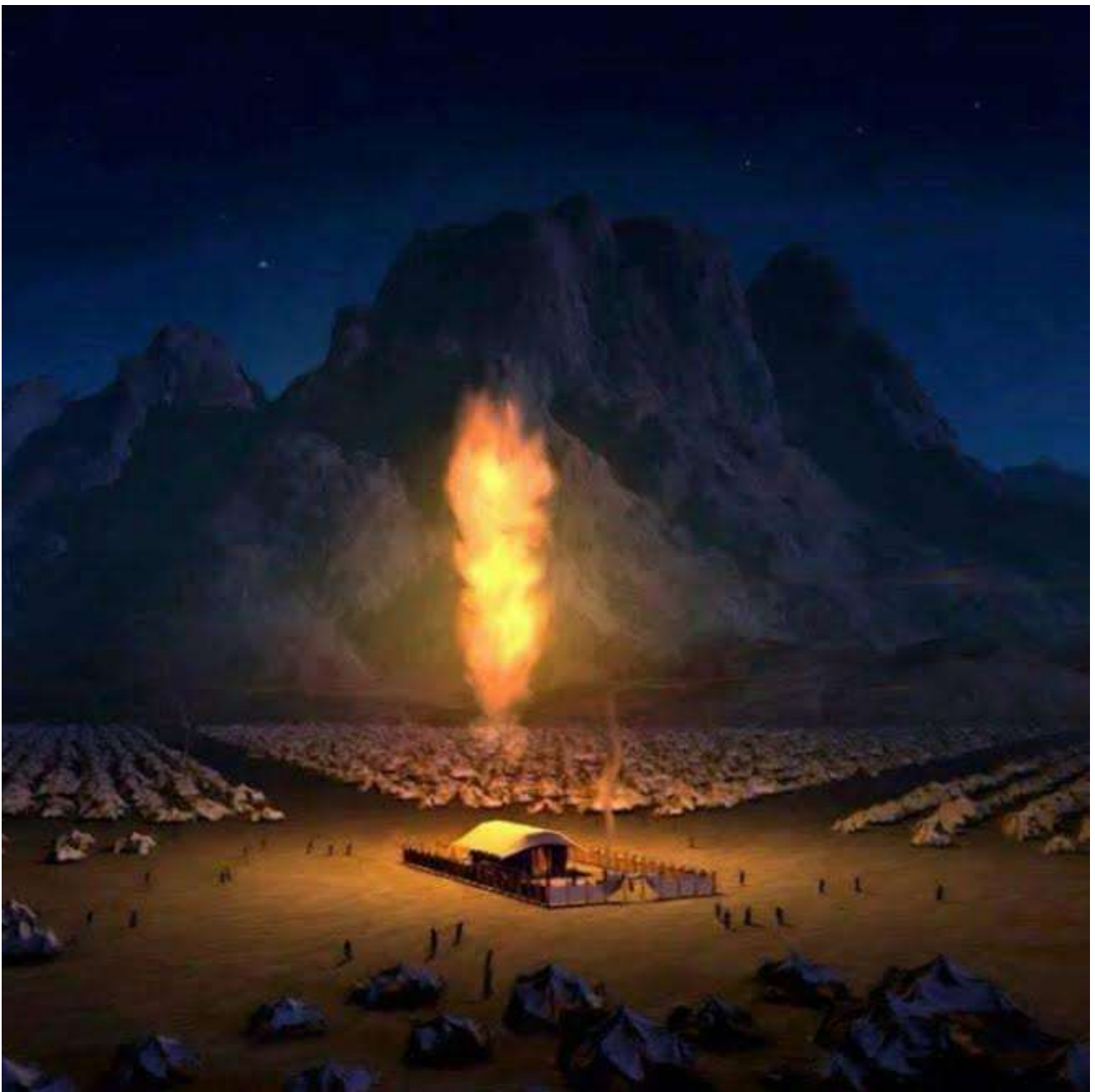


The Feast Days of YHVH.

Yaakov Coetzee



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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 provides information about the 7 Feast Days of Elohim and is intended as a reference manual for like-minded Nazarene Jewish/Israelite believers.

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

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Chapter 1: The Hebrew Calendar is based Upon the Scriptures.

The Scriptures give those of us who are returning to the covenant YHVH made with Israel on Mount Sinai, exact details regarding the calendar we are obligated to follow in observing the annual Feast Days of YHVH, despite the number of conflicting opinions some like-minded believers hold regarding the 'more' accurate calendar they started following since the early 1990's. They firmly believe that the calendar we should follow is a lunar calendar based on the visual sighting of the first crescent of the moon in Israel. Let's therefore show from the pages of the Scriptures that the calendar ordained by YHVH for all Israel, is the one the Levites among the Jews calculate to fall within the correct seasons of the year, since they have been given the Oracles of Elohim (as per Romans 3: 1- 4 and 9: 3 – 5) and a remnant of the house of Israel will join them as the bride of Messiah when He returns to remarry the commonwealth of Israel, at His return one day soon.

The transliterated Hebrew word '*chodesh*' is translated as "month" in most English versions of the Bibles. Its root meaning of the word involves "making new" or "repairing". The moon orbits the earth, going through its phases as its position changes in relation to the sun and the earth on an on-going basis. It takes approximately 29-and-a-half days to get into exact conjunction between the earth and the sun and the three orbs are in a straight line with one another, though not necessarily on the same plane. In conjunction, the moon is totally dark, reflecting none of the sun's light. As it moves westward, away from the conjunction, it starts reflecting the light of the sun again and depending on the observer's location and the earth's position at conjunction, the renewed moon will generally not be visible until one or two days after conjunction. An observer cannot know in advance, on which day he might see the renewed crescent moon. Depending on the exact time of conjunction, he might see the crescent either on the 30th or the 31st day after the last new crescent. Since days begin at sunset, observers would have to keep the 30th day after the new crescent as set apart time, as they might see the new crescent that evening, though they would more commonly see it on the following evening. The only Feast Day that is celebrated when the moon is in its concealment is Yom Teruah, known as Rosh Hashanah to the house of Judah. We read accordingly from the correct translation of Psalm 81: 4: ***"Blow the shofar on the new moon, concealed (ba'keseh) to the day of our festival."*** Yom Teruah is the time of the year when we choose to make YHVH King over our lives for the next year, as witnessed from the second part of Numbers 23: 21, as follows: ***'YHVH his Elohim is with him, and the shout of a king is among them.'***

The Torah establishes Yom Teruah on the first day of the seventh month (Tishri), even though this Set-apart day is celebrated for two days today. The Scriptural basis for celebrating Yom Teruah for two days is found in Nehemiah 8: 2 & 13, in this way: ***'Then Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly of men, women, and all who could listen with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month. (13) Then on the second day the heads of fathers' households of all the people, the priests, and the Levites were gathered to Ezra the scribe that they might gain insight into the words of law.'*** A second witness comes from 1 Samuel 20: 5 & 27, as follows: ***'So David said to Jonathan, "Behold, tomorrow is a new moon, and I ought to sit down to eat with the king. But let me go, that I may hide myself in the field until the third evening. (27) 'And it came about the next day, the second day of the new moon, that David's place was empty; so Shaul said to Jonathan his son, "Why has the son of Jesse not come to the meal, either yesterday or today?'"*** The renewed moon cannot be seen by the 'naked' eye and only becomes visible as a crescent moon one and a half to two days after the concealment. Yes, the new moon is in concealment for plus/minus 2 days, and is only 'watched' to determine the date for Trumpets. If the Day of Atonement will be on a Friday or a Sunday of any year, the Feast of Trumpets is moved forward one day, ensuring that Atonement is never on a Friday or a Sunday. Since, concealment takes up to two days; it ensures that even in the event of such a postponement, the Feast of Trumpets (Yom Teruah) will still occur during concealment of the moon (as is shown in more details later).

Even so, the intercalary year necessitates a calendar calculated in advance. Intercalary years are those in which a 13th month is added. Since, twelve lunar months equal just over 354 days and a solar year is equal

to just over 365 days, using a calendar based on 12 lunar months, would cause the festivals to occur about a month earlier every three years in relation to the solar year and seasons. However, Leviticus 23: 10 & 11 commands the priests to offer an omer of barley as a wave offering to YHVH on the day after the first annual Sabbath (or First Day of Unleavened Bread) of the year, namely the 16th of Aviv, beginning the 50 day count to Pentecost to occur on the 6th of Sivan¹. Clearly, this necessitated that the first month of the year, Aviv or Nisan; do not fall in winter - too early for ripe grain to be available for the offering. This required the addition of a 13th month about every three years. The question is how is this addition determined?

Those who argue for direct physical sighting assert that the priests examined the grain crop each year before the end of the 12th month, and if they saw that it would not be ripe soon enough they added a 13th month to postpone the first month for about 30 days. The only alternative would be a regular cycle, calculated by the priests, to determine which years had 12 and which had 13 months. Is there biblical evidence as to the priests' practice? There certainly is! Acts 2 reminds us that Jews came to Jerusalem from all over the known world on Pentecost the year after Messiah's ascension. If the decision regarding the 13th month were made a few weeks before the Passover, how would Jews all over the world have known when to come to Jerusalem – or for that matter, when to celebrate Passover in their own area? Significant numbers would either have been a month early or a month late! Remember they could not call ahead on the telephone or check someone's website! There was either an established pattern followed, or there would have been confusion among Jews throughout the Diaspora. How could a calculated calendar have been figured anciently? In antiquity, man had only two ways of knowing the time of the new moon. One was by physical sighting of the crescent moon; the other was by calculations based upon the average time between conjunctions. Some today wish to offer a substitute calendar based not on average or observation, but on figures they obtained from the NASA or the US Naval Observatory. These figures are derived from satellite observation and are supposed to be more exact than the averages from which the traditional Hebrew calendar was calculated. However, we need to understand, if there is one calendar that we can absolutely prove that Yahshua and His disciples DID NOT use, it is one based on satellite observation! The only calculated calendar that could possibly be used until about after 1968 was one based upon the average length of time between conjunctions.

How were these averages obtained? Conjunctions of the sun, moon and earth are invisible except during a solar eclipse. A solar eclipse can only occur at the time of the new moon. Because the moon's orbit is normally a few degrees above or below the plane of the earth's sun orbit, it is usually invisible when it is lined up in a direct line with the earth and sun – the time of conjunction. However, when the moon is on the exact plane of the earth – sun orbit, it will block the sun as it moves across, thereby making an eclipse of the sun. A lunar eclipse, which can be seen on earth far more frequently than a solar eclipse, is the exact opposite of a solar eclipse. It can occur only at the time of the full moon, exactly halfway between conjunctions, when the moon is on the opposite side of the earth from the sun. By carefully recording the time of such eclipses and calculating the amount of time between them, the ancients were able to arrive to the average length of time between conjunctions. We speak of an "average" because the actual length can vary from month to month by a few hours, primarily because of the earth's elliptical orbit around the sun and the resulting variation in the sun's gravitational pull on the moon. While satellites may enable us to record conjunctions that are invisible from earth, ancient man could only base it upon averages. Using eclipses, the average length of time between conjunctions of the sun, moon and earth can be

¹ The 6th of Sivan being the day Moses went up to Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments from (YHVH)'s hand, as witnessed in Exodus 19: 1, where the Israelites arrived at the foot of the mountain on the 3rd day of the 3rd month (Sivan). Moses told the Israelites to consecrate themselves for two days, to wash their clothes and not go near a woman, to be ready on the 3rd day. Moses brought the people out of the camp on the third day and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Then Moses ascended up the mountain to receive the Ten Commandments from Elohim. Pentecost is essentially the day upon which YHVH married the nation of Israel under the covering (Chupah) of Mount Sinai, with the Ten Commandments being the marriage contract (ketubbah). It is the same date upon which YHVH gave believers in Yahshua His Set-apart Spirit, after Yahshua's death, resurrection and ascension to heaven.

calculated. This figure can then be used to calculate the new moon for years and centuries in advance. While the exact conjunctions (invisible from earth, except during a solar eclipse) may vary from the calculated 'molad' (a Hebrew term referring to the "birth" of the moon) by up to a few hours, the calculations average out over time and they are always very close; not accumulating lost or gained time even over many centuries.

The Hebrew calendar uses 29 days, 12 hours and 793 parts (an hour contains 1,080 parts) as the duration of the average lunar month. This works out to 29.53059 days in decimal form. According to the 15th edition of Encyclopedia Britannica, modern astronomers using satellites and computers have come up with one-one millionth of a day difference. How did the Hebrew calendar come to use such an accurate figure for the average length of the month? Some contend that they adopted their number from Babylonian or Greek Astronomers. There is a problem with that theory, however. The figure used by the Greeks, Babylonians and Egyptians was not as accurate as that used by the Jews! If we grant that Israel of old borrowed the number from one of their ancient neighbors, then why did they modify it? How did they know to modify it just the right amount, making it more exact than the one used by anyone else? Remember the figure used anciently to calculate the Hebrew calendar, 29.53059 days per month, was the same one used by NASA up through 1968 when satellite and computer technology allowed them to take the number out one more decimal place. How could an ancient Israelite mathematician have arrived at a more exact figure than his contemporaries could? Exodus 31: 1 - 11 shows that (YHVH)'s Set-apart Spirit empowered two men, Bezalel and Oholiab, to have a special understanding and knowledge in being able to craft the items needed for the tabernacle. Did (YHVH)'s Set-apart Spirit also lead someone to have a special ability for making astronomical calculations to fix the calendar? Clearly, someone did make a calculation that remained unsurpassed until the decade when the United States put a man on the moon!

Do the Scriptures support using eclipses to calculate the length of time from one new moon to another? It certainly does! Notice in Genesis 1: 14, YHVH set the sun and the moon for signs and seasons. The Hebrew word for sign, 'ot', is a term that often refers to remarkable and dramatic signs. It is used in Exodus 4: 8 - 9 for instance, to describe the dramatic wonders that YHVH worked in ancient Egypt. There are no more dramatic signs designed into the interaction of the sun and moon than solar and lunar eclipses. These signs provide the basis of a calculated calendar. Additionally, the heavenly bodies were for what the King James Version calls "seasons" and the Jewish Publication Society Version calls "appointed times". The Hebrew word is 'moed'. This is the term used in Psalms 104: 19 when we learn that YHVH "has appointed the moon for seasons (moed)." In other words, the phase of the moon determines the progression of the month. (YHVH)'s annual festivals are either connected to the new moon at the beginning of the month or the full moon at the middle of the month. Other biblical guidelines concern the seasonal timing of the Passover festival and the Feast of Tabernacles. We are told that Unleavened Bread is to be celebrated in the month of Aviv, which means "green ears" or spring in Exodus 23: 15. We also learn from Leviticus 23 that once Israel entered the Promised Land there was to be a priestly ceremony involving the offering of the wave sheaf, the omer, on the day after the first annual Sabbath (or the 16th of Aviv) during the days of Unleavened Bread. We read further from verses 14 & 15 of Leviticus 23, **'Until this same day, until you have brought in the offering of your Elohim, you shall eat neither bread nor roasted grain nor new growth. It is to be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwelling places. (15) You shall also count for yourself from** (transliterated as 'im' meaning inclusive of – or beginning with) **the day after the (annual) Sabbath, from the day when you brought in the sheaf of the wave offering; there shall be seven complete Sabbaths** (even though there are usually 7 Sabbaths within the 49 day period to be counted, the Jewish Bible (JPS 1917) correctly translates this verse as follows: 'And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the day of rest, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the waving, seven weeks shall there be complete).' So we see that when the Israelites came into the land they did according to (YHVH)'s command, as recorded in Joshua 5: 10 – 12: **'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. (12) And the**

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manna ceased on the day after they had eaten some of the produce of the land, so that the sons of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate some of the yield of the land of Canaan during that year. The grain harvest could not begin until after that occasion. These stipulations require that Passover come early spring.

Exodus 34: 22 refers to the Feast of Tabernacles as coming at the “turn of the year” transliterated in Hebrew as ‘tekufah’. This term literally means a “circuit” or “revolution” of time – a cycle. In later Rabbinic Hebrew, the word ‘tekufah’ became a technical term referring to the equinox and by extension, to the season following. However, the term, used only four times in the Tanach, was originally more general in its meaning. It is the term in 1 Samuel 1: 20 that refer to the cycle of time between Hannah’s conception and birth of Samuel. In 2 Chronicles 24: 23, tekufah refers to the time of the year when Syria attacked Judah. The other place it is used is in Psalm 19: 6 where it refers to the sun’s daily circuit across the heavens. Exodus 34: 22 thus implies that the Feast of Tabernacles should occur when the cycle of the agriculture year is complete, about the time summer gives way to fall. This point is made in a slightly different manner in Exodus 23: 16. Again the King James Version translates that the Feast of Tabernacles is to occur at the “end of the year”, but this time uses a completely different word, meaning literally “the going out” of the year. It is the same term used in Exodus 13: 8 to refer to Israel going out of Egypt. In other words, the Feast of Tabernacles comes at the “going out” of the harvest season of the agricultural year, right after the time when the harvest would be gathered into barns (that is why the term “*Feast of Ingathering*” is used), to protect it from the coming rainy season. This festival season of the seventh month was celebrated when summer was giving way to fall.

We have seen that the Scriptures show that the interactions of the sun, moon and earth were to be factored in so that the numbering of the days of the month would be connected with the phases of the moon. We have also seen that the celebration of the festivals are tied both to the beginning of the grain harvest and to the time when crops were to be gathered into barns at the end of the summer. But are other aspects of the calendar, such as the so-called “*postponements*” also necessary and based on scriptural guidelines? We must note that in the Hebrew calendar, the new moon of the seventh month (Tishri) is calculated rather than the new moon of the first month (Aviv). As this is the only new moon that is designated as set-apart time, it is also the new moon that is most essential to determine. The other set-apart days are figured from it. There is also an astronomical reason for this practice, since the time from the vernal equinox (spring) to the following autumnal equinox (fall) is about a week longer than from the autumnal equinox to the following vernal equinox. The “*postponements*” are simply calendar adjustments that determine which day should be proclaimed as the first day of Tishri. Where there are generally said to be four postponement rules, there are actually two primary ones. The other two are just logical extensions of the first two, to ensure that a year does not have too many or too few days. The first rule we should look at states that if the calculated conjunction; the molad of Tishri, occurs after noon on a given day, the first day of the month is “*postponed*” until the following day. This rule results from the way time is measured on a round earth, and the length of time the moon takes to move out of conjunction and beyond the arc of the sun. After all, the term for “*new moon*” in Scripture refers to the “*repairing*” of the moon. While a calculated calendar does not require that the visible crescent be sighted, it should at least be theoretically possible to sight that crescent to confirm the calculated calendar. It takes six hours past the conjunction before the moon has moved far enough beyond the sun’s arc to begin reflecting the light of the “*repairing*” of the moon. Whether or not a reflection is actually seen is purely incidental, as the calendar is based upon the calculated averages. Clearly though, this postponement rule is not merely based upon a Pharisaic tradition, rather, it is mandated by Scripture and by astronomy.

The other main rule is that if the calculated molad of Tishri occurs on the first day of the week, or the fourth day of the week, or the sixth day of the week, the first day of the month, which will be Yom Teruah, is considered to begin on the following day, i.e. the second, the fifth or the seventh day. What is the scriptural basis for this? In Leviticus 23, where YHVH first gave Moses a detailed list of His festivals, He explained that this day’s levels of sanctity fell into two categories. For six of these days – the 1st and the 7th Days of

Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Yom Teruah, the first day of Tabernacles and the Eighth Day – Moses was to instruct Israel that “no servile work” be done. However, the weekly Sabbath and Yom Kippur were different. On these two days, “no work whatsoever” was to be done. Clearly YHVH placed these two days in a slightly different category than the others. Additionally, in describing Yom Teruah, the first day of Tabernacles and the Eighth-Day, the term Shabbaton, translated “Sabbath” was used. For the weekly Sabbath and Yom Kippur a different descriptive term – “Shabbat Shabbaton” – was used, translated a “Shabbat of rest”. Recognizing that YHVH sets the weekly Sabbath and Yom Kippur apart in their level of sanctity; the Levitical Priesthood sought to implement these instructions in proclaiming the festivals. They realized that Yom Kippur, a Shabbat Shabbaton, upon which “no work whatsoever” was to be done, should not be the preparation day for the weekly Sabbath which would occur if the first of Tishri came on the fourth day of the week. Additionally, they avoided the weekly Sabbath being the preparation day for Yom Kippur, which would happen if Tishri 1 fell on the sixth day. This practice also avoided the weekly Sabbath, a Shabbat Shabbaton to be the preparation day, the other three fall set-apart days being only Shabbaton and would occur if Tishri 1 came on the first day of the week. Note that according to Exodus 12: 16, the first and seventh days of Unleavened Bread in the spring were in a different category. YHVH had specifically approved the preparation of food on these days.

Two other rules concerning postponements are really just logical extensions derived from the first two, regulating the number of days in a year so that the first of each month stays connected with the new moon? The calendar adjustments regarding Tishri 1 are based upon instructions YHVH gave to the Levitical Priesthood through Moses in Leviticus 23. YHVH made clear that two days – Sabbath and Yom Kippur – had a special degree of set-apartness, and based upon those instructions the Priesthood sought to conform their celebrations to His wishes. Does YHVH expect individuals to determine His calendar for themselves? Many self-appointed calendar experts each claim that their calendar is the right one. Did YHVH intend the calendar to be proclaimed by an authoritative body – or is it “every man for himself?” Increasingly, we see people simply doing what is right in their own eyes. IS YHVH THE AUTHOR OF SUCH SPIRITUAL CONFUSION? To whom did YHVH give responsibility for the calendar? In Leviticus 23: 2 YHVH told Moses to tell the sons of Israel, saying: ***“(YHVH)’s appointed times which you shall proclaim as holy (set-apart) convocations—My appointed times are these.”*** But who was to do the proclaiming, and what does this mean? The Hebrew term for convocation is ‘*miqra*’, which refers to an officially called or designated assembly. In Numbers 10: 2 YHVH told Moses to make two silver trumpets, adding that its primary uses was ***“for summoning the congregation”***. In verse 8 Moses said: ***“The priestly sons of Aaron, moreover, shall blow the trumpets; and this shall be for you a perpetual statute throughout your generations.”*** Moses continues in verse 10 saying: ***“in the day of your gladness and in your appointed feasts, and on the first days of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings.”***

The noun ‘*miqra*’ is derived from the verb ‘*qara*’ which is rendered as “proclaim” in Leviticus 23: 2 and 4. But, what exactly does it mean? It is the same word used in Genesis 1 where Elohim “called” the light “day” and “called” the darkness “night” in verse 5, but also where He “called” the expanse “heaven” in verse 8 and “called” the dry land “earth” and “called” the gathered waters the “seas” in verse 10. Later we learn that YHVH Elohim brought before Adam the animals He had created to see what he would call them in Genesis 2: 19, ***“And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.”*** So we see that ‘*qara*’ means to “call”- to name or to designate. In Genesis 1 it was YHVH Elohim and in Genesis 2 it was Adam, who did the naming and designating. How does this relate to the set-apart days? In Leviticus 23, we learned that a certain group was responsible for naming or designating the days on which the congregation was to assemble before YHVH. Numbers 10 explains that this refers to the Levitical Priesthood and shows that YHVH gave them the responsibility to announce the new moons and festival days. It was not an individual matter for each Israelite to arrive at by himself; rather it was a collective matter to be proclaimed by an authoritative body. But there is more! Most read right over the implications of who was to name, or designate the days that would be considered (YHVH)’s appointed festivals. The Priesthood was given the right to name, or designate, those days – in the same way that YHVH gave Adam the authority to name, or

designate the animals He had created. YHVH gave the Priesthood guidelines and principles by which they were to designate those days, but He did not spell out every single detail. He gave them the principles with which they had to make judgments! It is important to notice the difference between the weekly Sabbath that Elohim gave to mankind and the annual festivals He gave to Israel. YHVH did not tell the Priesthood that they were responsible to name or designate the weekly Sabbath. Elohim Himself had proclaimed the weekly Sabbath at the end of the creation week. Mankind was simply told to “remember” and keep set-apart the time that Elohim Himself had previously designated. The annual festivals were different, as Leviticus 23: 2 and 23: 4 show. While each individual could simply remember to observe the seventh day of the week, this was not possible with the annual festivals. Their exact timing would vary somewhat from year to year, regulated by the principles that YHVH gave Moses in Leviticus 23 and elsewhere. So we see that while the weekly Sabbath is to be remembered by each of us as individuals, the annual festivals are to be named or designated on the calendar each year by an authoritative body. They were never intended to be an individual matter.

If each of us seeks to determine our own calendar, we will end up celebrating the festivals on a variety of days. However, YHVH is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14: 33) nor is He the source of the spiritual anarchy that many so effectively promote today. Rav Shaul told the brethren in Colossae that they were not to let any man judge them in matters concerning the set-apart days, new moons, or Sabbaths that they keep, but rather let “the body of Messiah” take responsibility for such matters (Colossians 2: 16 – 17). We know from the Renewed Covenant that the Messiah observed the set-apart days and festivals commanded in Leviticus 23. Did He do so based upon a calculated calendar such as we use today – one that included the so called “postponement” rules – or did He use a calendar based solely upon physical sighting of the new crescent? One thing is certain, Yahshua did it correctly! If we know what He did, then all we have to do is follow His example. But is it possible to know what He did? Absolutely! The place to go to find the kind of calendar which was authoritatively proclaimed during Yahshua’s human lifetime is NOT the Talmud and later rabbinical writings. Since the Pharisees dominated the Jewish community after the fall of the temple, their traditions came to be considered normative Judaism. Interestingly, many who claim to reject the Hebrew calendar because they consider it a tradition of the Pharisees have used the Talmud as their source of calendar information and definitions – rather than simply using the Scriptures itself! From the scriptural record, we are able to match three festivals during Yahshua’s ministry with the days of the week on which they fell. As we will see, these three festival dates are compatible only with one calendar model – the calendar used by Yahshua thus stands revealed by the Renewed Covenant! The year of Yahshua’s crucifixion, and therefore of His last Passover, can be established clearly by correlating the prophecy of Daniel 9 with the historical occurrence described in Ezra 7. Daniel explained that there would be a time period of 70 prophetic “weeks” – i.e., 490 prophetic “days”. We are told that 69 of these “weeks” (i.e. 483 years) would run from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem until the appearance of the Messiah. Ezra 7 records the decree of King Artaxerxes that begins the count of the prophetic “weeks”.

Secular history makes plain that the Artaxerxes’ seventh year occurred in 458-457BCE. The only question is whether or not the author Ezra or Nehemiah was figuring the years of Artaxerxes’ reign by counting from fall to fall or spring to spring. A careful comparison of Nehemiah 1: 1 and 2: 1 shows that a fall-to fall reckoning was used. Nehemiah refers to an event in the month of Kisleb (December) of the 20th year of Artaxerxes, followed later by an event in the month of Nisan (April) in the 20th year of Artaxerxes. The only way that both of these events could have occurred in the king’s 20th year would be if the author was figuring the years of the king’s reign from fall to fall. This means that when Ezra 7 says that Ezra arrived in Jerusalem with the decree in the late summer (fifth month) during the 7th year of Artaxerxes and must therefore refer to 457BCE. If we come forward 483 years, this brings us to just before the fall festival season of 27CE. This would be when Yahshua was immersed by John the Immerser and began His three-and-a-half year ministry. He began in the fall of 27CE and was crucified in the spring of 31CE. Yahshua was in the grave for three full days and three full nights according to His claim in Matthew 12: 40 and the record of His resurrection in Matthew 28: 1 – 6. Titus a Roman general besieged Jerusalem on September the 7th 70CE; His

soldiers burned the Temple against his orders, resulting in a major problem; all the gold in the Temple melted down onto the temple stones. It took seven months to remove all the gold from the destroyed Temple stones, bringing us to the spring of 71CE when Titus returned to Rome, as may be confirmed with the date on the Arc of Titus (at: <http://web.mit.edu/course/21/21h.405/www/ArchesOfTitus/titus-art.html>). Yahshua predicted the destruction of the Temple in Matthew 24: 1 & 2 and added in Matthew 24: 34, saying: ***“Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.”*** In Scriptural times a generation was said to be 40 years (see Psalm 95: 10 and Hebrews 3: 9 – 10). True to Yahshua’s word, we see that from the spring of 31CE to spring of 71CE is exactly 40 years.

This reference to Ezra gives us a benchmark. We also know from the scriptural record, apart from these calendar questions, that Yahshua the Messiah was crucified on the 4th day (or Wednesday) of the week and resurrected 3 days and three nights later, at the end of the weekly Sabbath. Both the British and U.S. Naval Observatories corroborate that that particular Passover occurred on the 4th day of the week in 31CE, in agreement with the prophesy in Daniel 9: 27 that Messiah was to be cut off in the middle of the week. Additionally, we will see that the day of the week is made plain for two other festival dates; one being the Last Great Day of 30CE, which occurred on a weekly Sabbath and that the second set-apart day of Unleavened Bread in 29CE fell on a weekly Sabbath. John 7 – 13 recounts the events of the fall festival period, proceeding Yahshua’s final days. A careful reading also shows that most of the events of John 8 – 10 happened on the Last Great Day. Yahshua’s words in the temple during the evening of this day are recorded in John 7: 37 - 39. We see from verse 53 that Yahshua and His disciples went to the Mount of Olives for the night, returning to the temple early the next morning – the daylight portion of the Last Great Day (as per John 8: 1 - 21). If we simply read on through the next chapters, we find that the woman taken in adultery and the healing of the blind man both occurred on the same day. From John 9 we already knew that the blind man was healed on an annual Sabbath; John 9: 14, using the definite article with its Sabbath reference, states plainly that it was also a weekly Sabbath, which is why such an issue was made of the healing. John gives us the basis for reconstructing the chronology of Yahshua’s ministry, noting His words and actions on several specific festival occasions. We have already seen that John the Immerser immersed Yahshua in the fall of 27CE, just when Daniel’s prophesy showed the Messiah should appear. Six months later, at the Passover season 28CE, He suddenly came to the temple and began His public ministry (John 2). When we carefully read John 6 – 13, we see that this is a continuous sequence of the last year in Yahshua’s life, from the Passover of 30CE to the Passover of 31CE. Therefore, the only Passover not commented on in John’s gospel is that of 29CE – and the events of that year’s festival season was adequately covered in the other three Gospel accounts.

Matthew, Mark and Luke all record the disciples plucking ears of grain to eat as they walked with Yahshua through the grain fields. The placement of this incident – Matthew 12: 1 - 8, Mark 2: 23 and Luke 6: 1 – 4 shows that this occurred early in His ministry, not during the Passover the year before His crucifixion. This only leaves the Passover season of 29CE. How do we know this incident occurred at the Passover season? Luke 6: 1 (KJV) makes this clear by describing that it happened *“on the second Sabbath after the first”*. What does that mean? The Greek phrase used is *‘en sabbato deuteroproto’*, which literally means *“the second Sabbath of first rank.”* This expression can only refer to the seventh day of Unleavened Bread, the second Sabbath of the first rank occurring in the year. The rest of the story contained in the accounts of Matthew, Mark and Luke, shows that this was also a weekly Sabbath. All three writers link the event in the grain fields with a latter incident described as *“another Sabbath”* (Luke 6: 6 - KJV) when Yahshua healed the man with the withered hand. This phrase, taken together with the points made in Mark 2: 27 –28, that the Sabbath was made for man and that Yahshua is Master of the Sabbath, emphasizes that this was a weekly Sabbath day. Luke is the only writer who adds the detail that this took place on the second Set-apart day of Unleavened Bread (The Last Day of Unleavened Bread). Yahshua and His disciples partook of His last Passover before His death, resurrection and ascension to heaven, in accordance with Torah (Exodus 12: 18 and Leviticus 23: 5) in the evening part or the beginning of the fourth day of the week – the 14th of Aviv according to the Hebrew calendar (where a new day begins at sunset). This was in fact 24 hours before the

Jews of His day kept the Passover, as may be read from Mark 14: 14 - 26 and is confirmed in 1 Corinthians 11: 23 – 26. He did not change the Hebrew calendar in use during His day, but ensured that His Last Passover coincide with the timing of the original Passover and as instructed in Leviticus 23. Nevertheless, to confirm the prophecy that He is the Lamb of Elohim that takes away the sins of the world, He died at three o'clock the next afternoon, when the Jews slaughtered their Passover lambs in line with Deuteronomy 16: 1 & 2.

Do these facts provide evidence for the kind of calendar Yahshua recognized in His lifetime? Using today's calculated Hebrew calendar, notice what the dates of these events during Yahshua's ministry would be. Remember that today, leap years are years 3, 6, 8, 11, 14, 17, and 19 instead of the earlier 2, 5, 7, 10, 13, 16 and 18. How do the dates from the calculated calendar compare to what would have been obtained by sightings of the new crescent moon? In 29CE, the last day of Unleavened Bread would have occurred on a Sabbath, April 23, according to our traditionally calculated Hebrew calendar. This date results from applying one of the postponement rules, since the molad (the new moon) of Tishri that year occurred after noon and the reckoning of Tishri 1 would therefore have been postponed to the next day. This is the only way that the last set-apart day of Unleavened Bread could have come on a weekly Sabbath in 29CE. By contrast, using computer generated models to determine the timing based upon the observable new moon in Judea, physical sighting would have caused the last set-apart day of Unleavened Bread to fall on the first day of the week, April 29, 29CE. As for the Last Great Day in 30CE, calculations based on the traditional Hebrew calendar show that it would have occurred on Sabbath, October 7. No postponement rules would have been involved. But, significantly, the Last Great Day would have occurred on the weekly Sabbath if and only if the calendar was based on the calculated molad (that mean conjunction), not the visible sighting of the new crescent. This is made clear by examining the computer model for the observable new moon in 30CE. The first visible crescent could have been seen from Jerusalem no earlier than the night of the first day of the week, September 17, thus making Trumpets on the second day of the week, September 18 and the Last Great Day on the first day of the week, October 9 by that reckoning. In 31CE, the calculated date for Nisan 1, according to the traditional Hebrew calendar, was the 5th day of the week, April 12. This would have occurred only if the postponement rule that did not allow Yom Teruah to come on the 6th day had been in effect.

The calculated molad of Tishri came on the 6th day in 31CE and only by having postponed Tishri 1 to a Sabbath would Passover in 31CE have come on the 4th day. It is true that the observable new moon of Nisan would also been seen on that April, 12, thus coinciding with the calculated date for Nisan 1. However, we have just seen that the dates of the other set-apart days mentioned during Yahshua's ministry only coincide with the proper day of the week when they are figured based upon a calculated molad rather than an observable crescent. As we saw earlier, the biblical calendar guidelines require calculation rather than physical sighting. There is one additional point regarding the timing of Passover in 31CE. Passover would have come on April 25, only if 31CE were counted as an intercalary year. Otherwise the Passover would have fallen a month earlier – on the 2nd day of the week, March 26. Unless the priests were following a fixed cycle of intercalary years, there would have been no reason to observe Passover in April rather than in March of that year. The equinox was March 23 at that time and there would have certainly been some ripe grain for the priests to offer on the day of the Wave sheaf – March 28 Pharisee reckoning and on the 1st day, April 1, by Sadducee reckoning. The timing of the three festivals during Yahshua's ministry is clearly shown in the Renewed Covenant. The Passover of 31CE would have occurred on the 4th day only if there were a fixed calendar cycle making 31CE an intercalary year. A calculated calendar would have required Tishri 1 to be postponed from the 6th day to the Sabbath for the dating to work out properly and the Last Great Day of 30CE would only have come on a weekly Sabbath if a calculated calendar were used, though no postponements within that calendar would have been necessary that year. As for the last set-apart day of Unleavened Bread in 29CE, it would have come on a weekly Sabbath. Clearly, the Gospel accounts show that these set-apart days occurred in a way that could only have happened if a calculated calendar using the postponement rules had been in effect in the time of Yahshua Messiah.

The rules of the current Hebrew calendar are based upon Biblical principles. These rules, as we have seen, can be deduced directly from the Scriptures and do not depend on Talmudic traditions and legends. Furthermore, the Scriptures clearly show that YHVH assigned responsibility to name or designate the annual festivals to an authoritative body, namely: the priesthood. This was never intended to be a matter of private interpretation. In addition, we have the example of Yahshua Himself, as given in the Gospel accounts. The calendar He used is far more in accord with the one used today than are any of the alternative models that have been proposed. It is interesting that we have historical witness and testimony; from no less than the authority of Roman Emperor Constantine, three centuries after Yahshua's crucifixion, that the true disciples were still reckoning the festival dates by the same calendar used by the Jewish community. At the Council of Nicea, held in 325CE, the timing of the Paschal festival was discussed; the early Catholics were replacing Passover with Easter, but were still using the scriptural name – the Greek term pasha for it. Note the excerpts of Constantine's decree as preserved by the early Church historian Eusebius. He wrote that it seemed, *"a most unworthy thing that we should follow the custom of the Jews in the celebration of this most holy solemnity, rejecting the practice of his people, we should perpetuate to all future ages the celebration of this rite, in a more legitimate order. Let us then have nothing in common with the most hostile rabble of the Jews. Let us withdraw ourselves, my much honored brethren, from that most odious fellowship. It is indeed in the highest degree preposterous, that they should superciliously vaunt themselves, that truly without their instruction, we cannot properly observe this rite, they continue, wandering in the grossest error, instead of duly reforming their calculations."* (A historical View of the Council of Nicea, Eusebius, pp. 52 - 53). Constantine, like many self-styled experts today, considered themselves more knowledgeable about the calendar than the Jews, and asserted that they should reform their calculations. Constantine's attack was aimed, however, not to influence the Jews, but rather those Christians who followed the Jewish calendar in determining the time of the Passover. The early disciples were not following their own calendar model, rather they were using the same model that Yahshua Himself had followed, the one preserved and used by the Jews. Enough said!

Jews have the Oracles – be ready to give an answer.

1. Zechariah 8: 23.
2. Psalm 78: 67 – 68.
3. Hosea 11: 12 (KJV) Correct translation.
4. John 4: 22; Matthew 23: 2 – 3; Leviticus 23: 1, 2: ***'YHVH spoke again to Moses, saying, "Speak to the sons of Israel, and say to them, '(YHVH)'s appointed times which you (Moses or those sitting in his seat) shall proclaim as holy convocations—My appointed times are these.'"***
5. Exodus 19: 9; Acts 7: 38 and John 5: 46 & 47 (believe in Moses).
6. Nahum 1: 15 (***'Celebrate your feasts, O Judah.'***)
7. Romans 3: 1 – 4; Romans 9: 3 – 5 (***'to whom belongs the adoption as sons and the glory of the covenants and the giving of the Law and the (timing of the) temple service and the promises.'***)
8. Genesis 49: 10.
9. Psalm 147: 19 – 20 (the whole nation of Israel under David's rule) After the nation split in two after king Solomon, Jeroboam the king of the house of Israel started changing the Feast Days of Elohim as per 1 Kings 12: 28 - 33. Once Jeroboam started ruling the house of Israel, only the tribe of Judah followed the house of David (1 Kings 12: 20).
10. Nehemiah 9: 14 (Judah returned 70 years after their captivity by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon).
11. Jeremiah 31: 31 – 34 Note: YHVH will only have to write His Law on the hearts of the house of Israel, as Judah is already Torah observant.
12. Ezekiel 13: 2 – 4, 9.
13. Jeremiah 23: 32 – 36.
14. Deuteronomy 33: 8 – 11; Deuteronomy 17: 8 – 12 and Jeremiah 32: 12.
15. Malachi 2: 1 – 8.
16. Psalm 60: 7 & Psalm 108: 8 (Judah is Elohim's lawgiver).



Consider the moon phases of 2013 above; notice that Yom Teruah fell on the 5th & 6th of September (the 1st & 2nd of Tishri) the concealed moon. Fifteen days later on the full moon is the 1st day of The Feast of Tabernacles on the 19th of September (15th of Tishri). Counting back 177 days brings us to the 1st day of Unleavened bread on the 26th of March (15th of Abib). Notice as a result the full moon in March is only on the 27th (the second Day of Unleavened Bread). However, as explained in this chapter, the concealed moon in Tishri is the starting point and therefore the most important factor in determining the Hebrew calendar. Also note that other than the Karaites or any Assembly of YHVH congregation the country of Israel is run according to this calendar.

Chapter 2: The Passover for returnees.

Elohim's Master Plan for the salvation of all mankind begins where most of Christianity believes it ends. As Yahshua the Messiah breathed His last on His impalement stake, He said **"It is finished"**, as recorded in John 19: 30. In accordance with His final words, traditional Christianity assumed that Messiah's death completed Elohim's plan of salvation for mankind. The main reason why they do not understand Elohim's Master Plan of salvation for all mankind, is because they have come to believe the so-called 'Old Testament' to be irrelevant in their lives. They do not even know about the Feast Days ordained by Elohim in the Scriptures, let alone keeping it. Yes, as children they were taught 'bible stories' in Sunday school, but because they were also taught falsehood like Xmas and Easter; the 'birth' and 'resurrection' of J*e*s*u*s* the wrong name of Messiah, many (especially men – who base their decisions in the most on logic) became irreligious when they grow up.

They realize that both these major celebrations of their faith were not commanded to be kept by Elohim and are based on myths. This is when they started viewing the Bible as mere stories 'we tell our children', together with such myths as the tooth fairy, the sand man, and Xmas father who brings children presents at Xmas. The problem is, even knowing that their 'faith' has been based on lies, they continue to teach their children the same customs and traditions learnt from their parents. On the other hand, when others (particularly women) grow up, they start investigating the falsehoods they were taught and realize how they were deceived as children, by parents, teachers and even ministers of religion. This is usually when they start searching for truth and stumble upon ministries such as ours, where they get to learn the facts contained in Elohim's word. This is perhaps why after leaving traditional Christianity in an effort to embrace Scriptural truths more than 40 years ago, I found comparatively more women coming out of the Babylon of confusion of traditional Churchianity than men. Orthodox Rabbis believe that circumcision reveals the promise YHVH made with Abraham and his offspring through Isaac and Jacob. Repentance is a process that takes a great deal of time, from the time a new believer gets called to eventually ask for immersion, after which he/she is supposed to grow in grace and knowledge until he/she attains to the unity of the faith, of the knowledge of the Son of Elohim, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Messiah, when ultimately male believers requests to be circumcised and start keeping the whole Law. At that point he becomes part of the covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and is again entitled to a piece of the Promised Land, Abraham's one seed, Yahshua bought back for him and all fully fledged returnees from the lost ten tribes, after which he may partake of Messiah's annual memorial Passover as a fellow Israelite.

The seven annual Feast Days of YHVH are commanded to be kept by all Israel and are listed in Leviticus 23 and Deuteronomy 16. We read fittingly from Leviticus 23: 4 & 5: **"These are the appointed times of YHVH, holy (set-apart) convocations, which you shall proclaim at the times appointed for them. (5) In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight is (YHVH)'s Passover."** We are reminded of the fact that YHVH counts days from sunset to sunset, not from midnight to midnight as the western world has become accustomed to since the introduction of the Gregorian calendar. The way that YHVH determines a day is given right in the beginning of the Scriptures in Genesis 1: 5, as follows: **'And Elohim called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.'** The first Passover was observed by the ancient Israelites just before their exodus from Egypt. They had been slaves in Egypt for many years before Elohim freed them through a number of plagues, which He caused to punish the Egyptians for refusing to let the children of Israel go. Stern Egyptian taskmasters threatened and whipped any Israelite who fell behind in his work and day after day, all day long, the Israelites were forced to perform backbreaking labor, making mortar and bricks for Pharaoh's ambitious building projects, including the city of Ramses. Those who were not at work on the building projects were forced to work all day under the heat of the sun in the fields (Exodus 1). That was the life of the Israelite slaves in the land of Egypt. The Israelites could do nothing about it and were powerless to help themselves. This is almost like the situation we find ourselves in today, where our people cannot find proper jobs to support their families and funding an ever increasing cost of living any longer. I believe we have reached a point where we need to

start crying out to YHVH to save us from the countries into which we were scattered because of our sins, similar to the way our ancient forebears cried to Him, as witnessed in Exodus 2: 23 – 25, in this way: ***‘Now it came about in the course of those many days that the king of Egypt died. And the sons of Israel sighed because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry for help because of their bondage rose up to Elohim. (24) So Elohim heard their groaning; and Elohim remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (25) And Elohim saw the sons of Israel, and Elohim took notice of them.’***

At that time YHVH being all powerful, performed a series of mighty miracles to set His people Israel free from captivity in Egypt. He sent ten great plagues on Pharaoh and the Egyptians to deliver His people from slavery. The tenth and final plague was the death of the firstborn in Egypt. YHVH finally told Moses in Exodus 11: 1, saying: ***“One more plague I will bring on Pharaoh and on Egypt; after that he will let you go from here.”*** The Egyptians would be devastated by this tenth and final plague. In ancient societies, the firstborn son was given special treatment. He received the greatest portion of the inheritance, and became the head of the family when his father died. In a monarchy, like Egypt when the Pharaoh died, it was his firstborn son who ascended the throne. The firstborn was usually the most loved and respected in the family. So for all the firstborn in the land to die was a great tragedy to the Egyptians. Further you will learn that it is within the great plan of YHVH to later resurrect the firstborn of Egypt whom He killed, and then give them a chance to become members of His Family. But, before YHVH delivered His people from slavery in Egypt He revealed the beginning of months to them, the time He would redeem them from Egypt, as witnessed in Exodus 12: 1 & 2, as follows: ***‘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”*** This is the time during which YHVH redeemed His people from slavery in Egypt. Rosh Hashanah or the head of the year, where the year count is taken from, being the time of creation of man. Reading from Exodus 13: 4, we see that the first month was called Aviv. The Israelites were forced to work seven days a week and adapt to the Egyptian calendar. It was Elohim’s time to overturn the situation and claim these descendants of Abraham as His own chosen people. They required a complete reorganization of their social, work and religious customs. He commanded that the month of Aviv (which came to be called Nissan after the Babylonian captivity – as per Esther 3: 7) be their first month. Aviv is derived from the transliterated Hebrew word ‘Aviv’ meaning ‘green ears of grain’. It is the month in which green ears of grain ripen, barley first, then winter wheat, which is usually still in green ears when the barley ripens. Therefore, Elohim’s calendar begins in the spring in the Northern Hemisphere.

The Scriptures inform us that the “*oracles*” (the covenants, the Torah, the temple services and the promises as per Romans 9: 4), which include the knowledge of Elohim’s weekly and annual Sabbaths and festivals, were given to ancient Israel through Moses to pass on from generation to generation, as recorded in Acts 7: 38, as follows: ***“This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness together with the angel who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai, and who was with our fathers; and he received living oracles to pass on to you*** (us the remnant of latter day Israelites, called out of the world by YHVH at this time).” More than seven centuries after receiving the oracles from Elohim, the house of Israel (the Northern 10 Tribes – excluding Judah, Benjamin and Levi) went into captivity in Assyria, losing their identity and their knowledge of Elohim and His way as punishment for them rejecting the Torah. They lost the ‘*oracles*’ of Elohim and started keeping the festivals of the pagan nations into which they were later scattered by YHVH while Judah (the Jews) continued in guarding the Oracles of YHVH – Rom. 3: 1 - 4. Even though the house of Judah was also taken into captivity by Nebuchadnezzar the King of Babylon about 120 years later, they did not lose their identity or the knowledge that Elohim gave Israel at Mount Sinai. Recognizing the fact that they had gone into Babylonian captivity for Sabbath breaking (Nehemiah 13: 17 & 18), the Jews became very strict in its observance. Rav Shaul, under inspiration wrote in Romans 3: 1 & 2, ***‘Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? (2) Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of Elohim.’*** Elohim used the house of Judah to preserve the Tanach, the Hebrew language, and the weekly and annual Sabbaths for all Israel.

Even though YHVH said the tenth and final plague would be on every family living in the land of Egypt, He gave the Israelites a way to escape. YHVH told them that on the tenth day of the first month (Aviv), each family were to choose from among their flocks a male lamb, under a year old and without any blemishes. They were to kill it just after sunset on the beginning of the fourteenth of Aviv (at twilight), and mark the doorposts of their houses with the blood of the lamb. Inside their houses that night, the Israelites were to roast and eat the lamb and be ready to quickly leave Egypt. YHVH told Moses that He would go through Egypt during the night of the fourteenth and that He would *'pass over'* any house that had the blood on its doorposts, saving the lives of the firstborn members of the family, as witnessed in Exodus 12: 13, in this way: ***"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."*** It was their obedience – striking the blood of the lamb on their doorposts – that saved the firstborn of the Israelites from death in Egypt. Little did the Israelites know that the Passover sacrifice was a *'type'* or a forerunner, of the sacrifice of Yahshua many years in the future? We read about this in the last part of 1 Corinthians 5: 7, ***"... just as you are in fact unleavened. For Messiah our Passover also has been sacrificed."*** A second witness comes from 1 Peter 1: 18 – 19, as follows: ***"Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, (19) but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Messiah."*** Egypt is sometimes used in the Scriptures as a symbol of sin. When we sin, we bring upon ourselves the penalty of eternal death (Romans 6:23). Since we all have sinned (Romans 3:23), we are all under the penalty of death. Yahshua is called the Lamb of Elohim, which takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29). He qualified to do this because He lived a perfect, sinless life as a *'human being'*. And since He was YHVH in the flesh, the One who created everything, His one life was more valuable than all other human lives combined. Yahshua was therefore able to pay the penalty of death for all mankind.

Each Israelite family had to keep the lamb they selected on the tenth day, until the fourteenth of the month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel were to kill it at twilight (in the evening – Proverbs 7: 9). The transliterated Hebrew words *'bayn haerbaim'* (בין הצרבים) from which twilight or *'in the evening'* is derived, literally means *'between the two evenings'* – the period of time between the going down of the sun and when three average size stars are visible with the naked eye. YHVH the Father wants us to live forever as members of His Family. By dying in our stead, Yahshua paid the penalty for our sins, thus redeeming us from the death penalty we earned by being disobedient to Elohim's given Torah. When YHVH calls us and we decide with all our hearts to begin living His way of life, to obey His Torah teachings and to be immersed in the saving name of Yahshua Messiah (Acts 2: 38), He gives us a portion of His Set-apart Spirit with the laying on of hands (as per Acts 8: 17). When a person is immersed, YHVH forgives him by applying the sacrifice of Yahshua to his past sins. In that way Yahshua becomes his personal Passover. We see from verses 12 & 29 of Exodus 12, that at mid-night (on the fourteenth of Aviv) YHVH struck all the first born in the land of Egypt; from the first born of Pharaoh who sat on the throne, to the first born of the captive in the dungeon, and all the first born of cattle. Before making His covenant with the Israelites at Mount Sinai, Elohim commanded them to keep the Passover forever. No authorization from Elohim was ever given to cease observing the Passover. Consequently, when Yahshua was young, He went up to Jerusalem to keep the Passover, as witnessed from Luke 2: 40 – 43, in this way: ***'And the Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of Elohim was upon Him. (41) And His parents used to go to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. (42) And when He became twelve, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast.'*** We see that Yahshua continued to observe the Passover as witnessed in John 2: 23, as follows: ***'Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, beholding His signs which He was doing.'*** In fact, before and during His ministry Yahshua kept all of Elohim's annual festivals, including the Passover. As YHVH in the flesh, it was He who revealed these festivals to ancient Israel, and kept it Himself during His life as a *'human being'* on earth.

Before His crucifixion, Messiah instructed His disciples how to observe the New Covenant Passover in remembrance of His death. At the end of His earthly life, Messiah set an example for the continuance of the

Passover to be observed in remembrance of His death, by those who are returning to Elohim, through Him, our Personal Passover and Redeemer. He kept the Passover with His disciples on the night before He was crucified, as recorded in Luke 22: 13 – 15, in this way: ***‘And they departed and found everything just as He had told them; and they prepared the Passover. (14) And when the hour had come He reclined at the table, and the apostles with Him*** (after spending 3½ years with His disciples they were called apostles – meaning they were fully trained and ready to be sent out to preach the good news into the world). ***(15) And He said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.”*** Yahshua instituted new Passover symbols for His disciples (including us His modern day disciples, who have been called by Elohim from the lost sheep of the house of Israel) on the evening of the very day the Passover lambs had always been slain – the 14th Aviv. It is very important to note that the Passover Lamb is nowhere called a sacrificial offering for sin in the Scriptures. The Scriptures plainly show that sacrificial offerings for sin were not instituted until after the Ten Commandments were given at Mount Sinai and broken after the golden calf incident. The Passover was instituted in Egypt weeks before the Israelites arrived at Mount Sinai and was repeated in the covenant made at Sinai, but it was not instituted by that covenant. On the evening before Yahshua Messiah’s crucifixion, He gave specific commands for His disciples and those who would follow them. We read from John 13: 1 – 5 how Yahshua instituted foot washing as part of the way of observing the Passover, in this way: ***‘Now before the Feast of the Passover, Yahshua knowing that His hour had come that He should depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. (2) And during supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him, (3) Yahshua, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from Elohim, and was going back to Elohim, (4) rose from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself about. (5) Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.’*** The foot washing ceremony was not part of the Hebrew Passover. This was instituted for the first time by Messiah Himself. We see from verses 6 – 8 that Kepha at first refused to allow Yahshua to wash his feet, as follows: ***‘And so He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, “Master, do You wash my feet?” (7) Yahshua answered and said to him, “What I do you do not realize now, but you shall understand hereafter.” (8) Peter said to Him, “Never shall You wash my feet!” Yahshua answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.”’*** Because open-toed sandals were the customary footwear of that time, feet could become quite dirty. Foot washing upon entering a house, was considered a menial task, usually done by the lowest servants.

Kepha did not yet understand the purpose of the foot-washing ceremony Yahshua was instituting and did not want his Master to wash his feet. But Yahshua explained that unless Kepha took part in the ceremony, he could not have a relationship with Him – he could not be a Netzarim². We see from verses 12 – 16, why Yahshua instituted this new observance of foot washing in connection with His memorial Passover, in this way: ***‘And so when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments, and reclined at the table again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? (13) You call Me Teacher and Master; and you are right, for so I am. (14) If I then, the Master and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. (15) For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. (16) Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master; neither is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him.”’*** By washing their feet, Yahshua was illustrating to His disciples that He had come to earth to serve mankind. Shortly afterward, He proved the extent of His willing and loving service when He gave His life for the reconciliation of His People to the Covenant from which they had been cut off 800 years earlier. He suffered the most humiliating and painful death imaginable in order to save us all from the penalty of death! A willingness to serve and help others is an essential part of every believer’s training to be a loving ruler in Elohim’s Kingdom, where every ruler will administer Elohim’s government for the benefit of others rather than himself, as witnessed in Luke 22: 25 - 27: ***‘And He said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called ‘Benefactors.’ (26) But not so with you, but let***

² Netzarim – Believers in Yahshua who keep Torah; literally means branches.

him who is the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as the servant. (27) For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table, or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as the one who serves.” We see that Rav Shaul, who practiced what he preached, also tells us about having a servant’s attitude, saying in Philippians 2: 3, 5 – 8: **‘Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself. (5) Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Messiah Yahshua, (6) who, although He existed in the form of Elohim, did not regard equality with Elohim a thing to be grasped, (7) but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. (8) And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.’** The Renewed Covenant shows that Messiah’s followers did serve, just as He did, preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of Elohim. Yahshua commanded His disciples to wash one another’s feet and in Matthew 28: 19 & 20 commanded us to teach the lost Israelites in the world to do likewise.

What other ‘new ways’ of observing the Passover did Yahshua institute during that Passover before His death? One very important symbol Yahshua introduced during the Passover meal concerned the meaning of the unleavened bread they ate that evening. We read accordingly from Matthew 26: 26, **“And while they were eating, Yahshua took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body.’”** Yahshua said the broken bread symbolized His body. Before Yahshua was crucified, He was severely beaten and whipped. Even for the strong, healthy body of a hard-working carpenter, this was an exhausting and terrible beating. It was so severe that the skin was even torn back off His bones, and many were no longer able to recognize Him, as witnessed in Isaiah 52: 14, in this way: **“Just as many were astonished at you, My people, so His appearance was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men.”** But, we should not forget, the Hebrew Passover was always eaten with unleavened bread, as witnessed in Exodus 12: 8, as follows: **‘And they shall eat the flesh that same night, roasted with fire, and they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.’** We become sick because we break physical health laws. If we don’t eat properly balanced meals, if we don’t get adequate rest, or if we don’t get proper exercise we eventually become sick. Sickness is the penalty we pay for breaking physical health laws, just like the second death is the penalty for breaking the Torah of Elohim. But YHVH wants us to live happy, full, abundant and healthy lives. Yahshua inspired John to write in 3 John 2, **“Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.”**

Because of His great love for each of us, Yahshua allowed Himself to be beaten and suffer intense pain even though He didn’t break any physical health laws. He paid the physical penalty *for us* so if we become ill or suffer an accident, we may be healed, as witnessed in Isaiah 53: 5, in this way: **‘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.’** We read therefore from James 5: 14 & 15: **“Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the congregation, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Master; (15) and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Master will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.”** YHVH promises to heal us spiritually and physically; that is part of the meaning of the Passover. Another very important part of the Passover service is the wine, which is symbolic of the shed blood of Messiah. We read from Matthew 26: 27 & 28: **“And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; (28) for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.”** Note that ‘*the fruit of the vine*’ that Yahshua gave His disciples was fermented wine, not grape juice. Grape juice could only be made in the fall (autumn), and could not be preserved until spring, at that time. It was either fermented into wine, or else made into syrup that was used as a sweetener. The Scriptures nowhere condemns the drinking of alcoholic beverages – only its abuse. If we obey Yahshua’s command, we will do as Rav Shaul wrote in 1 Corinthians 11: 25, saying: **‘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.”**

From that time forward, each year during the Passover service, the people of Elohim drink a small amount of wine after they ate a piece of unleavened bread. This wine is symbolic and a reminder of the shed blood of Messiah. It reminds the people of Elohim that when they repent of their sins, it is the death of Yahshua – His shed blood – that frees them from the penalty of eternal death resulting from the sins they have committed. Though the people of Elohim strive to obey the Torah, they are not yet perfect, and still sin sometimes. But if they repent of their sins, YHVH will forgive them. So the wine replaced the blood of the lamb as the symbol of the blood of Yahshua which was shed for the forgiveness of our sins. We also need to be mindful that the Scriptures forbid the consumption of blood and that those who believe the doctrine of transubstantiation (that the bread and wine are the literal flesh and blood of Yahshua) reject the teaching of the Scriptures in both Leviticus 3: 17 and Acts 15: 29. Yahshua did not abolish the Passover to introduce the celebration of Easter; No, He merely changed the symbols used in the Passover service for His followers from the house of Israel. The word ‘Easter’ as used in both the King James and Authorized Versions in Acts 12: 4 is a blatant mistranslation. The Greek word is ‘pascha’ which all modern translations correctly render ‘Passover’, especially considering the time of the year during which it occurred, mentioned in the last part of verse 3, as follows: **‘Now it was during the days of Unleavened Bread.’** After the death and resurrection of Yahshua the Messiah, His disciples continued to follow His example in keeping the Passover, as well as all the other festivals, as witnessed in Acts 12: 4. Rav Shaul, around 55 CE, continued to instruct the Nazarene Israelites about the correct way to keep the Passover - to follow the example set by Yahshua. He wrote to the congregation in Corinth, saying in 1 Corinthians 11: 26, **“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Master’s death until He comes.”** The Word of YHVH clearly shows that the people of Elohim are to continue observing the Passover as an annual memorial of Yahshua’s death, until He returns.

After Messiah instituted the new Passover symbols, He gave His disciples additional instructions and encouragement, as recorded in John 13: 31 – 16: 33. Then in John 17, He prayed the real *“Master’s prayer”*. In this prayer He committed not only His disciples into His Father’s care, but all whom YHVH would call into his congregation from that time forward (and throughout the ages). After Messiah finished this prayer He and His disciples sang a hymn and went to the Mount of Olives. There He prayed again with great fervency to escape the extreme pain and suffering that was to come (Luke 22: 41 – 44). He asked His Father three times if it would be possible to begin His plan of salvation for all mankind in some other way (Matthew 26: 39 – 44). However, as we see from Luke 22: 42, Yahshua finally said: **“Father, if Thou art willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Thine be done.”** Then Messiah, betrayed by Judas, one of His disciples whom He personally chose, was arrested like a common criminal and all His friends deserted Him. He was brought informally before the Sanhedrin by night. The trial began on a day before an annual Sabbath, even though Jewish law did not permit the trial of a capital offense to begin on the day before a weekly or annual Sabbath. In fact Jewish law states: *‘If a sentence of death is to be pronounced, it [a criminal case] cannot be concluded before the following day’* (Mishnah, “Sanhedrin” IV, 1). This was to allow for sufficient opportunity for any witness in support of the accused to present themselves. Yahshua’s trial was conducted in private and completed in less than nine hours! It was therefore completely illegal. In addition the sentence was pronounced in a place forbidden by law. The trial took place in the high priest’s house (Luke 22: 54). According to the law, a death sentence could only be pronounced in the court’s appointed place.

In addition the court illegally switched the charges from blasphemy to treason before Pilate. Yahshua’s opponents wanted to ensure that He was executed, but did not want to do it themselves. So they charged Him with treason (Luke 23: 2) – a crime against the Roman government; so that the Romans would be responsible for His death. But, when no evidence was presented (John 18: 29 & 30), Pilate saw that Yahshua was not guilty (John 18: 38). However, because of his fear of the crowd, he allowed the crucifixion of an innocent man. Even so, before we fall into the trap of blaming specific groups of people for Yahshua’s death, we need to recall His words in John 10: 17 & 18, as follows: **“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.” Yahshua had to die to redeem us from our sins – consequently, we who claim that He is our Savior and Redeemer are all responsible for His death.

The prophecies in Isaiah and the Psalms were written many years before Messiah’s death, yet they described in vivid detail the suffering and death Messiah was to experience. Scourging was a punishment meted out to criminals during Messiah’s time. The victim was stripped to the waist, bent over and then beaten with a multi-lashed whip made of leather thongs weighted down with broken splinters of bone. Messiah suffered this merciless beating, which tore open His flesh, disfigured him and caused Him to bleed from numerous open gashes and cuts. Whereas most victims were allowed to recover, Messiah was not. Like a criminal he was then forced to carry His own stake, but because He was so weakened by this terrible beating, He could only carry it for a short distance, when the soldiers found a man of Cyrene named Simon to carry His stake.

Yahshua was crucified outside the city on the skull or summit of the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s journey away from the Temple (the significance of which is explained later). Crucifixion was the most shameful form of execution. Spikes were driven into the victim’s hands and feet and his body was suspended from these open wounds, making breathing agonizingly difficult. Our Savior suffered an incredibly painful death. He did this voluntarily for the sins of the house of Israel and ultimately the whole world. If we are Messiah’s disciples (students), we must be partakers of His suffering as witnessed from Romans 8: 16 & 17, as follows: ***‘The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of Elohim, (17) and if children, heirs also, heirs of Elohim and fellow heirs with Messiah, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.’*** Rav Kepha tells us how we are to follow Messiah’s steps in suffering for righteousness sake in 1 Peter 2: 21 – 25, in this way: ***‘For you have been called for this purpose, since Messiah also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, (22) WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; (23) and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; (24) and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. (25) For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.’*** Messiah who was YHVH in the flesh, did more than suffer for us, He ceased to exist as also witnessed in Psalm 146: 4, as follows: ***‘His spirit departs, he returns to the earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.’*** We know that Yahshua the visible image of the invisible Elohim was the first born of all creation – as per Colossians 1: 15. We read further from verses 16 - 18, ***‘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 the head of the body, the congregation; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.’*** If the original Passover lambs had not been slain, the Israelites’ firstborn would have been killed; and unless Messiah was killed, we would not have a Savior today.

The only way in which we have access to the Father is through Yahshua our Messiah, as confirmed in Hebrews 9: 8, where we read: ***‘The Set-apart Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the Set-apart place has not yet been disclosed, while the outer tabernacle is still standing.’*** Hebrews 8 - 10 is a discussion by Rav Shaul, about two priesthoods and here in the quoted section, the Set-apart Spirit tells us that the Levitical priesthood did not provide the house of Israel with direct access into His presence, but restricted them from entry, since access had to come by another way. It teaches that we from the lost sheep of the house of Israel cannot have access to the Father, without the death of Yahshua our Messiah. We read accordingly about Yahshua’s death in Luke 23: 44 - 49, ***‘And it was now about the sixth hour (12 o’clock in the afternoon), and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour (3 o’clock in the afternoon), (45) the sun being obscured; and the veil of the temple was torn in two. (46) And Yahshua, crying out with a loud voice, said, “Father, INTO THY HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.” And having said this, He breathed His last. (47) Now when the centurion saw what had happened, he began praising Elohim, saying, “Certainly***

this man was innocent.” (48) And all the multitudes who came together for this spectacle, when they observed what had happened, began to return, beating their breasts. (49) And all His acquaintances and the women who accompanied Him from Galilee, were standing at a distance, seeing these things.’ Similarly, we cannot inherit eternal life, before we die or (in the case of those still alive at His coming) are changed at Yahshua’s return (1 Corinthians 15: 52).

It is from the quoted section in Luke 23 that we get to understand that the belief that Yahshua was impaled on ‘*Golgotha*’, is not true. We need to understand that every mountain, including the Mount of Olives has a summit (called its head or skull). Another meaning implied by the word *Golgotha*, is that Yahshua is the ‘*Goal Galut*’ meaning the Redeemer of the exiles, as He confirmed in Matthew 15: 24, as follows: ***‘But He answered and said, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”’*** Yahshua, similar to any sacrifice to make atonement, was killed ‘*before YHVH*’, meaning in His presence, at the doorway of the tent of meeting, as may be seen from Leviticus 1: 3 & 5. We read accordingly in Hebrews 13: 11 & 12, ***‘For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the Set-apart place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside the camp. (12) Therefore Yahshua also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate.’*** For this to be true, Yahshua had to be impaled on the Mount of Olives, opposite the gate of the temple. How can I say that? It is clear to see from the quoted section in Luke 23 that the spectacle that people came to observe from the place where Yahshua was impaled, was the veil of the temple that was torn in two (verse 45). Despite the sun being obscured, they could see into the Holy of Holies in the light provided by the menorah, since the Mount of Olives was due east from the entrance to the temple, at the time. Messiah taught by His example that the Passover should be taken only once a year as a memorial of the day on which he died for the sins of the world – on the 14th of (Aviv) Nisan, in the evening, after the 13th day has ended. Before we conclude, we need to understand that we could take the Passover in an unworthy manner. We read Rav Shaul’s warning regarding the observance of the Passover in 1 Corinthians 11: 27 – 30, as follows: ***‘Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Master in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Master. (28) But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. (29) For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly. (30) For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.’*** Many today have not understood Rav Shaul’s warning. Some, feeling they are not ‘worthy’ of Yahshua’s sacrifice, have concluded that they should not observe the Passover. Others have taken the Passover symbols in a casual manner, not fully understanding their meaning. Both extremes are incorrect!

Rav Shaul was not saying a believer must be ‘worthy’ to take the Passover. He wrote that one should not observe the Passover unworthily. ‘Unworthily’ does not describe the person – it describes the manner or attitude in which a person eats and drinks the symbols. In other words when we partake of the Passover, we should think seriously about its deeper meaning and not do so in a flippant manner. Firstly, we should treat the members of Messiah’s congregation with love and outgoing concern, realizing that the called out members of the congregation is referred to as the body of Messiah in the Scriptures. Secondly, we need to understand that in Messiah the fullness of Elohim (called Deity in the NASB) dwells in bodily form, as witnessed in Colossians 2: 9. Let us therefore show Him the respect due to Him at the annual Passover. Think about it!

Chapter 3: The Feast of Unleavened Bread.

The majority of people, who confess to believe in Messiah, teach that there is nothing more for them to do, but believe in His sacrifice for our sin. That is perhaps why they portray Messiah as a dead Savior hanging on a cross. Messiah's death on the final Passover that He kept was necessary, since He gave His life for the reconciliation of His people to the Covenant from which they had been cut off 800 years earlier. Nevertheless, His death alone will not finally save us! If Messiah Yahshua died for our sins, but was not resurrected, His death alone would not make eternal life possible for us. Accepting Yahshua Messiah as our personal Passover sacrifice is only the beginning of Elohim's plan to bring human beings into His Family.

Rav Shaul explains this by a questioning and answering technique to help us understand the concept in Romans 6, beginning in verses 1, saying: ***'What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase?'*** He answers in verses 2, saying: ***'May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?'*** Rav Shaul continues in verses 15 - 18, saying: ***'What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! (16) Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? (17) But thanks be to Elohim that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, (18) and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.'*** It is true; we are saved by grace through faith (as Rav Shaul wrote in Ephesians 2: 8). He further explained, using the same technique in Romans 3: 31, saying: ***'Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.'*** In fact when a Pharisee asked Yahshua in Matthew 19: 16, saying: ***'Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?'*** Yahshua answered him in verses 17, saying: ***'Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter into (eternal) life, keep the commandments.'*** Elohim is at this time busy creating holy, righteous and perfect characters in those of us whom He has called out of the world into His congregation of believers. Man, presently only a clay model, is in the process of being created in the character of the image of Elohim. This is confirmed in Romans 8: 29, as follows: ***'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.'***

Since the Ten Commandments describe Elohim's character and nature, keeping His Law is absolutely necessary to ensure spiritual growth. We are required to obey the Master Potter allowing Him to mold His perfect character in us, while we are still mortal flesh and blood. Accepting Yahshua Messiah's sacrifice for the forgiveness of our past sins is only the first step on the road to salvation. To help us understand the next step in Elohim's Master Plan of salvation, YHVH instituted the second annual festival called the Feast of Unleavened Bread. It is by observing the Feast of Unleavened Bread that we get to understand that we must do our part to keep the sins that Yahshua covered by His shed blood, out of our lives. It is as witnessed in Exodus 13: 9, we show that we want to be obedient to Elohim's Torah teachings by keeping the seven day Feast of Unleavened Bread as a sign, in this way: ***'And it shall serve as a sign to you on your hand, and a reminder on your forehead (like tefillin), that the law of YHVH may be in your mouth; for with a powerful hand YHVH brought you out of Egypt (symbolic of our personal sin).'*** Rav Shaul explains in 1 Corinthians 5: 8, leaven is also a symbol of sin, as follows: ***'Let us therefore celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.'*** Elohim commanded our ancient forefathers to put all leaven out of their homes and off their property and to eat unleavened bread during this seven day long Festival. It is for this reason that the Feast of Unleavened Bread reminds believers in YHVH that we are to strive to put sin out of our lives completely. After we have repented and are immersed into Yahshua's saving name, Elohim expects us to strive to obey Him and keep His commandments. He wants us to *'spiritually de-leaven'* our lives, in the same way as we physically de-leaven our homes before the Feast of Unleavened Bread. In fact the observance of Elohim's Passover and then fail to keep the Feast of Unleavened bread is tantamount to accepting Messiah's sacrifice and then saying that Elohim's Law is done away with – because we are *'under grace'* and have permission to continue in our sin. Rav Shaul continues to inform us in Galatians 2: 17 through his questioning technique, that

Messiah is not a minister of sin, in this way: ***'But if, while seeking to be justified in Messiah, we ourselves have also been found sinners, is Messiah then a minister of sin? May it never be!'***

One of the clearest Renewed Covenant commands to Elohim's congregation of called out believers to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread, is recorded in the last part of 1 Corinthians 5: 7 and 8, as follows: ***'For Messiah our Passover also has been sacrificed. (8) Let us therefore celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.'*** Our study of Elohim's second annual festival begins where Elohim instituted it at the time of Israel's exodus from Egypt. Remember how in the evening of the 14th of Aviv, each family in Israel had to kill the lamb they selected on the 10th day of the same month and smeared some of its blood on the doorposts and lintels of their homes. This was what protected their firstborn from the plague of death (as per Exodus 12: 6 – 13). These unblemished lambs were symbolic of Messiah, the Lamb of Elohim and their blood pictured Messiah's blood which was shed many years later, to pay the penalty due for the sins of the house of Israel's idolatry, but also after Messiah's millennial rule, for the rest of mankind during the Great White Throne judgment. We see from Exodus 12: 22 that after the Israelites partook of the first Passover and smeared its blood on the doorposts and lintels of their homes, they had to remain indoors until morning, in this way: ***'And you shall take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood which is in the basin, and apply some of the blood that is in the basin to the lintel and the two doorposts; and none of you shall go outside the door of his house until morning.'*** Early the next morning the Israelites were instructed to burn whatever was left over from the Passover lamb with fire (Exodus 12: 10). Then, during the day part of the 14th of Aviv, the Israelites despoiled the Egyptians, as YHVH told them in verses 35 & 36 of Exodus 12, as follows: ***'Now the sons of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, for they had requested from the Egyptians articles of silver and articles of gold, and clothing; (36) and YHVH had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have their request. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.'*** The children of Israel left the land of Egypt during the night of the 15th of Aviv in the light of the full moon, as recorded in verses 41 & 42 in this way: ***'And it came about at the end of four hundred and thirty years, to the very day, that all the hosts of YHVH went out from the land of Egypt. (42) It is a night to be observed for YHVH for having brought them out from the land of Egypt; this night is for YHVH, to be observed by all the sons of Israel throughout their generations.'***

A second witness comes from Numbers 33: 3, as follows: ***'And they journeyed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the next day after the Passover the sons of Israel started out boldly in the sight of all the Egyptians.'*** The fifteenth day of Aviv was also the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, as recorded in Leviticus 23: 6, in this way: ***'Then on the fifteenth day of the same month there is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to YHVH, for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread.'*** The Israelites were instructed to especially remember their deliverance from Egypt in Exodus 13: 3 & 4, where Moses said to them: ***"Remember this day in which you went out from Egypt, from the house of slavery; for by a powerful hand YHVH brought you out from this place. And nothing leavened shall be eaten. (4) On this day in the month of Aviv, you are about to go forth."*** Elohim commanded ancient Israel through Moses to commemorate their deliverance in verses 6 & 7 of Exodus 13, saying: ***"For seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a feast to YHVH. (7) Unleavened bread shall be eaten throughout the seven days; and nothing leavened shall be seen among you, nor shall any leaven be seen among you in all your borders."*** Therefore the eating of unleavened bread was a yearly reminder (a memorial) of the haste in which they fled Egypt. Moses told the people to put out all of their leaven according to Elohim's instructions. In their haste to escape from Egypt, their dough did not have enough time to ferment and rise naturally, as witnessed in Exodus 12: 33 & 34, as follows: ***'And the Egyptians urged the people, to send them out of the land in haste, for they said, "We shall all be dead." (34) So the people took their dough before it was leavened, with their kneading bowls bound up in the clothes on their shoulders.'*** The eating of unleavened bread was therefore an appropriate yearly reminder of the haste in which Israel left Egypt.

After camping at Succoth, the Israelites went on to Ethan on the edge of the wilderness (Exodus 13: 20). Then YHVH told Moses to tell the Israelites to turn back and camp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea; in front of Baal-zephon opposite the sea. YHVH had one more thing to show the Israelites. We see from Exodus 14: 5 – 8, that the Egyptians chased and overtook the Israelites at this very spot. This happened on the sixth day of Unleavened Bread, with the Red Sea to the east about eight miles across at that point and Pharaoh's army behind them – they were trapped! Knowing that Pharaoh would overtake them, YHVH told the Israelites to leave the road normally travelled, leading them into a trap, to prove to them, as well as to us, that He alone offers salvation – if we trust in Him! But, when the Israelites understood their dilemma, they became very frightened and cried out to Moses in Exodus 14: 11 & 12, saying: ***“Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us in this way, bringing us out of Egypt? (12) Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians?’ For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”*** Their elation and joy turned to fear and anger when they realized that it was not humanly possible to escape from Pharaoh at that point. But Elohim again provided a way to escape, as we read from Exodus 14: 13 – 16, in this way: ***‘But Moses said to the people, ‘Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of YHVH which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. (14) YHVH will fight for you while you keep silent. (15) Then YHVH said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the sons of Israel to go forward. (16) And as for you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, and the sons of Israel shall go through the midst of the sea on dry land.”’***

Continuing in verses 23 – 28, we see what happened to the Egyptian army and their chariots when they followed the Israelites through the sea-bed, as follows: ***‘Then the Egyptians took up the pursuit, and all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots and his horsemen went in after them into the midst of the sea. (24) And it came about at the morning watch, that YHVH looked down on the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud and brought the army of the Egyptians into confusion. (25) And He caused their chariot wheels to swerve, and He made them drive with difficulty; so the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from Israel, for YHVH is fighting for them against the Egyptians.” (26) Then YHVH said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots and their horsemen.” (27) So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal state at day break, while the Egyptians were fleeing right into it; then YHVH overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. (28) And the waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen, even Pharaoh's entire army that had gone into the sea after them; not even one of them remained.’*** According to tradition, the miraculous opening of the Red sea and the completion of the Israelites escape from slavery took place before dawn on the seventh and last day of the first Feast of Unleavened Bread. Then during the daylight part of the annual Sabbath, there was great rejoicing in celebrating their complete deliverance from Egyptian slavery, as recorded in Exodus 15: 1 – 21, in the song of Moses.

After Elohim delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, they promised to obey Elohim. However, we know that the house of Israel eventually failed completely, except for times during which Elohim gave them a righteous ruler. They obeyed Elohim under the leadership of Joshua, who succeeded Moses, but after he died and the death of the elders of that generation, the next generation did not. This cycle was repeated time and again under the rulership of the judges. Then during the reign of David the Israelites prospered, as they did under Solomon's reign. But, all of the later kings of Israel and most of Judah disobeyed Elohim, leading the nations further into sin. They cursed themselves and were eventually taken captive; the house of Israel was taken captive by the Assyrian army and were eventually scattered into the world for idolatry. About 120 years later the house of Judah was also taken captive for not keeping the land Sabbath every 7 years. Nevertheless, prior to Judah's captivity, their King Hezekiah did what was right in Elohim's sight, as recorded in 2 Chronicles 29: 1 & 2, in this way: ***‘Hezekiah became king when he was twenty-five years old; and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah. (2) And he did right in the sight of YHVH, according to all that his father David had done.’***

Hezekiah, at that time, realized that Judah's national troubles were the result of the nation having forsaken Elohim (verses 6 – 9). So Hezekiah opened the doors of the house of YHVH and repaired them (verse 3). Then he got the priests and the Levites to consecrate themselves as well as the House of YHVH (verses 4 & 5). After the priesthood had been rededicated to the service of Elohim, Hezekiah re-instituted the Passover, as recorded in 2 Chronicles 30: 5, as follows: **'So they established a decree to circulate a proclamation throughout all Israel from Beersheba even to Dan, that they should come to celebrate the Passover to YHVH Elohim of Israel at Jerusalem. For they had not celebrated it in great numbers as it was prescribed.'** But, the first Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread to be kept in many years were not observed in the month of Aviv, since the priesthood was not properly prepared at the time, and the people had not gathered yet in Jerusalem to attend these festivals. However, they followed the instructions given in Numbers 9: 9 – 12 for observing the second Passover a month later. They observed it and immediately afterward the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Elohim prospered the nation of Judah under Hezekiah, but after his death, the Jews again forgot Elohim and His festivals. They returned to idolatry under the wicked rule of Kings Manasseh and Amon. Later under King Josiah, Elohim's annual Feast days were restored again, but only for a short while. Reading from 2 Chronicles 34: 1 & 2, we see that King Josiah was a righteous king, in this way: **'Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. (2) And he did right in the sight of YHVH, and walked in the ways of his father David and did not turn aside to the right or to the left.** We see from verse 8 that by the time Josiah came to rule, the Temple has again fallen in disuse and disrepair, as follows: **'Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah an official of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of YHVH his Elohim.'** After the repair work started on the Temple the high priest found the book of the Law of YHVH (Torah) in the Temple (verse 14). At that time King Josiah publicly declared in verse 31, to keep (YHVH)'s commandments, testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant written in this book. He also led all the people to obey Elohim, as recorded in verses 32 & 33, in this way: **'Moreover, he made all who were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin to stand with him. So the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of Elohim, the Elohim of their fathers. (33) And Josiah removed all the abominations from all the lands belonging to the sons of Israel, and made all who were present in Israel to serve YHVH their Elohim. Throughout his lifetime they did not turn from following YHVH the Elohim of their fathers.'**

We see further from 2 Chronicles 35: 1, that Josiah celebrated the Passover to YHVH in Jerusalem and they slaughtered the Passover animals on the fourteenth day of the first month. After Josiah's death most Jews again lost sight of Elohim, ignoring the weekly and annual Sabbaths. Elohim then punished the nation of Judah, by having them taken captive by king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. However, seventy years later Elohim allowed as many Jews as wanted to return to Jerusalem to do so and rebuild the Temple. After the Temple was rebuilt under guidance of Ezra and Nehemiah, they again observed the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, as recorded in Ezra 6: 19 – 22, as follows: **'And the exiles observed the Passover on the fourteenth of the first month. (20) For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves together; all of them were pure. Then they slaughtered the Passover lamb for all the exiles, both for their brothers the priests and for themselves. (21) And the sons of Israel who returned from exile and all those who had separated themselves from the impurity of the nations of the land to join them, to seek YHVH Elohim of Israel, ate the Passover. (22) And they observed the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy, for YHVH had caused them to rejoice, and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria toward them to encourage them in the work of the house of Elohim, the Elohim of Israel.'** We see that every time the worship of Elohim was restored, the keeping of His Set-apart Days was also resumed and emphasized. Elohim was pleased with this national repentance because He knows that when people have the right attitude towards all His commandments and Set-apart Days that His people learn to fear Him and obey His Torah.

YHVH instituted His seven annual festivals including the Feast of Unleavened Bread in Leviticus 23: 2, saying to Moses: ***“Speak to the sons of Israel, and say to them, ‘(YHVH)’s appointed times which you shall proclaim as holy (Set-apart) convocations— My appointed times are these.”*** So we see that these are (YHVH)’s Set-apart Days to be kept by His people forever, as recorded in Exodus 12: 17, in this way: ***‘You shall also observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt; therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as a permanent ordinance.’*** YHVH our Elohim is the Supreme Lawgiver and made sure that the knowledge of His laws, including His Sabbath and set-apart Days would be preserved for us His latter day congregation of called out believers. We see that Yahshua kept both the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, as witnessed in Luke 2: 41 – 43. Even in the year that Yahshua was crucified, His enemies expected Him to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread, as we read from Mark 14: 1 & 2, as follows: ***‘Now the Passover and Unleavened Bread was two days off; and the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to seize Him by stealth, and kill Him; (2) for they were saying, “Not during the festival, lest there be a riot of the people.”’***

More than 20 years after Yahshua had been crucified and resurrected there is a clear indication that His disciples kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread, as recorded in Acts 20: 6, in this way: ***‘And we sailed from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and came to them at Troas within five days; and there we stayed seven days.’*** Rav Shaul and his companions observed the Feast of Unleavened Bread at Philippi. This Feast was still being kept by Elohim’s congregation, showing that it was not abolished at Yahshua’s death. The verse most often used against Elohim’s Feast days, namely Colossians 2: 14 – 17, proof that they were in fact being kept by Elohim’s congregation. We understand from Colossians 2: 13 that these Colossians were Gentile converts living in a Gentile city. They had previously not known Elohim’s commandments and Feast days. Unless the teachers of the congregation of Elohim had taught them to observe these Set-apart Days, they would not have been *‘judged’* by their pagan relatives and neighbors for doing so. Rav Shaul did not say that believers from lost sheep of the house of Israel should not observe Elohim’s Set-apart Days. He merely said to them, that they should not let anyone other than the congregation of Elohim, otherwise known as the *‘body of Messiah’* judge them in the way they keep it or even for keeping these days. Nevertheless, some have linked this reference to Elohim’s Set-apart Days and Sabbaths with a misinterpretation of verse 14, claiming that all of Elohim’s Laws, annual and weekly Sabbaths were nailed to the cross. However reading verse 14 with an open mind will reveal that it was not the Law that was nailed to the cross, but the certificate of debt, consisting of the decrees against us, that was nailed to the cross. This is similar to when we receive a traffic ticket for parking in a loading zone. After paying the traffic ticket for the offense that we committed, we are not allowed to continue breaking the traffic laws, are we? In a similar way, after Yahshua paid the death penalty due to each and every one of us, because of our disobedience to Torah, we cannot go on sinning; else we are crucifying Messiah, over and over again.

We understand from these verses in Colossians 2, that believers from the lost sheep of Israel at Colossae were being criticized by their pagan relatives and neighbors for violating their customs, which included the observance of pagan holidays. It is almost the same with believers today, who stopped keeping Xmas and Easter and are being judged by their families and friends for keeping so-called Jewish holidays, in place of the Christian holidays they used to keep. Rav Shaul was simply saying to these believers that no unauthorized person is to sit in judgment of a true believer’s conduct, as that responsibility is vested in the congregation of Elohim, also known as the body of Messiah; as long as the teachers in the congregation of Elohim teach the proper use of food and drink, the proper time and manner for observing Elohim’s annual and weekly Sabbaths and other doctrinally related matters. Therefore the complete interpretation of Colossians 2; 14 – 17, should be: ***‘Let no man therefore judge you in regard to food and drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day, but rather let the body of Messiah determine it.’*** The expression *‘let no man’*, shows that we should not be guided by people outside of the congregation, to judge our behavior and obedience to Elohim’s Torah. The annual Feast Days of Elohim picture events of historic and future importance. The Sabbath as YHVH revealed to ancient Israel was a sign that they were His people and that He was their Elohim. However as we read from Exodus 31: 13, it was a sign between Elohim and His people throughout

their generations, as follows: ***“But as for you, speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘You shall surely observe My Sabbaths; for this is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am YHVH who sanctifies you.’”*** As modern day Israelites, whether bloodline Israelites or Israelites because of our faith in Messiah (as per Galatians 3: 26 – 29, Galatians 6: 16 and Romans 9: 6 & 7), we are even now Elohim’s people. In addition, we see from Hebrews 4: 9 that the Sabbath remains binding for the people of Elohim, in this way: ***‘There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of Elohim.’***

Israel’s departure from Egypt has great symbolic meaning. We learned that the Passover pictures the death of Yahshua Messiah; His shed blood for the forgiveness of our sins upon real repentance. The second festival pictures our coming out of our personal Egypt or sin, during the seven days of Unleavened Bread. Egypt is a symbol for sin. We see from Romans 6: 16 (quoted before) that sinners are slaves of sin. However, Elohim wants us to escape the slavery of sin by obeying Him, as witnessed in Romans 6: 17, 18 & 22, in this way: ***‘But thanks be to Elohim that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, (18) and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. (22) But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to Elohim, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.’*** The ancient Israelites were slaves in pagan Egypt. They were not allowed to honor and obey Elohim. Therefore the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which commemorates their coming out of slavery in Egypt, also pictures their coming out of sin. Sin enslaves! Those who are not Elohim’s Spirit-begotten children do not realize they are slaves to sin. Sin tends to increase in the one who continues to practice it. It afflicts us with physical injury, sickness and disease. It produces frustration, anxiety and hopelessness and ultimately leads to death. The Feast of Unleavened Bread pictures the fact that Elohim wants new believers to come completely out of the slavery of sin into obedience to Him! Similar to the way Israel walked out of Egypt, we must be willing of our own to come out of sin. But, it is Elohim’s goodness and mercy that leads us to repentance from sin, as we read from Romans 2: 4, as follows: ***‘Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of Elohim leads you to repentance?’*** Eternal life is clearly a gift of Elohim, as also confirmed in Romans 6: 23, in this way: ***‘For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of Elohim is eternal life in Messiah Yahshua our Master.’*** Even so, it is clear that Elohim wants us to be willing and actually striving to obey Him.

Upon our repentance and immersion all our past sins are forgiven by the sacrifice of Messiah our Passover, as witnessed in Romans 3: 21 – 25, as follows: ***‘But now apart from the Law the righteousness of Elohim has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, (22) even the righteousness of Elohim through faith in Yahshua Messiah for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; (23) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of Elohim, (24) being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Messiah Yahshua; (25) whom Elohim displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of Elohim He passed over the sins previously committed.’*** When believers from the lost sheep of Israel keep the Passover, yet fail to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread, what they have done, symbolically, is accepted Messiah’s sacrifice and then continued in the slavery of sin. The Feast of Unleavened Bread pictures the believer’s part in Elohim’s plan of salvation – the keeping of Elohim’s commandments, which is another way of setting sin aside. Anyone found eating leavened bread or had leaven, a symbol of sin, in his home during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, was put out of the nation (or congregation), as recorded in Exodus 12: 15, in this way: ***‘Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, but on the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses; for whoever eats anything leavened from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.’*** Similarly, Elohim will not allow unrepentant sinners in the Kingdom of Elohim, as witnessed in 1 Corinthians 6: 9 & 10, as follows: ***‘Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of Elohim? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, (10) nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of Elohim.’***

Similar to the way in which Pharaoh pursued the Israelites after they left the land of Egypt, Satan does not want sinners to escape his bondage, which is slavery to sin. Immersed believers are often pursued by Satan. He will set stumbling blocks in their way in an attempt to make them fall and discourage them from obeying Elohim. Satan will do everything in his power to keep Elohim's Spirit begotten children from receiving eternal life. The devil will deceive them into thinking that Elohim's way is too difficult, in order to get them to give up striving to overcome and to return to a life of sin. As it was humanly impossible for Israel to escape from Pharaoh's army, Elohim through His divine nature indwelling us makes our obedience, overcoming and growth possible. Messiah predicted in Luke 17: 28 – 30 that the modern society of the end-time generation would be much like the wicked city of Sodom, in this way: ***"It was the same as happened in the days of Lot; they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; (29) but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. (30) It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed."*** Yahshua warned believers living in the end time in verse 31 & 32, saying: ***"On that day, let not the one who is on the housetop and whose goods are in the house go down to take them away; and likewise let not the one who is in the field turn back. (32) Remember Lot's wife."*** Messiah was referring to the destruction of sinful Sodom and Gomorrah, the escape of Lot and his two daughters from Sodom, and Lot's wife being turned into a pillar of salt. Tradition has it that these events occurred during the Feast of Unleavened Bread (several centuries before it was commanded by Elohim). It is interesting that unleavened bread is mentioned in connection with Lot's departure from that sinful society in Genesis 19: 3, in this way: ***'Yet he urged them strongly, so they turned aside to him and entered his house; and he prepared a feast for them, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.'***

We see that Lot's wife and their two daughters were warned not to look back in Genesis 19: 17, as follows: ***'And it came about when they had brought them outside, that one said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stay anywhere in the valley; escape to the mountains, lest you be swept away."*** But Lot's wife looked back, as recorded in verse 26, in this way: ***'But his wife, from behind him, looked back; and she became a pillar of salt.'*** When Lot's wife disobeyed, looking back longingly to sinful Sodom, she became a pillar of salt as a perpetual witness of one who was not willing to permanently forsake sin and submit to Elohim. We read from Hebrews 6: 4 – 6, what Elohim says about believers who begin to follow His way, but later returns to the slavery of sin, in this way: ***'For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, (5) and have tasted the good word of Elohim and the powers of the age to come, (6) and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of Elohim, and put Him to open shame.'*** Even though we are required to live in this evil world, we must not be overcome by this evil world, as Yahshua prayed in John 17: 14 & 15, as follows: ***"I have given them Thy word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. (15) I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one."*** Just like Lot, Elohim's people must come out and utterly forsake the sins of this world to escape the plagues He will pour out upon the rebellious, as witnessed in Revelation 18: 4, in this way: ***'And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of her, my people, that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues."*** Those who heed the warning before it is too late, will be protected by Elohim, as promised in Revelation 3: 10, as follows: ***"Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth."*** Elohim wants those he called and begotten to overcome sin and to grow in His character by striving to put sin out of their lives through obedience to Him. That is how we are doing our part in His Master Plan.

The departure of ancient Israel from Egypt is a physical type of the spirit-begotten believer's departure from sin and his/her renewal with the Covenant. But why is this commemorated by seven days without leavened foods. As we know leaven is not harmful, since Elohim allows us to eat it for 51 weeks of the year. Elohim prohibits the presence and use of leaven during the Feast of Unleavened Bread because, like Egypt it is a

symbol of sin, as we've seen from 1 Corinthians 5: 8. For those who have been called to Yahshua by the Father, putting all leaven and leavened products out of their dwellings and off their properties for the seven days of Unleavened Bread, pictures their putting sin out of their lives. Since seven is the number Elohim uses to denote completeness and perfection, the seven days of Unleavened Bread remind us that He wants us to put sin out of our lives completely. Elohim wants believers to continually strive to put the leaven of sin out of their lives, as witnessed in Hebrews 12: 1 – 4, ***'Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (2) fixing our eyes on Yahshua, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of Elohim. (3) For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart. (4) You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin.'*** The Feast of Unleavened Bread starts on the 15th of Aviv, the beginning of the day after Passover. It continues for seven days, ending on the 21st of Aviv. Both the 15th and the 21st are annual Sabbaths, days of rest from regular work, though the preparation of food is permitted, as recorded in Exodus 12: 16, as follows: ***'And on the first day you shall have a holy assembly, and another holy assembly on the seventh day; no work at all shall be done on them, except what must be eaten by every person, that alone may be prepared by you.'*** Normal work may be done during the days between these two Set-apart Days, except for on the weekly Sabbath during this time. A *'holy convocation'* is a commanded religious assembly, commanded by Elohim Himself. Those who live too far to attend weekly Sabbaths; should make every effort to meet together with Elohim's called out congregation on Elohim's annual Set-apart Days. In addition to the annual Passover, Elohim also told the Israelites in Exodus 12: 42 to have a special celebration on the evening of the First Day of Unleavened Bread, in this way: ***'It is a night to be observed for YHVH for having brought them out from the Land of Egypt; this night is for YHVH, to be observed by all the sons of Israel throughout their generations.'***

Gathering in small groups for an evening meal, Elohim's people give thanks to Him for having called them out of slavery of sin into His congregation of called out believers. They rejoice in the fact that Elohim has revealed to them His Torah and renewed them with the Covenant from which their ancient fathers had been cut off for their rejection of His Torah, His Set-apart Days and their meaning. Then on the daylight portion of the 15th of Aviv (or Nisan) they assemble for the service or Holy convocation to be held as YHVH commanded. Even though most of the leaven in the homes of believers should be removed before the Passover, the day part on the 14th of Aviv is a convenient time to finish removing the last bit of leaven from their homes. We should also be mindful that Elohim does not only require us to remove all leavened products from our homes, He also requires that every believer eat unleavened bread every day during this Festival. The seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread pictures the putting away of sin and keeping Elohim's Torah after past sins are forgiven. We read from Romans 4: 25 and 5: 10, ***'He (Yahshua) who was delivered up because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification. (5: 10) For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to Elohim through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.'*** Meaning the life that Yahshua now live in us! Yes, Yahshua's death does not save us—it merely reconciles us to Elohim. Immersion pictures our death and resurrection, similar to Messiah's death and resurrection, as witnessed in Romans 6: 3 & 4, as follows: ***'Or do you not know that all of us who have been immersed into Messiah Yahshua have been immersed into His death? (4) Therefore we have been buried with Him through immersion into death, in order that as Messiah was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.'*** In the context of immersion we are saved through Messiah's resurrection, as we read from 1 Peter 3: 21 & 22, in this way: ***'And corresponding to that, immersion now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to Elohim for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Yahshua Messiah, (22) who is at the right hand of Elohim, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.'***

If Messiah had not been raised from the dead, we would still be in our sins, cut off from the Covenant as Rav Shaul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15: 17, saying: **'And if Messiah has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.'** Even our Torah observance would have been of no avail, if we were no longer in a Covenant relationship with YHVH. Messiah was the first resurrected Son of Elohim, the first harvest of Elohim's Master Plan, as recorded in Colossians 1; 18, in this way: **'He is also head of the body, the congregation; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.'** Messiah Yahshua was the first to be born from the dead, during the festival that pictures the absence of sin. Therefore the Feast of Unleavened Bread, in addition to picturing the putting of sin out of our lives, also through the symbolism of the resurrected first-born living Messiah, for it is the living Messiah who gives us the Spiritual nature required to overcome sin! We see further from 1 John 1: 9 and 2: 1 & 2, how we can be forgiven the sins we commit after immersion, in this way: **'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (2: 1) My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Yahshua Messiah the righteous; (2) and He himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.'** In addition we read from Romans 8: 34, **'Who is the one who condemns? Messiah Yahshua is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of Elohim, who also intercedes for us.'** Yahshua our ever-living High Priest, Advocate and Intercessor, acts as a mediator between imperfect human beings and our perfect Father in heaven. He can sympathize with our weaknesses because as a 'human being' He was tempted just as we are, yet He overcame and promised to help us overcome too, as He told His disciples in John 16: 33, saying: **"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."** Therefore, through Yahshua our High Priest, we can come boldly to Elohim's throne and find grace, mercy and forgiveness and help, for we have now been renewed in a Covenant relationship with Him in continuing putting sin out of our lives. This is also why we pray directly to the Father, using Messiah's name in making our requests, as Messiah told His disciples in John 15: 16, saying: **"You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you."** The returning believer of the house of Israel's hope of glory, the hope of being in the Kingdom of Elohim, is in Messiah, our Savior, living in us through the Set-apart Spirit. Messiah is not only the Author or Beginner of our Salvation, He is also the Finisher. He is the one who completes our salvation, as we've read already from Hebrews 12: 2.

Yahshua told His disciples in John 16: 7 that He had to die and go to His Father's throne, to send them the Set-apart Spirit. It is not through our own strength that we are striving to keep Elohim's Law. It is the living Messiah in us, in spirit, keeping the Father's commandments. Even though we cannot obey Elohim on our own power and strength, Messiah in us can! He gives us the power to become righteous children of Elohim – to become spiritually unleavened. Elohim's law is spiritual (as per Romans 7: 14). Consequently, in agreement with 1 Corinthians 2: 11, we must have Elohim's Set-apart Spirit to understand and keep it. In the next lesson we will examine how Elohim is now preparing us for spiritual 'harvesting' into His soon coming Kingdom, as first fruits of His Family to become rulers and teachers under Yahshua our Messiah.

Chapter 4: The Feast of First-fruits.

Elohim is not calling all the people alive during this age. Believe it or not! Elohim is at this time only calling a remnant of people descended from the lost ten tribes of Israel, plus a number of real Gentiles, to return to Him through Yahshua the Messiah, to the covenant relationship they made with Him together with the house of Judah, at Mount Sinai – to become the first-fruits of His salvation with their Torah observant Jewish Brothers, when Messiah returns. The question is: Why? Elohim has a Master Plan pictured by His seven annual festivals; the first festival, Passover tells us how YHVH saved the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt, but it also pictures the Messiah who volunteered from before the foundation of the world to be slain as the Passover Lamb to atone for the nation of Judah, but also for the lost sheep of the house of Israel, and ultimately be the Savior of the rest of mankind, as witnessed by Rav Kepha in 1 Peter 1: 18 – 20, in this way: ***‘Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, (19) but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Messiah. (20) For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you.’*** This was accomplished in the spring of 31CE in the Land of Israel.

The second festival, known as the Feast of Unleavened Bread, teaches how those whom YHVH has called and chosen at this time (meaning the house of Judah and us, the lost sheep of the house of Israel plus a number of Gentiles) have to overcome those sins (actions contrary to His Torah instructions) which so beset us. After creating mankind in His image, Elohim offered Adam and Eve the opportunity to receive eternal life through His Set-apart Spirit, as witnessed in Genesis 2: 8 - 9 & 16 - 17, in this way: ***‘And YHVH Elohim planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. (9) And out of the ground YHVH Elohim caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. (16) And YHVH Elohim commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; (17) but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.”*** However, deceived by Satan, sin entered the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed Elohim and He sentenced them and their offspring to 6,000 years of spiritual exile, during which they would be cut off from salvation. As a result Adam lost his opportunity to conquer Satan and replace him as ruler of this world; instead Adam obeyed Satan, placing himself and his descendants under Satan’s government. After Elohim barred Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden and the ‘Tree of Life’, the whole world became corrupt and YHVH destroyed all life from earth in the flood, except for Noah, his family and the animals which YHVH led to enter the ark that Noah built to protect them during the flood. When the initial failure of mankind was repeated after the flood with the rebellion at Babylon led by Nimrod, YHVH started over again with one man called Abram. YHVH entered into a two-fold covenant with Abram; namely that he and his descendants after him would eventually possess the Promised Land eternally – meaning they would one day be resurrected to become spiritual beings over which the second death has no power, provided they remain faithful to His commandments including circumcising their male children at eight days old. The second part of the promise was that those descendants of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob, who eventually disobeyed and were scattered into the world, would be able to return to the covenant through Abraham’s one seed, namely Yahshua (the Word who became flesh – or the embodiment of Torah), through whom the rest of mankind will also be saved after Messiah’s millennial rule, if they decide to follow Him when Elohim will open the Scriptures to their understanding (as per Isaiah 25: 7 - 9). Those who decide against following Messiah at that time will be burnt to ashes (as per Malachi 4: 1).

As promised, YHVH later saved Jacob’s children which by then became the nation of Israel from their enslavement in Egypt, during the first Passover. Fifty days after the First day of Unleavened Bread, YHVH entered into a covenant relationship with the nation of Israel at Mount Sinai, by giving them a constitution in which He told them how to respond to Him as their Creator and Savior, but also to their fellow human beings. At that time YHVH specifically told the Israelites through Moses that they shall be to Him a kingdom of priests and a holy (or Set-apart) nation (as per Exodus 19: 6) to be a model nation to the rest of mankind. But we know that soon after gathering them at Mount Sinai, they broke the covenant with Him through the

sin of the golden calf (Exodus 32); at which point YHVH took the priesthood away from the first-born sons of Israel (Exodus 33: 5 & 6) and gave it to the tribe of Levi (as per Numbers 3: 41). After wandering in the wilderness for forty years, YHVH led the children of Israel into the Promised Land and renewed the original covenant that He made with their fathers at Mount Sinai (in Deuteronomy). During the early years in the Promised Land the children of Israel were ruled by Judges, until they demanded a king like the nations amongst whom they lived. Even though YHVH was disappointed with His people, He gave them King Saul to rule both the house of Israel and the house of Judah, as they became known by then. After King Saul disobeyed Elohim's instructions YHVH removed him from the throne and King David became king over the commonwealth of Israel consisting of both houses. Then after King David's death his son Solomon became king over both houses, but as we know, YHVH split the kingdom in two after his death, because his many wives led him into idolatry. The split in the commonwealth of Israel resulted in two separate nations, namely the house of Israel and the house of Judah. Again, because of the sins of king Jeroboam of Israel, who also led the house of Israel into idolatry, the nation was taken into captivity and scattered into the nations of the world, where they eventually lost their language, culture and religion, to this day. Even though the house of Judah was also later taken captive, they returned to the Promised Land 70 years later and different to the house of Israel, they retained their culture and religion and preserved the Torah and the Hebrew language for the rest of Israel for the past 2,500 years. As YHVH promised Abraham, He send His Word to become flesh as the Son of Man – the single seed of Abraham as their kinsman to redeem the lost sheep of the house of Israel from their past sin, allowing them to again inherit their portion of the Promised land which they lost because of idolatry.

Pentecost or Shavuot is the third annual festival or Sabbath and is the third step in Elohim's plan of salvation for mankind. Even though the day of Pentecost always falls on the same day of the Hebrew calendar, each individual believer is commanded to count off seven weeks for him/herself from the (first annual) Sabbath leading up to it, as commanded in Deuteronomy 16: 9 & 10, as follows: ***"You shall count seven weeks for yourself; you shall begin to count seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the standing grain. (10) Then you shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks to YHVH your Elohim with a tribute of a freewill offering of your hand, which you shall give just as YHVH your Elohim blesses you."*** Pentecost falls fifty days after the First Day of Unleavened Bread and is an English word derived from Greek, meaning to count fifty. The transliterated Hebrew name 'Shavuot', simply means Feast of Weeks, as shown in verse 10 above. It was on the first Pentecost that YHVH gave Israel His Commandments, Statutes and Judgments through Moses on Mount Sinai. YHVH established His annual Set-apart Days around the harvest seasons in Israel and similar to the people in the Middle East, harvested their crops around the three festival seasons. Elohim's Set-apart Days show us how He is harvesting people for eternal life in His Kingdom. Elohim's Set-apart Days build progressively upon each other, thus revealing Elohim's plan of salvation for all of mankind. We know for example that Passover symbolized Messiah's giving of Himself for the sins of the lost ten tribes who are returning to the covenant YHVH made with us, together with the house of Judah at Mount Sinai, but also for the rest of mankind after the millennium during the great white throne period. The Days of Unleavened Bread which follows immediately after Passover teach us that we must remove and avoid sin, as much as we remove and avoid leaven from our lives, during these Set-apart Days. We start counting the Omer during the Passover season, showing that we are consciously busy toning down our human instinctual drives through the working of the Set-apart Spirit in us, in obedience to YHVH. We read from Leviticus 23: 15 & 16 (Jewish Bible - JPS 1917): ***'And you shall count unto you from the morrow after the day of rest, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the waving; seven weeks shall there be complete; (16) even unto the morrow after the seventh week shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall present a new meal-offering unto HaShem.'*** There are 3 months involved in this counting. We start counting on the 16th of Aviv, which is during spring (in the Northern Hemisphere). This is the time Israel came out of Egypt. Next we have Iyar the second month, after which the children of Israel left the land of Egypt. This is followed by Sivan, the third month since the children of Israel had gone forth out of Egypt and arrived at Mount Sinai, where Moses received the Torah from Elohim's hand.

All three months are mentioned because they form an integral part of the redemption of the nation of Israel. Passover is linked to eating unleavened bread. The Omer has a measure of barley and Shavuot or Pentecost has a special offering of two loaves of fine flour baked with leaven. During the Passover season we are forbidden to eat leaven products, as leaven symbolizes man's inclination to pride and the self. As leaven raises dough, so pride and the self inflates a man to become arrogant. By the end of their enslavement, the Israelites were integrated into the pagan ways of the Egyptians. They like us, the modern day Israelites, were not worthy of redemption. They had to be drawn out of their captivity by Elohim. They did not leave their captors willingly and were taken hold of by Elohim, rather than coming out of their own. It was as if they responded spiritually, but not physically. This is much like us, as believers. The intention of a believer's life in a physical world is to bring his/her human nature into subjection to Elohim, as we are commanded in Deuteronomy 6: 5, ***"And you shall love YHVH your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."*** This elevates the physical side of man, but also his spiritual life, by adding to it the drive and energy of physical passion. The physical or instinctual drives of man, if not controlled are like animal instinct, very dangerous. As believers we need to be constantly aware of our physical instinctual drives and control it with the Set-apart Spirit in us, in obedience to Torah. This is why the Omer was of barley, an animal food. At Pentecost there is a special offering of two loaves, made with fine wheat flour baked with leaven, as recorded in Leviticus 23: 17, as follows: ***'You shall bring in from your dwelling places two loaves of bread for a wave offering, made of two-tenths of an ephah; they shall be of a fine flour, baked with leaven as first fruits to YHVH.'*** The two loaves made with fine wheat flour is considered human food. The purpose of this is to show, that from Passover, the time when we were saved (i.e. immersed in Yahshua's name and forgiven our past sins), from our enslavement to sin, until the time we get to Pentecost (when we become first fruits), we need to have transformed our uncontrolled animal instinct, to become human beings, controlled by the Set-apart Spirit in us, obedient to YHVH and His Torah.

We have all once we were converted become part of the Israel of Elohim. We together with our Jewish Brothers have become part of what was symbolized by the loaves with leaven, namely first fruits from the two houses of Israel. Pentecost/Shavuot, a holy convocation is counted from the day after the First Day of Unleavened Bread; seven complete weeks of seven days are counted and the day after the seventh week of days, on the fiftieth day is Pentecost. We keep the Passover according to Yahshua's example as we are told by Rav Shaul in first Corinthians 11: 1, 23 – 26, in this way: ***'Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Messiah. (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.'"*** The word remembrance shows that the Passover is a memorial of Messiah's death for the lost sheep of the house of Israel, commemorated once a year at the same time on which the original event occurred. Yahshua kept the Passover *'in the night during which He was betrayed'*, the evening of the 14th Aviv at dusk, after sunset on the 13th Aviv. The First Day of Unleavened Bread begins in the evening of the 15th Aviv and we start counting towards Pentecost, from the day after the First Day of Unleavened Bread in the evening of the 16th Aviv.

Let's turn to Leviticus 23: 9 – 11, and read from the JPS 1917 Jewish Bible, as follows: ***'And HaShem spoke unto Moses saying: (10) Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them: When ye are come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring the sheaf of the first-fruits of your harvest unto the priest. (11) And he shall wave the sheaf before HaShem, to be accepted for you; on the morrow after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.'*** The Sabbath here refers to the first annual Sabbath or Set-apart Day, as we saw in Leviticus 23: 15 & 16 quoted from the same Bible before. This was the same Set-apart Day many years later, before which Yahshua was impaled, as witnessed in John 19: 31, in this way: ***'The Jews therefore, because it was the day of preparation, so that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.'*** In order to confirm that we count the Omer from the correct

date, we need to look at what happened when the Israelites arrived in the land of Canaan. We see from Joshua 5: 3 - 5 that Joshua had to circumcise the sons of Israel before they could partake of the Passover, as follows: ***'So Joshua made himself flint knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at Gibeath-haarloth. (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.'*** Similarly when some of us came out of our personal Egypt or sin, we were uncircumcised as we entered the wilderness.

However, uncircumcised male believers are eventually required to be circumcised, in order to partake of the Passover and if they want to serve as priests in the kingdom of Elohim, as is confirmed in the prophecy by Ezekiel in Ezekiel 44: 7 - 9, 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 Set-apart 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."*** This is also endorsed in the discussion in Acts 15 regarding circumcision, which concludes with the decision by Rav Yaa'cov in verses 19 - 21, as follows: ***"Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning (or returning) to Elohim from among the Gentiles, (20) but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood. (21) For Moses from ancient generations has in every city those who preach him (the Torah that Moses wrote), since he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath."*** This is telling us that when male believers come into the faith, we should not demand that they be circumcised as soon as they come to believe on Yahshua. But after they came to believe that Yahshua is their personal Savior, they should be immersed in His Saving Name for the forgiveness of their sins. Repentance is a lifelong process and as we walk with YHVH according to the way Yahshua conducted His life, we will learn to obey YHVH more fully and begin to apply His Torah teachings, including being circumcised, in our lives. In addition we know that Yahshua was both circumcised and immersed; if we truly follow Him we will do likewise.

Continuing in Joshua 5: 10 – 12 (Jewish Bible JPS 1917), we read: ***'And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal; and they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho. (11) And they did eat of the produce of the land on the morrow after the Passover (15th), unleavened cakes and parched corn in the selfsame day. (12) And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the produce of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more (manna ceased on the 16th); but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.'*** They were not to eat of the new crop until they had offered the first-fruits on the morrow after the day of rest, i.e. the 15th of AVIV. When celebrating Pentecost our Jewish brothers recall one of the greatest events in history: Elohim's giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. However, Pentecost does not only picture the giving of the Law; it also shows - through a miracle of the giving of the Set-apart Spirit which occurred on the first Pentecost after Yahshua's death - how to keep the spiritual intent of (YHVH)'s Torah instructions. We read accordingly from Acts 2: 1 - 4: ***"And when the Day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. (2) And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent, rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. (3) And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. (4) And they were all filled with the Set-apart Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance."*** The miracle was not so much in the speaking of the various languages, but that each visitor heard the speech of the disciples in his own native language as witnessed in Acts 2: 7 & 8, as follows: ***'And they were amazed and marveled saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? (8) And how is it that we each hear them in our own languages to which we were born?'*** The people of Jerusalem, who witnessed this miracle, were astonished and some attributed it to drunkenness.

Rav Kepha soon told the onlookers that the miracle was not as a result of drunkenness, but as a result of the pouring out of the Set-apart Spirit on believers in Yahshua.

Kepha filled with the Set-apart Spirit, explained the event to the crowd as a fulfillment of the prophecy in Joel 2: 28, in this way: **"And it will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions."** When the listeners from the house of Israel asked Kepha what they should do to receive the Set-apart Spirit, Kepha answered in Acts 2: 36 - 39, saying: **"Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that Elohim has made Him both Master and Messiah—this Yahshua whom you crucified** (because of your disobedience to Torah)." (37) **Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Kepha and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"** (38) **And Kepha said to them, "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, as many as Adonai our Elohim shall call to Himself."** The words 'far off' shows that we should not immerse Jews, but only those from the house of Israel and some Gentiles whom YHVH calls at this time, since YHVH does the calling and because Torah observant Jews obtain eternal life by receiving the Set-apart Spirit because of obedience (as per Acts 5: 32³) and as Yahshua told one of the religious leaders who asked Him what he should do to receive eternal life in Matthew 19: 16, saying in verse 17, **"Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments."** The reason why members of the house of Israel have to be immersed in Yahshua's saving name for the forgiveness of sins, is because when our forefathers were taken captive and were dispersed into the nations of the world, we lost our language, culture and religion and have also forgotten what sin is.

Shortly before Yahshua's trial and crucifixion He told His disciples in John 14: 18, saying: **"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."** Messiah would continue to teach and support His apostles, those whom He sent out after training them for a period of three and a half years. The question is: How would He come to them after He has gone to heaven? Messiah promised His disciples they would receive power from heaven, saying in Luke 24: 49, **"And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."** We read further from Acts 1: 4 - 5 & 8, **'And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; (5) for John immersed with water, but you shall be immersed with the Set-apart Spirit not many days from now. (8) But you shall receive power when the Holy (Set-apart) Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."** It was on Pentecost 31CE that Yahshua gave the wayward children of the house of Israel the opportunity, to like Him and those who remained faithful to Elohim and His Torah from the house of Judah, to be born-again as the Spiritual children of Elohim, when He returns one day, when He paid the death penalty due to them, by dying on the cross. This was the beginning of the renewal of the marriage covenant given at Mount Sinai in the blood of Messiah, where the original covenant which was written on stone and in books, are now written on the hearts of called out believers. Why does Elohim call Israelites from the lost ten tribes who came to believe that they are Gentiles to salvation? Why is He calling only a remnant at this time, before He calls the vast majority? Let us understand: Once a person is called and chosen he/she becomes part of the congregation of Elohim, also known as the body of Messiah consisting of a remnant of Torah observant members of the house of Judah and a remnant of returnees from the lost ten tribes, including a number of real Gentiles. They are supposed to grow in grace and knowledge as Rav Kepha directed in 2 Peter 3: 17 & 18, saying: **'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.'** YHVH used this miracle and the preaching of Kepha to add about 3,000 people to His congregation of called

³ Acts 5: 32, **"And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Set-apart Spirit, whom Elohim has given to those who obey Him."**

out believers in one day. These believers were all immersed and received a portion of the Set-apart Spirit as we read in Acts 2: 41. From this point on, Elohim's Set-apart Spirit has been available to those who truly repent and are immersed in Yahshua's saving name.

The day of Pentecost is an annual reminder that Elohim poured out His Set-apart Spirit on His congregation, who is led by the same Spirit. As human beings, no matter how hard we try, we still sin. We know that the Law does not enable us to stop sinning or think like Elohim, but that we are only able to obey YHVH, when we have His Set-apart Spirit residing in us. We from the lost sheep of Israel only receive the Set-apart Spirit when we repent from breaking the commandments of YHVH, are immersed in Yahshua's saving name and have hands laid on us by a teaching elder or Torah teacher, as witnessed in first Timothy 4: 14, where we read: ***'Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed upon you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery (an elder of the congregation).'*** First-fruits are the first agricultural products to ripen. Elohim uses the analogy of the harvest and particularly of Pentecost, to illustrate aspects of His plan of salvation. Ancient Israel observed this day in the late spring after the barley and wheat harvest. As mentioned before, a special wave-sheaf offering of green ears of barley is waved during the Days of Unleavened Bread, marking the beginning of these harvests, which continued during the next 50 days and led to Pentecost. Pentecost or Shavuot points to the initial harvest of souls, a kind of first fruits unto YHVH. Romans 8: 29 speak of Yahshua Messiah as the ***"firstborn of many brethren"***. We who are called now are also considered to be a type of first fruits as we read in James 1: 18, as follows: ***'In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures.'*** The significance of the Scriptures calling these people (us) first fruits becomes evident when we consider John 14: 6, where Yahshua said: ***"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me."***

How many people of the lost sheep of the house of Israel have really accepted and practiced the way Yahshua taught during the past 1800 years? Few people today know and understand that YHVH follows a plan depicted by his Set-apart Days, to eventually save most of humanity by offering them eternal life in His Kingdom. We, together with our Torah observant Jewish brothers are at this juncture only at the beginning or foundation of the harvest for Elohim's kingdom to come. Rav Shaul explained this in 1 Corinthians 15: 20, 22 – 23, saying: ***'But now Messiah has been raised from the dead, the first fruit(s) of those who are asleep. (21) For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. (22) For as in Adam all die, so also in Messiah all shall be made alive. (23) But each in his own order; Messiah the first fruit(s), after that those who are Messiah's at His coming.'*** Anyone called and chosen by Elohim during this age is included with Messiah as Elohim's first fruits, meaning those from the house of Judah who are Elohim's chosen people as per Psalm 78: 67 & 68⁴, as well as those of us who have been chosen at this time, as Rav Shaul confirmed in Romans 11: 5, saying: ***'In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to Elohim's gracious choice.'*** But we are reminded of Yahshua's own words in John 6: 44, that: ***"No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.'*** From this it is clear that Elohim does the calling: YHVH controls the timing of His harvest. Nonetheless, before the vast majority of mankind can live in such a world and be taught the true way of salvation, rulers and teachers must be trained. This brings us to where and how the first-fruit believers from both houses who remain faithful, fit into Elohim's Master Plan of salvation for all mankind. Elohim's congregation and those being called from the lost ten tribes of Israel (including some Gentiles) are preparing the world for Messiah's return. It is through Elohim's congregation started in the wilderness⁵ and the discipleship program continued by Messiah that Elohim is preparing future rulers and teachers to rule under Yahshua during the Millennium and onto eternity. Those called out of the world to eventually join Elohim's

⁴ Psalm 78: 67 & 68: ***'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.'***

⁵ Acts 7: 37 & 38: ***'This is the Moses who said to the sons of Israel, "ELOHIM SHALL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN."*** ***This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness together with the angel who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai, and who was with our fathers; and he received living oracles to pass on to you.'***

congregation at Messiah's return, are part of Elohim's spiritual first-fruits – the first group to be offered salvation. They have been called for the special service of qualifying to eventually help bring the knowledge of salvation to the vast majority. The first-fruits of salvation are pictured by Elohim's third annual festival – the Feast of First-fruits, which is called Pentecost in the Renewed Covenant, during which time two loaves of bread baked with leaven (showing that we are still prone to sin) representing the house of Judah and the house of Israel are waved by the priest before Elohim for acceptance – to be resurrected at Messiah's return.

The Set-apart Spirit is the divine nature of YHVH working in our lives, allowing us to be led by Him. The same divine nature that transformed early believers is also working in Nazarene believers today. We read in 2 Peter 1: 2 – 4 ***'Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of Elohim and of Yahshua our Master; (3) seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. (4) For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.'*** Pentecost is a yearly reminder that YHVH still works miracles in our lives; granting His Set-apart Spirit to the first fruits of His spiritual harvest, thereby empowering us to carry out His work in this world. However, we have to follow the exact steps given to the apostles before we can receive the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim. Those people chosen by Elohim during this dispensation who overcome Satan, the world and self, will be given power to rule over nations, as confirmed in Revelation 2: 26, in this way: ***'And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS.'*** An analogy of us being first fruits can be found in every family of humankind on the earth. If you are the firstborn son or daughter in your family and are part of a family comprising a number of children, then you will recall that your parents were much stricter in the way they reared you. You were corrected more often. Once your brothers and or sisters arrived on the scene you felt that your siblings were spoilt. However, you as the firstborn became responsible for the well-being of your siblings, when your parents were away for some reason. You had to take care of them when your parents went shopping, etc. You taught them their first words and showed them the ropes in life in general. As the first fruits of YHVH, we will have a similar role to play with our brethren who live during the Millennium and thereafter. We will be kings and priests during the Millennium and beyond, teaching our younger siblings about YHVH and the way of Elohim, as witnessed in Revelation 5: 10, as follows: ***"And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our Elohim; and they will reign upon the earth."***

Even though the Levitical Priests in ancient times were more involved in slaughtering animals for sacrificial and other offerings, they also taught Elohim's people Torah. Reading from Malachi 2: 4 - 7, we see what our roles will entail during the Millennium, in this way: ***'Then you will know that I have sent this commandment to you, that My covenant may continue with Levi,' says YHVH of hosts. (5) 'My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him as an object of reverence; so he revered Me, and stood in awe of My name. (6) True instruction was in his mouth, and unrighteousness was not found on his lips; he walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many back from iniquity. (7) For the lips of a priest should preserve knowledge, and men should seek instruction from his mouth; for he is the messenger of YHVH of hosts.'*** Now I hear some saying: *'But, we will not be Levitical priests at that time, will we?'* The answer is found in Isaiah 66: 20 & 21, as follows: ***'Then they shall bring all your brethren from all the nations as a grain offering to YHVH, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem, says YHVH, just as the sons of Israel bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of YHVH. (21) I will also take some of them for priests and for Levites, says YHVH.'*** When we repent and are immersed into Yahshua's saving name, essentially accepting that His death removed the record of our transgressions, YHVH gives us a portion of His Set-apart Spirit. The Set-apart Spirit combines with the spirit in us and we are begotten anew, giving us the opportunity to like Yahshua, be resurrected at His return, as is recorded in Romans 8: 11, in this way: ***'But if the Spirit of Him who raised Yahshua from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Messiah Yahshua from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.'*** We read further in Ephesians 1: 13 & 14, that: ***'In Him (Messiah), you***

also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation – having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Set-apart Spirit of promise, (14) who is given as a pledge (or deposit) of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of Elohim’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.’

When we as believers die, our spirit goes back to the Father who gave it, during which time it is perfected in heaven, as we read in Hebrews 12: 23, as follows: ***‘To the general assembly and congregation of the first-born, who are enrolled in heaven, and to Elohim, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of righteous men made perfect.’*** At Yahshua’s return He will bring back our perfected spirits and will resurrect our bodies to life as witnessed in 1 Thessalonians 5: 23, in this way: ***‘Now may the Elohim of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Master Yahshua Messiah.’*** At that time we will become kings and priests under Yahshua, during His Millennial rule. We read further from 1 Thessalonians 4: 13 – 18 how this will happen, as follows: ***‘But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those (believers) who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. (14) For if we believe that Yahshua died and rose again, even so Elohim will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Yahshua. (15) For this we say to you by the word of the Master, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Master, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. (16) For the Master Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of Elohim; and the dead in Messiah shall rise first. (17) Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Master in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Master. (18) Therefore comfort one another with these words.’*** Yahshua our Messiah will return in the clouds on Mount Sinai, the same way He left as is confirmed by the angels to Messiah’s disciples on the day of His ascension in Acts 1: 10 & 11, in this way: ***‘And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them; (11) and they also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Yahshua, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”*** May our Father bless us with more of His Set-apart Spirit during this Pentecost, so that the Set-apart Spirit may truly lead us into all truth. Baruch HaShem YHVH!

Chapter 5: Blow the Trumpet!

Despite the fact that many in Churchianity pray the same model prayer Messiah taught His disciples in Matthew 6: 9 – 13, not everyone who claim faith in Messiah believe that Yahshua our Messiah will return to earth to establish the kingdom of Elohim on earth, as it is in heaven, in the foreseeable future. The main reason for this is the fact that Christianity and a number of other religions believe the reward of the ‘saved’ is to go to heaven after death, whilst the wicked will go to an everlasting hellfire when they die one day. As a result of this Rav Kepha warned us about what some of us have also heard people saying to us in 2 Peter 3: 3 & 4, saying: ***‘Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, (4) and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.”***

Rav Shaul also wrote to us the modern day disciples of Messiah in 1 Thessalonians 5: 1 – 6, saying: ***‘Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. (2) For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Master will come like a thief in the night. (3) While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. (4) But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief; (5) for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; (6) so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.’*** So even though Yahshua used almost the same words to tell His disciples about the Set-apart Spirit that they were to receive on Shavuot/Pentecost a few days after He ascended to heaven, stating that it was not for them to know the times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority, in Acts 1: 7 & 8 at that time, we have a vague idea when He is about to return to earth one day. The fact is that the Scriptures reveal in graphic detail the Second coming of Yahshua Messiah in supreme power and glory to usher in the Kingdom of Elohim on earth on a Feast of Trumpets in the near future. Even so, the world seems to understand very little about this prophetic event and Elohim’s annual festival that pictures it. In a few years Yahshua the Messiah will return to earth; this time to come and save mankind from self-destruction and to usher in peace, happiness and joy for all mankind. He will return to rule over and judge all nations and usher in Elohim’s reign on earth, as it is in heaven. During the past almost 6,000 years since Adam’s fall, Elohim has allowed mankind to reap the consequences of our wrong ways. But, because He knows the end from the beginning, Elohim started a single nation through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who would eventually provide Him with ‘children’ to help Him restore the earth into Paradise once again. As His model nation, they will show the other nations of the world, how obedience to Elohim’s Torah will lead to everyone’s benefit during the millennium. Even though mankind now stands at the brink of destroying all life on earth, Yahshua our Messiah is prophesied to return to earth to put an end to warfare and usher in Elohim’s Kingdom. During the first 6,000 years of Elohim’s 7,000 year plan of salvation, civilizations developed based on the way of Satan, who is the ruler of the present world (2 Corinthians 4: 4 & 1 John 5: 19). At Messiah’s return, Satan’s rule will come to an end and Yahshua will establish Elohim’s Kingdom on earth, thereby also fulfilling the two-fold promise He made to Abraham and his descendants through Isaac and Jacob; namely that those of His descendants who remained faithful to Him by being obedient to Him, including to circumcise their children at eight days old, will receive the Promised Land or kingdom of Elohim to live in it eternally as fellow heirs with Messiah. The second part of the promise was as Rav Shaul explained in Galatians 3, that those children of Israel who were scattered into the world because of idolatry, will be able to return to the covenant they made with Elohim, together with the house of Judah at Mount Sinai through Abraham’s one seed, namely Yahshua, through whom He will also save the rest of mankind after Messiah’s millennial rule during the Great White Throne Judgment period.

Elohim uses the spring and autumn harvests of the Land of Israel in the Middle East, as symbolic types of His spiritual harvests of mankind. The spring festivals picture those Elohim has chosen from the House of Judah who remain Torah observant and those whom He is busy calling from the house of Israel (plus a few real Gentiles) to become His Spirit-begotten children as the ‘first fruits’ (James 1: 18) during this time. They are the comparatively small beginning of His spiritual harvest of mankind into His divine Family. Then in the

autumn, the festivals of the later harvest season picture Elohim calling the rest of mankind to salvation after Messiah's return. Elohim begins His annual Feast Days with the Passover (Pesach), to remind us of Messiah's sacrifice for us (1 Corinthians 11: 23 – 26), making it possible for the first fruits to be forgiven our sins. The Feast of Unleavened Bread pictures the continual need for Elohim's people, to put leaven (or sin) from their lives and to obey Elohim (1 Corinthians 5: 8). The Feast of Pentecost (Shavuot) is observed as a memorial of Elohim's giving Israel His Law at Mount Sinai on the 6th of Sivan and many years later after Messiah's death, resurrection and ascension to heaven, on the very same date His Set-apart Spirit, to spiritually beget and strengthen the first fruits of His salvation. However, the first fruits will not be reaped into Elohim's family until Messiah comes again on the Feast of Trumpets (Yom Teruah). The Feast of trumpets is essentially the focal point of Elohim's Set-apart Day plan. It not only pictures the terrible time of trouble and war to befall this final generation, but also Messiah's intervention to save the living from self-annihilation and to establish the Kingdom of Elohim on earth. It further pictures the resurrection of the first fruits from death, at Messiah's return.

At the last (or seventh) trumpet blast, Messiah will usher in the 1,000 year period when He and the resurrected first born believers from both houses of Israel will rule on earth, as the bride of Messiah, as YHVH promised in Jeremiah 31: 31 - 34⁶. As Messiah's disciples saw Him ascend to heaven in 31 CE, two angels told them in Acts 1: 11, saying: ***"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Yahshua, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."*** Messiah came more than 1980 years ago as a messenger to announce the good news of the coming Kingdom of Elohim, but will return in power and glory of Elohim's Kingdom. Instead of dying as the sacrificial Lamb of Elohim for the sins of the world, He will return to earth to forcibly put an end to all sin. We read accordingly from Revelation 11: 15 – 17, ***'And the seventh angel sounded; and there arose loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of YHVH, and of His Messiah; and He will reign forever and ever."*** (16) ***And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before Elohim, fell on their faces and worshiped Elohim, (17) saying, "We give Thee thanks, O YHVH Elohim, the Almighty, who art and who wast, because Thou hast taken Thy great power and hast begun to reign."*** The nations and their political leaders will be furious when they realize that Messiah has come to put an end to their governments and to establish the Kingdom of Elohim, which will rule over the entire earth from Jerusalem, as its headquarters. Yahshua revealed the outline of events that would lead up to His return in Matthew 24 and gave His disciples the sign that will announce His return in Matthew 24: 30 & 31, saying: ***"And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. (31) And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other."*** Yahshua said that the coming Kingdom of Elohim will be established during a time of world-wide war and distress, as we read from verses 21 & 22 of Matthew 24, as follows: ***"For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall. (22) And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short."*** The world, in which we live, is overflowing with weapons of mass destruction that could destroy all of humanity from the face of the earth. We are today living in the very days that Yahshua spoke about and unless the days of trouble, immediately ahead of us, are not shortened, no flesh would be saved alive. Yes, those of us alive at this time will witness the destructiveness of nuclear war, but we will also witness the last-minute intervention by Yahshua our Messiah to come and save us from ourselves. The seventh trumpet will sound, announcing the victory of the King of kings, before this generation will pass away.

⁶ Jeremiah 31: 31 – 34: ***"Behold, days are coming," declares YHVH, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declared YHVH. But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares YHVH, "I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people."***

We read the outline of all Elohim's Feast Days from Leviticus 23. The Feast of Trumpets is to be held on the first day of the seventh month of Elohim's calendar, containing the final festivals outlining His Master Plan of salvation for all mankind. We see according to verses 23 - 25 that the Feast of Trumpets is one of Elohim's annual Sabbath's, upon which believers should not do any servile work, in this way: **'Again YHVH spoke to Moses, saying, (24) "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'In the seventh month on the first of the month, you shall have a (Sabbath) rest, a reminder by blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. (25) You shall not do any laborious work, but you shall present an offering by fire to YHVH.'"**' The Hebrew statement, 'a reminder of blowing of trumpets' signifies a memorial of triumph, or shouting for joy with trumpets. King David understood the Feast of Trumpets to be a day of singing and shouting for joy, as he wrote in Psalm 81: 1 – 4, saying: **'Sing for joy to Elohim our strength; shout joyfully to the Elohim of Jacob. (2) Raise a song, strike the timbrel, the sweet sounding lyre with the harp. (3) Blow the trumpet at the new moon, at the time of concealment appointed for our feast day. (4) For it is a statute for Israel, an ordinance of the Elohim of Jacob.'** The way the trumpets were to be blown on the Feast of Trumpets, is recorded in Numbers 10: 2 & 10 as follows: **"Make yourself two trumpets of silver, of hammered work you shall make them; and you shall use them for summoning the congregation and for having the camps set out. (10) Also in the day of your gladness and in your appointed feasts, and on the first days of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and they shall be as a reminder of you before your Elohim. I am YHVH your Elohim."** In addition to the silver trumpets that were blown on (YHVH)'s appointed feasts, a ram's horn was also sounded annually on the first day of the Feast of Trumpets (Talmud, "Rosh Hosanna," Mishnah 26b). The silver trumpets could produce a variety of sounds, but the ram's horn (or Shofar) produced only a piercing blast. The piercing blast is often referred to in the Scriptures as a shout, signifying a warning.

In fact the tremendous sound of Elohim's voice is compared to the sound of the great trumpet in Revelation 1: 10 & 11, in this way: **'I was in the Spirit on (YHVH)'s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, (11) saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven ecclesia: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.'"** The shofar was used as an alarm of war and its sound filled those who heard it with fear, since they knew it signified the terror of looming war. It is the warning of war that gives the joyous Feast of Trumpets its contrasting note of somberness. We see from Ezekiel 33: 2 – 6 that the ram's horn was blown by a watchman of the Israelites when an enemy approached the camp, as follows: **"Son of man, speak to the sons of your people, and say to them, 'If I bring a sword upon a land, and the people of the land take one man from among them and make him their watchman; (3) and he sees the sword coming upon the land, and he blows on the trumpet and warns the people, (4) then he who hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, and a sword comes and takes him away, his blood will be on his own head. (5) He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood will be on himself. But had he taken warning, he would have delivered his life. (6) But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and a sword comes and takes a person from them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require from the watchman's hand.'"**

Continuing in verses 7 – 9 of Ezekiel 33 we see that YHVH appoints watchmen over the house of Israel to warn the wicked to turn from their sins; when these watchmen do not transmit Elohim's warning message to the wicked and they die in their iniquity, He will require their blood from the watchmen. But if the watchmen perform their function of warning the wicked to repent, but they do not listen and die as a result, the watchmen have delivered their lives. The faithful servants of YHVH were responsible throughout the ages to warn His people, as witnessed from Amos 3: 6 & 7, 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.'** A second witness comes from Isaiah 62: 6 & 7 as follows: **'On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; all day and all night they will never keep silent. You who remind YHVH, take no rest for yourselves; (7) and give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.'** We read Elohim's instruction to us through

Isaiah 58: 1, saying: ***“Cry loudly, do not hold back; raise your voice like a trumpet, and declare to My people their transgression, and to the house of Jacob their sins.”*** YHVH has revealed to His true servants what is going to happen before Messiah’s return on earth in Matthew 24: 1 – 14. We see that He warned them about the many counterfeits of the true faith, where false teachers will come in His name and will mislead many of His followers. Yahshua also told His followers that they will hear of wars and rumors of wars, adding that they should not be frightened, because these things must happen before the end will come. Then His followers will be delivered to tribulation and some will be killed for believing in His true name. Many will fall away and deliver up one another and because lawlessness will increase, most people’s love for Elohim will grow cold. But, He assured those who endure to the end that they will be saved. Yahshua also commissioned His followers to proclaim the gospel of the coming kingdom of Elohim, as a witness to all nations, then the end shall come. It is therefore important for each and every one of us to assist in getting the good news about the coming Kingdom of Elohim out into the world. We are at this time in a recess between the second and the third world wars. World War III is coming and only those accounted worthy in Elohim’s ecclesia of called out believers, will be protected during this terrible time.

We turn to the book of Revelation, to read about the prophecy of the seven trumpets, symbolic of the terrifying and disastrous world events soon to occur before Messiah’s return. The time-setting of the seven trumpets, is the time of Elohim’s wrath against rebellious mankind. Yes, the symbolic trumpets portray the day of YHVH – the time when YHVH will intervene in world affairs to punish the world for all its evil. Messiah will intervene supernaturally and people who have been leading lives of sin will be terrified with fear and want to hide from Elohim, when they realize He is intervening in world affairs, as witnessed in Revelation 6: 15 & 16, as follows: ***‘And the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, (16) and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.”’*** We see further from Revelation 7, the four angels holding back the four winds of the earth. We also see that Elohim will protect His faithful servants, including the ones who turn to Him during this time of trouble. The 144,000 made up of 12,000 of every tribe of the sons of Israel, as well as the great multitude from all nations who will repent of their sins and return to obey Elohim and will be put under the blood of Yahshua the Lamb of Elohim, as we read from verse 14, of Revelation 7, in this way: ***‘And I said to him, “My master you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”’*** After Elohim’s faithful servants are sealed by His Spirit to protect them from the plagues announced by the trumpets, Elohim broke the seventh seal and handed seven trumpets to the seven angels standing before Him. Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given him, that he might add it to the prayers of the saints upon the golden altar before the throne. The smoke of the incense with the prayers of the saints, went up before Elohim and the angel took the censor, filled it with fire of the altar and threw it to the earth and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

According to Revelation 8: 7 when the first angel sounds his trumpet, a gigantic firestorm will burn all the grass and a third of the trees as punishment for continued refusal to submit to Elohim and obey His commandments. When the second angel sounds his trumpet (in verses 8) a third of the seas will be turned to blood and a third of all life in the seas as well as a third of the ships used for trade and warfare will be destroyed. As each plague from Elohim falls on the wicked, those who surrender to Him in obedience will be protected from the terrible punishment yet to come. We also see from verses 10 & 11 that Elohim will punish the un-repentant sinners by making a third of the waters of the earth unfit for human consumption. Then, when the fourth angel sounded his trumpet in verse 12 of Revelation 8, a third of the sun, the moon and the stars were smitten so that a third of them might be darkened and the day might not shine for a third of it and the night the same way. In verse 13 of Revelation 12, three woes declaring further cataclysmic events to punish humanity are declared. These three woes are in fact the same as the last three trumpets that the angels are about to sound. Three being Elohim’s special number signifying finality, these three woes

involve three final battles, each so terrifying that it is called a 'woe' by Almighty Elohim. Each of these battles will be so destructive that only Elohim will be able to repair the damage man's armies will do to the surface of the earth. Fortunately, Elohim will intervene at the end of the third battle to save mankind from extinction. These terrifying events certainly make the Feast of Trumpets a most solemn day. But to those who have begun to obey Elohim and started following His way of life, it will be a time of rejoicing. Today's lawless society will be destroyed and the Kingdom of Elohim will be established on earth.

Revelation 9: 1 and 12 confirms that the first woe and the fifth trumpets are one and the same, as follows: **'And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him. (12) The first woe is past; behold, two woes are still coming after these things.'** Rav Yochanan describes terrifying grasshoppers that will be used to inflict pain on men in verses 3 - 10. He used the term 'locusts' to describe the terrifying military machines that would be invented and used in the final world conflict. These 'locusts' are driven by men and are able to fly. In addition they are protected by armor plating and make a tremendous noise. Even though these weapons of conquest were completely unknown to Yochanan, he described them in the language of his day. These weapons of war exist in modern military arsenals and almost sound like the modern helicopters being used by modern armies, armed with powerful guns capable of releasing nerve gasses, guided missiles and nuclear warheads. Verse 11 of Revelation 9 reveals Satan as the leader of this army. The Hebrew word 'Abaddon' and the Greek word 'Apollyon' used here both means 'destroyer', confirming that the sinister power that will guide this army will be Satan the devil. We see that the army with its diabolical leader comes from the symbolic 'bottomless pit' referred to in Revelation 17: 8 as the abyss. In fact this super-army of the beast power, is the final restoration of the Roman Empire (in Europe) backed by the great false religion, as identified in verse 7 – 13 of Revelation 17 as the Roman Catholic Church. When the whirlwind attack of the armies of the beast resounds against their enemies to the east, those who have the seal of Elohim on their foreheads will be protected. However, billions of the modern-day descendants of the lost ten tribes of the house of Israel and the house of Judah, including Great Britain, the United States and other nations in northwestern Europe will have been conquered and will be in physical and spiritual slavery. The people who are now being warned of the coming captivity, will not be protected from the violence of the final world war; unless they repent and receive the seal of Elohim's Set-apart Spirit. In the meantime, hordes from the east will be preparing to attack the beast power. But rather than let them obtain the advantage by striking the first blow, the beast will have turned to attack them with the full anger of his military might. This attack will be the first woe - the beginning of the all-out battle for complete world domination between two Eurasian rivals for world rule.

This sets the stage for the second battle for human domination of the world. The second woe – the sixth trumpet is ready to be blown. Turning back to Revelation 9: 13 - 16, we see what will happen when the sixth trumpet is blown, as follows: **'And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before Elohim, (14) one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." (15) And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they might kill a third of mankind. (16) And the number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.'** We see a description of their weapons in verses 17 – 19, 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 of hyacinth and of brimstone (the type of camouflage used by modern day armies); and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions (to scare those being attacked); and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone (like armored cars used by modern armies). (18) A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone, which proceeded out of their mouths. (19) For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads; and with them they do harm.'**

With millions being attacked by the armies of the beast power, Isaiah describes the value of man's life at that time in Isaiah 13: 12 – 16, saying: **'I will make mortal man scarcer than pure gold, and mankind than the gold of Ophir. (13) Therefore I shall make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken from its**

place at the fury of YHVH of hosts in the day of His burning anger. (14) And it will be that like a hunted gazelle, or like sheep with none to gather them, they will each turn to his own people, and each one flee to his own land. (15) Anyone who is found will be thrust through, and anyone who is captured will fall by the sword. (16) Their little ones also will be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses will be plundered and their wives ravished.' According to verses 17 & 18 this destruction will be brought about by the descendants of the Medes and their allies, who are living to the north-east and east of modern Babylon. Babylon, Elohim's name for the religious and political system that originated from the ancient city of Babylon, has been continued by Satan in the Roman Empire and its restoration, prophesied to fall a second time in (Isaiah 21: 9 and) Revelation 18: 2, in this way: **'And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! And she has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird.'** The counterattack by the Soviet-led descendants of the Medes and their allies will contribute in a major way to the fall of the beast, spoken about here as 'Babylon'. The fall of ancient Babylon was only the smaller historic fulfillment of the much larger future end-time destruction of the modern 'daughter' of ancient Babylon. However, we see that even after the devastating attack on modern Babylon by the armies of the east, men will still not repent, as witnessed in Revelation 9: 20 & 21, as follows: **'And the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; (21) and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.'**

Nevertheless, we see from Revelation 11: 3 – 6 that Elohim will continue to send His faithful messengers throughout this period to plead to mankind to repent. However, even with these two witnesses of Elohim prophesying for twelve hundred and sixty days, it seems that men will still not turn to Elohim. After giving their testimony for three and a half years, the beast will come out of the abyss and will make war with these two witnesses and finally kill them (verse 7). The two witnesses will be killed in the great city in which Yahshua was crucified. Yahshua was crucified in Jerusalem, which had become as evil as Sodom and Gemorrah and as sinful as Egypt, in Elohim's sight (verse 8). We read accordingly from Jeremiah 23: 14, **"Also among the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen a horrible thing: the committing of adultery and walking in falsehood; and they strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one has turned back from his wickedness. All of them have become to Me like Sodom, and her inhabitants like Gemorrah."** We see from Revelation 11: 9 that the beast will not permit the dead bodies of the two witnesses to be buried for three and a half days. However, after the three and a half days, breath of life came from Elohim and filled the two witnesses and they stood on their feet, so that great fear fell on those who saw them. Then a loud voice from heaven was heard saying: **"Come up here."** And they went up into heaven in the cloud, with their enemies looking on. Then a great earthquake destroyed a tenth of the city (verse 13). When the seventh and last trumpet sounds and the third woe begin (Revelation 11: 14), there arose loud voices in heaven, stating that the kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of YHVH and His Messiah and He will reign forever. But we see from verse 18 of Revelation 11, that the nations of the world will not accept Messiah's rule, and will in joint effort with the beast and the Soviet East, gather their armies in the Holy Land to challenge Messiah. They will consider Him to be their common enemy and will try and make war with Him. Just as the seventh seal is divided into the seven last trumpets, so the seventh trumpet is divided into the seven last plagues. These plagues will finally crush all rebellion and bring mankind to their knees in a repentant attitude. We see from Revelation 15: 6 that the seven angels who had the seven plagues came out of the temple clothed in linen, clean and bright, and girded around their breasts with golden girdles.

Even though our Elohim is a merciful Elohim, He will not wait any longer for people to repent of their evil deeds. Power-crazed politicians in charge of human governments will have already destroyed much of the earth and unless Elohim intervenes with force to stop warfare, no human being would be left alive. We read about the seven last plagues from Revelation 16: 1 – 4 and 8 – 21, summarized in this way: **'A loud voice from heaven says to the seven angels, "Go pour out the seven bowls of the wrath of Elohim on Earth." The first angel poured out his bowl into the earth, resulting in loathsome and malignant sores upon men who had the**

mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea and it became blood like that of a dead man, and everything in the sea died. The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and springs of water and they became blood. The fourth angel poured out his bowl upon the sun and it was given to it to scorch men with fire and fierce heat and they blasphemed the name of Elohim who has power over these plagues, but did not repent so as to give Him glory. The fifth angel poured out the bowl upon the throne of the beast and his kingdom became darkened and they gnawed their tongues because of pain. They also blasphemed the Elohim of heaven because of their pains and sores, but they did not repent of their deeds. The sixth angel pour out his bowl upon the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, that they might prepare for the kings from the east. Then frogs came out of the mouths of the dragon, the beast and the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs; being spirits of demons performing signs which go out to the kings of the earth, to gather them together for the war of the great day of Elohim, the Almighty. Verse 15 is inserted as a warning from Yahshua, saying that He is coming like a thief and that we should stay awake (to be totally aware that our every action is in accordance with Torah) and keep our garments⁷, lest we walk naked and men see our shame. Back in verse 16, we see that the kings gathered in a place called Armageddon. Next the seventh angel poured out his bowl upon the air and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying "It is done." This is followed by flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. Then there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since the creation of mankind and the great city was split into three parts and the cities of the nations fell. At that time Babylon the great was remembered before Elohim, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath; all the islands disappeared and the mountains were flattened. Then huge hailstones about a hundred pounds each came out of heaven upon men, and they blasphemed Elohim, because of the severity of this plague.'

We see from this that Elohim prepared a way for the kings of the east and their armies to cross the Euphrates into the Holy Land. It is part of Elohim's plan to gather the armies of all the nations that remain rebellious to His rule, into one place for the final battle of World War III, as explained in Zephaniah 3: 8, as follows: **"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."** We see further from Joel 3: 12, that YHVH will battle the wicked forces in the valley of Jehoshaphat, to judge all the surrounding nations. Armageddon is the English word used in place of the Hebrew Har-Magedon, meaning Mount of Megiddo. Megiddo is a small town about 55 miles north of Jerusalem, situated in a large bowl-shaped Valley of Jezreel. It is here where the armies of the rebellious nations will gather to challenge Yahshua at His return. Messiah will make war in righteousness against the rebellious nations and will smite them with His sharp sword, symbolic of His power and to rule them with a rod of iron (Revelation 19: 11 & 15). Yahshua Messiah will tread the 'winepress of Elohim's wrath' symbolic of the great battle that He will fight against disobedient, rebellious mankind. We see from Revelation 19: 19 & 20, that Satan will be defeated in the climactic battle of World War III, as follows: **'And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, assembled to make war against Him who sat upon the (white) horse, and against His army. (20) And the beast was seized and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.'** After all military resistance to Elohim's government is crushed; Messiah will punish the political and religious leaders who fought against Him.

Elohim's Feast of Trumpets pictures this final world war and the establishment of His Kingdom on earth. When Elohim intervenes, His faithful servants will rejoice at His Second Coming. They will understand what is happening in world affairs because they have been keeping Elohim's Set-apart Days. But the rest of mankind will mourn when they see the sign of Yahshua appearing in the sky, as we've read before in Matthew 24: 30 & 31. In the final battle of World War III, at the seventh trumpet and the third woe, Almighty Elohim will intervene to save the human race from total destruction. We see that when Messiah returns with the shout of an archangel and the trumpet of Elohim, the dead in Messiah will be raised imperishable and those

⁷ Garments – Spiritual fruits in our lives.

believers in Messiah still alive at that time, will be changed into the immortal Spiritual children of Elohim (1 Corinthians 15; 52). These are the 'elect' who will be raised from the dead to be given immortal life in the first resurrection. It will only be a small group of saints and true Torah observant Jews who will be the 'first fruit' harvest in Elohim's Master Plan of Salvation. These Jews already believe in the coming Kingdom of Elohim with Messiah ruling, but they will only come to know the true Messiah, when Yahshua returns one day on the Feast of Trumpets (or Rosh Hashanah), and as per Zechariah 12: 7 & 10, save the house of Judah, when they will see His hands and accept Him as their savior and Elohim, similar to the way the unbelieving Thomas did before Yahshua's ascension to heaven. It is this relatively small group who will 'marry' Messiah after His return. We see further that Messiah will reward the saints with crowns and offices of rulership at His coming, as recorded in Revelation 11: 18, in this way: ***"And the nations were enraged, and Thy wrath came, and the time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to give their reward to Thy bond-servants the prophets and to the saints and to those who fear Thy name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth."*** A second witness comes from and 2 Timothy 4: 8, as follows: ***"In the future there is laid up for me (Rav Shaul) 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."*** These first fruits of salvation will have the great honor of being Messiah's assistants in building a new civilization in the Kingdom of Elohim.

As soon as Elohim has harvested the first fruits at the first resurrection, He will gather the modern-day descendants of the ancient 12 tribes of Israel, as recorded in Isaiah 27: 12 & 13, as follows: ***'And it will come about in that day, that YHVH will start His threshing from the flowing stream of the Euphrates to the brook of Egypt; and you will be gathered up one by one, O sons of Israel. (13) It will come about also in that day that a great trumpet will be blown; and those who were perishing in the land of Assyria and who were scattered in the land of Egypt will come and worship YHVH in the holy mountain at Jerusalem.'*** Modern-day descendants of the 12 tribes of Israel, including, but not limited to, the British Commonwealth, the United States and democracies in northwestern Europe will go into captivity before the second coming of Messiah. The exodus spoken about above will be from around the world, as witnessed in Jeremiah 23: 3, in this way: ***"Then I Myself shall gather the remnant of My flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and shall bring them back to their pasture; and they will be fruitful and multiply."*** These people will not be changed to immortality when Messiah returns, but, instead they will be taken to the Promised Land as physical human beings (they are the ones who survive the Great Tribulation). They will at that time loathe themselves for the evils they committed, as we read from Ezekiel 20: 42 & 43, as follows: ***"And you will know that I am YHVH, when I bring you into the land of Israel, into the land which I swore to give to your forefathers. (43) And there you will remember your ways and all your deeds, with which you have defiled yourselves; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for all the evil things that you have done."***

The vast majority of the descendants of Israel are not even aware of their identity. Nor do they obey Elohim's commandments. It is for this reason that they will go into captivity, but the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will once again deliver them from captivity and bring them back to the Holy Land. At this time we as watchmen are responsible to keep warning those whom Elohim has called out of the world, to continue in the way of Elohim and to repent and return, as and when they discover their actions and beliefs in opposition to Elohim's Torah. We need not to only warn people of the coming calamity but to also proclaim the good news of the coming Kingdom of Elohim. The vast majority of those who hear and read Elohim's end-time warnings are not preparing for the time of world turmoil and the devastating war that is coming. But for those few who listen to the warning message that Elohim is sending out via ministries like ours, only these few will be given protection from the terrors to come. This protection is available to those willing to forsake the broad, easy way that is leading to destruction. Those who are willing to yield to the authority of Yahshua our Messiah and do what He says will be protected during the coming great tribulation. Halleluyah!

Chapter 6: How will peace be established on earth?

Many in Churchianity believe that there is a great controversy between Elohim and Satan and that Messiah and the devil are in a battle for human souls. If this were true, then we must concede that Satan seems to be on the 'winning' side. Despite all the work that missionary workers have done over many centuries, we must admit that there seems to be far more human beings 'lost' than what there are 'saved'. It is also very clear that most people are totally enveloped in sin today.

But, we have this assurance from 1 John 4: 4 that Satan is not stronger than Elohim, as follows: ***'You are from Elohim, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.'*** Yahshua the Messiah is returning as He promised to dispose Satan as the god of this world (as per 1 Corinthians 4: 4⁸) and to set up the kingdom of Elohim. When Messiah returns He is not going to leave the governments of this world and its religions, economy, education systems and its sports in the control of Satan any longer. He will replace the spirit of violence and competition with a spirit of peace and cooperation. Satan has been influencing the governments and leaders of the world; inspiring world wars, causing hatred, misery, suffering and violence that have plagued humanity throughout the ages. Satan has been the ruler of this world ever since Elohim gave him that position, when he was known as Lucifer, the 'Bringer of Light' (Isaiah 14: 12 – 15 & Ezekiel 28: 14). We read accordingly from 1 John 5: 19, ***'We know that we are of Elohim, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.'*** However, Satan's days are numbered. Elohim is definitely not in competition with him and there is no such thing as a 'great controversy' between them. Yahshua our Messiah has already qualified to replace Satan and when he returns to earth on the Feast of Trumpets as the King of kings and Master of masters, in the near future, He will take over the supreme government over this world and dispose Satan. At that time, this world will have peace at last. Elohim's Set-apart Days were given to remind us how, step by step, Elohim is working out His Master Plan of salvation for all mankind. The Feast of Trumpets pictures Messiah's intervention in human affairs to put an end to the suicide of the human race in nuclear war. Messiah will be quick and firm in punishing those who are destroying the earth.

The Day of Atonement pictures the fifth step in Elohim's Master Plan – that of deposing Satan from his position as world ruler and his removal from interfering in the affairs of mankind. Satan will be 'bound' for a thousand years, no longer able to deceive mankind to sin. The Day of Atonement is perhaps the most unusual Set-apart Day, because it is the one day on which Elohim has commanded His people to abstain completely from food and drink for twenty four hours, from sunset on the ninth day of Tishrei to sunset on the tenth day of Tishrei on the Hebrew calendar. Yahshua Messiah, the future ruler of the earth, qualified to rule by being completely submissive to Elohim's government and perfectly humble. One of His last acts with His disciples included establishing the Passover ordinance of foot washing to picture humility. His suffering and death to pay the penalty of human sin and to remarry His bride (Romans 7: 1 – 4) was an act of extreme humility, of complete submission to the Father's will, and of perfect love for us. True believers in like manner must humble themselves, before they will be allowed to rule under Messiah. No ruler in Elohim's Kingdom can be arrogant or selfish, as Yahshua explained to Yaa'cov and Yochanan in Mark 10: 42 – 45, saying to them: ***"You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. (43) But it is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; (44) and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. (45) For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*** Fasting on the Day of Atonement is a powerful reminder of the state of mind necessary for salvation; of humility, sincere sorrow, earnestly seeking Elohim and His way. The world today is filled with splendor and pride and does not realize that it is cut off from Elohim, because of sin caused by Satan, as witnessed in Isaiah 59: 2 in this way: ***'But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your Elohim, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear.'*** Only those few whom YHVH is calling

⁸ 2 Corinthians 4: 4, ***'In whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Messiah, who is the image of Elohim.'***

are now reconciled to Him. The rest of mankind must wait until after Satan's imprisonment after the 1,000 year reign of Messiah on a future Day of Atonement, after which they will be humbled and ready to be reconciled with Elohim.

Even after the terrible events pictured in the book of Revelation by the six seals and six trumpet plagues, mankind will not repent and return to Elohim, as witnessed in Revelation 9: 20 & 21, as follows: **'And the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; (21) and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.'** We see that even after the seven last plagues and the wrath of Elohim, many people will still be rebellious, as we read from Revelation 16: 10 & 11, in this way: **'And the fifth angel poured out his bowl upon the throne of the beast; and his kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues because of pain, (11) and they blasphemed the Elohim of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds.'** The main reason why human beings won't repent at that time, is as we read from 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.'** Most of us who come from the churches of the world are familiar with the financial and other problems caused, by what is supposed to be one of their most devout 'holy days' and it is not difficult to understand how Satan has blinded people to the true gospel (2 Corinthians 4: 3 & 4) and deceived the whole world to do the exact opposite of what YHVH requires of His followers (Jeremiah 10: 1 – 5). We see according to Revelation 18: 3 that the people are spiritually drunk, and will even attempt to fight Messiah at His return, as we read from Revelation 16: 13 & 14, in this way: **'And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs; (14) for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of Elohim, the Almighty.'** Yes, Satan and his demons are behind this deception.

We see from Ephesians 2: 1 & 2, that the present world is ruled invisibly by Satan, as follows: **'And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, (2) in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.'** But, the world to come will be ruled by Yahshua Messiah assisted by the first fruits to be born again in the first Resurrection, as witnessed in Revelation 20: 6, in this way: **'Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of Elohim and of His Messiah and will reign with Him for a thousand years.'** We see from Revelation 19: 11 – 16 that Yahshua will replace Satan as supreme ruler, as follows: **'And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war. (12) And His eyes are a flame of fire, and upon His head are many diadems; and He has a name written upon Him which no one knows except Himself. (13) And He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood; and His name is called The Word of Elohim. (14) And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. (15) And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of Elohim, the Almighty. (16) And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND MASTER OF MASTERS."'** As much as Yahshua will replace Satan as the supreme ruler of the earth, so will the resurrected first fruit believers in Yahshua replace the demons to rule over the nations, as witnessed in 1 Corinthians 6: 2 & 3, in this way: **'Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? (3) Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, matters of this life?'** A second witness is found in Revelation 2: 26, as follows: **"And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS."** In addition Rav Shaul shows that Elohim will crush Satan under our feet in Romans 16: 20. After Messiah's return to enforce Elohim's government on earth, Satan will be bound in a symbolic chain and locked up to prevent him from deceiving mankind, as

witnessed in Revelation 20: 1 – 3, in this way: ***‘And I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. (2) And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, (3) and threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.’***

Let’s now turn to Leviticus 23 to see how this fifth step in Elohim’s Master Plan is pictured by a symbolic ceremony in the Torah. We read from verses 27, ***“On exactly the tenth day of this seventh month is the day of atonement; it shall be a holy convocation for you, and you shall humble your souls and present an offering by fire to YHVH.”*** We see that even though we are fasting on the Day of Atonement, YHVH wants us to assemble before Him on that day. The churches of the world misunderstood most aspects of Elohim’s Set-apart Days and have almost universally decided not to keep these annual reminders of Elohim’s plan and therefore do not have a clue about His plan of salvation for all mankind. They have especially misunderstood the symbolism of the Day of Atonement; and no wonder, since this day more than any other Set-apart Day is hated by Satan, as it pictures his defeat. Leviticus 16 details what Elohim commanded the Levitical high priests to do on the Day of Atonement. Even though these rituals are no longer performed, they picture the binding of Satan; the fifth step in Elohim’s plan to restore His government on earth and bring knowledge of the salvation of all mankind. These rituals that Elohim gave the high priests to perform, was to remind the Israelites of their sins, that the penalty for sin is death, and that they would need a Savior to pay the penalty for their sins. Once Yahshua became the sacrifice for the sins of the world, the sacrificial law in respect of sin was satisfied. It is for that reason that sacrifices in respect of sin is no longer offered today. Even though these rituals are no longer performed, we are still able to see their symbolic meanings. But, we need to understand a few important facts regarding Elohim’s Tabernacle and the Levitical priesthood. Once the nation of Israel agreed to worship YHVH, the One who became Yahshua Messiah (Exodus 24: 3); He then began to detail to them how He should be worshipped. The first instructions He gave were for His Tabernacle (Exodus 25 – 27 & 30). Aaron and his sons were divinely appointed, not elected. Elohim was in charge. The Tabernacle included a courtyard enclosed by curtains. The courtyard included an altar, a laver and a central tent. The tent was divided into two sections by a veil. The section behind the veil was referred to as the Holy of Holies. The front section of the tent was called the holy place.

The Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle represented Elohim’s throne in heaven. The Ark of the Covenant, with the wings of the cherubim spread overhead, was contained in the Holy of Holies (Exodus 25: 10 – 22) inside the Ark were the tablets of stone upon which Elohim wrote the Ten Commandments. The lid of the Ark, which was called the mercy seat, was where YHVH manifested Himself. Only the Levitical high priests were allowed to enter the Holy of Holies. He was only allowed to enter it once each year on the Day of Atonement to perform a special ceremony depicting the binding of Satan. Elohim thus emphasized how important this day is. This day is symbolically linked to man’s access to Elohim. We turn to Leviticus 16 to go through the rituals that were to be performed on the Day of Atonement. We read from verse 2: ***‘And YHVH said to Moses, “Tell your brother Aaron that he shall not enter at any time into the holy place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat.”’*** We see from verses 29 & 30 that Aaron was only allowed to enter the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement, as follows: ***“And this shall be a permanent statute for you: in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall humble your souls, and not do any work, whether the native, or the alien who sojourns among you; (30) for it is on this day that atonement shall be made for you to cleanse you; you shall be clean from all your sins before YHVH.”*** We see from verse 4 that before entering the Holy of Holies, the high priest had to bathe and dress in his special priestly garments, in this way: ***“He shall put on the holy linen tunic, and the linen undergarments shall be next to his body, and he shall be girded with the linen sash, and attired with the linen turban (these are holy garments). Then he shall bathe his body in water and put them on.”***

Next we see from verse 6 that the high priest sacrificed a young bull to make atonement for himself, as follows: ***Then Aaron shall offer the bull for a sin offering which is for himself, that he may make atonement***

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for himself and for his household.” The sacrifice was made on the altar in the courtyard of the Tabernacle. We see from verse 17 that only the high priest was allowed in the courtyard, in this way: **“When he goes in to make atonement in the holy place, no one shall be in the tent of meeting until he comes out, that he may make atonement for himself and for his household and for all the assembly of Israel.”** Yes, this was not a public ceremony – it was between the high priest and Elohim alone. The high priest then took a censer full of hot coals from the altar, with his hands full of finely ground incense, and went into the Holy of Holies (verse 12). We see from verse 13 & 14, **“And he shall put the incense on the fire before YHVH, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that is on the ark of the testimony, lest he die. (14) Moreover, he shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the mercy seat on the east side; also in front of the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times.”** Verses 5 & 7 tell us that the high priest beforehand took two goats from the congregation, as follows: **“And he shall take from the congregation of the sons of Israel two male goats for a sin offering and one ram for a burnt offering. (7) And he shall take the two goats and present them before YHVH at the doorway of the tent of meeting.”** We continue to read from verse 8, **“And Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats, one lot for YHVH and the other lot for the scapegoat.** (The footnote against the word scapegoat in the New American Standard Bible reads: *lit., goat of removal, or else a name: Azazel.*) We see from verses 9, 15 & 16: **“Then Aaron shall offer the goat on which the lot for YHVH fell, and make it a sin offering. (15) Then he shall slaughter the goat of the sin offering which is for the people, and bring its blood inside the veil, and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat. (16) And he shall make atonement for the holy place, because of the impurities of the sons of Israel, and because of their transgressions, in regard to all their sins; and thus he shall do for the tent of meeting which abides with them in the midst of their impurities.”**

The other goat was presented alive, as witnessed in verse 10, in this way: **“But the goat on which the lot for the scapegoat fell, shall be presented alive before YHVH, to make atonement upon it, to send it into the wilderness as the scapegoat.”** The English word ‘scapegoat’ is not a correct translation of the Hebrew word Elohim inspired. The original word was Azazel, a name used among the early Semitic dwellers in the Sinai desert, referring to Satan the devil. James Moffat therefore translated it as *“Azazel the demon”* in the Moffat translation of the Bible. Modern commentaries often misunderstood this azazel goat, which is not surprising, since Satan has deceived the whole world and deceived many to think that he does not exist. As we’ve already read from Ephesians 2: 2, Satan is the real cause behind human sin. We see from verse 21 of Leviticus 16, that the high priest laid both his hands on the head of the live goat, symbolically putting the iniquities of the sons of Israel and all their transgressions on the head of the goat and sent it away into the wilderness, by the hand of a man standing by. We read from verse 22: **“And the goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to a solitary land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness.”** Even though bulls, goats and rams were a normal part of the daily sacrificial rituals, two things were particularly unusual about the rituals done on the Day of Atonement. The high priest entered the Holy of Holies and one goat was ceremonially led into the wilderness. We notice from Leviticus 16: 10 and 22 that the azazel goat remained alive, whilst the goat for YHVH was sacrificed. The reason for this being; that Satan is a spirit being and therefore unable to die, as Yahshua said in Luke 20: 36. The wilderness represents the black darkness spoken about in Jude 13, to which wandering stars or fallen angels (Jude 6) will ultimately be banished forever.

What connection do these two rituals have to do with the fifth step in Elohim’s plan in restraining Satan? We turn to the book of Hebrews to find the answer. We see from Hebrews 8: 1 – 2, that the innermost part of the physical Tabernacle, made with hands, represent Elohim’s heavenly throne, as follows: **‘Now the main point in what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, (2) a minister in the sanctuary, and in the true tabernacle, which YHVH pitched, not man.’** Verses 4 & 5 of Hebrews 8 inform us that the priestly ceremonies foreshadowed things in heaven, in this way: **‘Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; (5) who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by Elohim when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, “SEE,” He says,**

“THAT YOU MAKE all things ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN WHICH WAS SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN.”

We also see from Hebrews 3: 1 that Yahshua Messiah is now our Eternal High Priest, as follows: ***‘Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Yahshua, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession.’*** A second witness comes from Hebrews 6: 19 & 20, in this way: ***‘This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, (20) where Yahshua has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.’*** The book of Hebrews was written to people who were familiar with the priestly functions. The author shows that Yahshua fulfilled all of their symbolism and has become a high priest of a much higher and eternal rank. Of necessity there had to be many high priests in the time of the Tanach, because each would eventually die and a new one would be installed, but Messiah, being immortal, is now High Priest forever, as we read from Hebrews 7: 23 & 24, as follows: ***‘And the former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers, because they were prevented by death from continuing, (24) but He, on the other hand, because He abides forever, holds His priesthood permanently.’*** In addition Yahshua being perfect and sinless did not have to offer sacrifices for himself, as the Levitical high priest had to (verse 26 & 27 of Hebrew 7). Therefore Messiah, in sacrificing His sinless life, could permanently pay for our sins, as we read from verse 28, ***‘For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, appoints a Son, made perfect forever.’*** It is clear that Aaron and his descendants, the high priests in succeeding generations pictured Yahshua Messiah. Their role on the Day of Atonement symbolized what Messiah did in atoning for our sins. A sin offering was a sacrifice required from a person who sinned. The sacrifices pictured that the penalty for sin is death. However, we see from Hebrews 10: 4, ***‘For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.’*** So, it is clear, the sacrifices were only foreshadows picturing Messiah’s sacrifice, once for all.

The blood of the bullock that was offered as a sin offering was taken into the Holy of Holies, as we read from Hebrew 9: 7, 21 & 22, as follows: ***‘But into the second only the high priest enters, once a year, not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance. (21) And in the same way he sprinkled both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry with the blood. (22) And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.’*** In the Ark of the Covenant beneath the mercy seat were two tablets of stone on which were the Ten Commandments. Since these laws had been broken, making it necessary to make a sin offering, the sacrificial blood was sprinkled on and before the Ark, symbolically atoning for transgressions of Elohim’s eternal spiritual laws. The high priest’s special garments represented righteousness and the bathing before putting on these garments, represented a clean heart or conscience, as we read from Hebrews 10: 22, in this way: ***‘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.’*** The cloud of sweetness created by the high priest when he entered the Holy of Holies represented the prayers of true believers, as witnessed in Revelation 8: 3 & 4, as follows: ***‘And another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. (4) And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before Elohim out of the angel’s hand.’*** The high priest used sweet incense, picturing our prayers to Elohim. The incense was beaten fine, showing that we should be detailed in our prayers.

In ancient Israel as witnessed in the Tanach, only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies behind the veil once a year. But after Yahshua’s death, the veil supernaturally tore from top to bottom, symbolically opening the way to Elohim’s throne, as witnessed in Matthew 27: 50 & 51, in this way: ***‘And Yahshua cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. (51) And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and the earth shook; and the rocks were split.’*** This essentially indicated that we are now allowed direct access to Elohim the Father through our prayers, needing no intermediary, but Messiah. We read accordingly from Hebrews 10: 19 & 20, ***‘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. By praying in and through the name of Yahshua, our prayers ascend to Elohim's throne by the authority of our High Priest. Only the high priest and a few assistants were involved in performing the ritualistic observances on the Day of Atonement. But, the whole population or congregation of Israel also had a part of its own to play. That part is to fast and abstain from work on the Day of Atonement. What connection is there between the removal of Satan and our having to fast? Satan works in humans by appealing to the lust of our flesh and the pride of life, as witnessed in 1 John 2: 16, as follows: ***'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.'*** By fasting we deny our fleshly lusts and it humbles us, therefore diminishing Satan's influence in our personal lives; picturing in each of us Satan's eventual complete suppression and removal from all of mankind.

We are commanded in Leviticus 23: 28 – 32, ***"Neither shall you do any work on this same day, for it is a day of atonement, to make atonement on your behalf before YHVH your Elohim. (29) If there is any person who will not humble himself on this same day, he shall be cut off from his people. (30) As for any person who does any work on this same day, that person I will destroy from among his people. (31) You shall do no work at all. It is to be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwelling places. (32) It is to be a Sabbath of complete rest to you; and you shall humble your souls; on the ninth of the month at evening, from evening until evening you shall keep your Sabbath."*** But, how should one "afflict" his body on this day? We get the answer from Ezra 8: 21, in this way: ***'Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our Elohim to seek from Him a safe journey for us, our little ones, and all our possessions.'*** We see further from the Scriptures that fasting means going without both food and drink, as we read from the first part of Esther 4: 16, in this way: ***"Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day."*** The word 'afflict' is translated from the Hebrew word 'anah', which means 'to be afflicted to humble oneself, to oppress, to depress, to fast.' Elohim inspired the same Hebrew word in Deuteronomy 8: 2 – 3, as follows: ***"And you shall remember all the way which YHVH your Elohim has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. (3) And He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of YHVH."*** The question is: why are sacrifices for sin not required any longer, but we are still required to fast on the Day of Atonement? The difference between them is that the rituals were commanded to be performed by the high priests as a type of the sacrifice of Yahshua the Messiah, but fasting was commanded for the entire congregation, as a perpetual statute throughout their generations.

All "laborious" work, meaning physical and mental labor associated with earning a living is prohibited on all weekly and annual Sabbaths. Minor work required for food preparation is allowed for all the Feast Days of Elohim, except for on the Day of Atonement. We see from verse 32 of Leviticus 23, that like on a regular weekly Sabbath, ***"You shall do no work at all"*** on the Day of Atonement. But, we should not mourn as we fast and afflict our souls on the Day of Atonement. Even though we sorrow for sin and its results, we can rejoice that Elohim will in His plan, completely eliminate it as we read from Revelation 21: 4. Though we may feel weak by our fast, we can be excited with hope of eternal life. The word 'atonement' means 'to make at one with.' The Day of Atonement symbolizes Elohim and man being made at one: literally the Day of At-one-ment! All of us have sinned and have become separated from Elohim. Our need for reunification – atonement – with Elohim is emphasized by the word 'atonement' appearing 49 times in the book of Leviticus. We see from Matthew 4: 1 – 11 that Yahshua conquered Satan through fasting, thereby qualifying to rule the world. In Elohim's calendar, every day begins at sunset as per Genesis 1: 5, 8, 13 & 19. We also see from Leviticus 23: 32 that the fast on the Day of Atonement is to commence at sunset or in the evening from the ninth day of the seventh month, to sunset in the evening of the tenth of the seventh month. We also see that the Day of Atonement was kept by believers in Messiah, after His death, resurrection and ascension to heaven, as recorded in Acts 27: 9, as follows: ***'And when considerable time had passed and the***

voyage was now dangerous, since even the fast was already over, Shaul began to admonish them.' The footnote against the words *'the fast'* in the New American Standard Bible reads: i.e., Day of Atonement in September or October. These early Nazarene believers in Messiah set the example for us the latter day Nazarene followers of Messiah.

We see further from Leviticus 25: 9 - 10, that the Day of Atonement was the beginning of a time of release in ancient Israel, in this way: ***'You shall then sound a ram's horn abroad on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the day of atonement you shall sound a horn all through your land. (10) You shall thus consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim a release through the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, and each of you shall return to his own property, and each of you shall return to his family.'*** The Jubilee Year was given to the Israelites so that their poor might be released from debts they were unable to pay. Every fiftieth year all debts were pardoned and those who had sold themselves into slavery were freed. Land lost through poverty was restored to the family originally owning it. This was done on the Day of Atonement, thus connecting this Set-apart Day with a release from bondage. This is typical of man's future Atonement release from spiritual bondage; release from all spiritual debts and sins – freedom from the temptations and deceptions of Satan and his demons – and of the restoration to each nation of its own Elohim ordained land. In addition to fasting on the Day of Atonement, all believers should occasionally fast on days of their own choosing, except for those with medical limitations. We know that Yahshua our Messiah fasted, an example being before He started His ministry in Matthew 4: 2. We see further that Yahshua instructed His followers how to fast in Matthew 6: 16 – 18, saying: ***"And whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance in order to be seen fasting by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. (17) But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, (18) so that you may not be seen fasting by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you."*** Yes, fasting should not be a 'show' as it is not a proof of spirituality. The effectiveness of fasting is between us and Elohim.

The purpose of fasting is to get closer to Elohim, to spend more time studying His Word, more time in prayer and meditation, striving to learn His will and way. Fasting should humble us to help us to be willing to yield to Elohim's will, whether it is according to our own desires or not. Fasting shows us how dependent we are on food and water; fasting is a test to see which we will put first – will it be the lust of the flesh or the sincere desire to get closer to Elohim. We read from Isaiah 58: 6 & 7, what our attitude should be during a fast, as follows: ***"Is this not the fast which I choose, to loosen the bonds of wickedness, to undo the bands of the yoke, and to let the oppressed go free, and break every yoke? (7) It is not to divide your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into the house; when you see the naked, to cover him; and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?"*** We see from Acts 13: 2 & 3 that Elohim's servants fasted to learn His will, in this way: ***'And while they were ministering to YHVH and fasting, the Set-apart Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Shaul for the work to which I have called them." (3) Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.'*** Fasting is an excellent time to examine ourselves spiritually, to recognize our shortcomings and overcome them. Fasting, when done in a right attitude, will help us submit to Elohim's will, to become more at one with Him, to accept His answer to our prayers, to have greater faith and to resist Satan's temptations. When Messiah returns to earth in power and glory, He will have Satan bound for a thousand years. No longer will Satan be able to work in the children of disobedience. The minds of men formerly blinded spiritually by Satan, will be opened to Elohim's Set-apart Spirit. Freed from the influence of Satan, the world will become responsive to Elohim's way of life. For the first time, humanity as a whole will understand Elohim's Master Plan of salvation. People will then begin to understand their wrong ways, repent and receive forgiveness of their sins by accepting Yahshua as their Savior. Only then will man become at one with Elohim, as pictured by the Day of Atonement.

During the Millennium Elohim will pardon those whom He brings alive through the Great Tribulation and Day of YHVH. Only then will there be at-one-ment between Elohim and the Israelites. Their terrible national punishment will have brought them to repentance. We see from Isaiah 11: 13 that Ephraim will no longer be jealous of Judah, and Judah will no longer harass Ephraim, during the millennium. But even with Satan out of

the way, some of his deception and false ways will still affect some people for a while. We see from reading Ezekiel 38: 1 – 14 that the war prophesied by Ezekiel will occur after the beginning of Messiah's kingdom on earth, as witnessed in verses 8, 10, 11 and 14, as follows: ***"After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had been a continual waste; but its people were brought out from the nations, and they are living securely, all of them. (10) Thus says YHVH Elohim, "It will come about on that day, that thoughts will come into your mind, and you will devise an evil plan, (11) and you will say, 'I will go up against the land of unwalled villages. I will go against those who are at rest, that live securely, all of them living without walls, and having no bars or gates. (14) Therefore, prophesy, son of man, and say to Gog, 'Thus says YHVH Elohim, "On that day when My people Israel are living securely, will you not know it?""*** The people presently dwelling in northern Eurasia are known as Meshech, Tubal, Gog and Magog. They form a large portion of the human race that has been taught atheism in this age before Messiah's rule. They will initially have to be forced through circumstances into obeying the ever-living Elohim. We see from Ezekiel 39: 1 – 7, that Elohim will deal severely with them to show them He is YHVH the Set-apart one of Israel.

In closing we read from verse 7 of Ezekiel 39, ***"And My holy name I shall make known in the midst of My people Israel; and I shall not let My holy name be profaned any more, And the nations will know that I am YHVH, the Holy One of Israel."*** What a blessing it will be with Satan is out of the way, when the whole world will be taught Elohim's way to real peace and harmony and salvation, as we are also assured in Isaiah 11: 9, in this way: ***'They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of YHVH as the waters cover the sea.'*** Think about it!

Chapter 7: When will the whole world be called?

As we've learnt in the previous teaching, Elohim is not in competition with Satan and is not trying to save the whole world during this age. Whilst He was on earth, Yahshua the Messiah told His disciples that the good news of the coming Kingdom of Elohim would be proclaimed as a witness to all nations (and not to convert them) and then the end of the age shall come. YHVH the Elohim of Israel is the Almighty and if He sets His hand to save the world, it will be saved!

It was for this reason that Elohim revealed His Master plan of salvation for all mankind by means of His seven annual Feast Days. The first three festivals, which occur during the spring season in the Northern Hemisphere, picture great events leading to the first spiritual harvest of Spirit-begotten human beings into Elohim's Family. The Passover is a memorial of Messiah's sacrifice for our sins. The Feast of Unleavened Bread pictures our putting away of sin and our constant need to obey Elohim. Pentecost pictures the spiritual begetting and maturing of the first fruits of Elohim's plan. Then during autumn (fall) in the Northern Hemisphere, come the last four festivals. They picture tremendous events in Elohim's plan, yet to occur. The Feast of Trumpets, the first of these four, pictures Yahshua Messiah's return to resurrect the first fruit believers to immortality and to set up Elohim's government on earth. The Day of Atonement pictures the deposing and binding of Satan for a thousand years. Once Satan is out of the way, mankind can be reconciled, or made at one with Elohim. Then 1,000 years of peace and prosperity will follow. Those of the first fruits of Elohim's spiritual harvest – the first born into Elohim's Family and co-heirs with Messiah, will join Him in ruling the earth. The spirit-born again believers will be given the opportunity of bringing the spiritual knowledge of salvation to every human being alive at that time, as well as those to be born during the Millennium.

Even though early Christian Theologians acknowledged the Millennium, it was later rejected. In the fourth century the book of Revelation was removed from the general reading list of the established Christian church. The reason for removing it was because it referred to the Millennium. The 11th edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica records: *"Thus the troublesome foundation on which chiliasm [a Greek word for the doctrine of the Millennium] might have continued to build was got rid of."* During and after the reign of Constantine (306 – 337 CE.), leaders in Christianity began to look upon the Roman Empire as the Kingdom of G-d. They viewed the millennium rule of Yahshua Messiah as having already started! During the last Century, some professing Christian leaders have gone so far as to claim that the doctrine of the millennial rule of Messiah (they call Him C*h*r*i*s*t*) is not to be found in either the so-called New Testament gospels or the epistles, or even in the traditions of the apostles. But, let us turn to the Scriptures, the source of truth, to see what it reveals about the Millennium, as pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles. Elohim's annual Feast Days began to be made known to the congregation of ancient Israel – Elohim's congregation (or congregation) in the wilderness, when the nation was first formed, as witnessed in Acts 7: 37 & 38, in this way: ***"This is the Moses who said to the sons of Israel, 'ELOHIM SHALL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN.'*** (38) ***This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness together with the angel who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai, and who was with our fathers; and he received living oracles to pass on to you."***

Let's look at Elohim's instructions regarding the observance of the sixth annual festival and how it pictures the coming millennium, when all the survivors of the Great Tribulation and the Day of YHVH and their progeny will be converted and given an opportunity for salvation. We read about the Feast of Tabernacles (or booths) from Leviticus 23: 33 - 35, as follows: ***'Again YHVH spoke to Moses, saying, (34) "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'On the fifteenth of this seventh month is the Feast of Booths for seven days to YHVH. (35) On the first day is a holy (set-apart) convocation; you shall do no laborious work of any kind.'"*** We see that on the first day of the Feast of Booths all ordinary work is forbidden and believers are to gather before Elohim for worship services. We read further from verse 41 of Leviticus 23, ***'You shall thus celebrate it (the Feast of Booths) as a feast to YHVH for seven days in the year. It shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the seventh month*** (according to the Hebrew

Calendar that Elohim gave Moses and those who sit in his seat).’ We also see from (Exodus 23: 16 & Exodus 34: 22), that the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths was also called the Feast of Ingathering, in this way: **“And you shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost), that is, the first fruits of the wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the turn of the year.”** The underlined words ‘at the turn of the year’ as used here, refer to the autumnal equinox, because it celebrated the late summer-early autumn harvest, as witnessed in Leviticus 23: 39, as follows: **“On exactly the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the crops of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of YHVH for seven days, with a rest on the first day and a rest on the eighth day.”** The harvest festival was to be a time of great rejoicing and thanksgiving for Elohim’s abundant blessings.

As shown before, Elohim used the two yearly harvest seasons in the Land of Israel in the Middle East to picture the future spiritual harvests of mankind into His spiritual Family. The spring grain harvest is small compared to the great fall (autumn) harvest. The First harvest is represented by a single day – the Feast of Pentecost. It pictures the spiritual first fruits, the relatively small number of people whom Elohim has called into His congregation before Messiah’s return, when they will be born (again) into Elohim’s Spiritual Family. However, the Feast of Tabernacles lasts a full seven days. This shows that Elohim’s great second harvest of mankind will take a thousand years to be reaped. People will be born physically, called of Elohim during the Millennium, and after fulfilling their life’s purpose of growing in Elohim’s perfect character, be born spiritually into His family. In ancient Israel, Elohim chose where His people were to keep the three ascension or foot feasts. Even though Elohim revealed His festivals to the children of Israel and commanded that these should be kept forever, the people soon rebelled. Many finally refused to keep the Feast of Tabernacles on the days Elohim ordained and eventually neglected to keep it altogether. Let’s consider what happened and what the result of their disobedience were: We see from Joshua 18: 1 that Elohim originally set His name in Shiloh, designating it as the place where the Feast of Tabernacles was to be kept, in this way: **‘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.’** Reading from Judges 21: 19, we see that some of the children of Israel were obedient to YHVH at that time, as follows: **‘So they said, “Behold, there is a feast of YHVH from year to year in Shiloh, which is on the north side of Bethel, on the east side of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and on the south side of Lebonah.”** Turning to 1 Samuel 1: 3 & 21 and 2: 19, we read about Samuel’s parents and how they kept this Feast every year, in this way: **‘Now this man would go up from his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice to YHVH of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas were priests to YHVH there. (21) Then the man Elkanah went up with all his household to offer to YHVH the yearly sacrifice and pay his vow. (2: 19) ‘And his mother would make him a little robe and bring it to him from year to year when she would come up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.’** The yearly sacrifices mentioned in these verses refer to the Feast of Tabernacles.

But, we see that Elohim changed the location for the Feast of Tabernacles during the early years of King Solomon’s reign, after he built the temple in Jerusalem, in 1 Kings 8: 1 & 2, as follows: **‘Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers’ households of the sons of Israel, to King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of YHVH from the city of David, which is Zion. (2) And all the men of Israel assembled themselves to King Solomon at the feast, in the month Ethanim (also known as Tishrei), which is the seventh month.’** When Solomon completed building the temple, the priest brought the Ark of the Covenant of YHVH to its place in the Holy of Holies, the glory of Elohim filled the temple, as recorded in verses 10 - 13, in this way: **‘And it came about when the priests came from the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of YHVH, (11) so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of YHVH filled the house of YHVH. (12) Then Solomon said, “YHVH has said that He would dwell in the thick cloud. (13) I have surely built Thee a lofty house, a place for Thy dwelling forever.”’** Afterwards Solomon and all of Israel observed the feast as witnessed in verse 65 of 1 Kings 8, as follows: **‘So Solomon observed the feast at that time, and all Israel with him, a great assembly from the entrance of Hamath to the brook of Egypt, before YHVH our Elohim, for seven**

days and seven more days, even fourteen days.” Even though the Israelites observed the Feast of Tabernacles in the days of Solomon, the nation did not fully observe it in the way that Elohim commanded.

After King Solomon died the united nation of Israel split in two, because Solomon’s heart was turned away from YHVH the Elohim of Israel; with his son King Rehoboam ruling over the house of Judah and King Jeroboam ruling over the house of Israel. King Jeroboam did not want the house of Israel to return to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles with the house of Judah for fear that they will return to Rehoboam king of Judah after the Feast, and as recorded in 1 Kings 12: 28 – 32, **‘So the king consulted, and made two golden calves, and he said to them, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem; behold your gods, O Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt. (29) And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. (30) Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan. (31) And he made houses on high places, and made priests from among all the people who were not of the sons of Levi. (32) And Jeroboam instituted a feast in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month, like the feast which is in Judah, and he went up to the altar; thus he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves which he had made. And he stationed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made.’** King Jeroboam’s personal agenda led to spiritual mistakes that would bring untold misery to the house of Israel and their descendants. Jeroboam’s counterfeit worship, with its own festivals and priesthood was the primary reason for the house of Israel’s downfall. Elohim pronounced a sobering judgment against Jeroboam, through Ahijah the prophet in 1 Kings 14: 7 – 10, as follows: **“Go, say to Jeroboam, ‘Thus says YHVH Elohim of Israel, “Because I exalted you from among the people and made you leader over My people Israel, (8) and tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you—yet you have not been like My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed Me with all his heart, to do only that which was right in My sight; (9) you also have done more evil than all who were before you, and have gone and made for yourself other gods and molten images to provoke Me to anger, and have cast me behind your back—(10) therefore behold, I am bringing calamity on the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam every male person, both bond and free in Israel, and I will make a clean sweep of the house of Jeroboam, as one sweeps away dung until it is all gone.”** Because of Jeroboam’s sin, YHVH also rejected Israel as is recorded in verses 14 – 16, in this way: **“Moreover, YHVH will raise up for Himself a king over Israel who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam this day and from now on. (15) For YHVH will strike Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water; and He will uproot Israel from this good land which He gave to their fathers, and will scatter them beyond the Euphrates River, because they have made their Asherim (wooden symbols of a female deity), provoking YHVH to anger. (16) And He will give up Israel on account of the sins of Jeroboam, which he committed and with which he made Israel to sin.”**

A second witness as to why YHVH scattered the house of Israel into the nations comes from Ezekiel 20: 23 & 24, as follows: **“Also I swore to them in the wilderness that I would scatter them among the nations and disperse them among the lands, (24) because they had not observed My ordinances, but had rejected My statutes, and had profaned My Sabbaths, and their eyes were on the idols of their fathers.”** Notice that the word ‘Sabbaths’ is plural, meaning the annual Sabbaths as well as the weekly Sabbath. The Scriptures usually speaks of the weekly Sabbath in the singular. Because of their continued disobedience; mainly their utter disregard of Elohim’s weekly and annual Sabbaths, the Israelites were taken into captivity. Later the house of Judah was also taken captive because of the sins of King Manasseh of Judah as recorded in 2 Kings 21: 16 and 2 Kings 24: 3, in this way: (21: 6) **‘Moreover, Manasseh shed very much innocent blood until he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; besides his sin with which he made Judah sin, in doing evil in the sight of YHVH. (24: 3 & 4) Surely at the command of YHVH it came upon Judah, to remove them from His sight because of the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he had done, (4) and also for the innocent blood which he shed, for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; and YHVH would not forgive.’** Other than with the house of Israel, who has not returned to the Promised Land until today, a small remnant of the house of Judah returned from Babylon under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah. After 70 years of subservience to Babylon, Elohim had become real to those few Jews, as well as those who remained in the lands of their captivity. We see from Nehemiah 8: 1 & 2 that they immediately began keeping Elohim’s Set-

apart Days, as follows: ***‘And all the people gathered as one man at the square which was in front of the Water Gate, and they asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the Law of Moses which YHVH had given to Israel. (2) Then Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly of men, women, and all who could listen with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month (the Feast of Trumpets).’*** A few days later they kept the Feast of Tabernacles and The Last Great Day, as witnessed in verses 17 & 18, in this way: ***‘And the entire assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in them. The sons of Israel had indeed not done so from the days of Joshua the son of Nun to that day. And there was great rejoicing. (18) And he read from the book of the law of Elohim daily, from the first day to the last day. And they celebrated the feast seven days, and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly according to the ordinance.’*** The Set-apart days of YHVH held vivid meaning for the Jews who returned from captivity and their eyes were opened, symbolic of what will occur to humanity after the Second Coming of Messiah.

During Yahshua Messiah’s human life, the descendants of Judah who returned were still keeping the Feast of Tabernacles, as witnessed in John 7: 2, as follows: ***‘Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was at hand.’*** Rav Yochanan called the celebration *‘the feast of the Jews’* because His book was primarily written for the Gentiles. Before conversion, the Gentiles saw the feasts only as a part of the “different” religion of the Jews. The house of Israel had lost the knowledge of Elohim’s Set-apart Days, but Judah had preserved the Tanach, the Sabbaths (weekly and annual) according to Elohim’s instructions. Yahshua instructed his disciples to go up to the Feast in verse 8, and we read from verses 10 & 14, how He also kept the Feast of Tabernacles with His Jewish Brothers, in this way: ***‘But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He Himself also went up, not publically, but as it were, in secret. (14) But when it was now the midst of the feast Yahshua went up into the temple, and began to teach.’*** Yahshua had been present at the Feast from the first day, although He only stood up to teach near the middle of the feast. He arrived secretly and kept out of the limelight because certain of the religious leaders were seeking to kill Him. Even though Yahshua was critical of the *‘traditions of the elders’*, He always made it clear that Elohim’s laws remained binding and went on to magnify them in Matthew 5: 17 – 48. All twelve tribes of Israel will keep the Feast of Tabernacles during the Millennium as witnessed in Hosea 12: 8 & 9, as follows: ***‘And Ephraim said, “Surely I have become rich, I have found wealth for myself; in all my labors they will find in me no iniquity, which would be sin.” (9) But I have been YHVH your Elohim since the land of Egypt; I will make you live in tents again, as in the days of the appointed festivals.’*** Gentile nations will join Israel in keeping the Feast of Booths during the Millennium, as recorded in Zechariah 14: 16, in this way: ***‘Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, YHVH of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths.’*** Those nations who refuse to keep the Feast of booths annually, will be punished, as we read from verse 17, as follows: ***‘And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, YHVH of hosts, there will be no rain on them.*** In similar way, Elohim allows those who refuse to keep His annual and weekly Sabbaths now, but only those who obey Him at this time will be protected through the time of trouble just ahead.

Elohim wants His people to rejoice at the Feast of Tabernacles, regardless of their age, social class or economic level as He instructed in Deuteronomy 16: 13 – 15, saying: ***“You shall celebrate the Feast of Booths seven days after you have gathered in from your threshing floor and your wine vat; (14) and you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter and your male and female servants and the Levite and the stranger and the orphan and the widow who are in your towns. (15) Seven days you shall celebrate a feast to YHVH your Elohim in the place which YHVH chooses, because YHVH your Elohim will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you shall be altogether joyful.”*** In fact we see according to Elohim’s instruction we should spend the tithe that we are supposed to set aside for the Feast Days of Elohim, on whatever our hearts desire, so long as it is kosher, as recorded in Deuteronomy 14: 22 – 26, in this way: ***“You shall surely tithe all the produce from what you sow, which comes out of the field every year. (23) And you shall eat in the presence of YHVH your Elohim, at the place where He chooses to establish His name, the tithe of your grain, your new wine, your oil, and the first-born of your herd and your flock, in order that you may learn to fear YHVH your Elohim always. (24) And if the distance is so***

great for you that you are not able to bring the tithe, since the place where YHVH your Elohim chooses to set His name is too far away from you when YHVH your Elohim blesses you, (25) then you shall exchange it for money, and bind the money in your hand and go to the place which YHVH your Elohim chooses. (26) And you may spend the money for whatever your heart desires, for oxen, or sheep, or wine, or strong drink, or whatever your heart desires; and there you shall eat in the presence of YHVH your Elohim and rejoice, you and your household.” The Feast of tabernacles is a time of great rejoicing. In ancient Israel it was a time of rejoicing because of the abundant winter food supply, harvested just prior to the Feast. Elohim’s people at the Feast demonstrate now, by the way they live together in harmony, what the world will be like after Messiah returns.

We notice from verses 22 – 26 above that YHVH commanded his people to save a tithe (10 percent of their net income) throughout the year to be spent in travelling to and attending the Feast. The Feast of Tabernacles gives Elohim’s called out people the opportunity to live joyfully for 8 days; to live above what they would normally be able to afford, so that they may experience a foretaste of the wealth the whole world will enjoy in the coming Kingdom of Elohim. We see that when the Set-apart Spirit is poured out freely during the Millennium, the attitude of human beings will change for the better, as we read from Micah 4: 1 – 4, as follows: **‘And it will come about in the last days that the mountain (government) of the house of YHVH will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it. (2) And many nations will come and say, “Come and let us go up to the mountain of YHVH and to the house of the Elohim of Jacob, that He may teach us about His ways and that we may walk in His paths.” For from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of YHVH from Jerusalem. (3) And he will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war. (4) And each of them will sit under his vine and under his fig tree, with no one to make them afraid, for the mouth of YHVH of hosts has spoken.’** We see further from Isaiah 11: 6 - 9 that even the nature of wild animals will be changed during the Millennium rule of Messiah, in this way: **“And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them. (7) Also the cow and the bear will graze; their young will lie down together; and the lion will eat straw like the ox. (8) And the nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child will put his hand on the viper’s den. (9) They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of YHVH as the waters cover the sea.”** Once Elohim places His Spirit within repentant mankind during the Millennium, people will begin to express outgoing love and concern for other and will obey Elohim. This coming change in the nature of humans and animals is the chief reason why the Feast of Tabernacles previews this time with such great rejoicing!

The coming government of Elohim will not be a democracy, or any other form of human government. During the Millennium Messiah will rule supreme from world headquarters in Jerusalem, as we read from Jeremiah 3: 17, as follows: **“At that time they shall call Jerusalem ‘The Throne of YHVH,’ and all nations will be gathered to it, to Jerusalem, for the name of YHVH; nor shall they walk anymore after the stubbornness of their evil heart.”** We see further from Daniel 7: 14, 18 & 27, **“And to Him (the Son of Man) was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed. (18) But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come. (27) Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.”** Messiah will be over the saints; His position will be that of the Husband, because the saints – or immortal children of Elohim, will constitute the Bride of Messiah. Messiah was showing in the parable of the pounds (or minas) that those who develop their talents to do Elohim’s will, will be rewarded with positions of rulership. There will be local administration districts, some larger, some smaller – that will be administered by the Spirit born again

children of Elohim. Rav Luka (Luke) reveals the names of several faithful servants of Elohim who will be given high positions under Messiah in the Kingdom of Elohim, in Luke 13: 28, as follows: ***“There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth there when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of Elohim, but yourselves being cast out.”*** We see that David will again rule over the modern descendants of Jacob, from Ezekiel 37: 24 & 25, ***“And My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in my ordinances, and keep my statutes, and observe them. (25) And they shall live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons, and their son’s sons, forever, and David My servant shall be their prince forever.”*** The patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and other men of Elohim such as Joseph, Job, Moses and David, will be brought back to life, immortal, in glorified power, to occupy high executive positions in Elohim’s government.

We see further from Luke 22: 29 – 30 that Yahshua’s disciples, who remained loyal to Him, will also have executive positions in the Kingdom of Elohim, in this way: ***“And just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you (30) that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”*** The resurrected immortal saints will similarly to Messiah’s original disciples, judge the rest of mankind as witnessed in 1 Corinthians 6: 2, as follows: ***‘Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts?’*** Whereas in many governments of the world the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government are separate. In addition, the teaching function is also separate from government. In Elohim’s government on earth, all four these functions will be united. The Head of the Family will establish the laws (legislative function); the family of Elohim will enforce the laws (the executive function); it will also interpret the laws and judge cases concerning them (judicial function); and it will also be responsible for the educational function, teaching people Elohim’s Law. Even so, Yahshua taught in Matthew 20: 26 - 28 that every divine ruler will rule his subjects in genuine love and concern, saying: ***“It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, (27) and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; (28) just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*** Each ruler under Messiah will rule with authority given them by Messiah, as He said in Revelation 2: 26 & 27, in this way: ***“And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, To HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; (27) AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father.”*** All government policies will be based on Elohim’s Laws and the pattern that Yahshua will lay down from Jerusalem. Elohim’s government will be perfectly organized, devoid of red tape and excessive bureaucracies. As we’ve read from Daniel 7: 18, Elohim’s government will be permanent. No time and money will be wasted on election campaigns. There will be no political mud-slinging, no insurrections, no rebellions, because Elohim cannot be overthrown. Nor will any member of the government ever turn into another adversary like Satan, as witnessed in 1 John 3: 9, as follows: ***‘No one who is born of Elohim practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of Elohim.’*** We see further that the Spirit-born teachers in Elohim’s Kingdom will have 100% success rate in teaching people, as we read from Habakkuk 2: 14, in this way: ***“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of YHVH, as the waters cover the sea.”*** Spiritual blindness will be destroyed during the Millennium and people will begin to live Elohim’s way of love – the way of giving and outgoing concern for fellow human beings.

In the Millennium world pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles, people will no longer be influenced by Satan and the false attractions of this present world to distract them from overcoming their human nature. Elohim’s way will become the popular broad way – the way people will want to go. Pressures in society that now urge people toward conformity with this present evil world will be changed toward conformity with Elohim’s standard, toward overcoming human nature and building Elohim’s perfect character. When Messiah has forcibly put down those who fill the earth with violence, He will abolish the fear of war, as witnessed in Isaiah 2: 4, as follows: ***‘And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for***

many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.' Just imagine, never again any destruction of the fruit of years of work. No more waste of human life. No young men drafted from their home, to have their minds confused with hatred. We do not ever have to fear that Yahshua our Messiah will be a tyrannical ruler, as we read from Isaiah 11: 4, in this way: **'But with righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; and He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips he will slay the wicked.'** Yahshua will also make perfect unbiased decisions, as indicated in verse 3 of Isaiah 11, as follows: **'And He will delight in the fear of YHVH, and He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make a decision by what His ears hear.'** In addition, Elohim will liberate people from fear of sickness and disease, as recorded in Isaiah 33: 24, in this way: **'And no resident will say, "I am sick"; the people who dwell there will be forgiven their iniquity.'** The handicapped – both mentally and physically will be miraculously healed as confirmed in Isaiah 35: 3 – 6, as follows: **"Encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble. (4) Say to those with anxious heart, "Take courage, fear not. Behold, your Elohim will come with vengeance; the recompense of Elohim will come. But He will save you." (5) Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. (6) Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah."** Education about true health and the miraculous healing of all sickness and disease will mean radiant health for everyone during the 1,000 year reign of Messiah.

There will be no more fear and worries in the cities and they will be filled with radiantly happy families, during that time, as witnessed in Jeremiah 33: 10 - 11, in this way: **"Thus says YHVH, 'Yet again there shall be heard in this place, of which you say, "It is a waste, without man and without beast," that is, in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man and without inhabitant and without beast, (11) the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who say, "Give thanks to YHVH of hosts, for YHVH is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting?"; and of those who bring a thank offering into the house of YHVH. For I will restore the fortunes of the land as they were at first,' says YHVH.'** People will no longer fear their neighbors. They won't have to worry about living next door to someone who is mentally unbalanced, a pervert or a murderer. The old won't have to fear being attacked and brutally beaten by some juvenile delinquents out looking for fun. Most of the earth's land surface will become productive during the millennial age. All over the world there will be forests, agricultural areas and fish-filled lakes and streams, with no polluted rivers or ravaged landscapes, because old waste places will be made fertile, as we read from Isaiah 41: 18 & 19, as follows: **"I will open rivers on the bare heights, and springs in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land fountains of water. (19) I will put the cedar in the wilderness, the acacia, and the myrtle, and the olive tree; I will place the juniper in the desert, together with the box tree and the cypress."** We also read from Amos 9: 13 & 14, **"Behold, days are coming," declares YHVH, "When the plowman will overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; when the mountains will drip sweet wine, and all the hills will be dissolved. (14) Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, and they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them, they will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, and make gardens and eat their fruit."**

One of the major barriers to cooperation between the different peoples of the world today, is confusion of languages. Here in South Africa we have 11 official languages and even though the majority of the citizens in South Africa can speak or at least understand English, a major problem is that we do not always understand one another and therefore mistrust one another. But we see that Elohim will give the whole world a pure language during Messiah's 1000 year reign, as witnessed from Zephaniah 3: 9, as follows: **"For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, that all of them may call on the name of YHVH, to serve Him shoulder to shoulder."** This will usher in an era of worldwide literacy and education through a pure language. People everywhere will speak, read and write that same language, which will most probably be a pure form of the Hebrew language. Reeducation will not teach people to have self-confidence, but confidence in Messiah dwelling in them through the Set-apart Spirit. The only fear that will remain during the Millennium will be

the proper fear of Elohim, as witnessed in Isaiah 59: 19, in this way: ***‘So they will fear the name of YHVH from the west and His glory from the rising of the sun, for He will come like a rushing stream, which the wind of YHVH drives.’*** This fear is not terror and misery, but the mature, sound-minded realization that disobeying the laws of Elohim has set in motion for our good leads to nothing but trouble, wretchedness, and deprivation. In fact the Feast of Tabernacles was given that we might learn to fear Elohim always, as confirmed in Deuteronomy 14: 23 (quoted earlier). At Messiah’s return He will deliver the remnant of the descendants of ancient Israel, who will be made captive in the coming Great Tribulation. They will not be changed to immortality at Messiah’s return, but rather restored to the Promised Land as physical human beings. The remnant of Israel still alive at that time, will be eager to enter into a *‘perpetual covenant’* with Him, as recorded in Jeremiah 50: 4 & 5, as follows: ***“In those days and at that time,” declares YHVH, “The sons of Israel will come, both they and the sons of Judah as well; they will go along weeping as they go, and it will be YHVH their Elohim they will seek, (5) They will ask for the way to Zion, turning their faces in its direction; they will come that they may join themselves to YHVH in an everlasting covenant that will not be forgotten.”*** Messiah’s blood will cleanse all Israel so that in living a truly *‘converted’* life, the nation will reach the apex of joy and gladness and material prosperity, as YHVH inspired Jeremiah to write in Jeremiah 33: 7 – 9, saying: ***‘And I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and I will rebuild them as they were at first. (8) And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against Me, and I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have sinned against Me, and by which they have transgressed against Me. (9) And it shall be to Me a name of joy, praise, and glory before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear of all the good that I do for them, and they shall fear and tremble because of all the good and all the peace that I make for it.’***

The return from captivity of the house of Judah did not fulfill the ultimate intent of this prophecy. Nor did they even approach the degree of wealth Israel possessed under David and Solomon. But, during the millennium Elohim will bestow upon obedient Israel all of the great material blessings He promised to give their ancestors had they obeyed (Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28). Abraham’s offspring were prophesied to become extremely numerous in Genesis 13: 16. We see from Ezekiel 36: 10 & 11, that Israel’s population will reach its peak during the millennium, in this way: ***‘And I will multiply men on you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities will be inhabited, and the waste places will be rebuilt. (11) And I will multiply on you man and beast; and they will increase and be fruitful; and I will cause you to be inhabited as you were formerly and will treat you better than at the first. Thus you will know that I am YHVH.’*** A second witness comes from Isaiah 60: 21 & 22, as follows: ***‘Then all your people will be righteous; they will possess the land forever, the branch of My planting, the work of My hands, that I may be glorified. (22) The smallest one will become a clan, and the least one a mighty nation. I, YHVH, will hasten it in its time.’*** In fact we see from Isaiah 27: 6 that in those days the Israelites will again spread into every part of the globe. Israel was supposed to be a blessing to the rest of the world both materially and spiritually. As the Gentiles will start following Israel in Elohim’s way, they too will be blessed physically and spiritually by becoming Abraham’s *‘seed’* – through Messiah (as per Galatians 3: 28 & 29), becoming Spirit-begotten and finally Spirit-born into the Family of Elohim. During the Millennium the 12 tribes of Israel will truly become the model nation that Elohim intended them to be.

Another important meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles is that it pictures the *‘marriage supper’* (known as the wedding reception in modern parlance) of Yahshua Messiah and His Spirit-born congregation. According to Revelation 19: 6 & 7, the marriage of the Lamb will occur after Messiah’s return to earth, which will be a time of great rejoicing, as follows: ***‘And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude and as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, “Halleluyah! For YHVH our Elohim, the Almighty reigns. (7) Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.”*** Messiah’s marriage is a time of great rejoicing after the war, darkness and trouble that will occur before Messiah’s return, pictured by the Feast of Trumpets! In ancient Israel a marriage feast lasted for seven days as witnessed in Judges 14: 2, 10 & 12, in this way: ***‘So he (Samson) came back and told his father and mother, “I saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters***

of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife.” (10) Then his father went down to the woman; and Samson made a feast there, for the young men customarily did this. (12) Then Samson said to them, “Let me now propound a riddle to you; if you will indeed tell it to me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes.” Therefore, the Feast of Tabernacles picturing the marriage feast of Messiah also lasts for seven days. The seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles are like the ancient marriage feast, a type of marriage reception of Messiah and His Bride the congregation of called out believers. In similar way that a bride is bound to obey her groom as long as they live, will the Bride of Messiah obey Him forever, as we read from Ephesians 5: 22 – 27 & 32, as follows: ***‘Wives be subject to your own husbands, as to the Master. (23) For the husband is the head of the wife, as Messiah also is the head of the congregation, He Himself being the Savior of the body. (24) But as the congregation is subject to Messiah, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. (25) Husbands, love your wives, just as Messiah also loved the congregation and gave Himself up for her; (26) that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, (27) that He might present to Himself the congregation in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless. (32) This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Messiah and the congregation.’***

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

Elohim’s true congregation of called out believers are composed of mainly bloodline Israelites, who were intermixed into the nations of the world. Even so, Gentile believers may enter the congregation of Elohim, by becoming spiritual Israelites as explained by Rav Shaul in Galatians 3: 26 – 29, Galatians 6: 16 and Romans 9: 6 & 7. Messiah will remarry Israel, but at that time she will be immortal and spiritual, not carnal, as at Sinai. Note the Bride is already called his ‘bride’ before the marriage in Revelation 19: 7, in the sense that it is Israel again, only this time she is converted, righteous and spiritual. These Spiritual Israelites will be the rulers of the physical nation of Israel during the Millennium. Those physical Israelites who qualify during the Millennium, will be added to Elohim’s ruling Family, as they are born-again. Isaiah 54 describes spiritual Israel remarried to Messiah, in contrast to the physical nation during the past 3,500 years. The congregation is presently made up of only a few truly converted believers and will remain so, until the making of the New (marriage) Covenant. Physical Israel never multiplied as fast as the congregation of converted Israelites will multiply during the Millennium. The Family of Elohim is preparing for great things in the future. The

Millennium is only the beginning of eternity, joy, happiness and accomplishment that will last forever. To us as called out believers, the Feast of Tabernacles is a continual reminder of Israel's 40-year sojourn in the wilderness, because Israel lived in temporary dwellings during that time, as we read from Leviticus 23; 42 & 43, in this way: ***'You shall live in booths for seven days; all the native-born in Israel shall live in booths, (43) so that your generations may know that I had the sons of Israel live in booths when I brought them out from the land of Egypt. I am YHVH your Elohim.'*** The rebellious generation in the wilderness is a type of all carnal, rebellious people and the temporary dwellings typify the fact that human beings are mortal, and that human life and society throughout the Millennium will be only temporary. We need to understand that only eternal life is permanent! Similarly our Israelite forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob also lived in temporary dwellings as heirs, but not yet as inheritors, as witnessed in Hebrews 11: 9 & 13, as follows: ***'By faith he (Abraham) lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise. (13) All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on earth.'*** So their dwelling in booths pictured that they were only heirs, not yet inheritors of eternal life in Elohim's Kingdom and eternal possession of the land.

Believers in Messiah are at this time only aliens and strangers as Rav Kepha wrote in 1 Peter 2: 11, saying: ***'Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul.'*** In fact near the end of his life, Rav Kepha compared his physical body to a temporary dwelling, in 2 Peter 1: 13 & 14, saying: ***'And I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, (14) knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Master Yahshua Messiah has made clear to me.'*** Human beings made from the dust of the ground are destined to die. But, Spirit-begotten believers have the hope of eternal life abiding in them, as we read from 1 John 5: 11, in this way: ***'And the witness is this, that Elohim has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.'*** Our physical bodies, with all our imperfections, our natural desires, our weaknesses, aches and pains – are meant to last only long enough for us to learn to serve Elohim in this life. By staying in temporary dwellings during the Feast of Tabernacles each year, we are reminded of this important knowledge. We get to understand that this physical life is only temporary, and that we are merely pilgrims in this life, waiting to inherit the Kingdom of Elohim. Comparing the 40-year wandering of ancient Israel with the coming Millennium; we see that just as ancient Israel after escaping from Pharaoh, a type of Satan, was given a temporary period of comparative isolation from Satan's influence in the wilderness, so will the whole world enter a thousand years of rest from Satan's rule. During their 40 years Israel was made into a nation organized under Elohim's government. During the Millennium, the whole world will similarly be organized under Elohim's government. Forty is the number of trials and tests; Israel in the wilderness was a type of all people who will go through trials and tests in overcoming their human nature, even during the Millennium.

Some insist that the Feast Days of Elohim may only be kept in Jerusalem, but we keep the Feast Days as a shadow of things to come. We should also be mindful of Yahshua's words to the woman at the well in John 4: 21 – 23, saying: ***"Woman believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall you worship the Father. (22) You worship that which you do not know; we worship that which we know, for salvation is from the Jews (meaning Yahshua the salvation of YHVH was a Jew, but also that the Jews have the Oracles of Elohim). (23) But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers."*** Even though Jerusalem is not now the primary place for all people to keep the Feast of Tabernacles, YHVH will again make it so, as witnessed in Zechariah 2: 12 in this way: ***"And YHVH will possess Judah and his portion of the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem."*** After Messiah returns to establish Elohim's kingdom on earth, it will continue to expand, as witnessed in Isaiah 9: 7, in this way: ***"There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness, from then on and forever more. The zeal of YHVH of hosts will accomplish this."*** The government of Elohim, like leaven in a lump of dough, will gradually spread throughout the whole earth during the Millennium. Eventually thousands of millions will be spiritually converted. The great harvest of

human beings, pictured by the autumn harvest in the Holy Land, will be gathered into the Kingdom of Elohim – born again as spiritual members of the ruling Family of Elohim, during the Millennium. By the end of the 1,000 years, Elohim’s family will be ready for the final step in Elohim’s Master Plan of salvation.

Chapter 8: The Last Great Day.

Millions of people died without ever having had an opportunity to understand the reason for life and what it means to be saved? Even at this time, the majority of people have not heard Messiah's true Gospel about the coming Kingdom of Elohim and even if those who hear the true gospel finds it too incredible to understand and believe, Satan comes and snatches away what has been sown in their hearts as Yahshua also confirmed in the first part of Matthew 13: 19⁹. Think about it! – Such people never really had a chance to understand what it is means to be saved.

The question is: Are these people all 'lost' forever, through no fault of their own? Definitely not! Disgusting as it may sound, Elohim does not want everyone to understand His truth at this time! We need to understand that YHVH our Elohim is Almighty and if He wanted them to understand at this time, they would definitely understand. Elohim, in that sense, is responsible for allowing the majority of mankind to be blinded by Satan to His truth. The point is, that it is Elohim's plan and purpose, that until Messiah's return, only those whom He has specifically called and chosen at this time, will understand as witnessed in John 6: 44¹⁰ and Matthew 13: 11 & 12¹¹. Yahshua severely criticized the towns in which He performed many of His miracles in Matthew 11: 21, saying: ***“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.”*** The people of Tyre and Sidon eventually died in their idolatry. But, are they as some in Churchianity teach, eternally condemned? Yahshua was implying that if Elohim had sent Him to these people during earlier ages, they would have repented. But Elohim did not send Yahshua to them. Why were they allowed to be punished by the Babylonians, the Persians and the Greeks? Was Elohim trying to save them? We see further in Matthew 11: 23, that Yahshua also admonished Capernaum, saying: ***“And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You shall descend to Hades (the grave); for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day.”*** Sodom and Gemorrah was destroyed by Elohim because of their grievous sins, as witnessed in Genesis 19: 24 & 25. Some Christian denominations would like to condemn them to eternal punishment. Yahshua showed that if he had performed miracles in those cities, the people would have repented and they would not have been destroyed. The question is: Is Elohim fair? Yes, He knows that the people of those towns had not been sent a prophet to warn them. But we see from verses 22 & 24¹² of Matthew 11, they will be given a future opportunity in the Day of Judgment, to see Yahshua's mighty works; they will have an opportunity to repent and be saved. Elohim is a perfect example of love (mercy) and justice (severity). He punishes the wicked for their sins. But what about the millions of people for whom Yahshua died, yet who through no fault of their own, did not come to know Elohim? They did not know of Elohim's plan to offer them salvation at a later time? How will they get to know His plan of salvation? The answer is given in the final step of Elohim's plan of salvation for all mankind.

After Messiah returns and establishes the Kingdom of Elohim on earth, He will teach the way of salvation to millions. As mentioned in the previous teaching, all those who survive the Great Tribulation and the Day of YHVH, as well as their children born during the Millennium will have their opportunity to understand Elohim's truth and be born into His Family during the Millennium. But what about the millions who have already died without ever hearing or understanding Elohim's way of salvation? After the Millennium, they will be resurrected to mortal life and given their chance to understand Elohim's truths, to be begotten by Elohim's Spirit, grow in His character, and become spirit-born members of Elohim's Family. Let's therefore consider Elohim's perfect justice and mercy on those who have not had their chance for salvation yet. We

⁹ Matthew 13: 19 (first part): ***“When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart.”***

¹⁰ John 6: 44: ***“No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.”***

¹¹ Matthew 13: 11 & 12, ***‘And He (Yahshua) answered and said to them (His disciples), “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. 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.”’***

¹² Matthew 11: 22 & 24: ***“Nevertheless I say to you, it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment, than for you. (24) Nevertheless I say to you, that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you.”***

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

In the days of Solomon Israel kept the feast of the eighth day, as witnessed in 2 Chronicles 7: 8 & 9, as follows: ***‘So Solomon observed the feast at that time for seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great assembly, who came from the entrance of Hamath to the brook of Egypt. (9) And on the eighth day they held a solemn assembly, for the dedication of the altar they observed seven days, and the feast seven days.’*** King Solomon held a special seven day feast, from the eighth to the 14th of the seventh month (As Torah obedient people, their feasting must have been interrupted by the Day of Atonement, the 10th day of the month). The people then continued to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days, followed by the Last Great Day, after which they returned home. We see that even after Elohim allowed the sons of Judah to return from Babylon, under Ezra and Nehemiah, they learnt to observe the Feast of Tabernacles, including the Last Great Day again, as recorded in Nehemiah 8: 18, in this way: ***‘And he (Ezra) read from the book of the law of Elohim daily, from the first day to the last day. And they celebrated the feast seven days, and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly according to the ordinance.’*** Yahshua commissioned His disciples (students) to follow His example to teach others in Matthew 28: 19 & 20, as follows: ***‘Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, immersing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Set-apart Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’*** Yahshua kept all the Feast Days according to the Jewish calendar, including the Feast of Tabernacles, as witnessed in John 7: 2, in this way: ***‘Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was at hand.’*** Yahshua instructed his disciples to go up to the Feast in verse 8 of John 7, and according to verses 10 & 14, He observed the Feast of Tabernacles with them, in this way: ***‘But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He Himself also went up, not publically, but as it were, in secret. (14) But when it was now the midst of the feast Yahshua went up into the temple, and began to teach.’*** We read further from verses 37 & 38, that He also kept the Last Great day, as follows: ***‘Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Yahshua stood and cried out, saying, ‘If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. (38) He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.’”*** Yahshua said this on the eve of the Last Great Day, after the traditional water-pouring ceremony, which occurred on the seventh day of the Feast of Tabernacles. However, He was not talking about physical thirst; He was revealing that if any man has a spiritual thirst, he can receive the Set-apart Spirit by coming to Him. But, Messiah made clear in John 6: 44 & 65 that no one can come to believe on Him unless the Father draws or calls that person. Those few whom Elohim calls in this age have access to His Spirit now. But for the vast majority, the fulfillment of Yahshua’s words must wait until the spiritual fulfillment on the Last Great day.

We see according to 2 Peter 3: 9, that Elohim eventually wants to save everyone, in this way: ***‘YHVH is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.’*** This is confirmed in first Timothy 2: 3 & 4, as follows: ***‘This is good and acceptable in the sight of Elohim our Savior, (4) who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.’*** However, we understand from 1 Corinthians 15: 22 – 24 that there is a definite time-order or sequence according to which people will be saved, along these lines: ***‘For as in Adam all die, so also in Messiah all shall be made alive. (23) But each in his own order: Messiah the first fruit(s), after***

that those who are Messiah's at His coming, (24) then comes the end (ones) when He delivers up the kingdom to the Elohim and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.' So we see that the only way to be saved is through Yahshua our Messiah, as is also confirmed in Acts 4: 11 & 12, as follows: **"He (Yahshua Messiah the Nazarene) is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, but WHICH BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone. (12) And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."** Even as all men die, all will be made alive through Messiah (1 Corinthians 15: 22), but each in his own order. Messiah was the very first to be resurrected and born (again) from the dead (as per Colossians 1: 18). When Messiah returns, everyone who died as Torah observant members of the house of Judah and those returnees from the house of Israel (including a number of real Gentiles) who died in Messiah will be resurrected, whilst Torah observant Jews and returnees from the lost sheep of the house of Israel (plus a number of Gentiles) who are alive at His return, will be changed into Spiritual children of Elohim. The question is: When will the rest of mankind, who were not Messiah's, have an opportunity to come to salvation? Rav Shaul in 1 Corinthians 15: 24 includes them in *'the end'* – when Messiah completes His function of putting down every enemy (verse 25). We see from Revelation 20: 7 – 10, that it will only happen after the Millennium, in this way: **'And when the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, (8) and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. (9) And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. (10) And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.'** Those who have not remained loyal to Elohim and the covenant He made with the united Israel at Mount Sinai and have not heard or understood Elohim's truth have not been irrevocably condemned to eternal death. Even if they lived up to the best they knew while alive, the Scriptures teach that there is only one way to salvation for returnees from the house of Israel, but also for the rest of mankind – through believe in Yahshua Messiah, followed by spiritual conversion and growth as defined in the Scriptures. The truth is that most of our loved ones who died *'unsaved'* are not lost forever. They were most likely not called during this age, but their call will come after the Millennium, when they will be resurrected to mortal life and given spiritual understanding and the opportunity to become members of Elohim's Family, when every knee will have the opportunity to bow before Messiah.

Rav Shaul understood that both houses of Israel were blinded spiritually and wrote accordingly in Romans 11: 32, **'For Elohim has shut up all in disobedience that He might show mercy to all.'** Most in the house of Israel believe that they are Gentiles and that Messiah (the one they call C*h*r*i*s*t*) has done away with the need to keep Torah; they believe the gospel to be about the birth, life, death and resurrection of Messiah and consequently believe that good people go to heaven at death, whilst evil people go directly to an eternal hell fire when they die. Even though the house of Judah is Torah observant, believe in the coming Kingdom of Elohim, with Messiah as ruler, they are at this time blinded to Messiah's identity, as we read from Romans 11: 25 – 29, in this way: **'For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to (Jewish) Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles (the returnees from the lost sheep of the house of Israel who believed they were 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, but from the standpoint of Elohim's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; (29) for the gifts and the calling of Elohim are irrevocable.'** Similarly is mankind in general (consisting of blinded members of the house of Israel and all the Gentile nations of the world) blinded to the truth by YHVH, until after the Millennium, when YHVH will open their minds to the truth, as we read from 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."

When will this happen? When will the second resurrection be? Yahshua Messiah revealed the sequence of prophecy in the book of Revelation. It is essential to make a study of the book of Revelation to learn when the unsaved dead will be resurrected and offered salvation. Suffice it to say at this point, that Isaiah 25: 8 above shows that the removal of the veil mentioned in verse 7, will occur during the Great White Throne judgment, before death will be thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 20: 14). However, before going there we need to consider what King David had to say about this time, of which Rav Shaul wrote in Philippians 2: 9 – 11, ***'Therefore also Elohim highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, (10) that at the name of Yahshua EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, (11) and that every tongue should confess that Yahshua Messiah is Master, to the glory of Elohim the Father.'*** The question is: When will every knee bow before Yahshua? The vast majority of people lived and died without knowing Yahshua the Messiah, let alone the true gospel of the coming Kingdom of Elohim. This will only happen after the second resurrection as David testified in Psalm 22: 27 – 29, saying: ***'All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to YHVH, and all the families of the nations will worship before Thee. (28) For the kingdom is (YHVH)'s, and He rules over the nations. (29) All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship, all those who go down to the dust will bow before Him, even he who cannot keep his soul alive.'*** The Scriptures speak about a *'first'* resurrection, implying that there will be more than one resurrection. We read accordingly from Revelation 20: 4 – 6, in this way: ***'And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Yahshua and because of the word of Elohim, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Messiah for a thousand years. (5) The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This (resurrection spoken about at the end of verse 4) is the first resurrection. (6) Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of Elohim and of Messiah and will reign with Him for a thousand years.'*** We see here that the second resurrection will only occur after the thousand year rule of Messiah. The second resurrection will also be a resurrection to mortal life.

Throughout the Millennium, Satan will be restrained, preventing him from deceiving the nations, as witnessed in Revelation 20: 1 – 3, as follows: ***'And I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. (2) And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, (3) and threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.'*** We see from verse 7 of Revelation 20, that after the thousand years, Satan will be released from his prison and typical to his nature, he will deceive the nations which are at the four corners of the earth again, namely Gog and Magog, to gather them together for war (verse 8). These are the nations who even though the truth was abundantly available throughout the Millennium, did not follow the only way to be changed into spirit-born children of Elohim, by accepting Messiah as their Savior and being immersed in His saving name. We read what happens to Satan as well as to these nations from verses 9 & 10, in this way: ***'And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. (10) And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.'*** This will prove to anyone who might doubt, that Satan will not repent, even after seeing the results of a thousand years of righteous rule. The humans, whom Satan will have deceived after his release, will prove that they were not interested in what they were being taught at the close of the thousand years. Satan and his demons will then be cast into the lake of fire. Some Scriptures use italics to show that the word *'are'* used in verse 10 was added by the translators. It is not found in the original manuscripts. This sentence should

read, *'where the beast and the false prophet were cast.'* The unwritten verb should be understood to be in the same tense as the verb in the first half of the sentence. (The Amplified Bible has it correct.)

The beast and the false prophet will be cast into the lake of fire at the beginning of the Millennium as we've read from Revelation 19: 20. These two mortal beings will be killed and consumed by that fire, and by the time Satan and his demons are cast into that lake of fire, the beast and the false prophet will have been dead more than 1,000 years. The Great White Throne judgment will occur only after Satan's final rebellion and punishment, as witnessed in Revelation 20: 11 & 12, as follows: ***'And I saw a great white throne and him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. (12) And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books (the books of the Scriptures) were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.'*** This refers to the second resurrection – a resurrection to mortal life for all those who died in spiritual ignorance and deception in past ages. Their time of salvation will only occur then! This is when the Books of the Scriptures will be opened to the minds of all, as also witnessed in Isaiah 25: 7 (quoted before). As mentioned before in Matthew 11: 21 – 24, people who lived during Messiah's time on earth, as well as those who lived in Tyre and Sidon; and Sodom and Gomorrah many years before will be resurrected at that time. We read similarly from Matthew 12: 41 & 42, Yahshua telling the scribes and the Pharisees of His time, saying: ***"The men of Nineveh shall stand up with this generation at the judgment, and shall condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. (42) The Queen of the South (the queen of Sheba) shall rise up with this generation at the judgment and shall condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here."*** Yahshua spoke of a time of judgment when those ancient peoples would be given an opportunity to understand what is written in the Scriptures and what He has been preaching to the people in Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum. They too, will hear the true gospel at that time. They will most likely repent of their past sins and accept Messiah as their personal Passover.

Yahshua gave enough examples of people living at different times to prove that most of humanity will be brought back to life at the same time. There will be pre-flood men, from all people who ever lived including the 12 tribes of Israel, those who lived through the Middle Ages, as well as the vast majority alive today. Even babies and children who died untimely deaths will be resurrected at that time. They will rise in the second resurrection because they had not been called by Elohim during their first lifetime. This group includes all people of all times, except those who will have already been born of Elohim and relatively few people who had their first opportunity to receive eternal life, but deliberately rejected it and sinned willfully. Those few will be resurrected to be destroyed in the lake of fire. We see that the prophet Ezekiel also described this resurrection of dead Israelites back to mortal life in Ezekiel 37: 1 – 14, and specifically in verses 11 – 14, as follows: ***'Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.' (12) Therefore prophesy, and say to them, 'Thus says YHVH Elohim, "Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. (13) Then you will know that I am YHVH, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people. (14) And I will put My Spirit within you, and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, YHVH, have spoken and done it," declares YHVH,'"***

We see further that the Gentile nations will also be resurrected and return to their *"former state"*, as Ezekiel wrote in Ezekiel 16: 55, in this way: ***"And your sisters Sodom with her daughters and Samaria with her daughters, will return to their former state, and you with your daughters will also return to your former state."*** Israel is a type of all nations and Ezekiel describes a time when both Israelites and Gentiles who died in spiritual blindness and ignorance will be given a chance to receive salvation. Elohim is willing to overlook sins done in ignorance, but once spiritual understanding of Elohim's Master Plan is made available, then He expects us to repent, be immersed into Yahshua's saving name, and then grow in grace and knowledge. We see from Yahshua's own words in John 5: 21 – 22 that He will be the chief judge in the last Great Judgment,

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

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

They, like believers today, will be required to act on the knowledge Elohim will give them, to choose righteousness as defined by Elohim’s spiritual law, to quit breaking that law. Those who continue to live Elohim’s way of life will be changed from mortality to immortality at the end of the period of judgment. Those who were born to physical life before the flood have not had the opportunity to participate in Elohim’s plan yet. Their chance is coming, but they will be called last – in the Last Great Judgment. Those now being called into Elohim’s congregation, although born later, are being given their opportunity as Elohim’s first fruits, as also witnessed in James 1: 18, as follows: ***‘In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures.’*** Even people born during the millennium will be called to participate in Elohim’s plan before the vast majority of mankind (post millennium), who has lived in these 6,000 years of human history. Yahshua Himself said about this in Matthew 20: 16, ***“Thus the last shall be first, and the first last.”*** The prophet Isaiah envisioned the final days of the judgment period when the resurrected billions will receive their call to participate in Elohim’s plan in Isaiah 65: 20 – 24, in this way: ***‘No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and***

the one who does not reach the age of one hundred shall be thought accursed. (21) And they shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall also plant vineyards and eat their fruit. (22) They shall not build, and another inhabit, they shall not plant, and another eat; for as the lifetime of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, and My chosen ones shall wear out the work of their hands. (23) They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they are the offspring of those blessed by YHVH, and their descendants with them. (24) It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear. We see that these resurrected multitudes will be made participants in Elohim's Master Plan, and given the opportunity to enter Elohim's family. We see further from verse 24 that they will have a close relationship with Elohim.

Envision if you can, the surprise of those resurrected at the beginning of the period of judgment. Each person will be in his first moment of consciousness since death; some might think they are in heaven, whilst others might think they are in hell or purgatory, depending what they were taught before they died. Most will be confused or even bewildered. Nothing that they have been taught about the afterlife will turn out to be true. They will suddenly be faced with undeniable evidence that their old teachings and ways were false, and they will be totally willing to start over and be taught the truth. But, who will teach these multiple millions? The millions of teachers/priests who will have been born into Elohim's Spiritual Family in the first resurrection and during the Millennium will teach them. Those resurrected to mortal life will then undergo a process of conversion similar to that of Spirit begotten believers today. They will be taught Elohim's laws and will learn they are all guilty of sin and deserving of the death penalty. They will learn Elohim's mercy and that Yahshua Messiah paid the death penalty for them, if they will accept His payment. Upon repentance and faith in Yahshua as their Savior, they will be forgiven and Elohim's Spirit will be given to them; they as spirit-begotten children of Elohim can begin growing in spirit and truth – developing Elohim's holy, perfect character within them. We saw from Isaiah 65: 20 that this period of judgment will last 100 years. This verse indicates that the child will, at the end of this period, be changed – the fleshly cells of the body will die as the person puts on immortality. This will also happen to those believers still alive at Messiah's return, as described in 1 Corinthians 15: 52, as follows: ***'In a moment in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.'*** But, the wicked sinner at the end of the 100 years will be under a curse – will die in the lake of fire.

During this time the resurrected saints will rule and the earth will be peaceful and productive. Children who died during the first 6,000 years will live again for 100 years, building righteous character through Elohim's Spirit indwelling them. Similarly will older people who died without knowing Elohim's plan be resurrected to live for 100 years. Those ancient people mentioned by Yahshua in Matthew 11 & 12 would have repented if He had come to them in their day. The Scriptures show that the vast majority of those who have ever lived will finally be born into Elohim's family at the end of their period of judgment. Then the spirit-composed members of Elohim's ruling family can look forward to new heavens and a new earth – to new opportunities in ruling the universe under Elohim our Father and Yahshua our Messiah. Satan has blinded the whole world to this spiritual truth, by introducing his own counterfeit religious festivals. Elohim's commanded Sabbaths (weekly and annual) are ignored by most of those who profess to believe in Messiah. Instead, the most important religious days of modern Christianity are Xmas and Easter, neither of which are commanded by Elohim. Messiah was born a Jew and never instructed His followers to observe His birth and resurrection. In fact He instructed them to observe just the opposite, namely the date of His death, as witnessed in Luke 22: 13 – 20. We read the second witness coming from 1 Corinthians 11: 23 – 26, in this way: ***'For I (Rav Shaul) received from the Master that which I also delivered to you, that the Master Yahshua in the night in which He was betrayed took (unleavened) 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.'***

Encyclopedias and other reference books all show that the exact date of Yahshua's birth is unknown. If Messiah intended for us to keep His birthday, then He would have revealed the exact date in the Scriptures. But, He did not! But what about the various customs and traditions associated with Xmas, which many assume stem from teachings of Messiah Himself. A common custom during Xmas is to cut down an evergreen tree and decorate it. Instead of condoning this custom, we see from Jeremiah 10: 1 – 5 that it is actually forbidden, as follows: ***'Hear the word which YHVH speaks to you, O house of Israel. (2) 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; (3) For the customs of the peoples are delusion; because it is wood cut from the forest, the work of the hands of a craftsman with a cutting tool. (4) They decorate it with silver and with gold; then fasten it with nails and with hammers so that it will not totter. (5) Like a scarecrow in a cucumber field are they, and they cannot speak; they must be carried, because they cannot walk! Do not fear them, for they can do no harm, nor can they do any good.'***" Jeremiah identifies this as a custom of the nations. The Scriptures shows clearly that this was an ancient custom to cut down trees, decorate and put them in their homes. Elohim clearly commanded His people not to learn or follow the customs of the pagan nations around them. A major reason why believers in Messiah should not observe Easter may be found in the fact that Messiah was not resurrected on Sunday morning. We also see that when the scribes and Pharisees asked Yahshua for a sign from Him, He answered them in Matthew 12: 39 & 40, saying to them, ***"An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign shall be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; (40) for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."*** We also see from Matthew 28: 5 & 6 that He fulfilled this sign 'as He said', in this way: ***'And the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Yahshua who has been crucified, (6) He is not here, for he has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying."***

The only sign Messiah gave to prove that He was indeed the Messiah, was the length of time following His death, that He would be buried – a period of three days and three nights, or 72 hours. However, according to the Easter tradition, Messiah was crucified Friday afternoon and resurrected Sunday morning – a period of only a day and a half, or 36 hours! Since Messiah did fulfill His sign, the Good Friday- Easter Sunday tradition is just another tradition, and not a fact! Yahshua was true to the prophecy in Daniel 9: 26 & 27, cut off in the middle of the week, or Wednesday according to the Gregorian calendar in use in the Western world today. He was put in the grave late on Wednesday afternoon, just before the first annual Sabbath (the First Day of Unleavened Bread) as also witnessed in John 19: 31, as follows: ***'The Jews therefore, because it was the day of preparation (for the annual Sabbath), so that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.'*** Most translations of the Scriptures include the section shown in brackets in the quoted section. This clearly shows that this was definitely not the weekly Sabbath spoken about here, but the first annual Sabbath of the year (on the Thursday) according to the Hebrew calendar. He was resurrected at the end of the Sabbath, three nights and three days after His burial, as he said. The only true way to worship Elohim has been given in His Word, the Scriptures. The entire subject of Easter; the way it emphasizes Sunday-keeping; its pagan symbols and rites is a lie most in Christianity are not prepared to change. Similarly is everything about Xmas a lie: the name, the time, the purpose and the so-called worship. The confusion of keeping these pagan festivals, is perpetuating the lies that people tell their children every year. YHVH wants us to break the on-going cycle of lies and confusion introduced by Satan and keeps the Feast Days commanded by Him, instead.

After all Elohim's children are born into His spiritual Family, the earth befouled by sin, will be cleansed of all defilement in the immersion of fire and man's greatest fear, namely death and the grave will be abolished as witnessed in Revelation 20: 14, in this way: ***'And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire, this is the second death, the lake of fire.'*** After the lake of fire, a new heaven and a new earth will appear. The new earth will become the headquarters for all future creative projects of the Elohim Family. The New Jerusalem will be about 1,400 miles in each direction. We see from Revelation 22: 1 & 2, that after Elohim has settled in

the New Jerusalem, rivers of living waters, indicative of the Set-apart spirit will flow from His throne, as follows: ***'And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of Elohim and of the Lamb, (2) in the middle of its street. And on either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.'*** What a wonderful plan of salvation for all mankind has YHVH revealed to us in His annual Set-apart Days. What a marvelous, wonderful Elohim do we serve?

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