous light, as Yahshua explained in John 6: 44, saying: ***‘No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.’*** In fact Yahshua repeated this after explaining the need to partake of the annual Passover to His disciples, saying in verse 65 of John 6, ***“For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me, unless it has been granted him from the Father.”*** Elohim grants us an earnest desire to learn more about Him and His ways, after which He wants us to submit to His Torah way of life, as Rav Shaul explained in Philippians 2: 12 - 15, 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. (14) Do all things without grumbling or disputing; (15) that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of Elohim above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world.’*** Yahshua used the parable of the sower in Matthew 13 to indicate people’s different approaches to hearing the true gospel; in the parable, all who hear the gospel of the Kingdom of Elohim preached respond differently. Only those who are called by Elohim understand the truth. Yahshua starts explaining that those not called will not understand what they hear (in verse 19), saying: ***“When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.”***

Then Yahshua explains the three different responses from the people who understand. Even though Elohim has opened their minds to understanding, each one responds differently. We read accordingly from Matthew 13: 20 & 21: ***“And the one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; (21) yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction and persecution arises (from family, friends and foes) because of the word, immediately he falls away.”*** Such a person is usually more concerned about what his/her family and friends think of him/her and cannot take their rejection.



Such people are afraid to make waves and rock the boat (the proverbial comfort zones of his fellow man), and rejects the words of Elohim soon after hearing it. We continue reading from verse 22, ***“And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”*** This person is not only concerned about the opinions of his peers, but is very busy with all sorts of pursuits in life, and as a result has only a little time to spend praying and studying the Scriptures. Material things finally get the better of him and he also ultimately rejects the word of Elohim.

Finally we read from verse 23, ***“And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit, and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.”*** This person immediately understands Elohim’s word and takes it to heart, and as a result changes his way of life to conform to the way of Elohim, as he learns more about Him. This person was chosen for salvation, as he put Elohim first in his life. So we see, that even though many are called to follow Elohim’s will and way, only a few are chosen by Elohim, because they choose to serve Elohim, above all else. We need to understand that the choice to serve Elohim whole heartedly or not remains ours. But like repentance the choice is an ongoing decision, and we need to commit to that choice and persevere until our dying day, or when Yahshua returns one day. We live at a time very close to the end of this age, as is also described in the book of Revelation. This is the time during which a great beast will arise, resulting from an economic and political union of 10 kings, who will resist Yahshua our Messiah at His return. These kings will be very powerful and as we learnt recently will believe their union to be powerful enough to engage into battle with Messiah at His return, as witnessed in Revelation 17: 12 – 14, as follows: ***“And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. (13) These have one purpose and they give their power and authority to the beast. (14) These 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.”*** That is correct; we see that those who are with Messiah at His return, will not only be called and chosen, but they also remained faithful to the end.

How will these chosen, called and faithful get to be with Yahshua at His return. We read the answer in Matthew 24: 29 – 31, in this way: ***“But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken, (30) and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. (31) And He will send forth his angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.”*** Those who remain faithful will eventually grow to become like our Master Yahshua the Messiah. Those of us called and chosen have been called because Elohim knows that we have the ability to make it into His everlasting Kingdom. However, once He has called us, He expects each one of us to conform to the image and stature of our Master and Savior Yahshua Messiah. YHWH accordingly allows us to develop through trials and tests that will expose our weaknesses forcing us to continue to make choices to obey Him under very difficult circumstances. If we learn to develop the fruits of the Spirit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control and the like, we will slowly but surely develop Yahshua’s character in us.

To conclude we read how Rav Kepha sums this up in second Peter 1: 2 – 11, as follows: ***“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of Elohim and of Yahshua our Messiah; (3) seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. (4) For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. (5) Now for this very***

*reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge; (6) and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; (7) and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. (8) For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Master Yahshua Messiah. (9) For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. (10) 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.”* I pray that this will serve to encourage us to reject false teaching by Satan’s agents who want us to fail by calling on a slightly changed or incorrect version of Elohim’s true name, or following a Set-apart Day calendar of their own design, just slightly different to the one preserved for Israel by the Levites amongst the Jews and to remain faithful to our calling until our Master and Savior returns. Amein and Amein!

## **Chapter 9: Do you know the way to peace and prosperity?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yahshua never abolished any of Elohim's commandments, as He is the exact representation of Elohim's nature as witnessed in Hebrews 1: 1 to the first part of verse 3, as follows: ***'Elohim, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, (2) in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. (3) And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.'*** Without repeating the basic tenets of our faith, we need to understand that Yahshua being the visible image of the invisible Elohim, will never do away with His own Laws, as He is the embodiment of Torah. Throughout the Tanach we read about Yahshua's first and second coming. We read from Isaiah 42: 21 how Yahshua came to make the law

great and glorious, during His first advent. This is in fact the meaning of the word **'fulfill'** in Matthew 5: 17, as can be understood, if the rest of the chapter is read from verse 18 to 48. Yahshua came to make the Law more binding and as our perfect example, He showed us to obey Torah with a spiritual intent, to lead us to perfection, as He also concluded in verse 48 of Matthew 5, saying: ***"Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."*** Rav Yaa'cov explained the way in which to reach perfection in James 1: 22 – 25, saying: ***'But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. (23) For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; (24) for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. (25) But one who looks intently at the perfect law (Torah), the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.'*** We see over and over throughout the Scriptures that those who obey Elohim's word are blessed in all they do.

When Messiah appeared on earth, He taught and practiced peace, but His first coming did not leave the world a legacy of peace. Despite the fact that an angel with a multitude of heavenly hosts appeared at Messiah's birth, praising Elohim, and saying (in Luke 2: 14): ***"Glory to Elohim in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased"***, the inhabitants of earth have seen very little real peace, since then. The world as well as the Land of Israel in the Middle East has seen war after war and conflict after conflict and left to our own devices we are incapable of securing peace. In fact the world has rejected the peace that Elohim offered through Messiah - Mankind has not only rejected Yahshua as the real Messiah, but also the message He taught whilst He was on earth. But how and why have human beings rejected Yahshua and His message? Most of what Yahshua taught has been distorted by those who say that they believe in Him. But, how has this happened? The problem started soon after Messiah's death, resurrection and ascension to heaven, when the Nazarene Jewish congregation became infiltrated by former pagans, who slowly but surely substituted the Hebrew origins of the congregation with their pagan practices. This was essentially the first part of Satan's deception to change the Jewish roots of Elohim's congregation to nothing other than falsehood and paganism. After having severed the believers from their Jewish roots, he continued to remove their belief in the only Scriptures available to them at the time, namely the Tanach. But, that was only the beginning of the deception, as the main obstacle to our Nazarene Jewish faith, lies in accepting and understanding who and what Yahshua the Messiah is. I am also positive that unless and until you and I have fully settled this truth in our minds, we will not be able to serve YHWH in the way that He intended for us from the beginning. We need to realize once and for all, that Yahshua's first coming was to reconcile us from the lost ten tribes to the covenant we made with our heavenly Father at Mount Sinai, together with Brother Judah who remained loyal to Him, ever since their return from captivity 2500 years ago. We also need to be aware of His own words in Matthew 15: 24, saying: ***"I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."*** Even though the Jews of His day rejected Him, we need to understand that He did not come for them at that time. YHWH has blinded their minds to the identity of the true Messiah as recorded for us in John 12: 37 – 40<sup>7</sup> and Romans 11: 32<sup>8</sup>, until His return one day on Yom Teruah (or Rosh Hashanah), when He will save the tents of Judah first (as per Zechariah 12: 7<sup>9</sup>) and when they will see His hands and accept Him as their Messiah (as per Zechariah 12: 10<sup>10</sup>), the dead in Messiah

<sup>7</sup> John 12: 37 – 40, ***'But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him; that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke, "YHWH, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM HAS THE ARM OF YHWH BEEN REVEALED?" For this cause they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, "HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES, AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART; LEST THEY SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED, AND I HEAL THEM."***

<sup>8</sup> Romans 11: 32, ***'For Elohim has shut up all in disobedience that He might show mercy to all.'***

<sup>9</sup> Zechariah 12: 7, ***"YHWH also will save the tents of Judah first in order that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not be magnified above Judah."***

<sup>10</sup> Zechariah 12: 10, ***"And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born."***



will be resurrected as witnessed in Romans 11: 15, as follows: ***‘For if their (the house of Judah) rejection (of Yahshua) be the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?’***

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

Rav Shaul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12: 3 regarding the identity of Yahshua, saying: ***‘Therefore I make known to you, that no one speaking by the Spirit of Elohim says, “Yahshua is accursed”; and no one can say, “Yahshua is Lord (or MarYah, an Aramaic word meaning Master YHWH, translated as Lord in most English versions of the Scriptures),” except by the Set-apart Spirit.’*** Similarly when Rav Kepha identified Yahshua correctly in Matthew 16, Yahshua told him in verses 18 & 19, saying: ***“And I also say to you that you are Peter (meaning a pebble or stone), and upon this rock (meaning Yahshua Himself, as may also be understood from Matthew 7: 24<sup>11</sup> and other Scriptures) I will build My congregation; and the gates of Hades (the grave) shall not overpower it (meaning that it will still exist at Yahshua’s return).”*** Rav Kepha fully understood what Yahshua meant, as he later explained in 1 Peter 2: 4 – 9, saying: ***‘And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of Elohim, (5) you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to Elohim through Yahshua Messiah. (6) For this is contained in Scripture: “BEHOLD I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.” (7) This precious value, then, is for you who believe (that Yahshua is YHWH the rock of our salvation and the foundation of His congregation). But for those who disbelieve, “THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone,” (8) and “A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE”; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed. (9) But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR ELOHIM’S OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.’*** The problem with not believing Yahshua’s words in John 10: 30<sup>12</sup>, is that as humans we know that no two persons will always agree about all things all of the time, even if they are identical twins. It is therefore difficult for us as humans to understand how two ‘leaders’ will always be in total agreement. Consequently it is easy to understand, how, if Yahshua was not YHWH or if there were indeed two (YHWH)’s; how Yahshua’s

<sup>11</sup> Matthew 7: 24, ***‘Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock.’***, meaning Yahshua the rock of our salvation.

<sup>12</sup> John 10: 30, ***“I and the Father are one.”***

administration could differ from that of YHWH. This is also why Christianity and those Nazarene/Messianic and like-minded believers, who believe in two (YHWH)'s or that Yahshua is the second person in the trinity, came to decide for themselves, when and how to serve YHWH our Elohim. However, as YHWH in the flesh, Yahshua said to the Jewish leaders of His day in John 10: 37 & 38, ***'If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; (38) but If I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.'*** Later Yahshua in answer to Philip's question in John 14: 8<sup>13</sup>, said as recorded in verses 9 & 10, ***"Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, 'Show us the Father?'"***

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

Those who therefore mistakenly came to believe that they have been given the Oracles of Elohim, are in so doing usurping the authority of the Levites among the Jews and are accordingly referred to by Yahshua in Revelation 3: 9 as the synagogue of Satan, where He also pronounce a punishment over them, saying: ***'Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews (by usurping their authority), and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them to come and bow down at your feet, and to know that I have loved you.'*** YHWH made all the rules according to which we should worship Him, and Yahshua the word of Elohim confirmed the same by being our living example. A truism about those who believe that they have been given the right to determine how and when to worship Elohim, by Yahshua, are in the most also believers in two (YHWH)'s, Yahshua being the lesser YHWH. Their belief in a lesser YHWH also supports the idea that Yahshua has less authority than YHWH. This is perhaps why these believers are able to (easily) invalidate Yahshua's teachings, one of which being what He said in Matthew 23: 2 & 3<sup>14</sup>. However, we need to be ever mindful of Yahshua's own words in Matthew 28: 18, where He said: ***"All authority (or power) has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."*** As also witnessed in 1 Corinthians 1: 22 - 24, in this way: ***'For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; (23) but we preach Messiah crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, (24) but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Messiah the power of Elohim and the wisdom of Elohim.'***

<sup>13</sup> John 14: 8, *'Philip said to Him, "Master, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."'*

<sup>14</sup> Matthew 23: 2 & 3: *"The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things, and do not do them (since they are only human)."*

Ultimately every knee will bow before Yahshua, even those who died without ever knowing His name, as is confirmed in Psalms 22: 26 – 29, in this way: ***‘The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek Him will praise YHWH. Let your heart live forever! (27) All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to YHWH, and all the families of the nations will worship before Thee. (28) For the kingdom is (YHWH)’s, and He rules over the nations. (29) All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship, all those who go down to the dust will bow before Him, even he who cannot keep his soul alive.’*** Even though very few truly believe in the salvation of YHWH, namely Yahshua, mankind will ultimately believe in Him, as He is coming back to save us from ourselves and to rule us right here on the earth. Even though Yahshua confirmed in Mark 12: 29 & 30, that ***“The foremost (command) is, ‘HEAR, O ISRAEL! YHWH OUR ELOHIM IS ONE YHWH; (30) AND YOU SHALL LOVE YHWH YOUR ELOHIM WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.’***, the Oneness of Elohim has been a problem at His first coming and will be so until He returns. As long as people continue to contradict the foremost command by their actions, they are not serving YHWH the only Elohim – but are simply fooling themselves! The point is that each and every one of us who believe that we are children of Elohim, through our faith in Messiah as recorded in Galatians 3: 26 need to realize that the only way in which we will be fully able to serve and obey Elohim, is if we realize that He is the one and only ONE!

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

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

***walking about.” (25) Then again He laid His hands upon his eyes; and he looked intently and was restored, and began to see everything clearly.’***

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

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

Continuing in Numbers 17, we see that YHWH having now gained the attention of the nation, tells Moses to take the rods of all the leaders according to their father’s households and write their names on their rods. YHWH also tells Moses to write Aaron’s name on the rod of Levi. Then YHWH tells Moses to deposit the rods in the tent of meeting in front of the Ark of the testimony, saying that it will come about that the rod of the man whom YHWH chooses will sprout. Moses did as YHWH told him and the next day, he saw that Aaron’s staff not only sprouted buds, but also bear flowers and almonds. Moses brought the rods out in the presence of YHWH showing it to all the sons of Israel. Each man took his rod, but YHWH instructed Moses to put Aaron’s rod before the Ark to bear

testimony, to be kept against the rebels that they may put an end to their grumblings against YHWH, so that they should not die. This should also serve as a warning to those of us whom YHWH has called out of the world, to follow Him and not entertain thoughts of rebelling against Him and the Levites among Judah, who preserved the timing of the Sabbath, the Feast Days, the Hebrew Language and the kosher food laws of Elohim for us. If we who have been called by YHWH at this time choose to remain disobedient to the two foremost commandments, we will simply not make it into the Kingdom of Elohim. In addition, as Ambassadors of the future Kingdom, we are responsible to show the people in the world how YHWH should be obeyed. Nevertheless, world peace and prosperity will elude mankind, until Messiah's return one day.

Knowing this, what should we do? Our role as the remnant of returning former Israelites are to make Judah jealous, by keeping Torah with a spiritual intent, as we read from Romans 11: 11, in this way: ***'I say then, they (Judah) did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous.'*** Secondly, and before you think I am only out to criticize other believers, I want to urge our people to stand by the nation of Judah who are also presently preserving the Promised Land for us, and like some of those *'Messianic believers'*, who remain with one foot in Christianity, support our Jewish Brothers in the Land of Israel financially, when possible. Thirdly, as Nazarene Israelite watchmen we are also commanded in Isaiah 62: 6 & 7 to continually remind YHWH, to make Jerusalem a place of praise in the earth. But, most of all, those of us who believe in the Oneness of Elohim should not neglect the foremost command and without any doubt in our minds, recite the Shema twice daily. Think about it!



## Chapter 10: Are we in Bondage to Elohim?

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

In agreement with His promise to Abraham, YHWH is busy calling a remnant from the house of Israel to return to Him and the covenant that He made with our forefathers at Mount Sinai, through Abraham’s one seed, Yahshua, as Rav Shaul explained in Galatians 3: 15 – 29. Yahshua Messiah our kinsman Redeemer came as the Son of Man to buy back our piece of the Promised Land that we lost because of idolatry and to pay the penalty due for our past transgressions of the Law, so that we may once again become Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise. He became the Son of Elohim through His resurrection (as per Romans 1: 1 – 4<sup>15</sup>) to show us how we may live eternally in the Promised Land as spiritual children of Elohim. Despite having the same Scriptures that we have, most of Christianity have no idea of the promise that YHWH made to Abraham and are therefore not familiar with the gospel of the coming Kingdom of Elohim. The house of Israel has been in captivity by Esau (Rome) for almost 1800 years and came to believe that they are nothing but Gentiles, who were never part of the eternal Torah covenant that YHWH made with the ancient nation of Israel. Although we as Nazarene Jews/Israelites believe in Yahshua as the Messiah, they view us in the same light as our Jewish Brothers, because of our Torah obedience and for the past almost 2000 years they wanted us to get rid of the ‘burden’ of Torah and anything to do with the Jewish faith. As a result, evil forces in the spirit of Esau and Ismael were determined to destroy our faith, namely Nazarene Judaism since its commencement, and because of sustained attacks, the movement almost disappeared by the fourth century. Fortunately, it never really died out as there have always been Torah observant individuals who believed in Yahshua as their Messiah. These evil forces against Torah observance are the same forces that are against our Jewish brothers, namely Anti-Semitism or more correctly lawlessness. Lawlessness and anti-Semitism are at the root of the destruction of any group who ever tried to return to their Hebrew roots. One such group was the World-wide Church of G-d and even though they were never fully Torah observant, the fact that they claimed to be Christian and obedient to most Torah commands, eventually upset the nominal Christian community who did everything in its power to either destroy or make them conform to their non-Torah point of view.

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

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<sup>15</sup> Romans 1: 1 – 4: ***‘Shaul, a bond-servant of Messiah Yahshua, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of Elohim, which He promised beforehand through the prophets in the holy Scriptures (the Tanach), concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of Elohim with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the spirit of holiness, Yahshua Messiah our Master.’***

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

The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection of the dead, and only kept to the written Torah. Their opposition to the oral Torah was the reason for their existence, but the Karaite Jews, who are the modern day successors to the Sadducees, also developed a sizable body of laws outside of Torah, comparable to the Oral Law kept by the Rabbinical Jews. The Essenes was a very basic sect at the end of the second Temple period and their religious outlook was closer to that of the Pharisees. However, they formulated their own specific beliefs and observances. Their beliefs are described in detail in the Dead Sea Scrolls. This sect appears to have been completely destroyed in the Jewish War of 66 – 70 CE. Then during the third decade of the first century CE, Yahshua and His followers established Nazarene Judaism, a sect of the Pharisees, as may be seen from Acts 15: 5<sup>16</sup>; 24: 5, 14<sup>17</sup>; and 26: 5. At that time all these sects of Judaism considered Torah as supreme Law, but they differed in matters of interpretation and living out the Torah. The way in which the different sects of Judaism interpreted the way in which they applied the Torah is known as their specific '*halacha*'. So they basically agreed with the Pharisees in the way they interpreted Torah, but for the fact that they followed Yahshua, who's '*halacha*' was stricter in a number of instances, as he explained in Matthew 5, 6 & 7, since His main purpose was to bring the lost sheep of the house of Israel, who were scattered abroad because of idolatry, back to the faith into which He was born, because they were prone to idolatry and extremely susceptible to Lawlessness.

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

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<sup>16</sup> Acts 15: 5, '*But certain ones of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed, stood up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses."* If we continue reading the rest of Acts 15, we will see that eventually returning members of the lost ten tribes were and are even required to be circumcised as they learn to obey the rest of the commandments given in the Torah, as they attend services in the synagogues of the Jews as is confirmed in verse 21 of Acts 15.

<sup>17</sup> Acts 24: 5 & 14: '*For we have found this man (meaning Shaul) a real pest and a fellow who stirs up dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the Elohim of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law, and that is written in the Prophets."*

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

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

But we see from a prophecy in Ezekiel 13: 2 – 9, and specifically in verses 2, 8 & 9 that those of the house of Israel who wants to dictate the way they follow Elohim, will not have a place in the Sanhedrin, in this way: ***"Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy from their own inspiration. 'Listen to the word of YHWH!'* (8) ***Therefore, thus says YHWH Elohim, 'Because you have spoken falsehood and seen a lie, therefore behold, I am against you," declares YHWH 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 YHWH Elohim."*** We need to be careful not to usurp the authority that YHWH assigned to Judah, or more specifically the Levites, who remained with Judah when the two houses split in two after King Solomon. Even so, we read the prophecy in Deuteronomy 18: 17 - 19, about a time when Yahshua will arrive on the scene, as follows: ***"And*****

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

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

However, subjection to a set of laws is not in itself a form of bondage, as all the citizens living in a free democratic country are required to live by the laws of the country anyway. In fact, every nation in the free world has laws according to which their countries are administered. South Africa, like the USA, is a nation with a constitution guaranteeing freedom of association to all its citizens. We should also understand that true freedom or liberty is not freedom from law, but freedom within the law, as righteous laws secure our freedom. It is as Rav Yaa’cov wrote in James 1: 22 – 25, saying: **‘But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. (23) For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; (24) for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. (25) But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.’** Rav Yaa’cov referred to Elohim’s commandments as the law of liberty, not slavery. In fact Rav Shaul, who was referred to as the ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes, confirmed this in Romans 2: 13, as follows: **‘For not the hearers of the Law are just before Elohim, but the doers of the Law will be justified.’** When YHWH brought Israel out of Egypt, He liberated them, not enslaved them. Elohim delivered His people from their cruel task masters and promised them a life of peace in their own country. YHWH gave the Israelites His laws, statutes and judgments which guaranteed their safety, as recorded in Deuteronomy 4: 1, in this way: **“And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I am teaching you to perform, in order that you may live and in go and take possession of the land which YHWH, the Elohim of your fathers, is giving you.”** When YHWH gave the Law to our forefathers, through Moses, all He wanted from them was obedience, as we read from Jeremiah 7: 22 & 23 as follows: **“For I did not speak to your fathers, or command them in**



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Kingdom of Elohim (as witnessed in Acts 26: 15 – 18<sup>18</sup>), goes on to explain that since there are only two different ways, namely the way of Elohim and the way of Satan, we become slaves to Elohim, for our good, in Romans 6: 1 – 7 and 12 – 18, saying: ***‘What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? (2) May it never be! How shall we who dies to sin still live in it? (3) Or do you not know that all of us who have been immersed into Messiah Yahshua have been immersed into His death? (4) Therefore we have been buried with Him through immersion into death, in order that as Messiah was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. (5) For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection, (6) knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin; (7) for he who has died is freed from sin. (12) Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts, (13) and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to Elohim as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to Elohim. (14) For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace. (15) What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! (16) Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? (17) But thanks be to Elohim that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, (18) and having been freed from sin, you became slaves to righteousness.’***

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

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

## **Chapter 11: Repentance (Teshuvah) - what is it?**

If you ask the average church-goer what is meant by repentance, most will tell you that it means to be remorseful of wrongdoing and includes asking G-d for forgiveness for such wrongdoing. The transliterated Hebrew word meaning repentance is *'Teshuvah'*. But, teshuvah means much more than repentance; it means that we stop transgressing the Torah teachings of Elohim, and start obeying Him as He describes in His word. Teshuvah is aptly described in Hosea 14: 1 & 2, in this manner: ***'Return, O Israel, to YHWH your Elohim, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity. (2) Take words with you*** (meaning take the Torah or the word of Elohim and study the same) ***and return to YHWH. Say to Him, "Take away all my iniquity, and receive us graciously, that we may present the fruit of our lips."*** So, we see that teshuvah is based on the conviction that YHWH will intervene in our lives and grant us forgiveness of our sins; and ultimately eternal life in His coming Kingdom. Faith, which includes understanding and action, is required for salvation.

The point is that Elohim will not grant eternal life to someone who does not believe in Him and obeys Him. Faith is as defined in Hebrews 11: 1 & 6, in this way: ***'Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (6) And without faith it is impossible to please Him*** (meaning Elohim), ***for he who comes to Elohim must believe that He is*** (that He exists), ***and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.'*** We need to study the word of Elohim, in order to understand that He is Almighty and that we are totally depended upon Him as our Creator and sustainer. However, this type of humility is rare in our modern, arrogant and egotistic society. Simply saying *'please forgive me'* without making the required changes in our lives is not enough. Acknowledging the existence of Elohim does not supernaturally produce a right relationship with Him; and repentance or more correctly Teshuvah does not just happen. It requires both commitment and effort. We need to be fully aware of what it is that we did wrong; we need to understand that sin is lawlessness or the breaking of Elohim's commandments, given throughout the Scriptures, as witnessed in first John 3: 4, as follows: ***'Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.'***

Repentance begins when we cry out to Elohim for forgiveness of our sins, knowing that we have transgressed His (Torah) teachings, and accepting Yahshua's death for the redemption of our sins. True repentance is not based on emotion alone, though knowing that we have transgressed against Elohim does involve a certain amount of emotion and sorrow, the decision to return to YHWH in obedience through faith in Messiah's righteousness is what counts, as Rav Shaul explains in Romans 8: 3 & 4, saying: ***'For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, Elohim did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, (4) in order that the requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.'*** Yes, we follow a narrow lonely road, where the Spirit leads us to obey YHWH and His teachings. Repentance is therefore not simply compliance to a set of rules, but having confidence in Elohim and His ways which will lead us to act according to His will doing works of righteousness, such as keeping the Sabbaths of Elohim; observing the clean food laws given in Leviticus 11 & Deuteronomy 14, and as recorded in James 2: 17 – 26, in this way: ***'Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. (18) But someone may well say, "You have faith, and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works."*** (19) ***You believe that Elohim is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. (20) But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? (21) Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? (22) You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; (23) and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED ELOHIM, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS," and he was called the friend of Elohim. (24) You see that a man is justified by works, and not faith alone. (25) And in the same way was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works, when she received the messenger and sent them out by another***

way? (26) ***For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.*** True repentance is not something that we can work up for ourselves, since it is a gift of Elohim, as witnessed in 2 Timothy 2: 24 - 25, as follows: ***'And the Master's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, (25) with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps Elohim may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, (26) and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.'***

Many Nazarene/Messianic Israelites have a problem living up to moral and ethical teachings found in Torah. They are meticulous in their outward observance of Torah, but fail to keep the inner teachings of Torah. Spirituality is not defined by good deeds that you do, but rather by your behavior and character. Not everyone who says he is Spiritual is so because he dresses the part on the Sabbath. This is why Yahshua warned the religious leaders of His day (and by implication also us who are teaching people and learning to become teachers today), saying in Matthew 23: 23, ***"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others."*** Being Torah observant must start from the inside and work its way to the outside. Until we embrace the true message of Torah in our hearts ( the seat of emotion and faith) and live moral lives, conforming to the image of Elohim, by doing what is right (tell no lies, help those in need, etc.), we cannot call ourselves spiritual. This is essentially what YHWH inspired Solomon to say in Proverbs 7: 1 – 3: ***'My son, keep my words, and treasure my commandments within you. (2) Keep my commandments and live, and My teachings as the apple of your eye. (3) Bind them on your fingers (in what you are doing); write them on the tablet of your heart (and in what you believe).'*** There is a direct relationship between the outward expression of your faith (Torah observance) and the works of Torah on the heart.

Character is not one of the subjects taught in school or university. We cannot define honor, respect, ethics and morality, since the Torah has already done it for us. Unless we learn to apply what we have studied in our lives, we will never be truly spiritual. Learning Torah is not about how to observe the Sabbath, the Kosher Laws and other good deeds, it is about how we actually apply what we have learnt in our daily lives - it is not so much the learning that counts, it is the actual doing that counts. Only those who overcome the sins which so besets us, will inherit the kingdom of Elohim, as Yahshua told Yochanan in Revelation 2: 26 & 27, saying: ***'And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; (27) and He shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority from My Father.'*** As Messiah's modern day disciples we must hold ourselves to a higher standard of righteousness demanded by Torah. We need to change ourselves, before we can teach others to change the shortcomings in their lives. This is also why Yahshua said in Matthew 5: 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."***

Repentance is a major part of the conversion process, as Rav Kepha told those who listened to his first sermon in Acts 2: 37, saying in verse 38: ***"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."*** Repentance is but one of the many good things that our Father YHWH gives us, as Rav Yaa'cov wrote in James 1: 17, saying: ***'Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow.'*** The point is that we are to repent from transgressing the Torah, as we've seen previously in first John 3: 4. So we see that repentance precedes immersion. After we have repented and are immersed into Yahshua's saving name, Elohim's Set-apart Spirit is given to us by the laying on of hands, as witnessed by Rav Shaul in 2 Timothy 1: 6, as follows: ***'And for this reason I remind you to***

***kindle afresh the gift of Elohim*** (the Set-apart Spirit) ***which is in you through the laying on of my hands.*** Once we have the Set-apart Spirit within us, it will lead us to live according to Elohim's will and way, as Rav Shaul wrote in Romans 8: 14, saying: ***'For all who are being led by the Spirit of Elohim, these are the sons of Elohim.'*** It is also by having a portion of Elohim's Set-apart Spirit in us that we will one day be resurrected at Messiah's return, as we read from Romans 8: 11, in this way: ***'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.'*** But, more importantly, it is also the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim, who indwells us that gives us understanding of the Spiritual things in the Scriptures, as recorded in first Corinthians 2: 10 – 12, as follows: ***'For to us Elohim revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of Elohim. (11) For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of Elohim no one knows except the Spirit of Elohim. (12) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from Elohim, that we might know the things freely given to us by Elohim.'***

Once we have been given the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim, it motivates us to keep Elohim's laws of love, as Rav Yochanan wrote in first John 5: 3, saying: ***'For this is the love of Elohim, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.'*** True Nazarene believers in Messiah have the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim, as Rav Shaul also wrote in Romans 8: 9 & 10, saying: ***'However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of Elohim dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Messiah, he does not belong to Him. (10) And if Messiah is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.'*** If we indeed have the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim indwelling us, we will strive to live according to the way Yahshua showed us whilst He was on earth, as Rav Yochanan also wrote in first John 1: 6 & 7, saying: ***'If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; (7) but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Yahshua His Son cleanses us from all sin.'***

Repentance leads to an eternal and joyful relationship with our loving Father; our Elohim and Creator. Repentance is necessary for putting off our old self and become part of the household of Elohim, as Rav Shaul wrote in Ephesians 4: 20 – 24, saying: ***'But you did not learn Messiah in this way, (21) if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Yahshua, (22) that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, (23) and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, (24) and put on the new self, which in the likeness of Elohim has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.'*** After Yahshua's immersion and after Yochanan was taken into custody, He entered Galilee and preached the gospel of Elohim, and saying in verse 15 of Mark 1: ***"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of Elohim is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."*** Those of us called out of the world by YHWH at this time will be part of the Kingdom of Elohim if we eventually qualify by remaining faithful to Him in this life. To be part of the Kingdom of Elohim, means that we will rule as kings and priests under Yahshua, if we qualify, as we read from 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.'*** The expectation to being part of the Kingdom of Elohim is certainly a major reason to rejoice.

As indicated before, soon after repentance, one should be immersed to receive a portion of Elohim's Set-apart Spirit, thereby blotting out all our past sins, in that Messiah becomes our Passover Lamb, we read from Romans 3: 24 & 25, as follows: ***'Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Messiah Yahshua; (25) whom Elohim displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of***



***Elohim He passed over the sins previously committed.***’ After this come a life led by Elohim’s Set-apart Spirit, growing in grace and knowledge, in order to bear fruit to Elohim and to be perfected in righteousness, as Rav Shaul wrote in 2 Corinthians 7: 1, saying: ***‘Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of Elohim.’*** But, our repentance should be on-going, as it is not a one-time action in the life of a true believer. Repentance is an ongoing thing, and a converted believer must continue to fight his sin for the rest of his life on earth as Rav Yochanan explained in first John 1: 8 – 10 & 2: 1, saying: ***“If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. (2: 1) My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Yahshua Messiah the righteous.’***

Every believer is stuck with his/her human nature for the rest of his/her life which wars on a continues basis against his mind, leading to sin, as Rav Shaul wrote in Romans 7: 17, 20 – 21, saying: ***‘So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which indwells me. (20) But if I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. (21) I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wishes to do good.’*** Even though we desire to please and obey Elohim and acknowledges that we want to follow Him, we also realize the weakness of our flesh, as Rav Shaul also continues to write in verses 22 – 25 of Romans 7, 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.’***

Even so, Elohim does not condemn the believer if he remains in a repentant attitude as Rav Shaul wrote in Romans 8: 1 & 2, saying: ***‘There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Messiah Yahshua. (2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Messiah Yahshua has set you free from the law of sin and of death.’*** As converted believers in Messiah we should continue to strive to overcome those sins which so beset us, because if we do we are promised our place in the kingdom of Elohim, as witnessed in Revelation 2: 7, 11, 17; 3: 5, 12 & 21, in this way: ***“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the congregations. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of Elohim. (11) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the congregations. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death. (17) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the congregations. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.” (3: 5) He who overcomes shall thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels. (12) He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My Elohim, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write upon him the name of My Elohim, and the name of the city of My Elohim, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My Elohim, and My new name. (21) He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.’***

The converted Nazarene believer continues through a lifelong process of repentance and faith to rely on the sacrifice of Yahshua our Messiah to cover his sins. It is as Rav Yaa’cov wrote in James 1: 22 – 25, saying: ***“But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. (23) For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; (24) for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has***

***immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. (25) But one who looks intently at the perfect law (the Torah), the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.***” What Rav Yaa’cov is telling us here is that we should measure our every thought and deed against what Torah requires of us, and temper our human instinct with Torah; that is when we will truly build the character traits that YHWH requires of us. It is also for this reason that we continue to study the Torah and Haftarah portions with our Jewish Brothers, as well as the relevant Renewed Covenant portions from year to year, until the end, so that we remain acquainted with (YHWH)’s requirements for us. This is essentially also what Rav Yochanan told us in first John 2: 3 – 6, saying: ***‘And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. (4) The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; (5) but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of Elohim has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: (6) the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.’***” Think about it!

### **Bibliography and contact details of the publisher:**

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

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