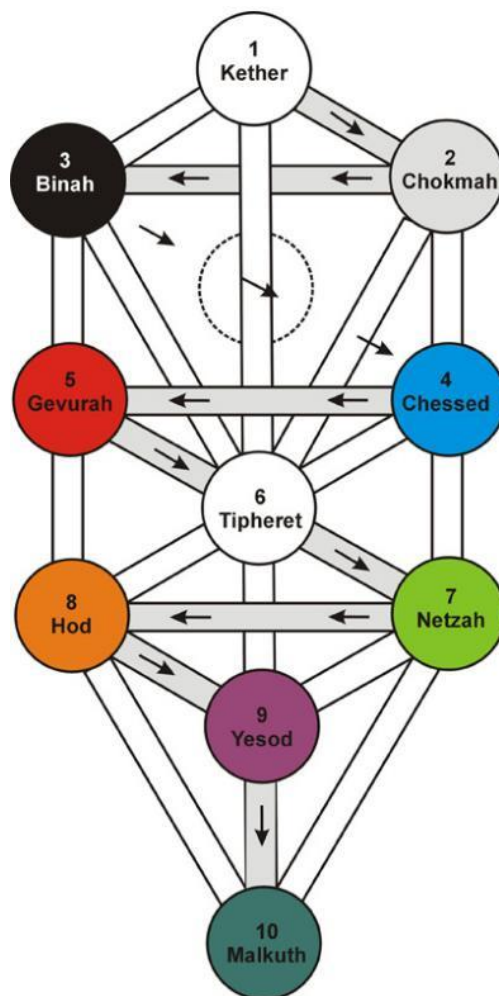


Conform to the Image

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Conform to the Image

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 7 sermons that I gave over the past few weeks and is intended as a reference manual for like-minded Nazarene Jewish/Israelite believers.

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

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Chapter 1: Counting the Omer?

Hebrew scholars and Jewish rabbis who have been practicing Torah for most of their lives have no problem with the time from which the Omer is counted annually. After all it is clearly put in Leviticus 23: 15 & 16 (Jewish Bible {JPS 1917}), in this way: ***‘And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the day of rest, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the waving; seven weeks shall there be complete; (16) even unto the morrow after the seventh week shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall present a new meal-offering unto HaShem.’*** The word ‘Sabbath’ in Hebrew simply means to ‘rest’ and does not mean the seventh day of the week, even though the weekly Sabbath falls on the seventh day of every week.

So we see that the primary meaning of the word Sabbath is to rest from labor, but it is also the name of the seventh day of the week. Even so, similar to the Sabbath Day, we also have ‘Sabbath years’ in Leviticus 25, meaning a whole year during which the land lies fallow. We see therefore in Deuteronomy 16: 9, YHWH saying through Moses to Israel: ***“You shall count seven weeks for yourself; you shall begin to count seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the standing grain.”*** The transliterated Hebrew word for weeks is ‘Shavuot’, and the concluding Feast Day of the period is the Feast of Weeks , transliterated as Hag HaShavuot’ not ‘Feast of Sabbaths’!

The question that those who insist to keep the Omer count from the weekly Sabbath between the two High days of Unleavened Bread, is: Why would Elohim inspire the use of the term “Sabbath” in the Masoretic Text in Leviticus 23:15? In the same passage in the Tanach, the Moffat and a number of other translations of the Scriptures the translators slip back and forth between using ‘week’ and Sabbath’ to translate the original Hebrew word in this passage. They are fully aware that the word has several meanings, and therefore picked the most relevant one to fit the situation best, in their particular opinion. Whereas Hebrew scholars and Jewish rabbis have no problem with it, others who have been indoctrinated with the understanding that the word ‘Shabbat’ in the Scriptures always means the seventh-day Sabbath, do not understand that that Jews sometimes refer to the seven annual Feast Days of Elohim as annual Sabbath Days. This is in fact the case in point in most English translations of John 19: 31, where we read about the First Day of Unleavened Bread a high holy (or set-apart) day, as follows: ***‘The Jews therefore, because it was the day of preparation, so that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.’***

This is obviously talking about the body of our Messiah Yahshua who was impaled in the middle of the week (on Wednesday), as prophesied by Daniel in Daniel 9: 27. This was the Day upon which Yahshua and His disciples kept the Passover, in the evening of the 14th of Aviv or Nisan - the same evening during which He was betrayed by Judas Iscariot and also the day upon which he was crucified as the Lamb of Elohim who takes away the sins of the world. The Next day was a Thursday, the First Day of Unleavened Bread, the first annual Sabbath of the year which like a normal weekly Sabbath, also requires a day of preparation, because the people are commanded to attend worship services on the First Day of Unleavened Bread.

Understanding this from the Hebrew perspective, let’s examine the usage of the word ‘Sabbath’ in Leviticus 23: 15 (NASB), as follows: ***‘You shall also count for yourselves from*** (Hebrew ‘im’ meaning

inclusive) ***the day after the Sabbath, from the day when you brought in the sheaf of the wave offering; there shall be seven complete Sabbaths.***’ The Tanach states that seven weeks shall be complete: you shall count until the day after the seventh week – fifty days. Seven complete weeks of forty nine days, until the fiftieth day. The weeks must be complete, and no short weeks are allowed. Seven complete weeks would be a total of 7 times 7 or 49 days.

But the question is: why does each individual believer have to count unto Himself the days between the First Annual Sabbath and the Feast of Weeks also known as Pentecost or Shavuot. To begin with, we are commanded to do so by YHVH our Elohim. But there is an underlying reason and deeper level of understanding which YHVH our Elohim wants us to understand by counting the Omer. The counting is to be done by each individual believer, not only the priesthood, from the day after the First Day of Unleavened Bread, symbolizing the nations deliverance from sin and Satan’s rule until Pentecost – symbolizing the Throne of Elohim and complete redemption in the Kingdom of Elohim. This is the period which symbolize the time we are to be working on ourselves, overcoming our animal instinct (as barley harvested at Passover time represents animal feed), to become people filled with Elohim’s Set-apart Spirit at Pentecost (the time during which wheat – human food is harvested).

During this period of forty nine days we are to be working on ourselves, overcoming sin and the pulls of the flesh, and develop the righteous, set-apart character of Elohim, being conformed to the image of Elohim, as we read from Romans 8: 29, as follows: ***‘For whom He foreknow, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren.’*** Rav Shaul adds to this, saying in Galatians 4: 19, ***‘My children with whom I am again in labor until Messiah is formed in you.’*** Each week of the seven weeks of seven days, we are to be working on developing one of the seven revealed characteristics or attributes of Elohim, which corresponds to the seven days of the week. These attributes revealed in the Tanach are clearly seen in the following passages:

1. *Isaiah 11: 2, “And the Spirit of YHVH (Keter) will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom (Chochmah) and understanding (Binah), the spirit of counsel (Atzah) and strength (Gevurah), the spirit of knowledge (Da'at) and of the fear (yirah) of YHVH.”;*
2. *First Chronicles 29:11, “Thine, O YHVH, is the greatness (Chesed), and the power (Gevurah), and the glory (Tiferet), and the victory (Netzach), and the majesty (Hod), indeed everything that is in the heavens and in the earth; Thine is the dominion (Malkut), O YHVH, and Thou dost exalt Thyself as head over all.”;*
3. *Isaiah 28: 16, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly cornerstone for the foundation (Yesod) firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed.”; and*
4. *Second Chronicles 20: 21, “Give thanks to YHVH, for His lovingkindness (mercy - Chesed) is everlasting.”*

These attributes list out as follows:

1. The Spirit of YHVH (called Crown [Keter]).
2. Wisdom (Chochmah).
3. Understanding (Binah).
4. Mercy, loving-kindness (Chesed).

5. Severity, justice and discipline (Gevurah).
6. Harmony, compassion (Tiferet).
7. Endurance (Netzach).
8. Humility (Hod).
9. Bonding or foundation (Yesod).
10. Sovereignty, leadership (Malchut).

However, with the command of counting the 49 days, transliterated in Hebrew as ‘sefirat ha Omer’, the Torah invites us on a journey into the seven basic or lower emotions that make up the spectrum of human experience. At the root of all forms of enslavement, is a distortion of these emotions. Each of the seven weeks between Passover and Shavuot is dedicated to examining and refining one of them.

The seven emotional attributes are:

Chesed	-	Loving-kindness
Gevurah	-	Justice and discipline
Tiferet	-	Harmony, compassion
Netzach	-	Endurance
Hod	-	Humility
Yesod	-	Bonding or foundation
Malchut	-	Sovereignty, leadership

The seven weeks, which represent these emotional attributes, further divide into seven days making up the 49 days of the counting. Since a fully functional emotion is multidimensional, it includes within itself a blend of all seven attributes. Thus, the counting of the first week, which begins on the second night of Pesach, as well as consisting of the actual counting (“Today is day one of the Omer...”) would consist of the following structure with suggested meditations:

On day one of week one, we focus on ‘loving-kindness’, and day one of that week would also be ‘loving-kindness’ – sort of loving-kindness ‘squared’ – the loving-kindness essence of loving-kindness. On day 2, we would work on the ‘discipline’ aspect of loving-kindness and on day three the ‘harmony or beauty’ aspect of loving-kindness. We will continue in this until we finish all seven aspects of all seven major attributes of Elohim’s character.

Upon conclusion of the 49 days we arrive at the 50th day Shavuot or Pentecost. After we have achieved all we can accomplish through our own initiative, crossing and refining every emotional corner of our psyche, we then receive a gift from above on Pentecost, which in our case we received at immersion providing us the ability to one day if we qualify, become like Yahshua, as we read from 1 John 3: 2 in this way: ***‘Beloved, now we are children of Elohim, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as he is.’*** We read further from Colossians 3: 1 – 10, ***‘If then you have been raised up with Messiah, keep seeking the things above, where Messiah is, seated at the right hand of Elohim. (2) Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. (3) For you have died and your life is hidden with Messiah in Elohim. (4) When Messiah, who is our life, is revealed, then you***

also will be revealed with Him in glory. (5) Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. (6) For it is on account of these things that the wrath of Elohim will come, (7) and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. (8) But now you also, put them all aside; anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. (9) Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, (10) and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.'

However, in today's exercise we will also consider the three hidden traits of Elohim namely Wisdom, Knowledge and Understanding. The total of ten attributes corresponds to the Ten Commandments or the covenant that we entered into with YHVH at our immersion, with each commandment expressing a major truth about the attributes or character traits of Elohim:

- Wisdom transliterated as 'chochmah' in Hebrew corresponds with the First Commandment – to have no other gods besides the True Elohim. Examine yourself to see how true you have remained to the ONE Elohim since your immersion and do the same for each of the 9 remaining commandments.
- Knowledge transliterated 'Da'at' in Hebrew corresponds to the Second Commandment – to make no idols or image of worship.
- Understanding transliterated as 'binah' relates to the Third Commandment – not to take the name of Elohim in vain. The Hebrew word for vain is 'shavah', meaning not to use lightly, destroy or bring to naught the name of Elohim, by hiding, refusing to use, and purposely misspelling His name.
- The next attribute is loving kindness transliterated as 'Chesed' in Hebrew corresponds to Sabbath observance, how we observe the Sabbath day. Is it a day of love and kindness, showing our love for Elohim and fellow believers (or our neighbors) – a day of community, spiritual instruction and hospitality.
- The fifth attribute is justice, discipline or strength, transliterated as 'gevurah' in Hebrew corresponds to honoring our parents, as Isaac obeyed Abraham, in faith, even as he was about to be sacrificed on the altar at Elohim's command.
- The sixth attribute is beauty, harmony, unity and peace transliterated as 'torefet' in Hebrew corresponds with the command not to murder. Rav Yochanan informs us in 1 John 3: 15, that if we hate someone it is the same as killing him/her, as the spirit of hatred is the spirit of murder.
- The seventh attribute endurance is transliterated as 'Netzach' in Hebrew and corresponds with the command not to commit adultery. Adultery in Elohim's eyes is equivalent to idolatry – unfaithfulness. It is diminishing and failure of commitment, a debasing of a set-apart and pure Elohim-plane relationship. We must gain victory over every vestige of sin – such as lust, pornography, and seduction.
- The eighth attribute is humility, splendor, and glory transliterated as 'hod' in Hebrew and corresponds with the commandment not to steal. Stealing robs one's character of humility, glory and splendor. We are reminded by Rav Shaul in 1 Corinthians 6: 10, that no thief will enter the Kingdom of Elohim.

- The ninth attribute is bonding or foundation, transliterated as 'yesod' in Hebrew. At the foundation of our character, we should have the character trait of integrity, honesty, and truth. This attribute corresponds with the command not to bear false witness about a neighbor and is the foundation of truth.
- The tenth attribute is sovereignty or leadership, transliterated in Hebrew as 'Malchut' corresponds to the command not to covet. As Elohim's people we must develop leadership qualities of Elohim, so that we can govern under Him in His Eternal Kingdom. However, we are evaluated by what we are doing with the talents given us, and how we utilize the same to serve Elohim's people at this time. According to Colossians 3: 5 quoted earlier, a fair just ruler is not covetous, lustful or greedy.

As we strive to attain these character traits of Elohim, we work for six days on each of these traits, fighting against the downward pull of the flesh (or our animal instinct), and rest on the seventh day, allowing Elohim to work in us, and perfecting us. On the seventh day of each count we will accordingly meditate and pray about the 'Kingdom' aspects of each trait. It is on the seventh day that Elohim brings all the building blocks of the character traits we are working on together, and completes it in us.

This is part of our lifelong walk in overcoming, of developing Elohim's character in us. This is perhaps why Rav Kepha wrote in 2 Peter 1: 3 - 10, saying: ***'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.'***

We see therefore that there is much more to the word 'Sabbath' in Leviticus 23: 15 than we can ever imagine. It gives us a deeper level of understanding to the plan Elohim is working out in our lives on earth. Elohim is as Job stated the second part of Job 14: 15, ***('Thou wilt) longing for the work of (Thy) His hands.'*** YHVH our Elohim wants to complete the work He has started in us when He created us in His image and likeness. We were made to eventually conform to the visible image of the invisible Elohim, namely Yahshua. Counting the Omer serves like all Elohim's other commandments a wonderful purpose in the life of every believer; it teaches us the divine lesson to build Elohim's set-apart character in us.

Far too many of Elohim's people have goofed off and slouched along, not really understanding the importance of the daily counting of the Omer as a positive step towards building Elohim's character in us. They start counting diligently, but because of being too busy with making a living they never finish what they started and as a result do not understand our reason for counting the Omer, especially knowing that we will always end up on the 6th of Sivan.

The reason Elohim used the word 'Sabbath' in relation to counting the Omer, in Leviticus 23: 15, whereas He used the word Weeks in Deuteronomy 16: 9, is telling us that during this period of 49 days (7 times 7) we are to become perfect as Yahshua told us when He magnified the commandments in Matthew 5: 48, saying: ***"Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."*** I hope this will help us understand the reason for counting the Omer a great deal better! Halleluyah!

Chapter 2: What is the Gospel that Yahshua preached?

There are a variety of so-called gospels being preached in the Western world today. Christianity calls their gospel 'The Gospel of Jesus Christ'. Others call their gospel 'The Gospel of Salvation.' Yet others refer to their gospel as 'The Gospel of Grace.' But, none of these are the gospel that Yahshua Messiah preached. The question is: why doesn't Christianity preach the only true gospel as proclaimed by Messiah, and what is the gospel Messiah preached? For the answer let's turn to Mark 1: 14 & 15, where we read: ***'And after John had been taken into custody, Yahshua came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of Elohim, (15) and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of Elohim is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."*** Continuing in Matthew 24, Yahshua explained to His disciples about the signs of His return and of the end of the age – when mankind's reign over themselves will come to an end, as recorded in verses 4 & 5, ***'And Yahshua answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. (5) For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Messiah,' and will mislead many."*** Numerous professing Christian ministers have over the past centuries, *'preached Christ'*. They professed to represent Messiah, but they have not taught the true gospel of Messiah and for that reason, the vast majority of their followers have been deceived.

We see from 1 John 2: 18 that there were already many anti-Messiah's in the days of the apostle John (Yochanan), as follows: ***'Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour.'*** In fact Rav Shaul lamented the fact that there were already many false apostles, teaching a counterfeit gospel in his day in Galatians 1: 6 – 8, in this way: ***'I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Messiah, for a different gospel; (7) which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Messiah.'*** About twenty years after Messiah's death, Rav Shaul pronounced a curse upon those who dare to preach a different gospel to the one Messiah proclaimed. In fact the true gospel was suppressed not long after Messiah completed His ministry. The ecclesia of Elohim, namely the sect of the Nazarenes was forced by persecution to hold services in secret, communicating the true gospel of Elohim privately.

In fact a false gospel continued to be proclaimed publicly until today; many different false gospels are being taught as the truth. Because the majority of people have no idea of the true gospel, they reject the true gospel when they hear it. Rav Shaul continued to warn believers in the Corinthian ecclesia in 2 Corinthians 11: 3 & 4, saying: ***'But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Messiah. (4) For if one comes and preaches another Yahshua whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.'*** The Yahshua that these false teachers taught about were totally foreign to Rav Shaul and the other true apostles of Messiah. It is for this reason that Rav Shaul wrote in 2 Corinthians 11: 13 – 15, ***'For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Messiah. (14) And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. (15) Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.'***

Rav Shaul was not impressed with those who suppress the truth in His day and wrote in Romans 1: 18, ***'For the wrath of Elohim is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness***

of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.’ Yes, verse 18 is specifically about those who do not teach the Oneness of Elohim and come up with all sorts of speculations about Him, but it is also about those who suppress the true gospel. Prior to the end of the first century after Messiah, the message of the true gospel proclaimed by Messiah was suppressed and false gospels were introduced. However, we see from Mark 16: 15 & 16, Yahshua saying that it is necessary to believe the true gospel to be saved, in this way: ***‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. (16) He who has believed and has been immersed shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.’*** Notice, Yahshua said that we need to believe ***‘the gospel’***, not a gospel or any gospel to be saved!

The prophet Malachi lived in Jerusalem as part of Jews who returned out of captivity in Babylon and his prophecy reached only a small portion of Judah and none of the house of Israel. Even so we see from Malachi 1: 1 that his prophecy is addressed to Israel, as follows: ***‘The Oracle of the word of YHVH to Israel through Malachi.’*** His message never reached the house of Israel which had long since been taken into captivity in Assyria and scattered into the world. The reason for this was that Malachi’s message was a prophecy for Israel today! The prophecy by Malachi in Malachi 3: 1 that Elohim would send His ‘messenger’ to prepare the way before the Master (Adonai) was applicable to both Messiah’s first and second coming. Verse 1 of Malachi 3, was about Messiah’s first coming, but verses 2 & 3 definitely referred to Messiah’s return in power and esteem to come and rule the world from Jerusalem.

We know from reading Luke 1: 13 – 17 that Yochanan the immerser was sent by Elohim to prepare the way for Messiah’s first coming, in this way: ***‘But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name Yochanan. (14) And you will have joy and gladness and many will rejoice at his birth. (15) For he will be great in the sight of the Master, and he will drink no wine or liquor; and he will be filled with the Set-apart Spirit, while yet in his mother’s womb. (16) And he will turn back many of the sons of Israel to the Master their Elohim. (17) and it is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous; so as to make ready a people prepared for the Master.”’*** Yochanan preached the immersion of repentance for the remission of sins to prepare the people to accept Messiah when he began His ministry.

Messiah came as a messenger from heaven to proclaim the good news about the coming Kingdom of Elohim on earth. Yahshua began preaching the gospel in Galilee after Yochanan completed his ministry and was imprisoned. We see clearly from Matthew 15: 24 that Messiah was sent to preach the good news to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Yahshua was a divine messenger from heaven to preach to the descendants of the lost house Israel, and to reconcile them to both the Father and to their neighbor, the house of Judah. The gospel that Messiah proclaimed was a message about the coming Kingdom of Elohim on earth, as it is now in heaven, as testified in the model prayer He taught His disciples in Matthew 6: 9 & 10, as follows: ***“Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. (10) Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”*** Yahshua came as the Son of Elohim to show us that we may become sons and daughters of Elohim, when we will one day become born again as spiritual children of Elohim, at His return on Yom Teruah, one day – the same way in which He was the first-born from the dead (as per Colossians 1: 15 & 18).

At that time we will become a spirit-born nation ruling all nations on earth as a world-ruling government under our Master and savior Yahshua Messiah. Yahshua was sent only to announce the gospel of the Kingdom of Elohim, and definitely not to force men to accept it or to believe in it. Yahshua did not plead with anyone to be converted, but He simply announced the good news of the Kingdom of Elohim. Yahshua left the calling to the Father and did not come to convert the world. He never started a 'soul-saving' crusade, but instead announced the good news about the coming Kingdom of Elohim, to replace all the failed kingdoms of the world. Even so, Yahshua emphasized that it was absolutely necessary to repent and believe the gospel that He proclaimed (as per Mark 1: 14 & 15). At this point you may ask: Don't we also need to believe in Yahshua? Yes, we have to believe in Yahshua! But what does it mean to believe in Him? It means that we should believe in what He taught and did whilst He was on earth, but also that we should believe in His name Yahshua – meaning the salvation of YHVH.

YHVH sent Yahshua as His Son with the special message that the present world ruled by Satan will soon be ruled by Elohim, giving mankind hope of a world restored by YHVH and His rulership – applying His rules of Law to a lawless society. This gives us hope of a much better world with no more crime and violence, where people will live in peace under Elohim's guidance and reign. Messiah's gospel is the proclamation of the coming world government to rule all nations and bring today's chaotic war weary world, peace and happiness. However, Messiah's message also included the knowledge about Him as our kinsman redeemer, High Priest and future King of kings and Master of masters. It includes the true way of salvation, long ago lost by the churches of this world, but also the knowledge of the location of the territory to be ruled over by the coming King of the Kingdom of Elohim, namely earth and not heaven as so many falsely teach.

The true gospel also includes the Law of Elohim, since no government can function without laws. Whereas the Torah was written on two tablets of stone and in the written material of ancient Israel in the original covenant that YHVH made with the united nation of Israel, He is going to write it on the hearts of Israel as testified in Jeremiah 31: 31 – 34 in the New (or Renewed) Covenant, as follows: ***"Behold, days are coming," declares YHVH, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, (32) not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares YHVH. (33) "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares YHVH, "I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people."*** When analyzing these verses we see that the New Covenant will be with both the house of Israel and the house of Judah. However, it is important to notice that Elohim will only have to write His Torah on the hearts of the house of Israel! The reason being that His Torah is already in the hearts of Torah observing Judah; those who religiously attend synagogue service every Sabbath as well as on every Set-apart day.

The true gospel has to do with the nations of this world and Messiah's reign over them during His millennial rule. It is the same gospel which Satan has kept from this world for the past almost two thousand years. However, to understand what the full meaning of the gospel of the Kingdom of Elohim is all about, we need to look at the successive world-ruling kingdoms of the world throughout the ages of man. The prophet Daniel, who lived about 600 years before Messiah, knew that the

Kingdom of Elohim will be an actual government ruling over physical people on earth, because Elohim revealed it to him. Daniel was one of four intelligent Jewish boys who were taken to Babylon in the Judean captivity. These four young men were based in king Nebuchadnezzar's palace and were in training for special responsibilities in the Babylonian government. We see from Daniel 1: 17, that Elohim gave Daniel special understanding through visions and dreams.

King Nebuchadnezzar was the first world ruler and had conquered most of the known world of that time, including the house of Judah. One night king Nebuchadnezzar had a dream which troubled him deeply. He demanded that his magicians and astrologers tell him both what he dreamed and what his dream meant. But, none of them could. So Daniel was brought before the king. But, Daniel disclaimed any more ability to interpret dreams than the Chaldean magicians, telling king Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2: 27 – 30 that only YHWH the Elohim of Israel reveals secrets and would make known to Nebuchadnezzar what would come to pass, saying: ***“As for the mystery about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians, nor diviners are able to declare it to the king. (28) However, there is an Elohim in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind while you were on your bed. (29) As for you, O king, while on your bed your thoughts turned to what would take place in the future; and He who reveals mysteries has made known to you what will take place. (30) But as for me, this mystery has not been revealed to me for any wisdom residing in me more than in any other living man, but for the purpose of making the interpretation known to the king, and that you may understand the thoughts of your mind.”***

Elohim revealed through Nebuchadnezzar's dream that there is an Elohim in heaven who is the Supreme Ruler over all nations, even though He left the nations to their own devices over the past 6,000 years, He gave Nebuchadnezzar an opportunity to accept His rule. But, the main purpose of this dream was to reveal Elohim's government, presently in heaven, that will soon be established on earth. However, the purpose of the dream was also to reveal to us living in the 'latter days' what is about to happen in our days - the end time. Even though this was written about 2,500 years ago, it is not only history recorded for us, but it is tremendously relative news for our time! News before it happens, in order that we may prepare ourselves for what is going to happen in the foreseeable future. In his dream king Nebuchadnezzar saw a huge terrifying statue in the form of a man. Its head was composed of gold, its breast and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of brass, its legs of solid iron, and its feet and toes a mixture of iron and clay. As king Nebuchadnezzar looked upon this enormous statute in his dream, a stone was cut out without hands and it struck the statue on its feet and crushed the statue which became like chaff from the threshing floor and the wind carried it away; and the stone became a great mountain and filled the earth. The stone that king Nebuchadnezzar saw is obviously Yahshua, the same foundation stone upon which the ecclesia of Elohim is built and who will return to rule the world from Jerusalem; as much as a mountain in the Scriptures represent government. We see from Nebuchadnezzar's dream that the mountain filled the earth, as much as Messiah will be King over the entire earth. Unlike normal dreams, this one was caused by Elohim to convey the message of Elohim's dominion to king Nebuchadnezzar. But, because it is part of Elohim's Scriptures, it also reveals to us the facts about the true gospel of Yahshua Messiah.

We see the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream revealed by Elohim to Daniel in verses 37 – 44 of Daniel 2, as follows: ***"You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the Elohim of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength, and the glory; (38) and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold. (39) And after you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth. (40) Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces. (41) And in that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. (42) And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. (43) And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery. (44) And in the days of those kings the Elohim of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever."***

Elohim revealed Himself to the Head of a world-wide government and to us today as the all-powerful Ruler who must be obeyed. We see that Nebuchadnezzar and his world-ruling kingdom were represented by the head of gold. We see that these verses speak of kingdoms that would rule over many people on the earth. Elohim revealed to Daniel that the great metal image represent a succession of world ruling governments from the time of king Nebuchadnezzar right up to the time when Messiah will return to rule the world. Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom is followed, by a second, then a third which shall rule over all the earth. The legs of iron represent a fourth empire, which will be extremely powerful, as much as iron is stronger than the previous three metals mentioned. Even though each successive metal was harder and stronger than the previous ones, the decreasing value of the metals showed the succession would deteriorate spiritually and morally. The two legs of the fourth empire also showed that the fourth kingdom would be divided.

The Chaldean Empire was followed by the Persian Empire, followed by the Greco-Macedonian Empire and fourth, the Roman Empire. The final empire was divided with capital cities at Rome and Constantinople. The ten kings represented by the ten toes will be in existence immediately prior to Messiah's return to set-up His eternal world-ruling government. By linking the prophecy with the prophecy in Daniel 7 and Revelation 13 & 17, we know that this is referring to a united European empire being formed at present. We see from Revelation 17: 12 that this final empire will be composed of a union of ten kingdoms. This will in fact be the final revival of the medieval Holy Roman Empire. After the fall of the ancient Roman Empire in 476 CE, there were seven revivals that would rule over a church called the daughter of ancient Babylon in Isaiah 47: 1. We see from Revelation 17: 1 – 5 that this church is referred to as '*mystery BABYLON THE GREAT*'. At this time six revivals have come and gone, and the seventh is in the process of being formed. It will be the final short-lived resurrection of the Roman Empire, composed of ten nations or groups. These are the ten toes made up of a mixture of iron and clay – some will be very strong whilst others are brittle like clay.

Finally after their reign of only three and a half years, Messiah will return to earth to establish the Kingdom of Elohim, as also witnessed in Revelation 19: 11 – 16, in this way: ***‘And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war. (12) And His eyes are a flame of fire, and upon His head are many diadems; and He has a name written upon Him which no one knows except Himself. (13) And He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood; and His name is called The Word of Elohim. (14) And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. (15) And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of Elohim, the Almighty. (16) And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND MASTER OF MASTERS.”’*** Revelation 11: 15 tell us that at that time ***“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Master and His Messiah; and He will reign forever and ever.”*** Yes, the Scriptures reveal that the Kingdom of Elohim will be a literal kingdom made-up of spiritual rulers who will rule over the whole world. Messiah also showed us the only way to be born-again into the Kingdom of Elohim, is when we will either be resurrected or changed from physical to spiritual beings at His return.

At this point we return to Yochanan the immerser who came as a messenger who cleared the way before Messiah’s first coming. However, after Yochanan was imprisoned Yahshua prophesied about another ‘Elijah’ who was yet to come in Matthew 17: 10 & 11, as follows: ***‘And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?” (11) And He answered and said, “Elijah is coming and will restore all things.”’*** It is true that Yochanan was a type of Elijah, but Malachi also prophesied about another Elijah’s coming in Malachi 4: 5 & 6, in this way: ***“Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of YHVH. (6) And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse.”*** These verses show that Yochanan the immerser was a type of the future Elijah who would also be sent by Elohim in the spirit and power of Elijah the prophet before the second coming of Messiah as world ruler.

Prior to Messiah’s return a human messenger would be called by Elohim to prepare a spiritual people for Elohim, and to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the other way round, but also to turn our hearts (the seat of our emotions) to the faith of our fathers in the faith, namely Abraham, Isaac and Jacob before the second coming of Messiah. Why need we return to the faith of our fathers in the faith? Because our fathers in the faith have already qualified to be in the Kingdom, as testified by Yahshua himself in Luke 13: 24 - 28, in this way: ***“Strive to enter by the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. (25) Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, ‘Master, open up to us!’ then He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know where you are from.’ (26) Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets’; (27) and He will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.’ (28) There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth there when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of Elohim, but yourselves being cast out.”*** However, we also need to teach new believers the Torah of Moses (as we read from Malachi 4: 4) and to proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom of Elohim into the entire world (as per Matthew 24: 14) before man’s

rule on earth will come to an end. We are presently busy doing the work of Elohim by telling people to believe in the One whom He has sent as witnessed in John 6: 29, where Yahshua said: ***“This is the work of Elohim, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”*** However, as mentioned earlier, believe in Yahshua means that we do as He instructed us in Matthew 24: 14¹ and Matthew 28: 19 & 20², until his imminent return to rule the world from Jerusalem.

As part of those who believe in the coming Kingdom of Elohim and who teach fellow believers that YHWH is our Elohim, we are truly part of those whom both Malachi and Yahshua spoke about, as clearing the way before His return in the spirit of Elijah. May that glorious day arrive very soon! Amein!

¹ Matthew 24: 14, ***“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all nations, and then the end shall come.”***

² Matthew 28: 18 - 20, ***‘And Yahshua came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, immersing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Set-apart Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”’***

Chapter 3: Who is Yahshua?

Yahshua was particularly fond of one of His disciples, even though He loved all people. We notice from the gospel penned by Yochanan (John) that he was a little hesitant about talking about himself in the first person – even though he was not hesitant about mentioning the other disciples by name: One example being where he mentioned Kepha (also known as Simon Peter), as the disciple who cut off the ear of the high priest's slave, when Yahshua was arrested in John 18: 10. But, he never mentioned himself by name in the entire book of Yochanan.

We read accordingly from John 13: 21 – 24, ***'When Yahshua had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me." (22) The disciples began looking at one another, at a loss to know of which one He was speaking. (23) There was reclining on Yahshua's breast one of His disciples, whom Yahshua loved. (24) Simon Peter therefore gestured to him, and said to him, "Tell us who it is of whom He speaking."*** To discover who was this disciple whom Yahshua loved, we read from John 21: 20 – 24, ***'Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Yahshua loved following them; the one who also had leaned back on His breast at the supper, and said, "Master, who is the one who betrays You?" (21) Peter therefore seeing him said to Yahshua, "Master, and what about this man?" (22) Yahshua said to him, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!" (23) This saying therefore went out among the brethren that that disciple would not die; yet Yahshua did not say to him that he would not die, but only, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you?" (24) This is the disciple who bears witness of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his witness is true.'*** This disciple could be none other than the author of the Gospel of John, namely Yochanan himself.

Yochanan remained alive to also write the book of Revelation long after Rav Kepha was martyred and hanged upside down. In fact Yochanan was the only apostle whose life did not end in martyrdom. Even though he was imprisoned, he was allowed to live out his life on the Isle of Patmos, where Yahshua revealed to him the things which will take place in fairly rapid succession before the last days. Yochanan was favored to be among the small group of disciples who had a foretaste of the Kingdom of Elohim in vision, when Messiah was transfigured before him, Kepha and Yaa'cov. It was also Yochanan who first believed that Messiah had risen from the dead. We see from John 20: 2, that a short time after Messiah's resurrection, Mary Magdalene came and saw the tomb was empty, ***'and so she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple whom Yahshua loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Master out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."*** Yochanan outran Kepha to the tomb, but spontaneous Kepha entered first, as we read from verses 6 – 8 of John 20, in this way: ***'Simon Peter therefore also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he beheld the linen wrappings lying there, (7) and the face-cloth, which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. (8) So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb entered then also, and he saw and believed.'***

Possibly because of his special closeness to Messiah, Yochanan was given a deeper understanding of our Savior. The authors of the other three Gospel accounts, namely Matthew, Mark and Luke began their biographies of Yahshua with Yochanan the Immerser or with Yahshua's human conception. But

Yochanan began with Yahshua's pre-existence as the Word of Elohim, who was with Elohim in the beginning, who was Elohim the Creator who became flesh and dwelt among us. Yahshua became YHVH in the flesh to reconcile us the lost ten tribes to Brother Judah and then together back to the Father. In fact Yahshua identified Himself as the good shepherd in John 10: 11 & 14 and by fulfilling, in the most spectacular forthcoming event of all time, His prophetic desire to rescue the remnant of the scattered exiles of all 12 tribes of Israel, from the four corners of the earth, and resettling them in the Land of their fathers in the faith, to whom He had covenanted it by Divine Oath.

Rav Shaul wrote in Colossians 1: 13 – 18, ***'For He (YHVH) delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, (14) in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (15) And He is the image of the invisible Elohim, the first-born of all creation. (16) For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things have been created by Him and for Him. (17) And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. (18) He is also head of the body, the ecclesia; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.'*** Rav Shaul points out the massive extent of the work and authority of the Messiah who existed from eternity.

Similarly Yochanan emphasizes through the inspiration of the Set-apart Spirit the pre-existence of Messiah as Elohim before His human birth. The same theme runs throughout the entire Gospel of Yochanan, as he repeats his introductory words in verse 10 of John 1, saying: ***'He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.'*** Even though He made the world, when He came to the world in the flesh, the vast majority of those who had the opportunity to know Him rejected their own Creator! In fact Yochanan the Immerser witnessed of Yahshua in John 1: 15, in this way: ***'Yochanan bore witness of Him, and cried out saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me,'"*** Yochanan the Immerser was begotten and born as a human before Yahshua was, but Yahshua was Elohim long before Yochanan was conceived.

In fact Yochanan the disciple revealed that Yahshua possessed powers that no normal human being had, although He was also subject to the pulls and temptations of the flesh as we read from Hebrews 4: 15, as follows: ***'For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.'*** One example where we see Messiah's special powers are when He speaks to Nathanael in John 1: 47 – 50, in this way: ***'Yahshua saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" (48) Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Yahshua answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." (49) Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of Elohim; You are the King of Israel." (50) Yahshua answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these."*** A second witness of Messiah's special ability comes from John 2: 23 – 25, as follows: ***'Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, beholding His signs which He was doing. (24) But Yahshua, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, (25) and because He did not need anyone to bear witness concerning man for he Himself knew what was in man.'*** Because Messiah the Creator made mankind, he knew all people's human weaknesses.

Yochanan Messiah's disciple, knew Yahshua's origin as he quoted Messiah saying in John 3: 13, ***'And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man.'*** Yochanan the Immerser continues this theme in verses 30 – 36, saying: ***"He must increase, but I must decrease. (31) He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. (32) What He has seen and heard, of that He bears witness; and no man receives His witness. (33) He who has received His witness has set his seal to this, that Elohim is true. (34) For He whom Elohim has sent speaks the words of Elohim; for He gives the Spirit without measure. (35) The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. (36) He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of Elohim abides on him."***

When Yahshua was in heaven as the Word before His human birth, He saw and heard the message that He later spoke on earth, as he testified in a conversation with the religious leaders of His day in John 8: 14, saying: ***"Even If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true; for I know where I came from, and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from, or where I am going."*** He continued in verses 23 and 28, saying: ***"You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. (28) When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me."*** In the fairly long discussion between the Pharisees and Yahshua, the Pharisees brought up the subject of Abraham. Yahshua explained to them in verse 56, saying: ***"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."*** Yes, the One who became Messiah actually walked and talked with Abraham from Genesis 12: 1 up to Genesis 22: 1 – 2. But, because YHVH has blinded these religionists to Yahshua, they did not understand what He was saying, as witnessed in verses 57 – 59 of John 8, in this way: ***'The Jews therefore said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham? (58) Yahshua said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am." (59) Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him; but Yahshua hid Himself, and went out of the temple.'*** Most in Christianity do not fully realize what happened here – why the Jews wanted to stone Yahshua? The Jews wanted to stone Yahshua because they knew what He was saying; they knew that by saying the words ***'I am'***, He was telling them that He was in fact the same Being who spoke to Moses in Exodus 3: 14 & 15, where we read: ***'And Elohim said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' (15) And Elohim, furthermore, said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'YHVH, the Elohim of your fathers, the Elohim of Abraham, the Elohim of Isaac, and the Elohim of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.'*** Yes, Yahshua was the same Elohim who walked and talked with Moses in the wilderness— the same ***'I AM'*** who brought the children of Israel out of Egypt. Rav Shaul makes this clear in 1 Corinthians 10: 1 – 4, 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.'***

This is the same Being who presided over the Flood in Noah's day, as Rav Kepha aptly testifies in 1 Peter 3: 18 – 20 (KJV) saying: ***'For Messiah also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to Elohim, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: (19)***

By which also he went and preached unto the spirits (demons) in prison; (20) which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of Elohim waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls (lives) were saved by water.' Even so we find the most unequivocal statements about Messiah's pre-existence in the Books of Yochanan. The major emphasis of the book is the fact that Yahshua was Elohim before His human birth. We see that even Nicodemus said to Yahshua in John 3: 2, ***"Rabbi, we know that You have come from Elohim as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless Elohim is with him."*** In John 10: 11 & 17, when Yahshua said to the Pharisees, ***"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. (17) For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again."*** They knew exactly what He meant. They were fully aware that David wrote in Psalm 23, that: ***"YHVH is my shepherd."*** They were also fully aware of what Ezekiel wrote in Ezekiel 34: 11, in this way: ***'For thus says YHVH Elohim, "Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out.'"*** In addition the Pharisees knew that only YHVH the One true Elohim has power over life and death – so they understood Yahshua telling them that He was Elohim in the flesh. Therefore when he told them in John 10: 30, saying: ***"I and the Father are one"***, they took up stones again to stone Him, as they thought He was blaspheming, by calling Himself Elohim!

However, even though we have firmly established that Yahshua existed eternally, we need to understand that He divested Himself of His former glory and came to earth as a human being to die for the sins of mankind, as Rav Shaul also wrote in Philippians 2: 5 – 8, as follows: ***'Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Messiah Yahshua, (6) who, although He existed in the form of Elohim, did not regard equality with Elohim a thing to be grasped, (7) but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. (8) And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.'*** Next Rav Shaul brings out the fact that Yahshua is now restored to His former glory, by writing in verses 9 – 11, ***'Therefore also Elohim highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, (10) that at the name of Yahshua EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, (11) and that every tongue should confess that Yahshua Messiah is Master (MarYah in Aramaic meaning the Master YHVH), to the glory of Elohim the Father.'***

Yochanan Yahshua's disciple also wrote of Yahshua resuming His role as part of Elohim in John 17: 5 Yahshua praying: ***'And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.'*** In John 7: 33 Yahshua said to His disciples, ***"For a little while longer I am with you, then I go to Him who sent Me."*** This in fact came to fruition in Acts 1: 9, where we read: ***'And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.'*** Concerning Messiah's last Passover, Yochanan writes in John 13: 1, ***'Now before the Feast of the Passover, Yahshua knowing that his hour had come that He should depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.'***

This proves that Yahshua was Elohim before His human birth and it is a common confession of Nazarene Jews/Israelites as Rav Shaul also wrote in 1 Timothy 3: 16 (KJV), saying: ***'And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness (or our faith): Elohim was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received***

up into glory.’ However we should not stop here in our knowledge. The point is that Yahshua became a man for a purpose and we need to also understand His reason for so doing, for herein lies the incredible human potential Elohim has planned for us from the day He created us in His image.

Yahshua said to Mary Magdalene in John 20: 17, ***“Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My Elohim and your Elohim.”*** Yahshua was equating Himself with His disciples and future disciples, even though He was their Master and Elohim, as witnessed by Thomas in John 20: 28. The real significance of this is the fact that the Jews wanted to stone Him in John 10: 31. Yahshua continues to tell these Jews in verses 32 – 36, saying: ***“I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?”*** (33) ***The Jews answered Him, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be Elohim.”*** (34) ***Yahshua answered them, “Has it not been written in your Law, ‘I SAID YOU ARE GODS?’*** (see Psalm 82: 6) (35) ***If he called them gods, to whom the word of Elohim came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),*** (36) ***do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming’, Because I said, I am the Son of Elohim?”*** This important passage of the Scriptures reveals that man’s ultimate destiny is to become children of Elohim, as much as Yahshua came as the Son of Elohim. We see from Yochanan’s first letter in 1 John 3: 2, Yochanan confirms this, as follows: ***‘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.’*** In fact King David wrote the very same thing 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.’***

Do you grasp what both Yochanan and King David are saying here? Even as Elohim became the Son of Man, so man may become children of Elohim! Man has the potential to become just as much Elohim as Messiah is Elohim. That was what Yahshua came to show us and Rav Yochanan tells us exactly how we are able to achieve this in 1 John 3: 3, saying: ***‘And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.’*** Baruch HaShem YHVH!

Chapter 4: Will we be accepted when Messiah returns?

After the fall of man, YHVH gave mankind 6,000 years to experiment with different types of Satan inspired economical, religious and governmental systems. This was to show mankind that without His interaction in our lives, we will fail every time. Consequently, when YHVH calls us to come out of the world and its systems, He expects us to start doing things the way He intended for us to live from the beginning – to follow and obey Him in exchange for Him providing and protecting us like a husband is supposed to do for his wife. Once we are immersed into Yahshua's saving name, we accept (YHVH)'s conditions for our lives and should from then on do things His way.

We are all aware that YHVH divorced the house of Israel because of Idolatry, but that He sent Yahshua specifically to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (as per Matthew 15: 24), to reconcile us back to both Brother Judah (our neighbor) and the Father (as per Ephesians 2: 11 – 18). But, this is conditional upon the Fathers calling, as Yahshua explained to His disciples in John 6: 65, saying: ***“For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me, unless it has been granted him from the Father.”*** So, we see that there is no way in which we can decide on our own to follow Yahshua the salvation of YHVH. The question therefore is: how does YHVH call us? We see the answer in James 1: 18, as follows: ***‘In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth (the entire Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation), so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures.’***

Even though YHVH is able to raise up stones to do His work, He uses people to proclaim the good news about His coming Kingdom on earth as it is now in heaven. It is for this reason that he is calling a remnant of the descendants of the lost ten tribes of Israel (see Romans 11: 5 & 11), to make members of the house of Judah jealous, by keeping the same Set-apart Days and Kosher Laws that they do, with a Spiritual intent. But, herein lies a problem. YHVH calls us to do things the way He specifies in His word. Despite us having lost our faith, culture and language, YHVH allowed our Jewish Brothers to preserve His Oracles, including the Torah for us, ever since our captivity by the Assyrians approximately 2730 years ago, during 721 to 718 BCE. Similar to the Jews who prepared many years in advance to return to the Holy Land in 1948, YHVH has been preparing a remnant of the lost ten tribes to return to the land within the next few years (from 2013³ on). Now that we are returning to the way of Elohim, He wants us to follow the perfect example that He sent us, in Yahshua our Messiah. Yahshua came to show us to follow the way of Elohim, and there is therefore no reason for us to develop our own set of rules to follow Him. By strictly following the discipleship program introduced by Yahshua, we will once for all overcome the problems experienced by groups, when their human leaders die, as Messiah's example will remain eternally.

But, why don't people follow Yahshua the Messiah? We read the answer to this question from Isaiah 8: 5 – 18, in this way: ***‘And again YHVH spoke to me further, saying, (6) Inasmuch as these people have rejected the gently flowing waters of Shiloah, and rejoice in Rezin and the son of Remaliah; (7) Now therefore, behold, YHVH is about to bring on them the strong and abundant waters of the Euphrates, even the king of Assyria and all his glory; and it will rise up over all its channels and go***

³ 2012 being the year during which our exile came to an end, exactly 2730 years since 718 BCE - computed by comparing Ezekiel 4: 1 - 5 with Leviticus 27: 18, to arrive at the allotted period (of 390 times 7 or 2730 years) for our exile.

over all its banks. (8) Then it will sweep on into Judah, it will overflow and pass through, it will reach even to the neck; and the spread of its wings will fill the breadth of your land, O Immanuel. (9) Be broken, O peoples, and be shattered; and give ear all remote places of the earth. Gird yourselves, yet be shattered. Gird yourselves, yet be shattered. (10) Devise a plan but it will be thwarted; State a proposal, but it will not stand, for Elohim is with us. (11) For thus YHVH spoke to me with mighty power and instructed me not to walk in the way of this people, saying, (12) “You are not to say, ‘It is a conspiracy!’ In regard to all that this people call a conspiracy, and you are not to fear or be in dread of it. (13) It is YHVH of hosts whom you should regard as set-apart. And He shall be your fear, and He shall be your dread. (14) Then He shall become a sanctuary; But to both the houses of Israel, a stone to strike and a rock to stumble over, and a snare and a trap for the inhabitants of Jerusalem. (15) And many will stumble over them, then they will fall and be broken; they will even be snared and caught. (16) Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples. (17) And I will wait for YHVH who is hiding His face from the house of Jacob; I will even look eagerly for Him. (18) Behold, I and the children whom YHVH has given me are for signs and wonders in Israel from YHVH of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion.’

Now this is an all-embracing statement; the reference to Rezin in verse 6 comes from Isaiah 7: 8 telling us the head of Damascus is Rezin and within 65 years Ephraim will be shattered so that it will not be a people any longer. Verse 7 of Isaiah 8 informs us that the Assyrians were responsible to take the house of Israel captive, after which time they were scattered into the world. Verse 8 tells us that after the captivity and return of Judah, Immanuel will be born of Jewish ancestry and verse 9 tells us that by that time the house of Israel will have been shattered. Verse 10 again tells us that Elohim will not allow Israel to make their own plans, as it will not stand since Elohim is with Judah. But, in a way verse 10 also tells us the meaning of the word Immanuel as being ‘*Elohim with us.*’ In verse 11 YHVH talks to us through His mighty power (Yahshua) telling us – the remnant of the lost ten tribes – not to walk in the way of this people (the nations into which we were scattered). In verse 12 YHVH warns us through Isaiah not to say everything is a conspiracy, and not to fear what they fear or be in dread of it. Most of the people who are called out of the world at some time in their search for truth stumble across the so-called ‘Conspiracy Theory’ where the Illuminati or the Free Masons are supposed to control the world, its governments, its money, etc., but here we are warned not to worry about such frivolities (wow our all-knowing Father in heaven knows everything!), but to regard YHVH as holy and to fear only Him as per verse 13. After all He is the ONLY ONE who can give us Eternal life. So even if the Illuminati or any one should kill us, YHVH will resurrect us one day and if we do what He requires from us, will give us eternal life in a world without any crime or violence. All of this is vital for us to understand, but what follows is even more so, since this is the major cause of all the problems experienced in Christianity, but also in Messianic/Nazarene Israelite communities at present. It is high time that we understand what is being said here.

Verse 14, clearly states YHVH will become a sanctuary for true believers, but it also states a very important fact: ***‘But to both houses of Israel, a stone to strike and a rock to stumble over, and a snare and a trap for the inhabitants of Jerusalem.’*** Verse 15 tells us that many will stumble over it and will fall and be broken; they will even be snared and caught. But what can be the problem here? YHVH clearly tells us that He as Immanuel or Elohim with us, will make both houses stumble. As

witnessed in John 12: 37 – 40, He is personally responsible for blinding the house of Judah to Yahshua the Messiah's identity – from His first advent to today, in this way: ***'But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him; (38) that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke, 'MASTER, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM HAS THE ARM OF YHVH BEEN REVEALED? (39) For this cause they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, (40) 'HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES, AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART; LEST THEY SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED, AND I HEAL THEM.'"***

Continuing in verse 16 of Isaiah 8, YHVH tells Isaiah to bind up the testimony and to seal the Law among His disciples (meaning those who learn from Him including us). This is essentially telling us that (YHVH)'s way of interpreting the Scriptures is already bound (up) and sealed for use by those who learn from Him, as specified by Immanuel – so we don't have to change anything. Then in verse 17 YHVH tells us what very few believe today – that He is hiding His face to both houses, but we who know who Yahshua is, are waiting for His return, as Isaiah also testifies in Isaiah 45: 15, as follows: ***'Truly, Thou art an Elohim who hides Himself, O Elohim of Israel, Savior!'*** Finally in verse 18 we are told what our purpose as called out first fruits are at this time, in this way: ***'Behold, I (Yahshua/Elohim with us) and the children whom YHVH has given me are for signs and wonders in Israel from YHVH of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion.'*** Yes, we the first fruits at this time who will at Messiah's return be born-again as spiritual children of Elohim will be used as examples to those during the Millennium rule of Messiah and beyond – showing that if we can make it, they too are able.

In fact this is also what the prophet Daniel tells us, when YHVH revealed King Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2 to him. Daniel concludes the section by telling us about the stone that will at the end of human rulership over themselves, crush and put an end all the human governments, but will itself endure forever. In fact we read from verse 45 of Daniel 2, Daniel telling king Nebuchadnezzar: ***"Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the Great Elohim has made known to the king what will take place in the future, so the dream is true, and its interpretation is trustworthy."*** Daniel identified the stone who will come and rule mankind after man made a complete mess of world affairs, as the Son of Man (or Yahshua) in Daniel 7: 13 & 14, also adding in verse 18, ***'But the saints (set-apart ones) of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.'***

The dividing factor according to Isaiah 8 is those who stumble and those who do not stumble over the identity of Yahshua Messiah, the stone of stumbling and the rock of offense. In the case of our Jewish Brothers, it is what keeps them from accepting Yahshua as the Messiah, but we need to be aware that this is (YHVH)'s doing, as He has blinded them for the specific purpose given by Rav Shaul in 1 Corinthians 2: 4 – 8, as follows: ***'And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, (5) that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of Elohim. (6) Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; (7) but we speak Elohim's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which Elohim predestined before the ages to our glory; (8) the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has***

understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Master of glory.’ To understand what the power and wisdom of Elohim is that Rav Shaul is referring to here, we need to turn to 1 Corinthians 1: 22 – 24, where Rav Shaul wrote: ***‘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.’***

Because not all people believe what Rav Shaul has explained here, they also do not understand or know Elohim. Those who believe that there are two (YHVH)’s with Yahshua being the lesser YHVH, assert that the Set-apart (or Holy) Spirit is simply the power of Elohim. They use amongst other 1 Corinthians 2: 4 to ‘prove’ their assertion without reading from the beginning of the book. This is why Rav Shaul wrote in Romans 1: 18 – 21, ***‘For the wrath of Elohim is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, (19) because that which is known about Elohim is evident within them⁴*** (human beings - as we were created in Elohim’s likeness); ***for Elohim made it evident to them. (20) For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes⁵, His eternal power⁶ and divine nature⁷ have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. (21) For even though they knew Elohim, they did not honor Him as Elohim, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.’*** Knowing that mankind is composed of body, soul and spirit, we should have no excuse to know that similar to us, Elohim who is only one YHVH (according to Deuteronomy 4: 6), has three component parts.

In Matthew 11: 2 – 6 we find Yahshua talking to the disciples of Yochanan the Immerser when they came to Him to enquire on Yochanan’s behalf, if He is the Expected One prophesied about by Isaiah or not. Yahshua answers them in verses 4 - 6, saying: ***“Go and report to Yochanan what you hear and see: (5) the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.*** (Saying in effect to Yochanan – yes; all the things that Isaiah wrote about Him, He performed) ***(6) And blessed is he who keeps from stumbling over Me.”*** Then about the same subject, Yahshua warns the chief priests and the elders in Matthew 21: 33 – 40, relating a parable about a landowner who plants a vineyard, and at ***‘harvest time’*** (at the Feast of Ingathering or Tabernacles) he sends his slaves to the vine-growers to receive his produce. But the vine-growers took his slaves and beat one, killed another and stoned a third. Again he sent another group of slaves, larger than the first, but they did the same to them. Then he sent his son, believing that the vine-growers will at least respect his son, but they also killed his son.

⁴ Mankind is according to 1 Thessalonians 5: 23 composed of body, soul and spirit.

⁵ YHVH is according to 1 Timothy 1: 17 & 6: 16: Invisible and immortal.

⁶ Yahshua is according to 1 Corinthians 1: 24 as well as Jeremiah 32: 17 the great power and the outstretched arm of Elohim by which He made the heavens and the earth.

⁷ The Set-apart Spirit is the divine nature of Elohim. We are given a portion of the Set-apart Spirit at immersion as a pledge to our inheritance (as per Ephesians 1: 13 & 14), giving us the ability to become partakers of the divine nature (as per 2 Peter 1: 4). It is the seed that Elohim implants in us, thereby begetting us again to one day like Yahshua be born again by being resurrected at Messiah’s return; it also empowers us to do Elohim’s will and work.

At this point Yahshua asks (in verse 40): ***“Therefore when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine-growers?”*** upon which these religious leaders answered in verse 41, saying to Him: ***“He will bring those wretches to the wretched end, and will rent out the vineyard to other vine-growers, who will pay him the proceeds at the proper seasons.”*** Considering the two phrases used in this section, namely ***‘harvest time’*** and ***‘at the proper seasons’*** we understand that Yahshua is talking about the Feast Days of Elohim, which should be kept at the proper seasons, but it also has to do with the identity of Yahshua the Son and the fact that they did not recognize Him. Yahshua conclude accordingly saying in verse 42 – 44: ***“Did you never read 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 and be given to a nation producing the fruit of it. (44) And he who falls (stumbles) on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust.”*** Yes, this has to do with both the Feast Days of Elohim and Yahshua. Even though Yahshua spoke to the religious leaders of His time and the fact that they did not recognize Him, it also speaks to the religious leaders of our time - those to whom YHWH is offering the kingdom of Elohim at this time. Because some again stumble over who the rock is upon which Elohim’s ecclesia is being built, they also do not always keep the harvest times in their proper season.

So, the problem starts when people get confused about who the rock is upon which the ecclesia of Elohim is built. This is exactly what Yahshua warned about in Matthew 7: 13 – 27, saying: ***“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. (Yahshua’s way of interpreting Torah is very narrow, but it is the only way that leads to life) (15) Beware of the false prophets (who devise their own way to follow Elohim), who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. (16) You will know them by their fruits (the way they apply Torah in their lives). Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor figs from thistles, are they? (17) Even so, every good tree bears good fruit; but the bad tree bears bad fruit. (18) A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. (19) 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 that day ‘Master, Master,’ did we not prophesy in Your Name, and in Your Name cast out demons, and in Your Name perform many miracles? (23) And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’ (24) Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock. (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.’***

The house spoken about here is the ecclesia we build, by teaching and immersing new believers in the way of Elohim. We need to ask ourselves: Are we building the house on the Rock of our salvation, namely Yahshua, or are we building it on what the so-called leaders who believe they are

the rock upon whom Yahshua is building His ecclesia. This is the same mistake made by the Roman Catholic Church at their establishment, i.e. that they as the modern day disciples (or more specifically Peter) have been given the authority to decide how the ecclesia should follow Elohim. We need to realize that all our doctrines have been established by YHVH in the flesh Himself. Those who do not understand what Yahshua said in Matthew 16: 18 & 19 are indeed stumbling over Him the rock of our salvation. He is the foundation stone upon which Yahshua is building His ecclesia (even now).

Both Rav Kepha the person whom Yahshua addressed in verses 18 & 19 of Matthew 16 and Rav Shaul understood what Yahshua meant by saying ***'And I also say to you that you are Peter (a pebble or small stone), and upon this rock (meaning Himself) I will build My ecclesia; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it. (19) I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.'*** The key to the Kingdom of Elohim that Yahshua gave the disciples (including us, His modern day disciples), is immersion in His saving Name. Once we are immersed into Yahshua's saving Name, Rav Kepha tells us that we will receive the Set-apart Spirit. To complete the picture Rav Shaul tells us in Romans 8: 11, saying: ***'But if the Spirit of Him who raised Yahshua from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Messiah Yahshua from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.'*** So it is clear, the key to eternal life is immersion and the subsequent receipt of the Set-apart Spirit, thus constructing the temple of Elohim, and not the establishment of our own way (halacha) to follow Elohim, as Yahshua has already shown us the way.

We read from Acts 4: 11 & 12 Rav Kepha (to whom Yahshua addressed the message in Matthew 16: 18 & 19), saying about Yahshua: ***"He is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS (those supposed to administer the ecclesia), but WHICH BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone. (12) And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."*** To confirm this we read Yahshua's own words affirming Rav Kepha's words here, saying in John 5: 43 – 44, in this way: ***"I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another shall come in his own name (making up his own halacha), 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?"*** Rav Shaul also knew that we as Messiah's disciples have absolutely no right to set-up rules for fellow believers to follow, as Yahshua already told us how to live. Rav Shaul clearly said in 1 Corinthians 3: 11, ***"For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Yahshua Messiah."*** All those who qualified through the same discipleship program that we are presenting today, are to teach followers of Messiah as He commissioned in Matthew 28: 18 – 20, saying: ***"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (19) Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, immersing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Set-apart Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."***

It is true, we like Rav Kepha are all living stones as he wrote in 1 Peter 2: 5 – 10, explaining that Yahshua is the Rock of our salvation, as follows: ***'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.’

The rebuilding of Israel and restoration of the exiles cannot be built by any man, or religion that omits the foundation and Chief Corner Stone Yahshua the Messiah. Unlike some who teach otherwise, a building plan without a foundation results in leaning, or crumbling. Once we reject the stone or do not understand who or what it is, we go wrong! If we misunderstand the stone to be the apostles rather than Yahshua/YHWH Himself then we are on the wrong track. However, the fact that we know who Yahshua is, is not something that we know because of our own intelligence. In fact we read Yahshua’s own words in this regard, in Luke 10: 21 – 24, where He said: *“I praise Thee, O Father, Master of heaven and earth, that Thou didst hide these things from the wise and intelligent and didst reveal them to babes. Yes, Father, for thus it was well-pleasing in Thy sight. (22) All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him” (23) And turning to the disciples He said privately, “Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see, (24) for I say to you, that many prophets and kings wished to see the things which you see, and did not see them, and to hear the things you hear, and did not hear them.”*

So we see that the only way in which we will fully understand Messiah and the redemptive work of Elohim, is if Yahshua reveals Himself to us. Yahshua also gave us the conditions we need to fulfill, for Him to reveal Himself to us in John 14: 21, in this way: *“He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him.”* Keeping the commandments that Yahshua gave us during His life on earth does not negate Torah, as He also said in John 5: 45 – 47, *“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.”* So, obedience to Torah remains valid for a believer in Messiah, but so do all of Yahshua’s instructions, including what He said in Matthew 23: 1 – 3. Do we believe what Yahshua said here, or do we believe what others are saying about what He supposedly has said. The point is; if we truly believe that Yahshua is YHWH in the flesh, we will obey His every command, not contradict it.

Think about it, as this might very well be the reason for Yahshua accepting us when He returns or not, as He said in Matthew 22: 14, *“For many are called, but few are chosen.”* If we refer to Yahshua as our Master and Savior, we need to obey him; we need to make sure that we keep the Feast Days of Elohim at the same time as He did during His life on earth. Yahshua is returning on Yom Teruah one day, at which time according to Zechariah 12: 10 our Jewish Brothers will be keeping Rosh Hashanah in their synagogue. Are we going to keep the Feast of Trumpets on that day, or are we

going to keep it a day or two later when the crescent moon becomes visible. Even more importantly; if according to Leviticus 23: 17 the two loaves of bread baked with leaven, represent the two houses of Israel who are waived before YHVH on Pentecost for acceptance, should we not make sure that we keep Pentecost at the same time as the house of Judah do? We need to recall the parable of the 10 virgins which pictures the bride whom Messiah will marry at His return. We need to ensure that we keep Elohim's Feast Days at their appointed times, else we will not be accepted, as per the example of the five foolish virgins in Matthew 25: 11 & 12, ***"And later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Master, master, open up for us.'*** (12) ***But he answered and said, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.'"*** Selah!

Chapter 5: Elohim's training program.

Those of us called out of the world at this time are in a training program for responsible positions in Elohim's soon coming kingdom on earth. The training takes place by us living a believer's life, in which we learn to obey Elohim's teachings through a lifelong process of overcoming the pulls of the world, our flesh, and Satan. It is the training that Elohim's Spirit-begotten children must receive to assist in administering His government in His coming Kingdom.

Elohim Himself established His plan of the salvation and the process by which mankind may be trained to become Spirit-born children of His family. Elohim's family will be highly organized and well trained, having learned Elohim's pattern of teamwork and cooperation to function perfectly together. The first steps to salvation are in fact the beginning of preparation for Elohim's Kingdom. Even so, to eventually be born-again into Elohim's Family, we must first be begotten by Elohim's Set-apart Spirit. But there are important conditions which need to be fulfilled before Elohim will beget us with His Set-apart Spirit.

To determine the conditions which we are required to fulfill before Elohim will give us His Set-apart Spirit, we turn to Mark 1: 14 & 15, where we read Yahshua's instruction, in this way: ***'And after Yochanan had been taken into custody, Yahshua came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of Elohim, (15) and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of Elohim is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."'*** Continuing our search for the requirements to receive Elohim's Spirit, we read Rav Kepha's words in Acts 2: 38, in this way: ***"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."*** Lastly we read Rav Kepha's instruction from Acts 3: 19 – 21, as follows: ***"Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Master; (20) and that He may send Yahshua, the Messiah appointed for you, (21) whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which Elohim spoke by mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time."***

Repentance and belief are the first steps; belief involves believing what Yahshua taught about the coming kingdom of Elohim, as well as believing in His saving name, namely Yahshua. To repent means to turn from breaking the Torah commands of Elohim to obeying them. It involves forsaking our own way, which is opposed to Elohim's Law, and to turn to Elohim's way, or obeying His law. Yes, argue as you may, but eventually everyone that Elohim calls will be required to keep the whole Law. In essence, it means rejecting our previous sinful way of life and willingly yielding ourselves to Elohim's government. It is important for us to show Elohim during this life that we are willing to submit to His rule, before we can be allowed to govern others in the coming Kingdom of Elohim. Because there will always be a chain of command from Elohim through Messiah and down to us, we will always be under authority. Therefore, learning to rule starts with submission to rulership.

However, once we have been immersed into the saving name of Yahshua Messiah there is one more requirement to receive the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim. Immersion is an outward symbol of our faith in Messiah, and of our turning from our past life of sin to a life of obedience to Elohim. It symbolizes the rejection of the way Satan has inspired humanity and turning our loyalty and commitment to Elohim and His coming Kingdom. Reading from Acts 8: 12 – 17 we see the additional requirement to

fulfill, before we will receive the Set-apart Spirit, as follows: ***‘But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the Kingdom of Elohim and the name of Yahshua Messiah they were being immersed, men and women alike. (13) And even Simon himself believed; and after being immersed, he continued on with Philip; and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed. (14) Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of Elohim, they sent them Peter and John, (15) who came down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Set-apart Spirit. (16) For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been immersed in the name of the Master Yahshua. (17) Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Set-apart Spirit.’*** Immersion and the laying on of hands of a teacher who has gone through the discipleship program instituted by Messiah for the receipt of the Set-apart Spirit, shows our recognition of the authority that Elohim has placed in the teaching program instituted by Yahshua.

Once we have received Elohim’s Set-apart Spirit, we have been begotten of Elohim, but are at that point only spiritual embryos, not yet born-again as Elohim’s children – not yet developed for the purpose for which Elohim has called us, not yet trained to be priests (teachers) and kings (rulers) in His everlasting Kingdom. We are at that point still required to grow in grace and knowledge, as Rav Kepha wrote In 2 Peter 3: 13 – 18, saying: ***‘But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. (14) Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, (15) and regard the patience of our Master to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, (16) as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. (17) You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness, (18) but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Master and Savior Yahshua Messiah. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amein.’***

Elohim is holy, righteous and perfect. For us to be born-again of the Elohim kind – to become part of His ruling Family as His Spiritual children, we must be changed, not only from human flesh and blood to spiritual beings, but from sinful nature into Elohim’s nature, which reflects His holy, perfect character, as Yahshua stated in Matthew 5: 48, in this way: ***“Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”*** Elohim’s spiritual character must be developed from the time of our calling, until our dying day, or when Messiah returns. But, what exactly is the character that Elohim wants us to develop? It is the knowledge of what Elohim defines as righteous, learned by studying Elohim’s Scriptures and applying what we have learned to our daily lives. Holy righteous character can only be developed by experience. Experience require that we apply in our daily lives what we learn from Torah and following (YHVH)’s perfect example (Yahshua). Experience requires both time and circumstances – therefore Elohim allows the time and circumstances which enable us to develop His character.

Elohim’s character can be explained in one word, as Rav Yochanan wrote in 1 John 4: 16, as follows: ***‘And we have come to know and have believed the love which Elohim has for us. Elohim is love, and the one who abides in love abides in Elohim, and Elohim abides in him.’*** We read about Elohim’s part in building His character in His called out ones, from Romans 5: 5 in this way: ***‘And***

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of Elohim has been poured out within our hearts through the Set-apart Spirit who was given to us. The Set-apart Spirit which Elohim gives to those who repent, believe and are immersed, enables His children to understand His Word, which is the foundation for character development. It also provides the spiritual love and faith required to obey Elohim's Law of love, the foundation of His government. Even so, the Set-apart Spirit does not force us to obey Elohim, as it has to be developed through willing voluntary choice by those called by Elohim. It is for this reason that we read from Romans 8: 14, ***'For all who are being led by the Spirit of Elohim, these are the sons of Elohim.'*** The point is that when we are born-again at the resurrection, we will be perfect as Elohim is, for Elohim will have developed in us, with our yielding, perfect character, as witnessed in 1 John 3: 9, as follows: ***'No one who is born of Elohim practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of Elohim.'***

Yahshua Messiah had to qualify to replace the present ruler of the world, as recorded in Matthew 4: 1 – 11. Even though He was severely tempted, He remained faithful to Elohim and His way until death. If we want to like Messiah qualify to rule in Elohim's coming Kingdom, we also have to overcome, as witnessed in Revelation 3: 21, in this way: ***'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.'*** Yahshua functioning as a human being had to overcome the temptations of Satan the devil, and all of us who are called by the Father to rule with Messiah when He comes to restore Elohim's government on earth, must also qualify to rule. That means we must turn from Satan's way, resist and overcome his temptations and learn to obey Elohim's Law of love, the way of His future government. By the process of overcoming the pulls of the flesh, the world and Satan; and by submitting to Elohim's way, spiritual character is being developed in us. But, it requires a lot of effort from us, together with the help of Elohim's Set-apart Spirit, to become the spiritually motivated person, whom Elohim can use in His everlasting Kingdom. As our Savoir and *'the firstborn of many brethren'* Yahshua has already qualified for the highest position under Elohim in His coming Kingdom, as witnessed in Philippians 2: 9 – 11, as follows: ***'Therefore also Elohim highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, (10) that at the name of Yahshua EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, of those who are in heaven, and on earth and under the earth, (11) and that every tongue should confess that Yahshua Messiah is Master, to the glory of Elohim the Father.'*** Certain other individuals have also qualified for positions promised them by Elohim, in His everlasting Kingdom, as we read amongst other from Ezekiel 37: 21 – 24, in this way: ***'And say to them, Thus says YHVH Elohim "Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; (22) and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations, and they will no longer be divided into two kingdoms. (23) And they will no longer defile themselves with their idols, or with their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. And they will be My people and I will be their Elohim. (24) And My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances, and keep My statutes, and observe them.'"*** The twelve apostles will also rule over the tribes of Israel, as Yahshua told them in Matthew 19: 28, saying: ***"Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of***

Israel.” So will Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all our fathers and mothers in the faith who already qualified according to Hebrews 11: 4 – 40.

There will be various positions of responsibility in the Kingdom of Elohim, for a whole new civilization to be built on earth, but this time according to Elohim’s specifications. As spirit-begotten children of Elohim, we are being judged at this time, for the future positions we will be required to control, as Rav Kepha wrote in 1 Peter 4: 17, saying: **‘For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of Elohim; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who not obey the gospel of Elohim?’** We will be awarded with an office or position in Elohim’s government according to our works in this life! When the glorified Messiah returns to the earth to rule the world from Jerusalem, He will assign positions of authority in His government to those who are saved by His grace, those who through grace, received Elohim’s gift of eternal life by a resurrection or change to immortality at His Second Coming.

But, most professing Churchianity confuses the reward of the saved, with eternal life. Eternal life is a gift, not a reward, as recorded in Roman 6: 23, in this way: **‘For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of Elohim is eternal life in Messiah Yahshua our Master.’** Yet, we are even now required to keep the commandments to have eternal life, as Yahshua said in Matthew 19: 17, as follows: **“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.”** The point is: a ‘gift’ is something given freely. Elohim’s gift of eternal life comes by His grace and favor and there is absolutely nothing we can do to earn it. But, Elohim has certain conditions which must be met before He will give us immortality. Compliance to these conditions does not earn eternal life, but disobedience will result in eternal death, as witnessed in 1 Corinthians 6: 9 & 10, in this way: **‘Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of Elohim? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, (10) nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of Elohim.’** Once called by Elohim, we should make very sure that we do not do the things we used to do before He called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. Elohim will definitely not give eternal life to anyone who insist on living Satan’s way of life.

Those who are given immortality at Messiah’s return will receive a reward in addition to His free gift of eternal life. The reward of the saved is not eternal life; but it is in fact rulership under Messiah over all the nations of the earth. However, not all positions of rulership will be the same. As called out believers we are required to use Elohim’s Set-apart Spirit to produce much fruit, as Yahshua explained in John 15: 1 – 8, saying: **“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. (2) Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit. (3) You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. (4) Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. (5) I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. (6) If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. (7) If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. (8) By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”**

We see further from Yahshua's parable of the sower in Matthew 13: 23 that some who are called at this time, produce more 'fruit' than others, as follows: ***"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."*** We are given the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim so that we can produce good fruit. It is by using Elohim's Set-apart Spirit that we are able to produce fruit – and thereby training for the responsible positions that Elohim is planning to reward us with in His coming Kingdom. However, one's specific job will depend on how well we are doing during our training period; i.e. the amount of fruit (good works) we produce during our life as believers. The parable of the pound in Luke 19 shows that the reward each believer will receive will depend on how much the believer grew and overcame spiritually in this life. In this parable Messiah pictures Himself as a nobleman who goes to a far country (in this case heaven) to receive a kingdom and return to earth (as per verses 11 & 12). In verse 13 we see that before He departs, he gives each of His 10 servants (indicative of the remnant of the lost ten tribes that He came to reconcile back to the Father) an equal amount of money.

Once He receives the Kingdom and returns, He shows us in Luke 19: 15 how He will judge these servants, saying: ***"And it came about that when he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given money, be called to him in order that he might know what business they had done."*** These servants are the ones the Father called and to whom He has given His Set-apart Spirit at immersion, represented by an equal amount of money. Elohim has given each believer an equal amount of His Set-apart Spirit to be used to serve others, overcome, help performing the work of Elohim, and to develop spiritual character. We see from verses 16 – 19 that each believer or servant will be rewarded proportionate to his/her spiritual growth in this life. As believers our lives may be compared to a 'spiritual training college' where we are trained to become kings and priests in Elohim's Kingdom. However, the parable shows that some learn more and produce more spiritual fruit (godly character) than others. Therefore, each one will receive greater or lesser positions of responsibility based upon the amount of his spiritual overcoming and how much Elohim's character was developed in this life. Even though our good works cannot gain us entrance into Elohim's Kingdom as we are born into the Kingdom of Elohim by His grace. However, once we are born into Elohim's Family, our spiritual works during this present life, do determine the position, or rank we will receive as a reward.

The parable in Matthew 25: 14 – 30 shows that we will be rewarded according to our works, but it also show Elohim's fairness in rewarding us by taking into account our own natural limitations. Here again Messiah compares Himself to a man who goes to a far country. But, in this parable He divides up his goods according to the abilities of each of His slaves (verse 15). The units of money, like the minas (or pounds) in Luke 19, symbolize the Set-apart Spirit given to each believer – but they also picture the spiritual gifts given to each based on his own ability. The point is: Elohim is totally aware that some of His servants have more natural abilities and talents than others. Whereas in the parable of the minas in Luke 19 all ten servants were given the same amount of money, and each were given an equal portion of Elohim's Spirit from Elohim from the start. In the parable of the talents, Elohim gave spiritual gifts according to the natural abilities of the slaves. To one He gave five, to the next one He gave two, and to the third only one – according to their natural abilities. But, we see that even though the slave with two produced less in number than the one with five, he also

doubled what he started with. So he did as well as the first slave in proportion to his ability. So we see that to whom much is given, much is required; and to whom little is given, less is required (as seen in the last part of Luke 12: 48). The parable shows further that each servant who is faithful over a few things, according to his/her limited abilities and opportunities in this life, will be rewarded with much when Messiah returns, as also confirmed in Matthew 25: 23, in this way: ***“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’”***

We learn to rule responsibly for the good of ourselves and others in the Kingdom of Elohim by learning to better manage the responsibilities and powers in our control at this time, no matter how small they may be at present. There are numerous opportunities to develop and grow right where you are at present, no matter what circumstances you find yourself in. Finally we see that those who fail to grow and overcome in this life, as per the example in both parables and did nothing with what they have been given will lose out! These parables clearly show that the believer who does not grow spiritually could be compared to one who believes he does not need to overcome and grow in spiritual character. He believed he was already saved and did not believe works to be necessary. Notice, by doing nothing he not only lost his reward, but he also lost the free gift of eternal life as well. Think about it!

Chapter 6: Elohim's purpose is right on track.

We've learnt in the past that Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden cut him and his descendants off from the Spirit of Elohim, but also from an ongoing relationship with Elohim. Adam had the opportunity to be begotten of Elohim and eventually be born as a son of Elohim in His ruling Family, if only he had eaten from the tree of life.

Even so, Adam's sin did not ruin Elohim's plan for mankind, as He anticipated the probability of Adam's sin, and designed a failsafe 7,000 year Master Plan for working out His purpose for the salvation of all mankind. However, He sentenced mankind to a period of 6,000 years to carry out what Adam effectively demanded for his descendants; i.e. to go their own way - Cut off from Elohim doing their own thing, relying on their own ability and do as they please. But, influenced by Satan man's way have been catastrophic, and will be more so in the foreseeable future, because of the hardness of our hearts.

Elohim has allowed Satan to cunningly deceive the whole world as witnessed in Revelation 12: 9, in this way: ***'And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.'*** We also see from 2 Corinthians 4: 3 & 4, ***'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.'*** We see here that Satan is presently the god of this world. Satan led Adam and Eve into sin, resulting in the 6,000 year sentence of man with the invisible devil ruling him by deception. Nobody can deny that Satan has successfully influenced mankind into establishing their own governments, religions and civilization based on his way of 'get', instead of Elohim's way of 'give'. We see that during the 6,000 year period during which man is cut off from Elohim, only those specifically called by Elohim can come to Messiah, as Yahshua said clearly in John 6: 44, as follows: ***"No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day."*** So we see that unless Elohim intervenes by specifically calling one to repentance and salvation; to a life of training for His Kingdom, no one can come to Messiah. Yes, all people are cut off through sin, except for the remnant that Elohim calls out of sin! About 2,000 years ago according to Elohim's original plan, He sent His word also known as His image, to the earth as Yahshua Messiah the Son of Elohim, to rescue Elohim's called ones from the death penalty, which all have incurred through breaking His commandments.

As a messenger from Elohim, Yahshua came proclaiming the good news about the coming Kingdom of Elohim, as witnessed in Mark 1: 14 & 15, but more specifically in John 3: 3 – 8, in this way: ***'Yahshua answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of Elohim." (4) Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" (5) Yahshua answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of Elohim." (6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (7) Do not marvel that I said to you, "You must be born again." (8) The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.'*** Yahshua foretold the time when

mankind will no longer be cut off from Elohim. He announced that the government of Elohim will be restored by the coming Kingdom of Elohim, composed of born-again spiritual children of Elohim. Yahshua foretold the gospel that those called by Elohim, may ultimately become spirit born children of Elohim, ruling under Yahshua and Him in His soon coming Kingdom.

However, even after spending three and a half years during which time thousands of people must have heard His teachings, only about 120 people continued as His disciples, after His death and resurrection, as witnessed in Acts 1: 15 – 19, as follows: ***‘And at this time Kepha stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said, (16) “Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Set-apart Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Yahshua. (17) For he was counted among us, and received his portion in this ministry.” (18) (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. (19) And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is Field of Blood.)’*** These 120 people were called by the Father to be founding members of His Renewed Covenant ecclesia. However, before 70 CE the message that Messiah and His apostles taught was rapidly suppressed by a growing, deceived counterfeit church called Christianity.

We see from Daniel 12: 4 that Elohim showed Daniel about today’s knowledge explosion, in this way: ***“But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.”*** At the close of the 6,000 years allotted to mankind to rule themselves, and during the lifetime of Elohim’s modern day disciples, there are numerous sources of information and there are awesome material progress in the world. Most of the modern technology in use today has been developed over the past 200 years. The machine age, was followed by the nuclear and the space ages. The motor car, airplane, radio, television, personal computers, laptops, cellphones and many laborsaving devices have all been invented in recent times. During the past 6,000 years man’s superior brain has been proven, but without Elohim’s Spirit, it is confined to working and understanding only the physical world. Human education systems are totally materialistic, and most of mankind’s motives come from an attitude of greed. Even though mankind is capable of going to the moon, he is incapable of living in peace and harmony with his neighbor. We are now living in the end times; we are the very last generation of the 6,000 year period during which we were cut off from Elohim.

Those whom Elohim has called out of the world to receive His Set-apart Spirit and to grow and overcome the world, Satan and the self, will be born-again of Elohim in the first resurrection, when Messiah returns. As Yahshua explained in John 3: 3 -8 quoted earlier, we must be born-again to enter Elohim’s Family. We see from Romans 8: 29 – 30 that when we are born again of the Elohim kind, we will be like Yahshua, in this way: ***‘For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; (30) and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.’*** For us to be conformed of Elohim, means to become like Yahshua; to be glorified as He is glorified and become a child of Elohim. We understand from reading 1 Corinthians 15: 51 & 52 that the Spiritual birth of believers in Messiah will take place at His return to earth on the Feast of Trumpets, as follows: ***‘Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all***

sleep, but we shall all be changed, (52) in a moment, in a 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.' This is when the resurrection will also occur, as witnessed in 1 Thessalonians 4: 14 – 17, in this way: ***'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. (17) Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Master in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Master.'***

When Yahshua our Messiah returns to earth, the Spirit begotten children of Elohim who have died throughout the ages will be resurrected to be born-again as Spiritual children of Elohim, and those who are still alive will be changed in an instant into Spirit beings. That is when they will be born-again as members of Elohim's Family. They will inherit eternal life in a similar way in which Messiah was resurrected to eternal life. We see that after Messiah's resurrection He was able to appear and disappear and even pass through walls, as witnessed in John 20: 19 & 26 – 28, as follows: ***'When therefore it was evening, on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Yahshua came and stood in their midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." (26) '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."'*** Yahshua explained to the Sadducees in Luke 20: 34 – 36 that once a person has been changed into spirit, he/she cannot die, saying: ***"The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, (35) but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage; (36) for neither can they die anymore, for they are like angels, and are sons of Elohim, being sons of the resurrection."*** David also testified about this in Psalm 102: 25 – 28, saying: ***"Of old Thou didst found the earth; and the heavens are the works of Thy hands. (26) Even they will perish, but Thou dost endure; and all of them will wear out like a garment; like clothing Thou wilt change them and they will be changed. (27) But Thou art the same, and Thy years will not come to an end. (28) The children of Thy servants will continue, and their descendants will be established before thee."*** Elohim tells us through His servant David, that we like Messiah, will live forever once we are born-again as the spiritual children of Elohim.

Yahshua our Messiah was glorified after His death and resurrection as recorded in Romans 2: 9, as follows: ***'But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Yahshua, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of Elohim He might taste death for everyone.'*** We see a description of how His glorified spirit body appeared when He was manifested in a vision before Yochanan in Revelation 1: 13 – 15, in this way: ***'And in the middle of the lampstand 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. Before Yahshua became a human being, He was the word of Elohim who appeared as a glorious spiritual being. After His resurrection and ascension to heaven He was restored to the same power and glory. At this time, Messiah as a spirit being radiates light as bright as the morning star. We see from Colossians 3: 4 when Messiah returns one day, we who are immersed, will also ***'be revealed with Him in glory.'*** In fact Yahshua gave some of His disciples a foretaste of this future glorified condition in Matthew 17: 1, 2 & 9, as follows: ***'And six days later Yahshua took with Him Peter and James and John 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. (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."*** The glory which spirit-begotten children of Elohim will receive at the resurrection will be as the stars in heaven, as Daniel wrote in Daniel 12: 3, in this way: ***"And those who have insight will shine brightly like the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."***

The most important attribute of Elohim is His character. The Scriptures define the nature of Elohim in 1 John 4: 8, saying: ***'The one who does not love does not know Elohim, for Elohim is love.'*** We see further from 1 John 5: 2 & 3 what the love of Elohim is, as follows: ***'By this we know that we love the children of Elohim, when we love Elohim and observe His commandments. (3) For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.'*** Elohim has an outgoing concern for humanity. He gave us His Torah for our good and showers us with everything we have and are, including His Set-apart Spirit which we can receive as a begetting from Him after we repent from breaking the Law, and return to Him through faith in Yahshua Messiah as our personal Savior. Elohim's love can be defined as outgoing concern for His children. It is the way without coveting, lust, greed, vanity, selfishness, competition, strife, violence and destruction, resentment and bitterness – all characteristics of Satan the devil. The character of Elohim, which a third of the angels failed to develop, is the way of Elohim's Torah and He is now in the process of creating the same character in His Spirit-begotten children, as they, by their own choice and with the help of the Set-apart Spirit, live His way of life! When we are finally born-again as the children of Elohim at Messiah's return, we will be given glorious eternal life in the Kingdom of Elohim.

The coming Kingdom of Elohim will be ruled by Yahshua Messiah assisted by the resurrected first-born believers. Those who qualify to rule with Messiah will rule the earth with Him for a thousand years as kings and priest, teaching those who survive the Great Tribulation during the Millennium as well as those in the second resurrection after the Great White Throne judgment. During the Millennium millions will learn to live Elohim's way and be born into Elohim's ruling Family. Then after the Millennium, the billions who died since Adam and before Messiah's second coming without having had the opportunity to know and understand Elohim's way to salvation, will be raised in a physical resurrection and be given their first opportunity to become children of Elohim. They will be given the opportunity to become Sons of Elohim during the period of judgment mentioned in Revelation 20: 11 & 12, when their eyes will be open to understand the Scriptures as we read from

Isaiah 25: 7 – 9, in this way: ***‘And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is stretched over all nations. (8) He will swallow up death for all time, and YHVH Elohim will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; for YHVH has spoken. (9) And it will be said in that day, “Behold, this is our Elohim for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is YHVH for whom we have waited; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.”*** These additional millions will be added to Elohim’s family at the conclusion of Elohim’s plan for physical mankind.

If we assume that 250 billion people are ultimately born-again into Elohim’s Family, how will Elohim keep His Ruling Family occupied for all eternity. Yahshua told His disciples before His ascension to heaven saying in Matthew 28: 18, ***“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”*** We see from Romans 8: 16 & 17, that those born-again into Elohim’s eternal Family will share in Messiah’s inheritance, in this way: ***‘The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of Elohim, (17) and if children, heirs also, heirs of Elohim and fellow heirs with Messiah, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.’*** But, we also see from Isaiah 9: 6 & 7 that Elohim’s government will continue to expand for all eternity, as follows: ***‘For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Elohim, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. (7) There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forever more, the zeal of YHVH of host will accomplish this.’*** According to Hebrews 1: 2, Elohim has appointed His Son heir of all things, but the Moffat translation of Hebrew 1: 2, renders the ‘all things’ as “the universe.” As unbelievable as it may sound, our ultimate destiny and the potential of every human being is to rule the universe under Elohim one day!

The question is: will there really be enough work in the universe to keep 250 billion spiritual sons of Elohim busy for all eternity? The number of stars and planets in the universe is virtually uncountable, but is estimated to be more than 10,000,000,000,000,000,000 (10 sextillion) by the Encyclopedia Britannica. Therefore each son of Elohim will have millions of stars to develop and maintain – enough to make up an entire galaxy of stars. Our potential is to be born into Elohim’s Family ruling the universe, receiving similar power to that of Yahshua. Together, all the born children of Elohim will ultimately be given power to rule the entire universe. Presently the whole creation is waiting anxiously for the rebirth of the children of Elohim, as witnessed in Romans 8: 19 – 23, in this way: ***‘For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of Elohim. (20) For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope (21) that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of Elohim. (22) For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. (23) And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.’*** Rav Shaul shows here that the whole creation, including the stars and planets are waiting with eager anticipation for the actual birth and appearing of the children of Elohim.

The children of Elohim will turn all the planets in the universe into beautiful, productive, life-sustaining worlds. As children of Elohim we will never grow tired or weary and we will always be

joyous, full of energy strength and power to assist our Father in maintaining the universe. What an incredible future is awaiting every human being? Are you in the process of preparing to fulfill Elohim's purpose for your life?

Chapter 7: The Ecclesia of Elohim.

The ecclesia of Elohim which Messiah is busy building is made up of people whom Elohim is calling out of the world to follow His way, but also to do His will. In similar way did Elohim call the ancient nation of Israel out of Egypt to be a nation in the world, though not of the world as Elohim organized it. Elohim's government is theocratic and is the very opposite of democracy from the top down, not government for the people by the people. The government presently in Elohim's ecclesia is a training ground for how it will be done during the Millennium and the Great White Throne Judgment period. The members do not set officials in the ecclesia; Elohim does, the same way that He sets lay members in the Ecclesia, by calling them out of the religions of the world. We read accordingly from 1 Corinthians 12: 12 – 20, as follows: ***'For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Messiah. (13) For by one Spirit we were all immersed into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. (14) For the body is not one member but many. (15) If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less part of the body. (16) And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. (17) If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? (18) But now Elohim has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. (19) And if they were all one member, where would the body be? (20) But now there are many members, but one body.'***

Those who follow Messiah's discipleship program, whether they attend weekly services or get sermons, Torah and Haftarah portions from us via the internet, voluntarily placed themselves under the authority of the one teaching them. It is normally very difficult for anyone to put him/herself under the guidance of others. It is a bit of a humbling experience for a person who has made his/her own way in life, making his/her own decisions what to eat and when to attend religious services, to suddenly be told what to do and when to do it. It is only those truly led by the Set-apart Spirit who will voluntarily follow someone showing them the way of Elohim. In addition those who follow a teacher in the way of Elohim should make sure that he realizes Yahshua Messiah is the Head of the ecclesia and not he or any other human agent, as witnessed in Ephesians 1: 18 – 23, in this way: ***'I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, (19) and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might (20) which He brought about in Messiah, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, (21) far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. (22) And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the ecclesia, (23) which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.'*** There is a further example of government in the ecclesia as in Ephesians 5: 22 - 24 as follows: ***'Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Master. (23) For the husband is the head of the wife, as Messiah also is he head of the ecclesia, He Himself being the Savior of the body. (24) But as the ecclesia is subject to Messiah, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.'***

Messiah is the Head of the ecclesia in a similar way that a husband is the head of the wife. However, this concept is hated by people in the world, especially woman's liberation groups. Women are made by YHVH to be more merciful and nurturing than men. The Jewish sages comment on the fact that animals and even insects were created before man. Therefore, if man acts like a mensch who lives according to the golden rule, *'to do unto others, what you want them to do to you'*, it is said about him: *'You preceded all of the works of creation'*, but if not, it is said of him: *'A snail preceded you.'* Once we have received the Spirit of Elohim at immersion and lives according to the will of Elohim, we are considered Elohim's people, but whilst we are still part of the physical world, man is sadly at the bottom of the proverbial totem pole, and does not take precedence over other species. In addition we, different to animals are at birth totally dependent upon our mothers. Man's weakness and unimpressive nature are manifest to the greatest extent in the traits, skills and natural instincts of newborn babies: As a species we are deficient, for insomuch as humans have no chance of survival on their own, they are inferior to all other forms of creation. In fact the continuation of our species depends on the spirit of man and his (or, more specifically her) ability to care for and nurture the young. Just imagine the mortality of a small baby in the wilderness; indeed a snail or a fly has a greater chance of survival. Even though physically, we possess a commonality with other creatures; spiritually we are able to soar above them all. This is true of most human mothers, whether they were immersed or not. Their mother's instinct makes them want to nurture and care for her baby. This is also why Rav Shaul wrote in 1 Timothy 2: 15, ***"But women shall be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint."***

Sadly women who espouse the views of women liberation organizations do not believe the Scriptures and have just the opposite opinion – they want to be Mechanical and Electrical Engineers and even want to work in steel plants and the mining sector, doing jobs normally reserved for men, where brute force is sometimes required. I am not saying that women should never go out to work, but ideally mothers were created with the necessary skills to train children during their formative years, even teach them Torah principles from childhood. Certainly, there are many jobs in which women thrive, such as teaching, nursing and even doctoring the sick, doing welfare work amongst the destitute of this world, because of the way in which YHVH created them. Women should also be involved in the design of clothing, furniture and even places such as hospitals. But the construction of buildings and machinery should best be left to men. The point is: to administer society, we need both men and women. The woman was made from one of the ribs of a man, to be at his side, to care for him and his children with her and even assist in society by providing health and welfare care. Men on the other hand should work to earn their living, building and maintaining the environment, into a suitable place for him and his family to dwell.

Having said that, let's return to the subject at hand, namely the ecclesia of Elohim. Before one can teach others in the ecclesia of Elohim, Elohim's way of life must become part of our everyday life. It is a matter of practicing Elohim's way of life for a number of years before we are truly able to teach others. If you have only recently left Christianity or any other way of life, you are not nearly ready to guide anyone in the truth. It takes more than just knowing what is right; it takes practicing righteousness for at least three and a half years. It is for this reason that Rav Shaul wrote about teachers and leaders in 1 Timothy 3: 1 – 8, and especially in verse 6, saying: ***'and not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into condemnation incurred by the devil.'*** In fact Yahshua

confirmed this by saying in Luke 6: 39 & 40, ***“A blind man cannot guide a blind man, can he? Will they not both fall into a pit? (40) A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.”*** We need to understand that YHVH introduced a training program, and part of the learning process is to respect the authority that YHVH placed over His ecclesia. As explained in a previous teaching, immersion and the laying on of hands by a teacher who has gone through the discipleship program re-instituted by Messiah for the receipt of the Set-apart Spirit, shows our recognition of the authority that Elohim has placed in Yahshua’s commissioned teaching program.

YHVH placed certain people in positions where we have to listen to them, before we will learn anything. It takes humility to listen to someone who might not be special in our minds. But it is not about being special, Elohim’s way can only be taught by those who have been through similar teaching programs themselves. It is because some do not regard the people teaching them as being good or learned enough to teach them, that they venture out into the field and attempt to do the work of Elohim on their own, by trying to call people to Yahshua. This despite Yahshua’s own words in John 6: 65, where He said categorically: ***“For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me (Yahshua), unless it has been granted him from the Father.”*** The point is that even if you were a teacher in Christianity (or most other religions) before, you have to learn the way of Elohim before you can start teaching others. We need to realize that Christianity, even though they say they follow Messiah (the one they call Christ), teach the exact opposite of what is contained in the Scriptures, and they have to relearn most of what they learnt before. If new converts will only remain with their teacher, whilst also practicing Torah for the allotted time, they will not so easily be deceived and in the end be ready to teach others.

It is for this reason that Yahshua followed the same discipleship program started by Elohim in the wilderness, where He instructed Moses to teach Joshua. Yahshua did not begin a new religion or ‘church’, but we read that from Acts 7: 37 & 38, that He simply continued building the congregation (or ecclesia), 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.”*** Yes, this is right in saying the oracles were pass on to us, however, the problem is that other than with our Jewish Brothers, we have lost our culture, our religion and even our language when we were dispersed into the world because of idolatry – so much so that up to recently we all thought that we were Gentiles. This is why it is not very surprising that a bunch of *‘Johnny’s come lately’* have since the early 1990’s usurped the authority of the Jews in *‘maintaining Elohim’s oracles’* in respect of the timing of His Set-apart Days.

It is also for this very reason that we read about Yahshua our Messiah in Ephesians 4: 10 – 16: ***‘He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things. (11) And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, (12) for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Messiah; (13) until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of Elohim, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Messiah. (14) As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by***

waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; (15) but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Messiah, (16) from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.' The question is how does Messiah rule His ecclesia? We read the answer from Ephesians 5: 25 – 32, as follows: *'Husbands, love your wives just as Messiah also loved the ecclesia and gave Himself up for her; (26) that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, (27) that He might present to Himself the ecclesia in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless. (28) So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; (29) for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Messiah also does for the ecclesia, (30) because we are members of His body. (31) 'FOR THIS CAUSE A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND SHALL CLEAVE TO HIS WIFE; AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. (32) This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Messiah and the ecclesia.'*

When YHVH calls us out of the world, He wants specifically us from the house of Israel, to follow the perfect example that He gave us, namely Yahshua in the way He interpreted Torah (His Halacha). Messiah rules His ecclesia – His bride-to-be in love, always teaching what is best for her. In fact He loved His future bride so much, that He died for her so that she could receive forgiveness from sin, and that He could remarry her at His return. Similarly husbands are to submit to Messiah and follow His example of love toward their own families. They too, are to learn to govern in love – not as tyrants. Believing husbands should rule their families in accordance with Torah; by governing for the good of those governed. It is very clear from what we read in Ephesians above, that Elohim's people learn to rule, by being ruled. Mothers similar to husbands should be in charge of young children, whilst the husband is out earning a living for his family. The ecclesia of Elohim should like a believer's household be thoroughly organized, as witnessed in Ephesians 2: 19 – 22, in this way: *'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.'*

Elohim's household is composed of physical people, who will like Yahshua be resurrected (or changed) at His imminent return to earth. The ecclesia is compared to a family, but also to a building as the human body with its different parts. The organization of the ecclesia discussed in Ephesians 4: 11 & 12 (previously quoted), should ideally operate as follows: Starting with the position of Apostles, we need to understand that an apostle, simply means a teacher who taught a number of small groups in the past, and are experienced enough, to proclaim the good news of the coming Kingdom into the world (wherever, there are Israelites dispersed amongst the nations of the world). After all, the meaning of the word *'apostle'* simply means 'one sent forth' with Messiah's gospel. The prophets set in the foundation of the ecclesia are those who lived during the Tanach era, whose writings were used to form a sizable part of the Renewed Covenant teachings. The term 'prophesy' often refers to those who 'preach and proclaim'. Therefore some of the teachers in Elohim's ecclesia

might well be 'prophets' in that they see things in the Scriptures, which are aligned or might presently occur right before our eyes in the world today. Evangelists in Rav Shaul's day were leading teachers proclaiming the good news in the hearing of the public, with a specific view to draw those whom Elohim is beginning to call. They are in higher positions because they might be in supervision over a number of ecclesia. An evangelist will also be traveling between the ecclesia to ensure that they conform to Torah and what Yahshua taught whilst He was on earth. Similarly Pastors are teachers placed over a group of local ecclesia.

Where do those preaching the truth that they teach Elohim's ecclesia, get their doctrine from? We read the answer from Matthew 28: 18 – 20, where Yahshua said: ***"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (19) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations (meaning specifically those from the lost-ten-tribes scattered into the nations of the world⁸), immersing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Set-apart Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*** The original 12 disciples received their teachings from Yahshua personally. Therefore the ecclesia after Yahshua did not decide on any of their doctrines for themselves, nor did they receive the truth individually from Messiah. As explained in a recent sermon on the 'stone of stumbling and the rock of offense' our doctrine was original obtained from Messiah – this included the Gospel or 'Besorah' that Yahshua proclaimed. The word 'besorah' in Hebrew means the Gospel, but also meat – the deeper things including salvation truths. Even though we have to go to our Jewish Brothers to get the oracles of Elohim (likened to milk by Rav Shaul), as given in Romans 9: 4⁹ we obtain the meat of the word the 'besorah' from Messiah.

But this presents a problem: People do not want to accept that our Jewish Brothers preserved the Torah, the timing of the Feast Days of Elohim, as well the Koshering of meat and the Hebrew language for us. The arguments about who preserved the oracles of Elohim have been around since Rav Shaul's time. Obviously as an apostle sent forth personally by Yahshua, Rav Shaul was most upset by such arguments and wrote about it in 1 Corinthians 3: 1 – 3, saying: ***'And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to babes in Messiah. (2) I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, (3) for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly and are you not walking like mere men.'*** We read a second rebuke about those who cannot get past the milk of the gospel or the elementary principles of the oracles of Elohim, from Hebrews 5: 9 – 14, in this way: ***'And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, (10) being designated by Elohim as a high priest according to the order***

⁸ According to Yahshua's instruction earlier to His disciples in Matthew 10: 5 -8, saying: ***"Do not go in the way of the gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead and cleanse the lepers, cast out demons; freely you received, freely give."*** Messiah's teachers should not claim money for teaching believers Elohim's truth.

⁹ As Rav Shaul wrote in Romans 9: 3 - 5, saying: ***"For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Messiah for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, who are (also) Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the (timing of) temple service and the promises, whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Messiah according to the flesh, who is over all, Elohim blessed forever. Amen."***

of Melchizedek. (11) Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull off hearing. (12) For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again from someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of Elohim, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. (13) For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. (14) But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.’ The unfortunate thing is that people have been arguing about the oracles which Yahshua confirmed comes from the Jews, saying to the women at the well in John 4: 21 - 22, ***“Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall you worship the Father. (22) You worship that which you do not know; we worship that which we know, for salvation is from the Jews.”*** Yes this meant that He the salvation of YHVH was a Jew, but it also means that the Jews are still worshipping Elohim, the way He specified in Torah.

But the problem will remain until the return of our Master and Savior, because as we’ve discussed in a recent sermon, they do not truly know who Yahshua is. In addition there will always be those agents of Satan who because of personal agendas and greed deceive people to follow them, or are deceived themselves, as Rav Kepha warned in 2 Peter 2: 1 – 3, saying: ***‘But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying*** (which comes from the Greek word *‘arneomai’¹⁰*, which means deny, but also contradict) ***the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. (2) And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be maligned; (3) and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.’*** So we see that these false teachers are people who contradict what Yahshua taught and did whilst He was on earth. In addition we see that such teachers are more concerned about *‘selling the word of Elohim’*, than teaching people freely as Yahshua said in Matthew 5: 8.

Now, if you believe that I am exaggerating, think for a moment how many modern day Pastors, and Evangelist there are at this time. Yes, you’ve guessed correctly – there are not many. The reason for this being that before a good teacher gets to teach a group of disciples for at least three and a half years, the disciples either believe they know it all before they are fully trained, and leave to start their own groups, or to join someone else; or they are deceived by a group who keep a different calendar than what our Jewish Brothers keep. The problem is in fact so great that Yahshua said about the unrighteousness prevailing in our time in Luke 18: 6 – 8, as follows: ***“Hear what the unrighteous judge said; (7) now shall not Elohim bring about justice for His elect, who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? (8) I tell you that He will bring about justice for them speedily. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”***

My fellow believer, only you and I as watchmen can have an effect on these words, if we continue the job function for which we have been called out of the world, by doing what 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.”*** It is incumbent upon each and

¹⁰ Strong's Greek: 720. ἀρνέομαι (*arneomai*) -- to deny, say no biblesuite.com/greek/720.htm 720 *arnéomai* – properly, deny (refuse); hence, contradict, refuse to affirm or to confess (identify with); disown (repudiate).

every one of us called at this time, to warn people about false prophets, who contradict what Yahshua taught and insist in selling their teaching materials to unsuspecting babes in Messiah. The original doctrines of Elohim's ecclesia came from the Father through Messiah, who taught the original disciples. The same doctrines, as recorded in The Scriptures, available to us are still being taught by ministries like ours. We like Yahshua still teach believers called out of the world by the Father, on the weekly and annual Sabbath's of Elohim, according to the Hebrew calendar. If there are any of those who were deceived into following leaders who believe that they were given the authority by Messiah to decide their group's doctrines, including when to observe the Feast Days given in Leviticus 23, get to understand that they are following just another counterfeit, they are welcome to join us in doing the work of Elohim, which is as Yahshua said in John 6: 29, is to believe in Him whom Elohim has sent – and not contradict Him any longer. Selah!

Chapter 8: Let's talk about angels.

Did you know that all the troubles in this world, originated when Adam and Eve partook of the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden? When Adam chose to partake of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he essentially chose to *'do things his way'* without any interference of Elohim. The result of Adam's decision got him and his offspring into a world of trouble. As Adam's offspring we have been suffering the results of his wrong decision, ever since.

By partaking of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, he rejected Elohim's way of 'give' for Satan's way of 'get'. At that point Elohim set aside the first six thousand years of human existence as an example of what Satan's way will result in. What we've had for the past 6,000 years is therefore a world of man's design, with Satan as the architect, identified in 2 Corinthians 4: 4 as the real 'god' of this world. After Adam's sin, Elohim gave mankind what they wanted, namely a world without His interference. During the past 6,000 years man has been under the invisible sway of Satan the devil. Even though humanity have been trying to establish their own form of government, religion and societies in the way that seemed right to them, however it has only led to death as witnessed in Proverbs 14: 12, in this way: ***'There is a way which seems right to a man, but it's end is the way of death.'***

Elohim has also not during the past 6,000 years attempted to save the world spiritually. All the people who lived and died during that time, without understanding Elohim's truth, will be resurrected at the end of Messiah's millennium rule. During the first 1,900 years of human life, only Abel, Enoch and Noah did things Elohim's way. After the flood in which Elohim destroyed all human life, except for Noah's party of eight human beings, Abraham, obeyed, believed and trusted in Elohim. Throughout these past millennia only the prophets and a few others were given Elohim's Spirit because of their faith. Then 4,000 years after creation Yahshua came and basically proclaimed the same knowledge that He revealed to Adam and Eve.

But as is recorded in John 1: 11, ***'He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.'*** Elohim turned the past 6,000 years over to Satan, in which to show the deception and uselessness of his way of life. Consequently, the entire world has become spiritually, mentally and morally ill. The current state of our world is a direct result of past and present living according to Satan's way of life, instead of Elohim's way and is directly attributable to the decision that Adam made. In fact Elohim has allowed Satan to exert control over the earth for 6,000 years. In effect Elohim said to Satan in Exodus 20: 9 & 10, ***"Six days, you shall labor and do all your work, (10) but the seventh day is a Sabbath of YHVH your Elohim; in it you shall not do any work."*** At this time we are very close to the Sabbath day – the 1,000 years during which Satan will be restrained.

Satan the deceiver of the whole world according to Revelation 12: 7 was responsible for all the suffering in the world and for bringing mankind to the edge of self-annihilation. We read from Revelation 20: 1 – 3, that during Messiah's thousand year rule, Satan will be put out of mankind's way, as follows: ***'And I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. (2) And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, (3) and threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.'*** Once Satan is restrained there will be no more war, as Yahshua and His resurrected saints will restore the laws of Elohim on the earth as it is in heaven. This will bring about a whole new civilization founded on Elohim's Torah way of life that will result in peace and security for all. There will be no more sickness and disease and idleness will disappear when everyone will find purpose and accomplishment in gainful employment. There will be no more divorce and broken homes, and families will live together in

happiness and harmony, the way Elohim planned from the beginning. In addition, the whole world will rejoice and people will live abundantly with enough for everyone.

Even though Lucifer the archangel and a third of the angels rebelled against Elohim, and caused most of mankind's misery and problems, the Scriptures show that two-thirds of the angels remained loyal to Elohim. These uncountable created beings are Elohim's servants helping Him to fulfill His plan of salvation for all mankind. There are three types of angels described in the Scriptures, whose function and appearance differ. We see from Psalm 99: 1 that there are Cherubim below the throne of Elohim, as follows: ***'YHVH reigns, let the peoples tremble; He is enthroned above the cherubim, let the earth shake.'*** In Isaiah 6: 1 – 7 we read about a different type of angelic being, in this way: ***'In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Master sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. (2) Seraphim stood above Him each having six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. (3) And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is YHVH of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory." (4) And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. (5) Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, YHVH of hosts." (6) Then one of the seraphim flew to me, with a burning coal in his hand which he had taken from the altar with tongs. (7) And he touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is forgiven.'"*** We also see from 2 Chronicles 32: 21 that there is a third type of angelic being, as follows: ***'And YHVH sent an angel who destroyed every mighty warrior, commander and officer in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned in shame to his own land. And when he had entered the temple of his god, some of his own children killed him there with the sword.'***

So it is clear cherubim are associated with Elohim's throne – they are used to transport Elohim's throne or carrying out important tasks given them from Elohim's throne for example, guarding the tree of life after Adam and Eve sinned. We see from Ezekiel 28: 14 before Lucifer sinned and became Satan he was the anointed cherubim with great responsibility in administering Elohim's government over a third of the angels, before the creation of man, in this way: ***"You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of Elohim; you walked in the midst of stones of fire."*** In Ezekiel 1 as well as 9 and 10, we find a description of cherubim transporting the throne of Elohim – they are His wagon so to speak – transliterated in Hebrew as Elohim's *'Mirkavah'*. These cherubim are described as large powerful beings having four faces with four wings. The second type of angelic being, namely the seraphim look like human beings, but they have six wings. From the description in Daniel 7: 9 & 10 we understand that there are millions of angels serving Elohim at His throne in heaven, as follows: ***"I kept looking until thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days took His seat; His vesture was like white snow; and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, its wheels were a burning fire. (10) A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him; thousands upon thousands were attending Him, and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; the court sat and the books were opened."***

Rav Shaul speaks about the difference between mankind and angels in Hebrews 1 & 2; saying clearly in Hebrews 2: 5 that during the millennium rule of Messiah, the world will not be ruled by angels, in this way: ***'For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking.'*** We read further from verses 6 – 11 of Hebrews 2 that if we qualify to become the sons of Elohim, we are promised rulership over the angels, as follows: ***'But one has testified somewhere, saying, "WHAT IS MAN, THAT THOU REMEMBEREST HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT THOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM? (7) THOU HAST MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THEN THE 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, He left nothing that is not subject to him (lower case h, meaning mankind and not Yahshua). 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 us brethren.'

The fact that we will rule the angels are also confirmed by Rav Shaul in 1 Corinthians 6: 2 – 3, in this way: *'Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest courts? (3) Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more matters of this life?'* Elohim inspired Rav Shaul to write that even though we were made a little lower than angels, we will in future rule over all Elohim's creation, including the angels. Neither animals nor angels, except mankind were created to be begotten by the Set-apart spirit of Elohim, to be born-again into Elohim's Family, at Messiah's return. A point to remember is: those angels were never, and cannot ever be begotten and born of Elohim. Angels can be servants of Elohim, but cannot become part of Elohim's family. The purpose of angels is given in Hebrews 1: 7 & 14, as follows; *'And of the angels He says, "Who makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire. (14) Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?'*

Rav Shaul tells us in Romans 8: 16 & 17 that we are heirs of Elohim and Messiah, in this way: *'The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of Elohim, (17) and if children, heirs also, heirs of Elohim and fellow heirs with Messiah, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.'* In fact this is basically what Rav Shaul tells the exiles of YHVH (transliterated as Galut Yah in Hebrew) in Galatia in Galatians 3: 26 to 4: 7, as follows: *'For you are all sons of Elohim through faith in Messiah Yahshua. (27) For all of you who were immersed into Messiah have clothed yourselves with Messiah. (28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Messiah Yahshua. (29) And if you belong to Messiah, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (1) Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, (2) but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. (3) So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. (4) But when the fullness of the time came, Elohim sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under law (meaning Roman law), (5) in order that He might redeem those who were under law (we are even now under Roman-Dutch law here in South Africa), that we might receive the adoption as sons. (6) And because you are sons, Elohim has sent for the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Avinu! Father!" (7) Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son; and if a son, then an heir through Elohim.'* Rav Shaul shows the primary activity of Elohim's angels today, by describing the status of the young son of a wealthy man (namely Elohim). Whilst still under age the son may be under the care of adult servants or guardians nominated by his father. The servant is older, and has more knowledge, and is more developed physically and mentally, but will never become the owner of the property. Therefore the servant, who is more mature, is only a servant 'ministering' to the young 'heir' – in a similar way that angels are presently ministering to the spirit-begotten children of Elohim today. Even though the 'heir' spoken about here is Messiah, it is also talking about us who will become fellow heirs with Messiah.

At present Elohim's physical children have the protection of angels who are in close contact with the Father in heaven, as Yahshua Himself said in Matthew 18: 10, saying: *"See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you, that their angels in heaven continually behold the face of*

My Father who is in heaven.” We see further from Psalm 34: 7 that Elohim’s angels protect His obedient children from accidents, calamities, and other dangerous conditions, as follows: ***‘The angel of YHVH encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them.’*** A second witness comes from Psalm 91: 9– 12, in this way: ***‘For you have made YHVH my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place. (10) No evil will befall you, nor will any plague come near your tent. (11) For he will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. (12) They will bear you up in their hands, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’*** Elohim’s ministering angels are assigned to help His heirs along the road to their inheritance – eternal life – to save them from premature death and help them in their battles against Satan and his demons.

We see from Hebrews 13: 2, that angels have the power to manifest themselves to people in the likeness of men, in order to carry out their duties, as follows: ***‘Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.’*** As messengers of Elohim angels appeared to Abraham, Lot, Hagar, Moses, Gideon, Elijah and other prophets of Elohim. When the angels of Elohim appeared to men they did so in the form of ordinary men. Michael one of the two remaining archangels still loyal to Elohim, is in fact the chief guardian of the descendants of ancient Israel as Daniel wrote about our time in Daniel 12: 1, saying: ***“Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.”***

The Scriptures designated three angels of high rank. We read about Lucifer who is now the devil, because of his rebellion against Elohim in Isaiah 14: 12, in this way: ***“How you have fallen from heaven, O star (the King James Version has ‘Lucifer’ for the word star used here in the NASB) of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations!”*** We’ve already seen mentioned in Daniel 12: 1, Michael the prince who stood guard over the children of Israel. Next we read about Gabriel, who appeared to Daniel in Daniel 9: 20 & 21, as follows: ***“Now while I was speaking and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before YHVH my Elohim in behalf of the holy mountain of my Elohim, (21) while I was still speaking in prayer, then the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in a vision previously, came to me in my extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering.”***

We see further that Jude also identifies Michael as one of the archangels in Jude 9, in this way: ***‘But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, “YHVH rebuke you.”’*** It is also very interesting to note that there will be twelve of Elohim’s angels who will serve as gatekeepers in the New Jerusalem, recorded in Revelation 21: 12, as follows: ***‘It had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names were written on them, which are those of the twelve tribes of sons of Israel.’*** We also see recorded in Acts 5: 17 – 21, how angels helped the servants of Elohim who were imprisoned, in this way: ***‘But the high priest rose up, along with all the associates (that is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy; (18) and they laid hands on the apostles, and put them in a public jail. (19) But an angel of YHVH during the night opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said, (20) “Go your way, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life.” (21) And upon hearing this, they entered into the temple about daybreak, and began to teach. Now when the high priest and his associates had come, they called the Council together, even all the Senate of the sons of Israel, and sent order to the prison house for them to be brought.’*** We see here that an angel of YHVH made sure that despite persecution, the apostles continued preaching the truth of Elohim.

To conclude, let’s return our discussion to our adversary. This sermon has shown clearly that Elohim did not create Satan the Devil. Instead, Elohim created the archangel Lucifer – perfect in his ways,

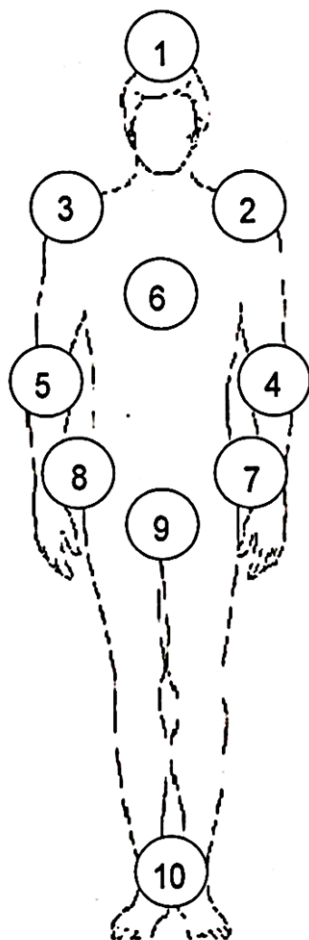
but with free moral agency, to choose whether he wants to follow Elohim, or not. Once Lucifer rebelled against Elohim and tried taking over Elohim's throne, he became Satan. By his own choice he made himself Elohim's adversary. However, angels were never destined to be more than servants of Elohim. Not one of the angels can be begotten of Elohim and be born-again into the Family of Elohim. Satan and his demons hate the fact that Elohim has created human beings with the potential to become born-again sons of Elohim to rule the earth and ultimately the entire universe under Yahshua. As a result, Satan views human beings as a great threat to his way of life. With his twisted mind, Satan now looks on humans as his greatest competitors, because Elohim has destined man to replace Satan and his demons as rulers of the universe.

It is for this very reason that Yahshua said about Satan in John 8: 44, saying: ***"You are of your father the devil and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies."*** Satan tried to put an end to Elohim's plan to reproduce himself by first succeeding in getting Adam to rebel against his Creator, thereby disqualifying himself from replacing Satan. Next Satan attempted to have Messiah, the second Adam killed, when he was only a baby. Then when Messiah was a grown-up, Satan attempted to destroy Him spiritually, by tempting Him to sin. This is when Messiah qualified to rule the world at His second coming. As a result of all this we the spirit-begotten children of Elohim is presently in a tremendous battle against Satan and his demons, and are warned accordingly by Rav Kepha in 1 Peter 5: 8 & 9, saying: ***'Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion. Seeking someone to devour.'*** (9) ***But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.'***

Brethren the only way in which we are able to use our faith to protect us from the influences of Satan and his demons is by putting on the whole armor of Elohim, as Rav Shaul explains in Ephesians 6: 10 – 18, in this way: ***'Finally, be strong in the Master, and in the strength of His might. (11) Put on the full armor of Elohim, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. (12) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. (13) Therefore, take up the full armor of Elohim, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. (14) Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, (15) and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; (16) in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. (17) And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of Elohim. (18) With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.'***

This brings us back to a previous sermon where we talked about the image of Elohim and discussed the defenses against the wiles of Satan as follows:

This how we depicted the image of Elohim.



The first three attributes; namely the Crown, Wisdom and Understanding relate to the Helmet of Salvation. The second three attributes; namely Harmony (or beauty), Mercy and Severity (or power) relate to the heart or Breastplate of Righteousness. The third three attributes; namely Victory, Splendor and Foundation relate to the groin or The Belt of Truth. And the last attribute; namely Kingdom relates to the feet or Shoes of Peace or Nobility (Kingship). We are admonished by Rav Shaul in Ephesians 6: 10 – 18, to put these, also known as the full armor of Elohim, on, to protect us from principalities (rulers), powers, the world forces of darkness and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in heavenly places. This is talking about four classes of demons.

Comparing these four types of demons, we see that they relate to the body segments of the image of Elohim. This full armor is therefore for our protection from head to toe. The Helmet of Salvation protects us from the evil spirits under heaven, known as principalities. The Breastplate of Righteousness protects us from powers, the Belt of Truth protects us

from the rulers of darkness of this world, and the Shoes of Peace protect us from the forces of wickedness in heavenly places. Obviously there are four classes of demons parallel to the four body segments of the image of Elohim. The four pieces of armor, is put in place to protect us from the four strategies that Satan uses to deceive mankind. Each of the four items of the full armor of Elohim contrasts each of the basic tactics of Satan as expressed in the Tanach:

Helmet of Salvation <> Accusation (Zechariah 3: 1-5)

*The Helmet of Salvation protects us from Satan's tactic of accusation. In 1 Thessalonians 5: 8 it is referred to as the Helmet of Hope of Salvation. Accusation is the primary tactic of Satan. He accuses us day and night according to Revelation 12: 10. The Renewed Covenant refers to Yahshua as the head of the body. Therefore Yahshua is the Helmet of our Hope of Salvation. We read from James 1: 12, "**Blessed is the Man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which YHVH has promised to those who love Him.**" Rav Shaul wrote in 2 Timothy 4: 8, "**in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which YHVH, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.**" The apostle John wrote in the last part of Revelation 2: 10, "**Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.**" We also read from Revelation 3: 11, "**I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, that no one take your crown.**" The Helmet of Salvation is not only the crown,*

but also knowledge and as we read from Hosea 4: 6, **“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”** Satan is the accuser of the brethren, but in Zechariah 3: 1 - 5 we see that Satan also accused Yahshua, for wearing filthy garments. But, because Yahshua is the Helmet of Salvation, and due to the fact that He overcame Satan’s temptation and accusations, YHVH clothed Him in clean garments and placed a clean Turban on His head. This Turban reminds us of the Helmet of the Hope of our Salvation and this knowledge defends us against the attack of accusation.

Breastplate of Righteousness <> Temptation/pride (1 Chronicles 21: 1)

Putting on the Breastplate of Righteousness protects us from the tactics of pride and temptation. Temptation is a major tactic of Satan as may be read from 1 Thessalonians 3: 5. Satan tempts us through our own pride. King David was made vulnerable to Satan’s attack as he took pride in Israel as may be read from 1 Chronicles 21: 1. We put the Breastplate of Righteousness on by doing righteous deeds.

Belt of Truth <> Lies/Deception (Genesis 3: 1 - 6)

Putting on the belt of truth defends us from the tactic of deception. We read from John 8: 32, **“and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”** We read further from the last part of Psalm 119: 142: **“And Thy law (Torah) is truth.”** We put the Belt of Truth on by studying (YHVH)’s Torah daily.

Shoes of Peace <> Oppression (Job & Acts 10: 38)

Putting on the Shoes of Peace defends us from Satan’s tactic of oppression. Shalom means more than peace, it also means to be united, to be whole or complete and to be at peace. The shoes correspond to the feet which represents Kingdom. During the 1000 year rule of Yahshua we will have complete peace. - The gospel of the coming kingdom of Elohim gives us peace, knowing that all the evil of the present age will come to an end.

This sheds light on what it means to put on the full armor of Elohim. If we believe in Yahshua the Helmet of Salvation, practice righteousness, study and obey Torah, and believe in the true gospel we will have put on the full armor of Elohim to protect us from all evil. This will also help us to overcome Satan, the world and our selves, and ultimately after YHVH has perfected our spirits in Heaven (Hebrews 12: 23) and Yahshua returns to resurrect our bodies and souls we shall be like Him, as witnessed in 1 John 3: 1 & 2, **“See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of Elohim; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. (2) Beloved, now we are children of Elohim, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.”** A second way for our ladies to protect themselves from Demon attacks is to always wear a head covering during prayer and worship services. Baruch HaShem YHVH!

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