

# Promises and prophecies

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**This book is not to be sold. We are told in the second part of Matthew 10: 8 *“freely you received, freely give.”***  
The book contains sermons that I gave over the past few weeks and is intended to assist Nazarene Israelites believers in their daily living.

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

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## Chapter 1: Are you Abraham's offspring?

Do you realize, that the very first thing that the house of Israel did when they became assimilated into the pagan cultures of the world, was to stop circumcising their sons. This is also a major point of contention with those who do not believe in the two-house doctrine, to be found throughout the Scriptures. If you believe that you are simply a Messianic with very little or no Jewish blood running through your veins, why don't you simply go back to the church system from where you came? Messianic Jews believe that they should keep the entire Torah, but that people from Christianity who join them, need not do so. Yes, they may partake of the 'Jewish' Festivals, but are also allowed to do the things they used to do in the Christian church.

This despite YHWH saying to Moses in Numbers 15: 15, ***'As for the assembly, there shall be one statute for you and for the alien who sojourns with you, a perpetual statute throughout your generations; as you are, so shall the alien be before YHWH.'*** The word perpetual as mentioned here means that the statute is forever – even during the Kingdom of Elohim and into eternity, as we read from Revelation 22: 14 (KJV), in this way: ***Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.'*** This is also the city which Abraham believed he would enter one day, as we read from Hebrews 11: 9 & 10, 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 a city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is Elohim.'*** We know that Abraham already qualified to inherit the Promised Land forever, but since he and our other father's and mother's in the faith died in faith, they did not inherit it yet as recorded in Hebrews 11: 13 and 39 & 40, in this way: ***'All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth (much like we are today). (39) And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, (40) because Elohim had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they should not be made perfect (like Yahshua was when He was the first born from the dead).'***

About 200 years after Messiah, Christian literature showing their rejection of 'Israel', based on the erroneous idea that Elohim (the one they refer to as G-d), rejected Israel because they rejected and killed Messiah. The Christian Church has since the beginning of the twentieth century started teaching that they are now the Israel of Elohim, and that He has given them the authority to determine how and when to worship Him. The heartbreaking result has been what is known today as *'Replacement Theology'* which is about the important question: Who is Israel? This false theology claims in the main that Israel (in their case meaning the Jewish people), have been cast aside and replaced by a separate entity, called the *'church'*, which started at Pentecost (31 CE) after Messiah's death, resurrection and ascension to heaven. This is the origin of all Anti-Semitism with a so-called Biblical justification for the genocide of the Jewish people.

At this point we need show that Yahshua refuted both these false philosophies, (that Yahshua abolished Torah keeping for His followers and that the Jews of His day was responsible for His death) by His words in John 5: 46 & 47 and John 10: 16 - 18, where He stated (5: 46 & 47): ***"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?"*** (10: 16 - 18) ***"And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold (meaning that they are not Jewish); I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and shall become one flock with one shepherd (they will ultimately return to the faith of their Father's in the faith, namely Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – meaning worshippers of YHWH: Yahudaism (or simply Judaism). (17) For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it up again. (18) No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I***

***have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father<sup>1</sup>.***

These false philosophies were in fact introduced to modern day Christianity during the middle of the second century CE by the church father Justin who claimed that Christianity superseded Judaism, and that the church became the true Israel. He also taught that the Jews killed Messiah and that circumcision was no longer required as a sign between G-d and His people. This despite the fact that YHVH referred to circumcision in Genesis 17: 7 - 12, saying: ***“And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be Elohim to you and your descendants after you. (8) And I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their Elohim,” (9) Elohim said further to Abraham, “Now as for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout your generations. (10) This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised. (11) And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you. (12) And every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised throughout your generations, a servant who is born in the house or who is bought with money from any foreigner, who is not your descendant.”*** In addition we read from Galatians 3: 7 & 27 - 29, ***‘Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. (27) For all of you who were immersed into Messiah have clothed yourself with Messiah. (28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Messiah Yahshua. (29) And if you belong to Messiah, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs (of the Promised Land) according to the promise.’*** This means that if we have as the result of YHVH calling us out of the false religions of the world, come to believe in Him through Yahshua our Messiah, who is Elohim’s perfect example, showing us how to walk in His way, we have become Abraham’s offspring and are heirs of the promises made to him. These promises are two-fold as we’ve come to understand, namely salvation through Yahshua Messiah, and heirs of the Promised Land for all eternity.

As our perfect example Yahshua our Messiah was both immersed (as per Matthew 3: 16) and circumcised (as per Luke 2: 21), so those who claim to follow Him should likewise be immersed by a Torah teacher (Rabbi<sup>2</sup>) and every male should also be circumcised, as an heir of the Promised Land. This is obviously the requirements that we as believers in Messiah have to fulfill if we want to partake of the annual Passover, as specified in Exodus 12: 48, as follows: ***“But if a stranger sojourns with you, and celebrates the Passover to YHVH, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near to celebrate it; and he shall be like a native of the land. But no uncircumcised (male) person may eat of it.”*** We all have been taught that if we overcome our human nature, the world and Satan, we will become kings and priests to Elohim, as per Revelation 5: 10, in this way: ***“And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our Elohim; and they will reign upon the earth.”*** However, we also read from Ezekiel 44: 9, ***‘Thus says YHVH Elohim, “No foreigner, uncircumcised in heart (meaning immersed into Yahshua’s saving name) and uncircumcised in flesh, of all the foreigners who are among the sons of Israel, shall enter my sanctuary.”’*** This is telling us

<sup>1</sup> We read in this regard from Ephesians 1: 3 - 5: ***“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, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love. He predestined us to adoption as sons through Yahshua Messiah to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will.”***

<sup>2</sup> Yahshua was immersed by Yochanan the Immerser who was a Rabbi (or Torah teacher) like Himself, as per John 3: 25 & 26, in this way: ***‘There arose therefore a discussion on the part of Yochanan’s disciples with a Jew about purification. And they came to Yochanan and said to him, “Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have borne witness, behold, He is immersing, and all are coming to Him.”’***

in no uncertain terms, that if we want to serve as priests in Elohim's temple during the millennium, we need to be both immersed in Yahshua's name and circumcised in the flesh. Yes, if we are Abraham's seed we need to make sure that we fulfill our part of the covenant that YHVH made with him and his descendants after him, if we want dwell in the Promised Land (the Kingdom of Elohim) for all eternity.

We read further that when the children of Israel came into the Promised Land, after their parents died in the wilderness after forty years of wandering around aimlessly, they were all circumcised before they could partake of the Passover, as witnessed in Joshua 5: 3 – 5 and 10 & 11, in this way: ***'So Joshua made himself flint knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth. (4) And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the people who came out of Egypt who were males, all the men of war, died in the wilderness along the way, after they came out of Egypt. (5) For all the people who came out were circumcised, but all the people who were born in the wilderness along the way as they came out of Egypt had not been circumcised. (10) While the sons of Israel camped at Gilgal, they observed the Passover on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month on the desert plains of Jericho. (11) And on the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain.'***

It was the Church father Tertullian (who lived from 150 – 230 CE) who taught that the Torah was given to ancient Israel to curb their tendency toward idolatry, sensuality and greed. He wrote that J\*e\*s\*u\*s\* was the giver of a new law and to make way for His new law, He abolished the old law. He was also the first one to maintain that the Father YHVH and the son Yahshua are two separate persons (or gods). He taught that Christians now celebrate the divine and eternal Sabbaths, offering spiritual offerings. As a result of what is being taught in the seminaries, this same anti-Torah thinking has filtered right down to church members. They regard Torah as perverted legalism and good works do not fit in with their way to salvation. Unknowingly they have eroded the authority of the word of Elohim and will reap the fruits thereof when Messiah returns. If these people who claim to follow Messiah truly knew Him as the Israelite Messiah who was from the tribe of Judah, their minds could be renewed to the importance of Torah and good deeds. Few understand that Yahshua our Messiah was a Jewish rabbi or teacher using rabbinical teaching methods, of the Second Temple period. He was never opposed to the Torah, but as I said in a previous sermon, He criticized the religious leaders of His time for their hypocrisy. Yahshua was never opposed to the Oral Torah and the traditional observances of His day, as is commonly taught in Christian Churches and even in some Messianic circles. Yahshua criticized the religious leaders of His time, for elevating their oral traditions over Torah, so that Torah was broken in order to observe these traditions, as He told them in Mark 7: 9, saying: ***"You nicely set aside the commandment of Elohim in order to keep your tradition."***

However, Rav Shaul shows in First Corinthians 11, that we as Nazarene followers of Messiah also have certain traditions taught us by Messiah, such as head coverings for our ladies during worship services, as well as partaking of the Passover a day before our Jewish Brothers do, as recorded in verses 1, 2, 10, 23 – 26, in this way: ***'Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Messiah. (2) Now I praise you because you remember me in everything, and hold firmly to the traditions, just as I delivered them to you. (10) Therefore the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels. (23) For I received from the Master that which I also delivered to you, that the Master Yahshua in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; (24) and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." (25) In the same way He took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." (26) For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Master's death until He comes.'*** Yes, the Passover is a yearly reminder that Messiah died as the Lamb of Elohim who takes away the sins of the world. We read further about our Nazarene traditions in 2 Thessalonians 2: 13 – 15, Rav Shaul



saying: ***'But we should always give thanks to Elohim for you, brethren beloved by the Master, because Elohim has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. (14) And it was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Master Yahshua Messiah. (15) So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by a letter from us.'*** In fact Rav Shaul warns us against those who do not keep to the traditions once delivered to believers, saying in 2 Thessalonians 3: 6, ***'Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Master Yahshua Messiah, that you keep aloof from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.'***

Contrary to what some Assemblies of YHVH/ Messianic Jews/ Nazarene Israelites are teaching, there is Scriptural proof that the early followers of Messiah knew and observed some Oral Traditions of the Second Temple period. We know that Yahshua our Messiah kept Chanukah (or the Feast of Dedication) with His fellow Jews, as recorded in John 10: 22 & 23, in this way: ***'At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem; (23) it was winter, and Yahshua was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon.'*** In addition Yahshua also attended the water drawing ceremony at Sukkot on the Last Great Day of the Feast as recorded in John 7. This is when He said in verses 37 & 38: ***'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 Scriptures said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'"*** Even though these traditions do not appear in Torah, Yahshua participated in them as a Jew, and used them to teach about Himself.

The truth of the matter is that the early Nazarene movement was a strictly Jewish movement. Like today the struggle between the Nazarene believers in Messiah and Judaism was focused upon the identity of the Messiah. Both groups believed the Torah to be the standard for all Israelite believers. The Nazarenes insisted on the interpretations and Halakah of their Rebbe Yahshua, whilst the Jews based their Halakah on the interpretations of Shammai or Hillel. But, the real conflict later came when the Christian Church claimed that circumcision, fringes (Tzitzit), the Feast Days of Elohim, the Sabbath, Kosher food and the other 613 good deeds (mitzvot) are no longer applicable since Messiah came and fulfilled them for them. In addition the church which started after Messiah's ascension to heaven in 31 CE or AD as they refer to it, replaced the institution to which Messiah and His disciples belonged. This so-called newly established church was considered a separate entity from the congregation of Israel of the Tanach. But, we know that even after Messiah's ascension to heaven His disciples who then became apostles (sent out by Yahshua to proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom of Elohim) continued to teach that the original ecclesia (or congregation) of Elohim, started in the wilderness, as Stephan a deacon in the ecclesia reminded his Jewish counterparts in Acts 7: 37 – 39, saying: ***"This Moses who said to the sons of Israel, 'ELOHIM SHALL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN.'*** (38) ***This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness together with the angel (meaning Messiah) who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai, and who was with our fathers; and he received living oracles to pass on to you. (39) And our fathers were unwilling to be obedient to him, but repudiated him and in their hearts turned back to (the paganism of) Egypt."*** This is unfortunately where the majority of the people from the house of Israel are still dwelling – even though the paganism attached to their festivals like Xmas and Easter have been published in News Papers throughout the western world, they insist to do these things for their children! Yes, without understanding what they are saying, they are the ones cursing their own children, by clinging to proven pagan practices and rejecting Elohim's Torah as explained in Deuteronomy 28.

Any part of the Tanach which did not point to Messiah (the one they refer to as C\*h\*r\*i\*s\*t\*) was simply treated as obsolete by Christianity. But we see that even after Messiah's death and resurrection He used the Tanach to open His disciples minds to the Scriptures, as recorded in Luke 24: 27, 44 & 45, in this way: ***'And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to***

***them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures*** (which we know at that time could only have referred to the Tanach). (44) ***Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”*** (45) ***Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.*** However, as long as the Renewed Covenant is referred to as the ‘New Testament’, the Hebraic understanding of these Scriptures will remain unknown to Christianity and Messianic Israel. The Tanach will continue to be a book for the Jews, and a book that only foreshadowed Messiah to a believer. As a result Ephraim, who are in the main to be found amongst the Christian religions of the world, will continue to be ignorant of the true teachings of Yahshua the Messiah.

We need to understand that as Nazarene Jews/Israelites the Tanach is a dictionary of Hebraic words used by writers in the Renewed Covenant, and an encyclopedia filled with shadows and types discussed in the writings of Rav Shaul and also in Revelation (penned by Rav Yochanan). It is important to understand that we need to interpret the Scriptures with Scriptures and also allow the Hebrew meaning of the text to aid in our understanding. Christianity has been interpreting everything in the Scriptures according to the Christological method taught by their seminaries, thereby spiritualizing the text and forgetting the basic meaning thereof. They have allowed Greek and Roman philosophers to define and interpret the Scriptures for them. As a result they find themselves in a swamp of excessive spiritualization of the text, instead of allowing the text to speak for itself. Many so-called believers in Messiah do not want to acknowledge the influence of the Oral Traditions during the time period of Messiah and His disciples, including Rav Shaul (a Pharisee). By studying the Dead Sea Scrolls, and some of the apocryphal books contained in some Bibles, one can get an idea of the various religious practices and sects during Messiah’s time. Messiah used the same method of teaching as the other rabbis of His day. For example the pharisaic or rabbinical teachings have more than 5,000 parables of which more than 800 are Kingdom parables. Yahshua a Jewish rabbi of His day used Hebrew idioms and rabbinical principles to teach His disciples and speak to the multitudes, one example is His teaching on measure for measure in Matthew 7: 1 & 2, as follows: ***“Do not judge lest you be judged. (2) For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured for you.”***

Without this insight, Ephraim has come up with ridiculous meanings for ‘fulfill and destroy’ as well as for ‘binding and loosing’, which even though used by Yahshua are both rabbinical terms. Yes, our early Nazarene fathers were all Jews or true Israelites. By misinterpreting the Tanach and the person of Yahshua, Churchianity disconnected themselves from Yahshua our Jewish Messiah. This was in fact the main reason for Yahshua to come to earth the first time. He came to bring the house of Israel back to the faith of our father’s in the faith, thus making us one flock with His Jewish ecclesia and reconciling us back to the Father YHVH. He did not come to convert the Jews to Christianity as some Messianic Jews came to believe. But, He came to save His people (Israel) from their Lawlessness. All the covenants that YHVH made with our fathers in the faith and later with the children of the Israelites who died in the wilderness, are still valid for Israelite believers, whom the Father is calling out of the false religious systems of the world, as He Himself said through Moses in Deuteronomy 4: 30 & 31, in this way: ***“When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days, you will return to YHVH your Elohim and listen to His voice. (31) For YHVH your Elohim is a compassionate Elohim; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them.”*** Even though most in the house of Israel (Ephraim) teaches that all these covenants were abolished after Messiah’s ascension to heaven, YHVH tells us that He did not forget them. It is for this reason that we also read from Malachi 3: 6, YHVH saying: ***“For I, YHVH, do not change; therefore you O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.”***

In conclusion, let’s repeat the question asked in the beginning, namely: Are you Abraham’s offspring? If so, then let us follow the example of our Master and Savior. The prophecy in Ezekiel 44: 9 is an end-time prophecy about after Messiah’s return, and is rather a scary one at that. If we think



we are circumcised in the heart, but refuse to be circumcised in the flesh, can we truly have a circumcised heart? Is that not tantamount to rebellion? Let's determine to be circumcised in both our hearts (meaning to be immersed in the proper way) and in the flesh (if we are male), before we legally partake of the coming Passover, especially in the light of what Ezekiel wrote in Ezekiel 20: 38, YHWH saying: ***'And I shall purge from you the rebels and those who transgress against Me; I shall bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they will not enter the land of Israel. Thus you will know that I am YHWH.'*** Think about it!

## Chapter 2: The division of the Promised Land amongst the tribes of Israel.

YHVH blinded the minds of both houses of Israel at this time; and even though the house of Judah remained loyal to YHVH ever since their return to the Promised Land 2,500 years ago, He purposely blinded them to the identity of Yahshua, in order to bring back a remnant of the lost-ten-tribes through the redemptive work of Messiah. Whilst the house of Israel is blinded to the true gospel, YHVH has in accordance with His plan of salvation for all mankind, depicted in His annual Set-apart Days, been opening the minds of a remnant of the house of Israel according to Elohim's gracious choice (as per Romans 11: 5), by calling them out of the Churches of the world to become first-fruit kings and priests under Yahshua during His soon coming millennium rule.

These first fruits are at this stage required to make the House of Judah jealous, by returning to full Torah observance, including keeping the same Sabbaths (weekly and annual), and the kosher food laws with a spiritual intent. That does not mean that we keep it in our hearts – no it means that we do it better than the scribes and the Pharisees do, as Yahshua said in Matthew 5: 20. Since Yahshua came to save what was lost; to bring these Israelites back to worshipping YHVH as the King of the Universe, and to eventually join Brother Judah to again become one flock with one shepherd, at His return to earth. That is when Judah, will like as with the unbelieving Thomas, look upon Him whom they (and in fact all of mankind) have pierced and will accept Him as their Messiah and Savior as witnessed in Zechariah 12: 10. But the question on the lips of many in Ephraim today is: Who then are the Jews who accept Yahshua as their Messiah and savior at this time – the Messianic Jews and others among us, who have since the Yom Kippur war of 1973, suddenly came to believe in Yahshua as the true Messiah? For the answer to this question, we need to turn to the book of Joshua, during which time Joshua sub-divided the Promised Land amongst the 12 tribes of Israel.

The account of how the Promised Land was finally divided amongst the tribes of Israel is recorded in the book of Joshua chapters 18 & 19. We start reading from verse 1 of Joshua 18, ***'Then the whole congregation of the sons of Israel assembled themselves at Shiloh, and set up the tent of meeting there; and the land was subdued before them.'*** At that time Shiloh became the center of operations instead of Gilgal. The word congregation here is indicative of the entire nation of Israel – all of them to witness or endorse the activities regarding the subdivision of the land. Because it is only when all of Israel is gathered together in this way that (YHVH)'s presence among them/us can be experienced and appreciated in its fullness. This is the first time in the book of Joshua that the *'tent of meeting'* is mentioned, even though it was set-up at Gilgal, where they encamped before. We need to bear in mind that the tent of meeting was built by materials plundered from the Egyptians, in order for Elohim to dwell in the midst of Israel - which is symbolic of those of us called out of the churches of the world, with our bodies now being the temple of Elohim. In fact the tent of meeting would remain at Shiloh, until King David moved it to Jerusalem about 400 years later. Shiloh was in the middle of Ephraim's territory, and it means *'at ease'* or *'to rest'*. Shiloh is a picture of rest that will come about when Messiah comes to rule His people as prophesied in Genesis 49: 10.

The words *'subdued before them'* or brought in subservience – is the condition Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh, who had been told to wait before they could settle in their own portions of land east of the Jordan River, found themselves. In this way they had fulfilled their obligation to their brethren in helping to occupy the Promised Land and were now free to live in their allocated portions. However, the words *'subdued before them'* had a double meaning, since it can also mean *'disregarded'*. Yes, the nation had partially subdued the land, but did not consider the rest to be of importance and the fact that Israel did not clean all the land before them, disgusted YHVH, since they did not regard it worth the trouble to pursue their own inheritance, as shown in verses 2 & 3, as follows: ***"And there remained among the sons of Israel seven tribes who had not divided their inheritance. (3) So Joshua said to the sons of Israel, How long will you put off entering to take possession of the land which YHVH, the Elohim of your fathers, has given you?"*** It is noteworthy

that there are seven congregations in the book of Revelation which Yahshua also admonished to overcome – it may well be that these are the descendants of those who believe that they have already received possession of the coming Kingdom of Elohim, instead of taking their full and proper place as Israel. Resting on what Yahshua has done for us is only part of the story, but we also need to recall that He also told us to do what He did, whilst He was on earth. Yes, we need to follow in His footsteps and live as He lived, if we want to be co-heirs with Him!

Even though Israel consists of thirteen tribes, seven of them have not divided their inheritance among them. As a result the kingdom was incomplete and YHWH could not dwell within their midst until everything that defiled the land was removed. This is similar to today, Israel is dependent on those tribes who have done nothing to date to take their place and do their part. Most do not want to accept Judah's authority as Elohim's law giver (as per Psalm 60: 7). As a result they still keep their own Feast Days because they have made an alliance with those who oppose Judah, as Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 30: 1, saying: ***"Woe to the rebellious children," declares YHWH, "Who execute a plan*** (the Feast Days of Elohim depicts His plan of salvation for mankind), ***but not Mine*** (the plan that these people execute is not Elohim's), ***and make an alliance, but not of My Spirit, in order to add sin to sin."*** If we do not do things (YHWH)'s way, we might as well stop doing anything. The point is, as long as part of Israel is still not obeying Torah in accordance to (YHWH)'s will, we are still lacking. At what point will the people of Israel stop relaxing and take the way of Elohim seriously? How long can we get away with not doing what we are supposed to do? Even though Israel is at a resting place (Shiloh), they need to understand that there is a difference between resting and being slack. They have mistaken the refreshing pause as peacefulness, just as we are using our trust in YHWH as an excuse to be lazy and neglect Torah. Part of Israel still have people with foreign ideas in them – like some of us today who still long for the things we used to do in Christianity. Our people need to come to the realization that those who blazed the trail cannot support the whole nation forever. As a shadow of what is happening to us today, these tribes trusted in the work of Joshua, but not in their own works.

Joshua therefore says to these people in a similar way what Rav Shaul did in Hebrews 5: 12, as follows: ***'For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of Elohim, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.'*** The elementary principles of the oracles of Elohim are things like the timing of the Feast Days of Elohim, the covenants and the promises that YHWH gave to our fathers in the faith, and preserved for us through the house of Judah. These are the things which keep a large number of Israelites busy – they still argue about which Feast Days to keep and as a result some never get to partake of the meat of the gospel, but remain like babies on a diet of milk only. We read Joshua's admonition in verse 4 of Joshua 18, as follows: ***'Provide for yourselves three men from each tribe that I may send them, and that they may arise and walk through the land and write a description of it according to their inheritance; then they shall return to me.'*** Joshua commands these tribes to take action and describe in writing their tribal requirements. Continuing in verse 5 he says to them: ***'And they shall divide it into seven portions; Judah shall stay in its territory on the south, and the house of Joseph shall stay in their territory on the north.'*** The tribes of Judah and Ephraim received the so-called 'lion's share' because they fought the hardest for it. They have special portions in Israel as the Law-givers and the tribe that received the double portion of the first-born. Both these two tribes are pictures of Messiah, but like them He did not do all the work for us. We are even now required to show our faith by our works, and not like many in Christianity assume that He 'fulfilled' the law on their behalf. We need to understand, that until we do our part in obeying Torah fully, the Kingdom of Elohim cannot come!

Joshua proceeds to say to these seven tribes in verses 6 - 8, ***'And you shall describe the land in seven divisions, and bring the description here to me. And I will cast lots for you here before YHWH your Elohim.'*** (Joshua shows the superior wisdom that he has been given by YHWH, in that none of

the teams of three would know which area would be apportioned to their tribe. Each of the teams would independently draw out what appeared to be reasonable boundaries based on natural borders, and resources. They had to ensure that each section had advantages depended upon the size of the area and the resources available in it. This meant that they could not do to others what they did not want others to do to them – which are in accordance with what Yahshua taught.) (7) ***For the Levites have no portion among you, because the priesthood of YHVH is their inheritance. Gad and Reuben and the half-tribe of Manasseh also have received their inheritance eastward beyond the Jordan, which Moses the servant of YHVH gave them.*** (The priests who interpreted the lots for YHVH had to be objective since they as Levites did not benefit from the outcome.) (8) ***Then the men arose and went, and Joshua commanded those who went to describe the land, saying, “Go and walk through the land and describe it and return to me; then I will cast lots for you here before YHVH in Shiloh.”*** This is almost like most of us, whilst we are new to our calling, we are content with resting at Shiloh (in Yahshua) and we do not do much studying and research to find out what YHVH is planning for us in the near future. In the beginning we are not brave enough to go further on our own. But when we start venturing out under guidance of trained teachers, we get to know the intimate details of Elohim’s plan for us in His soon coming Kingdom and start believing and embracing it, with deeds and works we would never have done on our own before.

The children of Israel were told that there are insurmountable problems facing them in the land, such as giants. When reading Torah we find it hard to understand, but when we start studying Torah within an Israelite community, it becomes clear. Studying Torah is so important and can be compared to how these groups of three mapped out the land. By seeing what others have done before us should spark in us a desire to start walking out Torah for ourselves. We read accordingly from verses 9 & 10: ***‘So the men went and passed through the land, and described it by cities in seven divisions in a book; and they came to Joshua to the camp at Shiloh. (10) And Joshua cast lots for them in Shiloh before YHVH, and there Joshua divided the land to the sons of Israel according to their divisions.’*** Here we see again that the casting of lots is the only decent way to make decisions acceptable to Elohim. But next the lot came for the tribe of Benjamin and we read from verses 11 & 12, ***‘Now the lot of the tribe of the sons of Benjamin came up according to their families, and the territory of their lot lay between the sons of Judah and the sons of Joseph. (12) And their border on the north side was from the Jordan, then the border went up to the side of Jericho on the north, and went up through the hill country westward; and it ended at the wilderness of Beth-aven.’***

The fact that Benjamin’s property touched on both Judah and Joseph shows Benjamin’s history as both the only full brother of Joseph, but also the one for whom Judah vouched to keep safe when he had to be taken from his father Jacob to Egypt. It is also a fact that the only two tribes who today dwell together and is known as the house of Judah are the tribes of Judah and Benjamin. However, this is also prophetic, since the tribes of Judah and Joseph would later be the main players in the two houses of Israel. Not only did the first king of the united Israel, namely Saul or more correctly Shaul come from the tribe of Benjamin, Rav Shaul who was instrumental in bringing the first harvest of the lost sheep of the house of Israel back to their heritage, was also from the tribe of Benjamin as he said in Ephesians 3: 5. And here-in is the answer to the question asked earlier, namely: Who are the Jews who are accepting Yahshua as their Messiah at this time before Messiah’s return? They are simply Jews from the tribe of Benjamin who are with the tribe of Judah to be found in the land of Israel today, as well as amongst the Jews in the diaspora. So yes, the Torah observant ‘Jews’ who have come to believe in Yahshua are from the tribe of Benjamin who is with Judah, for they form a link between Orthodox Jews and those coming out of Christianity and entering back into Torah observance. Only those who hold fast to both requirements can build an acceptable bridge between these two estranged groups of Elohim’s people. Because Benjamin was often a trouble-maker among the tribes of Israel, they have also become an irritant to both groups in the latter days.

Even though Israel's troubles started with King Shaul, when they rejected YHVH from being their King, YHVH has miraculously also through Rav Shaul made it clear to us, how we who were without Messiah excluded from the commonwealth of Israel have now in Messiah Yahshua been brought near, by His blood making both houses into one and giving us access to the Father through His blood. Yes we are no longer strangers and aliens, but are fellow citizens of the household of Elohim (as may be read from Ephesians 2: 11 – 19). Verses 13 – 16 of Joshua 18 continue to describe Benjamin's area in this way: ***'And from there the border continued to Luz, to the side of Luz (that is, Bethel) southward; and the border went down to Ataroth-addar, near the hill which lies on the south of lower Beth-horon. (14) And the border extended from there, and turned round on the west side southward, from the hill which lies before Beth-horon southward; and it ended at Kiriath-baal (that is, Kiriath-jearim), a city of the sons of Judah. This was the west side. (15) Then the south side was from the edge of Kiriath-jearim, and the border went westward and went to the fountain of the waters of Nephtoah. (16) And the border went down to the edge of the hill which is in the valley of Ben-hinnom, which is in the valley of Rephaim northward; and it went down to the valley of Hinnom, to the slope of the Jebusite southward, and went down to En-rogel.'*** The border mentioned here goes through present day Jerusalem (or Jebusite as it was known previously). We know that the Temple was built on Benjamin's land, partly to warn Judah that it belonged to all of Israel. We also know that King Solomon designated the Temple as a 'house of prayer for all peoples.' We see further in Ezekiel 43: 10 & 11 that Ezekiel recommended that the house of Israel study the Temple as a means to turn back from their idolatry and their tendency to eat unclean foods.

Verse 17 to the end of chapter 18 are a continuation of the details of the land apportioned to the sons of Benjamin and even though it is important to read the same for ourselves, we continue on to chapter 19: 1 of Joshua, to see how the second lot was apportioned, in this way: ***'Then the second lot fell to Simeon, to the tribe of the sons of Simeon according to their families, and their inheritance was in the midst of the inheritance of the sons of Judah.'*** The reason why YHVH chose to allocate the second portion to Simeon is found in Genesis 34: 25. We are aware that Simeon and Levi avenged their sister Dinah's honor by killing all the men of the city of the man who violated her the third day after they had been circumcised. Jacob's blessing to Simeon and Levi was as we read from Genesis 49: (5 -) 7, as follows: ***"Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; and their wrath, for it is cruel. I will disperse them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel."*** When Simeon and Levi were together they caused trouble, but YHVH knew how to deal with them. Because Simeon and Levi went beyond their boundaries, YHVH gave neither of them boundaries of their own. Judah, who selfishly took responsibility for Benjamin, was now in charge of guarding Simeon, and accordingly Simeon had to stay within Judah's boundaries. We also know that YHVH made Levi His priests, to mainly deal with the blood sacrifices for the sins of the people and in this way He never gave them property of their own and kept them scattered in Israel.

Continuing in verse 9 of Joshua 19, we read: ***'The inheritance of the sons of Simeon was taken from the portion of the sons of Judah, for the share of the sons of Judah was too large for them; so the sons of Simeon received an inheritance in the midst of Judah's inheritance.'*** Judah has had an unbroken line of Torah observance since their return to the Promised Land in Ezra and Nehemiah's time about 2,500 years ago. They kept the Sabbaths of Elohim (weekly and annual Sabbaths) since then and have preserved the timing of these Feast Days of Elohim ever since. Even though they have been Torah observant since that time, they have like all pious people an element of hypocrisy to contend with. It is for this reason that Yahshua told us in Matthew 23, that they sit in Moses's seat, and that we should worship Him at the times indicated by them, but that we should not do according to their deeds since He as our perfect example, came to show us the way to follow Elohim. Even so, despite of what many in Ephraim say and believe against the house of Judah, they are still those who remained near to YHVH and His Torah, and we are the ones who went far off. Whether some of those anti-Semitic groups in Ephraim would like it or not, the only way that we will get into

the Kingdom of Elohim, is when we are joined to Brother Judah as one stick in (YHVH)'s hand (as per Ezekiel 37: 15 -28).

Verses 10 – 16 give details of Zebulun's portion, as follows: **'Now the third lot came up for the sons of Zebulun according to their families. And the territory of their inheritance was as far as Sarid.** (11) **Then their border went up to the west and to Maralah, it then touched Dabbesheth, and reached to the brook that is before Jokneam.** (12) **Then it turned from Sarid to the east toward the sunrise as far as the border of Chisloth-tabor, and it proceeded to Daberath and up to Japhia.** (13) **And from there it continued eastward toward the sunrise to Gath-hepher, to Eth-kazin, and it proceeded to Rimmon which stretches to Neah.** (14) **And the border circled around it on the north to Hanna-thon, and it ended at the valley of Iphtahel.** (15) **Included also were Kattah and Nahalal and Shimron and Ida-lah and Bethlehem; twelve cities with their villages.** (16) **This was the inheritance of the sons of Zebulun according to their families, these cities with their villages.'**

Verses 17 – 23 contain details of Issachar's portion, in this way: **'The fourth lot fell to Issachar, to the sons of Issachar according to their families.** (18) **And their territory was to Jezreel and included Chesulloth and Shunem,** (19) **and Hapharaim and Shion and anaharath,** (20) **and Rabbith and Kishion and Ebez,** (21) **and Remeth and En-gannim and En-haddah and Beth-pazzez.** (22) **And the border reached to Tabor and Shahazumah and Beth-shemesh, and their border ended at the Jordan; sixteen cities with their villages.** (23) **This was the inheritance of the tribe of the sons of Issachar according to their families, the cities with their villages.'**

Next we read from verses 24 – 31 the details of Asher's apportionment, as follows: **'Now the fifth lot fell to the tribe of the sons of Asher according to their families.** (25) **And their territory was Helkath and Hali and Beten and Achshaph,** (26) **and Allammelech and Amad and Mishal; and it reached to Carmel on the west and to Shihor-libnath.** (27) **And it turned toward the east to Beth-dagon, and reached to Zebulun, and to the valley of Iphtahel northward to Beth-emek and Neiel; then it proceeded on north to Cabul,** (28) **and Ebron and Rehob and Hammon and Kanah, as far as Great Sidon.** (29) **And the border turned to Ramah, and to the fortified city of Tyre; then the border turned to Hosah, and it ended at the sea by the region of Achzib.** (30) **Included also were Ummah, and Aphek and Rehob; twenty-two cities with their villages.** (31) **This was the inheritance of the tribe of the sons of Asher according to their families, these cities with their villages.** Verses 32 – 39 provide the details of Naphtali's portion, in this way: **'The sixth lot fell to the sons of Naphtali; to the sons of Naphtali according to their families.** (33) **And their border was from Heleph, from the oak in Zaananim and Adami-nekeb and Jabneel, as far as Lakkum; and it ended at the Jordan.** (34) **Then the border turned westward to Aznoth-tabor, and proceeded from there to Hukkok; and it reached to Zebulun on the south and touched Asher on the west, and to Judah at the Jordan toward the east.** (35) **And the fortified cities were Ziddim, Zer and Hammath, Rakkath and Chinnereth,** (36) **and Adamah and Ramah and Hazor,** (37) **and Kedesh and Edrei and En-hazor,** (38) **and Yiron and Migdal-el, Horem and Beth-anath and Beth-shemesh; nineteen cities with their villages.** (39) **This was the inheritance of the tribe of the sons of Naphtali according to their families, the cities with their villages.'**

Finally we read from verses 40 – 48 the details of Dan's inheritance, as follows: **'The seventh lot fell to the tribe of the sons of Dan according to their families.** (41) **And the territory of their inheritance was Zorah and Eshtaol and Ir-shemesh,** (42) **and Shalabbin and Aijalon and Ithlah,** (43) **and Elon and Timnah and Ekron,** (44) **and Eltekeh and Gibbethon and Baalath,** (45) **and Jehud and Bene-berak and Gath-rimmon,** (46) **and Me-jarkon and Rakkon, with the territory over against Joppa.** (47) **And the territory of the sons of Dan proceeded beyond them; for the sons of Dan went up and fought with Leshem and captured it. Then they struck it with the edge of the sword and possessed it and settled in it; and they called Leshem Dan after the name of Dan their father.** (48) **This was the inheritance of the tribe of the sons of Dan according to their families, these cities with their villages.'** Dan did fight for their inheritance, but continued to fight and added to their property.



Dan's practice of naming places after their ancestors continued even after the other tribes went into captivity. Their settlements in Denmark, Ireland and elsewhere also made it easier to trace the tribe of Dan in the latter days.

We conclude by reading from verse 49, ***'When they finished apportioning the land for inheritance by its border, the sons of Israel gave an inheritance in their midst to Joshua the son of Nun.'*** After all the tribes had received their inheritance, their ruler Joshua received his portion. This is also a foreshadow of the portion of land granted to Yahshua during His Messianic Kingdom in Ezekiel 48: 21. Reading further from verse 50 we see that: ***'In accordance with the command of YHVH they gave him the city for which he asked, Timnath-serah in the hill country of Ephraim. So he built the city and settled in it. (51) These are the inheritances which Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun and the heads of the households of the tribes of the sons of Israel distributed by lot in Shiloh before YHVH, at the doorway of the tent of meeting. So they finished dividing the land.'*** The name of Joshua's city means 'the sun's portion' and correlates with Yahshua being called the sun of righteousness in Malachi 4: 2. We also see from Revelation 22: 3 - 5, that ultimately, when the New Jerusalem comes down from heaven, ***('And) there shall no longer be any curse; and the throne of Elohim and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve Him; (4) and they shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. (5) And there shall no longer be any night; and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because YHVH Elohim shall illumine them; and they shall reign forever and ever.*** Think about it!

### Chapter 3: When will He smack us?

Most of us with children know that there comes a time in the life of most children, where they want to test the limits of their parent's patience, with their mischievous behavior. Yes, they, like us push their luck to determine what they can get away with in life. The problem with such behavior is that it is just the opposite of character building – it slowly but surely deteriorates from bad to worse, until ultimately we have reached the situation discussed in Hosea 4 & 5, where YHVH tells us He will reject us from being His priests in His coming kingdom. We need to be ever mindful that YHVH talks to us through His word as the author of Hebrews 1: 1 & 2 wrote saying: ***'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.'*** It is therefore important to continually remain in touch with what Yahshua the word of Elohim taught in the Scriptures to ensure that we do not starve spiritually.

Even though our world appears to be very religious, it is almost the same as in Rav Shaul's time when He was in Athens. We read about his experience in Greece from Acts 17: 16 – 25, as follows: ***'Now while Shaul was waiting for them at Athens his spirit was being provoked within him as he was beholding the city full of idols. (17) So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the Elohim-fearing Gentiles, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present. (18) And also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were conversing with him. And some were saying, "What would this idle babbler wish to say?" Others, "He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,"—because he was preaching Yahshua and the resurrection. (19) And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is which you are proclaiming? (20) For you are bringing some strange things to our ears; we want to know therefore what these things mean." (21) (Now all the Athenians and the strangers visiting there used to spend their time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new.) (22) And Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. (23) For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN ELOHIM.' What therefore you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. (24) The Elohim who made the world and all things in it, since He is YHVH of heaven and of earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; (25) neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things. '"*** The difference is that here at the end of the Gregorian year 2013, there are Xmas trees and fancy lights all over the place for the so-called birthday of the false Messiah or Christ for those who believe in him.

But despite these *'religious'* activities and the fact that Hosea wrote his prophecy thousands of years ago, he is talking about our world at this end time when he writes in Hosea 4, saying in verse 1: ***'Listen to the word of YHVH, O sons of Israel, for YHVH has a case against the inhabitants of the land, because there is no faithfulness or kindness or knowledge of Elohim in the land.*** Faithfulness, truth, stability, and certainty that builds-up faithfulness that lasts. Kindness or mercy – treating others the way you want them to treat you. Knowledge of Elohim {transliterated as 'Yadah' in Hebrew – meaning to know intimately} - If we know Elohim intimately, we will know what He requires of us, and how He wants us to treat others. These three elements are inseparable; we cannot say we know YHVH if we treat our fellow man unfaithfully. If any of these are lacking YHVH has a case against us, especially if we think of ourselves as being *'religious'*. The point is: we cannot be faithful to YHVH if our main focus is faithfulness to anything else, as Yahshua put it in Matthew 6: 24, saying: ***"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve Elohim and mammon (riches)."*** That is why the house of Israel cannot and will not come back together in one generation, since we are still loyal to conflicting causes. YHVH is mercifully offering to *'settle out of court'*, but we are required to enter and seal the contract before He will dismiss the case; we need to repent and return to full Torah

observance and mean it, before we will be acceptable to Him. Instead we have been duped into believing that Xmas and Easter are the time when families have to get together and when we are supposed to share gifts with the underprivileged in society. Like puppets on a string most people simply follow wherever they are led, without ever questioning anything. Why do we always have to do good deeds under the guise of paganism, why can't we do it on a regular basis? It is a known fact that because of extra traveling forced upon people because they have to take leave during these times, more people die on roads than at any other time. Instead of bringing families together, more divorces occur because of these so-called religious festivities during which time more alcoholic beverages are consumed than at any other time.

The house of Israel pretends to be religious by keeping festivals not ordained by Elohim in worship of Him, yet He says in verse 2 of Hosea 4: ***'There is swearing, deception, murder, stealing and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed.'*** Cursing and violence have mushroomed out of control – it is like sheep that broke out of a sheepfold. Even though they are free, they are unprotected and the neighborhood is in danger. I went to the movies during the silly season to see a show which I thought will be about court cases and legal matters, entitled: *'The Councilor'*. However, it was the worst show that I ever saw in my life, filled with sex and the bloodiest scenes that left me sick to my stomach - long after the show was over. It is a story obviously based on accounts that play out daily between the drug lords of Mexico and greedy people in mainly the USA and the UK, who could not care less about how and who their actions affect, but ultimately pay with their lives. I could not understand why I had to go through an experience like that, but after reading the book of Hosea, I realized that this was a story about everyday life in our sin filled world today. Most of the actors and actresses wore crucifixes, and even though they all appeared religious, some were responsible for the most horrifying murders possible, without worrying in the least about it. The only person who showed any remorse was the Councilor; and that when he wanted to get out of the situation, but was so entangled in what was happening because of sheer greed, that he could not do anything about it. People the things happening in our world is very scary and I pray that those of us called out of the religious systems of the world, and our loved ones never get involved in things like that.

Continuing in verse 3 we read: ***'Therefore the land mourns, and everyone who lives in it languishes (deteriorates) along with the beast of the field and the birds of the sky; and also the fish of the sea disappear.'*** We are often told that the beast of the field, the birds of the sky and the fish of the sea are disappearing, because mankind over-fish and pollute everything we touch, but here we are given the real reason, for the modern day ills of the world. We are given the reason for the problems in verse 4, in this way: ***'Yet let no one find fault, and let none offer reproof; for your people are like those who contend with the priests.'*** There are no one who any longer points out the problems in society. Everything is acceptable and nothing is judged any longer. People say: The scribe shall not teach, and the prophets shall not admonish, and as a result people argue with those who teach them. They cannot teach, because the students all think and believe that they know it all. These students rather listen to people who tell them of ways in which to save their lives, rather than to those who teach Scriptural truths, that will ensure their eternal life in the Kingdom of Elohim, even if they are killed for believing what they do. The words *'contend with priests'* shows the presumptuous acts of those who argues about calendar matters, since the term priest here means an officiator or a person given the final say in the matters of interpretation of Torah as per Deuteronomy 17: 9 – 13.

As a result we read from verse 5 of Hosea 4: ***'So you will stumble by day, and the prophet also will stumble with you by night; and I will destroy your mother.'*** As mentioned before, YHWH is talking about the mother here, since the mother is responsible to teach children about YHWH before they become mature enough to be taught Torah by their fathers. However, we find that mothers today, perpetuate the lies of Xmas and Easter by teaching their children the same nonsensical rubbish their parents taught them. This is then also why YHWH says in verse 6: ***'My people are destroyed for lack***

***of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priests. Since you have forgotten the law of your Elohim, I also will forget your children.*** Brethren YHVH is calling each one of us out of the pagan religions of the world, to become kings and priests under Yahshua in His coming Kingdom. But most of us are destroyed because we do not know or even care what YHVH has planned for us. Even though the knowledge about YHVH and His plan of salvation has been available all along, we have rejected His Law (Torah), since we have been taught that it was done away with. Unless, we come to realize our mistake, by studying (YHVH)'s word, He will eventually have to reject us from being priests (or teachers) in His kingdom and as a result, He will also forget our children. This is a very serious matter, since we are told in Isaiah 61: 6 – 9, ***'But you will be called the priests of YHVH; you will be spoken of as ministers of our Elohim. You will eat the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast. (7) Instead of your shame you will have a double portion, and instead of humiliation they will shout for joy over their portion. Therefore they will possess a double portion in their land, everlasting joy will be theirs. (8) For I, YHVH, love justice, I hate robbery in the burnt offering; and I will faithfully give them their recompenses, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. (9) Then their offspring will be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples. All who see them will recognize them because they are the offspring whom YHVH has blessed.'*** Are we truly so calloused that we do not care what happens to our children and grandchildren. I don't believe we are so stupid that we do not care about our offspring, but we need to understand that we have been stupefied by the ridiculous illogical things we have come to believe.

We read accordingly from verses 7 & 8 of Hosea 4, ***'The more they multiplied, the more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame. (8) They feed on the sin of My people, and direct their desire toward their iniquity.'*** The priests, who are supposed to teach the people truth, have committed desecration by feeding on the sin offerings of Elohim's people, in order to add sins to their own guilt. It is for this reason that YHVH says in verse 9: ***'And it will be, like people, like priest; so I will punish them for their ways, and repay them for their deeds.'*** What effects one part of the house of Israel, affects the whole nation. The same way as the priests desecrate Elohim's holy sacrifices, so also does the layman; for that reason YHVH will profane their 'glory' and make what is precious contemptible. In the story of 'the Councilor' he buys his girlfriend a diamond ring in a million, but in the end when things started going wrong with the illegal activity that he got lured into, his girlfriend is kidnapped and his life falls to pieces. To a person who does not have much to do with what is happening in the world, this movie was a shocking eye opener to the realities happening right under our noses. If you believe that similar things are not happening in most Israelite cities around the world today, you are extremely naïve.

But YHVH continues to tell us through the prophet Hosea in verse 10, saying: ***'And they will eat, but not have enough; they play the harlot, but not increase, because they have stopped giving heed to YHVH.'*** Increase or having children is seldom the intent of adultery; and their pleasures will not satisfy their lust – because they do not obey the instructions of Torah and remain within the confines of their marriage vows. However, this also has to do with committing idolatry, which to YHVH is like adultery because of the vows we made with Him at immersion. If we continue to teach children to worship YHVH under the guise of paganism – putting up Xmas trees and the things pagans do to worship Him, against His instructions in Jeremiah 10: 1 - 5<sup>3</sup> and Leviticus 18: 3<sup>4</sup>, He is definitely not

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<sup>3</sup> Jeremiah 10: 1 – 5, ***'Hear the word which YHVH speaks to you, O house of Israel. Thus says YHVH, "Do not learn the way of the nations, and do not be terrified by the signs of the heavens although the nations are terrified by them; for the customs of the peoples are delusion; because it is wood cut from the forest, the work of the hands of a craftsman with a cutting tool. They decorate it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers so that it will not totter. Like a scarecrow in a cucumber field are they, and they cannot speak; they must be carried, because they cannot walk! Do not fear them, for they can do no harm, nor can they do any good."***

pleased with us, even if we do it with the best of intentions. The point is: YHVH has recorded the way and also the times He wants us to worship Him in His word, and He is not interested in how pagans worship their gods. If we do not make Him the only authority in our lives, then He is not interested in us at this time.

We read from verses 11 & 12 of Hosea 4, why people do not understand that what they doing during these pagan festivals are wrong, in this way: ***'Harlotry, wine, and new wine take away their understanding. (12) My people consult their wooden idol, and their diviner's wand informs them; for the spirit of harlotry has led them astray, and they have played the harlot, departing from their Elohim.'*** The side note against wooden idol gives as reference Isaiah 44: 19, as follows: ***'And no one recalls, nor is there knowledge or understanding to say, "I have burned half of it in fire, and also have baked bread over its coals. I roast meat and eat it. Then I make the rest of it into an abomination, I fall down before a block of wood!"'*** Without realizing it children fall down before the block of wood when they collect their Xmas presents which according to their belief a man in a red suit placed there for them. Without knowing it these little children have learned to pay homage to a fictitious character and in many cases neglect to thank YHVH for all they have and are. YHVH does not want us and our children to seek council from wooden idols, even though we will vehemently deny that that is our intention with these inanimate objects we bring into our homes. After all, those who do so do it under the guise of worshipping YHVH. This is exactly what happened to ancient Israel when they were taken captive by the Assyrians, as witnessed in 2 Kings 17: 33 & 38 - 41, as follows: ***'They feared YHVH and served their own gods according to the custom of the nations from among whom they had been carried away into exile. (38) "And the covenant that I have made with you, you shall not forget, nor shall you fear other gods. (39) But YHVH your Elohim you shall fear; and He will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies."*** (40) ***However, they did not listen, but they did according to their earlier custom.*** (41) ***So while these nations feared YHVH, they also served their idols; their children likewise and their grandchildren, as their fathers did, so they do to this day.'***

(YHVH)'s admonition continues in verse 13 of Hosea 4, where He says: ***'They offer sacrifices on the tops of mountains and burn incense on the hills, under oak, poplar and terebinth, because their shade is pleasant. Therefore your daughters play the harlot, and your brides commit adultery.'*** Harlotry here means both harlotry and idolatry. The daughters mentioned here could be the daughters whom you have from the nations – also meaning your daughters in-law and even your granddaughters. YHVH says in verse 14 that He will not punish the daughters of men who themselves go to harlots and offer sacrifices with temple prostitutes; but that the people without understanding are ruined in this way. Do you understand what this is saying? Or do you like most in the world carry on regardless? Continuing in verses 15 – 19, we read: ***'Though you, Israel, play the harlot, do not let Judah become guilty; also do not go to Gilgal, or up to Beth-aven, and take the oath; "As YHVH Lives!"'*** (Gilgal is where the children of Israel observed their first Passover after 40 years of wondering in the wilderness. We see from Joshua 5: 9, ***'Then YHVH said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled the reproach of Egypt from you." So the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day.'*** YHVH does not want us to go to the places where we served Him, to worship our newly found idols. The meaning of Beth-aven is simply the house of vanity – a town east of Bethel. It is also important to notice the contrast between the house of Israel and the house of Judah.) (16) ***'Since Israel is stubborn like a stubborn heifer, can YHVH now pasture them like a lamb in a large field? (17) Ephraim is joined to idols; let him alone. (18) Their liquor gone, they play the harlot continually; their rulers dearly love shame. (19) The wind wraps them in its wings, and they will be ashamed because of their sacrifices.'*** Yes, in the end when it is literally too late to qualify to become kings and priests under Messiah, these people will be ashamed because of their sacrifices to idols.

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<sup>4</sup> Leviticus 18: 3, ***'You shall not do what is done in the land of Egypt where you lived, nor are you to do what is done in the land of Canaan where I am bringing you; you shall not walk in their statutes.'***

Chapter 5 of Hosea continues in the same manner. Without reading the entire chapter we see that even when Israel sees the results of the punishment she received because of her idolatry, she does not turn to YHVH, but we read from verses 13 & 14, ***'When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah his wound, then Ephraim went to Assyria and sent to King Jareb. But he is unable to heal you, or to cure you of your wound. (14) For I will be like a lion to Ephraim, and like a young lion to the house of Judah, I, even I, will tear to pieces and go away, I will carry away, and there will be none to deliver.'*** At this time both Israel and Judah will be turning to those (Assyria or Germany) who previously oppressed them, but they will not find any healing there. This was the same in the movie 'The Councilor'; the person playing the part of the Councilor had no one to help him in the end – he was all alone and could not do anything to save the one he loved. People, if we do not want to turn to YHVH and follow Him the way that He prescribes in His word, we are simply fooling ourselves – no matter how devoted we believe we are.

Believe you me, Yahshua will not return until those of us whom He has called to come out of the false religions of the world, follow Him fully. This is after all what He told us through Hosea in verse 15 of chapter 5, saying: ***'I will go away and return to My place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face; In their affliction (the coming great tribulation) they will earnestly seek Me.'*** Those who do not want to follow YHVH the way He prescribes in His word, will if they live through the coming great tribulation, join us realizing that if they do not, they will simply be burned to ashes – since they knew what is right all along, but greed and the worries of the world, kept them from committing to the way of Elohim in the past! Those who will not return are the ones Yahshua spoke about in Matthew 7: 22 & 23, saying: ***"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 performed many miracles?' (23) And then I will declare to them. 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'"*** Whilst we are still awaiting the return of our Master and Savior, our deeds either bless us or curse us, since YHVH has put in place a system of cause and effect. It is simply like the law of gravity – if you jump off a tall building you will fall to your death, but, if you don't it will not affect you. Do not be deceived - YHVH does not smack us at this time, but once our Master arrives He will only accept those who diligently served and obeyed Him the way He prescribed in His word! Think about It!



#### **Chapter 4: The fall of Babylon the great.**

Few people realize that the fall of Babylon is not only discussed in the book of Revelation chapters 17 & 18, but were originally prophesied by Jeremiah in Jeremiah 50 & 51. In fact to get the full account of what is prophesied to happen to Babylon we need to look at both these books of the Scriptures. Babylon is the name Elohim gave to the false economic, political and religious system that originated in the ancient city of Babylon. This system was largely perpetuated by Satan and his agents in Europe as the so-called 'Holy' Roman Empire', but its influence has through the passing of time, reached the ends of the earth as was evident in the revelry that could be seen via TV from one end of the earth to the other during the recent silly season, and is as testified in Revelation 12: 9, as follows: ***'And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.'***

We commence reading about the ultimate demise of this system that was against YHVH from the start from Jeremiah 50: 1 & 2, in this way: ***'The word which YHVH spoke concerning Babylon, the land of the Chaldeans, through Jeremiah the prophet: (2) "Declare and proclaim among the nations. Proclaim it and lift up a standard. Do not conceal it but say, 'Babylon has been captured, Bel has been put to shame, Marduk has been shattered; her images have been put to shame, her idols have been shattered.'*** Babylon has several levels of meaning in the Scriptures. To start with, it refers to the ancient city of Babel in the land of Shinar about 70 miles southwest of Bagdad in Iraq. This city was one of the cities erected by one of the sons of Cush namely Nimrod. We read from Genesis 10: 8 & 9: ***'Now Cush became the father of Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth. (9) He was a mighty hunter before (or against) YHVH; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before YHVH."*** Even though Babel was once overrun by the Medes and the Persians, it was never destroyed totally in the way described in the rest of Jeremiah 50 & 51. At the second level, Babel is seen throughout the Scriptures as a seat of rebellion against YHVH. It was in Babel that men started to make *'a name for themselves'* (meaning a name for the elohim they worshipped), when they planned to build the tower of Babel to reach into heaven as per Genesis 11: 3 & 4. The tower of Babel was a prominent example of man trying to oust even Elohim from His throne in heaven. Most of the ancient cities of Babylon had pagan temples with adjoining towers known as ziggurats, resembling the tower of Babel and similar to the tower of Babel, these towers served as stairways or *'gates to heaven'*. This pagan custom of erecting towers or steeples next to or as part of temples or places of worship is still in use today as may be seen in most cities and towns in Christian countries.

At the third level, it is referring to the trading system that originated in Babylon and has spread into every part of the world as mentioned in Revelation 18: 11 – 13, in this way: ***"And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargoes anymore; (12) cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine line and purple and silk and scarlet, and every kind of citron wood and every article of ivory and every article made from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble, (13) and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and cargoes of horses and chariots and slaves and human lives."*** This end time fall of Babylon seems to be the result of leaders of world governments breaking all ties with the worlds religious system centered in Rome, of which the Protestant Churches are all offshoots since they retained most practices introduced by Rome, such as: Xmas, Easter, Sunday worship, the immersion of infants instead of circumcision, and the abolition of all things Jewish, to name but a few. The name Bel is the Babylonian pronunciation of Baal, meaning husband or lord – a title adopted and preserved by modern Christianity and other religions of the world for the ones they worship. There were many so-called middle Eastern gods known as Baal; one in particular was Baal-Gad (or Gawd) which has an uncanny resemblance to the title by which many religions use to address their deities namely Lord God. As can be seen from Isaiah 65: 11, it means the 'Lord of Fortune (meaning Luck – which is short

for Lucifer) or Destiny<sup>5</sup>, in this way: ***“But you who forsake YHVH, who forget My holy mountain, who set the table for Fortune, and who fill cups with mixed wine for Destiny.”*** YHVH will right before the return of Messiah, destroy the economic, religious and political system called Babylon. This is also why He warns those of us called out of the religious systems of the world to come totally out of the Babylonian systems, saying in Revelation 18: 4, ***“Come out of her My people, that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues.”***

Talking about the coming destruction of Babylon, YHVH says in verse 3 of Jeremiah 50: ***“For a nation has come up against her out of the north; it will make her land an object of horror, and there will be no inhabitant in it. Both man and beast have wandered off, they have gone away!”*** The beast power namely Europe under the auspices of the Roman Church (the king of the north) will by this time have attacked the combined Muslim world stretching from North Africa into the Middle East led by Iran (the king of the south) as per Daniel 11: 40 & 41. But a massive attack from the north – Asia, will devastate the beast power. This is the second woe spoken about in the book of Revelation. But as we read from verses 4 & 5 of Jeremiah 50, it will also be a time when the two houses of Israel will come together, in this way: ***‘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.’”*** This is when YHVH will make the New (marriage) Covenant with both houses of Israel, as mentioned in Jeremiah 31.

We see that YHVH holds the false shepherds in Israel responsible for His people who became like lost sheep in verse 6, saying: ***“My people have become lost sheep; their shepherds have led them astray. They have made them turn aside on the mountains; they have gone along from mountain to hill and have forgotten their resting place.”*** Yahshua said that He specifically came to bring back the lost sheep of the house of Israel in Matthew 15: 24. The words *‘from mountain to hill’* used in verse 6 refer to the places where the Gentiles worship their gods, as can be seen from Deuteronomy 12: 2, where YHVH says: ***“You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations whom you dispossess serve their gods, on the mountains and on the hills and under every green tree.”*** This is therefore talking about shepherds (pastors) who lead their congregants away from worshipping YHVH into idolatry. Continuing in verse 7 of Jeremiah 50, we read: ***“All who came upon them have devoured them ((YHVH)’s people); and their adversaries have said, ‘We are not guilty, inasmuch as they have sinned against YHVH who is the habitation of righteousness. Even YHVH, the hope of their fathers’”*** Brethren, this excuse was heard many times over by every persecutor of Elohim’s people; from the crusaders to the Nazis in reference in particular to the tribe of Judah. But they will again use it after Jacob’s soon coming trouble, when both houses of Israel will again be persecuted.

We are warned in verse 8 to ***“Wander away from the midst of Babylon, and go forth from the land of the Chaldeans; be also like male goats at the head of the flock.”*** Whilst we are presently forced to work and live in the economic system of Babylon, our hearts should not be focused on it and its greed, because in the not too distant future we will be required to get out of it completely, when it will become impossible to do business if we do not have the mark of the beast (as discussed in Revelation 13). Forerunners of this are already in place through identification numbers, without which we cannot buy or sell. But we need to prepare our hearts and minds for that day, where we will have to make a decision not to be identified as the ones who support the beast, who will be given the right to work and to buy and sell, or not. This will happen instantaneously, because the command given by YHVH here is dependent on there being time to respond properly, if we have the insight to do so. Like Moses and Aaron, forerunners of Israel’s exodus from this system are already

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<sup>5</sup> The Afrikaans Bible uses the words ‘god of luck’ in place of ‘Fortune’ and the ‘goddess of fate’ in place of ‘Destiny’ as quoted here from Isaiah 65: 11 in the New American Standard Bible.

being called and trained to lead the rest out. Obviously this system will not be pleased to find out that there are some whose loyalty is to YHVH, and not to it. But we need to be strengthened by the idea that even if we are killed for not having the mark of the beast, we will be resurrected to eternal life, if we remain loyal to YHVH to the end.

YHVH says through Jeremiah in verses 9 & 10: ***“For behold, I am going to arouse and bring up against Babylon a horde of great nations from the land of the north, and they will draw up their battle lines against her; from there she will be taken captive. Their arrows will be like an expert warrior who does not return empty-handed. (10) And Chaldea will become plunder; all who plunder her will have enough,” declares YHVH.***’ This horde of great nations from the land of the north can only be Russia and China together with other nations which will join their power bloc. A scary thought is that South Africa and Brazil have recently joined Russia and China in a trade agreement. The devastating attack of this group from the north on Babylon is described in detail in Revelation 18: 2 – 19. Continuing in verses 14 - 16 of Jeremiah 50, YHVH tells this army from the north: ***“Draw up your battle lines against Babylon on every side, all you who bend the bow; shoot at her, do not be sparing with your arrows, for she has sinned against YHVH. (15) Raise your battle cry against her on every side! She has given herself up, her pillars have fallen, her walls have been torn down. For this is vengeance of YHVH: Take vengeance on her; as she has done to others, so do to her. (16) “Cut off the sower from Babylon, and the one who wields the sickle at the time of harvest; from before the sword of the oppressor they will each turn back to his own people, and they will each flee to his own land.”*** Elohim is behind the counter attack and He inspires the armies to spare nothing. We are all aware that both the Russians and Chinese have nuclear weapons and when we read about the destruction unleashed upon Babylon, there can be no doubt that it will be attacked with nuclear arms.

Elohim clearly says here that this is His vengeance. YHVH instructs these Asiatic armies to attack Babylon in the same way she attacked others. We understand from verse 16 that most of the laborers in Babylon are not natives of the land. Revelation 9: 13 – 21 describes the second woe in its proper time sequence. Reading from verse 16 we are given the number of the men in this Asiatic army, as follows: ***‘And the number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.’*** We know that such a sizeable army can only come from the combined forces of Russia and China today. Verses 17 – 19 of Revelation 9, describe the gory destruction to occur during this second woe, in this way: ***‘And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them; the riders had breastplates the color of fire and hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone.*** (These were obviously armored cars that Yochanan saw in his vision). ***(18) A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone, which proceeded out of their mouths*** (more than 2 billion people will be killed during this attack, which is most of the population of Europe). ***(19) For the power of the horses is in their mouths and their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads; and with them they do harm.’*** Rav Yochanan describes modern engines of war here which in addition to cannons in front, have tail gunners at the rear.

YHVH talks about His people and how they were mistreated, but how He will bring back a remnant of them to the Promised Land after forgiving their sins and dealing with Babylon in verses 17 – 20 of Jeremiah 50, as follows: ***“Israel is a scattered flock, the lions have driven them away. The first one who devoured him was the king of Assyria, and the last one who has broken his bones is Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. (18) Therefore thus says YHVH of hosts, the Elohim of Israel: Behold, I am going to punish the king of Babylon and his land, just as I punished the king of Assyria*** (Babylon and Assyria meaning Italy and Germany). ***(19) And I shall bring Israel back to his pasture, and he will graze on Carmel and Bashan, and his desire will be satisfied in the hill country of Ephraim and Gilead. (20) In those days and at that time,’ declares YHVH, ‘search will be made for***

**the iniquity of Israel, but there will be none; and for sins of Judah, but they will not be found; for I shall pardon those whom I leave as a remnant.**" YHVH forgives His people their iniquity because most of it was due to the deception of Satan and his counterfeit religious system.

However, the devastation that YHVH pronounces against Babylon is continued in verses 21 - 28 where He says: **"Against the land of Merathaim (meaning double rebellion), go up against it, and against the inhabitants of Pekod (meaning punishment). Slay and utterly destroy them," declares YHVH, "and do according to all that I have commanded you. (22) The noise of battle is in the land, and great destruction. (23) How the hammer of the whole earth has been cut off and broken! How Babylon has become an object of horror among the nations! (24) I set a snare for you, and you were also caught, O Babylon, while you yourself were not aware; you have been found and also seized because you have engaged in conflict with YHVH.**" (The false religion of Babylon is not only confusion, but it is also in conflict with YHVH.) (25) **YHVH has opened His armory and has brought forth the weapons of His indignation, for it is a work of YHVH Elohim of hosts in the land of the Chaldeans. (26) Come to her from the farthest border; open up her barns, pile her up like heaps and utterly destroy her. Let nothing be left to her. (27) Put all her young bulls to the sword; let her go down to the slaughter! Woe be upon them, for their day has come, the time of their punishment. (28) There is a sound of fugitives and refugees from the land of Babylon, to declare in Zion the vengeance of YHVH our Elohim, vengeance for His temple.**" YHVH is going to punish Babylon severely, because she has become arrogant against Him as He continues in verses 29 – 32, saying: **"Summon many against Babylon, all those who bend the bow: Encamp against her on every side, let there be no escape. Repay her according to her work; according to all that she has done, so do to her; for she has become arrogant against YHVH, against the Holy One of Israel. (30) Therefore her young men will fall in her streets, and all her men of war will be silenced in that day," declares YHVH. (31) Behold, I am against you, O arrogant one," declares YHVH Elohim of hosts, "For your day has come, the time when I shall punish you. (YHVH is personally against Babylon for its treatment of His chosen people.) (32) And the arrogant one will stumble and fall with no one to raise him up; and I shall set fire to his cities, and it will devour all his environs."**

YHVH keeps going back and forth between the punishment He is planning to meet out to Babylon and His people Israel who were oppressed by this false religious system of the world. We read therefore from verses 33 & 34: **'Thus says YHVH of hosts, "The sons of Israel are oppressed, and the sons of Judah as well; and all who took them captive have held them fast, they have refused to let them go."** (Like Pharaoh it will not let us go, when it realizes how empty and depleted it would become, once YHVH staked His claim on us, however) (34) **"Their Redeemer is strong, YHVH of hosts is His name; He will vigorously plead their case, so that He may bring rest to the earth, but turmoil to the inhabitants of Babylon."** In verses 35 – 37 YHVH talks about swords pointed at Babylon and its inhabitants, its officials, its priests and even the foreigners in her midst, as follows: **"A sword against the Chaldeans," Declares YHVH, "and against the inhabitants of Babylon, and against her officials and her wise men! (36) A sword against the oracle priests, and they will become fools! (The KJV reads: 'A sword is upon the liars; and they that dote.')** **A sword against her mighty men and they will be shattered! (37) A sword against their horses and against their chariots, and against all the foreigners who are in the midst of her, and they will become women! A sword against her treasures, and they will be plundered!"** In verse 38 YHVH says: **"A drought on her waters, and they will be dried up! For it is a land of Idols (The KJV reads: 'for it is a land of graven images'), and they are mad over fearsome idols."** This is scary but true, these people show passion and enthusiasm for their idols, which is worthy only of YHVH.

The remainder of Chapters 50 & 51 continues to describe the destruction that YHVH is going to meet out on this false economic, religious and political system through Russia and China. From this point on I will only make comments on a few pertinent verses throughout chapter 51. Starting with verse 9 where we read: **'We applied healing to Babylon, but she was not healed; forsake her and let us**



***each go to his own country, for her judgment has reached to heaven and towers up to the very skies.***” The protestant reformers have been trying to heal this false religious system for 2,000 years, but it has not worked. Instead of staying in the false system, it has become time to get out of this false system and go back to being Israel and return to the Promised Land, where (YHVH)’s righteousness is at home. Continuing in verse 11, we see that the Medes (namely Iran and Iraq) will be aligned with the Asiatic hordes, in this way: ***‘Sharpen the arrows, fill the quivers! YHVH has aroused the spirit of the kings of the Medes, because His (YHVH)’s purpose is against Babylon to destroy it; for it is the vengeance of YHVH, vengeance for His temple.’*** Verse 14 tells us that the army that will attack Babylon will be like locusts, as follows: ***‘YHVH of hosts has sworn by Himself: “Surely I will fill you with a population like locusts, and they will cry out with shouts of victory over you.”***

Next we read from verse 17: ***‘All mankind is stupid, devoid of knowledge*** (this almost sound like the silly season we’ve just experienced); ***every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols, for his molten images are deceitful and there is no breath in them.’*** Mankind trusts in things with no life in them. Babylon’s secret to survive was to keep the people blind, by withholding information that could easily topple it, and feeds their congregants ‘knowledge’ that dulls it to the more important truths. Its idols were usually made from gold and silver, and today’s gods are no different, taking only a different form so the connection is not that obvious. In verse 19 we read that: ***‘The portion of Jacob is not like these; for the Maker of all is He, and of the tribe of His inheritance; YHVH of hosts is His name.’*** Jacob’s portion is not like other people. While other people may be placed under the jurisdiction of lesser spiritual rulers, Israel is allotted the privilege of answering directly to YHVH. However, with this comes greater responsibility to go through no others and have dealings with no one, but YHVH. Continuing in verse 25, we read: ***“Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, who destroy the whole earth,” declares YHVH, “and I will stretch out My hand against you, and roll you down from the crags and I will make you a burnt out mountain.”*** The Babylonian system is only a counterfeit of the real thing. The ‘one new man’ that is formed by all those who are being called out of the nations, with Messiah as Head, is the restored image of Elohim, that was lost at Adam’s fall. In Daniel 2 Messiah is pictured as a stone that will topple the false image of Nebuchadnezzar, and then turn into a mountain that fills the earth. Yes, He will come to put an end to all rule and authority, and start ruling the world from Jerusalem.

We pick up in verses 49 & 50, in this way: ***‘Indeed Babylon is to fall for the slain of Israel, as also for Babylon the slain of all the earth have fallen. (50) You who have escaped the sword, depart! Do not stay! Remember YHVH from afar, and let Jerusalem come to your mind.’*** YHVH told Israel that a sword would follow them into exile, and continue to destroy many there. But YHVH saw fit to keep a remnant alive and He tells them to remember Jerusalem and let it take precedence in their hearts. Jerusalem as mentioned here is a larger concept than the mere city and is meant to embody the headquarters of (YHVH)’s Kingdom. The remnant of Israel should not let the Babylonian system steal their hearts, but should be committed to the way of Elohim only. Elohim’s anger is fueled against Babylon and it will be utterly destroyed, never to rise again as we read from verses 60 – 64 of Jeremiah 51, in this way: ***‘So Jeremiah wrote in a single scroll all the calamity which would come upon Babylon, that is, all these words which have been written concerning Babylon. (61) Then Jeremiah said to Seraiah, “As soon as you come to Babylon, then see that you read all these words aloud, (62) and say, ‘Thou, O YHVH, hast promised concerning this place to cut it off, so that there will be nothing dwelling in it, whether man or beast, but it will be a perpetual desolation.’ (63) And it will come about as soon as you finished reading this scroll, you will tie a stone to it and throw it into the middle of the Euphrates, (64) and say, ‘Just so shall Babylon sink down and not rise again, because of the calamity that I am going to bring upon her; and they will become exhausted.’” Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.’*** The final sentence tells us that chapter 52 is a scribal addendum for explanatory purposes only. Having had this prophecy repeated in both Jeremiah 50 & 51 and in Revelation 9, 17 & 18, should inspire us to put in every effort to serve and obey Elohim fully.

## Chapter 5: Yahshua the power of Elohim.

There are many believers who espouse the two house doctrine like we do as Nazarene Israelites, but different to us and all Jews, they hold that there are two (YHVH)'s, Yahshua being the so-called lesser YHVH. For obvious reasons they cannot say the Sh'ma which Yahshua knew and quoted in Mark 12: 29 & 30, when one of the scribes asked Him, what commandment is the foremost of all, and He answered: ***"The foremost is, 'HEAR O ISRAEL! YHVH OUR ELOHIM IS ONE YHVH; (30) AND YOU SHALL LOVE YHVH YOUR ELOHIM WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH."*** This is quoted from Deuteronomy 6: 4 (KJV), as follows: ***'Hear, O Israel: YHVH our Elohim is one YHVH.'*** Many versions of the Scriptures exclude the final YHVH, as given in the King James Version and as quoted by Yahshua in Mark 12 in the New American Standard Bible. It is for this reason that many, who say the Sh'ma, say the first line this way: ***'Hear, O Israel YHVH our Elohim is one.'*** By quoting the version without the final YHVH, it somehow gives some the freedom to change the word 'one' to 'unity' stating that Yahshua and YHVH is in unity – of mind and spirit. This is how they are able to say the Sh'ma yet believe in two (YHVH)'s. The people who believe in two (YHVH)'s teach that the Set-apart Spirit is simply the power of Elohim. These people should read what YHVH had to say about it in Deuteronomy 4: 39, as follows: ***"Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that YHVH, He is Elohim in heaven above and on earth below; there is no other."***

One reason why these believers claim that the Set-apart Spirit is simply the power of Elohim, is because of what is written in first Corinthians 2: 4 & 5, in this way: ***'And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, (5) that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of Elohim.'*** It is fairly easy to see how those who quote these verses can be mistaken to believe the Set-apart Spirit to be the power of Elohim. But, the problem with this assumption is that any student of the Scriptures should be mindful of one of the principles of studying the Scriptures, namely: to read all the relevant Scriptures on a particular subject, before coming to a final conclusion. Let's therefore start reading from first Corinthians 1: 22 – 24, where Rav Shaul begin discussing the subject, as follows: ***'For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; (23) but we preach Messiah crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, (24) but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Messiah the power of Elohim and the wisdom of Elohim.***' So we see that it is only the called who understand this. The fact that Yahshua is the power of Elohim is confirmed in Jeremiah 32: 17, where we read: ***'Ah YHVH Elohim! Behold, Thou hast made the heavens and the earth by Thy great power and Thine outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for Thee.'*** A second witness comes from Jeremiah 51: 15, in this way: ***'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.'*** This is further established in Isaiah 11: 1 & 2, as follows: ***'Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. (2) And the Spirit of YHVH will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength (power), the spirit of knowledge and the fear of YHVH.'***

Considering the words quoted from first Corinthians 2: 4 & 5 above, again, we notice that verse 4 concludes with the words 'the Spirit and of power' and verse 5 with the words 'the power of Elohim.' Having read from first Corinthians 1: 22 – 24, and if we let the Scriptures interpret the Scriptures, we come to understand that verse 4 is talking about both the Set-apart Spirit and Yahshua the power of Elohim, and verse 5 is telling us that our faith should not rest on wisdom of men, but on the power of Elohim namely Yahshua. For those who remain doubtful, the concept should be resolved by John 1: 1 -3, in this way: ***'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.'*** Yet, we find that even this truth is at times explained away by those who believe in two (YHVH)'s.



Let's therefore continue with our study of the arm of YHVH mentioned in Jeremiah 32: 17 and spoken about in Isaiah 53. Starting from verse 1 of Isaiah 53, we read: ***'Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of YHVH been revealed?'*** This is a very important question, since most people do not understand who the arm of YHVH is. But, by reading the entire 53<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Isaiah, we come to understand that it is talking about Yahshua our Messiah, especially when reading verses 5 & 6, 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. (6) All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but YHVH has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.'*** Most Nazarene/ Messianic believers in Messiah are aware that our Jewish Brothers have at this time been blinded to the identity of Messiah, as is confirmed in John 12: 37 – 40, in this way: ***'But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him; (38) that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke, "YHVH, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM HAS THE ARM OF YHVH BEEN REVEALED?" (39) For this cause they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, (40) "HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES, AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART; LEST THEY SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED, AND I HEAL THEM."*** But we are also aware that both houses of Israel are blinded at this time; whereas our Jewish Brothers are blinded to Messiah's identity; the house of Israel, mostly to be found amongst the Christians in the western world is blinded to the true gospel, namely the gospel of the coming Kingdom of Elohim. They also believe in a Messiah, whom they say came to fulfill the Torah for them, so that it is not any longer necessary for them to obey Torah.

The main reason why Christianity, Messianic Jews/Israelites, the Assemblies of YHVH and even some Nazarene Jews/Israelites cannot understand the Oneness of Elohim is because they do not want anything to do with Jewish Kabala, even though traces of it can be found in both the Tanach and the Renewed Covenant. For example the concept that Yahshua being the Redeemer and that YHVH saved us from bondage is already mentioned to Moses in Exodus 6: 6, as follows: ***"Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, 'I am YHVH, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage, I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments."*** Another important place where the arms of YHVH is mentioned in in Deuteronomy 33: 27, in this way: ***'The eternal Elohim is a dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms; and He drove out the enemy from before you, and said, 'Destroy!'*** The third witness where the terms used in these two verses are reinforced and used together with two Messianic terms is found in Isaiah 51: 5, in this way: ***"My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth, and My arms will judge<sup>6</sup> the peoples; the coastland will wait for Me, and for My arm they will wait expectantly.'*** Rav Shaul explains that our righteousness is through Yahshua (He is YHVH our righteousness or YHVH Tsidkaynu as per Jeremiah 23: 6 and 33: 16) in Romans 10: 1 – 4, saying: ***Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to Elohim for them*** (the Jewish part of the commonwealth of Israel mentioned in verses 30 – 33 of Romans 9) ***is for their salvation.*** (2) ***For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for Elohim, but not in accordance with knowledge.*** (3) ***For not knowing about Elohim's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of Elohim.*** (4) ***For Messiah is the end*** (or goal) ***of the law of righteousness to everyone who believes.'***

The reason why our Jewish Brothers are trying to establish their own righteousness at this time is obviously because YHVH has blinded their minds to Yahshua, (YHVH)'s righteousness – so that we, the remnant of the lost ten tribes can come in. Rav Shaul continues to explain this in Romans 11: 25 – 29, saying: ***'For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in***

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<sup>6</sup> Yahshua will also judge the world as witnessed in Acts 10: 42, in this way: ***"And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by Elohim as judge of the living and the dead."***

***your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel*** (in this case meaning Judah) ***until the fullness of the Gentiles*** (those of the lost ten tribes of Israel who believed that they are gentiles plus some real gentiles) ***has come in;*** (26) ***and thus all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, “THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS 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*** (the Jews are against Yahshua being the true Messiah, so that we from the lost ten tribes can come to YHVH through Him, who came only for us as he stated categorically in Matthew 15: 24), ***but from the standpoint of Elohim’s choice<sup>7</sup> they are beloved for the sake of the father’s;*** (29) ***for the gifts and the calling of Elohim are irrevocable.’*** King David also understood the arm of YHVH to be Yahshua the salvation and righteousness of YHVH, as witnessed in Psalm 98: 1 & 2, where He wrote: ***‘O sing to YHVH a new song, for He has done wonderful things, His right hand and His holy arm have gained victory for Him. (2) YHVH has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.’*** The second reason for blinding our Jewish Brothers to Yahshua’s identity is given in first Corinthians 2: 6 – 8, as follows: ***‘Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; (7) but we speak Elohim’s wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom, which Elohim predestined before the ages to our glory; (8) the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Master of glory.’***

But how does Kabala fit into all of this? Having already quoted Deuteronomy 33: 27 and Isaiah 51: 5, I would like to show how these two arms mentioned in the Scriptures relate to Kabala. For those who at this point become uneasy – I would like to ask that you bear with me, since most that I will be showing you next comes from the Scriptures. I am not trying to deceive you using magic, even though Rav Shaul refers to it as a mystery<sup>8</sup>. The word Kabala as transliterated in Hebrew means to ‘receive’. Not everything that is called Kabala is true Hebrew Kabala. There are two categories of Kabala, and like with many Nazarene/Messianic Israelites the second category of Kabala has done a great deal of harm to Jewish Kabala. Why I mention a second group of Nazarenes/Messianic believers here, is because there are some who have done a great deal of damage to our name, by using the Set-apart Name of YHVH, but dishonors His name by keeping a different Feast Day Calendar to what He ordained, as is witnessed in Malachi 2: 1 – 8, where we are told that the Levites (who know they are Levites and are presently with the house of Judah) are the ones to determine the annual Set-apart Day calendar. Some of these folk also come up with all sorts of ideas, where at the Feast days of Elohim they busy themselves with all sorts of survival and self-defense activities, instead of learning to fear Elohim always, as we are told in Deuteronomy 14: 23. Yes brethren, the whole purpose of the Feast of Tabernacles is; that we learn to fear YHVH our Elohim always, and not to be concerned with survival and self-defense classes. YHVH will both defend and provide for us, if only we learn to trust and obey Him fully. Note, I am not saying that survival and self-defense is not important; all I am saying is that we should do that in our own time.

The Torah tells us that Elohim is Eternal (as per Deuteronomy 33: 27). This is confirmed in first Timothy 1: 17, in this way: ***‘Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only Elohim, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.’*** From this we understand that Elohim is infinite or boundless. The Jews refer to YHVH our Elohim as Eyn Sof. The meaning of the transliterated Hebrew word ‘Eyn’ means ‘there is not or nothing’ or ‘without’, while the transliterated Hebrew word ‘Sof’ means ‘end’, ‘termination’ or ‘border’. Therefore they describe Elohim as without definition and border, and

<sup>7</sup> Psalm 78: 65 – 68: ***“Then YHVH awoke as if from sleep, like a warrior overcome by wine. And He drove His adversaries backward; He put on them an everlasting reproach. 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.”***

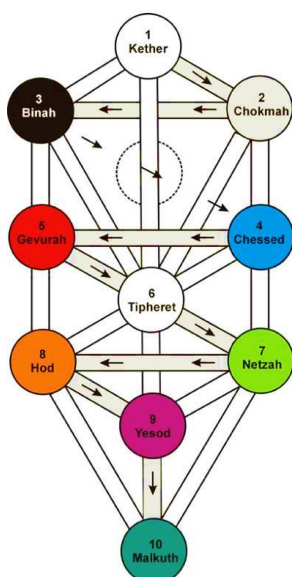
<sup>8</sup> 1 Timothy 3: 16 (KJV): ***‘And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness*** (meaning our faith as is also used in verse 9): ***Elohim*** (the KJV uses G-d) ***was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.’***

because we as mankind are finite, we cannot understand, much less have a personal relationship with Eyn Sof. Even so, the Scriptures do assign attributes to Elohim. In Judaism these attributes are seen 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 (Keter) will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom (Chochmah) 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 (Chesed), and the power (Gevurah), and the glory (Tiferet), and the victory (Netzach), and the majesty (Hod), indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Thine is the dominion (Malkut), 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 - Chesed) is everlasting."*

These attributes list out as follows:

1. The Spirit of YHVH (called Crown [Keter]).
2. Wisdom (Chochmah).
3. Understanding (Binah).
4. Mercy (Chesed) (also Gedulah and Atzah).
5. Severity (Gevurah or power).
6. Harmony/Beauty (Tiferet).
7. Victory (Netzach).
8. Splendor (Hod).
9. Foundation (Yesod).
10. Kingdom/Kingship (Malchut).

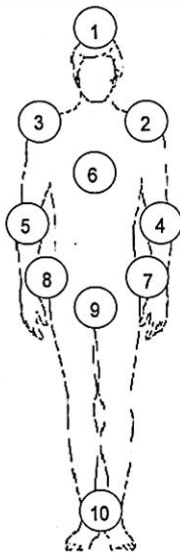


These attributes are laid out in the chart depicted on the left called 'The Tree of Life'.

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). We turn to Ephesians 6: 10 – 18, where Rav Shaul admonished believers to put on the full armor to protect them against principalities (rulers), against powers, against the world forces of darkness and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in heavenly places, to recount what we see here to the Scriptures. This is in fact talking about four classes of demons. These four classes of demons relate to the body segments of the image of Elohim. This full armor is therefore for our protection from head to toe. The Helmet of Salvation protects us from the evil spirits under heaven, known as principalities. The Breastplate of Righteousness protects us from powers, the Belt of Truth protects us from the rulers of darkness of this world, and the Shoes of Peace protect us from the forces of wickedness in heavenly places. The four classes of demons are parallel to the four body segments of the image of Elohim. The four pieces of armor, is put in place to protect us from the four strategies that Satan uses to deceive mankind. Each of the four items of the full armor of Elohim contrasts each of the basic tactics of Satan as expressed in the Tanach:

#### **Accusation – Helmet of Salvation (Zechariah 3: 1-5)**

The Helmet of Salvation protects us from Satan's tactic of accusation. Accusation is the primary tactic of Satan. According to Revelation 12: 10 he accuses us day and night. The Renewed Covenant refers to Yahshua as the head of the body. Therefore Yahshua is the Helmet of our Hope of Salvation. Satan is the accuser of the brethren, but in Zechariah 3: 1 - 5 we see that Satan also accused Yahshua, for wearing filthy garments. But, because Yahshua is the Helmet of Salvation, and due to the fact that He overcame Satan's temptation and accusations, YHVH clothed Him in clean garments and placed a clean Turban on His head. This Turban reminds us of the Helmet of the Hope of our Salvation and this knowledge defends us against the attack of accusation.

### **Temptation/pride – Breastplate of Righteousness (1 Chronicles 21: 1).**

Putting on the Breastplate of Righteousness protects us from the tactics of pride and temptation. Satan tempted Eve in Genesis 3: 6 by means of the things that are in the world, namely the lust of the flesh (*'the woman saw that the tree was good for food'*), the lust of the eyes (*'that it was a delight to the eyes'*) and the pride of life (*'that the tree was desirable to make one wise'*). This is what Yochanan is warning us about in first John 2: 15 & 16, in this way: ***'Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.'*** Temptation is a major tactic of Satan as Rav Shaul informed the brethren in Thessalonica in first Thessalonians 3: 5, saying: ***'For this reason, when I could endure it no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor should be in vain.'*** Satan tempts us through our own pride; King David was made vulnerable to Satan's attack as he took pride in Israel when he was tempted to number them as witnessed in 1 Chronicles 21: 1.

### **Lies/Deception – Belt of Truth (Genesis 3: 1 - 6).**

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

### **Oppression – Shoes of Peace (Acts 10: 38).**

Putting on the Shoes of Peace defends us from Satan's tactic of oppression. During Messiah's millennial rule we will have complete peace. The gospel of the coming kingdom of Elohim gives us peace, knowing that all the evil of the present age will come to an end.

If those of us called out of the world believe in Yahshua the Helmet of Salvation, practice righteousness, study and obey Torah, and believe in the true gospel we will have put on the full armor of Elohim to protect us from all evil. In addition we will slowly but surely be conformed to the image of Yahshua as we are assured in Romans 8: 28 & 29, in this way: ***'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.'*** When the word of YHVH became flesh He became the Son of Man. But He became the Son of Elohim when He was resurrected, to show us how we will if we qualify, be resurrected as Spiritual sons and daughters of Elohim, as we read from Romans 1: 1 - 4, as follows: ***'Paul, 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 of 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.'***

Yahshua is referred to as (YHVH)'s right hand or the attribute transliterated in Hebrew as 'Gevurah' meaning severity or power. Rav Shaul called Yahshua both the power and wisdom of YHVH in first Corinthians 1: 24 and again uses the concepts of kindness (chessed) and severity (gevurah) in Romans 11: 22, 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.'*** Isaiah in chapter 11: 1 & 2 also tells us that Yahshua a stem of Jesse (David's father) has the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and strength (power) and the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of Elohim. In addition Jeremiah told us in chapter 51: that YHVH made the earth by His power, established the world by His wisdom and stretched out the heavens by His understanding. Proverbs 8 is a proverb about the wisdom of Elohim. We read from Proverbs 8: 1, 22 & 23, ***'Does not***



*wisdom call, and understanding lift up her voice? (22) YHVH possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. (23) From everlasting I was established, from the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth.'* This confirms that Yahshua is not only the power, but also the wisdom of YHVH.

Yahshua the power that Elohim used to create the universe is also the word of Elohim or His spokesman, and taught only what the Father wanted Him to say. At this time all authority (power) has been given to Him in heaven and on earth, but once all things have been subjected to Him – when all knees have bowed before Him, then the Son Himself will also be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, that Elohim may be all in all (as per 1 Corinthians 15: 28). The Set-apart Spirit is the left hand of YHVH meaning His mercy or His divine nature, of which we might become partakers as Rav Kepha wrote in 2 Peter 1: 4, saying: ***'For by these*** (everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence) ***He granted us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.'***

My purpose with this lecture is not to convert or convince anybody, but to put Scriptural facts with two or three witnesses before you. According to the word of YHVH there is only One YHVH, Yahshua being the visible image of the invisible Elohim. He is (YHVH)'s way of interacting with human beings – the One we see as confirmed in Isaiah 45: 15, where we read: ***'Truly, Thou art an Elohim who hides Himself, O Elohim of Israel, Savior!'*** We pray for more of Elohim's Spirit at this time, so that it will guide us into all the truth. Selah!



## **Chapter 6: Through Isaac your descendants shall be named.**

In Romans 9 Rav Shaul is concerned for his kinsmen, the Jews whom he tells us in Romans 11 is presently blinded to Yahshua's identity, so that we the remnant of the lost ten tribes called out of the churches of the world can come in. Once the fullness of those of us who used to believe that we are Gentiles plus a number of real Gentiles have come in, then all Israel from both houses will be saved, because of the promises that YHVH made to our fathers in the faith. It is therefore also fitting that a great deal of what Rav Shaul is telling us here are quoted from prophecies in the Tanach.

We commence our study in verses 1 - 3 of Romans 9, with Rav Shaul saying: ***'I am telling the truth in Messiah, I am not lying, my conscience bearing me witness in the Set-apart Spirit, (2) that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. (3) For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Messiah for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh.'*** The words *'I could wish'* shows that if it were at all possible Rav Shaul wanted his fellow kinsmen the Jews to also know what Yahshua taught him during the three years he spent in Damascus (as we read from Acts 22: 7 – 10 and Galatians 1: 17 & 18). Rav Shaul has this tremendous struggle with his newly found knowledge that Yahshua specifically came to bring back a remnant of the lost-ten-tribes, using him as a facilitator to reconcile them back to the Father and Brother Judah, also knowing that even if he shares this knowledge with his Jewish kinsmen, they would not or could not believe him, unless the Father opens their minds to Yahshua – something which will only happen at Messiah's return. At this point we need to consider the parallels of Rav Shaul's struggle with Moses' experience recorded in Exodus 32: 9, 10 & 32, in this way: ***'And YHVH said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, they are an obstinate people. (10) Now then let Me alone, that My anger may burn against them, and that I may destroy them; and I will make of you a great nation." (32) "But now, if Thou wilt, forgive their sin—and if not, please blot me out from Thy book (meaning the book of life) which Thou hast written!"***

If we understood that Rav Shaul, like Yahshua was specifically called to work with us the lost ten tribes, as Yahshua instructed him in Acts 26: 14 – 18, saying: ***'And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, "Shaul, Shaul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads." (15) And I said, "Who art Thou, Mater?" And the Master said, "I am Yahshua whom you are persecuting. (16) But arise, and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen (Torah), but also to the things in which I will appear to you (the things Yahshua will teach Shaul); (17) delivering you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, (18) to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to Elohim, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'"*** The point is that only Yahshua who was YHVH in the flesh qualified as an innocent substitute who could be forsaken by YHVH on behalf of others as witnessed in Mark 15: 34, in this way: ***'And at the ninth hour Yahshua cried out with a loud voice, "ELOI, ELOI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" which is translated, "MY EL, MY EL, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?"*** Yahshua did this once for all as recorded in Hebrews 7: 26 & 27, as follows: ***'For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; (27) who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins, and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered Himself.'***

Rav Shaul continues talking about his Jewish kinsfolk saying in verse 4 of Romans 9: ***'Who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the (Levitical timing of the) temple (worship) service and the promises (of eventual salvation and to live in the Promised Land for- ever – meaning as spiritual sons and daughters of Elohim).'*** Rav Shaul clearly shows here that the Jews, and more specifically the Levites who are

amongst them are entrusted with the duty to proclaim (YHVH)'s annual Set-apart Days as we are also told in Deuteronomy 33: 8 – 11 and Malachi 2: 1 – 8. Because Rav Shaul personally met and got to know Yahshua the Messiah on an individual level, he was given a 360 degree vision of Elohim's plan of salvation for all mankind. Rav Shaul was given all knowledge – the sort of thing that is only beginning to happen to those whom YHVH has called out of the religions of the world, and he obviously wanted his fellow Jews to have this same vision and knowledge, but knew that that will only happen when Yahshua returns one day on Yom Teruah. Rav Shaul could not share with His fellow Jews what I wrote in the previous chapter, i.e. that Yahshua is the power of Elohim – something they will find out later. It is also for this reason that Rav Shaul was misunderstood by both houses of Israel. Rav Shaul tells us in verse 5 that these promises (5) ***'whose are the fathers (in the faith), and from whom is the Messiah according to the flesh, who is over all, Elohim blessed forever. Amein.'*** Yes, even though Yahshua is Abraham's descendant, He is also Elohim in the flesh, the door giving us access to Elohim's Kingdom.

Next Rav Shaul is telling us about the work that he was instructed to do by Yahshua. Even though YHVH chose Judah whom He loved, He ***'desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth'***, as quoted from first Timothy 2: 4. Continuing therefore in verses 6 - 8 of Romans 9, Shaul says: ***'But it is not as though the word of Elohim has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel; (7) neither are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED. (8) That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of Elohim, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants."*** The failure of our forebears the Israelites to repent did not mean YHVH had not kept His promises, as Rav Shaul puts it in Romans 11: 17 – 23, in this way: ***'But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, (18) do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you. (19) You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." (20) Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear; (21) for if Elohim did not spare the natural branches, neither will He spare you. (22) 'Behold then the kindness and severity of Elohim (Gevurah or power of Elohim, namely Yahshua)<sup>9</sup> ; to those who fell severity, but to you, Elohim's kindness, if you continue in His kindness (Chesed or the fruit of the Spirit); otherwise you also will be cut off. (23) And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in; for Elohim is able to graft them in again.'***

True Israel is not only those descended from Abraham, but anyone who lives and acts in accordance with the covenants made with Israel. We are seeing now that true Israel is, just as at the Exodus, others from outside who join them are considered just as much Israelites as the native-born ones. This is why YHVH said through Moses in both Exodus 12: 49 and Numbers 15: 15 & 16, ***'The same law shall apply to the native as to the stranger who sojourns among you.'*** (Num. 15: 15 & 16) ***'As for the assembly, there shall be one statute for you and for the alien who sojourns with you, a perpetual statute throughout your generations; as you are, so shall the alien before YHVH. (16) There is to be one law and one ordinance for you and for the alien who sojourns with you.'*** In fact Rav Shaul is mainly addressing non-Jewish Israel and some real Gentiles who join themselves to Israel in this section of the book of Romans. Undoubtedly most were indeed descended from Israel, in part, as Hosea tells us in Hosea 7: 8 but also as YHVH said to Himself about Abraham in Genesis 18: 17 & 18, in this way: ***"Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, (18) since Abraham will***

<sup>9</sup> Yochanan the immerser speaking about Yahshua in Matthew 4: 11 & 12, said: ***"As for me, I immerse you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; he will immerse you with the Set-apart Spirit and fire. And His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.'*** So we see that it is not Satan who will throw the rebels into the unquenchable fire, but Yahshua the power (Gevurah or severity) of Elohim.

***surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all of the nations of the earth will be blessed?***” The Hebrew word used for blessed here is transliterated as ‘Nivrachu’ and can mean either blessed or mixed. Therefore those who were identifiable as Israel were not the entirety of the holy nation. But, what must be understood from Romans 7 is that the promises applied in (YHVH)’s eyes had now narrowed to the children of Isaac alone, i.e. not Ismael.

The words ‘*children of the flesh*’ in verse 8 is talking about those born by natural planning only, not by miraculous appointment as mentioned in Galatians 4: 22, 23 & 29, as follows: ***‘For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman and one by the free woman. (23) But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman through the promise. (29) But as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now also.’*** As I mentioned in a recent sermon Esau is known by our Jewish Brothers to be Rome, and since Esau is stronger than Jacob (in this case meaning non-Jewish Israel), he has held him in a joke of bondage for the past 2,000 years since the beginning of the Roman church. Continuing in verse 9 - 13 of Romans 9 Rav Shaul wrote: ***‘For this is a word of promise: “AT THIS TIME I WILL COME, AND SARAH SHALL HAVE A SON.” (10) And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our Father Isaac; (11) for though the twins were not yet born, and had not done anything good or bad, in order that Elohim’s purpose according to His choice might stand, not because of works, but because of Him who calls, (12) it was said to her, “THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER.” (13) Just as it is written, “JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED.”*** Verse 10 narrows the scope of the promise further, even dividing between a set of twins whose bloodline was exactly the same, still only one of them was considered Abraham’s true seed. Verse 13 is quoted from Malachi 1: 2 – 4, where YHVH says through Malachi: ***‘I have loved you’, says YHVH. But you say, “How hast Thou loved us?” “Was not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares YHVH. “Yet I have loved Jacob; (3) but I have hated Esau, and I have made his mountains a desolation, and appointed his inheritance for the jackals of the wilderness.” (4) Though Edom says, “We have been beaten down, but we will return and build up the ruins”; thus says YHVH of hosts, “They may build, but I will tear down; and men will call them the wicked territory, and the people toward whom YHVH is indignant forever.’*** The Roman Church has been misleading (YHVH)’s people from the start, and this is why He will ultimately have it destroyed, before Messiah’s return.

With knowing all this, Rav Shaul asks in verse 14 of Romans 9: ***‘What shall we say then? There is no injustice with Elohim, is there? May it never be!’*** He answers the question in verses 15 – 18, in this way: ***‘For He says to Moses, “I WILL HAVE MERCY (grant favor or befriend) ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION.” (16) So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on Elohim who has mercy. (17) For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH.”*** (An antagonist was needed to highlight the real life drama of what happened to Israel in Egypt, so that (YHVH)’s acts would stand out vividly and would be impressive enough to be published widely – so He raised-up Pharaoh for His purpose) ***(18) So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.’*** After people have made choices to ignore YHVH, as Pharaoh did He facilitates the continued hardening of their hearts, so that if they per chance have a change of heart, after being given all truth during the second resurrection, they will be saved. The words ‘*depends on*’ in verse 16 shows that the calling is not within the reach of everyone, but only the ones to whom YHVH grants favor. The fact that YHVH would not give everyone an equal opportunity at this time, sounds grossly unfair to our modern ears. But YHVH is not calling everyone at this time as Yahshua Himself explained in Matthew 13: 11, 12 & 19, as follows: ***‘And He answered and said to them, “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. (19)***

***When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.'***

He is at this time only calling the first-fruits of His harvest of Human lives<sup>10</sup>, and will after the second resurrection open the Scriptures to the minds of the rest of Mankind, at which time the knees of everyone who ever lived will bow before Yahshua. Obviously, those who won't after they have been given all knowledge, will be burnt to become ashes under the feet of the righteous, as explained in Malachi 4: 1 – 3, ***'For behold, the day is coming*** (after the great white throne judgment as per Revelation 20: 14 & 15), ***burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze'***, says YHVH of hosts, ***"so that it will leave them neither root nor branch*** (they will be consumed by fire – not burn forever).” (2) ***But for you who fear My name the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall. (3) And you will tread down the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day which I am preparing, says YHVH of hosts.'*** Rav Shaul continues his questioning and answering methodology to teach us in verse 19 – 24 of Romans 9. He carries on in verse 19, saying: ***'You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?"*** If YHVH wanted it to turn out that way, then how can He still punish Pharaoh for doing what He wanted done anyway? If everything that ends up taking place is a result of His predetermination, how can anyone be considered guilty? This is all according to (YHVH)'s plan of salvation for all mankind. Since YHVH is at this time only calling His first fruits; only those of us called during this age gets given knowledge to enable us to be born-again as spiritual children of YHVH (similar to the way Yahshua was born-again as the Son of Elohim by the resurrection from the dead, as we are told in Romans 1: 4) provided we qualify.

The rest of mankind including Pharaoh will be given that same opportunity as explained 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."*** What is described here is what will happen during the second resurrection during the period known as the great white throne judgment which will last a period of one hundred years as explained in Isaiah 65: 17 – 20: ***'For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. (18) But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem for rejoicing, and her people for gladness. (19) I will also rejoice in Jerusalem, and be glad in My people; and there will no longer be heard in her the voice of weeping and the sound of crying. (20) No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred shall be thought accursed.'***

But before we carry on, I need to show those who believe that it will only be us who are called out of the churches of the world, who will make it into the kingdom as kings and priests under Yahshua, that they are wrong. I mentioned earlier that YHVH has at this time blinded the minds of our Jewish Brothers, so that those of us whom He is calling during this age through Messiah can come in, and until the fullness of the Gentiles (meaning those of us who believed we are Gentiles and a number of real Gentiles) have come in, then all Israel (including the house of Judah) will be saved, as may be read from Romans 11: 25 – 27. We are given the reason for this in Romans 11: 28 & 32, as follows:

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<sup>10</sup> *Those of us called at this time are first fruits according to James 1: 18, in this way: '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.'*



***'From the standpoint of the gospel they (Judah) are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of Elohim's choice that are beloved for the sake of the fathers. (32) For Elohim has shut up all in disobedience that He might show mercy to all.'*** But, when will those Jews who remain faithful to Torah be saved? On Yom Teruah or Rosh Hashanah of course. That is when Messiah will return to earth at the sound of the last trumpet, and to save the House of Judah first as witnessed in Zechariah 12: 7 – 10, in this way: ***'YHVH also will save the tents of Judah first in order that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not be magnified above Judah. (8) In that day YHVH will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the one who is feeble among them in that day will be like David, and the house of David will be like Elohim, like the angel of YHVH before them. (9) And it will come about in that day that I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. (10) And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace*** (it is by grace that we are saved, meaning that at this time YHVH will save our Jewish Brother) ***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 fact that Yahshua when the Pharisees saw Him sitting at table with the tax-gatherers and sinners asked His disciples why He eats with such people, told them in Matthew 9: 12, ***"It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick"*** as well as the fact that He said in Matthew 15: 24, ***'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel'*** are clear indications that the house of Judah are not lost, but will be saved when He returns one day, when they accept Him as their Master and Savior.

Rav Shaul answers his own questions asked in verse 19 of Romans 9 with more questions in verses 20 -22 , saying: ***'On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to Elohim? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it?" (21) Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use, and another for common use? (22) What is Elohim, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?*** The term power used here refers to Yahshua as the right hand and power of Elohim, as used in Exodus 6: 6, where YHVH said to Moses: ***"Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, I am YHVH, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage, I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments."*** At this point Rav Shaul tells us why YHVH is doing all of what he is doing according to his plan of salvation, saying in verses 23 – 26 of Romans 9: ***'And He did so in order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, (24) even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among the Gentiles.*** (The word Gentiles often refers to the lost ten tribes of Israel, since they were still considered to have some Israelite blood running through their veins, despite having been mixed into the nations – but until Messiah's return they will not be considered to be fully part of Israel by brother Judah.) ***(25) As He says also in Hosea, "I WILL CALL THOSE WHO WERE NOT MY PEOPLE, 'MY PEOPLE,' AND HER WHO WAS NOT BELOVED, 'BELOVED.'" (26) "AND IT SHALL BE THAT IN THE PLACE WHERE IT WAS SAID TO THEM, 'YOU ARE NOT MY PEOPLE,' THERE THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF THE LIVING ELOHIM."*** These prophecies of Isaiah were directed specifically at the house of Israel. So they were not those who never knew YHVH, but those whose ancestors had once been His people, but no longer wanted to be. Even so, YHVH made many promises through the prophets to bring their descendants back to Himself, because of this sovereign choice He had made that Ephraim is His first born.

Rav Shaul tells us that according to what Isaiah prophesied, only a remnant from both houses will be saved as first fruits, in verses 27 & 28, saying: ***'And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, "THOUGH THE NUMBER OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL BE AS THE SAND OF THE SEA, IT IS THE REMNANT THAT WILL BE SAVED; (28) FOR YHVH WILL EXECUTE HIS WORD UPON THE EARTH, THOROUGHLY AND QUICKLY."*** The remnant of Israel will be composed of those called out of the world at this time, who qualifies in the end, and the remnant of Judah will comprise those who remain Torah observant to the end. At



this point Rav Shaul wants us to realize the importance of what he taught so far, by saying in verse 29 – 31, **‘ And just as Isaiah foretold, “EXCEPT YHVH SABAOTH HAD LEFT TO US A POSTERITY, WE WOULD HAVE BECOME AS SODOM, AND WOULD HAVE RESEMBLED GOMORRAH.”** (The posterity or seed spoken about here is the same seed mentioned in Galatians 3: 16, namely Yahshua.) (30) **‘What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith.’** The words *‘did not pursue righteousness’* shows that the lost ten tribes had chosen to be Gentiles, but YHVH still had promises to fulfill to their ancestors, and so He called them (including us) back into the common wealth of Israel, and as it has played out, it is often against the will of the individuals called. But having once been Israel, they still had an obligation to YHVH, which their parents had promised at Mount Sinai. The word *‘attained’* therefore means that they almost stumbled upon it, overtaken by faith – trusting the fact that Yahshua had paid the way for those who had not all along been fulfilling their part of the covenant with YHVH.

To conclude we read from verses 31 – 33, in this way: **‘but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law.** (Rav Shaul is using the term Israel here in the same way most people are using it today – meaning mostly the tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Levi.) (32) **Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone,** (33) **just as it is written, “BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISSAPOINTED.”** YHVH is saying here that He placed in Zion a stone, a rock that hinders or obstructs – a scandal placed in ones way to entrap you or to make you stumble. The fact that the stone of stumbling; the rock of offense is Yahshua who is YHVH in the flesh only makes us stumble, means that it is not there to make us fall forever. Those of us who do not stumble over the Rock of our salvation at this time, are already a kingdom of priests, as Rav Kepha wrote in first Peter 2: 8 & 9, Brother Judah will stop stumbling when Messiah returns, and the eyes of the survivors of the great tribulation and their children will be opened during the Millennium rule of Messiah, whilst the rest of mankind’s eyes will be opened during the hundred year period of the great white throne judgment, thus ensuring (YHVH)’s desire to save all mankind as mentioned in I Timothy 2: 4. Bless the name of YHVH for revealing His truths to us at this time. Halleluyah!

## Chapter 7: Corrective punishment?

The governments of Ephraim have no power to prevent the corrective punishment that YHVH started unleashing upon them since 2008. In fact they are not even aware that what is happening to us at this time, is (YHVH)'s punishment for our fast increasing sins. The reason for our governments being unaware of what is happening to us is that they do not know that we are part of the lost-ten-tribes of Israel, whom YHVH scattered into mainly the western nations of the world. If they understood this, they would have realized that most of the prophecies written in the Scriptures are about what is going to befall us at the end of the age and would have taken corrective action by turning to YHVH for help and guidance.

However, because most people are presently blinded to these facts they do not understand; but we who understand need to proclaim the good news of the coming Kingdom to this dying world, giving them hope in what seems to be a very dark future, for those who are not in the least concerned with what the Scriptures have to say about it. For those of us whom YHVH has called to come out of the religions of the world, and to whom He is opening His Scriptures to our minds at this time, says through Amos in chapter 3: 6 - 8, in this way: ***'If a trumpet is blown in a city will not the people tremble? If a calamity occurs in a city has not YHVH done it? (7) Surely YHVH Elohim does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets. (8) A lion has roared! Who will not fear? YHVH Elohim has spoken! Who can but prophesy?'*** YHVH said clearly in His word, the Scriptures, that He would get His warning message to His people; He said through the prophet Hosea in Chapter 5: 9 , ***'Ephraim will become a desolation in the day of rebuke; among the tribes of Israel I declare what is sure.'*** Continuing in Hosea 7: 8 -12, YHVH said: ***'Ephraim mixes himself with the nations; Ephraim has become a cake not turned. (9) Strangers devour his strength, yet he does not know it; gray hairs also are sprinkled on him, yet he does not know it. (10) Though the pride of Israel testifies against him, yet they have neither returned to YHVH their Elohim, nor have they sought Him, for all this. (11) So Ephraim has become like a silly dove without sense; they call to Egypt, they go to Assyria. (12) When they go, I will spread My net over them; I will bring them down like the birds of the sky. I will chastise them in accordance with the proclamation to their assembly'***

The United States and the British Commonwealth of which South Africa was once part and in the mind of YHVH still is, are at this time being punished and more so, because they do not even realize that YHVH is in a process of correcting them, they are seeking alliances with those nations who persecuted them in the past, as YHVH said through Hosea in chapter 2: 6 – 9, in this way: ***"Therefore, behold, I will hedge up her way with thorns, and I will build a wall against her so that she cannot find her paths. (7) And she will pursue her lovers, but she will not overtake them; and she will seek them, but will not find them. Then she will say, 'I will go back to my first husband, for it was better for me then than now!' (8) For she does not know that it was I who gave her the grain, the new wine, and the oil, and lavished on her silver and gold, which they used for Baal. (9) Therefore, I will take back My grain at harvest time and My new wine in its season. I will also take away My wool and My flax given to cover her nakedness."*** In South Africa and the other parts of Ephraim (The USA and the British commonwealth) YHVH has been punishing us through violent strikes by workers, and inclement weather conditions, such a floods and excessive heat waves.

Now the reason why I am honing in on especially the Israelites in South Africa is because of both their pretense to be very religious and their extreme arrogance. YHVH devoted the entire chapter of Zephaniah 3 about what is happening in South Africa as well as in the rest of the Ephraimite nations at this time. We start reading about the condition of this country which was once part of the developed world, but is fast deteriorating to becoming less than a third or even a fourth world nation – if there is anything like that. We start reading from verses 1 & 2 of Zephaniah 3, YHVH saying through Zephaniah: ***'Woe to her who is rebellious and defiled, the tyrannical city! (2) She***

***heeded no voice; she accepted no instruction. She did not trust in YHVH; she did not draw near to Her Elohim.*** Even though South Africans claim to know their G-d, they have no idea who YHVH is and since they do not ever study the so-called 'Old Testament', because their G-d have either abolished the need to keep Torah, or He has fulfilled it for them, they have come to believe that they may do whatever they like, as long as they have a full abundant life and enjoy the time that they have on earth; and as long as they believe in J\*e\*s\*u\*s\*. But they have no idea what it means to believe in the name of the Savior and that believe in Him means that we are supposed to do what He taught and did whilst He was on earth. Yes, our people go to church every Sunday, the day they believe to be the Sabbath Day of the L-RD, but even though their forbears left Europe to get away from Catholic Europe, they are still very much part of the false religious system that YHVH is talking about in Ezekiel 22: 26, in this way: ***"Her priests have done violence to My law and have profaned My holy things; they have made no distinction between the holy and the profane, and they have not taught the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they hide their eyes from My Sabbaths, and I am profaned among them."*** Most of them have also come to agree with the New Age Religionists that the G-d of Christianity, the G-d of the Moslems, in fact the G-d of any known religion on earth is all one and the same being. This is also the reason why they do not care about using any specific name for the Mighty One whom they worship.

Like with all our Israelite forebears, YHVH scattered us amongst the peoples of the world, with the intention that we teach them about Elohim and His ways. As His people He wanted us to be a model nation to show other peoples how to serve and obey Him. However, we rather chose to teach them the paganism that we brought with us from Europe. We taught them about Xmas and Easter as taught us by the false religion that rubbed off on our fathers in Europe. We taught them a false gospel about the life, death and resurrection of J\*e\*s\*u\*s\*, instead of the good news about the coming Kingdom of Elohim, during which Yahshua the true Messiah is coming to rule the world from Jerusalem. We taught them so-called gospel hymns filled with falsehood, and today these gospel performances look and sound more like something between a comedy show and a rock concert, where people wear flashy clothes and makeup and it looks more like a fashion parade than people worshipping Elohim. We taught the people amongst whom we live to become greedy and self-centered and to live a life of opulence, parties and get, without thinking where it comes from. As a result our government like most western governments solve their financial problems by printing more and more paper money without the backing of productivity and capital, and what has happened in 2008, will occur again in the foreseeable future, but this time it will be a lot worse – something our grandparents saw in 1929 – 1934 before Hitler came to power in Germany and forced the world into World War II. The next round of trouble will have the exact same results, as history repeats itself, until we eventually get to learn from our mistakes.

Yes here in South Africa, the white man is the master of his own destiny – we are the cause of what is happening to us at this time. From the beginning of creation, YHVH put in place a system of cause and effect, and we will only reap what is good for us if we do what He teaches us in His words. But, we have forgotten the two foremost commandments; That YHVH our Elohim is One YHVH, that we shall love YHVH our Elohim with our whole heart, mind and strength and our neighbor as ourselves. Instead we have become the most selfish people on the earth; nobody cares about anyone else. All we want to do is get more and more material things, for less work and more pleasure, parties and enjoyment. We work five days a week, instead of the six days that YHVH commanded us to, and on the Sabbath, we go shopping and spend money we do not have, until we get to the position we are presently in. But even now we continue to spend as if there is no end to our riches – world-wide people bought luxuries during this past silly season, which most could not afford, and all they can think about is the good life. However, everything that was ever created has an end – all this is going to come to an end, and even if we pray until we are blue in the face, YHVH has no intention to let this society continue for much longer. He is about to humble us as never before, because it is only when we are humbled that we seek Him.

The Europeans in South Africa are presently complaining about what is happening – but we are the cause of it. Instead of teaching our Gentile neighbors about Elohim and His ways, we taught them arrogance, greed, more paganism and now we are worried about our children learning pagan cultures. The point is if you sow the wind, you will reap the whirlwind. People it is time for us to turn to YHVH for help or we will totally and utterly be destroyed in this beloved country of ours. We read about the new leaders in our country in verse 3 of Zephaniah 3, in this way: ***‘Her princes within her are roaring lions, her judges are wolves at evening; they leave nothing for the morning.’*** Like lions they threaten to take peoples possessions and jobs; they party from dusk to dawn, eating and drinking everything in sight. But why is this happening you ask? We read the answer in Jeremiah 5: 6 & 7, in this way: ***‘Therefore a lion from the forest shall slay them, a wolf of the deserts shall destroy them, a leopard is watching their cities. Everyone who goes out of them shall be torn in pieces, because their transgressions are many, their apostasies (falling away from truth) are numerous.’*** (7) ***Why should I pardon you? Your sons have forsaken Me and sworn by those who are not gods. When I had fed them to the full, they committed adultery and trooped to the harlot’s house.’*** The words adultery and harlot here do not only refer to actual harlotry and adultery, but also to the false religions that we caused our children to follow. Zephaniah writes in Zephaniah 3 verse 4: ***‘Her prophets (religious leaders) are reckless, treacherous men; her priests have profaned the sanctuary. They have done violence to the law.’*** As shown in the news the priests and other leaders in society are setting the examples to people of how to sin and break Elohim’s commandments.

Despite all this we read from verse 5 of Zephaniah 3, ***‘YHVH is righteous within her; He will do no injustice. Every morning He brings His justice to light; He does not fail. But the unjust knows no shame.’*** We should continue to be ashamed because of our deeds, if we consider the blessings that YHVH bestows upon us daily, but most people know no shame. Some drink, fornicate and kill during the night and get up and carry on as if nothing happened the very next day. YHVH therefore warns us through Zephaniah, saying in verses 6 – 8: ***“I have cut off nations; their corner towers are in ruins. I have made their streets desolate, with no one passing by; their cities are laid waste, without a man, without an inhabitant.”*** (In recent months we’ve seen much destruction in places like Syria, Egypt and elsewhere in Africa, but we are not even concerned about it. We are totally oblivious of what is happening around us – and this is why Jeremiah asked in Chapter 9: 12, ***‘Who is the wise man that may understand this? And who is he to whom the mouth of YHVH has spoken, that he may declare it? Why is the land ruined, laid waste like a desert, so that no one passes through?’***) (continuing in Zephaniah) (7) ***“I said, ‘Surely you will revere Me, accept instruction.’ So her dwelling will not be cut off according to all that I have appointed concerning her. But they were eager to corrupt all their deeds.*** (The law of cause and effect is punishing us because we will not obey our Creator – despite believing that we are a ‘religious’ nation). (8) ***“Therefore, wait for Me,” declares YHVH, “For the day when I rise up to the prey. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out on them My indignation, all My burning anger; for all the earth will be devoured by the fire of My zeal.”*** People we can pray and do all we like to try and save our planet, if we do not start obeying YHVH, we might as well forget it.

Continuing in verses 9 & 10, YHVH says in verse 9, ***“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.”*** (10) ***From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshippers, My dispersed ones, will bring My offerings.”*** The purified lips that YHVH is talking about here have two meanings; firstly it means that people will stop swearing and cursing, and secondly it means in especially the context of South Africa, the country beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, where most of the people are so overly concerned to speak only their own language, without being in the least concerned about communicating with our fellow human beings. We have 11 official languages, and even though more than 90% of the people are able to speak and understand English, more confusion results because we all teach and write material for our people only in the language only we understand. Then we often wonder why other people do not understand us, or why they mistrust us? In many cases people do not want to communicate with

others, because they either hate them, or are too arrogant to speak to them in a language which both understands. How absolutely weird can we get - this is exactly what YHVH did when the people of Babylon wanted to make a name for themselves, to confuse them, he gave them all different languages, but here in South Africa we are doing it to ourselves? But, as I said before, this is perhaps one way that YHVH is prolonging the inevitable for us. Even so, I am positive that the purified lips spoken about in Zephaniah will not be English, Afrikaans, Zulu or Xhosa, no it will be a pure dialect of Hebrew.

People, if we don't humble ourselves before YHVH, meaning if we do not show Him that He is our Elohim, He is going to humble us. In verses 11 & 12, YHVH says through Zephaniah: ***"In that day you will feel no shame because of all your deeds by which you have rebelled against Me; for then I will remove from your midst your proud, exalting ones, and you will never again be haughty on My holy mountain. (12) But I will leave among you a humble and lowly people, and they will take refuge in the name of YHVH"***. YHVH is going to intervene severely, but because He promised our forefathers that He will give us the Promised Land of Israel for ever, He is going to save a remnant of the Lost-ten-tribes, plus those few Gentiles who are truly prepared to follow Him with us, from beyond the rivers of Africa. We read accordingly from verse 13: ***"The remnant of Israel will do no wrong and tell no lies, nor will a deceitful tongue be found in their mouths; for they shall feed and lie down with no one to make them tremble."*** However, YHVH is not only talking about the Israelites in South Africa, He is also talking about the remnant of Israel world-wide who is at this time turning back to serve Him shoulder to shoulder. We read in more detail about this from Ezekiel 34: 13 – 16, in this way: ***"And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them to their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel by the streams, and in all the inhabited places of the land. (14) I will feed them in a good pasture, and their grazing ground will be on the mountain heights of Israel. There they will lie down in good grazing ground, and they will feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. (15) I will feed My flock and I will lead them to rest," declares YHVH Elohim. (16) I will seek the lost, bring back the scattered, bind up the broken, and strengthen the sick; but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with judgment."*** It is only at that time that things will change for us throughout the world, but especially in South Africa.

Zephaniah further writes about that blessed time in verse 14, saying: ***'Shout for joy, O daughter of Zion! (transliterated in Hebrew as Bat Tziyon, as used in many Messianic songs today) Shout in triumph, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!'*** He continues to tell us why we need to rejoice at that time, saying in verse 15: ***'YHVH has taken away His judgment (not Torah, but the punishment due for breaking Torah) against you, He has cleared away your enemies. (From this it is clear to see that we have enemies, because of our past sins.) The King of Israel, YHVH is in your midst; you will fear disaster no more.'*** The prophet Isaiah wrote about this time in Isaiah 54: 14, saying: ***"In righteousness (doing what YHVH requires of you) you will be established; you will be far from oppression, for you will not fear; and from terror, for it will not come near you."*** Zephaniah continues giving us the good news about what will follow because of (YHVH)'s promises in verses 16 & 17, saying: ***'In that day it will be said to Jerusalem: "Do not be afraid, O Zion; do not let your hands fall limp. (17) YHVH your Elohim is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts.'*** The side note against verse 16 takes us to Isaiah 35: 3 & 4, from where we get more reassurance in this way: ***'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."*** People it is the duty of those of us who do not always feel the direct impact of the persecutions against our people to encourage the exhausted among us.



Next YHVH talks about those of us who are continually grieving because people do not keep Elohim's appointed Feast days, or because some are adamant to keep Feast days of their own design, to try and prove that the Jews are also 'wrong', saying in verse 18: ***"I will gather those who grieve about the appointed feasts— they came from you, O Zion (these feasts came from Judah<sup>11</sup>); the reproach of exile is a burden on them."*** Many people in South Africa believe we have never had it so good, but few realize that we are living in exile, where our children do not get jobs and are persecuted for trying to obey YHVH. Believe you me, those who tend to keep the Feast Days of Elohim, according to their own devised calendars, are definitely not grieving about Elohim's appointed Feast Days – no, they are too arrogant. They spend many hours watching for the crescent moon instead of using the calendar preserved for us by the house of Judah, since their return from captivity about 2,500 years ago in Nehemiah's time. This is also perhaps why Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 47: 13: ***"You are wearied with your many counsels; let now the astrologers (among you), those who prophesy by the stars, those who predict by the new moons, stand up and save you from what will come upon you."*** Most of those who watch prophecies about the signs in the stars and the moons are doing it for the wrong reason – they doing it to try and save their lives, not to serve YHVH better. No wonder Yahshua warned us about this very thing 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."*** Yes, we should watch for the signs of the times, but our motive should always be to serve YHVH better. The point is: even if we are killed by predicted tsunamis or whatever is prophesied to happen to us here in South Africa, if we remain faithful to YHVH to the end, we are promised to be resurrected to life anyway.

However, in the end YHVH will come to our aid, He will deal with those who persecute us, promising in verse 19: ***"Behold, I am going to deal at that time with all your oppressors. I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will turn their shame into praise and renown in all the earth."*** YHVH promises further through the prophet Isaiah, saying in Isaiah 60: 14, ***"And the sons of those who afflicted you will come bowing to you, and all those who despised you will bow themselves at the soles of your feet; and they will call you the city of YHVH, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel."*** When that happens one day in the not too distant future YHVH assures us that our lot will change forever, saying in verse 20: ***"At That time I will bring you in, even at the time when I gather you together; indeed I will give you renown and praise, among the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says YHVH.'*** This is in line with (YHVH)'s promises in Deuteronomy 26: 17 - 19, in this way: ***"You have today declared YHVH to be your Elohim, and that you would walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments and His ordinances, and listen to His voice. (18) And YHVH has today declared you to be His people, a treasured possession, as He promised you, and that you should keep all His commandments; (19) and that He shall set you high above all nations which He has made, for praise, fame, and honor; and that you shall be a consecrated people to YHVH your Elohim, as He has spoken."*** The words in verse 19 of Deuteronomy 26 is confirmed in Jeremiah 29: 14, as follows: ***'And I will be found by you,' declares YHVH, 'and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares YHVH, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.'***

The Israelite people in South Africa, and indeed world-wide are not the world's most favorite people at present, we are called all sorts of names and generally hated for things done by those who came before us. However, here YHVH is telling us that the remnant that He is going to save will be renowned and praised in the very near future. Have we like our forefathers forgotten all of (YHVH)'s promises, or are we waiting faithfully for it to happen in the near future! About 100 years ago another South African by the name of Van Rensburg warned his people about what he read in Zephaniah, but few listened to him. Are our people going to listen at this time? Selah!

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<sup>11</sup> Zion is the house of Judah, as we read from Psalm 78: 67 & 68, in this way: ***'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.'*** Yes, we become part of Zion when we do what they teach us.

## **Chapter 8: The promise for the First-born.**

The original Passover lamb was slaughtered specifically to protect the first-born sons of Israel from death during the final plague, before Pharaoh let the children of Israel leave Egypt, as Moses recorded and also instructed the children of Israel in Exodus 11: 4 & 5 and 12: 1 – 7 & 13, saying: ***“Thus says YHVH, ‘About midnight I am going out into the midst of Egypt, (5) and all the first-born in the land of Egypt shall die, from the first-born of the Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the first-born of the slave girl who is behind the millstones; all the first-born of the cattle as well.’”*** (1) ***‘Now YHVH said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, (2) “This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you. (3) Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, ‘On the tenth of this month they are each one to take a lamb for themselves, according to their fathers’ households, a lamb for each household. (4) Now if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his neighbor nearest to his house are to take one according to the number of persons in them; according to what each man should eat, you are to divide the lamb. (5) Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. (6) And you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it at twilight. (7) Moreover, they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. (13) And the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.’”***

We read about the disastrous effect of the final plague in Exodus 12: 29 & 30, in this way: ***‘Now it came about at midnight that YHVH struck all the first-born in the land of Egypt, from the first-born of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the first-born of the captive who was in the dungeon, and the first-born of cattle. (30) And Pharaoh arose in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was no home where there was not someone dead.*** True to His word YHVH caused all the first-born in Egypt to die that night, except for those Israelites and some Egyptians who marked their homes with the blood of the lambs they selected for Passover four days before and killed during twilight the previous evening (14 Aviv). The original Passover had nothing to do with forgiveness of sin, but was to prevent the death of the first-born children of Israel only. In the same way Messiah’s Passover was to prevent the second death of the first-born children of Elohim and to ensure that they are born-again from the dead like Messiah was as witnessed in Colossians 1: 15 – 18, as follows: ***‘And He is the image of the invisible Elohim, the first-born of all creation. (16) For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities, all things have been created by Him and for Him. (17) And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. (18) He is also head of the body, the ecclesia; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.***

It is vitally important for us to understand that we need to set our minds on the Spirit if we want eternal life, as Rav Shaul explains in Romans 8: 6 – 11 saying: ***‘For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, (7) because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward Elohim; for it does not subject itself to the law of Elohim, for it is not even able to do so; (8) and those who are in the flesh cannot please Elohim. (9) However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of Elohim dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Messiah, he does not belong to Him. (10) And if Messiah is in you though the body is dead, because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. (11) But if the Spirit of Him who raised Yahshua from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Messiah Yahshua from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.’*** Even though Messiah’s death on the impalement stake as the Passover Lamb of Elohim had to do with the forgiveness of sins for all who will eventually accept Him as their personal Passover Lamb, and are immersed into His saving name, like with the original Passover, it has to do with the salvation of the first-fruits called out of

the religions of the world to be born-again as the children of Elohim, at Messiah's return. This will be similar to His resurrection three days and three nights after His death on the impalement stake. Yahshua was represented by the male lamb without blemish in Leviticus 23: 12, which was symbolic of Messiah's sinless state. This is why Yochanan the Immerser referred to Him as **'the Lamb of Elohim who takes away the sin of the world!'** in John 1: 29.

Eventually when every knee bows before Yahshua in the second resurrection, they will be forgiven their sins, and at that time YHVH will pass over the punishment they earned by their Torah breaking, in and through the blood of Messiah shed when He died once for all on the impalement stake about two thousand years ago. King David prophesied about Messiah's death in Psalm 22, but also gave us the ultimate purpose of His death in verses 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 (YHVH)'s and He rules over the nations** (We know that this will only happen during Messiah's millennial rule and into eternity.) (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.'** This will occur after the second resurrection when all who ever lived will have their opportunity to accept Yahshua as their personal Passover. Yahshua our Messiah also represented the wave sheaf offering (the first fruit offering transliterated in Hebrew as *'bikkarim'*) of fine flour mixed with oil in Leviticus 23: 13 and was to be waved as a grain offering at the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> Aviv, when we start counting the omer from the day after the first annual Sabbath, namely the First Day of Unleavened Bread as recorded in Leviticus 23: 11 - 15. Yahshua was both the Lamb of Elohim who takes away the sins of the world, and the first of the first-fruits to be cut off (or die), but also the first to be born-again from the dead.

The accompanying hin of wine mentioned in Leviticus 23: 13, was symbolic of Messiah's blood to pay the death penalty for our sins, as confirmed in 1 John 1: 7, as follows: **'But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Yahshua His Son cleanses us from all sin.'** We read further in this regard from Hebrews 5: 8 & 9, **'Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things He suffered. (9) And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation.'** Even though Messiah gave Himself as a sacrificial offering on our behalf, many believers do not understand the importance of being correctly immersed into Yahshua's saving name. We need to understand that without the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim indwelling us, we will not be resurrected as the first-fruit bride of Messiah, when He returns one day – no matter what we believe in our hearts. Unless and until we learn to do everything exactly as YHVH prescribes in His word, we are only fooling ourselves. This is where the two trees originally in the Garden of Eden comes to play again in our lives – are we going to follow our own hearts and take of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, or are we going to do what YHVH requires of us, and partake of the tree of life?

After being called, it is important for us to be immersed into the saving name of Yahshua our Messiah, in order to receive the Set-apart Spirit, as Rav Kepha explains to new believers in Acts 2: 38 & 39, saying: **"Repent, and let each of you be immersed in the name of Yahshua Messiah for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Set-apart Spirit. (39) For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off** (indicating that at this time this is only applicable to the house of Israel), **as many as YHVH our Elohim shall call to Himself."** But there are even further requirements – without being immersed into Yahshua's name and having had the hands of the elders including that of the Torah teacher laid upon us, we cannot receive the Set-apart Spirit, as testified in Acts 8: 12 – 17, in this way: **'But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of Elohim and the name of Yahshua Messiah, they were being immersed, men and women alike. (13) And even Simon himself believed; and after being immersed, he continued on with Philip; and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed. (14) Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the**

***word of Elohim, they sent them Kepha and Yochanan, (15) who came down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Set-apart Spirit. (16) For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been immersed in the name of the Master Yahshua. (17) Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Set-apart Spirit.*** That is according to Ephesians 4: 30 when we are sealed in Yahshua's saving name, as follows: ***'And do not grieve the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.'***

When we as believers die, the Spirit given us by the Father which combined with the spirit of man in us, returns to the Father in heaven, whilst our dead bodies are buried and our lives (or souls) come to an end. It is from the time of death until Messiah's return that our Spirits are perfected in heaven as witnessed in Hebrews 12: 23 as follows: ***"to the general assembly and ecclesia of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to Elohim, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of righteous men made perfect."*** Without proper immersion which is likened unto circumcision of the heart – where the stubbornness of our hearts are cut away, and we humble ourselves before Elohim, as a sign of making Him the ruler in our lives, we will simply not receive the Set-apart Spirit. It is also only when we have the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim indwelling us that He opens our mind to understand the Spiritual things in His word, as witnessed in first Corinthians 2: 10 – 12 in this way: ***'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 male believers should also be circumcised in the flesh, to qualify to partake legitimately of Elohim's Passover as a memorial of Messiah's death annually. Without being circumcised we cannot inherit the Promised Land (or the kingdom of Elohim) as kings and priests to Elohim, as promised to our fathers in the faith, when Messiah returns – it is simply that serious! We have two sets of Scriptures which testify of these truths; The first being about partaking of the Passover as Yahshua explained in John 6: 53 - 58, saying: ***"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. (54) He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (55) For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. (56) He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me and I in him. (57) As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me. (58) This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate, and died, he who eats this bread shall live forever.'*** Even though at that time His disciples did not understand what Yahshua was saying, we now in retrospect know that He was talking about the Passover. The second Scripture being the importance of circumcision as witnessed in Ezekiel 44: 7 – 9, which is essentially a prophecy about the Millennial rule of Messiah, in this way: ***'When you brought in foreigners, uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in My sanctuary to profane it, even My house, when you offered My food, the fat and the blood; for they made My covenant void – this in addition to all your abominations. (8) And you have not kept charge of My holy things yourselves, but you have set foreigners to keep charge of My sanctuary.'*** (9) ***'Thus says YHVH Elohim, "No foreigner, uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh, of all the foreigners who are among the sons of Israel, shall enter My sanctuary."***

YHVH is at this time only calling a remnant of the lost-ten-tribes, the first-fruits among His creatures to learn to become kings and priests under Yahshua during the Millennium, as confirmed in James 1: 18, in this way: ***'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.'*** We read a second witness in this regard from the last part of Revelation 14: 4, in this way: ***'These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to Elohim and to the Lamb.'*** The importance of being called at this time is also discussed by Rav Shaul in Romans 8: 28 – 30, where he wrote: ***'And we know 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 (in immersion); and whom He justified, these He also glorified.*** We will one day be glorified with spiritual bodies when Messiah returns, as witnessed in 1 John 3: 2, in this way: ***'Beloved, now we are children of Elohim, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.'*** So we see that exactly with the very first Passover, Yahshua's last Passover was to protect the ecclesia of called out believers, who as first-fruits will become first-born children of Elohim, at His return. They will be the first to be resurrected after Yahshua and be protected from the second death, as we read from Revelation 20: 6, as follows: ***'Blessed and holy (set-apart) 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.'***

Yahshua was sacrificed as the Passover Lamb on the 14<sup>th</sup> Aviv, when He was impaled at about 9 o'clock in the morning. From 12 midday until 3 o'clock in the afternoon darkness fell over the whole land, as we read from Luke 23: 44 & 45, in this way: ***'And it was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour, (45) the sun being obscured; and the veil of the temple was torn in two.'*** This was when Yahshua died and fulfilled (or became) the sacrificial law in respect of sin, as well as the first fruit grain offering cut off in the middle of the week, as prophesied by Daniel in the first part of Daniel 9: 26 as follows: ***"Then after sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary."*** Yahshua died as the Passover Lamb, but was also cut off as the wave sheaf offering on the impalement stake before YHVH and as witnessed in verse 46 of Luke 23, crying out in a loud voice saying: ***"Father, INTO THY HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT."*** ***And having said this, He breathed His last.'*** This was when His Spirit ascended to the Father and three days and three nights later, Yahshua was resurrected at the end of the weekly Sabbath to become the first 'human' to be born-again from the dead.

Elohim specifically prepared a body of flesh for Yahshua to dwell in, as witnessed in Hebrews 10: 5, in this way: ***'Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "SACRIFICE AND OFFERING THOU HAST NOT DESIRED, BUT A BODY THOU HAST PREPARED FOR ME."*** This is the body in which the Word of Elohim lived among us, but it is also representative of the body of the ecclesia of Elohim, as Rav Shaul in Ephesians 1: 22 & 23, saying: ***'And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the ecclesia (of called-out believers), (23) which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.'*** In this we see again how the duality principle that runs throughout the Scriptures comes to play. Yahshua the visible image of the invisible Elohim died for us and was the first being to be resurrected as a Spirit Being. He made it possible for those whom YHVH calls as first-fruits among His creatures, to go through the same process to be born again. Yes, Yahshua as the Head of the body was first to be brought forth or born again. This is also why Rav Shaul wrote in Hebrews 10: 15 – 22, saying: ***'And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, (16) "THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS YHVH: I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEART, AND UPON THEIR MIND I WILL WRITE THEM, He then says, (17) AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE." (18) Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin. (19) 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, (21) and since we have a great priest over the house of Elohim, (22) let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.'***



All of humanity have the potential of becoming children of Elohim, as Yahshua the visible image of the invisible Elohim, died for all and was the first *'human'* to be resurrected as a Spirit Being. But at this time it is only the ones called out as first-fruits who if they are immersed correctly, and are circumcised in the flesh (applicable to men only) will be resurrected as the first-born children of Elohim and will inherit the Promised Land, provided, they are called, chosen (Set-apart by immersion as a sign of their betrothal to Yahshua) and remain faithful to the end. The first-fruits for the Kingdom of Elohim are only a small group of people; they will receive a double portion indicating a bigger responsibility in the Kingdom. They will be changed into spiritual sons and daughters of Elohim and will become kings and priests under Yahshua in the Kingdom of Elohim. They are called from every tribe of the sons of Israel – even those who have lost their identity because they forgot the commandments of Elohim. They are called during this age and are being trained under difficult circumstances to become first-fruits. They are kings and priests in training for a heavenly order, as recorded in 1 Peter 2: 9 & 10, as follows: ***'But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR ELOHIM's OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (10) for you once were not a people, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF ELOHIM; you had not RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.'*** It is also for this very reason that as a royal priesthood, we already wear head coverings prescribed for Elohim's priesthood.

Prior to Messiah's death and resurrection of Yahshua, only a few individuals were chosen to perform special responsibilities. They were such people as Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Moses, Deborah, Samuel, David, Isaiah, Ester and a handful of others. The countless numbers from Adam to Messiah were not yet given an opportunity for salvation. During the time from Messiah's resurrection, ascension and second coming, Elohim has been calling only a selected few to be part of His elect, or first fruits. These are known as the remnant according to Elohim's gracious choice as per Romans 11: 5. Yes, our calling is by the will of Elohim, who wants us to follow Him with everything we have. The promise is, if we do, we will like Yahshua become first-born children of Elohim. But the choice remains ours, as we read from James 1: 19 – 22, in this way: ***'This you know, my beloved brethren. But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; (20) for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of Elohim. (21) Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. (22) But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.'***

Without an intimate spiritual relationship with Elohim, those of us called at this time, will go to the grave and be forgotten, as explained in Ecclesiastes 9: 5, as follows: ***'For the living know they will die; but the dead do not know anything, nor have they any longer a reward, for their memory is forgotten.'*** It is therefore important that we do everything in our power to serve and obey Elohim who called us to become His future children. We read accordingly from Ecclesiastes 9: 10, ***'Whatever your hand finds to do, verily, do it with all your might; for there is no activity or planning or wisdom in Sheol (the grave) where you are going.'*** We need to put in every effort to make it into the Kingdom of Elohim, during this life. Yahshua became our example of being a first-fruit living in the world, but not of it. We, who are, as it were first-fruits among His creatures, should follow His perfect example. We read accordingly about Yahshua from Titus 2: 14, ***'who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.'*** Yahshua also said in His prayer in John 17: 18, ***"As Thou didst send Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world."*** As a new creation, Yahshua sent us to display a new nature and the likeness of Messiah to the world. When we separate ourselves from worldly ways, YHVH will receive us as promised in 2 Corinthians 6: 16 & 17, as follows: ***'Or what agreement has the temple of Elohim with idols? For we are the temple of the living Elohim, just as Elohim said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR ELOHIM, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. (17) Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE***

**SEPARATE,” says YHVH. “AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; and I will welcome you.”** These promises of Elohim remain for those who, even though we live in the world, are separate from the ways of the world. This is how we show the people in the world, the example Messiah showed His disciples, whilst He lived here two thousand years ago.

The Passover that we partake of annually ensures that we will be resurrected as first-born children of Elohim, similar to the way our Messiah was resurrected to become the very Son of Elohim. If we continue to grow in grace and knowledge, and overcome Satan, the world and our human natures, we will make it into the Kingdom of Elohim. We read therefore from Hebrews 4: 6 - 11, in this way: ***‘Since therefore it remains for some to enter it (the kingdom of Elohim), and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience, (7) He again fixes a certain day, “Today,” saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, “TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS.” (8) For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. (9) There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of Elohim. (10) For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as Elohim did from His. (11) Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall through following the same example of disobedience.*** If we are in the first resurrection the second death will have no power over us, as we’ve read previously from Revelation 20: 6, so similar to the original Passover, where the first-born children of Israel were saved from death, so those of us born-again as sons of Elohim will be saved from the second death. Does this sound serious enough to motivate you to do things as specified by Elohim! Think about it

## Chapter 9: Therefore – now that we know.

Both Rav Shaul and Rav Kepha came to the same conclusion after a life of teaching and exhorting the people whom YHVH has called to follow His will and way. Rav Kepha writes in first Peter 4: 1 & 2, saying: ***‘Therefore, since Messiah has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, (2) so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of Elohim.’*** During the past year we’ve learnt about the Oneness of Elohim, the Feast Days of Elohim giving details of (YHVH)’s plan of salvation for all mankind, clean and unclean foods, mankind’s ultimate potential and the coming Kingdom of Elohim, during which Yahshua will rule the world from Jerusalem for a thousand years.

We have come to understand what it means to be born-again; we know what Yahshua’s main purpose was; we have been given the key to the kingdom of Elohim and in general have a much better idea of what YHVH has planned for us and expects from us. This is why Rav Kepha continues saying in verses 3 – 5: ***‘For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousals, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.*** (This sounds a lot like today, but mankind has not changed since creation, and what is happening has simply happened before – it is as Solomon said: *‘there is nothing new under the sun.’*) ***(4) And in all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excess of dissipation*** (intemperance), ***and they malign you;*** ***(5) but they shall give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.’*** These unrepentant Gentiles will only get their first chance of salvation during the hundred year period of the great white throne judgment, when the Scriptures will be opened to their minds, allowing them to make an informed decision, whether they want to follow the way of Elohim, or not. This will be the time during which every knee of the people who lived throughout the ages, will bow before Yahshua our Messiah, accepting Him as their personal Passover.

Once we are given the truth about the coming Kingdom of Elohim, and we understand it fully, we are judged by what we are doing with what we’ve learnt. It is also for this reason that Rav Kepha admonished us, in his letter, to start doing what is right in Elohim’s sight, or lose the eternal life promised us, if we qualify. He carries on in verse 6, saying: ***‘For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead*** (note this is not saying that Yahshua or anybody else preached to dead people – once a person dies, he cannot hear anything any longer<sup>12</sup>. This is saying that the true gospel has been preached to some who are now dead, before they died, and they died with the same hope and knowledge that we have), ***that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may*** (at Messiah’s return) ***live in the spirit according to the will of Elohim.’*** Rav Shaul’s conclusion to Timothy is slightly different, but carries the same message in 2 Timothy 2. He also begins by saying in verses 1 & 2: ***‘You therefore, my son, be strong in grace that is in Messiah Yahshua. (2) And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.’*** He tells Timothy to suffer with him as a soldier for Messiah and like a regular soldier he should not entangle himself in the affairs of everyday life, in order to please the one who enlisted him as soldier. As soldiers of Elohim, we should be totally under His command. We should serve Him the way He prescribes in His word, and not try to do things the way we believe He should be worshipped. This is after all what Yahshua warned about in Mark 7: 6 – 8, saying: ***‘Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, “THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. (7) BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN. (8) Neglecting the commandment of Elohim, you hold to the traditions of men.”’***

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<sup>12</sup> Dead people do not know anything and cannot hear, as witnessed by Solomon in Ecclesiastes 9: 5, in this way: ***‘For the living know they will die; but the dead do not know anything, nor have they any longer a reward*** (whilst they are dead they cannot do anything to improve their future – they will have to be resurrected to be able to do that again one day), ***for their memory is forgotten.’***

YHVH is not worshipped by customs and traditions of men, even if we are sincere in doing so; we either do it His way or not at all. Deceived Christianity believes that Yahshua was talking only to the Jews of His day in Mark 7, but do not understand that Yahshua is speaking to all believers here. If you falsely assume that this was only addressed to the Jews of Messiah's day, then the Scriptures is not written for you. If you believe that Yahshua only attacked His mainly Jewish brethren during His day for not fully conforming to the Torah teachings of Elohim, then you do not understand the Father's love for His children. We all know that a father wants the best for his children and YHVH corrects those whom He loves, so that we bear more fruit. Therefore His criticism of His brethren of His day must be seen as criticism of all believers, else His word has no meaning for us. That is why many in Christianity believe that Yahshua was anti-Semitic and that He taught us not to do what the Jews are doing. But in fact His intention was to teach us and all believers, to do the will of His Father in heaven as He said in Matthew 7: 21: ***'Not everyone who says to Me, "Master, Master," will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.'*** If we do not believe that the Scriptures were written as an example for us today, of how to live and what not to do, then we do not understand that Yahshua specifically came to save the lost sheep of the house of Israel. The lost ten tribes among the Christians are the ones needing a physician because they have rejected (YHVH)'s Torah teachings. Yahshua told His disciples as per Matthew 9: 12: ***'It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick.'*** Therefore the Renewed Covenant is written specifically for the lost tribes of Israel and not for the Jews; to reconcile us to the Father and Brother Judah as may be understood from reading Ephesians 2: 11 – 19, where we are told that through Yahshua we become part of the Commonwealth of Israel once again.

Rav Kepha continues in verse 7 of 1 Peter 4, saying: ***'The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.'*** Now that we are part of the household of Elohim and knowing what we do, Rav Kepha is telling us to make sure that we remain faithful to the soon coming end of this present evil system, saying in verses 8 – 10: ***'Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. (9) Be hospitable to one another without complaint. (10) As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of Elohim.'*** As stewards or agents of the grace of Elohim, we need to use the special talents that YHVH blessed us with to tell this dying world about the coming kingdom of Elohim, where everything will go according to Elohim's plan. We need to realize that whatever we are doing, we are doing it for the glory of Elohim. Rav Kepha accordingly wrote in verse 11, saying: ***'Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of Elohim; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which Elohim supplies; so that in all things Elohim may be glorified through Yahshua Messiah, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.'*** The work that we are doing for Elohim, should always be the best we can do. Our standard was and still is Yahshua, the exact representation of Elohim's nature – this is why we should always aim to better ourselves, so that eventually we conform to the image of Yahshua, the first to be born-again from the dead witnessed in Colossians 1: 18, as follows: ***'He is also the head of the body, the ecclesia; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.'***

Even so, Rav Kepha warns us about the sufferings that will come upon us before the end of this age, saying in verses 12 – 14 of 1 Peter 4, ***'Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; (13) but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Messiah, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.'*** Some of us are going to be severely tested before we ourselves and YHVH know that we are worthy of our calling. Some will be tested to the point of death, but as I said before, even if we die in the testing times ahead, we have the assurance that we will be resurrected to eternal life, during which time there will be no more pain or disease. We need to remember that the only thing we can take with us into the world to come is our character developed throughout our lives. It is as Rav Kepha puts it in 2 Peter 1: 4 – 8, saying: ***'For***

**by these** (everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.) **He has granted to us his precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.** (5) **Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge;** (6) **and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness;** (7) **and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.** (8) **For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Master Yahshua Messiah.'**

Continuing in verses 14 – 16 of 1 Peter 4, Rav Kepha writes: **'If you are reviled for the name of Messiah, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of Elohim rests upon you.** (15) **By no means let any of you suffer as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;** (16) **but if anyone suffers as a Nazarene** (definitely not a Christian – the translators of the Scriptures have caused so much confusion by changing the names originally used for names that they wish Messiah's followers to be called), **let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.'** Yahshua was the Messiah and was never called the Christ by His mostly Jewish disciples. Nazarene Judaism was a sect of the Pharisees as may be seen from Acts 24: 5 & 14<sup>13</sup> and Acts 28: 22<sup>14</sup>. We are definitely not Christians as most modern day translators of the Scriptures want us to believe. Rav Kepha warns in verse 17 that as Nazarenes we are the very household of Elohim, and since we are called out of the religions of the world, at this time, we are being judged by Elohim, by what we do and how we live, with the knowledge and understanding that He is giving us through His servants and His word of truth, in this way: **'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 point is that if we believe the gospel of the coming Kingdom of Elohim – we will begin to live as ambassadors of that coming Kingdom, keeping the Laws applicable to that future Kingdom in our present life. This is exactly what the Jewish Rabbis teach – if anyone believes in the Kingdom of Elohim, they will keep all of Torah the way it will be done in that future kingdom. Even though we will live in the world, we should not be part of the world. Rav Shaul wrote accordingly in Romans 12: 1 & 2, saying: **'I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of Elohim, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice acceptable to Elohim, which is your spiritual service of worship.** (2) **And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of Elohim is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.'**

Rav Kepha reminds us similarly in verse 18 of first Peter 4 that we should take our calling very seriously; If we succeed, our inheritance will be the same as what Messiah already qualified to inherit in the near future, saying: **'AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER?'** We will rule the world under Yahshua as kings and priests for a thousand years and ultimately the entire universe, but there will not be room for rebels in Elohim's eternal Kingdom. It is for this reason that Rav Kepha writes in verse 19, saying: **'Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of Elohim entrust their souls (lives) to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.'** Rav Shaul in 2 Timothy 2: 8 – 13 wrote his concluding (or now that you know) message to Timothy saying: **'Remember Yahshua Messiah, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel,** (9) **for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of Elohim is not imprisoned.** (10) **For this reason I endure**

<sup>13</sup> Acts 24: 5 & 14, **"For we have found this man a real pest and a fellow who stirs up dissension among all Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the Elohim of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law, and that is written in the Prophets."**

<sup>14</sup> Acts 28: 22, **"But we desire to hear from you what your views are; for concerning the sect, it is known to us that it is spoken against everywhere."** The sect that we belong to is not a popular religion like Christianity, but we have been persecuted from the start – as is also witnessed in this verse.



***all things for the sake of those who are chosen, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Messiah Yahshua and with it eternal glory. (11) It is a trustworthy statement: for if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him; (12) If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us; (13) If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself.*** Rav Shaul also talks about those who teach in verse 14, saying: ***‘Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of Elohim not to wrangle about words, which is useless, and leads to the ruin of the hearers.’***

Our doctrines have been bound by Yahshua – He told us to follow the Hebrew calendar and described Himself as the way, the truth and life in John 14: 6, saying: ***“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.”*** Yes, Yahshua came to show us the way of Elohim; In Matthew 5,6, & 7 He expounded the Torah, showing us how to keep Torah with a spiritual intent. We as followers of Yahshua need not ever establish or change any new doctrine, since He did it all for us. He confirmed that we cannot believe in Him, unless we believe in the Torah that YHVH gave us through Moses.<sup>15</sup> Rav Shaul continues addressing the teachers among us in verse 15 of 2 Timothy 2, saying: ***‘Be diligent to present yourself approved to Elohim as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.’*** As those who teach Elohim’s word, we need to make sure that we do not add or take away from what is written in the Scriptures. We should always try and show what we teach by at least two or three witnesses. In addition we should let the Scriptures interpret the Scriptures, to prove the doctrines already established by our Messiah.

After we have been immersed into Yahshua’s saving name we are supposed to grow in grace and knowledge by attending Nazarene Jewish/Israelite assemblies, where there are elders who have been around for a number of years and who have followed the same discipleship program used by Messiah and His disciples, to ensure that the ecclesia of Elohim is perpetuated until Messiah’s return of Yom Teruah one day in the near future. This is as Rav Kepha wrote in 2 Peter 3: 13 - 18, saying: ***‘But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. (14) Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, (15) and regard the patience of our Master to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Shaul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, (16) as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. (17) You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness, (18) but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Master and Savior Yahshua Messiah. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.***

Rav Kepha continues talking about Messiah’s discipleship program saying to the elders in the ecclesia in first Peter 5: 1 - 4, that by now they ought to be the ones who should teach new believers in the ecclesia what they have been taught by those who came before them, saying: ***‘Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Messiah, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, (2) shepherd the flock of Elohim among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntary, according to the will of Elohim; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; (3) nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. (4) And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.’*** So, here we see that YHVH eventually expect the elders amongst us to teach new believers the basic principles of His word (the oracles preserved for us by our Jewish Brothers - the milk of the word), as well as the good news (or gospel transliterated as ‘besorah’ in

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<sup>15</sup> Yahshua said clearly about Torah in John 5: 45 – 47, ***“Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses in whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote of Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”***

Hebrew) about the coming kingdom of Elohim. Rav Kepha talks to younger men in verses 5 – 7, in this way: ***'You younger men, likewise be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for ELOHIM IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. (6) Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of Elohim, that He may exalt you at the proper time, (7) casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.'*** Humility is a major problem with especially the house of Israel – it is for this reason that YHVH have often referred to the house of Israel as a stiff necked rebellious people. But, YHVH is going to humble the house of Israel during Jacob's trouble, leaving only a humble lowly people that will take refuge in the name of YHVH as witness in Zephaniah 3: 13.

Rav Shaul in his message to Timothy writes in 2 Timothy 4: 1 – 5, ***'I solemnly charge you in the presence of Elohim and of Messiah Yahshua, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: (2) preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. (3) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; (4) and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths. (5) But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill our ministry.'*** Not many people are open to correction, especially if they do not see anything wrong with what they are doing. But, this is perhaps what people who come from the churches of the world are used to – all they get from one Sunday to the next is encouragement and lessons in the power of positive thinking. However, when YHVH calls us out of the religions of the world, He wants us to start obeying Him according to the way He prescribes in His Torah teachings. Once we have decided to follow Him, we need to become aware of our every doing – to ensure that it conforms to what YHVH requires. He calls each and every one of us, and especially those who eventually qualify to teach His people to act as watchmen to warn His people of their Torah breaking. It is for this reason that Isaiah wrote in verse 1 of Isaiah 58, saying: ***'Cry loudly, do not hold back; raise your voice like a trumpet, and declare to My people their transgression, and to the house of Jacob their sins.'***

Rav Kepha warns all of us in verses 8 & 9 of first Peter 5, saying: ***'Be of sober spirit* (be totally aware of what is happening around you – do not walk around as if in a drunken stupor), ***be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*** (Satan is prowling around us to like a lion, get a hold on the weak ones in the faith – trying to catch them off guard.) (9) ***But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.'*** Rav Shaul knowing that he is at the end of his life concludes by saying in verses 6 – 8 of 2 Timothy 4, ***'For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. (7) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; (8) in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Master, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.'*** I pray that at the end of each of our lives, we will have the same confidence and faith displayed by Rav Shaul that he had at the end of his days. Amein and Amein!**

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