

**Truths every Nazarene Israelite should know.**

**Jim Coetsee**



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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 a number of sermons that I gave over the past few months 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: Did Elohim create Satan the devil?

To understand what is happening in the world today and what will happen in the near future, we must back track to events that occurred before the creation of mankind about 6,000 years ago. The account of how a high-ranking spiritual being of extraordinary beauty, power, and intelligence named Lucifer an anointed cherub and his angels became known as Satan and his demons is a fact most people are not even aware of today. But it is also one of the keys Elohim gave us to better understanding mankind's purpose and destiny, which is linked to the pre-historic conflict that began with Lucifer's rebellion against Elohim.

In fact many people alive today and in the past ridicule/d the Scriptural account of how the world began, because they find anomalies in archeological discoveries made throughout the past six thousand years, which they maintain, do not match up with what is recorded in the Scriptures. Here in South Africa school going children are nowadays taught about all the different religions of the world, including the theory of evolution; the idea is that when they grow up, they will be able to make an informed decision about which religion they should follow. An educational program presented to scholars on TV about evolution recently, ridiculed Churchianity for teaching that the world is only about six thousand years old. Fact is that most people are unaware of the fact that YHVH created the universe millions of years before He recreated the earth to be inhabited by spirit bearing mankind, who would eventually become His children. They also do not know that after Satan's rebellion, the universe became formless and void (transliterated as 'tohu-vav-vohu' in the Hebrew Tanach); the condition the earth was in, in Genesis 1: 2. We need to understand that Elohim did not create the earth to be in the chaotic condition described in verse 2 of Genesis 1, as also witnessed by the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 45: 18, saying: ***'For thus says, YHVH who created the heavens (He is the Elohim who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited), "I am YHVH, and there is none else."***

YHVH is not the author of confusion, but of law and order, and of peace, as is confirmed in the first part of first Corinthians 14: 33, as follows: ***'For Elohim is not an Elohim of confusion but of peace.'*** YHVH did not create the world in disorder to later straighten it out again. But, what the Scriptures are telling us in Genesis 1: 1 is: ***"In the beginning Elohim created the heavens and earth"*** and it was good, and in Genesis 1:2; ***'and the earth was (or became) formless and void...'*** or chaotic. So it is clear that in the period between the two verses, a rebellion took place, causing the once perfect earth to become a mess. We read about a discussion Elohim had with Job in Job 38: 4 – 7 saying to him: ***"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, (7) When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of Elohim shouted for joy?"*** Verse 7 informs us that the angels sang together and shouted for joy after Elohim created the earth, implying a perfect and glorious creation. However their joy was in due course followed by disappointment, since verse 13 talks about a shaking of the earth to deal with the wicked.

Now, let's consider what the wickedness was that cause the physical destruction of the entire surface of the earth. We can be certain that it was definitely not due to any sin of humanity, since there had been no man on earth until the sixth day of the recreation of the earth. Even though the chaos that came about was not due to the wrongdoing of any human at that time, living beings populated the earth because a sin was committed on earth that resulted in the condition of confusion it was in before its recreation. But, what kind of life populated the earth, prior to Adam and the six days Elohim spent in recreating the earth? Rav Kepha gives us a hint to what happened in the first part of 2 Peter 2: 4, saying: ***'For if Elohim did not spare angels when they sinned.'*** Then in verses 5 & 6, Rav Kepha mentions the two occasions during which mankind sinned after the recreation of the world when Elohim destroyed the perpetrators, saying: ***'And did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven other, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; (6) and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly***

**thereafter.**’ Elohim destroyed the surface of the region in which these cities were located, because of the sins committed by those who lived in them, as an example for us not to live like their inhabitants did. Yet, today similar things are happening throughout the earth. Continuing with the same topic in Jude 6 & 7 we see a further description of what happened to the sinning angels, but also to the inhabitants of these two cities, as follows: **‘And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day. (7) Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example, in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.’** From this we see that angels inhabited the earth together with pre-historic animals and plants before Elohim blotted out with water everything that Satan had done.

These angels abandoned their proper abode, but we have the assurance that the world to come will not be in subjection unto angels as we read in Hebrews 2: 5, in this way: **‘For He did not subject to the angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking.’** This as well as the witness in first John 5: 19 informs us, that the present world is in subjection to fallen angels, as follows: **‘We know that we (those called and chosen at this time) are of Elohim, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.’** But, how did these fallen angels obtain control over the world? We see that Satan is called the god of this world in 2 Corinthians 4: 3 & 4, in this way: **‘And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, (4) in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Messiah, who is the image of Elohim.’** Yahshua also referred to Satan the devil as the leader of the fallen angels in amongst other in John 12: 31, saying: **“Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world shall be cast out.”** In fact in agreement with this, we read from Revelation 12: 9, **‘And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with Him.’** As the image of Elohim, Yahshua who existed from days of eternity (as per Micah 5: 2), saw when Satan was thrown out of heaven, as He told those whom He sent out to proclaim the coming kingdom of Elohim in Luke 10: 18, saying: **“I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.”**

To see the account of Satan unfold, let’s turn to Isaiah 14 and start reading from verses 3 & 4, where Isaiah speaks to the house of Jacob, saying: **‘And it will be in the day when YHVH gives you rest from your pain and turmoil and harsh service in which you have been enslaved, (4) that you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon, and say, “How the oppressor has ceased, and how fury has ceased!”** But, who is this king of Babylon Isaiah is talking about? This tells us that he was the one who disrupted the earth, causing all the trouble over the past 6,000 years. It is only when we read further in Isaiah 14 that we discover his identity, but we also know from the prophecies described in Revelation 17 & 18 that he will be the future ruler over the resurrected Babylon or ‘Holy Roman Empire’, the system described in Revelation 13 which will receive power from Satan. We read further from verse 12 – 14 of Isaiah 14: **“How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations! (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 (where Elohim’s throne is). (14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’** The former archangel Lucifer was in charge over a third of the angels who followed him in rebellion. He had a throne, but wanted to invade heaven to dethrone Elohim.

We are given more details about this cherub who became Satan in Ezekiel 28. Commencing from verse 2 we see that the human prince of Tyre, as a type of the present system that will get much worse in the future, is referred to as being wealthy and surrounded by perfect beauty, thinking to himself, **‘I am a god, I sit in the seat of Elohim.’** We see from 2 Thessalonians 2: 3 Rav Shaul telling the Thessalonians about the great falling away from the faith, before the coming of Messiah, when the man of sin will appear, saying: **‘Let no one in any way deceive you, for it (the coming of Messiah) will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, (4) who opposes and exults himself above every so-**

**called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of Elohim, displaying himself as being Elohim.'** Then, similar to in Isaiah 14, the human type is elevated to the spiritual realm as Satan in verse 12 of Ezekiel 28, in this way: **"Son of man take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says YHVH Elohim."** The entire prophecy beginning in Ezekiel 26 -28 refers to Satan, and not to the ruler of the ancient city of Tyre, but to the immediate future before the coming of Messiah to remove Satan from his position as ruler of the earth. The prophecy focusses on the end of Satan's rulership over the nations of the earth. It, accordingly speaks about Satan himself, from the middle of verse 12 to 17 of Ezekiel 28, as follows: **"You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. (13) 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 (Government) 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 (removed) you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. (17) Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, that they may see you.'** This is definitely not talking about a human being, since Elohim would not say of a human that he seals up the sum of wisdom, beauty and perfection – this is talking about the created being as shown in verse 14.

This being was at the very throne of Elohim; he once was one of the cherubs depicted in the model of the heavenly throne of Elohim, which Moses had to make for the tabernacle in the wilderness, as described in Exodus 25: 17 – 20, in this way: **"And you shall make a mercy seat of pure gold, two and a half cubits long and one and a half cubit wide. (18) And you shall make two cherubim of gold, make them of hammered work at the two ends of the mercy seat. (19) And make one cherub at one end and one cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim of one piece with the mercy seat at its two ends. (20) And the cherubim shall have their wings spread upward, covering the mercy seat with their wings and facing one another; the faces of the cherubim are to be turned toward the mercy seat."** We see that Satan was once one of the cherubim whose wings spread out and covered the throne of Elohim, but was at that time thrown down to the earth, because of his rebellion against Elohim.

At this point, let's summarize what we've covered up to now. After creating the heavens and the earth in a perfect state, the angels shouted for joy. From this we understand that the earth was populated by angels from the time the universe was first created. At that time Lucifer, a super archangel sat on a throne and was part of the administration of Elohim's government, having been at the very throne of Elohim. Elohim placed Lucifer on the throne on earth to administer His government over the earth's angels. For thousands of years there was peace, joy and happiness on earth, until as it says in verse 15 of Ezekiel 28, unrighteousness was found in Lucifer. To be sure, Elohim did not create Satan the devil, but a perfect archangel named Lucifer. But because like with us, Lucifer and all the created angels were endowed with free moral agency – minds that could think and reason, with the right to make choices and decisions. Eventually in the course of time Lucifer became arrogant because of his beauty and perfection and he became envious of Elohim's power. He therefore conspired with the angels under his authority to invade the third heaven, to take over Elohim's throne over the universe. In a similar way Satan will use his deceptive power to convince the 'Prince of Tyre' that will in the future cause this public figure to claim that he, a man is G-d. Lucifer was no longer the 'light bringer', but became Elohim's adversary. His third of the angels, united with him in his rebellion, and they fought against Elohim and the other angels, which resulted in chaos on the earth. Satan, who was perfect in all his ways prior to his rebellion, sinned with full knowledge, and as a result and because he was a spirit being, could not return to Elohim in repentance. As human beings we do not have all knowledge, and when YHVH dispelled Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden He also partially blinded them. As flesh and blood humans, we may return to Elohim in repentance and will be forgiven, provided we do not sin willfully.

David described Elohim's reaction to Satan's rebellion in Psalm 18: 7 – 15, saying: **'Then the earth shook and quaked; and the foundations of the mountains were trembling and were shaken, because He was angry. (8) 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 foundations of the world were laid bare at Thy rebuke, O YHVH, at the blast of the breath of Thy nostrils.'** At this point the earth shook and quaked and went out of course, as the prophet Jeremiah described in Jeremiah 4: 23 & 24, saying: **'I looked on the earth and behold it was formless and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light. (24) I looked on the mountains, and behold, they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro.'** Rav Kepha also wrote about this event 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 and as a result the contaminated earth perished. The earth's axial position shifted by more than 23 degrees and caused a pendulum effect to the waters of the earth, moving it back and forth, until it eventually came to rest. Evidence of animal hordes (including dinosaurs) and plant fragments destroyed by the churning waters, flooded the continents with animal fossils and destroyed plant life, bearing witness to this earth's shaking catastrophe. This was much worse than the flood at Noah's time, since the world in Noah's day was not destroyed and his ark drifted only a few hundred miles without sails. The catastrophe caused by Lucifer's rebellion carried masses of ice and rock for thousands of miles and the earth underwent a catastrophe, known by geologist as the 'Ice Age', during which all physical life forms perished and the earth became formless and void.

It was at that point that YHVH decided to recreate the heavens and the earth. He also decided not to create his future children as spiritual beings, but to initially create human kind from physical matter, in His image with the mind power to think and plan and 'create'. They too would have free moral agency to decide between good and evil. They had to prove throughout their lives that they would follow Elohim's way of life and ultimately develop His perfect character, by which time He will change them into spiritual beings. When YHVH originally created the universe through his word, He did not create darkness. But, 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 night for physical man to rest in. In addition 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 hundred years or so, before Yahshua's return to come and rule us, for a thousand years.

We need to understand that the three archangels, as well as all the other angels were never destined to become more than the servants of Elohim. They were never destined to become children of Elohim, and were not created to procreate themselves in any way. Not a single one of all the myriads of angels created by Elohim can be begotten of Elohim and born-again into the family of Elohim, as His children. After the rebellion of Satan, and the destruction of the universe, when YHVH recreated the earth, He created humans and for the first time gave them the potential to become born-again Sons of Elohim to rule the earth and ultimately the entire universe under Yahshua the Messiah. The problem facing mankind at this time more than before, is that Satan is fully aware of these truths and hates us with a vengeance. Satan and his demons view us as a serious threat to their way of life. With this perverted view, Satan who tried to usurp all Elohim's power and authority, considers human beings as opponents, since Elohim has destined mankind to replace him and his demons as rulers of this world. It is for this reason that Satan is the adversary of both Elohim and His future children, as is evidenced by his name in both Hebrew and Greek, given in Revelation 9: 11, in this way: **'They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon (meaning destruction), and in Greek he has the name Apollyon.'** Satan hates Elohim's plan of salvation for all

mankind depicted by the annual Feast Days which He introduced to Moses in Leviticus 23 and Deuteronomy 16, and it is for this reason that he deceived especially those who claim faith in Messiah, about the pagan holy days that they are commanded to keep annually. Satan deceived Eve to believe she has an immortal soul in the Garden of Eden, when he told her in Genesis 3: 4, saying: *“Ye shall not surely die.”* Since that time, he has succeeded in ‘selling’ his aspirations and ultimate destiny to gullible mankind, as their main religious doctrines – which are totally un-scriptural. Yes, Satan wanted to go to heaven, so the churches teach a doctrine of going to heaven. Lucifer is a spirit being and is therefore immortal – the churches teach that flesh and blood human beings are immortal. Messiah said that an everlasting fire awaits Satan and his demons – and similarly the churches teach that an everlasting fire awaits all sinners. This is what distracts these millions of deceived people from believing the true gospel about the coming Kingdom of Elohim.

Because Satan knows his time is short, Rav Kepha warned those of us living at the time of the end saying in first Peter 5: 8, *“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”* It is also for this reason that Rav Shaul warned us in Ephesians 6, to put on the whole armor of Elohim, saying in verse 12: *‘For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places* (four kinds of demons).’ We cannot afford to be ignorant of Satan’s tactics as Rav Shaul warns in 2 Corinthians 2: 11, saying: *‘In order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.’* Continuing in Ephesians 6: 13 Rav Shaul wrote: *‘Therefore, take up the full armor of Elohim, that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.’* He informs us in verses 14 – 17 what the full armor of Elohim consist of, saying: *‘Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH,* (according to Psalm 119: 142 & 151 Torah and all Elohim’s commandments are truth – so we need to study and obey the commandments of Elohim, to temper our animal instincts with Torah) *and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS* (we practice righteousness by doing what YHVH requires of us in Torah, such as keeping Elohim’s Sabbaths, eating only kosher food; not stealing or killing, nor committing adultery, wearing tzitzit, etc.), (15) *and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE* (believing and proclaiming the gospel of the coming Kingdom of Elohim, knowing that despite the current hopeless condition of the world, there is something much better coming when Messiah will return to rule the world from Jerusalem.); (16) *in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith* (Elohim’s plan of salvation for all mankind, depicted in His annual Feast Days given in Leviticus 23) *with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one.* (17) *And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION* (faith in Messiah, the Helmet of Salvation, who came to redeem us from our indebtedness because of not obeying Elohim’s commandments, to cover our sins), *and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of Elohim.’* This will ensure that we are protected from the attacks of these four kinds of demons, who targets different areas of our bodies, through the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, the pride of life and deception; namely our heads (minds), upper bodies (hearts), hands and loins (private parts), but also our legs and feet.

But this is not all, Rav Shaul continues in Ephesians 6: 18 – 20, saying: *‘With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,* (19) *and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,* (20) *for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.’* This is the only way in which to overcome Satan and force him to flee from us. Fact is that without knowing and preaching the true Gospel (the gospel about the coming kingdom of Elohim) and obeying Torah, modern Churchianity has no leg to stand on. It is as Yahshua taught in John 5: 46 & 47, saying: *“For if you believed Moses you would believe Me; for he wrote of Me. (47) But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”* Moses wrote the Torah and Yahshua gave us the good news about the coming kingdom of Elohim, but sadly most church-goers today reject both the true gospel and the writings of Moses. Even though Satan has been cast down to the earth, he and his millions of demons are still trying to take dominion from Elohim. In fact Yahshua revealed that Satan will once again try to take rulership from Elohim, in Revelation 12: 7, saying: *‘And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. And the dragon and his angels waged war.’*



We see from verse 9 that Satan would be cast down again, in this way: ***'And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.'*** Verse 10 informs us that this will happen shortly before Messiah returns to establish Elohim's Kingdom on earth. It will be at that time that Satan will bring great wrath upon the entire earth, as witnessed in verse 12, as follows: ***"For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time."***

Even though Satan will bring great wrath to all the people on the earth, we see from verses 13 – 17, that his main aim will be to destroy Elohim's congregation of called out believers, in this way: ***'And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child. (14) 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 (armies) 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. (17) And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of Elohim and hold to the testimony of Yahshua.'*** After Satan is cast down to the earth for a second time, he will realize that his time is very short, before he will be restraint completely for the next thousand years whilst Messiah will rule the world from Jerusalem.

It is then when he will do everything in his power to try and destroy the remnant of believers called out of the world by Elohim – especially the ones not accounted worthy to escape. We see further from verse 14 – 16 above that Elohim will provide His congregation with protection away from Satan's wrath. But, because some in the congregation of Elohim will not be accounted worthy to escape, they will have to go through fiery trials in order to wake up spiritually as witnessed in Revelation 3: 14 – 19, as follows: ***"And to the angel of the congregation in Laodicea write: The Amein, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning (or beginner) of the creation of Elohim, says this: (15) I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot. (16) So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. (17) Because you say, 'I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,' and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, (18) I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich, and white garments (Torah), that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see. (19) Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent."*** We have been warned and have time whilst it is still 'today' to straighten out our lives; to start keeping Elohim's commandments and believe in what Yahshua did and taught whilst He was on earth, with all our hearts (what we believe) and souls (how we live our lives) . Think about it!

## Chapter 2: 'Are you for us or for our adversaries?'

This is one of life's great questions, which Joshua the son of Nun asked the captain of the host of YHVH, as recorded in Joshua 5: 13, in this way: ***'Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?"'*** The man answered Joshua in verses 14 and 15, as follows: ***'And he said, "No, rather I indeed come now as captain of the host of YHVH." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, "What has my master to say to his servant?"'*** (15) ***And the captain of (YHVH)'s host said to Joshua, "Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.'***

This happened soon after the sons of Israel took upon themselves the sign of the covenant of circumcision and partook of the Passover in the evening of the fourteenth day of Aviv at Gilgal, immediately before the battle of Jericho. But, who or what was this captain of the host of YHVH? It is certain; he could not simply be a man, since Joshua fell face down before him. It is only when he tells Joshua to remove his sandals, since the place where he was standing on was holy, that his identity becomes obvious. This is also what happened to Moses, before YHVH told him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, when he came to Mount Horeb and he stopped to look at a burning bush, whilst pasturing Jethro's flock and YHVH called to him from the burning bush in Exodus 3: 4 & 5, saying: ***"Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."*** (5) ***Then He said, "Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."*** Truth is that without peace with all men and sanctification ***'no one will see YHVH'*** as witnessed in Hebrews 12: 14. Since Moses was faithful and showed the proper respect, YHVH told him His true name. Similarly from what happened to Joshua here, he understood that this was not simply a man standing before him, but the word of YHVH, or the image of Elohim, who much later became Yahshua the Messiah. This is the same 'angel of YHVH' who appeared to Hagar in the wilderness in Genesis 16: 7 – 13, and again to Samson's parents in Judges 13: 3 & 16 – 22. It was also the same angel who wrestled with Jacob in Genesis 32: 24 – 30, whom the prophet Hosea described as being YHVH, the Elohim of hosts in Hosea 12: 3 & 4, where he talks about Jacob, saying: ***'In the womb he took his brother by the heel, and in his maturity he contended with Elohim. (4) Yes, he wrestled with the angel and prevailed; he wept and sought His favor. He found Him at Bethel, and there He spoke with us, (5) even YHVH, the Elohim of hosts; YHVH is His name.'***

So we see from the quoted section in Hosea that this is not a normal angel that the Scriptures is talking about here; no it was the express image of Elohim before He became the Son of Man and was given the name Yahshua, the salvation of Yah. We see from Genesis 32: 30 when Jacob discovered that the angel of YHVH with whom he wrestled was the visible image of the invisible Elohim, ***'Jacob named the place Peniel (the face of Elohim), for he said, "I have seen Elohim face to face, yet my life has been spared.'*** When Jacob realized this, his name was changed to Israel and similar to what happened to Jacob, each one of us from the lost ten tribes, whom YHVH is busy calling out of the false religions of the world, has to wrestle with the question about who or what is Yahshua. It is only when we realize other than what we were taught in the Churches of G-d and Assemblies of YHVH, there are not two (YHVH)'s, but Yahshua is the image (or face) of the invisible Elohim, as is also confirmed by the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 45: 15, saying: ***'Truly, Thou art an Elohim who hides Himself, O Elohim of Israel, Savior (the last three words are transliterated from the Hebrew (אלהי ישראל מושיע) as 'Elohey Yisrael Moshiya')!'*** We see that Joshua also discovered that the 'man standing opposite him' was the image of Elohim, who is identified as YHVH in Joshua 6: 2, where He said to Joshua, ***"See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the valiant warriors."*** From this point forward, He does not identify Himself as *'the captain of the host of YHVH'*, but as YHVH. He continues instructing Joshua in verses 3 – 5, saying: ***"And you shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. You shall do so for six days. (4) Also seven priests shall carry seven trumpets of ram's horns before the ark; then on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. (5) And it shall be that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people will go up every man straight ahead."***

This was the image of the invisible Elohim standing before Joshua, who later became Yahshua the Messiah. He, the word of Elohim, was born of a woman as the Son of Man to become our kinsmen redeemer, but also to show us our incredible human potential to become the children of Elohim, when we will be resurrected at Messiah's return, similar to the way He was resurrected when He became the Son of Elohim (as per Romans 1: 4<sup>1</sup>). He was the first-born from the dead (as per Colossians 1: 18) to show us how we could one day be born-again as Spiritual sons and daughters of Elohim, as Rav Shaul explained in Romans 8: 11, saying: ***'But if the Spirit of Him who raised Yahshua from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Messiah Yahshua from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.'*** King Solomon also prophesied about the time when Yahshua will have become the Son of Elohim, in Proverbs 30: 4, saying: ***'Who has ascended into heaven and descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has wrapped the waters in His garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name or His son's name? Surely you know!'*** We see that Yahshua identified Himself with this Proverb in John 3: 13, saying: ***"And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man."*** He further identified Himself with Proverbs 30: 4 in Matthew 14: 23 – 33, when He walked on the sea, and calmed the wind, as follows: ***'And after He had sent the multitudes away, He went up to the Mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone. (24) But the boat was already many stadia away from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. (25) And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. (26) And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were frightened, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. (27) But immediately Yahshua spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." (28) And Peter answered Him and said, "Master, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." (29) And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Yahshua. (30) But seeing the wind, he became afraid, and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, "Master, save me!" (31) And immediately Yahshua stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (32) And when they got into the boat, the wind stopped. (33) And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are certainly Elohim's Son!"'*** Yahshua refuted Christianity's main doctrine in John 3: 13 that 'good' people go to heaven when they die, but also proved that He was indeed whom He said He was, by walking on the sea, and commanding the wind.

When Moses spoke to YHVH on Mount Sinai, he spoke to the image of Elohim who became Yahshua the Messiah, as we read from the first part of Numbers 12: 8, in this way: ***'With him I speak mouth to mouth, even openly, and not in dark sayings, and he beholds the form (or image) of YHVH.*** It was Messiah who was taken up into heaven, but who will come in the same way that he left in a cloud on the Mount of Olives, as witnessed in Acts 1: 9 – 11, as follows: ***"And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. (10) And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold two men in white clothing stood beside them; (11) and they also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Yahshua, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."'*** Rav Shaul wrote about the time when Messiah will return in first Thessalonians 4: 13 – 17, saying: ***'But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. (14) For if we believe that Yahshua died and rose again, even so Elohim will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Yahshua. (15) For this we say to you by the word of the Master, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Master, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. (16) For the Master Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of Elohim; and the dead in Messiah shall rise first. (17) Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Master in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Master.'*** Jude wrote about this time in Jude 14 & 15, saying: ***'And about these also Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, YHVH came with many thousands of His holy***

<sup>1</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.'*

**ones, (15) to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”** This will be when Messiah will usher in the era of the New Covenant, of which Jeremiah wrote 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.”**

Joshua the son of Nun was standing in front of Jericho when the ‘Captain of the host of YHVH’ was standing opposite him with a drawn sword. But Joshua did not get the answer he was expecting, instead the commander of (YHVH)’s army told him and his army to march around the walls of Jericho, also promising that after seven days, when on the last day they marched around the city for seven times the city walls will fall down flat, and he and his men will enter unscathed and take the city. The point is, once we understand who is in charge, the question is not: “Are you for us or for our adversaries”, but rather, since YHVH is in charge; “*who is on (YHVH)’s side?*” It is as Rav Shaul wrote in Romans 8: 28 – 32, saying: **‘And we know that Elohim causes all things to work together for good to those who love Elohim, to those who are called according to His purpose. (29) For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; (30) and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. (31) What then shall we say to these things? If Elohim is for us, who is against us? (32) He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?’** During World War II, as I am sure in every war before and since, every army claimed ‘G-d’ to be on their side. But as we all know, that was the incorrect claim to make. The question is not ‘Whose side is YHVH on?’ but rather ‘who is on (YHVH)’s side?’ Hitler also claimed to have Elohim on his side during World War II, since the emblem on the metal belt buckles of each of the soldiers in his army contained an eagle standing on a swastika with the German inscription: ‘GOTT MIT UNS.’

The allies fighting against Hitler were defending the people whom YHVH has chosen<sup>2</sup> and ultimately overcame his mighty army. When the captain of the host of YHVH came to Joshua, He gave Joshua the plan to victory against the Canaanites and the King of Jericho, who had to fight these desert dwellers, came up against YHVH Himself. No one on earth can stand against YHVH and His promises, as He promised through Isaiah in Isaiah 56: 1 & 2, saying: **“Preserve justice, and do righteousness, for My salvation (Yahshua) is about to come and My righteousness to be revealed. (2) How blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who takes hold of it; who keeps from profaning the Sabbath, and keeps his hand from doing any evil.”** A second more detailed version of this is given in Deuteronomy 11: 26 – 32, in this way: **“See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: (27) the blessing, if you listen to the commandments of YHVH your Elohim, which I am commanding you today; (28) and the curse, if you do not listen to the commandments of YHVH your Elohim, but turn aside from the way which I am commanding you today, by following other gods which you have not known. (29) And it shall come about, when YHVH your Elohim brings you into the land where you are entering to possess it, that you shall place the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal. (30) Are they not across the Jordan, west of the way toward the sunset, in the land of the Canaanites who live in the Arabah, opposite Gilgal, beside the oaks of Moreh? (31) For you are about to cross the Jordan to go in to possess the land which YHVH your Elohim is giving you, and you shall possess it and live in it, (32) and you shall be careful to do all the statutes and the judgments which I am setting before you today.”** Notice in Joshua 6: 2, YHVH did not say to Joshua ‘I will deliver’ but instead said: **“See, I have given Jericho into your hand.”** It was a done deal before the actual battle. YHVH already predestined Israel to take over the Promised Land. Similarly YHVH through Rav Shaul is

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<sup>2</sup> Judah has been Elohim’s chosen ones, since the two houses of Israel split in two after King Solomon’s reign, as witnessed in Psalm 78: 67 & 68, as follows: **‘He also rejected the tent of Joseph, and did not choose the tribe of Ephraim, but chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which He loved.’**

saying to us in Ephesians 1: 3 – 6: ***‘Blessed be the Elohim and Father of our Master Yahshua Messiah, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Messiah, (4) just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love. (5) He predestined us to adoption as sons through Yahshua Messiah to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, (6) to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.***

What YHVH purposes or wills is as good as done. If Israel disregards the covenant that she made with Elohim, He would scatter her into the nations of the world, as witnessed in Deuteronomy 29: 1, 24 – 28 & 30: 1 – 10, as follows: ***“These are the terms of the covenant YHVH commanded Moses to make with the son of Israelites in Moab, besides the covenant which He had made with them at Horeb. (24) And all the nations shall say, ‘Why has YHVH done thus to this land? Why this outburst of anger?’ (25) Then men shall say, ‘Because they forsook the covenant of YHVH, the Elohim of their fathers, which He made with them when he brought them out of Egypt. (26) And they went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods whom they have not known and whom He had not allotted to them. (27) Therefore, the anger of YHVH burned against that land, to bring upon it every curse which is written in this book; (28) and YHVH uprooted them from their land in anger and in fury and in great wrath, and cast them into another land, as it is this day.” (30: 1) “So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind in all nations where YHVH your Elohim has banished you, (2) and you return to YHVH your Elohim and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, (3) then YHVH your Elohim will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where YHVH your Elohim has scattered you. (4) If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there YHVH your Elohim will gather you, and from there He will bring you back. (5) And YHVH your Elohim will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. (6) Moreover YHVH your Elohim will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love YHVH your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul, in order that you may live. (7) And YHVH your Elohim will inflict all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you. (8) And you shall again obey YHVH, and observe all His commandments which I command you today. (9) Then YHVH your Elohim will prosper you abundantly in all the work of your hand, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your cattle and in the produce of your ground, for YHVH will again rejoice over you for good, just as He rejoiced over your fathers; (10) if you obey YHVH your Elohim to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law, if you turn to YHVH your Elohim with all your heart and soul.”***

Knowing the ‘religious climate’ of today Rav Shaul asks in the first part of Romans 11: 1, ***“I say then, Elohim has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be?”*** This verse corresponds with Rav Shaul’s question in Romans 3: 3, where he asked: ***‘What then? If some did not believe, their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of Elohim, will it?’*** Some of those Nazarene/Messianic Israelite and like-minded believers who are always suspicious of our Jewish Brothers may ask: ***“how could the destiny of the house of Judah also not be changed, considering their rejection of Messiah?”*** Rav Shaul’s answer is absolutely clear in Romans 11: 2 – 5, as follows: ***‘Elohim has not rejected His people (Judah) whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah, how he pleads with Elohim against Israel? (3) “YHVH, THEY HAVE KILLED THY PROPHETS, THEY HAVE TORN DOWN THINE ALTARS, AND I ALONE AM LEFT, AND THEY ARE SEEKING MY LIFE.” (4) but what is the divine response to him? “I HAVE KEPT for Myself SEVEN THOUSAND MEN WHO HAVE NOT BOWED THE KNEE TO BAAL.” (5) In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to Elohim’s gracious choice. (6) But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace. ”*** But, does the captain of the host of YHVH give Israel a commanding role in the conquering of Jericho? No, He did not, instead He orders them to march once around the city of Jericho for six days, and seven times on the seventh day with the priests blowing shofars and at the end when the people hear the long blast on the shofar, they all were instructed to give a loud shout, then the walls of Jericho would fall down flat and the people could go straight into the

city and take it over. Even though this command might have seemed silly, but because the nation obeyed, the walls fell flat and the people went in and took the city and its spoils.

Our motivation for obeying YHVH should not be fear, but love, as we read from first John 4: 18, as follows: ***“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.”*** Israel could only gain victory over Jericho and Canaan by Elohim’s grace through faith, and in the same way can we only gain victory over sin and against the dark forces of the world by surrendering to the Kingship of YHVH, by grace through faith. Continuing in Romans 11: 7 & 8, Rav Shaul asks: ***‘What then? That which Israel is seeking for, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened; (8) just as it is written, (in Isaiah 29: 10) “FOR YHVH HAS Poured OVER YOU A SPIRIT OF DEEP SLEEP, HE HAS SHUT YOUR EYES, THE PROPHETS; AND HE HAS COVERED YOUR HEADS, THE SEERS.”*** YHVH has blinded the minds of our Jewish Brothers to the identity of Yahshua for the sake of those whom He is calling out of the world, to return to the original covenant that He made with both the house of Judah and the house of Israel at Mount Sinai, as Rav Shaul goes on to explain in Romans 11, but He has also allowed the whole world (excluding Judah) to be blinded to the good news about the coming kingdom of Elohim. The Jews believe in both the coming kingdom of Elohim and that a Messiah is coming to rule the whole world from Jerusalem. Yahshua came specifically to bring back a remnant of the lost ten tribes back to Torah and Brother Judah, by the time He returns. We continue reading from Romans 11: 9 - 11, in this way: ***‘And David says, “LET THEIR TABLE BECOME A SNARE AND A TRAP, AND A STUMBLING BLOCK AND A RETRIBUTION TO THEM. (10) LET THEIR EYES BE DARKENED TO SEE NOT, AND BEND THEIR BACKS FOREVER.” (11) I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression (of not recognizing Yahshua caused by Elohim Himself) salvation has come to the Gentiles (those of us from the lost ten tribes who used to believe that we are Gentiles, plus some real Gentiles), to make them jealous.’*** We the remnant of the lost ten tribes need to realize that YHVH has blinded the minds of our Jewish Brothers to Messiah’s identity, so that you and I are able to return to the faith of our fathers in the faith, namely Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but also that YHVH will be able to rebuild the tabernacle of David which has fallen.

Continuing in Romans 11: 12 – 15 we read about the tremendous blessing YHVH is planning for us from the lost ten tribes on the day when Yahshua returns on Yom Teruah in the near future, as follows: ***‘Now if their transgression be riches for the world and their failure be riches for the Gentiles (meaning in the most non-Jewish Israel), how much more will their fulfillment be! (13) But I am speaking to you who are Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle of Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, (14) if somehow I might move to jealousy my fellow countrymen and save some of them. (15) For if their rejection be reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead’*** When will the dead in Messiah be resurrected? This will be when Messiah returns to the Mount of Olives the same way that He left when He ascended to heaven. Those of us who have been keeping Elohim’s Feast Days for a number of years know that this will happen on Yom Teruah, as witnessed in first 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 .’*** However, before this could happen, our Jewish Brothers will have to accept the true Messiah first. But that does not mean you and I need to do everything in our power to try and convince them to do so. No, you and I need to understand that YHVH has blinded them, and we cannot do anything to change that. But, reading from Zechariah 12: 7 – 10 we see when they will accept Messiah on Yom Teruah in the near future, when He will return during the 48 hour long day to save them first, 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 (Yahshua) 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 on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace (by which they will be saved) and of***

***supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born."***

The problem is that the house of Israel have been blinded for so long, that only until as recently as 10 years ago, we have discovered Messiah's main purpose for coming to earth; that is to bring the lost ten tribes back to the faith of our fathers in the faith, which the house of Judah retained from the time we entered into the first covenant with YHVH at Mount Sinai. This is what Yahshua was trying to get across to His followers when He told them the parable of the prodigal son. As a result most of us do not understand Elohim's plan of keeping Judah blinded until the fullness of the number that He requires from the lost ten tribes plus some real gentiles come in, at which time a remnant from both houses will be saved to become kings and priests under Yahshua at His return, as witnessed in verses 22 – 32 of Romans 11, in this way: ***"Behold then the kindness and severity* (transliterated in Hebrew as Chesed and Gevurah - representative of the two arms of YHVH {described in Deuteronomy 33: 27}, namely the Set-apart Spirit {or divine nature} and Yahshua {the power}) *of Elohim; to those who fell severity, but to you, Elohim's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.* (23) *And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief* (which will come to an end when Messiah returns), *will be grafted in; for Elohim is able to graft them in again.* (24) *For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more shall these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree?* (25) *For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of the mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to* (Jewish) *Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;* (26) *and thus all Israel will be saved* (ask yourself: how could all Israel consist of Jewish Israel and Gentiles? This means that most of the ones called out of the world by YHVH at this time are truly from the house of Israel, and all Israel will be saved when we join the house of Judah on the mountains of Israel at Messiah's return); *just as it is written, "THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB.* (27) *AND THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS."* (28) *From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake* (they are blinded to Messiah so that we may return), *but from the standpoint of Elohim's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers;* (29) *for the gifts and the calling of Elohim are irrevocable.* (If this is too difficult to understand by those who believe they are going to get into the kingdom without Judah, then I rest my case.) (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 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.'***

YHVH is working according to a plan and despite what you and I believe or whether you and I like it or not, His plan will come to fruition, since His calling and promises are irrevocable. Rav Shaul continues, saying in verse 33, ***'Oh, the depth of the riches of both the wisdom and knowledge of Elohim! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!'*** What lessons can we learn from Joshua the son of Nun's encounter with the 'captain of the hosts of YHVH'? Firstly, we learn, even with life's obstacles looming before us, YHVH has predestined our lives and it only depends on our faithfulness to His plan, to ensure our victory in the end. Secondly, we know from Exodus 15: 3 that ***"YHVH is a warrior; YHVH is His name."*** He has declared war on every one who is against His plan of rebuilding the tabernacle of David which has fallen. Thirdly, as the ***"captain of hosts of YHVH"*** He did not come asking for advice or opinions, He came to take charge of the battle and lead Israel to victory. He does not come as our personal "spirit guide", but One whose commands we must obey to see the victory<sup>3</sup>. Lastly, Joshua was ordered to remove his shoes, which represented his strategies to take over Jericho. But he had to be willing to surrender control in order to receive (YHVH)'s salvation; namely Yahshua.

Knowing this – are we willing to do it Elohim's way, or are we going to continue with our own ideas? The choice remains ours!

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<sup>3</sup> *Isaiah 42: 13, 'YHVH will go forth like a warrior, He will arouse His zeal like a man of war. He will utter a shout, yes, He will raise a war cry. He will prevail against His enemies.'*

### Chapter 3: YHVH Raphechah.

There have been a great deal taught on the subject of sickness and healing by Christian and Nazarene/Messianic Jewish/Israelite and like-minded teachers, but a lot of it was not scripturally true. The point is nothing this side of the Kingdom of Elohim will eliminate our need to struggle, since we have been called to the fellowship of sharing in Messiah's sufferings, as Rav Shaul wrote in Philippians 3: 10 & 11, saying: ***'That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings being conformed to His death; (11) in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.'*** Continuing with the same theme Rav Shaul wrote in Romans 5: 1 – 5, saying: ***'Therefore 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. (3) And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; (4) and perseverance, proven character; and proven character hope; (5) and hope does not disappoint, because the love of Elohim has been poured out within our hearts through the Set-apart Spirit who was given to us.'***

Yahshua explained this in John 15: 1 & 2, saying: ***"I am the true vine and My Father is the vinedresser. (2) Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit."*** Yes, sometimes our health and other problems are caused to help us grow, or to help other believers grow in faith, as Yahshua explained in John 9: 1 – 7, in this way: ***'And as He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. (2) And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind?" (3) Yahshua answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was in order that the works of Elohim might be displayed in him. (4) We must work the works of Him who sent Me, as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work. (5) While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (6) When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to His eyes. (7) And said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). And so he went away and washed, and came back seeing.'*** This tells us that not all diseases or sickness are as a result of a biological or physiological origin. We need to understand that YHVH is in control, The point is that YHVH is the creator of both good and evil, as He said through the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 45: 6 - 7, as follows: ***"That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that there is no one besides Me. I am YHVH and there is no other, (7) the One forming light and creating darkness, causing well-being and creating calamity; I am YHVH who does all these.'*** A second witness to this comes from Deuteronomy 32: 39, in this way: ***'See now that I, I am He, and there is no god besides Me; it is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded, and it is I who heal; and there is no one who can deliver from My hand.'***

Even so, the prophet Jeremiah tells us in Jeremiah 33: 11, saying: ***"Give thanks to YHVH of hosts, for YHVH is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting.'*** This tells us that even when YHVH brings evil to us, His motivation is love, and to benefit us in the end. Rav Shaul confirms this in Romans 8: 28, saying: ***'And we know that Elohim causes all things to work together for good to those who love Elohim, to those who are called according to His purpose.'*** In fact we read from Deuteronomy 30: 19 that YHVH uses evil to give us a choice, as follows: ***"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants."*** As witnessed in Psalm 91, the key to victory over affliction is the necessity to dwell in an intimate place of the Most High, in this way: ***'He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. (2) I will say to YHVH, "My refuge and my fortress, My Elohim in whom I trust!" (3) For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper, and from the deadly pestilence. (4) He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark. (5) You will not be afraid of the terror by night, or of the arrow that flies by day; (6) Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or of the destruction that lays waste at noon. (7) A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not approach you. (8) You will only look on with your eyes, and***



*see the recompense of the wicked. (9) For you have made YHVH my refuge, even the Most High your dwelling place. (10) No evil will befall you, nor will any plague come near your tent. (11) For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. (12) They will bear you up in their hands, lest you strike your foot against a stone. (13) You will tread upon the lion and cobra, the young lion and the serpent you will trample down. (14) "Because he has loved Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him securely on high, because he has known My name. (15) He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him, and honor him. (16) With a long life I will satisfy him, and let him behold My salvation."*

Those of us who have been immersed into Yahshua's saving name, are engaged to Messiah and He is going to enter into a New (marriage) Covenant with us and our Torah observant Jewish Brothers at His return, as Jeremiah wrote in Jeremiah 31; 31 - 34, saying: ***"Behold, days are coming," declares YHVH, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, (32) not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares YHVH. (33) "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares YHVH, "I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people. (34) And they shall not teach again each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know YHVH' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares YHVH, "For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."*** However, that means that we really need to get to know as much about Elohim and His plan of salvation for all mankind, as possible. The Hebrew word (יָדָעַ) transliterated as 'yada' means to know, but it means more than just know by name, it means that we must have an intimate relationship with Elohim, to really understand what He requires of us. In fact the word 'yada' is the same word used in the first part of Genesis 4: 1(KJV), in this way: ***'And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain.'*** When we get to the point of dwelling in intimacy with YHVH, we move into the position of receiving His blessings, no matter affliction. Elohim protects and provides for us as a husband, does or should for his wife, if we get to that intimate place with Him. This is what Psalm 91 is all about – when we really get to trust in YHVH our Elohim we ***'abide in the shadow of the Almighty.'*** If we are close to Elohim, nothing can get to us spiritually. We who have been immersed into Yahshua's saving name have been given a portion of His Set-apart Spirit, and if we remain faithful to the end, we will be resurrected as spiritual children of Elohim. We need not fear anyone but YHVH any longer, as Yahshua told His disciples in Luke 12: 4 & 5, saying: ***"And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. (5) But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who after He has killed has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!"***

King David is pictured as if completely surrounded by adversaries in Psalms 55-58. His only way out was to cry unto YHVH for help, as recorded in Psalm 57: 1 – 11, as follows: ***'Be gracious to me, O Elohim, be gracious to me, for my soul takes refuge in Thee; and in the shadow of Thy wings I will take refuge, until destruction passes by. (2) I will cry to Elohim Most High, to Elohim who accomplishes all things for me. (3) He will send from heaven and save me; He reproaches him who tramples upon me. Selah. Elohim will send forth His lovingkindness and His truth. (4) My soul is among lions; I must lie among those who breathe forth fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword. (5) Be exalted above the heavens, O Elohim; let Thy glory be above all the earth. (6) They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down; they dug a pit before me; they themselves have fallen into the midst of it. Selah. (7) My heart is steadfast, O Elohim. My heart is steadfast; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises! (8) Awake, my glory; awake, harp and lyre, I will awaken the dawn! (9) I will give thanks to Thee, O Adonai, among the peoples; I will sing praises to Thee among the nations. (10) For Thy lovingkindness is great to the heavens, and Thy truth to the clouds. (11) Be exalted above the heavens, O Elohim; let Thy glory be above the earth.'*** By the time we get to Psalm 91, we see that King David has found his victory in intimacy with YHVH, a place where he comes under the shadow of the Almighty Elohim. YHVH will deliver everyone who is under His shadow. Blessings and benefits accumulate to you simply because you have chosen to dwell

in intimacy with Elohim. YHVH will set your emotions back in order. When you are in that shadow, He will deliver you from affliction. Demon harassment and affliction can include sickness. It is for this reason that discernment is of the utmost importance as we fight against affliction. We need to make sure that our lives (or souls) reflect the Spirit within us. We read from Hebrews 4: 11 & 12: ***'Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest*** (in the kingdom of Elohim in the Promised Land with our fathers in the faith, namely Abraham, Isaac and Jacob), ***lest anyone fall through following the same example of disobedience*** (by ancient Israel). (12) ***For the word of Elohim is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.'*** This is obviously only talking about those of us who have been called by Elohim and who were suitably immersed into Yahshua's saving name, as well as our Torah observant Jewish Brothers, provided we all remain faithful until Messiah returns. Rav Yaa'cov, Yahshua's half-brother confirmed this in James 2: 23 - 26, saying: ***'And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED ELOHIM, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS," and he was called the friend of Elohim.*** (24) ***You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone.*** (25) ***And in the same way was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works, when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?*** (26) ***'For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.'*** This is also in agreement with what Yahshua taught his disciples 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"***

As the word of Elohim, Yahshua could discern the wrong spirit in a woman afflicted with an abnormal lateral curvature of the spinal column; scoliosis for eighteen years, as witnessed in Luke 13: 10 – 19, in this way: ***'And He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.*** (11) ***And behold, there was a woman who for eighteen years had had a sickness caused by a spirit; and she was bent double, and could not straighten up at all.*** (12) ***And when Yahshua saw her, He called her over and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your sickness."*** (13) ***And He laid His hands upon her; and immediately she was made erect again, and began glorifying Elohim.*** (14) ***And the synagogue official, indignant because Yahshua had healed on the Sabbath, began saying to the multitude in response, "There are six days in which work should be done; therefore come during them and get healed, and not on the Sabbath day."*** (15) ***But the Master answered him and said, "You hypocrites, does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the stall, and lead him away to water him?"*** (16) ***And this woman, a daughter of Abraham as she is, whom Satan has bound for eighteen long years, should she not have been released from this bond on the Sabbath day?"*** (17) ***And as He said this, all His opponents were being humiliated, and the entire multitude was rejoicing over all the glorious things being done by Him.*** (18) ***Therefore He was saying, "What is the kingdom of Elohim like, and to what shall I compare it? (19) It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and threw into his own garden; and it grew and became a tree; and THE BIRDS OF THE AIR NESTED IN ITS BRANCHES."*** Yahshua recognized that this Israelite woman was inflicted by Satan for the past eighteen years. We need to understand the relationship between demon activity and sickness in the bodies of the children of YHVH and how to combat it in a balanced, Scriptural way.

If this lady was alive today and had medical insurance she would have gone to the best hospital in the country to get a diagnosis from a competent doctor or chiropractor. They would have diagnosed her with some physical disease and would have treated her with narcotics, spinal manipulation or worse surgery but nobody would have diagnosed her with having an evil spirit. Rav Luka (Luke in English) practiced Torah medicine and wrote the above testimony. As a physician, he knew as much about medicine and physical maladies as anyone in his day, but what he brings to the equation is that he approaches sickness from a Torah perspective and recognized that an evil spirit of infirmity had produced her sickness. This might be a little disconcerting to some believers today, because it is contrary to everything they believe. Their confidence, when it comes to disease, is in medical Doctors and medicine, since most believe their health problems are caused by viruses, germs or bacteria. They do not want to even entertain the idea that a demon could be behind their disease. But where demons are behind the illness, the minute the demon is subjugated, the illness leaves the afflicted person. In fact it was the same in Job's case. Job lived during the

time of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and even at that time evil spirits sometimes influenced Elohim's people. We start reading about Job's condition from Job 2: 3 & 7, in this way: **'And YHVH said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing Elohim and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to ruin him without cause."** (7) **Then Satan went out from the presence of YHVH, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.'** Even though Satan was afflicting Job, YHVH allowed it, but He was also in control of the situation. Satan caused many more problems for Job to try to get him to sin and to curse YHVH, like some modern day people do when they or one of their loved ones are afflicted with diseases or die. When reading from the beginning of the book of Job, we come to the realization that Satan had it in for Job. Even though Job was an upright Elohim fearing man, he had one problem, which Satan could not detect, because Job's problem was similar to that of Satan, in that he was self-righteous.

This was the same with some of the religious people during Messiah's time, and remains so in our time, as Yahshua warned His disciples in Luke 12: 1 & 2, as follows: **'Under these circumstances** (when reading from the previous chapter we notice that the Pharisees began to become very hostile toward Yahshua), **after so many thousands of the multitude had gathered together that they stepping on one another, He began saying to His disciples first of all, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. (2) But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known."** But we need to understand that this is happening in most of the Churches of the world today, and may even rear its head amongst us. We must be careful of putting up a show of religion for others to see, whilst when we are at home alone with our loved ones, we are just the opposite. YHVH had to intervene in Job's life to ultimately show him his problem. YHVH came to Job in a whirlwind and posed many difficult questions about creation to Him in chapters 38 - 41 of the book of Job. We read some of the questions that YHVH asked Job in Job 38: 4 - 11 & 25 - 33, 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, (7) when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of Elohim shouted for joy? (8) Or who enclosed the sea with doors, when, bursting forth, it went out from the womb; (9) when I made a cloud its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, (10) and I placed boundaries on it, and I set a bolt and doors, (11) and I said, 'Thus far you shall come, but no farther; and here shall your proud waves stop'? (25) Who has cleft a channel for the flood, or a way for the thunderbolt; (26) to bring rain on a land without people, on a desert without a man in it, (27) to satisfy the waste and desolate land, and to make the seeds of grass to sprout? (28) Has the rain a father? Or who has begotten the drops of dew? (29) From whose womb has come the ice? And the frost of heaven, who has given it birth? (30) Water becomes hard like stone, and the surface of the deep is imprisoned. (31) Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades, or loose the cords of Orion? (32) Can you lead forth a constellation in its season, and guide the bear with her satellites? (33) Do you know the ordinances of the heavens, or fix their rule over the earth?"** This must have been an eye opening experience for Job to understand how truly small we are as human beings, compared to the Creator of the universe. We see here that YHVH gave Job understanding about the universe including the planets at that time, some of the things which were only 'discovered' during the middle ages by people like Copernicus.

Elohim continued to question Job, but also to educate him to understand what He has created for mankind's benefit. He did so until Job eventually came to the realization how insignificant we really are as human beings, and that our righteousness does not count for much, especially if we believe we are right all the time, and are able to do anything without Elohim's interaction. Job received victory amidst his affliction, when he confessed his problems to Elohim, as recorded in Job 42: 1 - 6, in this way: **'Then Job answered YHVH and said, (2) "I know that Thou canst do all things, and that no purpose of Thine can be thwarted. (3) Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge? Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know."** (4) **Hear, now, and I will speak; I will ask Thee, and do Thou instruct me. (5) I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye sees Thee; (6)**

***therefore I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes.***” Next YHVH told Job’s two friends that because they did not repent the way Job did, saying in verse 8: ***“Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, and go to My servant Job, and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves, and My servant Job will pray for you. For I will accept him so that I may not do with you according to your folly, because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has.”*** We see from verse 10, that after Job prayed for his friends, YHVH blessed him with double what he had before Satan began to afflict him with trouble and health problems, as follows: ***‘And YHVH restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends, and YHVH increased all that Job had twofold.’***

Nevertheless, we need to understand that not all our problems and infirmities are caused by demon affliction. In fact, some cases even originate with our Heavenly Father, as in the case of the blind man we discussed at the beginning of the lesson in John 9: 1 - 7. In this young man’s case YHVH caused his blindness, so that the work of YHVH might be displayed in his life. It is only in extreme cases that some health problems are caused by demon possession, as witnessed in Matthew 8: 14 - 17 , in this way: ***‘And when Yahshua had come to Peter’s home, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever. (15) And He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she arose, and waited on Him. (16) And when evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill (17) in order that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled saying, “HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND CARRIED AWAY OUR DISEASES.”*** As can be seen from verse 17, this was also done to prove that Yahshua was indeed the promised Messiah. We see a number of other instances where Yahshua healed demon-possessed individuals in:

- Matthew 9: 32 & 33, ***‘And as they were going out, behold, a dumb man, demon-possessed, was brought to Him. (33) And after the demon was cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the multitudes marveled, saying, “Nothing like this was ever seen in Israel.”***
- Matthew 12: 22, ***‘Then there was brought to Him a demon-possessed man who was blind and dumb, and He healed him, so that the dumb man spoke and saw.’***
- Mark 1: 23 – 26, ***‘And just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, (24) saying, “What do we have to do with You, Yahshua of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of Elohim!” (25) And Yahshua rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!” (26) And throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice, and came out of him.’***
- Matthew 17: 14 – 21, ***‘And when they came to the multitude, a man came up to Him, falling on his knees before Him and saying, (15) “Master, have mercy on my son, for he is a lunatic, and is very ill; for he often falls into the fire, and often into the water. (16) And I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not cure him.” (17) And Yahshua answered and said, “O unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him here to Me.” (18) And Yahshua rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured at once. (19) Then the disciples came to Yahshua privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” (20) And He said to them, “Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it shall move; and nothing shall be impossible to you. (21) But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”***

Even so, this does not mean that every affliction is caused by demon possession. The question is: Can a true believer be possessed by a demon? The answer is a resounding no, since the word ‘possessed’ means ownership, and neither demons nor Satan can own or possess a son or daughter of Elohim, as Rav Shaul explained in first Corinthians 6: 16 - 20, saying: ***‘Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a harlot is one body with her? For He says, “THE TWO WILL BECOME ONE FLESH.” (17) But the one who joins himself to YHVH is one spirit with Him. (18) Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. (19) Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Set-apart Spirit who is in you, whom you have from Elohim, and that you are not your own?’***

(20) ***For you have been bought with a price; therefore glorify Elohim in your body.*** Nevertheless, a demon can harass and afflict us. A case in point is the demonic fallen angel sent to afflict Rav Shaul by YHVH, as recorded in two Corinthians 12: 7 – 9, as follows: ***‘And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me—to keep me from exalting myself! (8) Concerning this I entreated the Master three times that it might depart from me. (9) And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Messiah may dwell in me.’*** The word translated as ‘messenger’ in verse 7 comes from the Greek word ‘Aggelos’ which is also translated as angel. In other words a fallen angel or demon, was assigned to Rav Shaul, in order to keep him humble.

Our Messiah constantly fought against the affliction of His people, as witnessed in Acts 10: 38, in this way: ***“You know of Yahshua of Nazareth, how Elohim anointed Him with the Set-apart Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for Elohim was with Him.”*** Messiah, with orders from our Elohim, imparted authority to his disciples to battle against affliction at any level: chemical, biological, environmental, diabolical or demonic, as recorded in Luke 9: 1 & 10: 19 & 20, as follows: ***‘And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons, and heal diseases.’ (10: 19) “Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall injure you. (20) Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.”*** But, what is casting out fear of affliction? It is definitely not our own might and mind to do what is right, but as recorded in first John 4: 18, ***‘There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.’*** Our motivation for obeying YHVH should not be because of fear, but we should serve Him because we obey and love Him as our heavenly Father, Creator and Sustainer.

Every fear you will ever have is covered by the four points mentioned in Psalm 91: 5 & 6 (cited earlier), in this way: ***‘You will not be afraid of the terror by night, or of the arrow that flies by day; (6) Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or of the destruction that lays waste at noon.’*** Whether it is a terminal disease, financial disaster or death in the family, it is all covered by these verses, as long as we are in an intimate relationship with Elohim; talking to Him often in prayer, but also listening to Him talking to us, by studying His instructions for us in His word, in whatever condition we may find ourselves in. We see from Mark 6: 31 that after Yochanan the Immerser were executed by King Herod, in order to give his daughter Yochanan’s head on a platter, Yahshua said to His disciples: ***“Come away by yourselves to a lonely place and rest for a while.” (for there were many people coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.)*** Yahshua was essentially saying to them, that if they do not get away and set themselves apart, the prevailing conditions will cause them to come apart. The truth is that if we do not set ourselves apart from what is happening in the world at this time, judgment and the things that are soon coming upon this world, will let us come apart at the seams. Satan is always trying to get us on a guilt trip for what we’ve done in the past. He makes us feel unworthy to receive healing because of sins we have committed, but we need to realize (as promised in first John 1: 9): ***‘If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.’***

Finally we read about (YHVH)’s forgiveness as described by King David in Psalm 103: 1 – 4 & 11 – 12, as follows: ***‘Bless YHVH, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name. (2) Bless YHVH, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits; (3) Who pardons all your iniquities; Who heals all your diseases; (4) Who redeems your life from the pit; Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion. (11) For as high is the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. (12) As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.’*** In conclusion Rav Yaa’cov adds the following advice in James 4: 7, saying: ***‘Submit therefore to Elohim. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.’*** Think about it!

#### Chapter 4: The mark of the beast.

To understand what the mark of the beast is, we need to use the Tanach as our dictionary for defining Scriptural words. This has always been the problem with the Book of Revelation, as people try to interpret the book of Revelation by taking the meaning of ancient Hebrew words and interpret them in Western/Greco/Roman terms. It is believed that the Renewed Covenant was originally written in either Hebrew or Aramaic, and not in Greek. It was translated into Greek by translators, and as a result some of the original meanings of the Hebrew text were misinterpreted, since the Greek translators wrote their own interpretation into the text. I also attach a short lesson in basic Kabbalah at the end, to explaining some of the terms that I am using in this sermon. Some of you will be familiar with these terms as we've discussed them during the counting of the Omer earlier this year.

To commence with we read from Revelation 13: 14, ***'And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life.'*** Notice carefully, it does not say in this chapter that this is the anti-Messiah. It is speaking of a false prophet – a wolf in sheep's clothing. He looks like a lamb, but speaks like a dragon. We see from verse 12, ***'And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence.'*** Also notice that verse 14 says ***'make an image'*** (transliterated in Hebrew as *'tzelem'*) to the beast that was wounded by the sword and has come to life. Many people interpret the sword spoken about here as a literal sword, however in Hebrew thinking the sword is a symbol for Torah, the word of Elohim. For example, when we read about Yahshua in Revelation 19 riding a white horse, ***"and from His mouth comes a sharp sword"***, it does not mean He has a literal sword coming out of His mouth – no, it is the word of Elohim that is in His mouth. So why do we take verse 14 literally? Various commentators and interpreters have decided what they will take literally and what is symbolic in the Book of Revelation, but none of it should be taken literally. This *"beast"* was wounded by the sword, yet it still lived. Continuing in verse 15, we read: ***'And there was given to him to give breath (life) to the image of the beast.'*** The first beast, the false prophet has that power. But who or what is a false prophet? Yahshua told us how to identify a false prophet, saying: ***"You will know them by their fruits."*** Such false prophets will lead you away from Torah. This is also how the original false prophet is identified in Deuteronomy 13: 1 – 3, as follows: ***"If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, (2) and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,' (3) you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for YHVH your Elohim is testing you to find out if you love YHVH your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul."*** The false prophet in Revelation gives life to this image that has been wounded with Torah, and has come to life. Continuing in verse 15, we read: ***'that the image of the beast might even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.'***

This is not a literal idol – but to understand what it is, we need to turn to the Tanach to see an example of another image, one of them being the image of Nebuchadnezzar in the book of Daniel. We read further from verses 16 – 18 of Revelation 13: ***'And he caused all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand, or on their forehead, (17) and he provides that no one should be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. (18) Here is wisdom ('chokmah'). Let him who has understanding ('binah') (by bringing wisdom {'chokmah'} and understanding {'binah'}) together, you get knowledge {da'at'}) calculate the number of the beast, the number, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.'*** The terms 'chokmah', 'binah' and 'da'at' are basically three of the ten sefirot to describe the 'Tree of Life' in Kabbalah, and consequently we will need Hebrew 'Gematria' (where values are assigned to each letter of the Hebrew Alphabet), to be able to calculate the number of the beast. Rav Yochanan gave us the key to understand what the beast is, by saying in verse 18, ***'the number is that of a man*** (not 'the' man). This is where most people start to misinterpret these verses. The Hebrew language do not have words like 'a' or 'an', but uses the definite article 'the' or 'ha'. In Hebrew 'ish' is referred to as 'a'

man. By adding a definite article you will read *'ha ish'* the man. Some have therefore incorrectly read verse 18 as *'the number is that of the man'*, but the Scripture says clearly it is the number of 'a' man, and as a result they have mistakenly inserted the anti-Christ in here. We also see from verse 18 that his number is 666. The number of the beast and the number of "a" man is 666. This number is not a tattoo or code put on the forehead or the right hand of those who worship the image of "the" beast. The transliterated Hebrew word for 'mark' is 'tav' not 'ot' which means a sign. 'Tav' is the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet and it means 'a signature'. By signing something you identify yourself as the originator or owner. But it can also sometimes mean 'desire' or 'mark'.

The transliterated Hebrew word for the beast is *'ha chayyah'* and in Greek the word is *'theroin'* meaning a wild animal, a beast. Strong's concordance has: **metaphorically – a brutal bestial man, a savage or a ferocious man**. That is also the key to understanding the number of the beast – 'ha Chayyah'. The word 'chayyah' is first used in Genesis 1: 24, as follows: ***'Then Elohim said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind; cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind"; and it was so.'*** These animals were living creatures with souls or life in them, created after their own kind. Different to animals, mankind who were also created (and are living souls), were also endowed with a spirit of man in us, giving us mind power enabling us to talk and make decisions, since we were created after the Elohim kind. Whereas animals operate purely on instinct, mankind have mind power to reason and make decisions, allowing us to build Elohim's character in us, by making decisions conforming to the instructions that He gave us in Torah. Even though mankind also operates on instinct, we are able to temper our instinct by making decisions in accordance with Torah. For example, when we are hungry, we may eat whatever we can find, but if we temper our instinct with Torah, we will make sure that whatever we eat is kosher in accordance with Torah. So, when we talk about the beast we are talking about the animalistic bestial nature of man, which is in each one of us.

When Messiah was impaled on the stake, He was impaled between two thieves, thereby becoming the middle column of the three columns in Kabbalah known as the 'Tree of Life'. The two thieves on each side of Him represented the two natures within man; the 'mensch' on the one side of Him in control of his instincts, and the bestial man on the other side, driven by instinct. The only way these two natures can be reconciled and brought into perfect balance is with the middle column, the embodiment of Torah or Messiah. Yahshua was impaled in the place called 'The Place of the Skull', in this case meaning the mind. So it is within the mind of man through Torah (or in our case Messiah the embodiment of Torah) that these two natures of man can dwell in perfect harmony. It is also for this reason that Yahshua said to His disciples (including us His modern day disciples) in Matthew 10: 28 that we must take up the crossbeam of our execution stakes daily, to ensure that we walk according to the way He interpreted Torah for us in Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7, or we are not worthy of Him. This word for **"living beast" 'chayyah'** – *'chet-yud-hei'* has a Gematria value of 23. Notice that the beast of Revelation continues to live even though it was wounded by the sword, or kept in submission by the Torah. But it still lived, didn't it? It also has the same Gematria as the Hebrew word (חַטָּא) *'chatta'ah'*, sin in Genesis 20: 9. The 'living beast' therefore represents sin or *'chatta'ah'*. Yes the animalistic nature in each one of us, even though tempered with Torah, makes us sin, at times.

Now in Revelation 13, it says that this number is a number of "a" man – we cross the "a" out of the text because it is just inferred in the Hebrew; and in the Hebrew this word is not "ish" – it is **Adam**. So let us read verse 18, as follows: ***'Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number of the beast ('Ha Chayyah' or mankind).'*** Since the word Adam does not only mean man, it can also mean mankind. Therefore this number, which he says, if you have wisdom and understanding you will understand that this is the number of the beast and the number of mankind, and his (beast and mankind) number is 666. But, understand that it does not in itself mean it is an evil number, since it is only a number, as much as 4 or 7 are only numbers. But in order to understand this, you have to have wisdom (*'chokmah'*); otherwise you will not buy or use anything containing the number 666. The words 'name' used in Revelation 13: 17 comes from the Greek word **'onoma'** (Strong's #3686), but it can also mean 'the

authority of'. So to have this name, or as it says, "the name of the beast, or the number of his name," it means the number of his authority. When we pray saying, 'In the name of Yahshua', we are doing it in His authority. So, verse 17 of Revelation 13 is saying, that you will not be able to buy or sell, unless you have the authority of the beast. Unless you have the 'tav' (signature) of the authority of the beast, you will not be able to buy or sell anything. It has nothing to do with a literal mark. Verse 16 talks about "a mark on their right hand, or on their foreheads." The Greek word used here is (Strong's #1188) – '*dexios*'; where the word "dexterity", which means 'right' is derived from. Some people work with their hands and some with their minds (heads); if you desist from working without the authority of the beast (on a Sabbath); you will not be paid, and cannot buy. The protective mark of Elohim is found in Revelation 12: 17, as follows: ***'And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of Elohim and hold to the testimony of Yahshua.'*** A second witness comes from Revelation 14: 12, in this way: ***'Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of Elohim and their faith in Yahshua.'*** But we also read from Revelation 22: 14 (KJV): ***'Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.'*** In 2 Thessalonians 2: 3, we read as follows: ***'Let no one in any way deceive you, for it (the day of YHVH) will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.'*** A man of lawlessness is a man who does not obey Torah, but we all have within us a man of lawlessness which we need to overcome (meaning we need to temper our animal instincts with Torah).

Let's at this point backtrack to consider the meaning of the word understanding (*binah*). The root of '*binah*' is '*hypponinun*' meaning meditation. The benefit of meditation ('*hypponinun*') brings understanding ('*Binah*'). Meditation means that we contemplate something so deeply and completely that we make ourselves understand all of its aspects. The word is used in respect to Elohim, and in this sense it is often a preparation for the mystical state, as seen in verses such as Job 37:14, where it says: '*Hypponi*' – to contemplate the wonders of Elohim; or in Psalm 107: 43 where it says: Contemplate the love of Elohim. So it is by meditating ('*hypponinut*') on the Torah, according to Psalm 119: 97 that we get a better understanding of the Torah. Also the word '*binah*' (understanding) is very closely related to the word '*beyn*' – meaning in between. Understanding is the act (in Hebrew) of separating one's mind, or examining something. Thus '*hypponi*' means to cause yourself to separate something in your mind. '*Binah*' is associated with the number 8, because it is represented by the eighth sefirot from '*malkuth*' (kingdom) at the bottom. The number eight deals with new beginnings or is beyond the natural realm - it brings you into the spiritual realm. The physical realm is associated with the number seven. Eight takes you one step up to the spiritual. That is why circumcision happens on the eighth day. The Tabernacle -Temple was dedicated on the eighth day. Psalm 119 has a pattern of eight verses for each of the 22 letters of the Hebrew Alphabet. '*Binah*' and eight are associated with the Feast of Shavuot, which is observed on the first day of the eighth week following the first annual Shabbat. In the 'Tree of Life' '*chokmah*' (wisdom) is on the right side and is called Father, and '*binah*' (understanding) on the left side is called Mother. When they come together in the middle column they are called '*da'at*' (knowledge) or the Son, because they are connected to '*Tipheret*'. '*Da'at*' connects them to '*Tipheret*' (beauty) the middle '*Sefirot*' which is called the heart (but also the Son).

We need to combine '*chokmah*' – right brain, archetypal images – with '*binah*' – the more logical thinking to get '*da'at*' – correct knowledge. It is necessary to combine both of these in order to gain knowledge of this beast, and "a" man, and the number. If you are not willing to combine *chokmah* and *binah*, then you will not know or understand this teaching. We have to understand that the false prophet represents a false righteousness, or a religion without the Torah. He is called the Torahless (lawless) man. It is the goal of the false prophet and the beast to separate the true bride (kingdom or '*Malkuth*') from its husband – '*Tipheret*'! Now the connector between '*malkuth*' (kingdom) and '*Tipheret*' (the son) is '*yesod*' – foundation. So it is a proper foundation that connects the bride to the groom. Yahshua has already defined foundation for us in his parable of the man who built his house upon the rock (in Matthew 7: 25). In Ephesians 2: 20 Rav Shaul says: ***"Built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, Messiah Yahshua Himself being the cornerstone."*** The separation of '*malkuth*' (kingdom or Shabbat - the bride) from '*Tipheret*' (beauty - the



groom) is directly connected to the scene of Adam. Remember Adam symbolizes all mankind. When they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they caused a break to happen among the 'sefirot', thus 'da'at' (knowledge which lies between 'chokmah' {wisdom} and 'binah' {understanding}) became corrupted and needs 'tikkun' (rectification). Now this 'tikkun' took place partially at Mount Sinai by the giving of Torah. We found out that if we meditate (*hypponinut*) upon the Torah we will gain understanding. There is a direct connection of what happened in the Garden of Eden with the serpent and sin separating Adam and Eve, or separating the 'malkuth' from the rest of the 'sefirot', and that is also happening here in the Book of Revelation.

Satan, the false prophet, who gives life to the beastly nature of man, is coming upon mankind to finish what he started with Adam – a total separation of the Kingdom (*Malkuth*) from the rest of the 'sefirot'. So people, who accept his number, place themselves in the camp of those taking part in this separation of the bride and the groom. If they accept this mark of 'the beast', and of fallen mankind, then they are not in the camp of Israel; they are in the camp that is responsible for separating the bride and the groom. These are those who teach the keeping of Sunday instead of the Sabbath which is sometimes referred to in Hebrew thinking as the bride and is a reminder of the coming kingdom of Elohim, but also those who teach that instead of looking forward to the Kingdom of Elohim, believers should aim to get to heaven, or will go to an eternal hellfire. 'Malkuth', since it is feminine, is also called the 'Shekinah', which is another word we use for 'Ruach Ha Kodesh' (Holy Spirit). Thus, the sin against the bride of the 'Shekinah' is the sin against the Holy Spirit, because it is separating the 'Shekinah' from the groom. This has major implications: Recall when Yahshua spoke about the unpardonable sin in Matthew 12: 32, saying: **"And whoever shall speak a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him, but whoever shall speak against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age, or in the age to come."** There is no forgiveness for the sin of blasphemy of the Holy Spirit; therefore according to the book of Revelation, there is no forgiveness for those who separate the bride and the groom – that what is being taught by the false church in Revelation 17. They receive the mark of the beast by keeping 'man's day' instead of the Sabbath.

Now let's continue with the number 666, because that is what everybody seems to focus on in this section. All the Kabbalistic concepts associated with the number six are foundational to understanding this passage. Let's therefore look at a Kabbalistic text about 'Tipheret'. The third letter of the Name of YHVH, the 'vav' has the numerical value of 6. The essence of the letter 'vav' includes the six spheres which are the numerical equivalent of the letter 'vav'. They are the three spheres of the upper half of 'vav' namely 'Chessed' (mercy), 'Gevurah' (judgment or power), and 'Tipheret' (beauty) called 'Zier Anpin' (the lesser face or countenance); plus the three spheres of the lower half, namely 'Netzah' (victory), 'Hod' (glory), and 'Yesod' (foundation). Therefore, the letter vav of this special Name of YHVH stands in place of the complete Name. This letter contains the secret of tying all the upper and lower spheres together – it is the connector. It ascends to 'Kether' (the crown), and descends to 'Malkuth' (kingdom) and it suits all the spheres for all are united in the vav, whether they are above or below, to the right or to the left, it is called the center line (center column). This great Name YHVH is the attribute the Kabbalists call the middle line. The meaning of the term "middle line" is the essence of the letter vav as found in the Name YHVH, and it stands in the place where the Name is. It is the Son, which stands in place of the Name YHVH. It is like an intermediary line, thus the Name ascends ever upward until the Ein Sof (the Infinite), the All Knowing – as the essence of 'Kether' unites with the Name Chayyah (man)– which is the essence of the heavenly line, and then returns to unite below with the Name Adonai (Master). After this he returns and extends to all sides and all sides in every direction hold fast to him. One finds that the letter 'vav' is the Name of YHVH, may He be blessed, stands in the place of the Holy Name, and to it all the other names of Israel hold fast; the 'vav' holds the souls of all Israel together. Jacob's ladder which extends from the crown ('Kether') to the Kingdom ('Malkuth') – from heaven to earth is representative of the Son. Now it is the expressed purpose of the 'Tzaddik' (the righteous man) to unite the heavens and the earth. The mission of the false 'tzaddik' and his agents is to disconnect the heavens and the earth, or the throne with the kingdom 'malkuth'. According to the Rabbis, the pillar of the cloud that moved before ancient Israel and stood behind them, has always been seen as the Shekinah, and is also the cloud

which Moses entered to receive Torah. One of these Rabbis also said that the cloud supports the Tzaddik. This idea of the link between the cloud and the great Tsaddik (Messiah) is also found in the Renewed Covenant, as follows:

- **Matthew 17: 5, 'While he was still speaking behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them and behold a voice came out of the clouds saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, listen to Him."'**
- **Matthew 24: 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 heaven with power and great glory."**
- **Acts 1: 9, 'And after He has said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.'**

Let us get into some math for a better understanding. Sixty is ten times six, and six hundred is ten times sixty. Now what is the significance of that? Remember **the vav is the power which links together the souls of all Israel** - it is the body. We read from first Corinthians 12: 27, Rav Shaul saying: **'Now you are Messiah's body, and individually members of it.'** Vav, which represents connection, is the 6<sup>th</sup> word of the Torah in the very beginning, but it is also the 22<sup>nd</sup> letter of the Torah. And being the 22<sup>nd</sup> letter of the Torah in Genesis, it is representative of the Aleph and the Tav -the first and last letters of the Alphabet, the Son. So it is the Son, Messiah Yahshua that is the connection between the heaven and the earth. When the 'vav' is added to a Hebrew word, it has the ability to change the past to future, and the future to the past so that they become one. It is representative of twelve columns in Creation, representative of the twelve tribes, which make up the body. Messiah is the embodiment of all twelve tribes - He is the body, the 'vav' connection. That is why you have to be in Messiah to be in the body. The 'vav' is representative of the pillar of the Messiah. It is the middle pillar of 'Emet' – Truth, which is represented by 'Tipheret'. 'Emet' is spelled 'aleph-mem-tav'; in 'Emet' we have the first letter of the Hebrew Alphabet, the middle letter, and the last letter, thus truth encompasses all twenty-two letters of the Torah. It is also representative of a hook that holds the veil in the Tabernacle. What was the purpose of the veil? It was to conceal the Holy of Holies. What is the name of the book we are studying at present? Revelation, which means, tearing or opening of the veil. In the book of Hebrews 10: 19 & 20, we read: **'Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Yahshua, (20) by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh.'** When it is holding the veil, it separates the heaven from the earth, but with the book of Revelation there is an opening to give us understanding of the heavenly.

The word "Bereshith" (Genesis) has six letters. The Kabbalists separate the word 'Bereshith' into 'Bere – shith', meaning created six. In the first sentence of Genesis there are six 'alephs', representative of six thousand years but also of the six days of Creation. Now let us take a look at these numbers 60 and 600. The numerical value of the letter 'samech' is 60, while the numerical of the final 'mem' is 600. The final 'mem' (◻) is a closed 'mem'. Recall the prophecy of Messiah in Isaiah 9: 6, where it talks about a virgin, a young woman who never had relations with a man, who will be with child – it is talking about a closed 'mem', which is again symbolic of Messiah. It has the value of 600, whereas the value of an open 'mem' (◻) used in the middle of a word is 40. The only completely closed letters in the Hebrew Alphabet are the 'samech' (◻) and the final 'mem' (◻). One is a circle, the other is a square. The closed mem is called 'the coming world,' and the samech is called 'the future to come.' 'The future to come' is even a higher revelation than that of 'the coming world.' The 'future to come', the secret of samech, is the absolute revelation of the future incomprehensible at the present time. No eye has ever seen Elohim except Yahshua who came to reveal Him. According to one tradition, based upon the teachings of Kabbalah, the wedding ring placed by the groom on the pointing finger of the bride is in the form of a circle – samech, inside a square – the final mem. The pointing finger of the bride points to the revelation of the future and the future to come within the coming world. Thus, we are given a total 'tikkun' (repair) of the bride and the groom in Revelation.

We have some very interesting numbers in Daniel 3: 1 in the image of the beast of Nebuchadnezzar, as follows: **'Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, the height of which was sixty cubits and its**

***width six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.*** King Nebuchadnezzar wanted to challenge the throne of Elohim, since he wanted the inhabitants of Babylon to bow down to the image of the beast, representing him and not worship YHVH. According to the Tov Donu School of Kabbalah, which originated in Spain, we go down the left side of the 'Tree of Life'. The path from 'binah' to 'gevurah' is represented by the letter 'vav', and has a numerical value of 6; the path descending from 'gevurah' to 'hod' is represented by the letter 'samech' with the value of 60; and the path down the left side between 'hod' and 'malkuth' is represented by the letter 'tav' with the value of 400. This brings the total to 466. When Satan fell from the third heaven to the earth, he fell down the left path, thrown from 'binah' down to 'malkuth'. He wanted to elevate himself to the world of 'yesod' – foundation in an attempt to get to the throne, to present himself as the 'tsaddik' (Messiah), whilst he is really a false 'tsaddik' - a false righteousness. So he has elevated himself to the realm of 'yesod' as the false 'tzaddik'. This path, from 'malkuth' to 'yesod', is representative in this particular Spanish school as the 'resh', which has a numerical value of 200, bringing the total to 666. Thus the path of Satan falling from 'binah' clear down to 'malkuth', and then once again exalting himself to 'yesod' equals 666 – which is a 'vav-samech-tav-resh'. The same number given in Revelation 13: 18, as follows: ***'Here is wisdom ('chokmah'). Let him who has understanding ('binah') (by bringing wisdom 'chokmah' and understanding 'binah' together, you get knowledge 'da'at') calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.'*** Here is wisdom! He who has understanding, let him calculate the number of the beastly man (or the beastly nature of man), for it is the number of fallen mankind (instigated by Satan) and he has fallen from his heavenly realms to the earthly realms. What happened when Adam fell? He fell from the heavenly realm into the 'malkuth', or physical realm. He has tried to elevate himself to 'yesod' through a false righteousness without Messiah and the Torah. Thus, the total deception, the lie of Satan (false righteousness without Torah and Yahshua) is the Gematria of 666! Mankind like Satan has always tried to elevate himself to the throne of Elohim through a false righteousness.

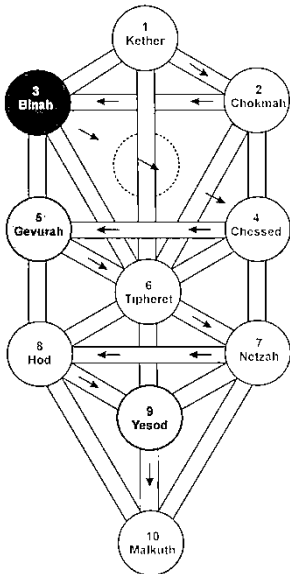
In the Kabbalah of Orthodox Judaism, the 32<sup>nd</sup> path between 'malkuth' and 'yesod' is 'tav' and as such this path is also the first step to mystic and psychic awareness. If we are marked with a 'tav' we have the authority of Yahshua and everything is in its proper course. It is through this thirty-second path at which students begin to explore the 'Tree of Life', as well as their own inner selves. Thus we begin the journey in our physical forms, yet we turn our minds to the incorporeal world. On this path we must learn to accept the fact that the Divine force is present in the physical environment just as it is in the celestial realms. Traveling upon this route has been likened to a journey through the underworld, which is symbolic of the subconscious. A pilgrimage through the underworld of one's own unconscious mind is a trek through a land of shadows and phantoms of one's own making. These personal demons must be sufficiently dealt with, or reconciled, before any spiritual progress can be made. The letter of this path 'tav' is the final letter of the Hebrew Alphabet. The letters 'aleph' and 'tav' are symbolic of the beginning and the end. 'Tav' means an emblem used for marking, sealing or signing. The path of 'tav' is therefore the '*Bereshith*' (the beginning) of a new spiritual type of existence, and the completion of an old mundane one. On the tree of life, the 32<sup>nd</sup> path marks and seals the end of Divine manifestation. The student who ascends through the path of 'tav' has been marked or sealed with the Set-apart Spirit of a new life. We read in the Book of Revelation that those who have Messiah, and those that do Torah receive a mark of protection from Elohim, symbolizing a new manifestation, a new realm of existence for those who refuse to live according to the bestial savage man and take the number of false righteousness (the lie of Satan), and refuse to worship its image (the false church) that has been created by men (society/the world).

Throughout the book of Revelation, "great promises await those who overcome." What do we overcome? We overcome our own beastly/fallen nature, Satan's lie (false righteousness) and the false teachings of the churches of the world. We read according to Revelation 21: 7, ***"He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his Elohim and he will be My son."*** You will be entering into a new realm of existence in the Kingdom of Elohim, that you never even dreamed of, the total rectification of all things. Think about it!

Basic Kabbalah.

The Scriptures assign certain attributes to Elohim, which are depicted in Judaism in the form of emanations called sefirot. These are simply the qualities of Elohim's character, some of which we are required to develop in order to conform to the image of Elohim during the time when we count the Omer between Passover and Pentecost annually. These attributes can be clearly seen in the Tanach in the following passages:

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



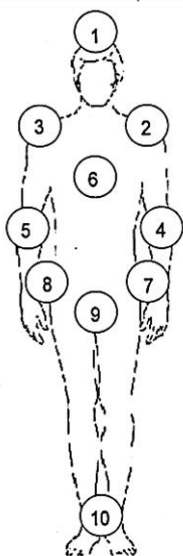
These attributes list out as follows:

1. The Spirit of YHVH (called Crown [Kether]).
2. Wisdom (Chokmah).
3. Understanding (Binah).
4. Mercy (Chessed)
5. Severity (Gevurah or power).
6. Harmony/Beauty (Tipheret).
7. Victory (Netzah).
8. Splendor (Hod).
9. Foundation (Yesod).
10. Kingdom/Kingship (Malkuth).

These attributes are laid out in the chart depicted on the left called 'The Tree of Life'. Even though Da'at is left blank in the 'Tree of Life', it comes to the fore only when wisdom and understanding are combined to give Da'at meaning knowledge. We are all aware that we were in the beginning created in the image (or likeness) of Elohim. We also know from Colossians 1: 13 – 15 that Yahshua is the image of the invisible Elohim, as follows: **'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 (from the dead) of all creation.'** A second witness to this comes from 2 Corinthians 4: 3 & 4, as follows: **'And even**

**if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, (4) in whose case the god of this world (Satan) has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Messiah, who is the image of Elohim.'** We therefore look like the image of Elohim, namely Yahshua.

Even though Elohim is invisible, he appeared to our patriarchs in the Tanach, one example being in Genesis 18: 1 & 2, where we read:



**'Now YHVH appeared to him (Abraham) by the oaks of Mamre, while he was sitting at the tent door in the heat of the day. (2) And when he lifted up his eyes and look, behold, three men were standing opposite him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the earth.'** These three men who appeared to Abraham were simply two angels (as may be seen from Genesis 19: 1) accompanied by the Word of YHVH or the visible Image of the invisible Elohim, since we are told in 1 Timothy 6: 16, that no man has seen or can see Elohim. The ten sefirot do not only appear in the shape of the Tree of life, but also appear in the form of primal man known as the 'Adam Kadmon', (YHVH)'s model for earthly man. Kabbalists agree with John 1: 1 – 3 that Adam Kadmon (also referred to as the 'memra', which is Aramiac for the word of Elohim) was not only the image of Elohim, He was actually Elohim Himself. We therefore also include the picture of the ten sefirot in the Image of Elohim. The Adam Kadmon was the figure that Ezekiel saw in Ezekiel 1: 26 as *'a figure with the appearance of a man.'* We also read in first Kings 19: 9 that the word of YHVH came to Samuel. Similarly we read from the first part of Psalm 33: 6, **'By the word of YHVH the heavens were made.'**

The first three attributes; namely the Crown, Wisdom and Understanding relate to the Helmet of Salvation. The second three attributes; namely Harmony (or beauty), Mercy and Severity (or power) relate to the heart or Breastplate of Righteousness. The third three attributes; namely Victory, Splendor and Foundation relate to the groin or The Belt of Truth. And the last attribute; namely Kingdom relates to the feet or Shoes of Peace or Nobility (Kingship).

## Chapter 5: The sin of double-mindedness.

How is it possible that almost the whole world believes differently to what we as Nazarene Jews/Israelites believe? As Nazarene Jews/Israelites we believe that we should keep Torah, the teachings of Elohim and have faith in Yahshua, meaning to believe both in His saving Name and in what He taught whilst He was on earth. We know that the majority of Christianity believes that Messiah the one they referred to as J\*e\*s\*u\*s\* has either abolished Torah or have somehow 'fulfilled' it for them, so that they are not obliged to keep it any longer.

Even so, we are aware of numerous scriptures showing that obedience to Elohim's teachings places us within His special protection; one of them being Deuteronomy 28: 1 – 14, where we read: ***"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 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 offspring of your beast and in 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."*** In verses 15 on to the end of Chapter 28, we read about the curses that will affect us if we do not obey Elohim's commandments. We see for example from verses 58 – 61, ***"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 on you 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."***

From this we understand that keeping Elohim's commandments is for our own good, but we are also familiar with Yahshua teaching in John 5: 43 – 47, where He said: ***"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? (45) Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope. (46) For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote of Me. (47) But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"*** In addition Yahshua taught in Matthew 5: 17 – 19, saying: ***"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. (18) For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished. (19) Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches 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."*** It is clear therefore that Yahshua did not abolish or obeyed Torah on our behalf, but came to show us how to keep it according to His stricter way

of interpreting it, as He explained in Matthew 5, 6 and 7. Considering the wonderful blessings and benefits to be had by obeying Elohim's Law, it should be easy for us to see the evil motive behind the idea that it is abolished. Who could possibly want us to remove the protective wall that Elohim places around those who are obedient to His teachings, from them? Who has a vested interest in keeping believers defenseless against Satan's offenses on those who rebel against Elohim's teachings? It can only be Satan the devil, who himself rebelled against Elohim's authority and has deceived the whole world. Satan wants us to stand absolutely defenseless before him, so that he may destroy us from attaining positions of rulership in Elohim's coming kingdom; positions he and his fallen angels had before he and a third of the angels followed him in rebellion against Elohim.

By getting us to disobey YHVH our Elohim, he does not only get us to remove Elohim's protective wall around us, but when he succeeds in getting us to reject most of the truths written in the word of Elohim, he causes us to offend Elohim and let us fall outside of the realm of His blessings. Fact is, we are at war here on earth, and if we do wake up from the trance we have allowed ourselves to come under, we will be swept away with the rest of mankind, when the great tribulation finally comes upon the whole world. Rav Kepha warned us about Satan and his tactics in first Peter 5: 8, saying: ***"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."*** This is confirmed in Revelation 12: 7 – 9, as follows: ***"And there was war in the heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. And the dragon and his angels waged war, (8) and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. (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."*** Satan does not have the power to remove the defenses that YHVH places around us. The only way that he is able to remove our protection from us, is to get us to remove it ourselves. How does Satan get us to willingly destroy our defenses against him? Whilst Yahshua our Messiah was on earth, Satan came to Him tempting Him by quoting scriptures. He tried to trick Yahshua by twisting and misusing scriptures and he uses exactly the same tactics to deceive true believers to believe that the Law or Torah was nailed to the tree of Calvary.

Let's consider one of the scriptures Satan and his false prophets use to convince believers to believe this big lie. We turn to this particular scripture 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."*** Let's analyze to understand what Rav Shaul was saying in this verse. One thing is certain; it is definitely not saying the Law is nailed to the cross. No, it is saying that the certificate of debt – a document informing us about the punishment due to us for breaking specific commandments of Elohim, the decree which is hostile to the sinner – because it specifies the punishment that will affect them adversely for the commandments they have transgressed, nailing it (the document listing our sins) to the cross. An example which most of us will understand is that when someone else such as a loving father has paid the traffic fine for his son, because the son has exceeded the speed limit and was given a traffic ticket, specifying the amount that must be paid for contravening the traffic ordinance. This means the son does not have to be punished, because his father took the decree against his son, for him. However, if his son exceeds the speed limit again and is caught, even though he was set free from the punishment of the traffic law before, he will again have to pay for his own mistakes. In addition if he wants to remain free from the punishment traffic offenders have to pay, he will have to start obeying the traffic laws applicable in the country or region in which he resides. YHVH similarly gave us His commandments, statutes (which specifies the commandments in more detail) and judgments (which describes the punishment due to offenders of the commandments and statutes), to ensure that we live happy, abundant lives, but because of our human nature, which we inherited from Satan the devil, we do not want anybody to tell us how to live. Even though Messiah redeemed us from the power of the grave - the judgments due to us; namely that most of us should be stoned to death for either blaspheming, cursing or not honoring our parents, or worshipping an image of a man bearing a thorn crown on a cross made from wood or stone, all deeds prohibited by Elohim), by paying for our past sins, we are even now required to keep His commandments, which He gave for our good. Yes, deny it as much as you like, we are still required to keep the teachings of Elohim, as they will remain

applicable today as it was yesterday and will be forever. A witness to the law still being applicable to those of us who believe in Messiah, 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."** It is therefore time, to stop doubting the tenets of our faith, as we read from first John 2: 3 & 4, in this way: **'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.'**

The point is, YHVH placed the law of cause and effect into place right at the beginning, like the law of gravity, and they are there for our good. But if we contravene these laws, including the law of gravity we might come to a sudden end, whether we like it or not. It is for this reason that we have to teach our children these laws, to ensure that they have a long and abundant life. Yahshua came specifically to bring the lost ten tribes back to the covenant that we together with our Jewish Brothers made with YHVH at Mount Sinai, as He clearly told the woman who asked Him to heal her daughter in Matthew 15: 24, saying: **'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.'** But, because very few people alive today, know who the lost sheep of the house of Israel are, they have no idea what He was saying. Fact is that very few people believe that Yahshua was a Jew; because they hate anything that is even closely related to Judaism. Why is that? The reason, whether you like it or not, is because they know what sin is, since they have always, from the time we received the oracles of Elohim at Mount Sinai, remembered and kept Elohim's commandments, and know what sin is. Most non-Jews do not ever want to be told that they are doing things wrong, and here are people who know and live by Elohim's commandments opposite to what most in society do and believe. There are some Nazarene/Messianic Israelites who teach that because the Jews have become unfaithful to Elohim's laws, He took the oracles away from them, and have now given it to them, despite the fact that they have only for the past forty years or so, tried to obey some of Elohim's given commandments. If the Jews were not the most hated nation on the earth, I would have perhaps agreed with these Nazarenes who like to call themselves, the Church of G-d, or the Assemblies of YHVH, but Rav Shaul clearly wrote for all to see in Romans 3: 3 & 4, saying: **'What then? If some did not believe, their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of Elohim, will it? (4) May it never be! Rather, let Elohim be found true, though every man be found a liar, as it is written, "THAT THOU MIGHTEST BE JUSTIFIED IN THY WORDS, AND MIGHTEST PREVAIL WHEN THOU ART JUDGED."**

Nevertheless are you one hundred percent convicted of your faith in Yahshua our Messiah? Do you doubt certain of the beliefs that we hold? Are you totally certain about the calendar that we follow, or do you question our beliefs regarding what happens when we die? Faith is a very personal thing and once you found truth, you should never let go of it, as Yahshua also explained in the parable of the pearl of great price In Matthew 13: 45 & 46, saying: **"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, (46) and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went out and sold all that he had, and bought it."** In ancient times pearls were considered the most precious of gems and were highly valued ornaments, and it is also for this reason that the word of Elohim, is used symbolically for things of great value, such as for example wise sayings or teachings. Those people who have been teaching Elohim's people Scriptural truths are referred to in the Scriptures as dealers who 'markets' spiritual truths about the kingdom of Elohim, as Yahshua explained in Matthew 25: 5 – 9, saying: **"Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep. (6) But at midnight there was a shout, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' (7) Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. (8) And the foolish said to the prudent, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' (9) But the prudent answered, saying, 'No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.'" Even though we are referred to as dealers, we should never sell the truths that we learnt about the kingdom of Elohim, as we have received it freely ourselves. But, the point is, that we should never be doubtful or double-minded about the truths that come from the Scriptures, which we have confirmed by two or three witnesses. We should also be careful to obtain teachings from teachers who are double-minded; else we could be influenced to imitate their double-mindedness. I have in the past met teachers who were doubtful and even told me that they are in two minds about what they believe, by saying: *'You might be right, or we might be right.'* We should only teach truths that come from Scriptures and about which we are totally sure, as Rav Yaa'cov**

warned anyone who teaches others in James 3: 1, saying: ***‘Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment.’*** At this time I am confident to say, that I have found that pearl of great price, mentioned by Yahshua our Messiah in Matthew 13, and I believe it with all my heart and soul. Rav Yaa’cov used the phrase *‘double-minded’* twice in his letter to the twelve tribes dispersed abroad. Double-mindedness is a major character flaw in the life of any believer, and it can show itself in a number of areas in our lives. It makes us doubt ourselves, our faith and affects everything else we do in our lives. It makes us hesitant to make those quick decisions so necessary in our everyday lives; it is literally as the saying goes: *‘He who hesitates is lost.’* Rav Yaa’cov used the phrase to portray an individual who is unsure, wavering, two-faced, half-hearted and hesitant regarding most of his/her beliefs and actions in life.

But whilst dealing with the topic of double-mindedness, I would like to clear up another misconception: There are teachers who teach that Yochanan the Immerser was having a double-minded moment when he was in prison, before being killed by King Herod upon a request of Herod’s daughter. But the truth is just the opposite, as Yahshua told us about Yochanan the Immerser in Matthew 11: 2 & 3, as follows: ***‘Now when John in prison heard of the works of Messiah, he sent word by his disciples, (3) and said to Him (Yahshua), “Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?”*** This sounds like Yochanan was definitely having a moment of doubt, doesn’t it? Is it possible that he actually had second thoughts about the identity of Yahshua? Could Yochanan still have doubts – even after he had heard a voice from heaven after immersing Yahshua, as recorded in Luke 3: 21 & 22, in this way: ***‘Now it came about when all the people were immersed, that Yahshua also was immersed, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, (22) and the Set-apart Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, “Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well-pleased.”’*** Could Yochanan really have second thoughts? – Even after He himself testified in John 1: 32 – 34, saying: ***“I have beheld the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. (33) And I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to immerse in water said to me, ‘He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the one who immerses in the Set-apart Spirit.’ (34) And I have seen, and have borne witness that this is the Son of Elohim.”*** But, if Yochanan was not doubting that Yahshua was the Messiah, then what was the meaning of his question ***“Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?”*** Let me explain - there could be two reasons for Yochanan’s question. In the Dead Sea scrolls, in the writings of the Qumran community, they mention two Messiah’s; the first being a Priestly Messiah and the second being a Teacher of Righteousness. Many scholars agree that the Qumran community had a great influence in what Yochanan the Immerser believed, but this is not the answer. The answer is to be found in Rabbinic Literature, where there is also the belief that there would be two Messiah’s: The first Messiah will be the suffering Messiah – He would suffer for the sins of His people Israel, and is the fulfillment of prophecies such as Isaiah 53 and Zechariah 9: 9. He is known in their literature as Messiah the son of Joseph, since his suffering is compared to that of Jacob’s son, Joseph, who suffered at the hands of his brothers, but afterwards forgave them. The second Messiah will be called, Messiah son of David: He is the Messiah who will fulfill all the prophecies of the kingly Messiah and bring victory over all the oppressors of Israel.

While Rabbinic tradition was not recorded until the second century CE, we may still assume that it reflects Jewish thought of the first century CE, during which Yahshua lived. Could this have been Yochanan’s question in wanting to know: ***‘Are you Messiah, son of Joseph as well as Messiah, son of David? Or, should we expect another one to come and rule?’*** This seems to be the most likely answer, since Yochanan already identified Yahshua in John 1: 29, in this way: ***“Behold, the Lamb of Elohim who takes away the sin of the world!”*** It also seems probable if we consider the way in which Yahshua answered Yochanan’s question in Matthew 11: 4 - 5, where Yahshua said to them: ***“Go and report to John what you hear and see: (5) the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.”*** We read Yahshua’s words, yet, somehow we fail to fully understand their intended meaning; Yahshua’s reply to Yochanan was in fact quotes from prophecies by Isaiah about Him as we read from Isaiah 61: 1, as follows: ***‘The Spirit of YHVH Elohim is upon me, because YHVH has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to***



***bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to prisoners.***’ Yahshua was in fact speaking about passages in Isaiah concerning the coming of the Kingdom of Elohim and Yochanan was quite familiar with these prophecies; the second part of what He said came from Isaiah 35: 3, 5 & 6, in this way: ***‘Encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble. (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.’***

This would certainly have been very welcome and comforting news to Yochanan, as he sat in the darkness of his prison cell, and these would certainly have been the things that Yochanan would have expected the Messiah, son of David to do. So we see that the answer that Yahshua send Yochanan confirmed His dual roles. Yahshua’s final words to Yochanan, knowing that he would not be released from prison and would meet his end there, encourage him to hold on to his faith by saying in Matthew 11: 6, ***“And blessed is he who keeps from stumbling over Me.”*** Yahshua, sensing that the crowd and future pastors, might think that Yochanan was in doubt about Him, speaks of His confidence in Yochanan as He continues in Matthew 11: 7, saying: ***“What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? Even though many false teachers assume that Yochanan was in two minds about who Messiah is, Yahshua assured the crowd that Yochanan’s faith will not fail and that he will not succumb to Herod’s pressure, because Yochanan was indeed the one chosen by Elohim to prepare the way for Messiah. We read Yahshua’s words accordingly from verses 8 – 10 of Matthew 11, saying: “But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ palaces. (9) But why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I say to you, and one who is more than a prophet. (10) This is the one about whom it is written, ‘BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER BEFORE YOUR FACE, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.’”***

Yahshua continued in verse 11 of Matthew 11, saying: ***‘Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than Yochanan the Immerser; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.’*** Even though Yahshua said that there is no human being greater than Yochanan, He turned His statement around by adding the words: ***‘yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.’*** Does this mean that Yochanan will really be least in the kingdom of heaven? I do not think so, since Yahshua’s words simply reflect the nature of the coming Kingdom of Elohim. Yahshua’s concern was always with the least, the poor in spirit, the broken hearted, and the meek – for they will be great in the Kingdom of Elohim. The first will be last and the last will be first, and even though Yochanan is the greatest of all human beings, Yahshua simply said that greatness in the Kingdom of Elohim will not be measured by human standards. It is as we read about our calling from first Corinthians 1: 26 – 29 in this way: ***‘For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; (27) but Elohim has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and Elohim has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, (28) and the base things of the world and the despised, Elohim has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are, (29) that no man should boast before Elohim.’*** We see here that Yochanan had his question answered, but we have also been given an example of the recurring theme taught by Yahshua, namely: ***‘To be great in the kingdom of Elohim, we must humble ourselves in this life, even to becoming like little children in obedience to their parents.’***

Like little children, we should not be double-minded. Yaa’cov’s first concern about double-mindedness was in the area of prayer, as we read from James 1: 5 - 8, as follows: ***‘But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of Elohim, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him, (6) But let him ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. (7) For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from YHVH, (8) being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.’*** If we pray asking YHVH to heal us with doubt in our minds, we will definitely not be healed! But if we ask knowing that He will heal us, healing will start immediately. What Yaa’cov is teaching here is in agreement with what we read from Hebrews 11: 6, in this way: ***‘And without faith it is impossible to please Him (Elohim), for he who comes to Elohim must believe that He is (or exists),***

**and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.'** Even so, we also need to be ever mindful what we ask of Elohim, as Yaa'cov warned in James 4: 3, saying: **'You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.'** Yaa'cov's second concern about double-mindedness entails what we do with the information that we read and hear from the Scriptures, as we read from James 1: 22 – 25, as follows: **'But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. (23) For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; (24) for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. (25) But one who looks intently at the perfect law (Torah), the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.'** How do you react to the things you read in the Scriptures? Do you try and find ways to avoid areas that you consider difficult to accept, or do you study the Scriptures with the view to get to know Elohim and to become more obedient. As believers in Torah and Messiah, we should go beyond feeling good, we should actually strive to do good, as Yaa'cov wrote in James 1: 26 & 27, saying: **'If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless. (27) This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our Elohim and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.'**

In James 2: 1 – 7, Yaa'cov deals with double-mindedness in the treatment we meet out to fellow believers. He asks if we treat all our brethren the same; or do we treat those with an abundance of wealth and goods better than those who are poor. In verses 8 - 10 of James 2, Yaa'cov wrote: **'If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law, according to the Scripture, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF," you are doing well. (9) But if you show partiality you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. (10) For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.'** This is totally contrary to what Churchianity would like us to believe, as we read from verses 14 & 20 - 26, as follows: **'What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him? (20) But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? (21) Was not Abraham our Father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? (22) You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; (23) and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED ELOHIM, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS," and he was called the friend of Elohim. (24) You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone. (25) And in the same way was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works, when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? (26) For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.'**

Yahshua prophesied about His return in Matthew 7: 21 – 23, when many of those who say they believe in Him, will be disappointed because of lawlessness, saying: **"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Master, Master,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father which is in heaven. (22) Many will say to Me on that day, 'Master, Master, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' (23) And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'"** The point is that if we serve YHVH, He wants us to do what is pleasing in His sight, not what seems right to us, or what we feel in our hearts. With the Scriptures as our navigational instrument, we should know exactly where we are going. We may say that we believe in Yahshua, but need to remember that YHVH only listens to those who obey Him fully, as recorded in 1 John 3: 22, like this: **'And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.'** It is as we read from Proverbs 28: 9, **'He who turns away his ear from listening to the law, even his prayer is an abomination.'** Let's therefore determine to serve YHVH our Elohim whole heartedly, without any doubt. Amein!

## Chapter 6: Doctrines about which many Nazarene/Messianic Israelite and like-minded believers disagree.

Why is it that many Nazarene/Messianic Israelite and like-minded believers disagree about basic doctrines which they all say they get from basically the same Scriptures or word of Elohim? After having been part of such believers for about 44 years, and because I have been a qualified Business Analyst, for about 35 years of my working life, I believe I am able to give you the answer. I started studying the material of the Church of G-d, which mostly agrees with what we believe even now, 44 years ago. Their doctrine is also in the main similar that of the Assemblies of YHVH except that they continued to use Christian titles for the Father and Messiah. When the Church of G-d, finally split up in 1994, my wife and I joined one of their remaining offshoots, but also started learning from Jewish and other teachers.

We finally left the Churches of G-d, after the Feast of Tabernacles in 1999. The reason was that at that time, we have become aware of the Oneness of Elohim, by studying Torah and through teachings from Jewish teachers. So, when attending that final Feast of Tabernacles with those people who started us on the road to the truth, we left, because after reading the Sh'ma in Deuteronomy 6: 4 in a sermon, as follows: ***"Hear, O Israel! YHVH is our Elohim – YHVH is one"***, the minister said: *'But, we know, He is two.'* Having studied the subject of the Oneness of Elohim, for a few years by then, my wife and I decided to join 'The Nazarene Israelite Two House Congregations' with headquarters in the USA, since we came to believe, as they also confess, that our faith is totally Jewish, except that we also believe in Yahshua the Messiah. In fact a fourth century 'Church father' named Epiphanius (ca. A.D. 315 – 403), described the Nazarenes as follows: ***'But these sectarians...did not call themselves Christians – but "Nazarenes,"...However they are simply complete Jews. They use not only the New Testament but the Old Testament as well, as the Jews do... They have no different ideas, but confess everything exactly as the Law proclaims it and in the Jewish fashion except for their belief in Messiah, if you please! For they acknowledge both the resurrection of the dead and the divine creation of all things, and declare that G-d is one, and that his son is Y'shua the Messiah. They are trained to a nicety in Hebrew. For among them the entire Law, the Prophets, and the ...Writings... are read in Hebrew, as they surely are by the Jews. They are different from the Jews, and different from Christians, only in the following. They disagree with Jews because they have come to faith in Messiah; but since they are still fettered by the Law...circumcision, the Sabbath, and the rest...they are not in accord with Christians...they are nothing but Jews... They have the Goodnews according to Matthew in its entirety in Hebrew. For it is clear that they still preserve this, in the Hebrew alphabet, as it was originally written.'***

It is because our faith is Jewish, that we are required to believe and say the Sh'ma twice a day, without any doubt and with the Scriptures as our only guide to proof or to justify this belief. Now to answer the question asked at the beginning, let me explain why there are basic doctrines about which many could not agree to date. I believe a major reason being that as Nazarene Jews we like all Jews throughout the world, have a system whereby we study the Torah, the Prophets and Writings (known as the Tanach), but also related Renewed Covenant portions (in Christian terms, meaning the so-called 'Old Testament' and 'New Testament) annually from one end to the other. This is in agreement with what believers in Messiah known as the sect of the Nazarenes (as witnessed in Acts 24: 5 & 14) used to do immediately after Messiah's ascension to heaven, as recorded in Acts 13: 14 - 16, in this way: ***'But going on from Perga, they arrived at Pisidian Antioch, and on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. (15) And after reading of the Law and the Prophets the synagogue officials sent to them, saying, "Brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say it."*** We know that members of the Churches of G-d and the Assemblies also believe the writings of Moses, but they do not have this custom of rereading the same information annually. Point is, we do not only study the same information over and over, but our teachers also interpret the information contained in these sections, in the light of what other Scriptures have to say

about the same. Even though it sounds like a lot of repetition, that is in fact the only way we as human beings learn; in addition new truths are continuously coming to the fore, by going over the same Scriptures again, year after year. But, by also studying the history of our ancient forebears continuously year after year, we ensure that we do not forget their mistakes for not entering the Promised Land, as Rav Shaul witnessed in first Corinthians 10: 1 - 11, saying: ***'For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; (2) and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; (3) and all ate the same spiritual food; (4) and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Messiah. (5) Nevertheless, with most of them Elohim was not well-pleased; for they were laid low (died) in the wilderness. (6) Now these things happened as examples for us, that we should not crave evil things, as they also craved. (7) And do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY." (8) Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. (9) Nor let us try YHVH, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. (10) Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. (11) Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages to come.'*** This is telling us that we need to continue studying these facts, until Messiah returns, because we are human and will not recall the sins of our forefathers, if we are not regularly reminded of their shortcomings.

Because the Churches of G-d and Assemblies of YHVH do not read the Torah, Haftarah and Renewed Covenant portions annually, they have little appreciation of the Torah commands and customs which specify reasons for example such things as the postponement rules, which the Rabbinical Jews apply when determining the annual calendar according to which we keep the Feast Days of Elohim. Most of these folk are not even aware of the Scriptural reasons necessary for declaring postponements in the Hebrew calendar. Both the Sabbath and Yom Kippur being Sabbaths of complete rest on which we are not allowed to do any work whatsoever, and need a period of preparation. Our ladies need to prepare food for the Sabbath which should be a delight and a Feast Day, picturing the Millennium rule of Yahshua after mankind's six thousand years of misrule. We also need to prepare ourselves for the Day of Atonement, by stop drinking coffee and other substances that could result in major headaches and migraines on the Day of Atonement and by drinking lots of clean water. In addition we also need to prepare spiritually for this the most solemn Day of Elohim's calendar. Another reason for postponements may be found in Leviticus 19: 5 - 7 (as well as in Leviticus 7: 15 - 18), where we read: ***"Now when you offer a sacrifice of peace offerings to YHVH, you shall offer it so that you may be accepted. (6) It shall be eaten the same day you offer it, and the next day; but what remains until the third day shall be burned with fire. (7) So if it is eaten at all on the third day, it is an offense; it will not be accepted."*** This is also in agreement with modern medical science, where doctors agree that cooked meat should only be kept for two days (even if refrigerated), after which it becomes unhealthy to eat. It is therefore desirable that our ladies prepare the food for Sabbath meals, at its earliest after the fifth day, on erev Yom Shishi called Thursday evening in English, but is already the evening of Friday (as per the Hebrew way of determining a day). If, then for argument sake the Day of Atonement falls on a Friday (which we know it should not), food for the weekly Sabbath will have to be prepared on Thursday afternoon, and the three day rule mentioned in Leviticus 19: 7 should be applied, thus rendering such food an offense, if it is eaten on the Sabbath, the third day after being prepared. But another important reason for postponing the Day of Atonement is that those who die should normally be buried on the day of death. The only reason for not burying the dead on the same day should be for a weekly or annual Sabbath (High Feast Day), or if a post-mortem investigation needs to be performed, if foul play is suspected. Postponements ensure that our dead are buried the next day after a weekly or annual Sabbath, and not be kept for more than one day.

Even so, different to the Church of G-d, the Assemblies of YHVH use the Set-apart Name of YHVH, but because they do not, like the Churches of G-d keep the Feast Days of Elohim at the times ordained by Him, and have introduced Feast Days of their own design, due to their dispute with the postponement rule and the authority the Jews having to announce Elohim's Feast Day calendar in general, they are cursing themselves and their children, as the Prophet Malachi warned in Malachi 2: 2 - 8, saying: ***"If you do not***

*listen, and if you do not take it to heart to give honor to My name,” says YHVH of hosts, “then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings; and indeed, I have cursed them already, because you are not taking it to heart. (3) Behold, I am going to rebuke your offspring, and I will spread refuse on your faces, the refuse of your feasts; and you will be taken away with it. (4) Then you will know that I have sent this commandment to you, that My covenant may continue with Levi,” says YHVH of hosts. (5) “My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him as an object of reverence; so he revered Me and stood in awe of My name. (6) True instruction was in his mouth and unrighteousness was not found on his lips; he walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many back from iniquity. (7) For the lips of a priest should preserve knowledge, and men should seek instruction from his mouth; for he is the messenger of YHVH of hosts. (8) But as for you, you have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble by the instruction; you have corrupted the covenant of Levi,” Says YHVH of hosts.’*

Even if some of the assemblies of YHVH elected to keep Elohim’s Feast Days in Jerusalem at this time, they will not be able to continue to do so, unless they accept the Hebrew calendar before Messiah returns, as witnessed in Nahum 1: 15, as follows: ***‘Behold, on the mountains the feet of him who brings good news. Who announces peace! (This will occur at Messiah arrival, to usher in the kingdom of Elohim.) Celebrate your feasts, O Judah; pay your vows. For never again will the wicked one pass through you; he is cut off completely.’***

Even though the Scriptures talk about Yahshua as the Son of Elohim, we need to understand that He was not always Elohim’s Son, but was declared the son of Elohim, by His resurrection, as witnessed by Rav Shaul in Romans 1: 1 – 4, saying: ***‘Shaul, a bond-servant of Messiah Yahshua, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of Elohim, (2) which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, (3) concerning His Son, who was born a descendant of David according to the flesh, (4) who was declared the Son of Elohim with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the spirit of holiness, Yahshua Messiah our Master.’*** This section also informs us that Yahshua, who was Elohim right from the start, was born of a woman to become the Son of Man, in order to become our kinsmen redeemer, as also witnessed in John 1: 1 – 3 & 14, as follows: ***‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with Elohim, and the Word was Elohim. (2) He was in the beginning with Elohim. (3) All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. (14) And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father full of grace and truth.’*** Yes, Yahshua was the word of Elohim, before He became the Son of Man, but He was also referred to throughout the Scriptures as the right hand and holy arm of Elohim, and as such also the power of Elohim.

For Scriptural evidence, we commence read about Elohim from the first part of Deuteronomy 33: 27, in this way: ***“The eternal Elohim is a dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms.”*** We continue to read about the arms of Elohim from Isaiah 51: 5, where Isaiah talks about the salvation of YHVH, saying: ***“My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth, and My arms will judge the peoples; the coastland will wait for Me, and for My arm they will wait expectantly.”*** Most believers in Messiah are aware that the Scriptures spoke about Yahshua as being (YHVH)’s right hand and strong arm, as Isaiah also confirmed in Isaiah 53: 1, saying: ***‘Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of YHVH been revealed?’*** From the rest of Isaiah 53 we can see that this chapter is definitely about Yahshua, especially if we read verse 5, as follows: ***‘But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our wellbeing fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.’*** In fact Rav Kepha one of Messiah’s disciples who later became an apostle when he was sent out by Messiah, virtually repeats the last seven words of Isaiah 53: 5 in first Peter 2: 24, saying: ***‘And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.’*** We have further confirmation regarding Yahshua being (YHVH)’s arm in John 12: 37 – 40, where Yochanan tells us partly the reason for YHVH blinding our Jewish Brothers to the identity of Messiah at this time, saying: ***‘But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him; (38) that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke, “YHVH, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM HAS THE ARM OF YHVH BEEN REVEALED?” (39) For this cause they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, (40) “HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES, AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART; LEST THEY SEE***

**WITH THEIR EYES, AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED, AND I HEAL THEM.”**” Yahshua the right hand of YHVH is also called the power of Elohim in both the Tanach and the Renewed Covenant, as the prophet Jeremiah confirmed in Jeremiah 32: 17, saying: **‘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.’** Jeremiah gives us more details about Yahshua being Elohim’s power in Jeremiah 51: 15, saying: **‘It is He who made the earth by His power, who established the world by His wisdom, and by His understanding He stretched out the heavens.’**

Rav Shaul as a Jew from the tribe of Benjamin, knew the mysteries of our Nazarene faith and confirmed this in first Corinthians 1: 23 & 24, saying: **‘But we preach Messiah crucified, to Jews a stumbling block** (since they correctly believe that YHVH cannot die), **and to Gentiles foolishness** (since they do not understand that only Yahshua’s life, as the word of Elohim our Creator, could pay for the sins of His people, as His life was worth more than all our lives together), (24) **but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Messiah the power of Elohim and the wisdom of Elohim.’** Rav Shaul further told us the reason why the Jews are blinded to Messiah’s identity in first Corinthians 2: 6 - 8, saying: **‘Yet we do not speak wisdom among those who are mature, a wisdom, however, not of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; (7) but we speak Elohim’s wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom, which Elohim predestined before the ages to our glory; (8) the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Master of glory.’** Rav Shaul also tells us in Romans 11 that YHVH has blinded the Jews to the identity of the Messiah, until the fullness of the Gentiles (or those Israelites who used to believe that they are Gentiles, plus a number of real Gentiles) have returned to the covenant relationship both they and the house of Judah made with YHVH at Mount Sinai, at which time all Israel from both houses will be saved. It is at that cut-off point when YHVH will send Yahshua to return to earth to remarry His bride. We see from Zechariah 12; 7 – 10 that he will save the tents of Judah first when He returns, and when He shows them His nail-scarred hands, they will accept Him as their Messiah and King. We know from Scriptures like first Corinthians 15: 50 – 53, that those of us called as first-fruits will be resurrected at Messiah’s return, at the sound of the last trumpet, but Rav Shaul also tells us in Romans 11: 15 that it will be because and when our Jewish Brothers accept Yahshua, that we will be resurrected, saying: **‘For if their rejection be the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?’**

To recap then; whilst we were members of groups like the Churches of G-d in the past, we did not study Torah, the Prophets and the rest of the Scriptures according to a weekly schedule on an annual basis, but started studying the same on a regular basis after we broke away from them during 1999. As a result of the knowledge gained through 25 years in the Churches of G-d, combined with the Torah knowledge we gained after studying Torah on a regular basis, our eyes were really opened to the word of Elohim, as never before. This is essentially when YHVH brought us out of darkness into His marvelous light and we became a kingdom of priests again, like He intended right from the start, when he took our forefathers ancient Israel out of Egypt. We read accordingly from first Peter 2: 9 & 10, as follows: **‘But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR ELOHIM’S OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (10) for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE of Elohim; you had not RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.’** Here in verse 10 Rav Kepha is essentially reversing the curse that Hosea proclaimed upon our ancient forebears the house of Israel in Hosea 1. It is also because Yahshua has already made us to be a royal priesthood, that we are already wearing priestly head-coverings like a priest during worship services.

But, let’s continue to explain how we understand the Oneness of Elohim. The two arms of YHVH which is identified in Judaism as kindness (transliterated in Hebrew as ‘Chessed’) and severity or power (transliterated as ‘Gevurah’), were often referred to by Rav Shaul who was a Jew from the tribe of Benjamin by birth, one example being in 2 Corinthians 6: 6 & 7, something which most who only read the Renewed Covenant does not even notice or understand, saying: **‘In purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness** (or mercy chessed in Hebrew), **in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, (7) in the word of truth, in the power of Elohim** (meaning

Yahshua); **by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left.**' In fact Rav Shaul goes on to explain in Romans 1: 19 & 20 saying: **Because that which is known about Elohim is evident within them** (since as human beings, we were created in His image and likeness); **for Elohim made it evident to them.** (20) **For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes** (the fact that Elohim is invisible immortal and no one has seen or can see Him, as per first Timothy 6: 16), **His eternal power** (Yahshua being the right arm of YHVH, but also His power as confirmed earlier in first Corinthians 1: 24) **and His divine nature** (the Set-apart Spirit being (YHVH)'s divine nature as confirmed earlier, as well as may be seen from 2 Peter 1 : 4), **have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.'** In Romans 11: 22, Rav Shaul talking about the fact that YHVH is again grafting us as wild olive branches (because we were intermixed into the nations of the world) into the cultivated olive tree of both houses, saying: **'Behold then the kindness and severity of Elohim; to those who fell severity, but to you, Elohim's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.'** But because these like-minded believers are not aware of these facts, they believe Yahshua being a lesser YHVH and the Set-apart Spirit simply being the power of Elohim.

But, if these folk understand Torah and the way Messiah interpreted it for us, they would have understood that there is truly only One YHVH, as Yahshua confirmed when one of the scribes asked Him in Mark 12: 28 what commandment is the foremost of all, saying in verse 29: **"The foremost is, 'HEAR O ISRAEL! YHVH OUR ELOHIM IS ONE YHVH.'"** Did you get that? If Yahshua was truly the lesser YHVH, why did he not say so at this time? Yes, there is only one YHVH, Yahshua being the image of the invisible Elohim (as per Colossians 1: 15). This is in fact what YHVH our Elohim told us in Isaiah 43: 10 & 11, saying: **"You are My witnesses," declares YHVH, "and My servant whom I have chosen** (the servant spoken about in Isaiah 42: 1), **in order that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He** (meaning YHVH is the servant whom He has chosen – even if it sounds unusual). **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."** How much more obvious do those who believe in two (YHVH)'s want it stated. This is almost word for word what we read from Deuteronomy 32: 39, in this way: **"See now that I, I am He, and there is no god besides Me."** But, for those who still don't get it, we are told in first Thessalonians 5: 23 that we (human beings who were created in the image and likeness of Elohim) consist of three parts, 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.'** Yes, we are fully aware that the spirit in man, does not give us immortality, but we also know that once we have been properly immersed in Yahshua's saving name (as per Acts 2: 28 & Acts 8: 12 – 17), we are given a portion of Elohim's Spirit as a pledge to our inheritance as spiritual beings, as Rav Shaul wrote in Romans 8: 11, saying: **"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Yahshua from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Messiah Yahshua from the dead will also give (eternal) life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you."** Yahshua the visible image of Elohim, the only one that some humans saw, is the face (or body) of Elohim, as also witnessed in Isaiah 45: 15, in this way: **'Truly, Thou art an Elohim who hides Himself, O Elohim of Israel, Savior!'** A second clearer witness is given in Isaiah 30: 20 (NASB), as follows: **'Although YHVH has given you bread of privation and water of oppression, He, your Teacher will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will behold your teacher.'** YHVH who alone has immortality is the soul or eternal life, whilst the Set-apart Spirit is the Spirit of Elohim, which YHVH only gives to those who obey Him, as recorded in Acts 5: 32, in this way: **"And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Set-apart Spirit, whom Elohim has given to those who obey Him."**

Even so, because of the always prevailing spirit of anti-Semitism that is in the world, only those to whom Yahshua reveals Himself knows these truths, as He explained in Luke 10: 21 – 24, as follows: **'At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Set-apart Spirit, and said, "I praise Thee, O Father, Master of heaven and earth, that Thou didst hide these things from the wise and intelligent and didst reveal them to babes. Yes, Father, for thus it was well pleasing in Thy sight. (22) All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him."** (23) **And turning to the disciples, He said privately, "Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see, (24) for I say to you, that many prophets and kings wished to**

**see the things which you see, and did not see them, and to hear the things which you hear, and did not hear them.”** Yahshua gave the conditions under which He will reveal Himself, saying in John 14: 21, **“He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him.”** Although YHVH is invisible, the Scriptures do assign certain attributes to Elohim, which are depicted in Judaism as emanations called ‘sefirot’. These are the qualities of Elohim’s character, some of which we are required to develop in order to conform to the image of Elohim, as Rav Shaul wrote in Romans 8: 28 & 29, saying: **‘And we know that Elohim causes all things to work together for good to those who love Elohim, to those who are called according to His purpose. (29) For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren.’** These attributes can be clearly seen in the Tanach in the following passages:

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

These attributes list out as follows:

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. The Spirit of YHVH (called Crown [Kether]). | 2. Wisdom (Chokmah).            |
| 3. Understanding (Binah).                      | 4. Mercy (Chessed)              |
| 5. Severity (Gevurah or power).                | 6. Harmony/Beauty (Tipheret).   |
| 7. Victory (Netzah).                           | 8. Splendor (Hod).              |
| 9. Foundation (Yesod).                         | 10. Kingdom/Kingship (Malkuth). |

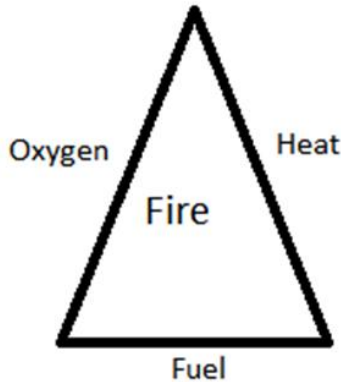
As we’ve seen from first Thessalonians 5: 23, we (mankind) consist of three parts, namely: spirit, soul and body - yet as individuals we are one. Similarly the One Elohim has three Parts (as explained in Romans 1: 19 – 20), and is not three persons in one, but like us consist of three parts. We read fittingly from John 1: 18, **“No man has seen Elohim at any time; the only begotten Elohim, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.”** It is also for this reason that Yahshua told His disciples in John 14: 7, saying: **“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.”** It is clear that Yahshua is not another YHVH: He as the image of the invisible Elohim was manifested in the flesh, the purpose of which was that He the Creator of Mankind could become our kinsman redeemer. He died for the sins of the world, but also to be able to remarry His bride Israel, whom He divorced because of her adultery with the pagan gods of this world.

In conclusion we read from Psalms 49: 7, **“No man can by any means redeem his brother, or give to Elohim a ransom for him-”** and in verse 15, **“But Elohim will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol, for He will receive me.”** This confirms that only YHVH our Elohim can redeem us or pay for our sins; YHVH is our Savior, which is the meaning of the name Yahshua. Knowing this allows us to use standard English Scriptures and not those specifically written by some of the Assemblies of YHVH to reflect their own personal agendas and beliefs in two (YHVH)’s. Think carefully about it!

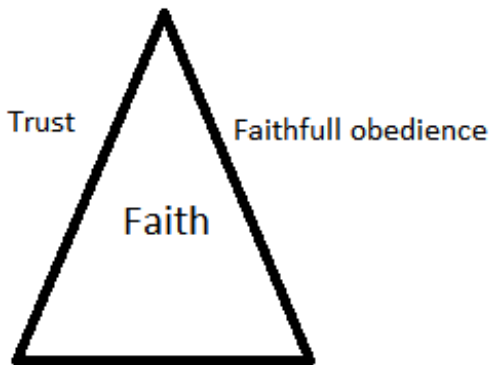


## Chapter 7: What is faith?

The answer to this question is given in Hebrews 11: 6, as follows: ***“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to Elohim must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”*** To have faith in Elohim means that we believe in Him, although we cannot see Him, but it means



that we believe in what He says: trusting Him enough to obey what He says in His word. To help us understand what true faith is, let me explain by the way every firefighter is taught the fireman’s triangle depicted here to the left: To have a fire you need (1) **Fuel** plus (2) **Oxygen** plus (3) **Heat**. By removing anyone of these three essential components the fire is extinguished. To understand what is meant by the word *faith* or more specifically faithfulness, transliterated in Hebrew as ‘*emunah*’, we make use of a similar tri-angle with three essential components on each side. Faith is not only a warm fuzzy feeling or an opinion, but true faithfulness requires (1) **Knowledge of truth** – or the word of Elohim as Yahshua defined truth in John 17: 17; plus (2) **Faithful obedience** to what we are taught; and (3) **Trust** in Him as the rewarder of those who seek Him. By removing any of these three component parts, you cannot have true scriptural faith or faithfulness. It is as Rav Yaa’cov explained in James 2: 17, in this way: ***‘Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead being by itself.’***



After a believer is immersed by a teaching elder of Elohim’s congregation, and had hands lain upon him/her by the teacher (as per Acts 8: 12 – 17), to receive the Set-apart Spirit, he/she needs to be taught the Scriptural truths by the teacher who immersed him/her, the same truths he was taught him by the teacher who came before, all the way back to Messiah, as He instructed His disciples in Matthew 28: 18 - 20, saying: ***“all authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (19) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, immersing them in the name (one name) of the Father and the Son and the Set-apart Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I***

***commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*** After the believer is suitably immersed, he/she is required to grow in grace and knowledge of Elohim’s word in order to understand what He requires of us (as per 2 Peter 3: 18). However, we need to fully understand what Yahshua told His disciples here, bearing in mind what His main purpose was for coming to earth, namely to bring the lost sheep of the house of Israel back to the faith into which He was born. We notice that Rav Kepha fully understood his Master’s command in Matthew 28, as he continues to explain in Acts 2: 36 - 39, saying to those who asked him what they should do, when they heard him explaining how Elohim promised to also give the Set-apart Spirit to those returnees from the house of Israel, saying: ***“Therefore let all the house of Israel (those who were dispersed into the nations, because of idolatry) know for certain that Elohim has made Him (Yahshua) both Master and Messiah—this Yahshua whom you crucified.”*** (37) ***Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren what shall we do?”*** (38) ***And Peter said to them, “Repent, and let each of you be immersed in the name of Yahshua<sup>4</sup> (the salvation of Yah) Messiah for the forgiveness of your sin; and you shall receive the gift of the***

<sup>4</sup> Rav Kepha explains why we immerse new believers in Yahshua’s name in Acts 4: 11 & 12, saying: ***“He (Yahshua) is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, BUT WHICH BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone. (12) And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”***

***Set-apart Spirit. (39) For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as YHVH our Elohim shall call to Himself.***” Rav Kepha gives two very important guidelines here, namely: That we should only immerse those who are ‘far off’ and only those whom YHVH calls to Himself at this time.

By studying the Scriptures, we get to understand what he meant by the words ‘far off’, since it is mentioned before by the prophet Daniel when he prayed to YHVH in Daniel 9: 7 about the two houses of Israel, who were both exiled at that time, but the house of Judah returned to the Promised Land 70 years after been taken captive by king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, and remained close to YHVH even in captivity, saying: ***“Righteousness belongs to Thee, O YHVH, but to us open shame, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and all Israel, those who are nearby and those who are far away in all the countries Thou hast driven them, because of their unfaithful deeds which they have committed against Thee.”*** We see further that Rav Shaul used these same words in Ephesians 2: 11 – 13, but giving us more details of the meaning of the words ‘far off’, saying: ***“Therefor remember, that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Un-circumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” which is performed in the flesh by human hands— (12) remember that you were at that time separated from Messiah, exclude from the commonwealth of Israel, (consisting of both houses and ruled over by King David) and strangers to the covenants of promise (the covenant that YHVH made with Abraham that he and his descendants will live in the Promised Land eternally – as Spiritual children of Elohim; but also the covenant YHVH made with David, that he will again rule over the restored commonwealth of Israel in what is now, the near future), having no hope and without Elohim in the world. (13) But now in Messiah Yahshua you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Messiah.”*** This is essentially saying, that we do not have to immerse our Jewish Brothers, sins they have always known what sin is, and could repent when they transgressed Elohim’s teachings. But also notice the second guideline given by Rav Kepha in Acts 2: 39, being that we should only immerse those from the lost ten tribes of Israel, plus a number of real Gentiles, whom YHVH calls. This is in agreement with what Messiah taught in John 6: 65 saying: ***“For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me, unless it has been granted him from the Father.”*** This should tell those Nazarene/Messianic Jews/Israelites who are too anti-Semitic to realize that the Jews were right all the time, that we need not convert or teach them anything, since they retained the oracles of Elohim, that He gave to both houses of Israel at Mount Sinai. This is also perhaps why Rav Yaa’cov authenticated the Jewish Synagogue, whilst we were still allowed to go there, a few years after Messiah’s death, resurrection and ascension to heaven, in Acts 15: 21, saying: ***“For Moses from ancient generations has in every city those who preach him, since he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath.”***

After immersion a new believer has to start obeying the commands that he/she learned, realizing that once we start following the way of Elohim, we are placed into a covenant relationship with Him. It is similar to the way the ancient Israelites were placed in a covenant relationship with Elohim on the very first Pentecost or Shavuot that they observed on the 6<sup>th</sup> of Sivan at Mount Sinai, when He gave them the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20. It is important to understand that only those who remain faithful to the end will be in the kingdom of Elohim, as may be understood from reading Revelation 17: 14, as follows: ***“These (the ten kings who will receive authority from the beast) will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Master of masters and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.”*** Even, if we who have been called by YHVH and were suitably immersed, need to continually remain in touch with Elohim, by studying His word to see if our lives conform with what He requires of us; and by coming to Him in prayer to ask for His forgiveness when we do not meet up to His expectations, but also to thank Him for providing and protecting us. To be able to remain faithful to the end, we require an intimate knowledge of truth, and trust that he will ultimately let us inherit the Promised Land and make David our king, provided we obey Him and do what He requires of us in His word. When we were immersed into Yahshua’s saving name, we were betrothed to Yahshua our Messiah. When Yahshua returns to the world from Jerusalem, He will return as our bridegroom as He also explained in the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25. The oil spoken about in Matthew 25 is knowledge of truth that is taught in a discipleship program similar to the one Messiah started with His disciples, and commissioned them to

continue until He returns one day soon in Matthew 24: 45 & 46<sup>5</sup>. This is why the five prudent virgins told the foolish virgins in the last part of Matthew 25: 9, saying: ***'Go instead to the dealers (those who teach Torah) and buy some for yourself.'*** As Yahshua's future bride we are supposed to make ourselves ready at this time, by washing our robes in the word of truth – cleaning up our lives using Torah. There are many in our Nazarene Israelite and like-minded community, who continually watch the signs of the time, as Yahshua also told us to do in Matthew 24. Even though the main purpose for giving these signs is to get ourselves ready for Messiah's return, they do so simply to save their own lives. It was for this reason that Yahshua warned His disciples in Matthew 16: 25, saying: ***"For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it."*** They misinterpret what Yahshua told His followers in Matthew 24: 42 (KJV), saying: ***'Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Master doth come.'*** Some say Yahshua meant that we should watch the signs of the times, by reading newspapers and magazines to see what is happening in the world around us, ties up with prophecies of His return one day.

That is true, but, there are more to what Yahshua told His disciple's when He said: ***'Watch therefore'***, than just watching the signs of the times; He also meant that we should watch ourselves and the way we live; to see how it conforms to the example He left us whilst He was on earth. When reading Matthew 16: 25 (quoted before) together with verse 24, we understand that this is really what Yahshua meant, in this way: ***'Then Yahshua said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let Him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me."'*** Even though Scriptural prophesy is important for us who live at this end time, we need to be more concerned about the way we live than its fulfilment, for then at least we will be ready when the Master comes, taking into account His warning in Matthew 7: 21 – 23, as follows: ***'Not everyone who says to Me, "Master, Master," will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. (22) Many will say to Me on that day, "Master, Master," did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles? (23) And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.''*** Let's therefore examine each of the components required for true faithfulness in turn here below:

**Intimate knowledge of truth:** The prophet Daniel prophesied in Daniel 12: 4 that knowledge will increase at the time of the end, and true to prophecy both scientific and knowledge about the way of Elohim are being 'discovered' at an ever increasing pace. In agreement with Daniel's prophecy, Yahshua told His disciples in Matthew 13: 11 & 12, saying: ***"To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. (12) For whoever has, to him shall more be given, and he shall have an abundance, but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him."*** Even though there is an excess of information available about almost any subject that man's mind can contemplate, humanity is unfortunately lacking the basic knowledge so essential for their well-being. Yes, we are at this time drowning in an information over-load, but starved of knowledge about Elohim and His ways. But, what is the problem? Why doesn't mankind understand the way of Elohim? We get the answer in Hosea 4: 1 (KJV), where Isaiah wrote: ***'Hear the word of YHVH, ye children of Israel: for YHVH hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth (Torah)<sup>5</sup>, nor mercy, nor knowledge of Elohim in the land.'*** Something vitally important to the very existence of mankind is lacking. However, notice carefully that it is not missing because it cannot be found any longer, but it is missing because people have rejected the available knowledge and will as a result be destroyed, as Hosea wrote further in verse 6 of Hosea 4, saying: ***'My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law (Torah) of your Elohim, I also will forget your children.'***

But what did Messiah mean by knowledge about the kingdom of Heaven (that will come to earth when Messiah returns, as He taught us to pray in Matthew 6: 10)? It has to do with what Rav Yaa'cov told believers in Acts 15: 14 – 18, saying: ***"Simeon (Rav Kepha) has related how Elohim first concerned Himself about***

<sup>5</sup> Matthew 24: 45 & 46: ***"Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes."***

<sup>6</sup> Psalm 119: 142, ***'Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Thy law is truth.'***

**taking from among the Gentiles** (those Israelites who were scattered into the nations of the world and became like Gentiles – believing themselves to be Gentiles, and some real Gentiles) **a people for His name.** (15) **And with this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written,** (16) **AFTER THESE THINGS I will return, AND WILL REBUILD THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID WHICH HAS FALLEN, AND I WILL REBUILD ITS RUINS, AND I WILL RESTORE IT,** (17) **IN ORDER THAT THE REST OF MANKIND MAY SEEK YHVH, AND ALL THE GENTILES WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME,’** (18) **SAYS YHVH WHO MAKES THESE THINGS KNOWN FROM OF OLD.”** This is also in agreement with Yahshua’s main purpose to bring a remnant of the lost ten tribes back to the faith into which He was born, so that when He returns to earth one day, He will be able to re-establish the kingdom of Elohim over both houses of Israel, and enter into a New Marriage Covenant with them. They will then become the model nation YHVH intended them to be when He originally took them out of Egypt and gave them His Torah at Mount Sinai. This will result in all the nations of the world to eventually becoming obedient to Him, and with the passing of time during the millennium He will eventually rule the whole world. This is essentially what YHVH promised both Abraham and King David, as mentioned in Ephesians 2: 12 (quoted before). Let’s therefore review these promises that YHVH made to Abraham and King David.

Commencing in Genesis 17: 7 – 11, we read about the covenant that YHVH made with Abraham in the land of Canaan, as follows: **“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 to your descendants after you. (8) And I will give to you and to your descendant 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 their generations. (10) This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you; every male among you shall be circumcised. (11) And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you,”** But what did YHVH mean by saying: **‘for an everlasting possession’**, since we know that human beings cannot live forever. YHVH must have told Abraham, that through his one descendant, namely Yahshua the Messiah, he and his descendants will one day in the future be resurrected, to again dwell in the Promised Land eternally, as we read from Hebrews 11: 17 – 19, in this way: **‘By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac; and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son** (something that YHVH will do, to what was then still future to Abraham); (18) **it was he to whom it was said, “IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED.”** (19) **He was considering 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 Yahshua telling the Jews of His day that Abraham knew about His future sacrifice for mankind in John 8: 56 – 58, saying: **“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.”** (57) **The Jews therefore said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?”** (58) **Yahshua said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.”**

Few people realize that like with our father Abraham, YHVH also entered into a special covenant relationship with King David as recorded in Psalm 89: 3 & 4 and 34 – 37, as follows: **“I Have made a covenant with My chosen; I have sworn to David My servant, (4) I will establish your seed forever, and build up your throne to all generations. (34) My covenant I will not violate, nor will I alter the utterance of My lips. (35) Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David. (36) His descendants shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before Me. (37) It shall be established forever like the moon, and the witness in the sky is faithful.”** For those people who since the mid-1990’s became overly obsessed with watching for the crescent moon to determine their Feast Day calendar, instead of relying on the Levites amongst the Jews to determine Elohim’s annual Feast Days, this confirms the importance of the moon, but as a reminder that YHVH will one day honor His covenant with King David. We see in the prophecy yet to occur when the two houses of Israel will once again become one in (YHVH)’s hand that David will again rule over the united Israel, as witnessed in Ezekiel 37: 15 – 28, but specifically in verses 21 – 25, where YHVH again confirms His covenant with David, in this way: **“And say to them, ‘Thus says YHVH Elohim,’ Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring**

**them into their own land; (22) and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations, and they will no longer be divided into two kingdoms. (23) And they will no longer defile themselves with their idols, or with their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. And they will be My people and I will be their Elohim. (24) And My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances, and keep My statutes, and observe them. (25) And they shall live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons, and their sons' sons, forever; and David My servant shall be their prince forever."**

King David like Abraham also believed in the resurrection of the dead, as witnessed in Psalm 22 where we get to see King David's knowledge regarding this 'uncertain' subject of the resurrection of the dead and the coming Kingdom of Elohim in verses 27 – 29, in this way: **'All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to YHVH, and all the families of the nations will worship before Thee. (28) For the kingdom is (YHVH)'s and He rules over the nations. (29) All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship, all those who go down to the dust will bow before Him, even he who cannot keep his soul alive.'** The underlined sentence tells us that even sinners will be resurrected to life again after the Great White Throne judgment mentioned in Revelation 20: 12, where YHVH will open their minds to the truth of the Scriptures. Continuing in Psalm 17, where King David showed his faith to be in the first resurrection in verse 15, saying: **'As for me, I shall behold Thy face in righteousness; I will be satisfied with Thy likeness when I awake.'** This is exactly what Rav Yochanan taught us in first John 3: 2, saying: **'Beloved, now we are children of Elohim, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be, We know that, when He appear, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.'**

**Obedience:** Our fathers in the faith Abraham, Isaac and Jacob lived out their lives with unwavering faith that YHVH, who cannot lie, will eventually give them what He promised, even though they like all men died. We read about the promises that YHVH made to them recorded in Hebrews 11: 8 -10, as follows: **'By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. 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.'** From this we understand that our fathers in the faith were fully aware of the coming kingdom of Elohim. They believed in the Gospel of Elohim and believed that they will be part of it. Do you believe the gospel of Elohim proclaimed by Yahshua? The gospel that Yahshua preached is recoded for us in Mark 1: 14 & 15, as follows: **'And after John had been taken into custody, Yahshua came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of Elohim, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of Elohim is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'**

We see further from Hebrews 11 (the faith chapter) that King David and the other fathers and mothers in the faith who met Elohim's requirement by being obedient to their dying day, did not receive what was promised them as confirmed in Hebrews 11: 32 – 38, in this way: **'And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, (33) who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, (34) quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. (35) Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, in order that they might obtain a better resurrection (the first resurrection); (36) and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. (37) They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated. (38) (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.'**

Obedience is a main component of true faithfulness in the way of Elohim. YHVH our Elohim is not interested in our offerings and sacrifices, since everything belongs to Him anyway. As Israelites, YHVH tells us through Moses in Deuteronomy 10: 12 & 13 saying: ***“And now, Israel, what does YHVH your Elohim require from you, but to fear YHVH your Elohim, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve YHVH your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul, (12) and to keep (YHVH)’s commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good.”*** Similarly, when you ask any parent how they know their children love them, they will tell you they know, because their children usually do what they tell them to. We read from Hebrews 2: 10 & 11, ***‘For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings. (10) For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren.’*** Yes, YHVH is presently busy *‘bringing many sons to glory’* so that we will eventually be of the same Elohim family. Many people who confess belief in Messiah do not believe what He did and taught whilst He was on earth. For example Yahshua did not abolish the Tanach or *‘Old Testament’* as they believe, and He said so in both Matthew 5: 17 – 19 and John 5: 47. But those who make such claims read right over these verses. He also taught clearly in John 3: 13, saying: ***“And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man.”*** At the end of John 3, we read from verses 36: ***“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of Elohim abides on him.”*** Saying we believe Him, means nothing unless we also obey Him

**Trust:** Yahshua’s main message was the good news about the coming Kingdom of Elohim on earth, as it is now in heaven, one example being in Luke 8: 1, in this way: ***‘And it came about soon afterwards, that He began going about from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of Elohim; and the twelve were with Him.’*** Despite the fact that both Abraham and King David did not see Yahshua in human flesh, they believed what He taught them as the word of Elohim. They also trusted that YHVH will one day in the future make good on the promises that He made to them, despite dying without receiving these promises, as witnessed in Hebrews 11: 39 & 40, in this way: ***‘And all these (meaning our fathers in the faith), having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, (40) because Elohim had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they should all be made perfect.’*** Yes, they believed in the better resurrection, during which those who will be resurrected at Messiah’s coming will be changed into Spiritual sons and daughters of Elohim, as witnessed in Revelation 20: 6 as follows: ***‘Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of Elohim and of Messiah and will reign with Him for a thousand years.’*** Do you trust YHVH to believe with all your heart and soul in the coming kingdom of Elohim, like Abraham and King David did? If you do then it is time that we follow them, becoming obedient to the only One who can give us eternal life, namely YHVH. It was for this reason that He taught in Matthew 6: 31 – 33, saying: ***“Do not be anxious then, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘With what shall we clothe ourselves?’ (32) For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. (33) But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.”*** Think about it!

## Chapter 8: We need to qualify for the kingdom of Elohim.

Those of us called out of churches of the world, were not called because we were the most religious, or best qualified, or wealthiest, or the mightiest, or noblest people of the world; but YHVH had a plan for doing so, and knew that we have the potential to make it into His kingdom, as is confirmed by Rav Shaul in first Corinthians 1: 26 – 29, in this way: ***‘For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; (27) but Elohim has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and Elohim has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, (28) and the base things of the world and the despised, Elohim has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are, (29) that no man should boast before Elohim.’*** Rav Yaa’cov confirms that even though we were the so-called poor and outcasts in the world, there is a wonderful future awaiting us in James 2: 5, saying: ***‘Listen, my beloved brethren: did not Elohim choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?’***

The point is, that YHVH is not a respecter of persons, as is confirmed in Acts 10: 34, as follows: ***‘And opening his mouth Peter said: “I most certainly understand now that Elohim is not one to show partiality.”*** A second witness comes from Romans 2: 11, in this way: ***‘For there is no partiality with Elohim.’*** We see further when YHVH asked Samuel to go to Jesse to anoint one of his son’s in place of King Saul, because of Saul’s sin of rebellion by not doing what YHVH required of him in first Samuel 15, He spoke to Samuel when he considered the sons of Jesse best suited for the position in first Samuel 16: 7 – 13 , as follows: ***“Do not look at his appearance or the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for Elohim sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but YHVH looks at the heart.”*** (8) ***Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, “Neither has YHVH chosen this one.”*** (9) ***Next Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has YHVH chosen this one.”*** (10) ***Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, “YHVH has not chosen these.”*** (11) ***And Samuel said to Jesse, “Are these all the children?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, and behold, he is tending the sheep.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.”*** (12) ***So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And YHVH said, “Arise, anoint him; for this is he.”*** (13) ***Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of YHVH came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah.”***

However, once YHVH has called someone to become one of Yahshua’s disciples, He gives us a chance to consider our options to follow Him or not, as Yahshua also said to the great multitudes who were going along with Him in Luke 14: 25 - 33: ***“If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. (27) Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. (28) For which one of you, when he want to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see if he has enough to complete it? (29) Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, (30) saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ (31) Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and take counsel whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? (32) Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks terms of peace. (33) So therefore, no one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.’*** Yahshua was trying to get the seriousness of what it means to follow Him, across to these people. He did not mean they should hate their parents, children, friends, fellow believers from previous affiliations and even themselves, but wanted them to realize that when we start following Him, we have to do it with all our might. There is no turning back to the things we used to do in the past, as He wants you to give Him the best of your time. Then as a result of following YHVH you might not have all the time you use to devote to your parents and others, and they will start questioning your sudden interest in religion, even advising against it. This will be when you will be afflicted and even persecuted for putting something else before them. It will take a great

deal of sacrifice to be able to persevere against these arguments and criticisms by what you are trying to achieve, as Yahshua also taught in Matthew 10: 20 & 21, saying: ***“And brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise up against parents, and cause them to be put to death. (22) And you will be hated by all on account of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.”*** It is true, initially you will lose some of your friends and family on the way, but if you do it with all your heart and soul, He will eventually let things come right again, between especially our families. It is as Yahshua taught in Matthew 6: 33, saying: ***“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.”*** Even if you do not get your old friends and perhaps also your family back, He will provide you with new like-minded friends and family.

But, a major problem facing new believers is that they immediately want to share the new truths that received with friends, parents and family and others, but they soon find out that people in the world where he or she comes from, no matter who they are, are not in the least concerned with the things of Elohim, as Rav Shaul also aptly explained in first Corinthians 2: 9 - 12, saying: ***‘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.’*** In addition such new believers need to be ever mindful that we cannot bring anybody into Elohim’s congregation of first fruits called out of the world, even if we believe in so doing we are doing Elohim’s work for Him. We need to recall Messiah’s words in John 6: 44, where he clearly said: ***“No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up on the last day.”*** For emphasis Yahshua repeated this in John 6: 65, saying: ***“For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me, unless it has been granted him from the father.”*** In order to also make it clear what the actual work of Elohim for each one of us entails, He also said in verse 29 of John 6, ***“This is the works of Elohim, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”***

But, do you and I who confess faith in Yahshua, truly believe what He said here? Or is it perhaps that you do not understand what He was saying and then try and interpret it your own way? Yes, we need to proclaim the coming kingdom of Elohim, into the entire world. In addition, we need to understand that where Yahshua is telling us to do so in Matthew 24: 14, He is not saying you must convert and immerse them, no, carefully notice what he said: ***“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.”*** New believers should also be aware of the fact that they should go through Messiah’s discipleship program before they will be ready to start teaching other believers on their own. We need to recall Yahshua’s words in Matthew 15: 13 where He talks about the blind leading the blind, saying: ***“Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be rooted up.”*** Instead of reading verse 14, we go on to Luke 6: 39 & 40, where Yahshua spoke specifically about His discipleship program, saying: ***“A blind man cannot guide a blind man, can he? Will they not both fall into a pit? (40) A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.”*** The problem is that people don’t trust the teachers whom YHVH chose to do His work, and believe they know a lot more than these unimportant little souls. However, Rav Shaul warns those who thinks like that in first Timothy 3: 7, where he gives the qualification of a teacher, saying: ***‘An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife (of the ladies he says the same thing in verses 11), temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, (3) not addicted to wine or pugnacious (confrontational), but gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money. (4) He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (5) (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the congregation of Elohim?); (6) and not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into condemnation incurred by the devil. (7) And he must have a good reputation with those outside the congregation, so that he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.’***



In addition those whom the new believer usually try and teach, will soon become the ones who might in future turn and persecute him/her, as Yahshua clearly taught in Luke 12: 51 – 53, saying: ***“Do you suppose that I came to grant peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division; (52) for from now on five members in on household will be divided, three against two, and two against three. (53) They will be divided, father against son, and son against father; mother against daughter, and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against daughter-in-law; and daughter-in-law against mother-in law.”*** He also warned in John 15: 18 – 21, saying: ***“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. (19) If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore it hates you. (20) Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A Slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. (21) But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know the one who sent Me.”***

YHVH has a plan and He works strictly according to that plan, despite of what you and I think. Once He calls us, He expects us to learn to live the way he specified in His word, by learning from someone guiding us to get to know YHVH and His will and way better, as Rav Kepha wrote in 2 Peter 3: 18, saying: ***‘But grow in grace and knowledge of our Master and Savior Yahshua Messiah. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amein.’*** Rav Shaul also tells us why we have teachers, but also for how long we should be trained under them, in Ephesians 4: 11 – 16, 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*** (in accordance with Romans 8: 28 & 29). ***(14) As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; (15) but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Messiah, (16) from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.’*** The entire reason for calling us as first fruits, is because similar to the first born children in ancient times, and as still applicable in Jewish homes, the first born children were dedicated to YHVH for service to Him, and to teach the rest of the Israelites, the Torah of Elohim, we are being trained at this time, to become first fruit kings and priests under Yahshua during His millennial rule, and beyond. At this time YHVH is training each one us for that most important role that He is planning for us in His kingdom. But in addition to training us through the teachers that He provides, He gives us various trials and tests to help us build character like His, by the time we die, or if Messiah should come before that day. Fact is we are being judged at this time, to see if we will be able to fulfill the job functions He has planned for us in future, as Rav Kepha warned in first Peter 4: 17, saying: ***‘For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of Elohim; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of Elohim?’***

The Scriptures inform us in Hebrews 1: 1 - 2 that Yahshua is the heir of all things, in this way: ***‘Elohim, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, (2) in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.’*** However, we read further from Romans 8: 15 & 16 that those of us whom Elohim is busy calling at this time, also have an opportunity to become co-heirs with Yahshua, as follows: ***‘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.’*** We have the absolute assurance that if we overcome our own human nature, the world, and Satan, we will make it into the Kingdom of Elohim, to become kings and priests ruling under Yahshua on the earth, in Revelation 5: 9 & 10, as follows: ***‘And they sang a new song saying, “Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for thou wast slain, and didst purchase for Elohim with Thy blood men from every***

**tribe and tongue and people and nation.**(10) **And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our Elohim; and they will reign upon the earth.**” Nevertheless, YHVH requires that we qualify during this life time, to enable us to become rulers in the Kingdom of Elohim.

We read as an example about Satan’s fall from heaven when He rebelled against Elohim in Isaiah 14: 12. Satan was once one of three Archangels and ruled over a third of all the angels. However, he was not always content with his position as ruler over the angels, and wanted to take over Elohim’s throne, as witnessed in verses 13 & 14 of Isaiah 14, in this way: **“But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars (angels as understood from Revelation 1: 20) of Elohim, and I will sit on the mount of the assembly In the recesses of the north (where the throne of YHVH is). (14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”** Satan was perfect in all his ways, until lawlessness was found in him. In fact Yahshua who was the word before He became Yahshua the Son of Man said in Luke 10: 18, **“I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.”** Satan was disqualified from being a ruler.

The account of the creation of the first man and woman, in the image of Elohim, in Genesis 1: 27, hints at our destiny to become rulers in place of Satan. YHVH gave Adam an opportunity to become a ruler, when He gave Adam and Eve a set of instructions, which He wanted them to follow exactly. Failure to obey His instructions would bring the death penalty. We read about this in Genesis 3: 1 & 3 as follows: **‘Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which YHVH Elohim had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has Elohim said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’” (2) ‘And the woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; (3) but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, Elohim has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die.”’** Never before this was there a death penalty. Disobedience to the rules of YHVH our Elohim confers the death penalty on all of us. If our names are not written in the book of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the earth, we will worship the dragon, who is Satan. This is recorded in Revelation 13: 8. However in verses 9 & 10 of Revelation 13, we are admonished to persevere and remain faithful. In Romans 8: 29 & 30 we also read: **‘For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; (30) and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.’** YHVH predestined those of us whom He has called during this age, to become rulers during the millennial rule of Messiah and beyond. However, we need to qualify for the rulership positions He has planned for us.

We know that Adam and Eve induced by the lies and temptation of Satan, did sin. Since then all humankind have sinned and fall short of the esteem of YHVH. Death spread to all humankind through the sins of our forefathers. Sin entered on the human level and death reigned from Adam to Moses as is recorded for us in Romans 5: 12 – 14 **‘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 – (13) for until the Law sin was in the world; but sin is not imputed when there is no law. (14) Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.’** We see in Revelation 20 in the first part of verse 14 that death will be the last thing that will be destroyed: **‘And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.’** But, reading from Matthew 4 we see that Yahshua qualified to replace Satan as ruler. When Satan tempted Yahshua with the kingdoms and riches of the world, it was his to give. Satan offered Yahshua rulership of the kingdoms of the world, provided that He (Yahshua) bow down and worship him (Satan). We see that Yahshua did not dispute the fact that these kingdoms were Satan’s to give, but instead He said to him (Satan), in Matthew 4: 10, **“Be gone, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship YHVH your Elohim, and serve Him only.’”** Messiah has become the first fruit of them that are asleep. We read this in first Corinthians 15: 20 as follows: **‘But now Messiah has been raised from the dead, the first fruit of those who are asleep.’** We also read in verses 21, 22 and 45 of 1 Corinthians 15: **‘For since by a man came death, by a man also come the resurrection of the dead. (22) For as in Adam all die, so also**

***in Messiah all shall be made alive. (45) So also it is written, "The first Man Adam BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam (Yahshua) became a life-giving spirit.'***

By man came death because of sin, but by Messiah came the resurrection to life. His (Yahshua's) obedience conferred a blessing on us, His followers. Yahshua passed the test as witnessed in Hebrews 2: 8 – 10, as follows: ***'THOU HAST PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. For in subjecting all things to him, He Left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him. (9) But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Yahshua, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of Elohim He might taste death for everyone. (10) For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.'*** We also know from the Scriptures that Yahshua was tested in all points and qualified as recorded for us in Hebrews 4: 15 as follows: ***'For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.'*** Yahshua qualified to replace Satan as ruler of the earth. We see also that Abram qualified by being obedient to the instructions that YHVH gave him in Genesis 12, and he did not argue when YHVH told him to go forth from his country, from his relatives and from his father's house, to a land which YHVH will show him. Abram left without questions. YHVH entered into a covenant with Abram and as a sign of the covenant he (Abram) and his descendants would be circumcised. At this time YHVH changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means father of a multitude. Abraham further obeyed YHVH, when YHVH told him to offer up his son Isaac in Genesis 22. In verse 10 of Genesis 22, we see that Abraham passed the test and that he qualified to rule in the kingdom of Elohim. We see in Hebrews 11: 9 & 10 that Abraham was looking forward to being in the kingdom of Elohim as follows: ***'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.'*** In Genesis 22: 18 YHVH says to Abraham: ***"And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."*** In Genesis 26: 2 – 5 we read YHVH appearing to Isaac, ***'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.'"***

As YHVH promised that through his one seed, namely Yahshua the Messiah, we from the lost ten tribes, whom he is busy calling from the world, has the same chance as those who remained faithful to His Torah throughout the ages, since He entered into a covenant relationship with all Israel at Mount Sinai. YHVH shows mercy unto all of them who love Him and keep His commandments as is recorded for us in Exodus 20: 5 & 6 as follows: ***"You shall not worship them (idols) or serve them; for I, YHVH your Elohim, am a jealous Elohim, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing loving-kindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."*** There is not even a question – we show YHVH that we love Him by keeping His commandments. We know that YHVH rejected King Saul for failing the tests that YHVH gave Him. We also know that YHVH called David a man after His own heart, despite having committed adultery and murder. The reason is that David did not blame others for the sins that he committed. He owned-up and repented in sackcloth and ashes. Psalm 51 is a Psalm of David after he sinned. The point is that there is no inheritance without testing. We know that Joseph passed his test and that his brother, Jacob's first born son Reuben failed – because of sin. Let us focus for a moment on Israel's first king – King Saul. King Saul failed the test which YHVH gave him; he offered up a burnt offering – something which only a priest could do. We read the account in first Samuel 13: 5 – 9 as follows: ***'Now the Philistines assembled to fight with Israel, 30,000 chariots and 6,000 horsemen, and people like the sand which is on the sea shore in abundance; and they came up and camped in Michmash, east of Beth-aven. (6) When the men of Israel saw that they were in a***

*strait (for the people were hard-pressed), then the people hid themselves in caves, in thickets, in cliffs, in cellars, and in pits.(7) Also some of the Hebrews crossed the Jordan into the land of Gad and Gilead. But as for Saul he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him with trembling.(8) Now he waited seven days, according to the appointed time set by Samuel, but Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattering from him.(9) So Saul said, "Bring to me the burnt offering and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering.'* In verse 13 and the first part of verse 14 of first Samuel 13 we read: *'And Samuel said to Saul, "You have acted foolishly; you have not kept the commandments of YHVH your Elohim, which He commanded you, for now YHVH would have established your kingdom over Israel for ever. (14) But now your kingdom shall not endure.'"* Saul lacked faith in YHVH and failed.

We read from Hebrews 11: 6 that it is not possible to please YHVH, without faith, in this way: *'And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to Elohim must believe that He is, and that He is the rewarded of those who seek Him.'* In addition we read from first Samuel 15: 1 – 3: *'Then Samuel said to Saul, "YHVH sent me to anoint you as king over His people, over Israel; now therefore, listen to the words of YHVH. (2) Thus says YHVH of hosts, 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he set himself against him on the way while he was coming up from Egypt. (3) Now go and strike Amalek and utterly destroy all that he has, and do not spare him; but put to death both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'"* We see in 1 Samuel 15: 9 that Saul disobeyed YHVH – he saved Agag the king of Amalek, as well as the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good. When Samuel question Saul about this in 1 Samuel 15: 13 - 15, Saul blamed the people for his indiscretion. In verse 23 of 1 Samuel 15 we see that YHVH rejected Saul from being king over Israel, as follows: *"For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and insubordination is an iniquity and idolatry. Because you (Saul) have rejected the word of YHVH, He has also rejected you from being king."*

If we are planning to become kings and priest in the kingdom of Elohim, we need to make very sure that we pass the tests that YHVH put before us. Let us learn from the examples of the first two kings of Israel, namely King Saul and King David. King Saul lacked faith in YHVH and blamed others for his wrong decisions. Even though King David also committed major sins, he never blamed others for his indiscretions. Instead he repented and returned to the teachings of YHVH. Let us do likewise, and aim to qualify for rulership in Elohim's everlasting Kingdom. Think about it!

## Chapter 9: The Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot).

The Feast of Tabernacles is the sixth annual festival of Elohim and pictures the coming millennium, during which all of the survivors of the Great Tribulation and the Day of YHVH and their progeny will have an opportunity for salvation. The Feast of Tabernacles is commanded to be kept every year, as recorded in Leviticus 23: 33 - 35, in this way: ***'Again YHVH spoke to Moses, saying, (34) "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'On the fifteenth of this seventh month is the Feast of Booths for seven days to YHVH. (35) On the first day is a holy (set-apart) convocation; you shall do no laborious work of any kind.'"*** We see that on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles all ordinary work is forbidden and believers are to gather before Elohim for worship services. We read further from verse 41 of Leviticus 23, ***'You shall thus celebrate it (the Feast of Booths) as a feast to YHVH for seven days in the year. It shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the seventh month (according to the Hebrew Calendar that Elohim gave Moses and those who sit in his seat to proclaim annually).'***

We see from (Exodus 23: 16 &) Exodus 34: 22, that the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths was also referred to as the Feast of Ingathering, in this way: ***"And you shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost), that is, the first fruits of the wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the turn of the year."*** The underlined sentence refer to the autumnal equinox, since it celebrated the late summer-early autumn harvest, as witnessed in Leviticus 23: 39, as follows: ***"On exactly the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the crops of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of YHVH for seven days, with a rest on the first day and a rest on the eighth day."*** The harvest festival was to be a time of great rejoicing and thanksgiving for Elohim's abundant blessings. Elohim used the two annual harvest seasons in the Land of Israel in the Middle East, to picture the future harvests of mankind into His spiritual Family. The spring grain harvest is small compared to the great fall (autumn) harvest and is represented by the Feast of Weeks lasting only one day. It pictures the spiritual first fruits consisting of a relatively small number of people whom Elohim has called into His congregation before Messiah's return, when they will be born (again) into His Spiritual Family. The Feast of Tabernacles lasts a full seven days, showing that the greatest part of Elohim's second harvest of mankind into His Kingdom, will last for a thousand years. People will be born physically, called of Elohim during the Millennium, and after fulfilling their life's purpose of growing in Elohim's perfect character, born spiritually into His family.

During Yahshua Messiah's human life on earth, the descendants of Judah who returned to the Promised Land during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah were still keeping the Feast of Tabernacles, as witnessed in John 7: 2, as follows: ***'Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was at hand.'*** Rav Yochanan called the celebration *'the feast of the Jews'* because His book was primarily written for the Gentiles. The house of Israel had lost the knowledge of Elohim's Set-apart Days, but Judah had preserved the Tanach and the Sabbaths according to Elohim's instructions. Yahshua instructed his disciples to go up to the Feast in verse 8, and we read from verses 10 & 14, how He also kept the Feast of Tabernacles with His Jewish Brothers, in this way: ***'But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He Himself also went up, not publically, but as it were, in secret. (14) But when it was now the midst of the feast Yahshua went up into the temple, and began to teach.'*** Yahshua had been present at the Feast from the first day, although He only stood up to teach near the middle of the feast. He arrived secretly and kept out of the limelight because certain of the religious leaders were seeking to kill Him. Even though Yahshua was critical of the *'traditions of the elders'*, He always made it clear that Elohim's laws remained binding, and went on to magnify them in Matthew 5, 6 & 7. All twelve tribes of Israel will keep the Feast of Tabernacles during the Millennium as witnessed in Hosea 12: 8 & 9, as follows: ***'And Ephraim said, "Surely I have become rich, I have found wealth for myself; in all my labors they will find in me no iniquity, which would be sin." (9) But I have been YHVH your Elohim since the land of Egypt; I will make you live in tents again, as in the days of the appointed festivals.'*** Even the Gentile nations will join Israel in keeping the Feast of Booths during the Millennium, as witnessed in Zechariah 14: 16, in this way: ***'Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, YHVH of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths.'*** Those nations who refuse to keep the Feast of booths annually, will be punished, as

recorded in verse 17, as follows: ***‘And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, YHVH of hosts, there will be no rain on them.*** In similar way, Elohim allows those who refuse to keep His annual and weekly Sabbath now, but will only protect those who obey Him during the time of trouble immediately ahead.

Elohim wants His people to rejoice at the Feast of Tabernacles, regardless of their age, social class or economic standard as He instructed in Deuteronomy 16: 13 – 15, saying: ***“You shall celebrate the Feast of Booths seven days after you have gathered in from your threshing floor and your wine vat; (14) and you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter and your male and female servants and the Levite and the stranger and the orphan and the widow who are in your towns. (15) Seven days you shall celebrate a feast to YHVH your Elohim in the place which YHVH chooses, because YHVH your Elohim will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you shall be altogether joyful.”*** In fact we see according to Elohim’s instruction we should spend the tithe that we are supposed to set aside for the Feast Days of Elohim, on whatever our hearts desire, so long as it is kosher, as recorded in Deuteronomy 14: 22 – 26, in this way: ***“You shall surely tithe all the produce from what you sow, which comes out of the field every year. (23) And you shall eat in the presence of YHVH your Elohim, at the place where He chooses to establish His name, the tithe of your grain, your new wine, your oil, and the first-born of your herd and your flock, in order that you may learn to fear YHVH your Elohim always. (24) And if the distance is so great for you that you are not able to bring the tithe, since the place where YHVH your Elohim chooses to set His name is too far away from you when YHVH your Elohim blesses you, (25) then you shall exchange it for money, and bind the money in your hand and go to the place which YHVH your Elohim chooses. (26) And you may spend the money for whatever your heart desires, for oxen, or sheep, or wine, or strong drink, or whatever your heart desires; and there you shall eat in the presence of YHVH your Elohim and rejoice, you and your household.”*** The Feast of Tabernacles is a time of great rejoicing. In ancient Israel it was a time of rejoicing because of the abundant winter food supply, harvested just prior to the Feast. Elohim’s people at the Feast demonstrate now, by the way they live together in harmony, what the world will be like after Messiah returns.

We notice from verses 22 – 26 above that YHVH commanded his people to save a tithe (10 percent of their net income) throughout the year to be spent in travelling to and attending the Feast. The Feast of Tabernacles gives Elohim’s called out people the opportunity to live joyfully for 8 days; to live above what they would normally be able to afford, so that they may experience a foretaste of the wealth the whole world will enjoy in the coming Kingdom of Elohim. We see that when the Set-apart Spirit is poured out freely during the Millennium, the attitude of human beings will change for the better, as we read from Micah 4: 1 – 4, as follows: ***‘And it will come about in the last days that the mountain (government) 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. (2) And many nations will come and say, “Come and let us go up to the mountain of YHVH and to the house of the Elohim of Jacob, that He may teach us about His ways and that we may walk in His paths.” For from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of YHVH from Jerusalem. (3) And he will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war. (4) 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 of hosts has spoken.’*** We see further from Isaiah 11: 6 - 9 that even the nature of wild animals will be changed during the Millennium rule of Messiah, 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.”*** Once Elohim places His Spirit within repentant mankind during the Millennium, people will begin to express outgoing love and concern for others and will obey Elohim.

The coming government of Elohim will not be a democracy, or any other form of human government, but Messiah will rule supreme from world headquarters in Jerusalem, as we read from Jeremiah 3: 17, as follows: ***“At that time they shall call Jerusalem ‘The Throne of YHVH,’ and all 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.”*** We see further from Daniel 7: 14, 18 & 27, ***“And to Him (the Son of Man) 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. (18) But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come. (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.”*** Messiah will be over the saints as their Husband, because the saints – or immortal children of Elohim, will constitute the Bride of Messiah. Messiah was showing in the parable of the pounds (or minas) that those who develop their talents (abilities) to do Elohim’s will, will be rewarded with positions of rulership. There will be local administration districts, some larger, some smaller – that will be administered by the Spirit born again children of Elohim. Rav Luka (Luke) reveals the names of several faithful servants of Elohim who will be given high positions under Messiah in the Kingdom of Elohim, in Luke 13: 28, as follows: ***“There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth there when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of Elohim, but yourselves being cast out.”*** We see that David will again rule over the modern descendants of Jacob, from Ezekiel 37: 24 & 25, ***“And My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in my ordinances, and keep my statutes, and observe them. (25) And they shall live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons, and their son’s sons, forever, and David My servant shall be their prince forever.”*** The patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and other men of Elohim such as Joseph, Job, Moses and David, will be brought back to life, immortal, in glorified power, to occupy high executive positions in the new world government. We see further from Luke 22: 29 – 30 that Yahshua’s disciples, who remained loyal to Him, will also have executive positions in the Kingdom of Elohim, in this way: ***“And just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you (30) that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”*** The resurrected immortal saints will similarly to Messiah’s original disciples, judge the rest of mankind as witnessed in 1 Corinthians 6: 2, as follows: ***‘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?’*** In Elohim’s government on earth His already established laws will be applicable; His family of sons and daughters will enforce these laws, by interpreting and judging cases accordingly; and by teaching the survivors of the great tribulation and the day of YHVH, and their children these Laws.

Yahshua taught in Matthew 20: 26 - 28 that every divine ruler will rule his subjects in genuine love and concern, saying: ***“It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, (27) and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; (28) just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*** Each ruler under Messiah will rule with authority given them by Messiah, as He said in Revelation 2: 26 & 27, in this way: ***“And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; (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.”*** Elohim’s government will be perfectly organized, devoid of red tape and excessive bureaucracies, and will be permanent. No time and money will be wasted on election campaigns and there will be no political mud-slinging, insurrections, or rebellions, because Elohim’s government cannot be overthrown. Nor will any member of the government ever turn into another adversary like Satan, as witnessed in 1 John 3: 9, as follows: ***‘No one who is born of Elohim practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of Elohim.’*** Spirit-born teachers in Elohim’s Kingdom will have 100% success rate in teaching people, as we read from Habakkuk 2: 14, in this way: ***“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of YHVH, as the waters cover the sea.”***

Spiritual blindness will be removed during the Millennium and people will begin to live Elohim's way of giving and outgoing concern for fellow human beings.

People will no longer be influenced by Satan and the false attraction of this present world to distract them from overcoming their human nature that will come to an end. Elohim's way will become the popular broad way and pressures in society that now urge people toward conformity with this present evil world, will be changed toward conformity with Elohim's standard, toward overcoming human nature and building Elohim's perfect character. When Messiah has forcibly put down those who fill the earth with violence, He will abolish the fear of war, as witnessed in Isaiah 2: 4, as follows: ***'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.'*** Just imagine, never again any destruction of the fruit of years of labor, no more waste of human life and no young men drafted from their home, to have their minds confused with hatred. We also do not ever have to fear that Yahshua our Messiah will be a tyrannical ruler, as we read from Isaiah 11: 4, in this way: ***'But with righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; and He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips he will slay the wicked.'*** Yahshua will make perfect unbiased decisions, as indicated in verse 3 of Isaiah 11, as follows: ***'And He will delight in the fear of YHVH, and He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make a decision by what His ears hear.'***

In addition, Elohim will liberate people from fear of sickness and disease, as recorded in Isaiah 33: 24, in this way: ***'And no resident will say, "I am sick"; the people who dwell there will be forgiven their iniquity.'*** The mentally and physically handicapped will be healed miraculously as confirmed in Isaiah 35: 3 – 6, 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."*** Education about true health and the miraculous healing of all sickness and disease will mean radiant health for everyone during that time. There will be no more fear and worries in the cities and they will be filled with radiantly happy families, as witnessed in Jeremiah 33: 10 - 11, in this way: ***"Thus says YHVH, 'Yet again there shall be heard in this place, of which you say, "It is a waste, without man and without beast," that is, in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man and without inhabitant and without beast, (11) the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who say, "Give thanks to YHVH of hosts, for YHVH is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting?"; and of those who bring a thank offering into the house of YHVH. For I will restore the fortunes of the land as they were at first,' says YHVH."*** People will no longer fear their neighbors. They won't have to worry about living next door to someone who is mentally unbalanced, a pervert or a murderer. The old won't have to fear being attacked and brutally beaten by some juvenile delinquents out looking for fun.

Most of the earth's land surface will become productive again, and there will be forests, agricultural areas and fish-filled lakes and streams, with no polluted rivers or ravaged landscapes all over the world, because old waste places will be made fertile, as witnessed in Isaiah 41: 18 & 19, as follows: ***"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."*** We also read from Amos 9: 13 & 14, ***"Behold, days are coming," declares YHVH, "When the plowman will overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; when the mountains will drip sweet wine, and all the hills will be dissolved. (14) Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, and they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them, they will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, and make gardens and eat their fruit."***



One of the major barriers to cooperation between the different peoples of the world today, is confusion of languages. But we see from Zephaniah 3: 9 that Elohim will give the whole world a pure language during the Millennium, 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.”*** This will start an era of worldwide literacy and education through a pure language, and people everywhere will speak, read and write that same language (which will most probably be a pure form of Hebrew). Reeducation will not teach people to have self-confidence, but confidence in Messiah dwelling in them through the Set-apart Spirit. The only fear that will remain during the Millennium will be the proper fear of Elohim, as witnessed in Isaiah 59: 19, in this way: ***‘So they will fear the name of YHVH from the west and His glory from the rising of the sun. For He will come like a rushing stream, which the wind of YHVH drives.’*** This fear is not terror and misery, but the mature, sound-minded realization that disobeying the laws that Elohim has set in motion for our good, leads to nothing but trouble, wretchedness, and deprivation. In fact the Feast of Tabernacles was given that we might learn to fear Elohim always, as confirmed in Deuteronomy 14: 23 in this way: ***“And you shall eat in the presence of YHVH your Elohim, at the place where He chooses to establish His name, the tithe of your grain, your new wine, your oil, and the first-born of your herd and your flock, in order that you may learn to fear YHVH your Elohim always.”***

At Messiah’s return He will deliver the remnant of the descendants of ancient Israel, who will have become captives during the coming Great Tribulation. They will not be changed to immortality at Messiah’s return, but rather restored to the Promised Land as physical human beings. The remnant of Israel still alive at that time, will be eager to enter into a ‘perpetual covenant’ with Him, as recorded in Jeremiah 50: 4 & 5, as follows: ***“In those days and at that time,” declares YHVH, “The sons of Israel will come, both they and the sons of Judah as well; they will go along weeping as they go, and it will be YHVH their Elohim they will seek, (5) They will ask for the way to Zion, turning their faces in its direction; they will come that they may join themselves to YHVH in an everlasting covenant that will not be forgotten.”*** Messiah’s blood will cleanse all Israel so that in living a truly ‘converted’ life, the nation will reach the apex of joy and gladness and material prosperity, as YHVH inspired Jeremiah to write in Jeremiah 33: 7 – 9, saying: ***‘And I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and I will rebuild them as they were at first. (8) And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against me, and I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have sinned against Me, and by which they have transgressed against Me. (9) And it shall be to Me a name of joy, praise, and glory before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear of all the good that I do for them, and they shall fear and tremble because of all the good and all the peace that I make for it.’*** At that time, Elohim will bestow upon obedient Israel all of the great material blessings He promised to give their ancestors had they obeyed (Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28).

Abraham’s offspring were prophesied to become extremely numerous in Genesis 13: 16. We see from a prophecy by Ezekiel in Ezekiel 36: 10 & 11, that Israel’s population will reach its peak during the millennium, in this way: ***‘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 the first. Thus you will know that I am YHVH.’*** A second witness comes from Isaiah 60: 21 & 22, as follows: ***‘Then all your people will be righteous; they will possess the land forever, the branch of My planting, the works of My hands, that I may be glorified. (22) The smallest one will become a clan, and the least one a mighty nation. I, YHVH, will hasten it in its time.’*** In fact we see from Isaiah 27; 6 that in those days the Israelites will again spread into every part of the globe and be a blessing to the rest of the world both materially and spiritually. As the Gentiles will start following Israel in Elohim’s way, they too will be blessed physically, and spiritually by becoming Abraham’s ‘seed’ – through Messiah (as per Galatians 3: 28 & 29), becoming Spirit-begotten and finally Spirit-born into the Family of Elohim. The 12 tribes of Israel will truly become the model nation that Elohim intended them to be, during the millennium.

The Feast of Tabernacles also pictures the ‘marriage supper’ (or wedding reception) of Yahshua Messiah and His Spirit-born congregation. According to Revelation 19: 6 & 7, the marriage of the Lamb will occur after

Messiah's return, as follows: ***'And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude and as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Halleluyah! For YHVH our Elohim, the Almighty reigns. (7) Lets rejoice and be glad and give glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."*** Messiah's marriage will be a time of great rejoicing after the war, darkness and trouble that will occur before Messiah's return, pictured by the Feast of Trumpets! In ancient Israel a marriage feast lasted for seven days as witnessed in Judges 14: 2, 10 & 12, in this way: ***'So he (Samson) came back and told his father and mother, "I saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife."*** (10) ***Then his father went down to the woman; and Samson made a feast there, for the young men customarily did this. (12) Then Samson said to them, "Let me now propound a riddle to you; if you will indeed tell it to me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes."*** Similarly the Feast of Tabernacles picturing the marriage feast of Messiah also lasts for seven days, and in the same way that a bride is bound to obey her groom as long as they live, will the Bride of Messiah obey Him forever, as depicted in Ephesians 5: 22 – 27 & 32, as follows: ***'Wives be subject to your own husbands, as to the Master. (23) For the husband is the head of the wife, as Messiah also is the head of the congregation, He Himself being the Savior of the body. (24) But as the congregation is subject to Messiah, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. (25) Husbands, love your wives, just as Messiah also loved the congregation and gave Himself up for her; (26) that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, (27) that He might present to Himself the congregation in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless. (32) This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Messiah and the congregation.'***

As recorded in Nehemiah 8: 18, Nehemiah read the Torah to the people at the Feast of Tabernacles from the first day to the last day. Similarly must those who will be added to the Bride of Messiah during the Millennium, learn Elohim's Torah in their lives – so that they will be able to teach others during that time. Messiah emphasized the necessity for an inner change, brought about by the Set-apart Spirit to prepare new believers for the marriage of the Lamb, in Matthew 25: 6 – 10, saying: ***"But at midnight there was a shout, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'*** (7) ***Then all those virgins rose, and trimmed their lamps. (8) And the foolish said to the prudent, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'*** (9) ***But the prudent answered, saying, 'No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.'*** (10) ***And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut.'*** Ancient Israel did not have the heart to fear and obey Elohim always (as per Deuteronomy 29: 4), but when they receive the Set-apart Spirit it will enable them to obey, as YHVH inspired Jeremiah to write in Jeremiah 32: 38 - 40, saying: ***"And they shall be my people, and I will be their Elohim; (39) and I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me always, for their own good, and for the good of their children after them. (40) And I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; and I will put the fear of Me in their heart so that they will not turn away from Me.'*** The Covenant that YHVH made with both houses of Israel at Mount Sinai was a marriage agreement as may be seen from Jeremiah 31: 32. When the house of Israel persistently broke the terms of the agreement and committed spiritual adultery – her sins divorced her from the One who later became Yahshua Messiah, as we read from the first part of Jeremiah 3: 8, as follows: ***"And I saw that for all the adulteries of faithless Israel, I had sent her away and given her a writ of divorce."***

Elohim's true congregation of called out believers are composed of mainly bloodline Israelites, who were intermixed into the nations of the world. But, Gentile believers can enter the congregation of Elohim, by becoming spiritual Israelites as explained by Rav Shaul in Galatians 3: 26 – 29, Galatians 6: 16 and Romans 9: 6 & 7. Messiah will remarry both houses of Israel again, but at that time they will be immortal, righteous and spiritual, not carnal, as at Sinai. These Spiritual Israelites will be the rulers of the physical nation of Israel and those physical Israelites who qualify during the Millennium, will be added to Elohim's ruling Family, as they are born-again. Isaiah 54 describes spiritual Israel remarried to Messiah, in contrast to the physical nation during the past 3,500 years. The congregation is presently made up of only a few truly converted believers

and will remain so, until the making of the New (marriage) Covenant. Physical Israel never multiplied as fast as the congregation of converted Israelites will multiply during the Millennium. The Family of Elohim is preparing for great things in the future. The Millennium is only the beginning of eternity, joy, happiness and accomplishment that will last forever. To us as called out believers, the Feast of Tabernacles is a continual reminder of Israel's 40-year sojourn in the wilderness, because they lived in temporary dwellings during that time, as recorded in Leviticus 23: 42 & 43, in this way: ***'You shall live in booths for seven days; all the native-born in Israel shall live in booths, (43) so that your generations may know that I had the sons of Israel live in booths when I brought them out from the land of Egypt. I am YHVH your Elohim.'*** The rebellious generation in the wilderness is a type of all carnal, rebellious people, and the temporary dwellings typify the fact that humans even during the 1,000 years will be mortal, and that human life and society throughout the Millennium will be only temporary. We need to understand that only eternal life is permanent! We see that our Israelite forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob also lived in temporary dwellings as heirs, but not yet as inheritors, as witnessed in Hebrews 11: 9 & 13, as follows: ***'By faith he (Abraham) 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. (13) All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on earth.'*** So their dwelling in booths pictured that they were only heirs, not yet inheritors of eternal life in Elohim's Kingdom and eternal possession of the land.

Believers in Messiah are at this time only aliens and strangers as Rav Kepha wrote in first Peter 2: 11, saying: ***'Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul.'*** In fact near the end of his life, Rav Kepha compared his physical body to a temporary dwelling, in 2 Peter 1: 13 & 14, saying: ***'And I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, (14) knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Master Yahshua Messiah has made clear to me.'*** Human beings made from the dust of the ground are destined to die and only after receiving Elohim's Spirit can we hope to live forever, as is recorded in first John 5: 11, in this way: ***'And the witness is this, that Elohim has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.'*** Our physical bodies, with all our imperfections, our natural desires, our weaknesses, aches and pains – are meant to last only long enough for us to learn to serve Elohim in this life. By staying in temporary dwellings during the Feast of Tabernacles each year, we are reminded that this physical life is only temporary, and that we are merely pilgrims, waiting to inherit the Kingdom of Elohim.

After Messiah return to establish Elohim's kingdom on earth, His government will continue to expand, as witnessed in Isaiah 9: 7, in this way: ***"There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness, from then on and forever more. The zeal of YHVH of hosts will accomplish this."*** The government of Elohim, like leaven in a lump of dough, will gradually spread throughout the whole earth during the Millennium, until eventually thousands of millions will be spiritually converted. The great harvest of human beings, pictured by the autumn harvest in the Holy Land, will be gathered into the Kingdom of Elohim – born again as spiritual members of the Elohim Family. By the end of the 1,000 years, Elohim's family will be ready for the final step in Elohim's Master Plan of salvation.

## Chapter 10: The Last Great Day.

Why have countless millions of people died without ever having had a chance to understand the reason for life and to be saved? Even at this time, the majority of people have not heard Messiah's true Gospel about the coming Kingdom of Elohim, and even if those who hear the true gospel finds it too incredible to understand and believe, Satan comes and snatches away what has been sown in their hearts as Yahshua also confirmed in Matthew 13: 19<sup>7</sup>. A second witness to this comes from 2 Corinthians 4: 3 & 4, in this way: **'And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, (4) in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of glory of Messiah, who is the image of Elohim.'** Think about it! – Such people have not really had a chance to understand or be saved.

But, are they all 'lost' forever, through no fault of their own? Definitely not! Shocking as it may sound; Elohim does not want everyone to understand His truth at this time! We need to understand, that YHVH our Elohim is Almighty, and if He wanted them to understand at this time, they would definitely understand. Elohim, in that sense, is responsible for having allowed the majority of mankind to be blinded by Satan to His truth. The point is, that it is Elohim's plan and purpose, that until Messiah's return, only those He specifically calls at this time, will understand as witnessed in John 6: 44<sup>8</sup>, but more specifically in Matthew 13: 11 & 12, as follows: **'And He (Yahshua) answered and said to them (His disciples), "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. (12) For whoever has, to him shall more be given, and he shall have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him."**' Yahshua severely criticized the towns in which He performed many of His miracles saying in Matthew 11: 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."** The people of Tyre and Sidon eventually died in their idolatry, but, are they as some Christian denominations teach, eternally condemned? Yahshua was implying here that if Elohim had sent Him to these people in earlier ages, they would have repented. But, why were they allowed to be punished by the Babylonians, the Persians and the Greeks? Was Elohim trying to save them? We see further in Matthew 11: 23, Yahshua also admonished Capernaum, saying: **"And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You shall descend to Hades (the grave); for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day."** Sodom and Gemorrah was destroyed by Elohim because of their severe sins, as witnessed in Genesis 19: 24 & 25. Some Christian denominations would like to condemn these people to eternal punishment, Yahshua showed that if he had performed miracles in those cities, the people would have repented and they would not have been destroyed.

The question is: Is Elohim fair? Yes, He is, and it is because he is a merciful Elohim and knows that the people of those towns were never taught His truths, they will be given their first opportunity to repent and be saved during the day of Judgment, as recorded in verses 22 & 24 of Matthew 11, in this way: **"Nevertheless I say to you, it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the Day of Judgment, than for you. (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."** Elohim is a perfect example of love (mercy) and justice (severity). He punishes the wicked, who sins willfully, but the millions of people for whom Yahshua died, yet through no fault of their own did not come to know Him, Elohim has a plan to offer them salvation at a later time. It is my purpose today, to give you a glimpse into this final step in Elohim's master plan of salvation for all mankind.

After Messiah returns to establish the Kingdom of Elohim on earth, He will ensure that millions are taught Elohim's way of salvation. As mentioned in the teaching for Tabernacles, all those who survive the Great Tribulation and the Day of YHVH, as well as their children born during the Millennium will have their opportunity to understand Elohim's truth and be born into His Family during that time. But what about the

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<sup>7</sup> Matthew 13: 19 (first part): **"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."**

<sup>8</sup> John 6: 44: **"No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day."**

millions who have died before without ever hearing or understanding Elohim's way of salvation? They will be resurrected to mortal life, after the Millennium and be given their chance to understand Elohim's truths, to be begotten by Elohim's Spirit, to grow in His character, and to become spirit-born members of Elohim's Family. Even after telling this to some Nazarene/Messianic believers in the past, they found it too good to be true. So, allow me to show this truth you from your own Scriptures.

We see from Leviticus 23: 34 – 36, that Elohim commanded His people to observe an eighth day of worship immediately after the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles, as follows: ***“Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘On the fifteenth of this seventh month is the Feast of Booths for seven days to YHVH. (35) On the first day is a holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work of any kind. (36) For seven days you shall present an offering by fire to YHVH. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation and present an offering by fire to YHVH; it is an assembly. You shall do no laborious work.”*** We see further from verse 39 that Elohim's people are to keep this eighth day as a separate festival, distinct from the Feast of Tabernacles, in this way: ***‘On exactly the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the crops of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of YHVH for seven days, with a rest on the first day and a rest on the eighth day.’*** The last annual Sabbath is observed immediately after the Feast of Tabernacles. Even though it is associated with the Feast of Tabernacles, it is clearly a separate festival. Because the eighth day is the final annual Set-apart Day, it came to be known as the Last Great Day.

We see that even after Elohim allowed the sons of Judah to return from their exile in Babylon with Ezra and Nehemiah, they learnt to observe the Feast of Tabernacles, including the Last Great Day again, as recorded in Nehemiah 8: 18, in this way: ***‘And he (Ezra) read from the book of the law of Elohim daily, from the first day to the last day. And they celebrated the feast seven days, and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly according to the ordinance.’*** Yahshua commissioned His disciple (students) to follow His example to teach others in Matthew 28: 19 & 20, as follows: ***‘Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, immersing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Set-apart Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’*** Yahshua kept all the Feast Days according to the Jewish calendar, including the Feast of Tabernacles, as witnessed in John 7: 2, in this way: ***‘Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was at hand.’*** Yahshua instructed his disciples to go up to the Feast in verse 8 of John 7, and according to verses 10 & 14, He observed the Feast of Tabernacles with them, in this way: ***‘But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He Himself also went up, not publically, but as it were, in secret. (14) But when it was now the midst of the feast Yahshua went up into the temple, and began to teach.’*** We read further from verses 37 & 38, that He also kept the Last Great day, as follows: ***‘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.’”*** Yahshua said this on the eve of the Last Great Day, after the traditional water-pouring ceremony, which occurred on the seventh day of the Feast of Tabernacles. But, He was not talking about physical thirst; He was revealing that if any man has spiritual thirst, he can receive the Set-apart Spirit by coming to Him. However, Messiah made clear in John 6: 44 & 65 that no one can come to believe on Him unless the Father draws or calls that person. Those few whom Elohim calls during this age have access to His Spirit now. But for the vast majority, the fulfillment of Yahshua's words must wait until the spiritual fulfillment on the Last Great day.

We see according to 2 Peter 3: 9, that Elohim eventually wants to save everyone, in this way: ***‘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.’*** This is confirmed in first Timothy 2: 3 & 4, as follows: ***‘This is good and acceptable in the sight of Elohim our Savior, (4) who desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.’*** However, we understand from 1 Corinthians 15: 22 – 24 that there is a definite time-order or sequence according to which people will be saved, along these lines: ***‘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(s), 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.’*** So we see

that the only way to be saved is through Yahshua our Messiah, as is also confirmed in Acts 4: 11 & 12, as follows: ***“He (Yahshua Messiah) is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, but WHICH BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone. (12) And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.”*** Even as all men die, all will be made alive through Messiah (1 Corinthians 15: 22). Everyone who has ever lived and died will be resurrected. Messiah was the very first to be resurrected and born (again) from the dead (Colossians 1: 18), then at Messiah’s return true believers who lived before Messiah’s Second Coming, as well as our fathers in the faith Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David and others will be resurrected at His return.

But, when will the rest of mankind, who never kept Torah, or believed in Messiah the embodiment of Torah, have their first chance to salvation? Rav Shaul in 1 Corinthians 15: 24 included them in *‘the end’* – when Messiah completes His function of putting down every enemy (verse 25). We also get more details in the first part of Revelation 20: 5 and verses 11 & 12, where we are informed that it will only happen after the Millennium, in this way: ***‘The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. (11) And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. (12) And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.*** Those who have not heard or understood Elohim’s truth have not been irrevocably condemned to eternal death. Even if they lived up to the best they knew while alive, the Scriptures teach that there is only one way to salvation – through believe in Yahshua Messiah, followed by spiritual conversion and growth as defined in the Scriptures. Most of our loved ones who have died *‘unsaved’* are not lost forever. They were most likely not called during this age, but their call will come after the Millennium, when they will be resurrected to mortal life and given spiritual understanding and the opportunity to become members of Elohim’s Family. Rav Shaul understood that both houses of Israel were blinded spiritually and wrote accordingly in Romans 11: 32, ***‘For Elohim has shut up all in disobedience that He might show mercy to all.’***

Even though the house of Judah is Torah observant, believe in the coming Kingdom of Elohim, with a Messiah as ruler, they are at this time blinded to Messiah’s identity, to allow a definitive number of us from the lost ten tribes to return to the covenant relationship we made with YHVH at Mount Sinai, at which time He will save the first fruits from both houses, to serve as kings and priests, like He wanted us to, when He gave us the Torah at Mount Sinai. Similarly is mankind in general (consisting of Israelites and all the Gentile nations of the world) blinded to the truth by YHVH, until after the Millennium, when He will open their minds to the truth, as is confirmed in Isaiah 25: 7 – 9, as follows: ***‘And on this mountain he will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is stretched over all nations. (8) He will swallow up death for all time, and YHVH Elohim will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; for YHVH has spoken. (9) And it will be said in that day, “Behold, this is our Elohim for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is YHVH for whom we have waited; Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.”’***

Yahshua revealed for us when the second resurrection will be, in His prophecy to Yochanan in the book of Revelation. But, suffice it to say at this point, that Isaiah 25: 8 shows that the removal of the veil mentioned in verse 7, will occur during the Great White Throne judgment, before death will be thrown into the lake of fire as recorded in Revelation 20: 14. But, before going there, let’s consider what King David had to say about this time, of which Rav Shaul wrote in Philippians 2: 9 – 11, saying: ***‘Therefore also Elohim highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, (10) that at the name of Yahshua EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, (11) and that every tongue should confess that Yahshua Messiah is Master, to the glory of Elohim the Father.’*** The question is; when will every knee bow before Yahshua? The vast majority of people lived and died without knowing Yahshua the Messiah, let alone the true gospel of the coming Kingdom of Elohim. This will only happen after the second resurrection as David testified in Psalm 22: 27 – 29, saying: ***‘All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to YHVH, and all the families of the nations will worship before thee. (28) For the***

**kingdom is (YHWH)'s, and He rules over the nations. (29) All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship, all those who go down to the dust will bow before Him, even he who cannot keep his soul alive (because he never knew Yahshua the Messiah).'**

The Scriptures speak about those of us called at this time, who will be resurrected during the 'first' resurrection, as first-fruits if we remain faithful to the end, in James 1: 18 as follows: **'In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be as it were the first fruits among His creatures.'** Logically, this implies that there will also be 'second-fruits' during the second resurrection, as is also confirmed in Revelation 20: 4 – 6, (verse 5 quoted earlier included, because of its importance), 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 (resurrection mentioned in verse 4) 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 of Messiah and will reign with Him for a thousand years.'** This clearly tells us that the second resurrection will only occur after the thousand year rule of Messiah. Also note that these are not 'the dead in Messiah', but simply those millions who never knew the true Messiah, and who never heard or understood the true gospel. The second resurrection will also be a resurrection to mortal life.

As normally mentioned during the Day of Atonement, Satan will be restrained throughout the millennium, to prevent him from deceiving the people during that time. We see from verse 7 of Revelation 20, that after the thousand years, he will be released from his prison and true to his nature, will again deceive the nations at the four corners of the earth, namely Gog and Magog, to gather them together for war (verse 8). These are the nations who even though the truth was abundantly available throughout the Millennium, did not follow Elohim's way to be changed into His spirit-born children. We read what happens to Satan as well as to these nations from verses 9 & 10, in this way: **'And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. (10) And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.'** This will prove to anyone who might doubt, that Satan will not repent, even after seeing the results of a thousand years of righteous rule. The humans, whom Satan will have deceived after his release, will prove that they were not interested in what they were being taught at the close of the thousand years. Satan and his demons will then be cast into the lake of fire. Some Scriptures use italics to show that the word 'are' used in verse 10 was added by the translators. The correct translation in the Amplified Bible reads: **'where the beast and the false prophet were cast.'** The beast and the false prophet will have been cast into the lake of fire at the beginning of the Millennium as recorded in Revelation 19: 20. Like all human beings, made from physical matter, these two mortal beings will have been consumed by the fire, at the time Satan and his demons will be cast into the lake of fire, and will have been dead for more than 1,000 years. The Great White Throne judgment will occur only after Satan's final rebellion and punishment. It will only be then that the rest of the dead will be resurrected as shown before in Revelation 20: 11 & 12. This will be the second resurrection, when all those who died in spiritual ignorance and deception in the past, will be resurrection to mortal life. Their time of salvation will only occur then! This is when the Books of the Scriptures will be opened to their minds, as we've read from Isaiah 25: 7 (quoted before).

As mentioned before in Matthew 11: 21 – 24, people who lived during Messiah's time on earth, as well as those who lived in Tyre and Sidon, and Sodom and Gomorrah many years before, will be resurrected at that time. We read similarly from Matthew 12: 41 & 42, Yahshua telling the scribes and the Pharisees of His time, saying: **"The men of Nineveh shall stand up with this generation at the judgment, and shall condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold something greater than Jonah is here. (42) The Queen of the South (Sheba) shall rise up with this generation at the judgment and shall condemn it,**

**because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.**" Yahshua spoke of a time of judgment when those ancient peoples would be given an opportunity to understand what is written in the Scriptures and what He has been preaching to the people in Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum. They too, will hear the true gospel at that time. They will most likely repent of their past sins and accept Messiah as their personal Passover.

Yahshua gave enough examples of people living at different times to prove that most of humanity will be brought back to life at the same time. They will rise in the second resurrection because they had not been called by Elohim during their first lifetime. This group includes all people of all times, except those who will have already been born of Elohim, and relatively few people who will have had their first opportunity to receive eternal life, during the millennium, but deliberately rejected it and sinned willfully. Those few will be resurrected to be destroyed in the lake of fire, as recorded in Malachi 4: 1, as follows: **"For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze," says YHVY of hosts, "so that it will leave them neither root nor branch."** In fact the prophet Ezekiel described this resurrection to mortal life clearly in Ezekiel 37: 11 – 14, saying: **'Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.'** (12) **Therefore prophesy, and say to them, 'Thus says YHVH Elohim, "Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. (13) Then you will know that I am YHVH, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people. (14) And I will put My Spirit within you, and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, YHVH, have spoken and done it," declares YHVH,"'** Ezekiel also tells us in Ezekiel 16: 55 that the Gentile nations will also be resurrected and return to their "former state", saying: **"And your sisters Sodom with her daughters and Samaria with her daughters, will return to their former state, and you with your daughters will also return to your former state."** So we see that both Israelites and Gentiles who died in spiritual blindness and ignorance will be given a chance to receive salvation. Elohim is willing to overlook sins done in ignorance, but once spiritual understanding of His Master Plan is made available, He expects us to repent, be immersed into Yahshua's saving name, and grow in grace and knowledge.

We see from Yahshua's own words in John 5: 21 – 22 that He will be the chief judge in the last Great Judgment, as follows: **"For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom he wishes. (22) For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son."** But we see also from the first part of 1 Corinthians 6: 2, that the resurrected true believers will assist Yahshua in judging the world, in this way: **'Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world?'** The Hebrew word translated 'books' in Daniel 7: 10 where Daniel saw the Great White Throne Judgment in a vision in verses 9 & 10, (correspond to the Greek word translated 'books' in Revelation 20; 12), in this way: **"I kept looking until thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days took His seat; His vesture was like white snow, and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, its wheels were a burning fire. (10) A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him; thousands upon thousands were attending Him, and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; the court sat and the books were opened."** The transliterated Hebrew word for books here is 'sepharim' and the Greek word for books in Revelation 20: 12, is 'Biblia' from which the English Bible is derived. This means that the books of the Scriptures will be opened to the minds of these people in the second resurrection, so that they may fully understand what is written in them, similar to the way in which Messiah opened the minds of His disciples, after His resurrection, as recorded in Luke 24: 45, in this way: **'Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.'**

Many assume falsely that the word 'judgment' as used in the Scriptures, only means the pronouncement of a sentence based on past behavior. Such people came to believe that these people who lived and died in sin in the past, can do nothing to change their fate, even if they repent of their past sins. Thankfully, we serve a merciful Elohim, always willing to forgive upon true repentance. We see from first Peter 4: 17 that we from the congregation of Elohim, called out of the world, are already being judged by Elohim, as follows: **'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?’** But, we understand from first Corinthians 11: 32, that this judgment is such, that we might avoid condemnation, in this way: **‘But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Master in order that we may not be condemned along with the world.’** Elohim judges His people today by evaluating how well they live by His written word. Their rewards in His eternal Kingdom will depend on their character development during their mortal life. It is a process requiring time and opportunity for learning and growth. Those resurrected after the Millennium will be judged in exactly the same way. They, like spirit-begotten believers today, will be given enough time to prove that they are willing to live Elohim’s way through a life of overcoming and obedience to Elohim. In this period of judgment after the 1,000 years, not only will the Scriptures be opened to their understanding, but the Book of Life will also be opened. Yes, these people will be given an opportunity to receive eternal life! Elohim, in fairness, will give them an opportunity for salvation, just as He gives to those he calls at this time. However, in this last great judgment, people will not be subject to Satan’s influence as we are today. With Elohim’s Spirit freely available, and freed from Satan’s influences, they will be given their one and only opportunity for receiving salvation through repentance, immersion, receiving Elohim’s Spirit and growing in Elohim’s character during a second mortal life.

The prophet Isaiah envisioned the final days of the judgment period when the resurrected billions will receive their call to participate in Elohim’s plan in Isaiah 65: 20 – 24, in this way: **‘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. (21) And they shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall also plant vineyards and eat their fruit. (22) They shall not build, and another inhabit, they shall not plant, and another eat; for as the lifetime of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, and my chosen ones shall wear out the work of their hands. (23) They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they are the offspring of those blessed by YHVH, and their descendants with them. (24) It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear.’** We see that these resurrected multitudes will be made participants in Elohim’s Master Plan, and given the opportunity to enter Elohim’s family. We see further from verse 24 that they will have a close relationship with Elohim. Just think for a moment, the surprise of those resurrected at the beginning of the period of judgment. Each person will be in his first moment of consciousness since death; some might think they are in heaven, whilst others might think they are in hell or purgatory, depending what they were taught before they died. Most will be confused or even bewildered. Nothing that they have been taught about the afterlife will turn out to be true. They will suddenly be faced with undeniable evidence that their old teachings and ways were false, and they will be totally willing to start over and be taught the truth. But, who will teach these multiple millions? The millions of teachers/priests who will have been born into Elohim’s Spiritual Family in the first resurrection and during the Millennium will teach them, under Messiah’s direction

After all Elohim’s children are born into His Spiritual Family, the earth befouled by sin, will be cleansed of all defilement in the immersion of fire. We see from Revelation 20: 14, that finally man’s greatest fear, namely death and the grave will be abolished, in this way: **‘And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire, this is the second death, the lake of fire.’** After the lake of fire, a new heaven and a new earth will appear. The new earth will become the headquarters for all future creative projects of the Elohim Family. What a wonderful plan of salvation for all mankind has Elohim revealed to us in His annual Set-apart Days. What a marvelous, wonderful Elohim do we serve? We conclude by reading Rav Shaul’s inspiring words in Romans 11: 33, in this way: **‘Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of Elohim! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!’** Halleluyah!

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

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