

## Questions of Faith.

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**This book is not to be sold. We are told in the second part of Matthew 10: 8 “*freely you received, freely give.*”** The book contains sermons 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: What is man?

Have you ever considered how truly marvelous the body and mind is that make up mankind. Like with any other complex creation it was only natural for our Creator to provide us with an instruction manual setting out the purpose of His product and how it should be operated and maintained. The Scriptures our instruction manual reveals the unbelievable potential that our Creator planned for each and every one of us.

Even though those who believe in evolution assume that man is merely an animal, there is a big difference between man's mind and animal brains. Despite the fact that some animals have physical brains as large or in some cases even larger than man, with similar complexity, there is not one with the power of intellect, self-consciousness and logic of the human mind. One thing evolution cannot explain is the difference between animal instinct and the human creative reasoning powers of intellect, without instinct in the strict sense in which animals possess it. The reason being as explained in Genesis 1: 20, 21, 24 - 27, in this way: ***'Then Elohim said, "Let the waters team with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens."*** (21) ***And Elohim created the great sea monsters, and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and Elohim saw that it was good.*** (24) ***And Elohim said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beast of the earth after their kind"; and it was so.*** (25) ***And Elohim made the beasts of the earth after their kind and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and Elohim saw that it was good.*** (26) ***Then Elohim said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*** (27) ***And Elohim created man in His own image, in the image of Elohim He created him; male and female He created them.'***

So we see that different to fish, animals and birds, man was created in the image and likeness of Elohim, to rule over all the other creatures. These verses reveal Elohim's ultimate purpose for mankind. Elohim made man to be an exact clay model of Him, because He ultimately plans for us to become His spirit-born children. Each animal was created with a brain suitable for its particular kind; however animals do not have potential of mind and character which Elohim gave to man alone. Animals do not have the ability to talk, think, reason and make choices and decisions like man does. Animals and birds follow instinctive habits in how they feed, build nests, migrate and reproduce. But man's mind differs greatly from animal instinct; as man is able to invent different ways to do one thing or to reach a predetermined goal. Man is able to acquire knowledge and reason from it. He is able to draw conclusions, make decisions and acts according to a pre-determined plan. Man is also able to design and build different types of homes, using different building materials. People may live different lifestyles from one another, and if he desires man is able to change his way of life. He is not subject to instinct and is not governed by a fixed or predetermined habit pattern as animals are. We as human beings are able to choose, since we have been given free moral agency. We are able to originate ideas and evaluate different options open to us, because we have minds patterned after Elohim's own mind.

Mankind was created to have a special relationship with our Creator that is utterly nonexistent with animals, since Elohim made us in His likeness and image! Elohim's purpose in making us after His own likeness requires mind power in man patterned after Elohim's own mind. That is why the most remarkable thing about man in his mind. Man does not have an immortal soul which enables him to live on after he dies, however, we read from Zechariah 12: 1, that different to animals, man has a spirit within him, as follows: ***'The burden of the word of YHVH concerning Israel. Thus declares YHVH who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him.'*** Job tells us in Job 32: 8, why Elohim has put the spirit within man, in this way: ***"But it is***

***a spirit in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives them understanding.***” The difference between animal brains and the human mind is that there is a spirit in man, which gives him understanding and the ability to think and make decisions. The spirit is not the man, but is something that is placed inside the man. It is the spirit in man that combined with the human brain forms the human mind. It gives man the ability to learn languages, mathematics and such knowledge as music, art, etc. Even so, the spirit in man does not give mankind the ability to live forever. In fact the human spirit does not supply human life, since human life is in the physical blood, oxidized by the breath of life. But the spirit in man provides him with the power of intellect; it is spirit essence similar to the way air is a gaseous essence. The human spirit serves as a ‘computer’ and stores whatever enters the brain through the five senses in memory. It also provides the brain with energy to think, i.e. to put the information stored together in a process called thinking, and drawing conclusions. But it is also the human spirit which makes it possible for us to have a relationship with Elohim.

When animals see, hear, smell, taste and feel it is not stored in a ‘computer’ since they do not have a spirit within them. They simply act on instinct, as was proven by psychologists like Pavlov. The truth about the spirit in man has been perverted by Satan long ago, when he told Eve that she will live forever in Genesis 3: 4. Ever since man has come to believe that he has an immortal soul, and when he dies his soul goes on living in heaven. Even so, man has the mental capacity to build motor vehicles, invent computers, do heart transplants and send spaceships to the moon and back, but has shown over the past 6,000 years that he is incapable to solve problems with his fellow man. The reason for this is that most of the seemingly unsolvable problems facing mankind are spiritual. Rav Shaul clearly tells us in 1 Corinthians 2: 9 - 12, that we need more than the spirit in man to know about the thoughts of Elohim, as follows: ***‘But just as it is written, “THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT ELOHIM HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.” (10) For to us Elohim revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of Elohim. (11) For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of Elohim no one knows except the Spirit of Elohim. (12) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from Elohim, that we might know the things freely given to us by Elohim.’***

Mankind was made to need Elohim’s Spirit to help him understand spiritual things expounded in the Word of Elohim, namely the Scriptures. As previously mentioned, YHVH gave us the Scriptures as a manual to live by. But because the Law is Spiritual as Rav Shaul wrote in Romans 7: 14, we need the Spirit of Elohim, to understand and apply the Word of Elohim to our lives. The Set-apart Spirit is the divine nature of Elohim working in our lives, allowing us to be led by YHVH. The same divine nature that transformed early believers is also working in Messianic believers today. We read accordingly from 2 Peter 1: 2 – 4 ***‘Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of Elohim and Yahshua Messiah our Master; (3) seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own esteem 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.’***

From our discussion so far, we are able to conclude that as human beings, we are composed of body, soul and spirit, as also confirmed in 1 Thessalonians 5: 23, in this way: ***‘Now may the Elohim of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Master Yahshua Messiah.’*** When we repent and are immersed into Yahshua’s saving name, accepting that His death removed the record of our transgressions, YHVH gives us a portion of His Set-apart Spirit. The Set-apart Spirit combines with the spirit in us and we are begotten anew. This gives us the opportunity to like Yahshua, be resurrected at His return, as



confirmed by Rav Shaul in Romans 8: 11, ***'But if the Spirit of Him who raised Yahshua from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Messiah Yahshua from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.'*** We read further in Ephesians 1: 13 &14, that: ***'In Him (Messiah), you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation – having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Set-apart Spirit of promise, (14) who is given as a pledge (or deposit) of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of Elohim's own possession, to the praise of His glory.'***

Similar to what no animal brain can understand human affairs, can man's mind without Elohim's Spirit understand Spiritual matters. Even the greatest scientists are unable to understand Spiritual truths. Spiritual things are not visible to the human eye, heard with the ear, felt by the hands. The human mind only receives knowledge through these physical conduits, and cannot understand spiritual concepts and principles without Elohim's Set-apart Spirit. Only when Elohim's Spirit enters man's mind upon repentance and immersion in Yahshua Messiah's saving name, and combines with the human spirit, can man come to know that which is spiritual. Rav Shaul shows clearly that there is duality in the creation of man, in 1 Corinthians 15: 45 – 49, saying: ***'So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. (46) However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. (47) The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. (48) As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. (49) And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.'***

Man must be born again to enter the kingdom of Elohim as a family member of Elohim, as Yahshua explained in John 3: 3 – 8, saying to Nicodemus: ***"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."*** The creation of man is accomplished in two phases; the physical phase, the first Adam is followed by the spiritual phase, namely Yahshua Messiah. At creation man was made with a 'human' spirit, but because he is incomplete, he needs another spirit, namely the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim – to be begotten anew and later at the return of Yahshua our Messiah be resurrected or changed into the spiritual born-again children of Elohim.

As we've learnt in previous sermons we can only receive the set-apart Spirit once we are immersed in Yahshua's saving name (as per Acts 2: 38) and the laying on of hands by the elders of the ecclesia (as per Acts 7: 37 – 39). We received Elohim's Set-apart Spirit through Messiah, the second Adam. At that point we become the begotten children of Elohim, as witnessed in Romans 8: 14 – 17, as follows: ***'For all who are being led by the Spirit of Elohim, these are sons of Elohim. (15) For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, Avinu! Father!"*** (16) ***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.'*** The spirit in man joins the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim to make us begotten children of Elohim, similar to what a male sperm cell enters a female egg cell to make a begotten human being. However, as much as the child needs to develop from that early stage to be born as a human being nine months later, so a new believer has to develop during his/her human live, to be born-again at Messiah's return. When Elohim's Spirit combines with the human spirit in man, it begets the human with

eternal life to later be born into Elohim's family as spiritual children of Elohim; and it imparts to the human mind, the ability to understand the Spiritual truths and knowledge of Elohim.

Included in Elohim's purpose for creating mankind, is that we should develop Elohim's righteous spiritual character within us. Elohim's purpose in creating man is to reproduce Him with perfect spiritual character. Man created in Elohim's own image and likeness, with a mind similar to Elohim, will only be complete once he has developed the very character of Elohim in him, as we read fittingly from 1 Peter 2: 1 - 3, in this way: ***'Therefore, putting aside all malice and guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, (2) like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect of salvation, (3) if you have tasted the kindness of YHVH.'*** The point is that we are ultimately to become Elohim, as Yahshua told us in Matthew 5: 48, saying: ***"Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."*** Similar to the human reproductive process, when the brain slowly begin to form during the gestation period, so the righteous holy character of Elohim must begin to develop once one is begotten by Elohim's Spirit. But, it is clear that we cannot become perfect in character until the resurrection when Elohim will complete the process, as we read previously from 1 Thessalonians 5: 23, as follows: ***'Now may the Elohim of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Master Yahshua Messiah.'*** This is confirmed in Hebrews 12: 23, as follows: ***'To the general assembly and ecclesia of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to Elohim, the judge of all, and to the spirits of righteous men made perfect.'***

The point is that such perfect holy character cannot be created in a moment. It has to be developed over a period of time and requires experience. Elohim gives us time during which He wants us to learn that only by doing things according to His way, will we have real peace, joy and abundance in our lives. We need to learn that sin causes death, misery, suffering, heartache and ultimately death. During the passing of time we will have seen the results of Satan's way of life and rejected it, and will have been developing, with the help of Elohim's Set-apart Spirit, Elohim's righteous character until we are one day changed to sinless immortal life. We become spiritual embryos upon receipt of Elohim's Set-apart Spirit at immersion. Then, similar to the way in which an embryo has to be nourished in its mother's womb, we must be nourished by the Word of Elohim, as Yahshua mentioned in John 6: 63, saying: ***"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life."*** The development of righteous spiritual character requires time and comes mainly through experience, putting Elohim's Word into practice in our daily lives. A person develops righteous character as he/she comes to understand right and wrong, through Elohim's revelation in His Set-apart Scriptures. In fact, in most believers Elohim's righteous character is formed so slowly that it seems hardly noticeable at first and growing in spiritual knowledge and spiritual character takes an entire lifetime.

A second important element in our Spiritual growth is prayer, as we read from Ephesians 6: 18, as follows: ***'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 saints.'*** We all partake of spiritual food through personal daily contact with Elohim; when we read and study Elohim's Word, He talks to us teaching us His way, and when we pray, we talk to Him. This is the only way in which we can have a personal relationship with our heavenly Father. But, it is also important that we attend Sabbath services regularly, so as to learn more about Elohim, as well as about the concerns and the things which encourage and comfort our brethren, so as to pray for them or rejoice with them. When Messiah returns one day, we will become fully mature, ready to be adopted into Elohim's Family, as we read from Philippians 3: 20 & 21, in this way: ***'For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Master Yahshua Messiah; (21) who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power He has even to subject all things to Himself.'***

Finally, when we are resurrected from the dead or changed from mortal flesh to immortal spirit at Messiah's return, we will have realized the unbelievable human potential that Elohim has planned for those of us called at this time to be first fruits. But, the same future also awaits those who will accept Yahshua Messiah as their personal Passover during the period of 100 years known as the Great White Throne Judgment as witnessed in Isaiah 65: 17 – 20, as follows: ***"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth (as per Revelation 21), and the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. (18) But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem for rejoicing, and her people for gladness. (19) I will also rejoice in Jerusalem, and be glad in My people; and there will no longer be heard in her the voice of weeping and the sound of crying. (20) No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred shall be thought accursed."***

The only thing that we take with us when we die is the righteous spiritual character that Elohim the Master Potter (Isaiah 64: 8), is busy creating in those of us who are His spirit-begotten children. When we are resurrected one day, we will appear exactly the same as we do at present, without any blemishes and handicaps. People like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, David and those mentioned in Hebrews 11 will all be brought back to life at Messiah's return. They, too will look like they did when they walked the earth a few thousand years ago. We see that the spirit in man goes back to the Father when we die, as Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 12: 7, in this way: ***'Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to Elohim who gave it.'*** When we die all consciousness ends, as Solomon also witnessed in Ecclesiastes 9: 5, as follows: ***'For the living know they will die; but the dead do not know anything, nor have they any longer a reward, for their memory is forgotten.'*** The physical brain decays, but the human spirit, which has no consciousness on its own returns to Elohim. The spirit of man is preserved intact by Elohim until Yahshua brings it back to believers at His return. It is for this reason that the Scriptures speak of the dead as being asleep, as Daniel wrote in Daniel 12: 2, in this way: ***"And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt."***

Therefore when a person dies, the spirit 'recording' of his character returns to Elohim where in the case of a true believer it is perfected as we read previously from Hebrews 12: 23. This is very similar to how sound and visual displays are recorded on DVD's today. In Fact YHVH is showing us through the modern technologies which He allowed mankind to develop today, how He is preserving a person's character in the spirit in man at present. Finally we understand what type of body the dead in Messiah will receive at His return, when we are resurrected, by what Rav Shaul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15: 51 & 52, as follows: ***'Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep (be dead), we shall all be changed, (52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.'*** So even though we will look the same as we look at present, when we are resurrected, we will be composed of Spirit and not of flesh and blood any longer. What a wonderful Elohim do we serve, who has shown us in detail what we will be like, if we qualify to be in His glorious Kingdom one day!



## Chapter 2: Who or what is Elohim?

There are relatively few people on earth who truly know who or what Elohim is. The reason for this is that they speculate about Elohim, and refuse to accept what Elohim has to say about Himself in His word, the Scriptures. What does YHVH our Elohim say about Himself in the Scriptures? Let's turn to Exodus 3: 13 – 15; where YHVH reveals Himself to Moses for the first time in this way: ***'Then Moses said to Elohim, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I shall say to them, 'The Elohim of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name? What shall I say to them?" (14) And Elohim said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM<sup>1</sup>", 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.'*** It is true Abraham, Isaac and Jacob knew and called on the name of YHVH our Elohim, as witnessed in Genesis 12: 8; 13: 4; 26: 2 – 5; 28: 12 – 13; and 32: 24 – 32. It was therefore important for YHVH to identify Himself to Moses by the name that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob knew Him.

But, from studying further in Genesis 19: 24, there are those who insist that there are two beings called YHVH in the Scriptures, as it clearly states: ***'Then YHVH rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from YHVH out of heaven.'*** To those who are not familiar with Torah, the idea of two (YHVH)'s seems to be spot-on. However, a very important Scriptural principle is to let the Scriptures interpret the Scriptures. By turning to Deuteronomy 4: 35 & 39, we get Elohim's indisputable answer, as follows: ***"To you it was shown that you might know that YHVH, He is Elohim; there is no other beside Him. (39) Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that YHVH, He is Elohim in heaven above and on earth below; there is no other."*** This is totally in line with what YHVH told Moses in the correct translation of Deuteronomy 6: 4 (KJV), saying: ***'Hear, O Israel; YHVH our Elohim is one YHVH.'*** Now, if this sounds incorrect to you because of the way you learnt to say the Schema, then I need to remind you that this is in fact the way Yahshua articulated it in Mark 12: 29 & 30, when one of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognize that He (Yahshua) has answered them well, asked Him in the last part of verse 28: ***"What commandment is the foremost of all?" (29) Yahshua answered, "The foremost is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! YHVH OUR ELOHIM IS ONE YHVH; (30) AND YOU SHALL LOVE YHVH YOUR ELOHIM WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH."***

If Yahshua was truly a second lesser YHVH as some Messianic/Nazarene Israelites and like-minded believers insists, why did He not say in this instance that there are two (YHVH)'s? We see further that Yahshua Himself said in John 5: 43 – 44, that there is only one Elohim, 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, 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?"*** But, herein is a problem; in that when after Yahshua's death and resurrection, He appeared to His disciples a second time. The first time when He appeared to them, they told Thomas who were not present when He appeared to them, as we read from John 20: 25 – 29, as follows: ***'The other disciples therefore were saying to him (Thomas), "We have seen the Master!" But he said to them, "Unless I shall see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."*** (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***

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<sup>1</sup> The footnote in the New American Standard Bible reads: I AM is related to the name of G-d, YHWH, rendered LORD, which is derived from the verb HAYAH, to be. The verb HAYAH means more than to be, but implies that YHVH existed forever, He is, He was and He will be – the Eternal.

**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.”* Note carefully, Yahshua did not accuse Thomas of blasphemy when he called Him Elohim – instead He said to Thomas, that those of us, who believe that He (Yahshua) is Elohim without seeing His nail-scarred hands, are blessed.

But, how do we reconcile Thomas’ words with what we read in the Scriptures? Is it perhaps because we are able to figure out that there are in fact two (YHVH)’s contrary to Elohim’s own words in Deuteronomy 6: 4? Let’s turn to Isaiah 43: 10 & 11 for the answer to this question, where YHVH through the prophet Isaiah says: **“You are My witnesses,” declares YHVH, “And My servant whom I have chosen, in order that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He** (the same words YHVH used to identify Himself to Moses). **Before Me there was no Elohim formed, and there will be none after Me. (11) I, even I, am YHVH; and there is no savior besides Me.”** This seems to be one of the clearest statements made by YHVH, yet many in the Church of G-d, the Assemblies of YHVH, some Nazarene/Messianic Israelites, absolutely refuse to accept YHVH our Elohim’s word, and even now believe that there are two (YHVH)’s, with the Set-apart Spirit simply being the power of Elohim. Even so, these believers in two (YHVH)’s also contradict Yahshua, when He said to the Jews in John 10: 30, **“I and the Father are one.”** Similar to the Jews who did not believe Yahshua at that time (even though we know that YHVH has personally blinded their minds to Yahshua’s identity), these believers insist that Yahshua and the Father are one in mind and not simply One, as He said.

The fact that not everyone knows the identity of Yahshua is borne out by the fact that Isaiah identifies Him as the right hand of YHVH in Isaiah 53: 1, in this way: **‘Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of YHVH been revealed?’** King David had no problem with the truth that Yahshua the salvation of YHVH is also His right hand, as witnessed by him in Psalm 98: 1 - 3, as follows: **‘O sing to YHVH a new song, for He has done wonderful things, His right hand and His holy arm have gained the victory for Him. (2) YHVH has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations. (3) He has remembered His lovingkindness and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our Elohim.’** David tells us that Elohim has specifically remembered the house of Israel, who have been scattered into the world by YHVH because of idolatry and that the whole earth have seen the salvation (Yahshua) of YHVH. This is also why Yahshua said to the Canaanite woman who asked Him to heal her daughter possessed by demons in Matthew 15: 24, **“I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”**

We also read about the fact that our Jewish Brothers are at this time blinded to the identity of Yahshua in John 12: 37 – 40, as follows: **‘But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him; (38) that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke, “YHVH, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM HAS THE ARM OF YHVH BEEN REVEALED?” (39) For this cause they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, (40) “HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES, AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART; LEST THEY SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED, AND I HEAL THEM.”’** But, we are told by Rav Shaul in Romans 11 that this situation will be corrected once the fullness of the Gentiles (those remnant of the lost-ten-tribes who currently believe that they are Gentiles plus some real gentiles) have returned to the way of Elohim, because of Elohim’s gracious choice (verse 5), then all Israel (a remnant from both houses of Israel) will be saved. This is further explained in verses 28 - 32, in this way: **‘From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of Elohim’s choice they (our Jewish Brothers) are beloved for the sake of the fathers; (29) for the gifts and the calling of Elohim are irrevocable. (30) For just as you once were disobedient to Elohim, but now have been shown mercy because of their disobedience, (31) so these also now have been disobedient, in order that because of the mercy shown to you they also may now be shown mercy. (32) For Elohim has shut up all in disobedience that He might show mercy to all.’**

We are all aware that Yahshua will one day soon return on the Feast of Trumpets or Yom Teruah. This will be when He will save the tents of Judah first, at which time He will visit them in their synagogues, and when they see His nail-scarred hands, they will be similar to what Thomas did, understand for the first time who He is, as witnessed in Zechariah 12: 7 – 14, as follows: ***“YHVH also will save the tents of Judah first in order that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not be magnified above Judah. (8) In that day YHVH will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the one who is feeble among them in that day will be like David, and the house of David will be like Elohim, like the angel of YHVH before them. (9) And it will come about in that day that I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. (10) And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born. (11) In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo. (12) And the land will mourn, every family by itself; the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; (13) the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the Shimeites by itself, and their wives by themselves; (14) all the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves.”*** This is when a remnant from both houses of Israel will be saved! This is also when our Jewish brothers will join us in a new marriage contract or covenant with YHVH as described in Jeremiah 31: 31 – 33, in this way: ***“Behold, days are coming,” declares YHVH “When I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, (32) not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares YHVH. (33) But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares YHVH, “I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their Elohim and they shall be My people”*** Notice that YHVH will only have to write the Torah on the hearts of the house of Israel, since those of the house of Judah who remained faithful to YHVH, already know the Torah from the heart.

Let’s return to the arm of YHVH, the one He used to create the entire universe, as is recorded in Jeremiah 32: 17, 21 & 22, as follows: ***‘Ah YHVH Elohim! Behold, Thou hast made the heavens and the earth by Thy great power and by Thine outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for Thee. (21) And Thou didst bring Thy people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs and with wonders, and with a strong hand and with an outstretched arm and with great terror; (22) and gavest them this land, which Thou didst swear to their forefathers to give them, a land flowing with milk and honey.’*** We were recently introduced to the image of Elohim, when we discussed our having to conform to the image of Elohim, namely Yahshua, as Rav Shaul wrote in Romans 8: 29, 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.’*** Rav Shaul further identified Messiah as the visible image of the invisible Elohim in Colossians 1: 13 - 15, saying: ***‘For He 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 (again from the dead as per verse 18) of all creation.’***

In the picture of the image of Elohim, our Jewish Brothers identify the right arm with power (gevurah) and the left arm with mercy. We have already identified Yahshua as the outstretched arm and power of YHVH. Rav Shaul also identified Yahshua as both the power and wisdom of YHVH in 1 Corinthians 1: 24, in this way: ***‘But to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks (Gentiles or those from the house of Israel who believe that they are Gentiles), Messiah the power of Elohim and the wisdom of Elohim.’*** In addition we read from Proverbs 8: 22 - 30 that wisdom was with Elohim right from the beginning, as follows: ***“YHVH possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. (23) From everlasting I was established, from the beginning, from the***

**earliest times of the earth. (24) When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. (25) Before the mountains were settled, before the hills I was brought forth; (26) While He had not yet made the earth and the fields, nor the first dust of the world. (27) When He established the heavens, I was there, when He inscribed a circle on the face of the deep. (28) When He made firm the skies above, when the springs of the deep became fixed, (29) When He set for the sea its boundary, so that the water should not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth; (30) Then I was beside Him, as a master workman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him.”** This is why Yahshua in His prayer immediately before His impalement prayed in John 17: 5, saying: **‘And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.’**

We also understand from Micah 5: 2, that as much as YHVH is the Eternal, Yahshua was also from the days of Eternity, in this way: **“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.”** But where in Torah do we read of the arms of YHVH, which is very much a part of the One and only Elohim? We turn to Deuteronomy 33: 27, where we read: **“The eternal Elohim is a dwelling place; and underneath are the everlasting arms; and he drove out the enemies from before you (united Israel), and said, ‘Destroy!’”** Isaiah 51: 5 talks about the arms of YHVH, in this way: **“My righteousness is near, My salvation (Yahshua) has gone forth, and My arms will judge the peoples; the coastland will wait for Me, and for My arm they will wait expectantly.”** As much as a person’s arm is part of a person, so are the arms of Elohim part of Him.

It is as Rav Yochanan confirmed in John 1: 1 – 3 & 14, saying: **‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with Elohim, and the Word was Elohim. (2) He was in the beginning with Elohim. (3) All Things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.(14) And the Word became flesh, and dwell among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.’** Matthew 1: 23 identified Yahshua in the same way He was identified in Isaiah 7: 14, namely Immanuel, meaning Elohim with us, and since we have already established from the mouth of YHVH that there is only One Elohim, we know that Yahshua is not a second Elohim, but part of Elohim, as is also confirmed in Romans 1: 19 – 21, in this way: **‘Because that which is known about Elohim is evident within them (mankind); for Elohim made it evident to them. (20) For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes<sup>2</sup>, His eternal power<sup>3</sup> and divine nature<sup>4</sup>, 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.’**

It is true, we have no excuse! YHVH tells us unquestionably that He is One, so why can we not take Him at His word and believe that He is only One. It is as Rav Shaul wrote in Romans 1: 19, we have no excuse, since we know that we as human beings are composed of three parts, namely body, soul and spirit. Similarly is Elohim composed of three parts, namely Yahshua the power and visible image of Elohim our perfect example; YHVH the soul of Elohim or Eternal Life and the source of instruction<sup>5</sup>; and the Set-apart Spirit being the divine nature of Elohim. The fact that Yahshua came

<sup>2</sup> YHVH is according to 1 Timothy 1: 17 invisible, in this way: **“Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only Elohim, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”**

<sup>3</sup> Yahshua is the power of Elohim as witnessed in 1 Corinthians 1: 24 and Jeremiah 32: 17.

<sup>4</sup> The Set-apart Spirit is the shekinah glory or divine nature of Elohim which we receive as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to redemption. We also read from 2 Peter 1: 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.’**

<sup>5</sup> Yahshua said in John 8: 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.”**



as the Son of YHVH was to show us that once we are resurrected one day, we can become the spirit born-again children of Elohim. He came as the Son of Man to show us our incredible potential to become the very children of Elohim, when we are resurrected at Messiah's return. We like Yahshua are referred to as branches or Nazarene, and He came specifically to bring us back, as Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 49: 5: ***"And now says YHVH, who formed me from the womb to be His Servant, to bring Jacob back to Him, in order that Israel might be gathered to Him (for I am honored in the sight of YHVH, and My Elohim is My strength).***

A final proof that Yahshua is YHVH who is returning one day soon comes from Zechariah 14: 3 -5 , as follows: ***'Then YHVH will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on the day of battle. (4) And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half to the South. (5) And you will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then YHVH, my Elohim, will come and all the holy ones with Him.'*** This is similar to the way Yahshua describes His return in Matthew 24: 29 – 31, saying: ***'But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken, (30) and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. (31) And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.'*** However, we read further from Zechariah 14: 9, ***'And YHVH will be king over all the earth; in that day YHVH will be the only one, and His name the only one.'***

Even so, we as the lost ten tribes of Israel, also referred to in the Scriptures as Ephraim need Yahshua to bring us back to the Father, as well as to brother Judah, as Rav Shaul explained in Ephesians 2: 11 – 22, and especially in verses 14 – 16, saying: ***"For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, (15) by abolishing in His flesh the enmity (or punishment due to us), which is (we deserve for breaking) the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, (16) and might reconcile them both in one body to Elohim through the cross, by having put to death the enmity (punishment)."*** Yahshua's parable of the prodigal son, who asked His father to give him his portion of his inheritance and went and squandered it with loose living, pictures Ephraim, who represents the lost ten tribes. Judah is pictured by the Father's eldest son, who remained loyal to Him. Though YHVH had forsaken Ephraim for a time, He informs them in Jeremiah 31: 10, saying: ***'And declare in the coastlands afar off, and say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock."*** Yahshua identified Himself to the Jews in John 10: 11 as being the 'good shepherd'; He continued in verse 16 of John 10, saying: ***"And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock with one shepherd."*** Yahshua was here referring to Ezekiel's prophesy in Ezekiel 34: 23, as follows: ***"Then I will set over them one shepherd, My servant David, and he will feed them; he will feed them himself and be their shepherd."*** Yahshua never denied that He came to restore the kingdom of Israel - far from it! In fact He did everything to turn His disciples' focus on finding the remnant of believers of the house of Israel, as He told them in Matthew 10: 5 & 6, saying: ***"Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; (6) but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."*** Yahshua was sending His disciples out to draw Ephraim back to the covenant that they forsook, as He was the Kinsman Redeemer for the prodigal tribes.



We as the lost ten tribes need Yahshua, because even though He died for the sins of the world, He also died to be able to remarry us, His bride whom He divorced as recorded in Jeremiah 3: 8. Rav Shaul explained in Romans 7: 1 - 4, saying: ***'Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law of divorce and remarriage), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives? (2) For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband. (3) So then if, while her husband is living, she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress, though she is joined to another man. (4) Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the law through the body of Messiah, that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit for Elohim.'*** Yahshua's dying words on the stake was ***'Kallah'*** meaning *'it is finished'* but also *'My bride'*. When He died He confirmed that because we died in immersion in Him, He will now be able to remarry us, His ecclesia of called out believers, who will be resurrected or changed, at His return to earth. However as we've seen previously from Jeremiah 31: 31 – 33, He will, even though He did not divorce Judah, also have to remarry her, because of His death on the stake. Think about it!

### Chapter 3: Head coverings for men.

Before YHVH entered into the covenant with Israel 50 days after leaving Egypt at Mount Sinai, He said to Moses in Exodus 19: 5 & 6, ***“Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; (6) and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.***’ YHVH was offering the first-born children whom He saved from death, a priesthood when He killed all the first-born in Egypt during the night of the Passover in the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first month.

Prior to descending upon the mountain in the cloud and fire, Elohim told Moses to tell the people of Israel to consecrate themselves for two days, so as to enable them to stand before Him and hear His voice. On the third day after consecrating themselves for two days, the people gathered around the mountain, which Elohim had warned them not to touch. Because of our inherit weakness and tendency to worship that which we see with our eyes and touch with our hands, YHVH send Moses down the mountain a second time to warn the people not to touch the mountain, or break through the set boundary. Then YHVH commanded Moses to go down again and tell the priests to consecrate themselves as recorded in verse 22 of Exodus 19, repeating the charge in verse 24, saying: ***“Go down and come up again, you and Aaron with you; but do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to YHVH, lest He break forth upon them.”*** Who were these priests? To determine who they were, let’s consider the ordination of the Levitical priests in Numbers 3: 12, where YHVH says to Moses: ***“Now, behold, I have taken the Levites from among the sons of Israel instead of every first-born, the first issue of the womb among the sons of Israel. So the Levites shall be Mine.”*** The Levites had replaced the firstborn’s priestly position.

Now, let’s return to the day on which YHVH took the sons of Israel out of Egypt. One of the first things that He did was to take the first-born unto Himself, saying in Exodus 13: 2, ***“Sanctify to Me every first-born, the first offspring of every womb among the sons of Israel, both of man and beast; it belongs to Me.”*** These first-born of man and beast did not belong to themselves; rather they belonged to YHVH for His work and purpose. They were to be priests unto Elohim, set-apart for His use. By Scriptural definition a priest is a first-born who does not belong to himself, but is (YHVH)’s special treasure and possession. After Yahshua our Messiah fulfilled His redemptive role as the Lamb that takes away the sins of the world, YHVH began to draw out the progeny of Abraham, a first fruit of the New Universal order. The initial outpouring of the Set-apart Spirit upon the disciples on the Feast of Pentecost, the exact date upon which YHVH entered into a marriage covenant with ancient Israel, by giving them the Ten Commandments under the cover of Mount Sinai, was the beginning or germination of the Abrahamic seed which was to grow and become an expression of a priesthood after the order of Melchizedek. We read accordingly from Revelation 1: 5 & 6, ***‘and from Yahshua Messiah, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood, (6) and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His Elohim and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.’***

Immediately after giving the children of Israel the commandments, statutes and judgments in Exodus 20 – 23, Moses wrote down all the words of YHVH, he took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said (as recorded in Exodus 24: 7): ***“All that YHVH has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!”*** So Moses took half of the blood of the young bulls that the young men (mentioned in verse 5) offered as peace offerings to YHVH and sprinkled it on the altar and the other half he sprinkled on the people saying in verse 8: ***“Behold the blood of the covenant, which YHVH has made with you in accordance with all these words.”*** The statutes that YHVH gave to the children of Israel included how to deal with murderers, thieves, sorcerers and the disorderly, how to settle different charges and claims, how to observe Elohim’s annual Sabbaths and

even how to deal with vicious and problematic animals. YHVH warned Israel that they will be confronted by nations of idol-worshippers when they get near Canaan, but that He shall weaken their armies with swarms of hornets, so that they will be able to take over the land bounded by the Red Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the desert of Arabia and the Euphrates River, a land much bigger than the present state of Israel in the Middle East.

Next YHVH tells the children of Israel through Moses that they should raise a contribution for YHVH in order that they may construct a sanctuary for Him to dwell among them. He gives Moses the detailed pattern according to which the tabernacle should be constructed, after which he tells him how to make the altar and its utensils. Then YHVH tells Moses to bring Aaron and his sons from among the sons of Israel, to minister as priests to Him. He further tells Moses to make holy garments including caps (or headgear) for the priests for glory and for beauty. The covenant or agreement made at Mount Sinai between Elohim and the united nation of Israel was later referred to in the Scriptures as a sacred marriage contract between Elohim, as the husband, and Israel as the wife. The rules of the marriage covenant were the Ten Commandments and the statutes and judgments given on Mount Sinai. The terms were that Israel was to remain faithful by obeying Elohim's laws to ensure good health, prosperity and happiness. Unfaithfulness would mean misery, disease, poverty and possible divorce. To better understand the old or original marriage covenant, it is necessary to go forward in Israel's history and show how the house of Israel failed to live up to the terms of the contract that they entered into with Elohim at Mount Sinai. As a result YHVH eventually divorced the house of Israel (as witnessed in Jeremiah 3: 8). Many years later Yahshua Messiah came to earth, to come and renew the marriage covenant with Israel. He came as a mediator of the new covenant, much like Moses was a mediator of the original covenant between Elohim and Israel.

However, the Renewed Covenant will not be completed until Messiah returns to rule the world, as witnessed in Hebrews 8: 6 – 10, in this way: ***'But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises. (7) For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second. (8) For finding fault with them (the house of Israel), He says, "BEHOLD, DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS YHVH, WHEN I WILL EFFECT A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE HOUSE OF JUDAH; (9) NOT LIKE THE COVENANT WHICH I MADE WITH THEIR FATHERS ON THE DAY WHEN I TOOK THEM BY THE HAND TO LEAD THEM OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT; FOR THEY DID NOT CONTINUE IN MY COVENANT, AND I DID NOT CARE FOR THEM, SAYS YHVH. (10) FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS YHVH: I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MINDS, AND I WILL WRITE THEM UPON THEIR HEARTS. AND I WILL BE THEIR ELOHIM, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE."*** After proposing the New Covenant, Yahshua died thus freeing Israel from the first marriage covenant.

Those of us who have come out of Christianity, with their no-law teachings, often have a hard time determining just what of TORAH was changed and what was not. A good guideline to remember: Things that had to do with animal sacrifices in respect of sins, while not "done away," are now suspended until those things are re-instated, during the Millennium rule of Messiah. At this time however, Christianity teaches that because the original covenant was broken, the Ten Commandments are dead and not to be obeyed any longer. But, nothing could be further from the truth. Belief in that lie has caused much misery to the children of Israel and indeed to the entire world. The Ten Commandments were the basis of the original covenant and as Rav Shaul wrote in Romans 7 are living, unchanged spiritual laws, remaining in effect as does Elohim's physical law of gravity, regardless of what anyone has to say about it. Those spiritual laws are meant for all men in all nations down through the ages. The breaking of the covenant did not lessen their effect; they existed before YHVH entered into the original covenant with the nation of Israel at Mount Sinai. In fact those are the main spiritual laws of the New Covenant. Yahshua our Messiah had to die because

they were broken. He came to reconcile us to YHVH as well as to brother Judah. The Sacrificial Laws introduced after the original covenant agreement was to remind the Israelites of their sins and were not part of the original covenant made with Israel, as we read from Jeremiah 7: 22 – 23, as follows: ***“For I did not speak to your fathers, or command them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices. (23) But this is what I commanded them, saying, ‘Obey My voice, and I will be your Elohim, and you will be My people; and you will walk in all the way which I command you, that it may be well with you.’”***

Galatians 3 & 4 tells us that Messiah came to introduce a new way of dealing with the sins of mankind; If we accept Him as our personal Passover, repent from breaking the original covenant made with Israel and are immersed in Yahshua’s saving name, we enter into the Renewed Covenant with YHVH, and are betrothed to Him, until Messiah returns one day to remarry His bride, if we qualify to be in His everlasting Kingdom. This is why we read from Galatians 4 that we will one day inherit the promised land with Abram, Isaac and Jacob, since we are like Isaac children of promise (as recorded in Galatians 4: 28). But, as children of promise, even though we are heirs of Abraham through faith in Messiah, we have to comply with our part of the covenant made between YHVH and Abraham and let our children be circumcised on the eighth day after birth, if we want to live in the Promised Land. Obviously those who were not circumcised at eight days old will like Abraham have to do it after we come to believe in Messiah, if we want to legitimately partake of Elohim’s Passover. If we partake of the Passover, before we are circumcised, it is not in accordance with the Torah, and can therefore only be considered as a practice run, until we are circumcised one day. The point is that every Israelite is required by Elohim to partake of the Passover annually as it is commanded by Him. We should therefore not delay too long before we partake legally thereof, meaning we have to be circumcised before it is too late, because of an untimely death, or before our Master returns, in which case our sin will be on our own heads, as explained in Numbers 9: 13.

However, the qualifying factor turning us into a chosen race, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation is as Rav Kepha wrote in 1 Peter 2: 3 – 9, saying: ***‘If you have tasted the kindness of the Master. (4) And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of Elohim, (5) you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to Elohim through Yahshua Messiah. (6) For this is contained in Scriptures: 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<sup>6</sup>. (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.”*** Apart from being called, we also need to believe that Yahshua Messiah is as Rav Shaul has written in 1 Corinthians 3: 11, the foundation and corner stone upon which His ecclesia of called out believers are being built, in this way: ***‘For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Yahshua Messiah.’*** Those who believe that

<sup>6</sup> In Mark 4: 11 & 12 and Matt 13:11, 12 & 19 we see that YHVH is not calling everybody during this age. There will be two harvest periods - like in Israel today. First the first fruits during the First Resurrection and then the rest during the Second Resurrection. In James 1: 18, you will see that those of us called now are going to be the first fruits, who will, if we make it, become kings and priests ruling under Messiah during the millennium (as per Revelation 5:10). We who are called during this age are being judged at this time. Most of those who are resurrected during the second resurrection never really had a chance and will be given a chance to repent. The people who died without the knowledge that we have today, never had a chance - remember, there is no such thing as a second chance. But if you never heard the name of Yahshua in your life time, or never heard about YHVH’s plan of Salvation, how can you be considered to have had your chance?

they have the right to decide on their own when to keep Elohim's Feast Days and other doctrinal matters believe that they are the foundation upon which the ecclesia is built. According to what Rav Kepha wrote, such believers should definitely not wear head coverings, as they are disobedient to the word, or Messiah.

Since we are already a royal priesthood, we should wear head coverings, as was the requirement for those serving as priests in the Tanach, as this also conforms to Rav Shaul's ruling in 1 Corinthians 11: 4, which read as follows: ***'Every man who has something on his head while praying or prophesying, disgraces his head.'*** The correct translation from Greek reads: *'Every man who has something hanging down on his head while praying or prophesying disgraces his head.'* The Greek word used here is (Strong's 2619) *'katakalýptō'* from (Strong's 2596) *'kata'* meaning down and (Strong's 2572) *'kalýptō'* meaning to cover – properly, cover down, i.e. to wear a veil. This ruling is therefore not against a yarmulke as worn by all Jews including Nazarene Jews/Israelites during worship services and prayer, but is a prohibition against men wearing veils hanging down like a woman's veil or scarf, as it was a sign of cross-dressing which is forbidden in Torah, as may be read from Deuteronomy 22: 5. This is also against a veil of hair in the form of a long fringe of hair worn over the forehead as a woman. Torah warns against all cross-dressing, whether it is veiling the face as the temple prostitutes did in Athens and Corinth, or using long hair for similar purposes. In ancient Israel as a nation of priests, men were always to have their heads covered. The same holds true today. We see in Isaiah 61: 3 that when Yahshua returns one day, He will give those in Zion a garland (head covering like a priest) instead of ashes, and (anointing) oil of gladness instead of mourning. Isaiah also tells us in verse 6, that we will be called priests of YHVH and will be spoken of as ministers of our Elohim, at Messiah's return. Continuing in verse 10 of Isaiah 61, we read: ***'I will rejoice greatly in YHVH, my soul will exult in my Elohim; for He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and the bride adorns herself with her jewels.'*** This is obviously talking about the time when the ecclesia of Elohim, who remain faithful to the end have made herself ready to remarry Messiah at His return.

At this time we wear head coverings like the one king David wore in 2 Samuel 15: 30 - 32, as follows: ***"And David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives, and wept as he went, and his head was covered and he walked barefoot. Then all the people who were with him each covered his head and went up weeping as they went. (31) Now someone told David, saying, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." And David said: "O YHVH, I pray, make the counsel of Ahithophel foolishness. (32) It happened as David was coming to the summit, where Elohim was worshipped, that behold, Hushai the Achite met him with his coat torn, and dust on his head. "*** King David went up to the summit where YHVH was worshipped and covered His head and so did the people with him. Even so, there are those in our community who insist that the custom of wearing a cap (yarmulke)/turban comes from Babylon. In the quoted section above we saw that King David wore a head covering whilst praying, and we know for a fact that he was never in captivity in Babylon. We also know that Daniel and his three friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were some of the Jewish people who were definitely in captivity in Babylon. Did they perhaps get the custom of wearing head coverings from Babylon? We see from Daniel 3: 21 that Daniel's three friends were thrown into a furnace of fire, because they were defying king Nebuchadnezzar, by not worshipping the golden image that he set up, as follows: ***'Then these men were tied up in their trousers, their coats, their caps and their other clothes, and were cast into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire.'*** These men were thrown into the fire with all their customary clothing on, which included their caps. So I do not believe that these Jewish lads who were in defiance of king Nebuchadnezzar learnt to wear head coverings in Babylon. As witnessed in Job 29: 14, Job mentions a turban which shows that it must have been worn in his day. From Job's age in Job 42: 16, we understand that his lifespan was nearly 200 years, which shows that he lived in the patriarchal period – the time during which



Abraham lived. So, head coverings were customary dress of the Hebrews before Israel became a nation.

The wearing of caps came from Israel, before these men were taken to Babylon. In fact we see that Yahshua joined the three men in the fire because in verse 25 of Daniel 3, the high official answered the king, saying that he saw four men walking about in the midst of the fire without harm and the appearance of the fourth man was like a son of the gods. Even though it does not say so in Daniel, I believe that Yahshua also had some sort of head covering on in the fire, similar to the ones worn by Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. If you believe that I am making things up, let's have a look in Zechariah 3, which is the prophet's vision of Joshua the high priest. In verse 3 he sees that Joshua was clothed with filthy garments and standing before the Angel. This is really a reference to Yahshua, who according to Galatians 3:13 has redeemed us from the curse of the law: having become a curse for us – for it is written, ***“Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.”*** Yahshua became dirty with our sins and was cursed on our behalf. Yahshua was standing before the Father as the first of the first-fruits, to be accepted on the day that He was cut off as the lamb of Elohim who takes away the sins of the world, as well as the wave sheaf or grain offering, as witnessed in Leviticus 23: 12 & 13 and Daniel 9: 27.

We read from verse 4 of Zechariah 3, how He was accepted before the Father where we read in the second part of the verse: ***“See, I have taken your iniquity away from you and will clothe you with festal robes.”*** Continuing in verse 5 of Zechariah 3, we read that a clean turban is put on His head and that He is clothed with clean garments, while the angel was standing by. In verse 8 we read a reference about ‘the Branch’ who we know refers to Yahshua, but we also read about His friends who are sitting before Him. This is talking about the disciples of Yahshua (including us His modern day disciples), whom Yahshua called His friends in John 15: 14 & 15, saying: ***‘You are My friends, if you do what I command you. (15) No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.’*** In Zechariah 6: 11 we see it talks about Joshua the high priest again and in verses 12 – 13 we read about the Branch who will build the Temple of YHVH and who will have two offices, namely, that of both King and Priest. We know that kings wear crowns and according to Exodus 29: 9, a High Priest wears a cap. So yes our KING and High Priest Yahshua is pictured in Zechariah as wearing a turban and will certainly wear some sort of a head covering during His rulership as our King and High Priest during the millennium, as He is shown in a vision to Yochanan in Revelation 14: 14 wearing a golden crown.

Yahshua has already qualified to be our High Priest as may be read about in Hebrews 2: 17, as follows: ***‘Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to Elohim, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.’*** Ezekiel 44 talks about the outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces the east and was shut. In verse 3 it mentions the prince Yahshua who shall enter by way of the porch of the gate, and shall go out by the same way. This is a scene of the future when Yahshua will have already returned. In verse 7 and 9 we read that only those who are among the sons of Israel, who are circumcised in the heart and in the flesh, will enter YHVH's sanctuary. The priests entering the sanctuary will also, like in the days of Aaron wear linen turbans on their heads – as recorded in verse 18 of Ezekiel 44. This quote from Ezekiel is an end-time prophecy, and a scary one at that. If we think we are circumcised in heart, and refuse to be circumcised in the flesh, is that not rebellion? Can we truly be circumcised in the heart, and yet refuse to be circumcised in the flesh too? It is just a matter of which comes first. We have seen that Abraham was circumcised in heart, first. His obedience and faith in Yahweh preceded his fleshly circumcision.

Those who insist that the yarmulke or head covering that our Jewish brothers wear come from the Catholic Church, are definitely not familiar with Torah, where the High Priest as well as the priests who serve under him, were given caps to wear, as witnessed in Exodus 28: 4, 37,38, 39 & 40; 29: 6 & 9; 39: 28 & 29. This will again be the case after Messiah's return, as witnessed in Ezekiel 44 above. Yes, it is true the pope and priests in the Catholic Church wear a type of yarmulke similar to the ones we and our Jewish Brothers wear, since they maintain that they are today in the Aaronic priesthood. Only priests in the Catholic Church are permitted to wear head covering and lay members of their Church are forbidden to wear head coverings like their priests. Since we are not part of the Christian Church and therefore not under the authority of the Catholic Church or the pope, we as the called out ecclesia of Elohim that are according to Revelation 1: 5 & 6, already a kingdom of priests, we wear a priestly garland during prayer and worship services. The Catholic Church is like the Great Deceiver, a very good counterfeiter; they know that priests are supposed to wear head coverings. However, you will notice that they wear scarlet yarmulkes - this is the color of the attire worn by the **whore**, discussed in Revelation 17. It is a known fact that scarlet or Red is usually associated with woman of ill repute. We as Israelites do therefore not wear Scarlet caps: our head coverings (for men) should be the color associated with royalty, i.e. blue.

YHVH rejected Israel from being priests before Him because they forgot His Torah. He will again reject His called out people from becoming priests, as witnessed in Hosea 4: 6, in this way: ***'My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your Elohim, I also will forget your children.'*** We see that it is not because knowledge is not available, but because people reject knowledge available in His word, that they will be rejected as priests in the coming kingdom of Elohim, and worse is when YHVH forgets their children, especially when we are assured in Isaiah 61: 9, that ***'Then their offspring*** (of those who will be called priests in verse 6) ***will be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples. All who see them will recognize them because they are offspring whom YHVH has blessed.'*** Think about it!

#### Chapter 4: What does knowing YHVH really mean?

YHVH our Elohim has placed laws in place which are irrevocable, such as for example the law of gravity. If you believe you can somehow defy the law of gravity or tell people that it has been done away with, you are simply deceived and are also deceiving others. The law of gravity was put into effect from the time of creation; it is the same with all the other laws in Torah, including not eating red meat and milk products at the same time. All these laws are beneficial if obeyed, but could result in physical and or mental health problems and even death if they are broken.

We see that the 'kosher' food laws were in operation long before Mount Sinai, when Elohim instructed Noah in Genesis 7: 2, saying: ***"You shall take with you of every clean animal by sevens, a male and his female; and of the animals that are not clean two, a male and his female."*** Clearly Noah knew the difference between clean and unclean animals by then. Before the flood, mankind only ate plants, but in Genesis 9: 3 YHVH said to Noah: ***"Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you (obviously only the clean animals already specified); I give all to you, as I gave the green plant."*** The laws of clean and unclean food were like the moral laws and the law of gravity, put in effect by YHVH and cannot be changed. We may therefore not brush them aside with the argument that they were "Old Testament" laws given to the ancient nation of Israel only. Besides the health benefits to be had by not eating 'un-kosher' food, we need to be mindful of Elohim's words through Moses in Deuteronomy 23: 14, in this way: ***"Since YHVH your Elohim walks in the midst of your camp to deliver you and to defeat your enemies before you, therefore your camp must be holy; and He must not see anything indecent among you lest He turn away from you."*** If we do not clean up our lives we cannot expect Elohim to be amongst us and protect us. Like with the Sabbath and the Set-apart Days of YHVH we should never compromise – as YHVH does not!

The only being who would because of jealousy triggered by what he lost as a result of his rebellion against Elohim, wants to deceive human kind to believe that they need not obey Elohim's laws any longer, is Satan since he also wants mankind to lose out, as he lost out when he decided to rebel against Elohim. In addition Satan has from the beginning started using human agents who appear righteous to aid him in deceiving mankind in cursing themselves and their children, by insisting that the law was abolished by none other than Messiah himself (the one the world knows as Jesus Christ). We read accordingly from 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.'*** This is a very serious warning to those in our community who wants to get people to follow a calendar which is just ever so slightly different from the calendar that the house of Judah have preserved for all Israel for the past two centuries, during which time Churchianity has changed every law and doctrine established by YHVH in His word.

The question most would like to know at this point is: How is it possible that almost the entire world believes differently to what we as Nazarene Jews/Israelites do? The answer is found 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 earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.'*** Do you believe that most of the religions of the world are following Satan, rather than YHVH? Yes, Christianity says they believe in Messiah (or Christ, as they refer to Him), but most of their doctrines are the exact opposite of what Yahshua taught whilst He was on earth. Whereas the main doctrine of Nazarene Israel is to keep Torah and to follow Yahshua Messiah, the perfect example that YHVH sent mankind to follow; Christianity holds that Messiah has abolished the Torah, and contradicts most of what He taught whilst He was on earth.

But, there are many scriptural witnesses showing that obedience to Elohim's Law or teachings place us within His protection, whereas disobedience to these spiritual laws will result in heartache, sorrow and eventually death. One such witness comes from Deuteronomy 28; where Moses describes the benefits and blessings to be had, by obeying the laws set in place by Elohim in verses 1 - 14, in this way: ***"Now it shall be, if you will diligently obey YHVH your Elohim, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, YHVH your Elohim will set you high above all the nations of the earth. (2) And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you will obey YHVH your Elohim. (3) Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. (4) Blessed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground and the offspring of your beasts, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock. (5) Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. (6) Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out. (7) YHVH will cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you; they shall come out against you one way and shall flee before you seven ways. (8) YHVH will command the blessing upon you in your barns and in all that you put your hand to, and He will bless you in the land which YHVH your Elohim gives you. (9) YHVH will establish you as a holy people to Himself, as He swore to you, if you will keep the commandments of YHVH your Elohim, and walk in His ways. (10) So all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of YHVH; and they shall be afraid of you. (11) And YHVH will make you abound in prosperity, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your beast and in the produce of your ground, in the land which YHVH swore to your fathers to give you. (12) YHVH will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand; and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. (13) And YHVH shall make you the head and not the tail, and you only shall be above, and you shall not be underneath, if you will listen to the commandments of YHVH your Elohim, which I charge you today, to observe them carefully, (14) and do not turn aside from any of the words which I command you today, to the right or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them."***

These are the blessings and protection we are guaranteed to receive if we obey the Torah teachings of Elohim. However, in the remainder of Deuteronomy 28, we have also recorded the curses we will receive for not obeying the commandments of Elohim. These curses are very scary and are in fact happening in our world today, because we have rejected Elohim's law of love, as witnessed from verses 58 – 61, as follows: ***"If you are not careful to observe all the words of this Law which are written in this book, to fear this honored and awesome name, YHVH your Elohim, (59) then YHVH will bring extraordinary plagues on you and your descendants, even severe and lasting plagues, and miserable and chronic sicknesses. (60) And He will bring back all the diseases of Egypt of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you. (61) Also every sickness and every plague which, not written in the book of this law, YHVH will bring on you until you are destroyed."*** Even though most people walking around on our planet appear healthy and happy, they are in fact miserable and full of various ailments and diseases. Elohim gave us His Torah for our good and protection, as is also recorded in Deuteronomy 8: 11 & 19. ***"Beware lest you forget YHVH your Elohim, by not keeping His commandments, and His ordinances and His statutes, which I am commanding you today. (19) And it shall come about if you ever forget YHVH your Elohim, and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I testify against you today that you shall surely perish."*** Yes, we obey YHVH our Elohim and keep His commandments for our own good.

We are also familiar with Yahshua's words in Matthew 5: 17 - 19 where He said: ***"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. (18) For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the law, until all is accomplished. (19) Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."*** Yahshua

confirmed that those who keep and teach the commandments of YHVH will be called great in the coming Kingdom of Elohim – what a blessing. Considering the tremendous benefits of obeying the Law, it should be easy for us to see the sinister motive behind the idea that it was abolished. Yes, Satan wants us to stop obeying Elohim’s teachings, thereby removing the wall of our protection from us – he wants to keep believers defenseless against his onslaughts. Most of us are familiar with the saying that *‘all is fair in love and war.’* This certainly gives Satan an unfair advantage to have the wall of our defenses removed, so that he may continue to deceive us to follow a counterfeit of Elohim’s true religion. We know that he is cunning and desires to destroy the lives of all human beings, and as such, what sort of tactics should we expect him to employ? Not only is our protective wall removed, but by getting us to reject the written word of the Law, which is a transcript of the glory of Elohim, Satan has caused his prey, to offend their Heavenly Protector, so that they may step out of the realm of the blessings of YHVH. It is for this reason that the Scriptures warn us in 1 Peter 5: 8 to ***“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”*** Satan does not have the power to remove the defenses that YHVH has put in place for our protection. The only way that he is able to remove us from our protection is to get us to remove it ourselves. How does Satan get us to willingly destroy our defenses against him? In the days of Yahshua our Messiah, Satan came to Him to tempt Him by quoting scriptures. But he tried tricking Yahshua by twisting and misusing scriptures. Satan comes to believers using the same tactics. It is also by this method that he gets Christians to believe that the Law or Torah was nailed to the tree.

Let us have a look at the scripture that Satan uses to get Christianity to believe this lie. It is found in Colossians 2: 14 as follows: ***“having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us: and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”*** What is this saying? One thing is certain; it is definitely not saying the Law is nailed to the cross. It is in fact saying that the certificate of debt – the document of our indebtedness was nailed to the cross. Yahshua has paid our debt for breaking Torah, by dying in our stead. But, we are even now required to keep the Torah commands of YHVH. It is as we read from Galatians 3: 13, ***‘Messiah redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us – for it is written, “CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE”’*** Yes Yahshua was lifted up on the impalement stake to pay for the sins of the world. He redeemed us from the curse of the law, but if we go on sinning, we will again be cursed by the Law, in that we will again have to pay for the penalty of our sins. O yes, the teachings of Elohim are as applicable today as they were yesterday and will be forever. These same laws will be applicable during the millennial Kingdom and on into eternity. We read fittingly from James 2: 24, ***“You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone.”*** A second witness comes from Romans 2: 13, in this way: ***“for not the hearers of the Law are just before Elohim, but the DOERS of the Law will be justified.”***

At this point we need to get back to the question asked at the beginning, namely *‘What does knowing YHVH really mean?’* We read the answer from 1 John 2: 3 – 6, as follows: ***‘And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. (4) The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; (5) but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of Elohim has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him; (6) the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as he walked.’*** It is made very clear in such Scriptures as Proverbs 9: 10, in this way: ***‘The fear of YHVH is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.’*** We continue to read (YHVH)’s words through Jeremiah in Jeremiah 9: 23 & 24, as follows: ***‘Thus says YHVH, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not the rich man boast of his riches; (24) but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am YHVH who exercises lovingkindness (Chesed), justice (mispat), and righteousness (tsedakah) on earth; for I delight in these things, declares YHVH.’***



YHVH our Elohim wants nothing more from us, but to obey His teachings. He says through Jeremiah 7: 16 – 24, ***‘As for you, do not pray for this people, and do not lift up cry or prayer for them, and do not intercede with Me; for I do not hear you. (17) Do you not see what they are doing in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? (18) The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough to make cakes for the queen of heaven<sup>7</sup>; and they pour out libations to other gods in order to spite Me. (19) “Do they spite Me?” declares YHVH. “Is it not themselves they spite, to their own shame?” (20) Therefore thus says YHVH Elohim, “Behold, My anger and My wrath will be poured out on this place, on man and on beast and on the trees of the field and on the fruit of the ground; and it will burn and not be quenched.” (21) Thus says YHVH of hosts, the Elohim of Israel, “Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices and eat flesh. (22) For I did not speak to your fathers, or command them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices. (23) But this is what I commanded them, saying, ‘Obey My voice, and I will be your Elohim, and you will be My people; and you will walk in all the way which I command you, that it may be well with you.’ (24) Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and in the stubbornness of their evil heart, and went backward and not forward.”*** YHVH is not interested in us worshipping Him the way the nations around us worship their gods, since He has specified extensively how He wants us to do it in His word. Moses tells us in Deuteronomy 10: 12 what YHVH requires of us, saying: ***“And now, Israel, what does YHVH your Elohim require from you, but to fear YHVH your Elohim, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve YHVH your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul.”***

This is exactly why YHVH asked in Isaiah 1: 12 - 17 saying: ***“When you come to appear before Me, who requires of you this trampling of My courts? (13) Bring your worthless offerings no longer, incense is an abomination to Me. New moon and sabbath, the calling of assemblies—I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. (14) I hate your new moon festivals and your appointed feasts (notice this is not talking about Elohim’s Feast Days according to the calendar that He ordained, but according to a calendar devised by some man and the way they compute the so-called ‘Biblical calendar’ ), they have become a burden to Me. I am weary of bearing them (why do we from the house of Israel always want to do things our way?). (15) So when you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide My eyes from you, Yes, even though you multiply prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are covered with blood. (16) Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil, (17) learn to do good; seek justice, reprove the ruthless; defend the orphan, plead for the widow.”*** YHVH does not listen to the prayers of those who do not obey Him. This is confirmed in Proverbs 28: 9, as follows: ***‘He who turns away his ear from listening to the law, even his prayer is an abomination.’*** People; YHVH wants us to turn back to Him in repentance at this time, saying in Isaiah 1: 18 & 19, ***“Come now, and let us reason together,” says YHVH, “Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool. (19) If you consent and obey, you will get the best of the land.”*** YHVH is telling us here, that if we truly return to Him we will get the best of the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, during His coming Kingdom on earth.

YHVH through Isaiah tells us that He is about to establish His Government on earth during these last days during which you and I are living, recorded in Isaiah 2: 1 – 3, in this way: ***‘The word which Isaiah the son of Amos saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. (2) Now it will come about that in the last days, the mountain of the house of YHVH will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. (3) And many peoples will come and say, “Come, let us go to the mountain of YHVH, to the house of the Elohim of Jacob; that He may***

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<sup>7</sup> In these last days pagan nations are keeping a feast to the queen of heaven in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem. The queen of heaven is Astarte or Easter and the cakes they bake for her are obviously ‘hot-cross buns’.

***teach us concerning His ways<sup>8</sup>, and that we may walk in His paths.” For the law will go forth from Zion, and the word of YHVH from Jerusalem.’*** Whereas in the past Jerusalem were trampled by Christians and other pagan peoples who kept all sorts of pagan feasts days (such as Easter and Xmas) in Elohim’s set-apart city Jerusalem, but in Isaiah 52: 1, we see that all that will soon come to an end when Yahshua the right hand of YHVH returns a second time, as follows: ***‘Awake, awake, Clothe yourself in your strength, O Zion; Clothe yourself in your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city. For the uncircumcised and the unclean will no more come into you.’***

To conclude we saw from Isaiah 2 and elsewhere that knowing YHVH means obedience to His teachings – the law of YHVH, His Torah, but also the word of Elohim, namely Yahshua the Messiah who will return during our time, the last days to establish the Kingdom of Elohim on earth. Satan has a vested interest in ensuring that the ecclesia of Elohim does not make it into the Kingdom – as he does not want us to attain what he lost, due to his rebellion. However, be assured that his attacks are useless, as long as we remain loyal to Elohim, obey His Torah and believe in His salvation, Yahshua. Think about it!

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<sup>8</sup> *In the next two phrases we see what Elohim’s ways are – this is talking about Torah as well as Yahshua the word of YHVH – note the parallelism between Torah and the Word of YHVH.*

## Chapter 5: Salvation – what is it?

Nothing is more certain than death and taxes; we are all destined to die one day and most of us fear death. This is also why the death of a close relative or friend is very sobering to us, since it reminds us that we too will die one day. Because of a fear of the unknown, people fear death, as they are not sure what happens when we die. The reason why so few people truly understand the word of Elohim is because even the teachers of religion are clueless and speculate about what happens when we die. Many hope that science will one day come up with a potion that will allow us to escape death and live eternally, but even in our sophisticated world, most understand that it is only a pipe dream.

But there is ample proof in the Scriptures that it is Elohim's ultimate intention to give human beings eternal life. In fact Rav Shaul testified about this in Titus 1: 2, saying that ***'in the hope of eternal life, which Elohim, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago.'*** Rav Shaul wrote further on this subject in first Timothy 2: 3 & 4, saying: ***'This is good and acceptable in the sight of Elohim our savior, (4) who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.'*** The problem is that sin entered the world when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden and as a result they doomed themselves and their descendants to death. Rav Shaul explains in Romans 3: 10 – 12 & 18, saying: ***'As it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; (11) THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR ELOHIM; (12) ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE." (18) "THERE IS NO FEAR OF ELOHIM BEFORE THEIR EYES."*** Continuing in verse 23 Rav Shaul says: ***'For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of Elohim.'*** He also lists the sins that result from our failure to conquer sin in Romans 1: 29 – 31, saying: ***'Being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, (30) slanderers, haters of Elohim, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, (31) without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful.'***

Whereas Rav Kepha refers to these weaknesses as *'fleshly lusts'* in first Peter 2: 11, Rav Shaul refers to them in Romans 7: 5 as *'sinful passions'*. He tells us in Ephesians 2: 1 – 3, saying: ***'And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, (2) in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. (3) Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.'*** Even our best behavior and intentions fall far short of Elohim's righteousness. Elohim's Law sets a standard for our behavior; Elohim's Law reflects His character – since He gave us His Law of love for our good (benefit). Rav Shaul wrote in the first part of Romans 6: 23, saying: ***'The wages of sin is death'*** – the penalty of Elohim's judgment against Adam and Eve, but also against all of their descendants is death. He continues in Romans 5: 12 saying: ***'Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.'*** We all earned the death penalty because we all sinned and there is absolutely nothing we can do to escape the certainty of death. We cannot do any good works to save ourselves from our common fate. A father cannot offer his life for a sinning child, nor can a husband offer his life for his wife, because we all have sinned and need to pay for our own sins. There is absolutely nothing we could possibly achieve on our own to change our imperfect spiritual condition. We are definitely in a perilous position, but because of the promises made in Elohim's word, we have sure and certain hope – Elohim will rescue us from ourselves. What marvelous news!

In fact Elohim's plan of salvation for all mankind was finalized before the creation of the world, as Rav Kepha explains in 1 Peter 1: 18 – 21, saying: ***'Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, (19) but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Messiah. (20) For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the***

**sake of you (21) who through Him are believers in Elohim, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in Elohim.'** Rav Shaul confirmed in Ephesians 3: 11 & 12, saying: ***'This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Messiah Yahshua our Master, (12) in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.'*** Yahshua Messiah, Elohim in the flesh came to dwell among us (as recorded in John 1: 14). He took upon himself our humanity and shared with us ***'our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin*** (as per Hebrews 4: 15). So, even though He was sinless, He gave His life to pay the penalty for our sins. Colossians 2: 13 & 14 tells us that Yahshua nailed the indebtedness of our sin (our note of guilt) to the impalement stake. He paid the debt we incurred by breaking Elohim's commandments, so that we might live. Elohim's purpose in sending Messiah is summed up in John 3: 17, as follows: ***"For Elohim did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him."*** Our salvation is only possible through Yahshua our Messiah, as also testified by Rav Kepha in Acts 4: 12, saying: ***"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."***

According to Elohim's plan of salvation we must be justified to be reconciled to Him. Justification is much more than Elohim pardoning our sins; in fact Elohim rescues us from our sin enabling us to trust and obey Him through His set-apart Spirit indwelling us. It is through Elohim's grace that our sins are removed and the death penalty revoked. Rav Shaul explains in Romans 5: 17 & 18, ***'For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Yahshua Messiah. (18) So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.'*** Without Yahshua's sacrifice and Elohim's grace we are in bondage to sin and death. Sin separates us from Elohim, creating a dividing wall that must be breached by His grace.

Elohim's plan of salvation requires that sin be condemned, as Rav Shaul explains in Romans 8: 3 & 4, in this way: ***'For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, Elohim did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, (4) in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.'*** Even so, there are different dimensions to this condemnation; firstly, the penalty of sin condemns us to eternal death – a death penalty which could only be erased through Yahshua Messiah's perfect sacrifice. Only Yahshua Messiah the word of Elohim who became flesh could die for mankind, since only His sinless life was worth more than the lives of all mankind together. The reason being that He is our creator as is also confirmed in Psalm 33: 6, as follows: ***'By the word of YHVH the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host.'*** Rav Shaul wrote to the Ephesians in Ephesians 2: 4 & 5, saying: ***'But Elohim being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, (5) even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Messiah (by grace you have been saved).'*** At one time we were sentenced to death, because of our sin – but those whom Elohim has justified, are as good as alive forever.

Rav Shaul continues in verses 8 & 9 of Ephesians 2, saying: ***'For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of Elohim; (9) not as a result of works, that no one should boast.'*** Justification comes because Yahshua reconciled us to Elohim. Whereas our past sins separated us from Elohim – Justification brings us back to have direct access with Elohim through Yahshua our Messiah. Yahshua saved us from the consequences of our sin and rescued us from a world held captive by Satan. As a result Rav Kepha tells us in 2 Peter 1: 4 that we have ***'become partakers of the divine nature*** (of Elohim), ***having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.'*** Rav Shaul wrote in Romans 5: 1 & 2 that we who are in such a relationship, ***'having been justified by faith, we have peace with Elohim through our Master Yahshua Messiah, (2)***

***through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of Elohim.'***

However, because believers are living in grace, we still fail at times and commit sin. But, the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim indwelling us continue to lead us to repentance, as Rav Yochanan wrote in 1 John 1: 9, saying: ***'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'*** As believers we will not habitually get involved in sinful behavior, but our lives will begin to reflect the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5: 22 – 23, namely *'love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.'* The reason being as Rav Shaul wrote in Ephesians 2: 10, saying: ***'For we are His workmanship, created in Messiah Yahshua for good works, which Elohim prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.'*** Obviously, we are not justified by our good works, as Rav Shaul reminded us in Galatians 2: 15 & 16, saying to Kepha in the presence of all: ***"We are Jews by nature, and not sinners from among the Gentiles; (16) nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Messiah Yahshua, even we have believed in Messiah Yahshua, that we may be justified by faith in Messiah, and not by works of the Law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified."*** This is confirmed in Romans 3: 28, as follows: ***'For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.'*** But, what is important to remember is: that if we belong to Elohim, we will always seek to please Him. Yes, we are not saved by good works, but Elohim has saved us in order that we may perform good works and not to continue sinning and do evil. Rav Shaul wrote in Titus 3: 4 - 6, saying: ***'But when the kindness of Elohim our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, (5) He saved us not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Set-apart Spirit, (6) whom He poured out upon us richly through Yahshua Messiah our Savior.'***

Once Elohim calls us and we respond by obeying Him, He makes us His children. Rav Shaul compared the adoption of a child by a human parent, by describing this gracious act of Elohim in Romans 8: 15, saying: ***'For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Avinu! Father!"'*** He continues in verses 16 & 17, saying: ***'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 Galatians 4: 3 Rav Shaul reminds us that before we are given Elohim's grace we were ***"under the elemental things of the world."*** But once Yahshua redeemed us from our sins, ***'we (might) receive the adoption as sons'*** (verse 5), ***'therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son: and if a son, then an heir through Elohim'*** (verse 7). The Greek word for adoption used by Rav Shaul in both Galatians 4: 5 and Romans 8: 15 is *'huiiothesia'*. Rav Shaul described the act of adoption as used in the upper classes of the Greek and Roman world, to these believers familiar with this practice. The adopted child was specifically and individually chosen by his/her adoption family and legal rights were conferred on the adopted child rendering the child a legal heir of the family. Consequently, when a child was adopted into a Greek or Roman family, the relationship became legally binding and the child was treated as if he/she had been a natural child of the family. By explaining this in a way for these Roman and Greek believers in Messiah to understand, they realized that their place in Elohim's household is for eternity, just as Elohim is eternal.

Elohim chooses us in a similar way, specifically and individually and if we answer the call and are immersed into Yahshua's saving name, He adopts us as His begotten children. Yahshua described this to Nicodemus in John 3: 3 as being born-again from above. In this way we become the begotten children of Elohim, as Rav Yochanan wrote in 1 John 3: 1 & 2, saying: ***'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.*** Even though we are now known as children of Elohim, we are not yet glorified. This will only happen at Messiah's return, when our present bodies will be changed from physical mortal bodies to immortal spiritual bodies. Rav Shaul therefore wrote in 1 Corinthians 15: 35, ***'But someone will say, "How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?"***

Presently we are physical, made from dust (or earthy as described in verses 42 – 49); Rav Shaul tells us that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of Elohim (verse 50), which is spiritual and eternal. In verse 53 he says: ***'For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.'*** Our final change will only occur when we are resurrected as first-fruits at Messiah's return – that is when, we like Yahshua will be born-again from the dead, as Rav Shaul tells us in Philippians 3: 20 – 21, saying: ***'For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Master Yahshua Messiah; (21) who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.'*** Believers who trust and obey Elohim are already ambassadors of Elohim's Kingdom on earth, as explained in 2 Corinthians 5: 20, in this way: ***'Therefore, we are ambassadors for Messiah, as though Elohim were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Messiah, be reconciled to Elohim.'*** But, at this time we await Messiah's return, when we will inherit immortality and the fullness of the Kingdom of Elohim. Brethren, it is as Rav Shaul wrote in Colossians 1: 12 & 13, we should be ***'giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. (13) For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.'*** Those adopted children placed into Elohim's Kingdom *'share in the inheritance with the saints'* so long as we trust and obey our Father in heaven. It is because Elohim has saved us by grace, He views us as adopted children and salvation is accordingly an accomplished fact.

Rav Shaul explains in 2 Corinthians 5: 17, saying: ***'Therefore if any man is in Messiah, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold new things have come.'*** He says further in 2 Corinthians 1: 21 & 22, ***'Now He who establishes us with you in Messiah and anointed us is Elohim, (22) who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge (or deposit).'*** Therefore those under Elohim's grace (forgiveness) are now seen by Elohim as His children, as witnessed in John 1: 12, in this way: ***'But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of Elohim, even to those who believe in His name.'*** In fact Rav Shaul says clearly in Romans 11: 29, ***'for the gifts and the calling of Elohim are irrevocable.'*** It is also for this reason that Rav Shaul says in Philippians 1: 6, ***'For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Messiah Yahshua.'*** Because we are presently of flesh and blood, we sometimes miss the mark, but Elohim remains faithful. The account of the prodigal son in Luke 15 tells us that even if those of us whom Elohim has called and chosen fall short, we remain His children. Elohim expects his wayward children to come to our senses and return to Him. It is not Elohim's intention to condemn individuals, but to save them. This is why we read His words in Ezekiel 18: 23, where He says: ***"Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked," declares YHVH Elohim, "rather than that he should turn from his ways and live?"***

In the account of the prodigal son, the wayward son finally came to himself, and said in verse 17 of Luke 15: ***"How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger!"*** When the son understood the foolishness of his ways, he repented and returned to his father. Like our Father in heaven, his father received him with joy and forgiveness. The son's attitude changed from being arrogant and haughty to become humble and repenting, as we read from verse 21 - 24, as follows: ***"Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son. (22) But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; (23) and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and be merry; (24) for this son of mine was dead, and has come***

***to life again; he was lost, and has been found,' and they began to be merry."*** Once Elohim saves us, we become His children forever and he will continue to work with us until we are finally united with Him once we are born-again at Messiah's return.

Messiah's resurrection is our assurance of Elohim's promise to us – that we too will be resurrected from the dead, as witnessed in 1 Corinthians 15: 51 & 52, in this way: ***'Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.'*** It is for this reason that Rav Shaul explained in 1 Thessalonians 4: 13 - 18, saying: ***'But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope.*** (This is talking about people who do not believe in Elohim's coming Kingdom and as a result do not know what happens after they die.) (14) ***For if we believe that Yahshua died and rose again, even so Elohim will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Yahshua.*** (15) ***For this we say to you by the word of the Master, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Master, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep.*** (16) ***For the Master Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of Elohim; and the dead in Messiah shall rise first.*** (17) ***Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with Him in the clouds to meet the Master in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Master.*** (18) ***Therefore comfort one another with these words.'***

The first resurrection when Messiah returns is yet to come – it is something we all wait for in hope, as Rav Shaul did when he wrote in 2 Timothy 4: 6 - 8, as follows: ***'For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. (7) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; (8) in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Master, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day, but also to all who have loved His appearing.'*** If we are truly Elohim's children, we will center our lives around Messiah. Rav Shaul's words in Philippians 3: 7 – 10 tells us what our attitude should be, saying: ***'But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Messiah. (8) More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Messiah Yahshua my Master, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Messiah, (9) and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Messiah, the righteousness which comes from Elohim on the basis of faith, (10) that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed in His death.'*** Rav Shaul knew that he had not attained his goal yet, and he wrote further in verses 12 – 14, saying: ***'Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Messiah Yahshua. (13) Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead. (14) I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of Elohim in Messiah Yahshua*** (meaning eternal life).'

Those who accept YHVH our Elohim as their heavenly Father, who trust and obey Him and remain faithful to the end, will ultimately live forever, as Rav Kepha wrote in 1 Peter 5: 10, saying: ***'And after you have suffered for a little while, the Elohim of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Messiah, will himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.'*** This is confirmed in Revelation 2: 7, as follows: ***'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the ecclesia. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of Elohim.'*** Do you realize what fantastic future YHVH has prepared for those who trust and obey Him? Let's praise His most Set-apart Name. Halleluyah!

## Chapter 6: What are we looking forward to?

We understand from Elohim's word, the Scriptures that when Yahshua our Messiah returns, Elohim will under Yahshua our Messiah's leadership renew the earth to become like paradise before Adam and Eve sinned. Initially Yahshua will commence the healing process in the Land of Israel in the Middle East, as is recorded in Ezekiel 36: 8 – 11, in this way: ***"But you, O mountains of Israel, you will put forth your branches and bear your fruit for My people Israel, for they will soon come. (9) For, behold, I am for you and I will turn to you, and you shall be cultivated and sown. (10) And I will multiply men on you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities will be inhabited, and the waste places will be rebuilt. (11) And I will multiply on you man and beast; and they will increase and be fruitful; and I will cause you to be inhabited as you were formerly and will treat you better than at first. Thus you will know that I am YHVH."*** When Yahshua our Messiah returns one day, He will lead the descendants of ancient Israel out of great tribulation into the Land of Israel, where He will again settle them.

This is confirmed in Ezekiel 36: 33 – 35, as follows: ***'Thus says YHVH Elohim, "On the day that I cleanse you from your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places will be rebuilt. (34) And the desolate land will be cultivated instead of being a desolation in the sight of everyone who passed by. (35) And they will say, 'This desolate land has become like the Garden of Eden; and the waste, desolate, and ruined cities are fortified and inhabited.'"*** When the re-gathering and rebuilding of Israel occurs, Israel will never again practice pagan ways or be removed from their homeland. Whereas today's overpopulated metro-cities are rife with racial tension and every sort of evil, these conditions will not exist in the newly established cities during the millennium.

Messiah will make Jerusalem the capital city, or the headquarters of His government on earth, as witnessed in Jeremiah 3: 16 - 18, in this way: ***"And it shall be in those days when you are multiplied and increased in the land," declares YHVH, "They shall say no more, 'The ark of the covenant of YHVH.' And it shall not come to mind, nor shall they remember it, nor shall they miss it, nor shall it be made again. (17) At that time they shall call Jerusalem 'The Throne of YHVH', and all the nations will be gathered to it, to Jerusalem, for the name of YHVH; nor shall they walk anymore after the stubbornness of their evil heart. (18) In those days the house of Judah will walk with the house of Israel, and they will come together from the land of the north to the land that I gave your fathers as an inheritance."*** The land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will be the headquarters of the new world to be established as the Kingdom of Elohim, by Yahshua our Messiah. Jerusalem being the geographical center of the land surface of the earth will be the focal point for world control. But it will have to be rebuilt to perfection; it will in fact become the model city according to which all the cities of the world will be patterned, during the millennium.

Elohim originally promised to bless ancient Israel if they would only obey Him as we've recently read from Deuteronomy 28: 1 – 14. However, we know that they did not obey Elohim and as a result were scattered into the nations of the world. But during the millennium rule of Messiah and His saints, the descendants of ancient Israel will trust and obey Elohim, and will receive tremendous blessings for so doing. At present the Middle East is a relatively barren region. But according to many Scriptural prophecies, the wasteland will become fertile and the deserts will become green, filled with gardens, trees and shrubs, as witnessed in Isaiah 41: 14 – 20, as follows: ***"Do not fear, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel; I will help you," declares YHVH, "and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel. (15) Behold, I have made you a new, sharp threshing sledge with double edges; you will thresh the mountains and pulverize them, and will make the hills like chaff. (16) You will winnow them, and the wind will carry them away, and the storm will scatter them; but you will rejoice in YHVH, you will glory in the Holy One of Israel. (17) The afflicted and needy are seeking water, but there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst; I, YHVH, will answer them Myself,***

**as the Elohim of Israel I will not forsake them. (18) I will open rivers on the bare heights, and springs in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land fountains of water. (19) I will put the cedar in the wilderness, the acacia, and the myrtle, and the olive tree; I will place the juniper in the desert, together with the box tree and the cypress, (20) that they may see and recognize, and consider and gain insight as well, that the hand of YHVH has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it.”** A second witness, giving more details comes from Isaiah 51: 3, in this way: **‘Indeed, YHVH will comfort Zion; He will comfort her waste places. And her wilderness He will make like Eden, and her desert like the garden of YHVH; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and sound of melody.’** Ancient Israel was never able to claim the blessings that YHVH promised them in Deuteronomy 28 and Leviticus 26, because they were never faithful in obeying Elohim. But when Messiah rule the world from Jerusalem during the Millennium, all the nations of the earth will over time become obedient and therefore partake of the many blessings originally promised to the tribes of Israel.

Language is presently a major barrier to understanding and cooperation between peoples and nations. When people do not understand one another, they do not exchange ideas freely, because of distrust. In addition misunderstanding often leads to conflict. Imagine living in a world with one language – what a major step forward it would be if we all spoke the same language. For the first time we will be bound together in common understanding, since YHVH confused mankind’s language at the tower of Babel. We see according to Zephaniah 3: 9 & 20 YHVH is going to give us a common language once again, but only after Messiah’s return, as follows: **“For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, that all of them may call on the name of YHVH, to serve Him shoulder to shoulder. (20) At that time I will bring you in, even at the time when I gather you together; indeed, I will give you renown and praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” Says YHVH.’** Mankind once had a common language, but they used it for evil when they, like Satan attempted to go to heaven by building the tower of Babel. At that time YHVH divided the languages, and temporarily forestalled the chaos the world is in at this time.

Elohim will bless mankind during the Millennium, as long as they continue to obey His laws. Elohim’s Law is a law of liberty as Rav Yaa’cov says in James 1: 25,: **‘But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.’** However, because today mankind is not convinced of this fact, Elohim is letting us find out by experience, how wrong and difficult our own ways are. There are many people in the world today, who question private ownership of property, and socialist and communists are particularly against it, because men have abused the system. But we see from Micah 4: 4 that Elohim do not have a problem with private ownership of property, in this way: **‘And each of them will sit under his vine and under his fig tree, with no one to make them afraid, for the mouth of YHVH has spoken.** YHVH will allow people to own their property during the Millennium. We also see from Isaiah 35: 3 – 6, that YHVH will heal the sick during Yahshua’s thousand year rule on earth, as follows: **‘Encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble. (4) Say to those with anxious heart, “Take courage, fear not. Behold, your Elohim will come with vengeance; the recompense of Elohim will come, but He will save you.” (5) Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. (6) Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb will shout for joy, for waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah.’** The combination of obeying Elohim’s Torah and instant healing during the millennium will result in perfect health for all.

Only about ten percent of the earth’s land surface is arable (tillable) and most of the earth is unproductive. There are numerous mountains, deserts and wildernesses in the world today, but the exact opposite will be true during the millennium as Elohim will start blessing the entire world. YHVH will give rains in due season, as witnessed in Ezekiel 34: 26, in this way: **“And I will make them and the places around My hill a blessing. And I will cause showers to come down in their season; they**



***will be showers of blessings.***” Farmers have had to gamble with the weather for the past 6,000 years. The best news they could ever hear is that their work would always be successful, as long as they trust and obey Elohim. We see from Jeremiah 31: 12 that there will be great rejoicing over the abundance of crops that Elohim will bestow upon farmers during the Millennium, as follows: ***“And they shall come and shout for joy on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the bounty of YHVH— over the grain, and the new wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock of the herd; and their life shall be like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.”***

The prophet Zechariah tells us in Zechariah 14: 4 what will happen on the Feast of Trumpets when our Master returns, in this way: ***‘And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.’*** We see further from verse 8, ***‘And it will come about in that day that living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter.’*** The eastern channel of the river spoken about here in which living waters flow into the Dead Sea is in fact the same river described in Ezekiel 47: 1 – 12. Verses 8 & 9 shows that when the healing water flows into the Dead Sea, it will heal the sea and it will contain a multitude of fish. We read further from verse 12: ***“And by the river on its bank, on one side and on the other, will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear every month because their water flows from the sanctuary and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing.”*** At present the water of the Dead Sea is so salty that no plant or fish can survive in it, but once the living waters begin to flow into it, its water will rise until it overflow through the desert into the Aqaba.

The river of ‘living water’ described in verse 1 of Ezekiel 47 flows from underneath the temple of Elohim and is described by Yahshua in John 4: 10 and 7: 37 - 39 as the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim, as follows: ***‘Yahshua answered and said to her ( the woman at the well), “ If you knew the gift of Elohim, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.” (37) ‘Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Yahshua stood and cried out, saying, “If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. (38) He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water. (39) But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Yahshua was not yet glorified.’*** The Set-apart Spirit like the physical river will go forth from Jerusalem and will heal the mental and spiritual problems of mankind.

Yahshua our Messiah was specifically born to rule the world as King of kings and Master of masters; this is what the angel told His mother Miriam in Luke 1: 31 – 33, saying: ***“And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Yahshua. (32) He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and YHVH Elohim will give Him the throne of His father David; (33) and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end.”*** However, we see that when Pilate asked Yahshua about His kingdom, He answered in John 18: 36, saying: ***“My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.”*** Yahshua explained in Luke 19: 12 – 17, that He will go to a far country (heaven) after His death to receive authority to rule the nations. We see depicted in Daniel 7: 13 & 14 Yahshua’s coronation as King, in this way: ***“I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven one like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. (14) And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom. That all the peoples, nations, and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.”*** This pictures Yahshua’s actual coronation; He appears before the Ancient of Days as *‘One like a Son of*



*Man'* to receive the kingdom. At that time the Word of Elohim appeared like '*a Son of Man*', since He was not yet born as '*the Son of Man*' of a human mother.

We see from Revelation 14: 14 that Yahshua will have a golden crown that will designate Him as the Master of Masters and King of kings at His return with His called, chosen and faithful saints to make war with the Beast, as witnessed in Revelation 17: 14, as follows: ***"These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Master of masters and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful."*** But who will be these other kings that Yahshua will rule over during the Millennium? Believers who overcome the pulls of their own flesh, the world and Satan will be given rulership with Messiah, as witnessed in Revelation 2: 26; 3: 21; 5: 10 and 20: 4, as follows:

- (Revelation 2: 26 & 27): ***'And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; (27) AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father.'***
- (Revelation 3: 21): ***'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.'***
- (Revelation 5: 10): ***"And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our Elohim; and they will reign upon the earth."***
- (Revelation 20: 4): ***'And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Yahshua and because of the word of Elohim, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Messiah for a thousand years.'***

As witnessed by Rav Shaul in 2 Timothy 4: 7 & 8, true believers in Messiah will receive their crowns of righteousness when Messiah returns, in this way: ***'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course. I have kept the faith; (8) in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Master, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.'*** When Elohim begins to save humanity, He will use absolute authority as symbolized by '*WITH A ROD OF IRON.*' YHVH will rule the world with His power Yahshua, as is confirmed in Revelation 12: 5, as follows: ***'And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to Elohim and to His throne.'*** Messiah Yahshua will be in absolute control of all the earth, but He will rule with complete justice and mercy. Although He will rule with power and authority, He will not force anyone to accept His truth. But He also knows the only way to lasting peace and happiness is obedience to His Laws. So progressively as people will obey Elohim's laws, they will begin to understand the wisdom and justice of His rule and will gladly submit to His authority, and the '*rod of iron*' will no longer be required. During the Millennium Elohim will teach mankind His laws that produce peace, joy and happiness. However, He will give each individual the choice, after learning His laws and seeing the results they produce. As a result the vast majority of mankind will see that His ways are best and will voluntary choose to follow His will and way of life. Elohim's way of life is based upon Truth. However, Elohim's truth has been rejected by mankind ever since the fall of Adam and Eve. In fact the Scriptures have been totally disregarded by modern education!

The world is deteriorating very fast and is approaching a devastating climax which will shock some of us into realizing that something is radically wrong with our way of life. In fact YHVH is saying through Jeremiah in Jeremiah 16: 14 – 19, ***"Therefore behold, days are coming." Declares YHVH, when it will no longer be said, 'As YHVH lives, who brought up the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt.'*** (15) ***but, 'As YHVH lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of the north and from all the countries where He had banished them.'*** For I will restore them to their own land which I gave to

***their fathers. (16) Behold, I am going to send for many fishermen,” declares YHVH, “and they will fish for them; and afterwards I shall send for many hunters, and they will hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and from the cleft of the rocks. (17) For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity concealed from My eyes. (18) and I will first doubly repay their iniquity and their sin, because they have polluted My land; they have filled My inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable idol and with their abominations.” (19) O YHVH, my strength and my stronghold, and my refuge in the day of distress, to Thee the nations will come from the ends of the earth and say, “Our fathers have inherited nothing but falsehood, futility and things of no profit.”*** Mankind has inherited lies from birth – profitless ideas that have been fed into unquestioning minds. As adults people have continued accepting falsehood learned from childhood, and build their lives around it, believing in Xmas, Easter, and worship on Sundays and other totally false ideas such as going to heaven, when they die. They are so deceived that some are even prepared to die for their false beliefs.

When Messiah returns to rescue mankind from self-destruction, people will acknowledge their ignorance, which resulted from false education. The confession in Jeremiah 16: 19 is actually our first step toward true repentance, which means forsaking all wrong concepts about life we have always took for granted, without proof and turning to Elohim’s truth! Every evil in our world today can be laid at the doorstep of false education. When Yahshua our Messiah returns He will not only rule as King over all the nations of the world, but He will also be our High Priest or supreme teacher, as witnessed in Isaiah 2: 3, as follows: ***‘And many peoples will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of YHVH, to the house of the Elohim of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways, and that we may walk in His paths.” For the law will go forth from Zion, and the word of YHVH from Jerusalem.’*** Messiah will unite these two functions in Himself, as recorded in Zechariah 6: 12 & 13, in this way: ***“Then say to him, ‘Thus says YHVH of hosts, “Behold, a man whose name is Branch, for He will branch out from where He is; and He will build the temple of YHVH. (13) Yes, it is He who will build the temple of YHVH, and He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus, He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices.”’***

As mentioned before in Revelation 5: 10 the resurrected believers in Messiah will rule under Yahshua as kings and priests. Those qualifying to rule under Messiah during the millennium will be present and ready to teach and convince new believers not to do wrong. Because they will be spirit-beings, they will be able to come and go as required, to walk through locked doors and walls, the same way as Messiah was able to after His resurrection. Elohim will soon put an end to this world’s mad rush toward self-destruction. Yahshua will come to intervene in our affairs and put down all rebellion, against Elohim’s way of life. Yahshua and His saints will at that point begin to teach the children of Israel His ways; so that they will truly become the model nation that YHVH intended them to be from the beginning. No one will be deceived during Messiah’s millennium rule, as the majority of people are today.

We read about the change that will take place in mankind from Micah 4: 1 & 3, as follows: ***‘And it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of YHVH will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it. (3) And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war.’*** We see further from Isaiah 11: 6 – 9 how even the nature of animals will be changed to become like YHVH wanted them to be in the Garden of Eden, in this way: ***‘And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them. (7) Also the cow and the bear will graze; their young will lie down together; and the lion will eat straw like the ox. (8) And the nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, and the weaned***

***child will put his hand on the viper's den. (9) They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of YHVH as the waters cover the sea.'***

With Satan out of the way, all will know the truth! There will be no more religious confusion. Crime, sickness, disease and suffering will be eradicated. Poverty and ignorance will be banished. All wild animals will be tame; no more air and water pollution. The millennium will be full of happy people protected and ruled by Messiah and His saints. That brethren is what our fathers in the faith were looking forward to and that is what all true believers, including you and I am looking forward to. May Elohim speed up that fantastic time! Baruch HaShem YHVH!

## **Chapter 7: Why does a day start in the evening?**

Elohim had to be before everything else, since He created everything that ever was. The first question that comes to mind about Elohim is where does He come from? We read the answer from Isaiah 57: 15 in this way: ***‘For thus says the high and exalted One who lives forever, whose name is Holy.’*** We read further about Him from first Timothy 1: 17, as follows: ***‘Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only Elohim, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amein.’***

Moses wrote about Elohim in the first part of Deuteronomy 33: 27, saying: ***‘The eternal Elohim is a dwelling place, and underneath are the eternal arms.’*** Because we are physical, the concept of an invisible eternal spiritual being is difficult for us to understand. As physical human beings, we need to understand that even though YHVH our Elohim wants us to get to know Him, there are certain matters that He keeps secret from us, as we read from Deuteronomy 29: 29, in this way: ***“The secret things belong to YHVH our Elohim, but the things revealed belong to us and our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of the law.”*** Even so, Elohim tells us that He was and always will be in Revelation 1: 8, saying: ***“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Master Elohim, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”*** But, there are also certain secret things that Elohim wants those whom He called to search for in His word, as witnessed in Proverbs 25: 2, as follows: ***‘It is the glory of Elohim to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.’*** Because we are told in both 1 Peter 2: 9 (and Revelation 1: 6) that we who believe that Yahshua is the foundation and cornerstone of His ecclesia are already a royal priesthood, it is our duty to search the Scriptures to determine the answers to difficult questions (such as the one asked at the beginning of the study).

As human beings we know what people are like, but what is Elohim like? We find the answer in Genesis 1: 27, in this way: ***‘And Elohim created man in His own image, in the image of Elohim He created him; male and female He created them.’*** From this we understand that somehow Elohim looks like us, even though He is invisible and cannot be seen by human beings, as described by Rav Shaul in first Timothy 6: 13 – 16, saying: ***‘I charge you in the presence of Elohim, who gives life to all things, and of Messiah Yahshua, who testified the good confession<sup>9</sup> before Pontius Pilate, (14) that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Master Yahshua Messiah, (15) which He will bring about at the proper time— He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Master of masters; (16) who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amein!’*** YHVH our Elohim created the universe, which is so big that we can only see part way through it.

As limited as we are, our minds cannot even begin to understand the sheer size of the universe, but it should give us an idea of how much wiser and more powerful our Creator is compared to us. In fact this was what Job, who lived during the time of our fathers in the faith, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, discovered, when YHVH spoke to him in Job 38: 4 – 6, saying: ***“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth! Tell Me, if you have understanding, (5) Who set its measurements, since you know? Or who stretched the line on it? (6) On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone?”*** Elohim reminded Job that His infinite wisdom and knowledge had planned the universe and created it according to His direction and upfront planning. Jeremiah 51: 15 tells us that: ***‘It is He who made the earth by His power, Who established the world by His wisdom<sup>10</sup>, and by His***

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<sup>9</sup> Yahshua the Messiah confessed to Pilate that He is a King, but that His kingdom was not of this realm, meaning it is yet to come, when He returns one day to establish the Kingdom of Elohim on earth.

<sup>10</sup> According to first Corinthians 1: 22 – 24 Yahshua Messiah is both the power and the wisdom of Elohim, as follows: ***‘For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Messiah crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Messiah the power of Elohim and the wisdom of Elohim.’*** In addition Isaiah 11: 2 says about Yahshua: ***‘And***

***understanding He stretched out the heavens.'*** There was no evil in the universe, ***'when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of Elohim shouted for joy? (Job 38: 7).'*** But, a more important question at this point is: why was the universe created? Elohim did not create the universe simply to admire His work. He created it to be populated by beings that would help Him maintain and develop it.

Long before the creation of mankind, Elohim created millions of angels to live in, but also to assist Him in administering His Kingdom in the universe. Elohim planned these *'helpers'* to be like Him in every respect and they would over time have His character reproduced in them by His Set-apart Spirit. Since angels were created by Elohim, they are called sons of Elohim in Job 1: 6, however, they were not begotten and born sons of Elohim – like what He planned for the humans that He created later. Many of these angels served Elohim in the third heaven, where His throne is. Even though we do not know where the third heaven is, we understand it to be somewhere in the northern sky (Isaiah 14: 12). One of the three chief angels in heaven was the archangel Lucifer. These angels were free moral agents, with the ability to choose to go Elohim's way – the way of giving and sharing, or the wrong way - which is in essence the way of get. The reason why YHVH created them as free moral agents is that He wanted them over time to become like Him, without forcing them in any way. In addition, YHVH did not want robots in His Kingdom. For millions of years these angels followed the way of Elohim, until one day, a third of the angels followed the archangel Lucifer in rebellion against YHVH to take over His throne as recorded in Isaiah 14: 12 – 14, in this way: ***"How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you have weakened the nations! (13) But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars (angels) of Elohim, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. (14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'"*** Lucifer and his angels fought against the other two thirds of the angels, still loyal to Elohim. However, they were overcome and thrown down to earth, where they are now living as fallen angels or demons. These angels, who are spiritual beings, could not change once they have decided to follow a life of wrongdoing.

We read further about Satan's rebellion from Ezekiel 28: 13 – 16, as follows: ***"You were in Eden, the garden of Elohim; every precious stone was your covering: the ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald; and the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared. (14) 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 the stones of fire. (15) You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you. (16) By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned; therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of Elohim and I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire."*** We see how Lucifer and his angels were cast down to the earth in Revelation 12: 3, 4 & 9, in this way: ***'And another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his head were seven diadems. (4) And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven, and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. (9) And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.'*** Yahshua our Messiah who is described as the right hand of YHVH in Isaiah 53: 1 & Psalm 98: 1 and the (visible) ***'image of the invisible Elohim'*** in Colossians 1: 15; who was with Elohim from the beginning as per John 1: 1, said in Luke 10: 18: ***"I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning."***

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***the Spirit of YHVH will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength(power), the spirit of knowledge and the fear of YHVH.'***

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We saw from Job 38: 7 that after the initial creation, the angels (morning stars) sang together and shouted for joy, because it was absolutely awesome. But their joy was followed by disappointment, as recorded in the following: Starting in verse 8 of Job 38 we read about the control of violent sea waves; verse 9 talks about a dense cloud covering and darkness; and verse 13 talks about a shaking of the earth to shake out the wicked. We are told in Psalm 18: 7, how the earth shook and quaked and the fountains of the mountains trembled, because YHVH was angry. Verses 8 – 15 of Psalm 8 describe how everything was destroyed, as follows: ***‘Smoke went up out of His nostrils, and fire from His mouth devoured; coals were kindled by it. (9) He bowed the heavens also, and came down with thick darkness under His feet. (10) And He rode upon a cherub and flew; and He sped upon the wings of the wind. (11) He made darkness His hiding place, His canopy around Him, darkness of waters, thick clouds of the skies. (12) From the brightness before Him passed His thick clouds, hailstones and coals of fire. (13) YHVH also thundered in the heavens, and the Most High uttered His voice, hailstones and coals of fire. (14) And He sent out His arrows, and scattered them, and lightning flashes in abundance, and routed them. (15) Then the channels of water appeared, and the fountains of the world were laid bare at Thy rebuke, O YHVH, at the blast of the breath of Thy nostrils.’*** The end result is described in Jeremiah 4: 23, in this way: ***‘I looked on the earth, and behold, it was formless and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light.’***

Rav Kepha wrote about this time in 2 Peter 3: 5 & 6 saying: ***‘For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of Elohim the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, (6) through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.’*** YHVH had to bring judgment upon Lucifer when he tried to elevate himself to a position equal to Him, to take over the government of the Universe and as a result the contaminated earth was destroyed. The earth’s axial position in respect to its journey around the sun shifted by 23½ degrees and caused a pendulum effect to the waters of the earth, moving it to and fro, until it eventually came to rest. This in turn caused the hordes of animals and plant fragments destroyed by the swirling waters, to inundate the continents with animal fossils and destroyed plant life bearing witness to the earth shaking catastrophe, at that time. This catastrophe that the earth underwent is known to geologist as the ‘Ice Age’. This is the flood spoken about by Rav Kepha in the quoted section above and cannot refer to Noah’s flood, since the world did not perish in Noah’s day and his ark drifted only a few hundred miles without sails. But the catastrophe caused by Lucifer’s rebellion caused masses of ice and rock to travel thousands of miles; all life forms perished and the earth became formless and void.

This is the condition the earth is described in, in Genesis 1: 2. At that time Elohim decided to recreate the heavens and the earth, but other than with the angels, He chose not to create his future children as spirit beings. He decides to initially create human kind from physical matter, in His image with the ability to talk and with mind power to think, plan and ‘create’. They like the angels who were created before, would have free moral agency to decide whether they want to follow Elohim’s way or not. Throughout their lives on earth, they had to prove that they want to and actually follow Elohim’s way of life, thereby developing His perfect character. The original universe that YHVH created through His Word in Genesis 1: 1 was absolutely so perfect, that the angels shouted for joy. But how did sin and evil start in the first place? How could a creator who is all good and infinite in wisdom create an evil world? The answer to these questions is simply that He did not! But, He did create Lucifer the anointed covering cherub and his angels who later invented sin, when Lucifer decided to rebel against Elohim and His government.

Even though they were originally created perfect with no inclination to sin, Lucifer’s decision to rebel was his own idea and doing as a free-willed being. The point is that no one can be perfect unless he/she is a free-willed being, as perfect beings need never be harnessed to keep them from becoming evil. After YHVH had dealt with Lucifer’s rebellion the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the earth. In fact all the planets around the earth are currently in a

similar condition as the earth was in, prior to YHVH our Elohim recreated it again. However, even in Lucifer's rebellion when he caused the earth to be totally destroyed, the all-knowing Elohim used the darkness that resulted to provide rest for physical man and beast. In fact YHVH used the destruction that Satan caused to place fossilized fuels, such as oil and coal, at our disposal for use in the advanced technology that He inspired us to develop during the past two hundred years, before Yahshua's return to come and rule us, for a thousand years.

There are presently many new believers who come from other religions who believe the earth to be only six thousand years old. Without knowing the afore-going facts, they do not understand why Elohim who is Light (as witnessed in first John 1: 5) can begin a day in the evening with darkness. Such people are in fact correct, Elohim did not create a day to begin in the evening, but after the earth was destroyed through Satan's rebellion, YHVH recreated it as recorded in Genesis 1 from verse 3 through 31. Elohim commenced by saying in verse 3: ***"Let there be light"; and there was light.*** This was followed in verses 4 & 5: ***'And Elohim saw that the light was good; and Elohim separated the light from darkness. (5) And Elohim called the light day, and the darkness He called night, and there was evening and there was morning, one day.'*** Here we have the very first day that YHVH our Elohim recreated specifically for mankind - it starts in the evening followed by morning. Even so, this also pictures how we have been in darkness for the past 6,000 years, but will soon move into light, when Yahshua our Messiah returns to rule the world for a thousand years, and onto eternity. We know from Genesis 2: 3 that YHVH blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which He created and made.

Similar to the previous six days that YHVH created through His Word, the seventh day also consists of a night part and a day part. But in the same way does every day start in the evening followed by morning as recorded in Leviticus 23: 27 & 32, which instructs believers when and how to keep the Day of Atonement, as follows: ***"On exactly the tenth day of this seventh month (known as Tishrei) is the day of atonement; it shall be a Set-apart convocation for you, and you shall humble your souls and present an offering by fire to YHVH. (32) It is to be a Sabbath of complete rest to you, and you shall humble your souls; on the ninth of the month at evening, from evening until evening you shall keep your Sabbath."*** This tells us unambiguously that the tenth day of the seventh month also starts in the evening and lasts for 24 hours, when the next day begins, the next evening.

Another witness to the fact that the Sabbath begins when it grows dark comes from Nehemiah 13: 19, in this way: ***'And it came about that just as it grew dark at the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut and that they should not open them until after the Sabbath. Then I stationed some of my servants at the gates that no load should enter on the Sabbath day.'*** We read further from Jeremiah 33: 20 – 26, where the Word of YHVH says to Jeremiah: ***"Thus says YHVH, 'If you can break My covenant for the day, and My covenant for the night, so that day and night will not be at their appointed time, (21) then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levitical priests, My ministers.' (22) 'As the host of heaven cannot be counted, and the sand of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me.'" (23) And the word of YHVH came to Jeremiah saying, (24) "Have you not observed what this people have spoken, saying, 'The two families which YHVH chose, He has rejected them?' Thus they despise My people, no longer are they as a nation in their sight. (25) Thus says YHVH 'If My covenant for day and night stand not, and the fixed patterns of heaven and earth I have not established, (26) then I would reject the descendants of Jacob and David My servant, not taking from his descendants rulers over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But I will restore their fortunes and will have mercy on them.'" This clearly shows that the patterns that YHVH recreated after Lucifer's rebellion, which resulted in the earth's destruction, did not change.***

This is also what YHVH said to Himself after the water subsided after He flooded the earth again to destroy all the unrighteous during Noah's time in Genesis 8: 21 & 22, as follows: ***'And YHVH smelled***

***the soothing aroma; and YHVH said to Himself, “I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man’s heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done. (22) While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”*** Our Jewish Brothers who remained faithful to YHVH when we as the house of Israel were scattered throughout the nations of the world because of idolatry, have the Oracles or words of Elohim, regarding the timing of temple (worship) services, as Rav Shaul witnessed in Romans 3: 1 – 4 and 9: 3 & 4.<sup>11</sup> They have been faithfully observing the Sabbath without missing from one generation to the next. Even though we understand that the Sabbath is not only for Jews, the Orthodox Jews are a very good source for discovering which day is the seventh day from a historical perspective. They have been keeping the seventh day Sabbath from the time that YHVH gave it to them at Mount Sinai, until this very day.

But, I hear some of those who teach that the Sabbath starts at sunlight on Saturday morning, responding to the last two quoted sections of the Scriptures, saying: *‘why then is day mentioned before night in the two quoted sections, is it not an indication that a day consists of a daylight part followed by night?’* The answer is a definite no – since YHVH is showing in these sections that His original covenant for day and night remains, as He said in Genesis 1: 5. This is also what Rav Shaul meant about those who are simply disputing about words to try and prove their points of view. Such folk should heed Rav Shaul’s warning in 1 Timothy 6: 3 – 5, where he wrote: ***‘If anyone advocates a different doctrine, and does not agree with sound words, those of our Master Yahshua Messiah, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, (4) he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, (5) and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that religion is a means of gain.’*** Rav Shaul continues with the idea in 2 Timothy 2: 14 – 16, saying: ***‘Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of Elohim not to wrangle about words, which is useless, and leads to ruin of the hearers. (15) Be diligent to present yourself approved to Elohim as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth. (16) But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness.’***

As teachers in the ecclesia of Elohim, we should be very careful what we teach, and need to pay special attention to what the Rav Kepha wrote in James 3: 1, saying: ***‘Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment.’*** Think about it!

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<sup>11</sup> Romans 9: 3 & 4, ***‘For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Messiah for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh (meaning Jews), 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 services and the promises.’***

## **Chapter 8: What is meant by judgment in the Scriptures?**

Just what is judgment? If you ask this question to people in the world or to those in most religions of the world, most will tell you that it refers to the day upon which mankind will be judged for what they did whilst they were alive on earth. In addition most believe that judgment takes place soon after you die, when G-d decides immediately that you are either destined to spend eternity in heaven or in an ever burning hellfire. This is perhaps why most people also fear death. But if death is so scary why did King Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 7: 1, saying: ***'A Good name is better than a good ointment, and the day of one's death is better than the day of one's birth.'***

To put an end to the speculation that most believe about judgment, we need to turn to the Scriptures for the correct answer. Before discussing the subject in detail, let's summarize by saying that judgment is a process that takes place over a period of time. This is why Rav Kepha wrote in first Peter 4: 17 – 19, 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 do not obey the gospel of Elohim? (18) AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER? (19) Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of Elohim entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.'*** However, Elohim's spiritual plan of salvation is depicted in the physical harvest seasons that He gave ancient Israel. After YHVH saved Israel from slavery in Egypt He wanted them to be a light and example to the nations around them, as He regarded them as first-fruits, as is witnessed in the first part of Jeremiah 2: 3, in this way: ***"Israel was holy to YHVH, the first of His harvest."*** But, sadly ancient Israel failed YHVH because of unbelief, as recorded in Hebrews 3: 19, as follows: ***'And so we see that they were not able to enter (the Promised Land) because of unbelief.'*** This is why YHVH is at this time calling people out of the religious systems of the world, to again become first-fruits to inherit the Promised Land or the Kingdom of Elohim, as Rav Yaa'cov wrote in James 1: 18, saying: ***'In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, first fruits among His creatures.'***

In fact we know that Yahshua our Master and savior became the first fruit offering when he was offered before Elohim on His impalement stake, as witnessed by Daniel in Daniel 7: 26 & 27, in this way: ***"Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. (27) And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to the sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."*** This offering was in accordance with Leviticus 23: 12 & 13, as follows: ***'Now on the day when you wave the sheaf, you shall offer a male lamb one year old without defect for a burnt offering to YHVH. (13) Its grain offering shall then be two tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering by fire to YHVH for a soothing aroma, with its libation, a fourth of a hin of wine.'*** Yahshua was offered as both our Passover Lamb and the wave sheaf first-fruit offering when He died on the impalement stake. When Yahshua died He said in Luke 23: 46, ***"Father, INTO THY HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.'*** And having said this, He breathed His last.' This was when He was accepted as the first of the first-fruits, to become the first-born again from the dead three days and three nights later, when He was resurrected at the end of the weekly Sabbath.

It is for this very reason that we read from Romans 8: 28 & 29, ***'And we know that Elohim causes all things to work together for good to those who love Elohim, to those who are called according to His purpose. (29) For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that he might be the first-born among many brethren.'*** Yes this is talking about those of us who will qualify to enter the Kingdom of Elohim at Messiah's return. At this time we are first-

fruits who come before Elohim for acceptance on the Feast of First-fruits also known as Pentecost. If we are accepted and resurrected at Messiah's return we will be born-again like Messiah was at His resurrection and will be part of many brethren spoken about Romans 8: 29.

But, we need to understand that similar to the harvest seasons in the Land of Israel in the Middle East, not everyone is being called at this time. Millions, if not billions of people lived and died without ever hearing the name of Yahshua the Messiah, let alone obeying Him. Not even all the people who heard Yahshua speaking were being called at that time. This is why Yahshua said to His disciples in Mark 4: 11 – 12, ***"To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of Elohim; but those who are outside get everything in parables, (12) in order that WHILE SEEING, THEY MAY SEE AND NOT PERCEIVE; AND WHILE HEARING, THEY MAY HEAR AND NOT UNDERSTAND LEST THEY RETURN AND BE FORGIVEN."*** Yahshua used very specific language here; either their time had not come, or Yahshua was a respecter of persons. Do you believe that He would have spoken in such a way that they could not understand; if it would have doomed them to be lost forever? The quoted section is rather a hard saying to some, especially in the light of what Rav Kepha wrote in 2 Peter 3: 9, saying: ***'YHVH is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.'*** Considering the two quoted sections above, it seems like a contradiction at first glance. How is it possible that Elohim who is love could purposely blind some, and yet at the same time not be willing that any should perish? Remember that most of the people that He blinded, except for righteous Jews alive at this time whom Elohim blinded to Yahshua's identity until His return (as per Zechariah 12: 10), are already dead and buried. But the answer to the question is found in Isaiah 25: 7 – 9, talking about a time when YHVH will open their minds to His truth, in this way: ***'And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples. Even the veil which is 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."***

Based on these Scriptures, we understand that judgment is a period of time that begins when a person receives salvation knowledge and repents, when his/her eyes are opened to Elohim's truth, and he/she accepts Yahshua as his/her personal Passover. Such peoples' period of judgment lasts until they either die, or are changed at Yahshua's return on Yom Teruah, at the first resurrection. This is essentially the resurrection of the righteous spoken about in Luke 14: 13 & 14, in this way: ***"But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, (14) and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."*** If we have been called by Elohim to come out of the religions of the world, and we obeyed, repented and were immersed into Yahshua's saving name, we are being judged at this time. We are at this time doing what everyone who ever lived will have to do when they are resurrected after Messiah's Millennium rule. Yes, we should be bowing our knees before our Master and savior Yahshua Messiah at this time – meaning that we should be obeying what He taught and did whilst He was on earth. This is in line with what we read in Romans 14: 10 – 12, as follows: ***'But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Elohim. (11) For it is written, "As I LIVE, SAYS YHVH, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO ELOHIM." (12) So then each one of us shall give account of himself to Elohim.'***

We the elect are at this time bowing the knee before Messiah. We do not only bow the knee in prayer, but we also confess with our tongues, giving account of ourselves on a daily basis. It is as we read from first Corinthians 11: 31 & 32, in this way: ***'But if we judged ourselves rightly, we should not be judged. (32) But when we are judged, we are disciplined by YHVH in order that we may not be condemned along with the world.'*** We bow the knee before Yahshua by being obedient to what



He taught whilst He was on earth; by obeying the Torah and the Prophets better than the scribes and the Pharisees do; by keeping the Feast Days preserved for us by our Jewish brothers, the same Feast Days that He also observed during His lifetime. But also by keeping the Passover as a memorial to Messiah's death on the night during which He was betrayed the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan, 24 hours before the Jews of His day kept it.

We need to continuously temper our human nature with Torah, the law that leads to freedom from sin and its curses by comparing our every action and deed with what YHVH requires from us in His word. This is what Rav Yaa'cov encapsulated in the second part of verse 19 of James 1 to verse 25, telling those of us who were called out of the world as first fruits, how we should live our lives, as follows: ***'But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; (20) for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of Elohim. (21) Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. (22) But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. (23) For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; (24) for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. (25) But one who looks intently at the perfect law*** (Torah according to Yahshua's interpretation in Matthew 5: 17 – 48), ***the law of liberty*** (because by obeying Torah we are free from punishment due to sin), ***and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.'*** If we evaluate ourselves properly in terms of the word of Elohim (the Scriptures), by keeping our lives in subjection until we are one day able to say like Rav Shaul did in 2 Timothy 4: 6 – 8, in this way: ***'For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. (7) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; (8) in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Master, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved*** (or look forward to) ***His appearance.'*** We will be given our crowns of righteousness at Messiah's return, if we remain faithful to the end.

As first fruits we are promised rulership under Messiah during the Millennium and beyond, as witnessed in Revelation 2: 26, as follows: ***'And he who overcomes*** (Satan, our own human nature, and the world), ***and who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS.'*** A second witness comes from first Corinthians 6: 2 & 3, where Rav Shaul wrote: ***'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 law courts? (3) Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, matters of this life?'*** Yes the first resurrection is the better resurrection, since those in the second resurrection are not promised rulership. In addition those in the first resurrection will be raised with our fathers in the faith listed in Hebrews 11, which is as confirmed in verse 35 indeed a better resurrection. The question is when will we rule the world with Messiah? We get the answer in Revelation 20: 4 – 6, in this way: ***'And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Yahshua and because of the word of Elohim, and those who had not worshipped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Messiah for a thousand years. (5) (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed.) This is the first resurrection. (6) Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of Elohim and Messiah and will reign with Him for a thousand years.'*** So we see that believers who remain faithful to the end will reign and judge with Messiah during the thousand years.

But, we will also judge after this period of a thousand years, since we are told that we will judge the world as well as the fallen angels. The believers who remain faithful and are in the first resurrection together with the rest of the dead who will be in the second resurrection, equals everyone who ever

lived. Those who were not in the first resurrection are not judged yet. They will not be resurrected merely to be cast into the lake of fire. Let's see what Yahshua our Messiah had to say about this subject in Matthew 11: 20 – 24, as follows: ***'Then He began to reproach the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent. (21) "Woe to you Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. (22) Nevertheless I say to you, it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment, than for you. (23) And you Capernaum will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You shall descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. (24) Nevertheless I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you.'*** We know that Tyre and Sidon were gentile cities on the Mediterranean coast. Even though Tyre was destroyed long ago in accordance with the prophecy in Ezekiel 26, Sidon still exists. We are also aware that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah was destroyed in the days of Abraham and Lot.

But the point is, that these people who have been dead for thousands of years, are going to be resurrected during the day of Judgment, after the thousand year rule of Messiah. Those resurrected during this time will after the Scriptures have been opened to their understanding, be judged over a period of time, to see how they have applied what they have learnt in their lives, after they have been enlightened. This is what is meant in 1 Corinthians 15: 22 – 24 where Rav Shaul talks about the two resurrections, saying: ***'For as in Adam all die, so also in Messiah all shall be made alive. (23) But each in his own order; Messiah the first fruit, after that those who are Messiah's at His coming. (24) then comes the end (ones) when He delivers up the kingdom to the Elohim and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.'*** According to Colossians 1: 18 Yahshua ***'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.'*** Yahshua our Messiah was the first 'human being' to be resurrected and born-again from the dead. Next to be resurrected from the dead according to 1 Corinthians 15: 23, are those of us who believe in Messiah as our Master and Savior and remained faithful to the end, then after a thousand years, comes the end ones - meaning the rest of the dead.

That is when they will be given knowledge of salvation, when according to Revelation 20: 12 ***'books were opened.'*** This is the time spoken about in Isaiah 25: 7 & 8, when the veil will be removed from all nations and the books of the Scriptures will be opened to their minds in a similar way to what Yahshua did for His disciples after His resurrection in Luke 24: 44 & 45, as follows: ***'Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." (45) Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.'*** Their 'day of salvation', their period of judgment will begin at that time. We see according to Isaiah 65: 17 – 20 that their period of judgment will be over a period of 100 years, in this way: ***"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. (18) But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem for rejoicing, and her people for gladness. (19) I will also rejoice in Jerusalem, and be glad in My people; and there will no longer be heard in her the voice of weeping and the sound of crying. (20) No longer will there be an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred shall be thought accursed."*** There will be no premature deaths during this time, and those who repent and overcome during the 100 years, will be blessed with eternal life. They will be given the opportunity to accept Yahshua as their Master and Savior, or reject His way of life. Eternal life will be offered to all the people who ever lived. Those who accept Yahshua as their Savior and Passover will be immersed into His saving name, be given a portion of the Set-apart Spirit and be changed into spiritual children of Elohim. This will truly be the second harvest of human souls into the everlasting Kingdom.

The wicked – meaning those who sinned with full knowledge throughout the ages, including those of us who were called at this time and learnt Elohim’s salvation truth, but rejected it in the end, will be burned once for all and will not be tormented forever as some believe. Only spirit beings such as Satan and his demons have that fate awaiting them; human beings made from physical matter who sinned with full knowledge will only burn until they are turned to ashes as is confirmed in Malachi 4: 1 - 3. The second resurrection is not a second chance, since these millions of unsaved people were blinded by YHVH Himself in the past, as shown (in Isaiah 25: 7 & 8 as well as) in Romans 11: 32, in this way: ***‘For Elohim has shut up all in disobedience, that He might show mercy to all.’*** We need to remember that there is only one chance, and we are having it at this time. It behooves us to pay special attention to the words in Hebrews 10: 26 & 27: ***‘For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, (27) but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.’*** Judgment takes place over the period of time after we come to the knowledge of Elohim’s truth, and is an evaluating of what we did with the knowledge that we received. Think about It!

## Chapter 9: Messiah is coming soon!

Yahshua our Messiah warned that there will come a time when people will say that He already came, saying in Matthew 24: 26, ***'If therefore they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness, do not go forth, or, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe them.'*** In fact we see from 2 Thessalonians 2: 1 – 2 that false teachers started proclaiming the idea ever since His death and resurrection, as follows: ***'Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Master Yahshua Messiah, and our gathering together to Him, (2) that you may not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Master has come.'*** We see further from verse 3 how Rav Shaul refuted this false assumption, saying: ***'Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.'*** Reading verse 3 carefully, we realize that Rav Shaul warned that there must yet come a further falling away from the truth, before the return of our Messiah Yahshua.

Yahshua Messiah also spoke about a type of deception to occur before His return in Matthew 24: 5, 11, 24 and Revelation 6: 2, as follows: ***"For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Messiah,' and will mislead many. (11) And many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many. (24) For false Messiahs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. (Revelation 6: 2) And I looked, and behold, a white horse (false horse), and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him; and he went out conquering, and to conquer.'*** The last verse reminds me about the way the Crusaders use to try and spread Christianity – proclaiming a different gospel to the one Messiah proclaimed and killing those opposed to it! In addition Yahshua the Revelator (as per Revelation 1: 1), used a symbol of a rider on a white horse to depict false ministers and prophets claiming to represent Messiah or His ecclesia, trying to convert everyone they came across. This is what happened during the middle ages when people were forced into 'baptism' to become Christians. In Germany and in Portugal, Jewish people were baptized and given new German or Portuguese sounding names such as Schultz, Schiltz and Scholtz; or Ferreira, Perreira and Merreira.

The real Messiah will also come on a white horse, but instead of a bow in His hand, He will be returning with a sword coming from His mouth, as witnessed in Revelation 19: 11 – 15, 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.'*** The sword coming from Messiah's mouth will be the word of Elohim (the Scriptures) as recorded in Hebrews 4: 12, as follows: ***'For the word of Elohim is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.'*** It is important to understand that the perversion of Elohim's truth marks only the beginning of a long succession of events covering more than 1900 years, concluding when Messiah returns to establish the Kingdom of Elohim.

Prior to His resurrection, Yahshua made it clear that His Kingdom was not during the time that He was on earth, nor would ever be 'of this world', in John 18: 36, saying: ***"My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."*** Therefore could any or all of the churches of the world constitute Elohim's Kingdom as they claim? History reveals that the

churches are very much a part of this age! They are busy in political struggles and caused the shedding of much innocent blood. Therefore if the churches of this world constitute the Kingdom of Elohim, then that kingdom is part of this world, and Yahshua Messiah was a liar! When Yahshua's disciples asked Him if He is going to restore the Kingdom of Israel in their day in Acts 1: 6, He replied in Acts 1: 7 – 8, saying: ***"It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; (8) but you shall receive power when the Set-apart Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even the remotest part of the earth."*** We see from Yahshua's answer that the power His disciples were to receive was not of a political nature, but of a spiritual nature, because the Kingdom of Elohim was also not to be set-up at that time. Whilst Messiah was away in Heaven to receive His crown, He gave them and their successors the Set-apart Spirit, because He promised that He will be with them until the end of this age. We see from first Corinthians 15: 50 that the Kingdom of Elohim could not have been established during this age, in this way: ***'Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of Elohim; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.'***

Some modern day Christians believe that Messiah will only return after peace and harmony filled the earth for a thousand years. However, this cannot be true since Messiah Himself said in Matthew 24: 21 & 22 that He will return during a time of the greatest tribulation known to mankind, to come and save us from ourselves, as follows: ***"For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall. (22) And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short."*** The earth will be in utter chaos, not at peace, before Messiah's return. Messiah will come to put an end to mankind's misrule to establish the Kingdom of Elohim on earth. Even though Messiah's disciples anticipated that the Kingdom of Elohim would be established in their time, as witnessed from Luke 19: 11, in this way: ***'And while they were listening to these things, He went on to tell a parable, because He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the kingdom of Elohim was going to appear immediately.'*** Yahshua answered them in verse 12, saying: ***"A certain nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return."*** Obviously the nobleman in this parable refers to Messiah Himself and the far country refers to heaven where He returned to after His resurrection.

Yahshua told His disciples clearly that He will only receive the kingdom whilst He is in heaven, as is also depicted in Daniel 7: 13 & 14, in this way: ***"I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. (14) And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed."*** The parable in Luke 19 includes the time from Messiah's ascension to heaven, until He returns one day on a Feast of Trumpets (Yom Teruah) to rule the world from Jerusalem. We understand from reading the parable that whilst Yahshua is away, His servants must remain profitable using and increasing the talents which He gave them, as witnessed in verse 13 of Luke 19, as follows: ***"And he called ten of his slaves (the lost ten tribes which He came to bring back to the Father), and gave them ten minas, and said to them, "Do business with this until I come back.""*** What business should we be about until Messiah returns? We read the answer in Matthew 24: 14, in this way: ***"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come."***

A short time prior to Messiah's ascension to heaven, He made it clear that He would only return after a fixed sequence of events. He outlined these events to His disciples on the Mount of Olives in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21. According to Luke 21: 34 & 35 Yahshua told His disciples that Elohim's intervention in world affairs will come suddenly catching most people unawares, saying: ***"Be on guard, that your hearts may not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and***



**the worries of life, and that day come on you suddenly like a trap; (35) for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth.”** In fact Yahshua compared the time of His return to Noah’s day in Matthew 24: 37, saying: **“For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.”** People before Noah’s day did not expect Elohim’s intervention in their lives, as Yahshua explained further in verses 38 & 39, saying: **“For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, (39) and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.”** It is clear from this that nobody will know the exact timing of Messiah’s return. Even though we know that His return will be one day on the Feast of Trumpets, but we do not know the year of His return. Since we cannot know the year or the exact hour of His return, Yahshua said we will nevertheless know very close to the actual time of His return in verses 32 & 33 of Matthew 24, saying: **“Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender, and put forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; (33) even so you too, when you see all these things (the things Yahshua mentioned in the preceding verses of Matthew 24), recognize that He is near, right at the door.”**

Yahshua will return as a thief in the night, as Rav Shaul wrote in first Thessalonians 5: 2 & 3, saying: **‘For you yourselves know full well that the day of Master will come just like a thief in the night. (3) While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.’** However, Rav Shaul indicated that true believers should remain alert, so that it doesn’t catch them unawares in verses 4 – 6, saying: **‘But you, brethren are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief; (5) for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; (6) so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.’** Messiah is also pictured as coming as a thief in Revelation 16: 15, in this way: **“Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his garments, lest he walk about naked and men see his shame.”** This does not mean that Messiah will come invisibly, but it indicates that He comes at night when the household is asleep and catches the residents off their guard. People never know **when** a thief is coming, but if they knew they would be prepared for him.

Messiah’s coming would therefore be similar to that of a thief. He will not come invisibly, but He will come unexpectedly. No one will know exactly when He is going to come! This is why Yahshua explained in Matthews 24: 42 – 44, saying: **“Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Master is coming. (43) But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. (44) For this reason you be ready too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.”** So Messiah compared His coming to that of a thief in respect of the time of His arrival with an element of surprise. But we see from Matthew 24: 30 & 31 that Messiah’s return will definitely not be invisible, as follows: **“And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. (31) And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.”** From verse 27 of Matthew 24, we see that Messiah’s coming will be like lightning, coming from the east and flashing to the west.

We see further from Revelation 1: 14 - 16 why His coming is compared to lightning, in this way: **‘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. (16) And in His hand He held seven stars; and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.’** The phrase ‘those who pierced Him’ as used in Revelation 1: 7 does not mean that the Roman soldier who pierced Yahshua’s side, or the Jews of His day will see Him, but all of humanity alive at His

return will – since it was because of the sins of all of humanity that He had to die. So obviously, nobody will be able to miss his coming. Messiah's return to earth will be visible for all to see, but there is not a single word mentioning a secret, preliminary rapture of believers to heaven. Even though some believe that the visible loud coming is a second phase of Messiah's return. When Yahshua returns on the Feast of Trumpets one day in the near future, the dead in Messiah will be resurrected as described in first Thessalonians 4: 15 & 16, as follows: ***'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.'***

The trumpet blown here in first Thessalonians 4: 16 is the very same trumpet blown in Revelation 11: 15, where we read: ***'And the seventh angel sounded; and there arose loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Master (YHWH) and His Messiah; and He will reign forever and ever.'"*** In fact we see from verse 18 of Revelation 11, that Rav Yochanan was inspired to write that the blast of the seventh trumpet will be the time of the first resurrection. Those who believe in the rapture theory claim that the Greek word *'parousia'* translated as coming in Matthew 24: 27 does not mean *'coming'* at all. They believe that it refers to Messiah's *'secret nearness'* and when His disciples asked him about His coming, they were actually asking for a sign of the *'rapture'*. This brings us to the word *'parousia'* - which leads to the question: Does it specify a preliminary secret coming after all? The Greek word *'parousia'* simply means presence or coming and is translated as *'coming'* in many different scriptures, first Thessalonians being one example. Think for a moment; if Messiah had gone into such intricate details to answer His disciples' question in Matthew 24: 3, would He not have mentioned the *'rapture'* or His *'invisible presence'* to them? The fact is Messiah is coming to execute judgment at His *'parousia'* – His visible coming in power and glory to earth!

So far we've seen that prior to Messiah's return, a great tribulation is going to occur on earth. But we see further from verse 29 of Matthew 24, that His return will also be preceded by heavenly signs, in this way: ***"But immediately after the tribulation of those days the SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken."*** Yahshua told His disciples in Luke 21: 20 & 21, saying: ***"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is at hand. (21) Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are in the midst of the city depart, and let not those who are in the country enter the city."*** Even though this is what Nazarene believers in Messiah did when Jerusalem was destroyed during 70 CE, the prophecy is also for believers in Judea at the end of the age. If there would be a *'secret rapture'*, Messiah's followers would not have to be worried about invading armies or anything else for that matter. However, Messiah did promise to keep true believers in His ecclesia safe during the coming tribulation in Revelation 3: 10, saying: ***"Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth."***

A woman symbolizes an ecclesia in the Scriptures. We read accordingly from Revelation 12: 14 – 16, in this way: ***'And the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, in order that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. (15) And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. (16) And the earth helped the woman and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth.'*** We see that the earth helps the woman, and no mention is made of a secret rapture here. This means the ecclesia of Elohim will be on earth during the great tribulation – not in heaven as supporters of the secret rapture believe. Even so, when Messiah returns in the

same way as He left when He ascended to heaven, His saints – true believers – will come with Him, as recorded in Zechariah 14: 4 & 5, as follows: ***“And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. (5) And you will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then YHVH, my Elohim, will come, and all the holy ones with Him!”***

This agrees with what Rav Shaul wrote in first Thessalonians 3: 12 & 13, saying: ***‘And may the Master cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all men, just as we also do for you; (13) so that He may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before our Elohim and Father at the coming of our Master Yahshua with all His saints.’*** But reading from first Thessalonians 4: 13 & 14, we see that Rav Shaul wrote about Messiah’s saints who are sleeping in death, in this way: ***‘But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. (14) For if we believe that Yahshua died and rose again, even so Elohim will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Yahshua.’*** As we’ve read before from verses 15 & 16, those who have fallen asleep in Messiah will be resurrected with the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of Elohim. Continuing in verse 17, we read: ***‘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.’*** Both the resurrected dead and those alive (changed to immortal beings) will meet Messiah in the air, but will like Messiah who went up in a cloud when He was resurrected will descend in the same way on the Mount of Olives, as the two angels said in Acts 1: 11, in this way: ***“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Yahshua, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”*** We see from Mark 8: 38 that Messiah will also be accompanied by His angels when He returns, as follows: ***“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”*** So not only will Messiah’s saints accompany Him when He returns, but He will also be accompanied by a great army of angels.

When Messiah came almost 2,000 years ago, He came as a lamb to be slain for the sins of the world. But when He comes again, He will be angry and wrathful against all evil, as witnessed in Revelation 6: 15 – 17, in this way: ***‘And the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; (16) and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the lamb; (17) for the great day of their wrath has come; and who is able to stand.”’*** For almost 6,000 years Elohim has given mankind a chance to repent and turn to Him and His ways of peace and happiness. But, even though many say they believe in Messiah, they have refused to follow the perfect example that the Father gave us to follow. Instead men waxed worse and continued to devise forces which are now threatening to destroy all life on earth. As a result, in a similar way as a parent punishes his children that will not obey him, so Elohim is going to punish the world to bring it back to its senses. We read from Zechariah 14: 1 – 3 that Messiah will fight the world’s hate-filled armies when He returns and stand upon the Mount of Olives opposite Jerusalem, as follows: ***‘Behold, a day is coming for YHVH when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you. (2) For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the woman ravished, and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city. (3) Then YHVH will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle.’***

We see further from Revelation 14: 14 - 20 that much blood will be spilled on this day of battle, in this way: ***‘And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud was one like a son of***

***man having a golden crown on His head, and a sharp sickle in His hand. (15) And another angel came out of the temple, crying out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle and reap, because the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe." (16) And He who sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth; and the earth was reaped. (17) And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle. (18) And another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, put in your sharp sickle, and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe," (19) And the angel swung his sickle to the earth, and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of Elohim. (20) And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles.'***

The Scriptures show clearly that Messiah will come back for all those alive at that time to see. Yes, He is coming back with great power to a world that have rejected Elohim's way of life, to save them from themselves. His spectacular return to earth will usher in the beginning of His millennial rule on earth. Mankind will finally learn to lead happy, abundant lives under Messiah's righteous rule. That will be the time when the entire world will receive Elohim's plentiful blessings. Halleluyah!

## **Chapter 10: What did Elohim promise Abraham?**

People have always believed in some kind of an afterlife reward; and belief in heaven after death is not only restricted to Christianity. Because people have been taught lies from childhood, they are blinded to most of the truths to be found in the Scriptures; and even if these truths are given to them, most find it too incredible to believe. This is when Satan blinds the minds of the unbelievers, as Yahshua explained to His disciples in the first part of Matthew 13: 19, saying: ***“When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart.”*** ‘

Think for a moment, if so-called righteous believers go to heaven after death, why did Yahshua our Messiah in speaking to Nicodemus about being born-again said in John 3: 13, ***“And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man.”*** Moreover we read from Acts 13: 21 & 22 about Israel and King David, in this way: ***“And then they asked for a king, and Elohim gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. (22) And after He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, ‘I HAVE FOUND DAVID the son of Jesse, A MAN AFTER MY HEART, who will do all My will.’”*** If the saved go to heaven, why did Rav Kepha say about King David in Acts 2: 29, 34 & 35, ***“Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. (34) For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: ‘YHVH SAID TO MY MASTER, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, (35) UNTIL I MAKE THINE ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR THY FEET.”’*** What an inconsistency, even though most today believe they are going to heaven, here we see that King David did not! But what do the Scriptures have to say about the reward of the saved?

Rav Shaul summarized Elohim’s purpose and plan for mankind in the book of Galatians - In fact a believer’s hope depends entirely on the subject discussed in this generally misunderstood passage. While speaking to the Galatians, Rav Shaul was inspired to say in Galatians 3: 16, 26 – 29, ***‘Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as referring to many, but rather to one, “And to your seed,” that is, Messiah. (26) 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 the promise.’*** The true believer is not yet a possessor of his reward, but is now only an heir. What believers shall inherit, if ‘saved’ - where they shall spend eternity, is a definite promise of Elohim. That promise was made to Abraham; if one comes to believe in Yahshua the Messiah as his/her personal savior, then one becomes an heir of the promises made to Abraham.

The question is: What exactly did Elohim promise Abraham? We read the promise Elohim made in Genesis 12: 2 - 3 & 6 – 7 saying to Abraham: ***“And I will make you a great nation. And I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; (3) And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*** (6) ***‘And Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanites was then in the land. (7) And YHVH appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to YHVH who had appeared to him.’*** However, we see from Genesis 12: 10 that Abram went to Egypt for a short time because there was a great famine in the land of Canaan. When Abram returned to Canaan later, YHVH again spoke to him, repeating His promises to Abram, as witnessed in Genesis 13: 12 - 15, as follows: ***‘Abram settled in the land of Canaan while Lot settled in the cities of the valley, and moved his tents as far as Sodom. (13) Now the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against YHVH. (14) And YHVH said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Now lift up your eyes and***



***look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; (15) for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever.”*** YHVH promised Abram and his descendants the land of Canaan forever; and since the inheritance is an eternal inheritance, it includes everlasting life.

We see from Genesis 15: 18 that the boundaries of the Promised Land is as follows: ***‘On that day YHVH made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates.”*** The land of Canaan in the Middle East was promised to Abraham and his descendants forever, and is therefore known as the *‘Promised Land’*. However, it is important to notice that the Promised Land is on earth and not in heaven. We understand from Romans 4: 13 that the promise was expanded to later include inheritance of the whole world, in this way: ***‘For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through righteousness of faith.’*** Through Abraham, all true believers in Messiah are promised the earth, and there is not one word about heaven in the promise made to Abraham and his descendants. The same promise was later made to Isaac as recorded in Genesis 26: 2 – 5, as follows: ***‘And YHVH appeared to him and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; stay in the land of which I shall tell you. (3) Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham. (4) And I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; (5) because Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws.”*** Yes, even though some in Christianity deny that Abraham kept Torah, this verse states just the opposite. Yes, the commandments statutes and judgments were only written down later, but the word of YHVH spoke to Abraham and taught him on a one to one basis personally.

We see further that Elohim repeated these same promises to Jacob and his descendants the Israelites in Genesis 35: 10 – 12, saying to him, ***“Your name is Jacob; you shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.” Thus He called him Israel. (11) Elohim also said to him, “I am Elohim Almighty; be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come forth from you. (12) And the land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac, I will give to you, and I will give the land to your descendants after you.”*** But the promise to inherit the Promised Land as an eternal inheritance was made conditional to Abram’s obedience to YHVH. Firstly YHVH called Abram in Genesis 12: 1, saying: ***‘Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you.’*** We see from the first part of Genesis 12: 4 that Abram obeyed YHVH immediately, without question, as follows: ***‘So Abram went forth as YHVH had spoken to him; and Lot went with him.’*** Elohim called Abram out of Ur of the Chaldeans where he was born. Ur was in Babylon, a land under the authority of a political system that started at Babel, symbolic of the spiritual ‘Babylon’ from which YHVH is calling true believers today, as recorded in Revelation 18: 1 – 4, in this way: ***‘After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with His glory. (2) And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! And she has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird. (3) For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality.” (4) And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “Come out of her my people, that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues.”’***

Abraham obeyed Elohim; firstly he left his homeland, his relatives and friends and followed where Elohim led Him. But we saw from Genesis 13: 14 & 16 that Elohim promised Abram the land of Canaan as well as promise of a multiplicity of descendants. Because Abram and Sarai was already

advanced in years, Abram tried to help YHVH fulfill the promise of Genesis 13 by erroneously and prematurely choosing Eliezer, who was not a physical descendant of Abram, to be the one through whom that promise would be accomplished. But, Elohim reprimands Abram telling him again that His promise of physical multiplicity would not come through an adopted Gentile or a second choice. Elohim ordained that this promised heir would come from Abram's own body. He would not be adopted but would be a physical descendant of Abram. YHVH once again promises Abram that his physical offspring will be more than the stars of Heaven.

This promise of physical multiplicity and blessing is renewed in Genesis 17 verse 4, where Abram is told that this promise will establish him as a father of a multitude of nations. The term "multitude of nations" is repeated in verse 5 and simply means many 'Gentile' nations. We also see that at this point YHVH changed Abram's name to Abraham – meaning the father of a multitude. The physical descendants of Abram will fill the earth with a boisterous multitude making a great uproar about Elohim's love for humanity; misinterpreting His love (or way of reconciliation) to be *'the true gospel'*, instead of the Gospel of the coming Kingdom of Elohim, as proclaimed by Messiah in Mark 1: 14 & 15. Reading from verse 6 – 12 of Genesis 17, we see however that YHVH made the promise for Abraham and his offspring to dwell in the land of Canaan conditional to them being circumcised, as follows: ***"And I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you and kings shall come forth from you. (7) And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be Elohim to you and your descendants after you. (8) And I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their Elohim. (9) Elohim said further to Abraham, "Now as for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout your generations. (10) This is My covenant, which you shall keep between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised. (11) And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you.*** In verse 6 Abraham is promised that kings shall come forth from him. This is talking about the kings that would one day make up the royal House of David, through whom Messiah would come to His throne. Yes it is referring to those of us called at this time together with our fathers in the faith, who if we qualify, will rule as kings and priests under Messiah. In verse 7 YHVH reassures Abraham that this promise of greatness through physical multiplicity would be unconditional and everlasting. Many in Christianity and even the Assemblies of YHVH and Churches of G-d somehow want to spiritualize these physical signs that YHVH our Elohim require of us away, forgetting that Yahshua our Messiah, Elohim's perfect example for us, was also circumcised as recorded in Luke 2: 21.

We see from Genesis 22: 1 & 2 that Elohim further tested Abraham, in this way: ***'Now it came about after these things, that Elohim tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." (2) And He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah; and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.'*** Again, Abraham responded without question and took Isaac to sacrifice him as Elohim required. Upon reaching the point where Abraham was about to sacrifice his son, Isaac said to Him (in verse 7): ***"Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"*** Abraham answered Isaac in verse 8(RSV), saying: ***"Elohim will provide himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son."*** We see by implication here how Yahshua, Elohim with us (or Immanuel) became the Lamb of Elohim who had to be sacrificed for the sins of the world. This was to help Abraham understand the truth about Messiah as witnessed in Hebrews 11: 17 – 19, as follows: ***'By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac; and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; (18) it was he to whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED." (19) He considered that Elohim is able to raise men even from the dead; from which he also received him back as a type (of Messiah).'***

We see from verses 10 – 12 of Genesis 22, that even though Elohim wanted Abraham to understand the reality of Messiah's sacrifice for the sins of the world, He did not allow Abraham to kill his own son, in this way: ***'And Abraham stretched out his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. (11) But the angel of YHVH called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." (12) And he said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear Elohim, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.'*** Elohim did not really want Isaac's life, but He wanted to test Abraham's willingness to obey Him in faith. Because Abraham was faithfully obedient to Elohim, the Scriptures refer to him as 'the father' of all who live by faith, as witnessed in Galatians 3: 6 & 7, as follows: ***'Even so Abraham BELIEVED ELOHIM, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. (7) Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.'*** After Abraham obeyed the test and was found faithful, there were no more conditions to Elohim's original promise, as recorded in Genesis 22: 15 – 18, in this way: ***"Then the angel of YHVH called to Abraham a second time from heaven, (16) and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares YHVH, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, (17) indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. (18) And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."*** The promise was unconditional, since Abraham has fulfilled his side of the agreement.

Let's recap: how is it possible for people to become 'heirs' of the same promises made to righteous Abraham and his descendants. Elohim promised Abraham that all nations of the earth would be blessed through his 'seed' in Genesis 12: 3 and 22: 18. But who is this 'seed' spoken about here? We find the answer in Galatians 3: 16, as follows: ***'Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is Messiah.'*** Yes, the word 'seed' in Genesis 22: 18 refer specifically to One Seed, namely Messiah, rather than to Abraham's multiple offspring mentioned in Genesis 13: 16 & 17: 8. We see from Luke 3: 23 & 34 that Yahshua was a direct descendant or 'seed' of Abraham. Luke records Yahshua's genealogy through His mother Miriam. The Joseph, mentioned in Luke 3: 23, was actually the son-in-law of Heli, the father of Miriam. Therefore, one who is not a direct descendant of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, becomes an heir of the promises made to Abraham, by faith in Messiah. We are reconciled to YHVH through Messiah's sacrifice as the Lamb of Elohim who takes away the sins of the world (salvation).

Rav Shaul clearly indicated in Ephesians 2: 11 & 12 that Ephesian Gentiles were not part of Israel before coming to believe in Messiah, in this way: ***'Therefore remember, that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands— (12) remember that you were at that time separate from Messiah, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise*** ([1] Salvation through Messiah and; [2] Eternal life in the Promised Land), ***having no hope and without Elohim in the world.'*** As Gentiles, they had been 'strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without Elohim in the world', but through Messiah and His sacrifice they were brought near to the promise. The words 'far off' and 'near' as used in Ephesians 2, refer to the house of Israel who went far away from Elohim and became like Gentiles, and the house of Judah who remained near to Elohim. We see from verse 13 – 19 that through Messiah they were not strangers and foreigners anymore, as follows: ***'But now in Messiah Yahshua you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Messiah (14) For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, (15) by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, (16) and might reconcile them both in one body to Elohim through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. (17) AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE***

**NEAR; (18) for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. (19) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of Elohim's household.'** Therefore, those called from the lost ten tribes of Israel who came to believe that they are Gentiles, together with some genuine Gentiles, who become saved through the 'seed' of Abraham, namely Messiah, also become heirs of the promises Elohim made to Abraham.

Once we are Abraham's offspring and heirs according to promise through faith in Messiah, every male descendant shall be circumcised, as part of the covenant made to Abraham, in Genesis 17: 12, in this way: **"And every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised throughout your generations, a servant who is born in the house or who is bought with money from any foreigner, who is not your descendants."** We read from Galatians 3: 7, **'Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.'** If you are a believer, regardless of race, Abraham is your 'father' and you will inherit whatever Elohim promised to him. Therefore all true believers are heirs with Abraham to inherit ETERNAL LIFE (Salvation) and ETERNAL INHERITANCE OF THE PROMISED LAND. 'Heaven' was not included in the promises Elohim made to Abraham. But we see from Acts 7: 2 – 5 that Abraham and his 'children' have not received their inheritance yet, as follows: **'And he said, "Hear me, brethren and fathers! The Elohim of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, (3) and said to him, 'DEPART FROM YOUR COUNTRY AND YOUR RELATIVES, AND COME INTO THE LAND THAT I WILL SHOW YOU.' (4) Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and settled in Haran. And from there, after his father died, Elohim removed him into this country in which you are now living. (5) And He gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot of ground; and yet, even when he had no child, He promised that HE WOULD GIVE IT TO HIM AS A POSSESSION, AND TO HIS OFFSPRING AFTER HIM.'** These inspired words of Stephen clearly show that Abraham never received the promised inheritance – even though Elohim's promises were made UNCONDITIONAL because of his obedience.

We read further about this subject in Hebrews 11: 8 – 10, **'By Faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. (9) By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents, with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; (10) for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is Elohim.'** Here again we are told that our fathers in the faith were looking forward to their inheritance which they have not up to now received. But we are also told in verses 39 & 40 why they have not received it yet, as follows: **'And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, (40) because Elohim had provided something better for us** (latter day believers in Messiah and heirs of Abraham), **so that apart from us they should not be made perfect.'** This means that our fathers in the faith are still in their graves, waiting to be resurrected at Messiah's return, because of faith in Him and then to receive the Promised Land as an everlasting inheritance as immortal spiritual children of Elohim! A second witness that Abraham was still dead during Messiah's time, comes from John 8: 52 & 53, in this way: **'The Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets also; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word, he shall never taste of death.' (53) "Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out to be?"':** Do you grasp what these inspired words are saying? They clearly say that all these men died, in faith, NOT HAVING RECEIVED THE PROMISES! The fathers to whom the promises were made did not *'go to their reward at death!* Nor had they *'gone to their reward'* years after the resurrection and ascension of Messiah to heaven! We also read before from Acts 2: 29 that David an heir of Abraham and one of Elohim's prophets did also not inherit the promises, but is still dead in his grave.

The Renewed Covenant shows clearly that Abraham and the patriarchs have not received the promised inheritance, even to this day! They, and all Nazarene believers who become Abraham's

children through Messiah, are now only HEIRS to the promises. An 'heir' is one who has not yet come into his inheritance. And so they have not yet become 'inheritors'! But, what is the Promised Land that Abraham and his heirs are to inherit? What did Yahshua Messiah 'confirm' during His ministry on earth? Rav Shaul give us the answer in Romans 15: 8, as follows: ***'For I say that Messiah has become a servant to the circumcision<sup>12</sup> on behalf of the truth of Elohim to confirm the promises to the fathers.'*** We see further from Matthew 9: 35, ***"And Yahshua was going about all the cities and the villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness."*** In confirming the promises of eternal inheritance Elohim made to the 'fathers' in the faith, namely Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Messiah always preached the good news of the coming Kingdom of Elohim which is to occupy and govern the earth.

We see witnessed in Matthew 8: 11 that all the righteous men of old will be 'in' the Kingdom of Elohim, in this way: ***"And I say to you, that many shall come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of Heaven?"*** The promises Elohim made to the fathers included ENTRANCE into the Kingdom of Elohim! Therefore their inheritance will include (1) ETERNAL LIFE (2) in the Kingdom of Elohim (3) which is on Earth from where that Kingdom will be administered - the same INHERITANCE you and I may receive through Messiah! That is also why Yahshua taught us to pray in Matthew 6: 10, saying: ***"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*** Amein and Amein!

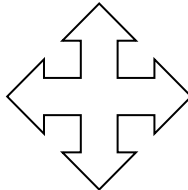
See explanatory chart on the next page.

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<sup>12</sup> Yahshua said to the Canaanite woman who begged Him to heal her demon possessed daughter in Matthew 15: 24, ***"I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."***



## Where are we going when we die?

Yahshua said in John 3: 13, <b>'And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man.'</b>	Heaven?	We read accordingly from Psalm 115: 16, <b>'The heavens are the heavens of YHVH; but the earth He has given to the sons of men.'</b>	We read further from Proverbs 2: 22 & 23, <b>'For the upright will live in the land, and the blameless will remain in it; but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be uprooted from it.'</b>	
YHVH made a covenant with Abram, promising him the promised land (Canaan) for an everlasting possession, provided that he and his descendants after him circumcise every male child when he is 8 days old (Genesis 17: 7 - 11). Circumcision being the sign of the covenant between YHVH and Abraham.		Reading from Hebrews 11: 8 - 10, we see that: <b>'By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is Elohim.'</b>	However, we see from Hebrews 11: 39 & 40, <b>'And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, because Elohim had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they should not be made perfect.'</b>	The land of Canaan is on earth and if Abraham was promised this piece of land as an everlasting possession, and if we are heirs of Abraham because of our faith in Messiah, we will also inherit the Promised Land, from where the Kingdom of Elohim will be administered, by Yahshua the Messiah and His saints.

## Hell?

### Notes:

When we die we are buried in hell (meaning the grave), our souls or lives come to an end and our spirits go back to Elohim who gave it (Ecclesiastes 12: 7).

Even though our spirits go back to the Father at death, our consciousness comes to an end and we are not aware of anything any longer as per Ecclesiastes 9: 5 & 10.

At Messiah's return He will bring back the spirits of those who died in Him, resurrect their bodies (to life); and their spirits, souls and bodies will once again be complete without blame as per 1 Thessalonians 5: 23. Then we will inherit the earth as Yahshua promised in Matthew 5: 5, saying: **"Blessed are the gentle (humble or meek) for they shall inherit the earth."**

## Chapter 11: What is mankind's ultimate potential?

Believe it or not, Elohim is presently in the process of creating spiritual children by forming His perfect character reproduced in those people whom He specifically called at this time, through the indwelling of His Set-apart Spirit. These spiritual children will help Him administer His government in His coming kingdom on earth. When Elohim created man out of dust in His own image as recorded in Genesis 1: 27, man was not the finished product that Elohim planned him to be, but was only complete in the physical sense. Even though Adam was a perfect image of Elohim, he was not a perfect spiritual creation. Adam was created from the dust of the ground subject to death, not immortal, but that was not how Elohim planned him to remain.

We see from Job 14: 14 – 15 that Job who lived during the time of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, realized that Elohim was forming a special creation in his life, in this way: ***"If man dies, will he live again? All the days of my struggle I will wait, until my change comes. (15) Thou wilt call, and I will answer Thee; Thou wilt long for the work of Thy hands."*** YHVH our Elohim has created us for a definite purpose as witnessed in Ephesians 2: 10, as follows: ***'For we are His workmanship, created in Messiah Yahshua for good works, which Elohim prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.'*** The 'we' spoken about in this verse refers to Nazarene Israelite believers. We, the called out believers in Messiah are Elohim's workmanship, and are at this time being created 'for good works'. Elohim's Set-apart Spirit given to us at immersion is presently busy forming His perfect spiritual character in us. Man's spirit and soul are so entwined that only Elohim can separate it, as witnessed in Hebrews 4: 12, in this way: ***'For the word of Elohim is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit; of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.'*** Yes, the spirit and soul (life) in man are so closely connected that the way man lives reflects his spirit or character of mind. When we are immersed into Messiah's saving name, we are given a portion of Elohim's Set-apart Spirit. As we grow in grace and knowledge, asking Elohim for more of His Set-apart Spirit, our lives (souls) should begin to reflect Elohim's character to the world. Man's material creation is only the beginning phase of our creation. YHVH is shaping and molding us with the help of His Set-apart Spirit and by experience, into a spiritual reproduction of our Master Yahshua Messiah.

The Gospel that Yahshua brought to mankind was simply to inform us about the coming Kingdom of Elohim. However, that Kingdom will be dual in that it will not only be the ruling government which Messiah will establish on the earth, but it will also consist of the Spirit begotten children. Yahshua became the 'Son' of Elohim, not only to die for the sins of the world and to be able to remarry His bride at His return, but also to show us the way of Elohim, as our perfect example. YHVH our Elohim wants those of us whom He called out of the world, to overcome Satan, the pulls our own flesh and the world, by living up to the standard that He set for us, namely Yahshua the embodiment of His word (the Scriptures). If we succeed He will make us His children at Yahshua's return, as He said in Revelation 21: 7, in this way: ***"He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his Elohim and he will be My son."*** We read further from Hebrews 2: 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.'*** In fact Rav Shaul confirmed in Romans 8: 29, saying: ***'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.'*** To be conformed 'to the image' of Messiah means to become like Him; to be glorified and become part of the spiritual Family of Elohim, as recorded in 2 Corinthians 3: 18, as follows: ***'But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Master, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Master, the Spirit.'***

Even so, we cannot reach our ultimate potential in this physical life. Rav Shaul described in 1 Corinthians 15: 49 – 52 what must happen to flesh-and-blood believers in Messiah, before they are

able to enter Elohim's spiritual family, saying: ***'And Just as we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. (50) Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of Elohim; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. (51) Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.'*** Yahshua clearly said to Nicodemus in John 3: 5 – 8 that we must be born again, but this time of the Spirit of Elohim to be able to enter the kingdom of Elohim as His spiritual children, in this way: ***"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 flesh is flesh, and that which is born of 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."***

However, if we are faithful true believers following the way of Elohim, we are already in this life His children, as Rav Yochanan explained in first John 3: 1 & 2, saying: ***'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.'*** Rav Shaul wrote about this in Romans 8: 14 – 17, saying: ***'For all who are being led by the Spirit of Elohim, these are sons of Elohim. (15) For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Avinu! Father!" (16) 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 also be glorified with Him.'*** At this point in time, we are only heirs who are in the future to inherit, since we are now only begotten children of Elohim. When we are born-again one day at Messiah's return, we shall inherit the Kingdom of Elohim as His spiritual sons and daughters.

The point is: that before our spiritual creation can begin; Elohim must beget each one of us by giving us His Set-apart Spirit at immersion into Yahshua's saving name. That is when we are impregnated by the 'seed' of eternal life from the Father. Then, in the same way as a newly begotten physical embryo begins to grow in a mother's womb, we begin to grow in Elohim's Spiritual character. This growth comes through learning from teachers who have gone through similar discipleship programs as Messiah's original disciples went through, but also by prayer and studying Elohim's way, and what Yahshua taught and did whilst He was on earth. The Set-apart Spirit changes us into the literal begotten sons of Elohim, since we are going to be just like our Master Yahshua the Messiah when finally His creation is completed in us. In the same way that an unborn human fetus is the child of its human parents, spirit-begotten believers become the unborn children of Elohim, at immersion. In fact we receive a portion of Elohim's divine nature when we are begotten by His Set-apart Spirit, as recorded in 2 Peter 1: 2 – 4, as follows: ***'Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of Elohim and of Yahshua our Master; (3) seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. (4) For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.'*** It is by Elohim's divine nature in us that we start producing the fruit of the Spirit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control listed in Galatians 5: 22 & 23.

According to first John 4: 16, love (or charity) is the greatest single attribute of Elohim's nature that He transmits to us through the indwelling of His Set-apart Spirit in us, in this way: ***'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.'*** Once we have Elohim's love abiding in

us, it enables us to obey His Torah, as witnessed in Romans 13: 10, as follows: ***‘Love does no wrong to a neighbor; love therefore is the fulfillment of the Law.’*** The Set-apart Spirit that a person may receive from Elohim can be compared to the seed of a human father. Elohim’s Spirit transmits His spiritual attributes to us, even as a physical seed transmits a human father’s attributes to His newly conceived offspring, the Set-apart Spirit; the seed (as per 1 Peter 1: 23) by which we are spiritually begotten imparts to us the nature and life of Elohim our heavenly Father. If we truly believe in the way of Elohim and have been immersed in Yahshua’s saving name, then we are already begotten children of Elohim. Elohim placed within us His Set-apart Spirit of eternal life – He begot us with His Set-apart Spirit just as the seed from a human father impregnates the egg of the mother. Our minds (or the spirit in man) can be compared to an egg or ovum. We were impregnated with the spiritual seed of eternal life, but we are not yet born of Elohim, not yet immortal spirit.

The reason for this is as we’ve read before from first Corinthians 15: 50 – 52, i.e. that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of Elohim. This was confirmed by Yahshua in John 3: 6, as follows: ***“That which is born of flesh is flesh, and that which is born of Spirit is spirit.”*** But we have not yet been born of spirit. We are still flesh and blood! If you think you have already been ‘born again’, then try to walk through a closed door, without hurting yourself – if you succeed you have been born again from the dead, like Yahshua was, as witnessed in Colossians 1: 18 in this way: ***‘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.’*** After Yahshua was resurrected from the dead (born-again), He walked through a shut door as we read from John 20: 19, 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.”’***

Rav Kepha exhorted Nazarene believers in this life in the first part of 2 Peter 3: 18, saying: ***‘But grow in grace and knowledge of our Master and Savior Yahshua Messiah.’*** Rav Shaul confirmed this in Ephesians 4: 15, saying: ***‘But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Messiah.’*** Rav Kepha tells us in first Peter 5: 1 - 2 how and by whom new believers should be fed and nurtured so that they may grow into the stature of Messiah, saying: ***‘Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Messiah, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, (2) shepherd the flock of Elohim among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of Elohim; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness.’*** Rav Shaul expanded on the topic in Ephesians 4: 11 – 13, saying: ***“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.”*** Like with a human family, the Father begets us. During the gestation period the mother nourishes and protects the unborn child in her womb, and so is the true ecclesia appointed to nourish and protect true believers or disciples, until they are ready to become teachers or are ready to be born-again at their death or when one day Messiah returns. Elohim’s spirit-begotten children must be fed on the spiritual food provided by Elohim - the words of the Scriptures, and live by every word of Elohim, in order to grow in spiritual character.

Once we reached maturity in our faith and in spiritual character when Messiah returns, we will become born again spiritual children of Elohim. But, if the spirit-begotten child of Elohim does not grow spiritually, such a believer can become a spiritual miscarriage or be aborted. In speaking about the resurrection of the dead, when the second birth will occur, Rav Shaul told us about the new bodies we will receive, saying in first Corinthians 15: 42 - 44, ***‘So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; (43) it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; (44) it is sown a natural body, it is***

***raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.'*** In fact we see witnessed in Philippians 3: 20 & 21, that when we are resurrected (or changed) at Messiah's return, we will become as Yahshua is at this time, in this way: ***'For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Master Yahshua Messiah; (21) who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.'*** We see recorded in Revelation 1: 13 – 15 what our Master and savior Yahshua looks like at this time, as follows: ***'And in the middle of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His breast with a golden girdle. (14) And His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire; (15) and His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been caused to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters.'*** When we are born-again as spirit beings we will be composed of the same substance as Elohim. We will be given a spirit body similar to Messiah's and will be glorified and given Spiritual Power. The power and glory that we will receive at Messiah's return will be so great that it will make our bodies shine like the sun.

That is when we will truly be born-again. Most Christians assume that they were 'born again' when they first accepted Messiah (the one they call Christ). That is because they misapply the King James Version's translation of first John 3: 9: ***'Whosoever is born of Elohim doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of Elohim,'*** assuming that they are no longer capable of sinning in this life. But, according to Rav Yochanan this assumption is totally incorrect, since believers in Messiah do at times still sin, as he wrote in first John 1: 8 -10, saying: ***'If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.'*** By using the present tense in verse 8, Rav Shaul meant that we still sin sometimes after becoming believers. In fact he included himself by saying we, throughout the quoted section. Once we are born-again we will not sin any longer, as is also confirmed in first John 5: 18 in this way: ***'We know that no one who is born of Elohim sins; but He who was born of Elohim keeps him and the evil one does not touch him.'***

Once we are born of Elohim at the resurrection we will be able to live without ever sinning again. How? Simply, because we will at that time possess the fullness of Elohim's divine nature and perfect character. We will no longer possess a nature which can fall victim to sin. However, as long as we are only 'begotten' of Elohim we need to continue resisting the temptations of the flesh. When we are caught off guard in a moment of weakness, we do sometimes sin, but we must not practice or continually live in sin. Whilst we are physical we are in a constant struggle against the temptations of Satan, the world, and the pulls of our own flesh. Although we have at this time received the begetting of Elohim's divine nature (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1: 4), we still have our human natures as well, and the two natures war against the other, as Rav Shaul explains in Romans 7: 22 & 23, saying: ***'For I joyfully concur with the law of Elohim in the inner man, (23) but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.'***

The reason for the confusion about being 'born-again' is caused by the misinterpretation of the Greek translation of the Renewed Covenant. The Greek word used in reference to spiritual begetting and birth is always 'gennao', except in the case of first Peter 1: 15 & 18. The word 'gennao' means 'to beget' or 'to conceive', but can also mean 'to bear' or 'to be born'; whereas in English two separate verbs are used, namely 'begotten' and 'born'. Because 'gennao' can mean either 'begetting' or 'born', it is necessary that we allow the Scriptures to interpret the Scriptures in order to know which meaning is intended in a specific passage. We see for example that the King James Version correctly uses 'begotten' in first Corinthians 4: 15; Hebrews 1: 5 and first John 5: 1. However, there are a few instances in most English versions of the Scriptures where the Greek word should correctly



have been translated as 'begotten', not 'born' in John 1: 12 & 13; first John 2: 29; 4: 7; 5: 1; and 5: 4. Another reason for confusion or more correctly misconstruing the concept of being begotten of Elohim, is where we read about Messiah being the 'only-begotten' of Elohim in John 1: 14 & 18; 3: 16 & first John 4: 9. Even so, these verses do not disprove the fact that true believers are only 'begotten' of Elohim's Spirit at this time, and growing toward being 'born' of Elohim at the resurrection. The verses where Messiah is referred to as the 'only begotten' of Elohim are referring to His miraculous conception in Miriam's womb. No other human has ever been begotten by the Father's Spirit in a human mother's womb. He was indeed the 'only begotten' of Elohim. But those who have been immersed in the name of Yahshua Messiah have been 'begotten again' to ultimately through the process of spiritual growth and birth, become the spirit-born children of Elohim.

What Elohim created in Genesis 1: 26 & 27 was only a physical creation; man made from the dust of the ground. Elohim pictures us as clay which He as the Master Potter is busy forming into the spiritual image of Himself. Elohim uses human reproduction to picture the process by which He is reproducing Himself. Each human since Adam and Eve started from a minute ovum, produced in the body of the mother. A human life begins when a human father impregnates the ovum with a life-giving sperm cell. Unless an ovum is impregnated by the sperm of a human father, it dies after a short period of time, and is cast out of the human mother's body. The human mind (or the spirit in man) is like an ovum. Each of us was born as incomplete physical human beings; able to live only for a comparatively short period of time. We were made to need the impregnating spiritual life of Elohim's Set-apart Spirit, in order to be created in Elohim's spiritual 'image' and live forever.

Once the physical ovum is fertilized, it becomes a begotten human life called an embryo. The mother's womb nourishes and protects it from physical harm and injury, until it has grown enough to be born as a baby. In the same way Elohim's ecclesia is protected by the discipleship program started by Moses when he taught Joshua to lead the ancient Israelites into the Promised Land, and continued by Messiah during His life on earth. The ecclesia is protected from false doctrines and influences and fed spiritually by the Word of Elohim so they grow spiritually in the divine character of Elohim until ready to be born into His Spiritual Family. Even so, there is one main difference in this example. The physical fetus does not reach physical and mental maturity before birth. But, the spirit-begotten believer must achieve a sufficient level of spiritual maturity before he/she is ready to be born-again when Messiah returns.

Whereas a newborn physical baby's main growth occurs after birth, the spiritual begotten believer must grow spiritually before being born-again. Messiah did not grow into spiritual perfection after He was resurrected, but during His 'human' life on earth, as witnessed in Hebrews 5: 8 & 9, as follows: ***'Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. (9) And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation.'*** When Messiah was resurrected and born-again as the Son of Elohim by His resurrection as explained in Romans 1: 4<sup>13</sup>, He was resurrected as an adult. We see that after His resurrection, His disciples recognized Him, because He looked exactly the same as before, except for the fact that He was now made of spiritual matter. Those of us who qualify will similarly, at Messiah's return be resurrected with spiritual bodies looking much like we do now.

Finally we need to understand that spiritual growth means character development as free moral agents to distinguish between right and wrong in terms of Elohim's word, and then to make the right decisions, even in the face of temptation and evil desires. We need to start developing spiritual character and grow toward spiritual adulthood during this lifetime, not after we are born-again. However, we read according to Hebrews 12: 23 our spirits will be made perfect during the time that

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<sup>13</sup> Romans 1: 4, ***'Who was declared the Son of Elohim with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the spirit of holiness, Yahshua Messiah our Master.'***

it returns to the Father who gave it<sup>14</sup>, in this way: ***‘To the general assembly and ecclesia of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to Elohim, the judge of all, and to the spirits of righteous men made perfect.’*** Then when Messiah returns to earth one day, we shall be resurrected, or instantaneously changed, into bodies that will be like His (1<sup>st</sup> John 3: 1 – 2). We read fittingly from first Thessalonians 5: 23, ***‘Now may the Elohim of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Master Yahshua Messiah.’*** Our present physical bodies will be made like Yahshua’s spiritual glorified body; to be born again as members of Elohim’s Family, and to rule under Yahshua our Messiah. Baruch HaShem YHVH!

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<sup>14</sup> Ecclesiastes 12: 7, ***‘Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to Elohim who gave it.’***

## Chapter12: Will the world finally come to an end?

The world that we live in is fast deteriorating, because of mankind's greed to get all they possibly can from the ground as raw material to produce the things required to live at the high standard we have become accustomed to. Mining companies have been exploiting arable land, rendering it useless for future use and the ever increasing demand for electric energy, with coal and nuclear fueled/fired generating stations, as well as the rapid increase in the use of motor vehicles have polluted the air and water, so much so that it is beginning to effect the health of people living in and around the cities of the world. As a result most people have at some time in their lives wondered if, and when the world will finally come to an end.

Environmentalists are most concerned about the condition of our planet and try to stem the ongoing destruction, by making all sorts of demands on the governments of the world, who most readily agree to resolutions, but rarely implementing the same. However, they are not in the least concerned with what YHVH requires, and obeying Torah (the only real solution to the problems) is far from most of their ways of thinking. They are not even aware that YHVH wants to bring an end to the false Babylonian systems of the world, where much good is done, but equal amounts evil prevents any real advancements. Yes, we should be careful how we live and how we utilize the resources given us by Elohim, but He is planning a much brighter future for those who will survive the coming great tribulation and live on into the Millennium. After all He is able to quickly restore the planet into what it was before Adam and Eve sinned and was driven out of the Garden of Eden.

Even so, concern about the condition of the world or more specifically society has been the fear of many people throughout the ages. We see from Matthew 24: 3 (KJV) that the original 12 disciples also questioned Messiah about the "end of the world," and the signs that would point to His return, saying: ***"Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and the end of the world?"*** But, what did Messiah's disciples really mean when they asked Him about the "end of the world"? The Renewed Covenant originally inspired by Elohim, was translated into the Greek language and the Greek word translated "world" in the King James Version of Matthew 24: 3 is 'aion.' The correct translation of the Greek word 'aion' is 'age' and definitely not the physical planet on which we live. This New American Standard Bible correctly translated the word 'aion' in the same question in Matthew 23: 3, in this way: ***"Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"*** So we see that the disciples questioned Messiah about the 'end of the age' and about His planned return, but definitely not about the destruction of the planet earth we call home. When this civilization of man comes to an end, it would mean the end of the age of man's rule over himself, but the earth would continue to exist.

Yahshua prophesied in Mark 13: 19 about the end of this age telling His disciples about the great tribulation to occur during a time immediately prior to His return to earth, saying: ***"For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of creation which Elohim created, until now (meaning at this end time), and never shall."*** Yahshua continued in verse 20 of Mark 13, saying: ***"And unless YHVH had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect whom He chose, He shortened the days."*** Verse 20 is not talking about spiritual salvation, but to being saved from physical annihilation or an untimely death. In addition it is telling us that the world will not be a safe place to be in at that time and that no life would be saved, unless YHVH intervenes to prevent the extinction of all mankind. This will be when Messiah returns to establish the kingdom of Elohim on earth and to put an end to human governments, which would otherwise lead to chaos and the destruction of all human life.

A second witness to the coming tribulation is recorded in Matthew 24: 21, as follows: ***'For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall.'*** The prophet Jeremiah referred to the great tribulation, as Jacob's distress in Jeremiah 30: 7, saying: ***'Alas! For that day is great, there is none like it; and it is a time of Jacob's***

***distress, but he will be saved from it.*** It is clear from these verses that even though mankind had lots of problems during the past 6,000 years, there has never been trouble as severe as what is coming before, and there will not be afterward. So this can only refer to the one great climatic event of worldwide trouble, before Messiah's return. Elohim inspired the prophet Joel to graphically describe this time of trouble before the end of this age in Joel 2: 1 – 3, in this way: ***'Blow a trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of YHVH is coming; surely it is near, (2) a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness. As the dawn is spread over the mountains, so there is a great and mighty people; there has never been anything like it, nor will there be again after it to the years of many generations. (3) A fire consumes before them, and behind them a flame burns. The land is like a garden of Eden before them, but a desolate wilderness behind them, and nothing at all escapes them.'*** All these prophets spoke about the same time of trouble soon to occur, before the end of this age, since only during this age with chemical, nuclear and biological weapons so readily available is such total destruction possible.

In fact Yahshua revealed to Rav Yochanan in Revelation 9: 2 – 10 & 16 – 19 in a vision, the suffering and killing that will result from the use of such deadly modern weaponry, as follows: ***'And he opened the bottomless pit; and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit. (3) And out of the smoke came forth locusts upon the earth; and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. (4) And they were told that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of Elohim on their foreheads. (5) And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man. (6) And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; and they will long to die and death flees from them. (7) And the appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads, as it were, crowns like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. (8) And they had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like the teeth of lions. (9) And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle. (10) And they have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is the power to hurt men for five months. (16) And the number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. (17) And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: the riders had breastplates the color of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone. (18) A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone, which proceeded out of their mouths. (19) For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads; and with them they do harm.'*** No doubt, Yochanan was describing the awe-inspiring military weapons available today, as seen in a vision that Yahshua revealed to him. He had to use symbolic language in trying to describe what he saw, since he had never seen armored cars, helicopters, planes and tanks in his lifetime. Nothing could be clearer; can you see that we are living in the time Yahshua spoke of in Mark 13? We are alive during a time when people have enough military power at their disposal to destroy all life from earth.

The good news is that Elohim promised to intervene in world affairs to prevent the eradication of humanity, and to bring world peace, at last. However, in order to ensure ongoing peace, He will have to also prevent future wars by stopping that which causes war. Rav Yaa'cov explained in James 4: 1 & 2 what the source of war is among mankind, saying: ***'What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? (2) You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.'*** Uncontrolled human nature consisting of pride, vanity, envy, jealousy, greed and lust, is basically the main reason for war.

The prophet Daniel wrote about the end of the age in Daniel 12: 4, saying: ***'But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.'*** Considering our means of transport and all the modern gadgets and information technology advancements available to us today, it is clear that we are definitely living in the end of time. People are traveling all over the world and both Scriptural and other knowledge have increased phenomenally over the past few years. The problem with the increase of knowledge is that it causes mankind to believe they are capable of doing whatever they please. It is as Rav Shaul wrote in the second part of first Corinthians 8: 1 (KJV), saying: ***'Knowledge puffeth up, but charity (love) edifieth.'*** Because we live in an age of ever increasing scientific and other knowledge it has become possible for people to obtain and possess tremendous power. Their lust for power has inspired them to become better and better and eventually wax from bad to worse, since power in the wrong hands usually corrupts, as Rav Shaul said in 2 Timothy 3: 13: ***'But evil men and imposters will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.'*** It is as witnessed in Proverbs 14: 12, in this way: ***'There is a way which seems right to man, but its end is the way of death.'*** Similar to average citizens, leaders are at times driven to make snap irrational decisions by their greed and emotions, believing that their evil deeds are best for the world. The prophet Jeremiah tells us in Jeremiah 17: 9 (KJV) what deceives us into believing that actions which end in death will eventually bring peace, as follows: ***'The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?'*** World governments work for and promise their countrymen peace, but their actions and decisions only bring war.

A major problem with mankind is that we do not know the way to peace, as the prophet Isaiah testified in Isaiah 59: 7 & 8, saying: ***'Their feet run to evil, and they hasten to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; devastation and destruction are in their highways. (8) They do not know the way of peace, and there is no justice in their tracks; they have made their paths crooked; whoever treads on them does not know peace.'*** Isaiah wrote further about what will happen to humans plans for peace in Isaiah 33: 7 – 9, saying: ***'Behold their brave men cry in the streets, the ambassadors of peace weep bitterly. (8) The highways are desolate, the traveler has ceased, he has broken the covenant, he has despised the cities, he has no regard for man. (9) The land mourns and pines away, Lebanon is shamed and withers; Sharon is like a desert plain, and Bashan and Carmel lose their foliage.'*** War is depicted throughout the Scriptures as the result of lust or greed. Greed is a main characteristic of human nature. The past 6,000 years has proven that man left to himself is totally incapable of bringing about change. Negotiations for peace have since the creation of man been accompanied by plans of war.

Nothing has changed today. Human governments are incapable to put an end to war permanently. Only Elohim has the ability and power to change human nature. The question is: how will Elohim create and maintain world peace? To find the answer, we need to turn to the Scriptures, since Elohim does not intervene in world affairs without revealing it to His prophets, as we read from Amos 3: 7, in this way: ***'Surely YHVH Elohim does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets.'*** In fact YHVH revealed His plan to establish His kingdom on earth to Isaiah many years ago, as recorded in Isaiah 2: 1 & 2, as follows: ***'The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. (2) Now it will come about that in the last days, the mountain of the house of YHVH will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it.'*** YHVH also revealed to Daniel in the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon that the kingdom of Elohim will be established by Him during the end of this age and will be a literal world-ruling kingdom, as recorded in Daniel 2: 44, in this way: ***'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.'***



Once Elohim has established His kingdom on earth, there will be no more conflict and war as Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 2: 4, saying: ***‘And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.’*** The Word of YHVH, the creator of mankind is returning to establish Elohim’s government on earth, and to change human nature for the better. Instead of being taught how to create instruments of war, people will be taught how to exercise self-control. Isaiah even went so far as to identify who would establish Elohim’s kingdom on earth in Isaiah 11: 1 – 4, saying: ***‘Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse (David), and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. (2) And the Spirit of YHVH will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of YHVH. (3) And He will delight in the fear of YHVH, and He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make decisions by what His ears hear; (4) but with righteousness he will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; and He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.’*** We see from what is written in the Acts of the apostles in chapter 13: 22 that David is identified as the stem or son of Jesse, in this way: ***‘And after He had removed him (King Saul), He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, “I HAVE FOUND DAVID the son of Jesse, A MAN AFTER MY HEART, who will do all My will.”’***

In fact the prophet Daniel prophesied about a time when true believers will be given rulership over the earth in Elohim’s kingdom under Yahshua in Daniel 7: 18, 21 – 22 & 27, saying: ***‘But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.’*** (21) ***“And I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them*** (22) ***until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.”*** (27) ***‘Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.’*** This was the message that Yahshua brought to earth almost 2,000 years ago. Yahshua’s message or gospel is not primarily a message about Himself, or about ‘receiving Him’ in our hearts. It is not merely a message about the events in His life and of Him becoming the Savior of the world, even though it includes that. It is a message about the coming Kingdom of Elohim to be ruled by Yahshua and His saints for a thousand years, and then into eternity.

The true gospel is about Messiah coming as Supreme Ruler to rule all nations of the world, by the Laws, statutes and judgments of Elohim. That is the gospel that Yahshua preached whilst He was on earth, as recorded in and among others Mark 1: 14 & 15 and Mathew 9: 35. After Yahshua’s death and resurrection He commissioned His disciples (and also us His modern day disciples) in Matthew 28: 19 & 20 and Mark 16: 14 to go into the entire world and preach the gospel to all creation. As a matter of fact Yahshua made the preaching of the gospel a precondition for His return, saying in Matthew 24: 14, ***“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come.”*** Notice that this is not saying we need to convert the people of the world, but only to witness to them about the coming kingdom of Elohim.

Brethren, it is time for us who are alive at the end of this age to wake up. Messiah’s disciples did not fully understand the plan of YHVH while Messiah was with them. They thought the Kingdom of Elohim would be established in their day. But before they died, they understood Messiah was to return at a much later date. However, Rav Kepha wrote in 2 Peter 3: 9, saying: ***‘YHVH is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.’*** YHVH is patient and has hold back from intervening in world affairs for nearly 6,000 years. He has allotted mankind 6,000 years in which to learn that his own ways bring nothing but pain, suffering and ultimately death. The Scriptures contain

chronological dates showing that mankind was created about 4000 BCE. Almost another 2,000 years have elapsed since then, totaling almost 6,000 years.

How absolutely significant that in our time in history; the very time the world is threatened with the extinction of all life, the allotted 6,000 years has almost elapsed. How exiting that Yahshua Himself said that we alive at this time will see the events that He prophesied taking place, before His return to usher in the Kingdom of Elohim on earth as it is now in heaven, Halleluyah!

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