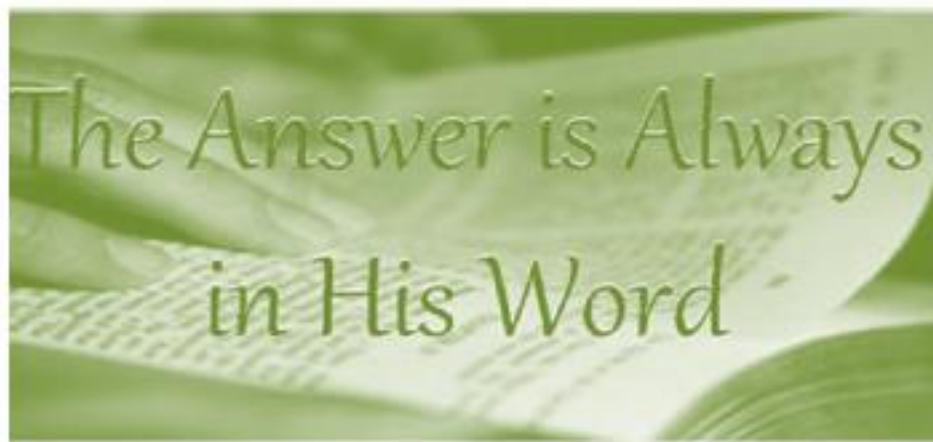


Yahshua our Messiah

Jim Coetzee



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By Jim Coetzee

This book is not to be sold. We are told in the second part of Matthew 10: 8 “*freely you received, freely give.*” The booklet contains teachings about Yahshua our Messiah and is intended as a reference manual for like-minded Nazarene Jewish/Israelite believers.

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

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Chapter 1: Parables of Yahshua.

Yahshua used parables as a method to teach his disciples. We know that a parable is an allegory used to teach important lessons. It is not to be understood literally nor does it describe actual events taking place. Yahshua used the same methods of teachings that the Jewish Rabbi's before him did. However, we know that even though Yahshua's method of teaching was similar to His first century contemporaries, it differed from them as follows:

- Yahshua taught in His own name, and not like the other Rabbis of His day, in the names of their teachers;
- His message was primarily focused on the coming kingdom of Elohim; and
- His teachings were usually accompanied by miracles which validated his claim to be one with the Father.

Yahshua taught His disciples a number of parables. One of the parables that Yahshua taught His disciples was the 'Parable of the Sower' recorded in Matthew 13: 3 – 9, paraphrased as follows: *'A sower went out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell among the path and the birds came and ate it. Other seeds fell on rocky ground with not much soil, they sprang up immediately but withered in the sun. Others fell upon thorns and were choked when they grew up. Some however, fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.'*

It is important for those who teach to understand the meaning of this parable, so that they do not become despondent. This parable may be explained as follows:

- *The people in the world hear and see but they do not understand, because their eyes are closed to the truth and they cannot see or hear. YHVH allows Satan to blind the minds of unbelievers, so that they do not understand the good news of Messiah. We read this in 2 Corinthians 4: 3 & 4, as follows: **'And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, (4) in whose case the god of this world (Satan) has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the esteem of Messiah, who is the image of Elohim.'** Yes, when someone hears the truth and does not believe it, Satan removes it from his heart – this is essentially the seed which was sown along the path. This is also in agreement with Yahshua's explanation of the first part of the parable in Matthew 13: 18 & 19, where He said: **"Hear then the parable of the sower, (19) When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road."***
- The seed that was sown on rocky ground is about the individual who hears the truth and immediately receives it with joy. However, he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the world, immediately he falls away. When this person's family and friends reject him for his beliefs, or when keeping the Sabbath and Set-apart days, bring harassment, he shuts his heart to the truth.
- The seed that was sown among thorns, tells us about the individual who hears the truth and responds for a while. But the worries of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. This individual's life is very complicated. He belongs to all sorts of clubs and societies and is living the high life. He is physically stretched to the limit and because he is concerned about his investments and the irons that he has in many fires, he soon forgets his newly found faith.
- The seed that was sown in good soil are those who hear and understand the truth. They bear fruit and in one case bear a hundred fold, in another, sixty fold and in another, thirty fold. We are blessed because we hear and see the truth, because YHVH has opened our minds to it, through His Set-apart Spirit, which indwells us.

Yahshua told this parable and several others to His disciples and as is recorded in Mark 4, when He was alone with His disciples and followers they questioned Him as to why He uses this method of teaching. Yahshua explained to them in Mark 4: 11 & 12 as follows: **'And He was saying to them, "To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of Elohim; but those who are outside get everything in parables, in order that while seeing, they may see and not perceive; and while hearing, they may hear and not**

understand lest they return and be forgiven.” From His explanation we understand that YHVH is not calling everyone alive during this age. He is only calling out first fruits who if they finally make it into the kingdom of Elohim, will rule as kings and priests under Yahshua, during His millennium rule and on into eternity. One example in the Scriptures where YHVH promises rulership to those who overcome and endure to the end of their lives or until Messiah returns, is found in Revelation 3: 21, as follows: ***“He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”*** A second witness may be found in Revelation 5: 10.

Yahshua explained about a time during which people from all generations will be judged at the same time, during the great white throne judgment in Matthew 12: 41 as follows: ***‘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.’*** A second witness of this may be read in Matthew 11: 20 – 24. These people from ancient times will be resurrected after the millennium rule of Yahshua and will respond once they have had a genuine opportunity to understand the Scriptures.

We read Yahshua’s own words about the Queen of the South in Mathew 12: 42 as follows: ***“The Queen of the South 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.”*** The Queen of the South will be in the second resurrection, after the millennium. She will be part of the second harvest of souls into the Kingdom of Elohim. She will repent and accept Yahshua our Messiah as her personal Savior. She will also accept and live by what is written in the books (The Scriptures) and her name will be entered into the book of life as per Revelation 20: 12. Those who are not called during this age, will have their chance in the second resurrection. The majority of people who have ever lived fall in this category and will have their first chance only then.

Yahshua gave more parables to the crowd gathered on the sea shore. Each of these parables reveal an important lesson about the kingdom of Elohim. We will now discuss each of these parables in turn:

1. In the parable of the wheat and the tares found in Matthew 13: 24 – 30: ***‘He (Yahshua) presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. (25) But while men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares also among the wheat, and went away. (26) But when the wheat sprang up and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. (27) And the slaves of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ (28) And he said to them, ‘An enemy has done this!’ And the slave said to Him, ‘Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?’ (29) But he said, ‘No; lest while you are gathering up tares, you may root up the wheat with them. (30) Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.”’*** Yahshua later explained the meaning of this parable to His disciples in Matthew 13: 37 to 43, as follows: ***‘And He answered and said, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, (38) and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one; (39) and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels. (40) Therefore just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. (41) The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, (42) and will cast them into the furnace of fire; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (43) Then THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears let him hear.’*** Yahshua was saying that believers would live in this world along with the unrighteous, until He returns at the end of this age. The wicked will eventually be burned up in the lake of fire (after the second resurrection). Faithful believers will be glorified when He returns, receiving immortal bodies when they are born into the kingdom of Elohim.

2. Both the parable of the mustard seed and the parable of the leaven in Matthew 13: 31 – 33, show that the Kingdom of Elohim has the smallest of beginnings. Only a small number of first fruits are being called now, but will eventually expand to include the whole earth and most of its people.
3. In the parable of the lamp under the bushel in Mark 4: 21 - 23, Yahshua was showing that the true Gospel, which was a mystery to the world and hidden from man's understanding, would be preached to all the world according to Matthew 24: 14. We must continue teaching the truth, without fear. In Matthew 10: 26 – 27 Yahshua assured His disciples: ***"Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. (27) What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops."***
4. In the parable of seed growing by itself in Mark 4: 26 – 29 Yahshua explains that once the seed is sown, YHVH gives the increase. We proclaim the gospel of the kingdom of Elohim, but it is YHVH who calls people to ultimately be in the Kingdom.

After Yahshua gave these parables, he sent the crowd away and privately explained the meaning of the parables to His disciples. He also continued to give His disciples four more parables, as follows:

1. In the parable of the hidden treasure in Matthew 13: 44 Yahshua said: ***"The Kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field."*** Also in the parable of the pearl of great price, in Matthew 13: 45 – 46, He said: ***"Again the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, (46) and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had, and bought it."*** In both of these parables Yahshua encouraged His disciples to put their whole life and being into seeking first the kingdom of Elohim. We who are called during this age should be willing to give up everything to attain it. Even though YHVH does not expect us to give up everything we possess, He expects us to be willing to. After all any physical thing that we might have to give up is small compared to being born again into the kingdom of Elohim.
2. In the parable of the dragnet in Matthew 13: 47 – 50 Yahshua was warning His disciples, who were to become 'fishers of men', that not every person that they 'caught' would be truly called of Elohim. The good news of the coming kingdom of Elohim attracts all kinds of people, but not all are truly converted. In the end, all those not truly converted will be separated from those who are.
3. In the parable of the household, Yahshua said in Matthew 13: 52, ***"Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings forth out of his treasure things new and old."*** This parable shows that a true disciple will not only preach from the Tanach: lessons from the Torah, the writings and the prophets, but also from the Renewed Covenant, teaching new truths about the kingdom of Elohim.

Let us conclude with two additional parables that Yahshua told his disciples. The first one has to do with the two houses of Israel and the second with understanding the two resurrections explained in Revelation 20:

1. In the parable of the prodigal son found in Luke 15: 11 – 32, Yahshua told about a man who had two sons. The younger son demands his part of the inheritance and leaves his father's house. He spends his inheritance on riotous living and is soon reduced to poverty. During a famine in the land where he was living, his only way to make a living, was to feed pigs. He eventually became so hungry that he is forced to eat the pig's food. This is when the young man realizes how foolish he has been. He decides to return to his father's farm, saying to his father in verse 21: ***'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'*** His father was so glad to see him, that he welcomed him with a celebratory homecoming. However, we see that the elder brother, who has faithfully served

the father, cannot see why his brother should receive such a welcome. This parable is essentially about the two houses of Israel. Whilst our elder brother Judah remained with the Father, we the younger brother, Israel left our Father and forgot that we are Israel. We are now being called back to our Father and His Torah. We see that our return, by keeping the Sabbath, the Feast Days of YHVH, eating Kosher and obeying Torah, makes our elder brother Judah jealous. This is actually in fulfillment of the second part of Deuteronomy 32: 21, as follows: ***“So I will make them jealous with those who are not a people (we have lost our identity as Israel); I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.”***

2. In the parable of Lazarus and the rich man found in Luke 16, Lazarus is described as being in Abraham’s bosom; in close fellowship with Abraham. Many believe this to mean that Lazarus went to heaven. However, other Scriptures show that this is referring to the first resurrection, when the ‘first fruits’ will be resurrected into the kingdom of Elohim. This will be at the return of Messiah Yahshua when He comes to rule us from Jerusalem. We also see the rich man is pictured as being in a state of torment. Many people understand this to mean that the rich man is being tormented in an eternally burning hell fire. However, this cannot be true, since the Scriptures plainly show that there is no eternally burning hell fire. The word hell according to Luke 16: 23 come from the word Hades, which simply means the grave. The wicked rich man is eventually resurrected to physical life, not to be in the kingdom with Lazarus, but to be burned in the lake of fire. In this particular resurrection, this occurs after the millennium, those who refuse to obey YHVH, with full knowledge, will be cast into the lake of fire. The rich man is like the ecclesia in Laodicea, which said in Revelation 3: 17: ***“I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of noting.”*** Because he did not repent, he will be cast into the lake of fire. His torment is the realization that he is about to be cast into the lake of fire for refusing to repent of his sins. The parable shows a great gulf fixed between those who will be resurrected to immortality, like Lazarus, and those who will be resurrected to be cast into the lake of fire. The gulf represents a period of a thousand years and cannot be crossed. The rich man who is mortal will be burned up and die the second death. Finally, when he realizes that he was doomed and that this gulf cannot be crossed, the rich man begs Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his brothers to repent. However, Abraham told him that they would not repent, even if Lazarus was raised from the dead to warn them, since they had the writings of Moses and the Prophets, and did not repent. Yahshua taught by this parable that those Scribes and Pharisees who lived during His day, knowing Him and seeing the miracles that He performed, will die in the second death, because they refused to obey the Scriptures. Similarly if we should continue to practice sin after coming to the knowledge of the kingdom of Elohim, we will die a second death in the lake of fire. Selah: Think about it!

Chapter 2: The training of Messiah's disciples.

Now that we have studied Messiah's life to get to know Him better and have discussed some of the parables that He gave His disciples, let us have a look at how He trained His disciples. We have learnt before that the word disciple simply means a student. Like the original twelve disciples, we who are studying Messiah's life and teachings, His modern day disciples, are learning how to imitate our Master. Like with His original disciples, He wants us to play strictly by the rules, both literally and according to the intent. To do that, we must know the Torah of YHVH as well as the spiritual application of it in our lives.

In order to become perfect like Elohim we must come to know Him well. We must know what He is like, how He thinks, what are His likes and dislikes and what He does. We must learn who and what He is. How can we get to know YHVH our Elohim? How did you get to know your wife? You talked to her telling her about yourself and she in turn told you about herself. That is also the way that we get to know YHVH our Elohim. We talk to YHVH through prayer, and He talks to us through His written word, the Scriptures. It is for this reason that prior to giving His disciples a pattern for their prayers He gave them two broad teachings about how to pray. We read these instructions in Matthew 6: 5 to 8, as follows: ***'And when you pray, you are not to be as hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners, in order to be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. (6) But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will repay you. (7) And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition, as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. (8) Therefore do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him.'*** Yahshua was saying that we should not pray just to be heard by others, so that they are impressed by our 'righteousness.' That is what hypocrites do. Rather, we should pray because we really want to talk to YHVH, and that is actually done in private. Yahshua also taught that we should not use vain repetition in our prayers, by saying words or His Name over and over again. YHVH is more interested in the quality of our prayers than in the quantity of our words. He wants us to pray from the heart.

Yahshua proceeded to teach His disciples and us a pattern for our prayers, in the so-called "Lord's Prayer" in Matthew 6: 9 – 13, as follows: ***"Pray then in this way: 'Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. (10) Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (11) Give us this day our daily bread. (12) And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (13) And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the esteem, forever. Amen.'"***

In Yahshua's sample prayer He was showing His disciples and us important concepts to incorporate into our daily prayers. Let us now examine His sample prayer in detail to understand it fully. We should commence our prayers by acknowledging that YHVH is our heavenly Father. By doing that, we show that we understand that we are His children and have the potential to ultimately become part of His spiritual family, ruling as kings and priests under Yahshua. We should thank Him for giving us the knowledge of our awesome potential to becoming immortal spiritual beings. We should also ask Him to help us achieve that awesome potential, to one day become perfect in character, like He has always been. We should hallow (Set-apart) the Name of YHVH by keeping the Third Commandment. We should not use His Name by cursing, swearing or using His Name in a repetitious manner.

Those of us, who are using the Name of YHVH, should ask ourselves the question: Am I using His Name or am I honoring it, by being obedient to His word? Attaching His Name to Feast Days which are not His, according to His word, are definitely not honoring His Name. Yes, we cannot attach the name of YHVH to pagan feast days such as Xmas and Easter. However, if we are keeping our feasts at a different times to those that YHVH commanded Moses (or whoever is sitting in his seat) to proclaim in Leviticus 23, then we are also not honoring His Name. We read this in Malachi 2: 1 – 8 ***"And now, this commandment is for you, O***

Priests. (2) If you do not listen, and if you do not take it to heart to give honor to My Name,” says YHVH of hosts, “then I will send the curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings; and indeed, I have cursed them already, because you are not taking it to heart. (3) Behold, I am going to rebuke your offspring, and I will spread refuse on your faces, the refuse of your feasts; and you will be taken away with it. (4) Then you will know that I have sent this commandment to you, that My covenant may continue with Levi,” says YHVH of hosts.’ (5) “My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him as an object of reverence; so he revered Me, and stood in awe of My name. (6) True instruction was in his mouth, and unrighteousness was not found on his lips; he walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and turned many back from iniquity. (7) For the lips of a priest should preserve knowledge, and men should seek instruction from his mouth; for he is the messenger of YHVH of Hosts. (8) But as for you, you have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble by the instruction; you have corrupted the covenant of Levi.” said YHVH of Hosts.’ Our prayer should always be that YHVH will help us not to bring reproach upon His Set-apart Name by setting the wrong examples.

We should on a regular basis pray; “Thy Kingdom come”, asking YHVH to let Yahshua return to establish the kingdom of Elohim on earth. Only by Elohim’s direct intervention in our affairs, can peace and prosperity be established. However, prior to that happening, Yahshua said in Matthew 24: 14 **“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come.”** Note that this is not saying to convert people, but to witness to them. Our prayers should include this special request on a regular basis. We should also remember to pray for YHVH our Elohim’s will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. This involves praying for the kingdom of Elohim to be established on earth. Then and only then will mankind as a whole be doing His will.

Whilst YHVH does not want the main emphasis of our prayers to be on physical things, He expects us to ask Him to provide in our physical needs. We should not be overly concerned about our needs for tomorrow, next month or next year; He wants us to ask Him for our daily needs, such as food, clothing and shelter. We all sin, even if we try not to. It is therefore very important that we confess our sins in prayer and ask Him to forgive us of those sins, as recorded in 1 John 1: 8 & 9, as follows: **‘If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.’** As you ask our Father for forgiveness, recall which of Elohim’s commandments you might have broken during the day. Ask YHVH to forgive you those sins, and as we will see shortly, be sure that you have forgiven others who may have sinned against you.

We should ask our Father not to lead us into temptation but to deliver us from the evil one. This includes asking to resist peer pressures and to avoid things that could be harmful to us, like drugs and unclean foods, etc. We should conclude our prayers, acknowledging that all power and esteem belongs to YHVH our Elohim. To close, we need to remember what Yahshua taught His disciples in John 14: 13 & 14, as follows: **“And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (14) If you ask Me anything in My name I will do it.”**

Yahshua also taught some more important lessons in the verses after the sample prayer saying in Matthew 6: 14 to 18, that: **“For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. (15) But if you do not forgive men, your Father will not forgive your transgressions. (16) 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.”** These are important lessons to remember and are pretty much self-explanatory. We need to be mindful of this if we want to be forgiven our sins. In addition it tells us that we may wash our faces and anoint our heads with oil on the Day of Atonement, or any other day when we fast, so that we do not appear distressed simply for people to see that we are fasting.

In the next section Yahshua reminded His disciples that many things would compete for their time on a daily basis: Such things as making a living, buying food and clothing, desire for entertainment, pleasure and recreation, as well as prayer, Scripture studies, helping and serving others. Yahshua emphasized that spiritual matters should get first priority, because these are the things that help us develop lasting character, as we read in Matthew 6: 19 – 21, as follows: ***“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. (20) But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; (21) for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”*** Food is consumed; clothing lasts a little longer, but could easily be ruined by moths, fire, sunlight or sharp objects. Cars, lawnmowers and bicycles wear out and is affected by rust. TV sets, CD Players and computers break and may easily be stolen. However, this is not to say that we should not do what we can to provide food, clothing and shelter for our loved ones. But Yahshua was saying that we should not put all our effort into getting these physical things. Yahshua promised that if we put spiritual matters first in our lives, all these physical things shall be added unto us.

Yahshua also warned His disciples in Matthew 6: 24 that they cannot serve both YHVH and mammon. That is to say that they cannot devote all their time and energy acquiring material things and serving Him. These are essentially two opposites. Serving one automatically abolishes the other. Yahshua urged His disciples and by implication us, to put spiritual things first. By so doing we will develop character that will endure even beyond the grave.

We as Yahshua’s team have to work together, to cooperate and support each other in order to succeed. His next instruction to His disciples dealt with condemnation of others. We read this in Matthew 7: 1 - 5, as follows: ***“Do not judge lest you be judged. (2) For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. (3) And why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? (4) Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and behold, the log is in your own eye? (5) You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”*** The word judge here implies harsh negative criticism of another’s character and motives of which is condemning. It doesn’t mean that you cannot determine (judge or say) whether an action was or was not wrong or a mistake. So long as we don’t say that it was a stupid mistake, or adding other derogatory remarks to it. As team players we need to support and encourage one another, nevertheless, positive uplifting criticism is necessary at times.

In concluding His instructions to His disciples in Matthew 7, Yahshua reminded them that the way of life that they are to follow, is not easy. It is a narrow and lonely road, which will require a lot of effort on their and our part. We read His words in this regard in Matthew 7: 13 to 23, as follows: ***“Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. (14) For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it. (15) Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. (16) You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor figs from thistles are they? (17) Even so, every good tree bears good fruit; but the bad tree bears bad fruit. (18) A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. (19) Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. (20) So then, you will know them by their fruits. (21) Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Master, Master,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. (22) Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Master, Master, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast our demons, and in Your name performed many miracles?’ (23) And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME YOU WHO PRACTICED LAWLESSNESS.”***

Many will try to make the team, but will not succeed. Others will make the team, but will drop out later. Only those willing to be disciplined, will grow in spiritual knowledge and skills, and stick to the team until the end. Yahshua also warned about many false prophets, who would claim to be sent by Him. They will try and deceive the disciples to take an easier route. Messiah admonished His disciples to check the results of the ways of these false prophets. If their ways did not produce peace, cooperation and unity, they were not sent by Yahshua. If they do not uphold the same rules or laws of Elohim, they were not sent by Yahshua. If they did not support the will of Elohim, and did not do what He wanted done, they were not sent by Yahshua.

Yahshua completed His instructions to His disciples with the analogy found in Matthew 7: 24 – 27, as follows: ***“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock (Messiah Himself). (25) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock. (26) And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. (27) And the rain descended, and the floods came and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall.”*** In these verses Yahshua was saying that if the disciples obeyed and practiced what He taught them, they will be able to endure the storms of life, similar to the house that was built on the rock. As Yahshua’s modern day disciples this also applies to us. Baruch HaShem YHVH.

Chapter 3: The last weeks of Messiah's teachings.

In this sermon we will examine the final weeks of Messiah's life and teachings. We will consider His last teaching to the public as well as many of the principles that He continued to show His disciples. We will also look at the events that led to His arrest and impalement.

We commence looking at the miracle where Yahshua resurrected Lazarus in John 11. Lazarus lived in Bethany with His sisters Martha and Mary. Lazarus became very ill and was near death, when His sisters sent for Messiah, to come and heal him. Messiah was about two days travel away from Bethany and did not respond immediately. We read in verse 4 of John 11: ***'But when Yahshua heard it, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of Elohim, that the Son of Elohim may be glorified by it."¹*** We see that Yahshua tarried two more days before He told His disciples to go with Him to Judea. But, His disciples reminded Him that the Jews were only days ago seeking to stone Him in Judea, and now He wants to go back there. Yahshua informed His disciples that there was no need to fear; that Lazarus has fallen asleep and that He intends to wake him up. The disciples did not understand what He was saying, so He said to them plainly in verse 14 of John 11, that ***"Lazarus is dead."*** The dead is often referred to as being asleep, awaiting resurrection, in the Renewed Covenant. We notice in 1 Thessalonians 4: 13 & 14, talking about the resurrection, as follows: ***"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. (14) For if we believe that Yahshua died and rose again, even so Elohim will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Yahshua."***

Upon arrival in Bethany, Yahshua and His disciples found that Lazarus had been dead for four days and many from Bethany came and offered their condolences to Mary and Martha. When Martha heard that Yahshua was coming, she went outside their house to meet Him. She tearfully told Yahshua that her brother died and if He arrived sooner, Lazarus would still be alive. Then Yahshua said to her in John 11: 25 & 26: ***"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, (26) and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"*** Yahshua was telling Martha that He can restore life to the dead and that those who believe in and obey Him, even though they may die, will one day be resurrected to eternal life? In addition we know that the portion of the Set-apart Spirit of YHVH, given us the first fruits at immersion and united with our spirits, goes back to the Father when we die, where it is perfected (according to Hebrews 12: 23) in heaven, until Messiah's return.

Here after Yahshua asked where they buried Lazarus, and as he followed them to the grave, He saw Mary and the mourners who followed her, and he wept as we see in verse 35 of John 11. But He wept not out of sorrow for Lazarus, but because of the sorrow of these people. When they arrived at the tomb, Yahshua ordered that the stone be rolled from the entrance, despite Martha's protest that the body has already begun to decay. Yahshua said a short prayer and called for Lazarus to come out. Next they saw Lazarus coming out, still bound hand and foot, and Yahshua told them to unbind him. This miracle was seen by many, which infuriated the religious leaders, when they were told about it. They immediately called a meeting to decide what to do about Yahshua. These leaders were worried that the people will acclaim Yahshua as the Messiah and feared that He would then lead them in rebellion against the Roman rulers. They also feared that this will result in a severe attack by the Roman authorities upon the nation and the loss of their positions. As a result we see Caiaphas the high priest saying in the last part of John 11: 49 and 50: ***"You know nothing at all (50) nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation should not perish."*** Caiaphas did not realize that he was in fact prophesying about Messiah's sacrifice, not only for the Jewish nation, but also for the nation of Israel scattered abroad, as we read in verse 52.

¹ In John 10: 37 & 38 Yahshua said to the Jews: *'If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.'*

Yahshua left Bethany and went to stay with His disciples in Ephraim, which is located near the desert. Because it was near the time of the Passover, the Jews from Judea and the surrounding areas started getting together in Jerusalem. We see in verse one of John 12, that Yahshua returned to Bethany six days before the Passover, to have supper with Lazarus and his sisters. The next day Yahshua went up to Jerusalem. He told His disciples to go ahead and fetch a donkey at a village nearby. He made his entry into Jerusalem riding upon this donkey. We see again that Yahshua wept, this time He wept, because He knew that in a few short years (40), Jerusalem would be destroyed and its inhabitants killed. When the people of Jerusalem heard that Yahshua is on His way to Jerusalem, they ran to greet Him, because they heard of the miracles that He performed. We see according to Matthew 21: 9 that many recognized Him as Messiah, saying: ***'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF YHVH; Hosanna in the highest!'*** This absolutely enraged the scribes and Pharisees.

During the final days of Messiah's life, He lodged in Bethany and journeyed to Jerusalem in the mornings. Whilst walking to Jerusalem, on one of these mornings, He became hungry and walked to a fig tree next to the road, to eat some fruit. However, the fig tree bore no fruit and Yahshua cursed it. The next day His disciples were amazed to see that the tree had completely withered. In response Yahshua said in verses 21 & 22 of Matthew 21: ***'Truly I say to you, if you have faith, and do not doubt, you shall not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, "Be taken up and cast into the sea," it shall happen. (22) And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive.'*** Yahshua was showing His disciples that Elohim will answer the prayers of those who have faith. If we strive to obey YHVH with the best of our ability and study His Scriptures to find out what His will is for us, we can pray with complete confidence, asking YHVH to supply our needs.

Thousands of people came to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices at the Temple during the Passover season. We see that in the Temple courtyard there were merchants selling doves and other animals to these people, to offer them as sacrifices to Elohim. The people crowded around the tables of the moneychangers with coins from all over the Roman empire in exchange for the special Temple coinage. These moneychangers knew that the people had to exchange their money in order to give offerings. They took advantage of the people charging unfair rates to gain excessive profits for themselves. When Yahshua entered the Temple courtyard He cast out all those who were buying and selling in the Temple, and also overturned the tables of the moneychangers, saying in Matthew 21: 13, ***"It is written, 'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER'; but you are making it a ROBBERS DEN."*** This teaches us that we should be respectful toward Elohim during Sabbath services, remembering that we are coming into His presence to worship Him, and to hear His words expounded to us from the Scriptures.

We read in Luke 19: 47 & 48 that Messiah taught daily in the Temple, and that the chief priests and the scribes and the leading men among the people were trying to destroy Him. But they could not find anything that they might do, for all the people were hanging upon His words. Messiah knew that His life on earth will soon come to an end. He told the people who gathered around Him in John 12: 23 & 24, that: ***"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. (24) Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."*** Yahshua used this analogy to explain that through His death and resurrection, all who ever lived will have an opportunity to receive eternal life. Yahshua next told His disciples in John 12: 25 that, ***"He who loves his life loses it; and he who hates his life in this world shall keep it to life eternal."*** He was showing that anyone, whose sole purpose is to preserve his life, will lose it. However, if anyone gives his life in service and obedience to YHVH, practicing the give way of life instead of the get way, Elohim will give him the gift of eternal life, in the end.

In John 12: 27 we see that Yahshua was troubled by the nearness of His death and He wished that Elohim would spare Him from a painful and humiliating death. However, He knew that He came for this very purpose – to die for the sins of the world. In verse 28 of John 12, we see Yahshua asking: ***"Father, glorify Thy name."*** ***There came therefore a voice out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it***

again.” Those nearby who heard the voice were amazed. They were saying that it was thunder; others were saying, **“An angel has spoken to Him.”** But, Yahshua told them that the voice did not come for His sake, but for theirs, witnessing that He was sent by Elohim.

Nevertheless, because the people expected the Messiah to be a conquering hero to deliver them from Rome, they did not believe His messages. This is in line with the prophecy about Him in Isaiah 53: 3. Yahshua was fully aware that the people did not understand who and what He was. He understood that they were blinded as we read in John 12: 39 & 40, **‘For this cause they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, (40) “HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES, AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART; LEST THEY SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED, AND I HEAL THEM.”’** But many Jewish rulers did understand who Messiah was and believed Him. However, we read in verses 42 & 43 of John 10, **‘Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; (43) for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of Elohim.’**

The religious leaders wanted to kill Yahshua and during the last days of His ministry, continued to question Him in order to discredit Him. They wanted to turn the crowds against Him, so that they might arrest Him without opposition. The chief priests and elders came to Yahshua whilst He was preaching in the Temple, asking who gave Him authority to teach and do miracles. Messiah told them that He would answer them, if they answered a question from Him first. He asked them if they believed that John the Immerser received his authority to immerse people from men or from Elohim. They reasoned among themselves, saying: **“If we say, ‘From heaven’, He will say to us, ‘Then why did you not believe him?’ ‘But if we say, ‘From men,’ we fear the multitudes; for they all hold John to be a prophet.”** They therefore answered Yahshua, saying: **“We do not know.”** Yahshua said to them in the last part Matthew 21: 27: **“neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”**

Yahshua proceeded to give two parables to show the difference between those who believed John the Immerser, and those who rejected him. The first parable in Matthew 21: 28 – 32 was about two sons, asked by their father to work in his vineyard. The first son told his dad that he will not, but repented later and did as his father requested. The second son, in turn said that he will do as his father asked, but did not do so. Messiah was showing that the people who believed John the Immerser repented of their sins and would as a result enter the kingdom of Elohim. They would do so in place of those who said that they would do Elohim’s will, but who made a show of being righteous and in reality did not obey Him. Even though Messiah aimed this parable at the religious leaders of His day, it is very important for us to remember the covenant we entered into with Elohim at immersion, and do what we promised, if we want to be in the kingdom.

The second parable (in Matthew 21: 33 - 40) was about the owner of a vineyard who entrusted the vineyard to certain caretakers and went off into a far country. At harvest time the owner sent servants to the caretakers to receive the produce from the vineyard. But the caretakers mistreated the servants, beating one, killing another and stoned a third. A second time the owners sent servants, but they were treated equally bad. Then the owner sent his son, thinking that the caretakers would at least respect his son, but instead they killed him. In Matthew 21: 40 Messiah asked them: **“Therefore when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine-growers?”** The religious leaders answered in verse 41: **“He will bring those wretches to a wretched end, and will rent out the vineyard to other vine-growers, who will pay him proceeds at the proper season.”** Yahshua was showing these religious leaders that they had time after time rejected the prophets sent by Elohim. In the end, Elohim sent His own Son to preach to them, but instead of listening to Him, they killed Him. Yahshua next told them that because of their iniquity Elohim will give the opportunity of entering the kingdom of Elohim, to those who would repent and bring forth fruit of obedience. At this point in time the religious leaders realized that the parables were about them. When they therefore sought to arrest Him, they feared the multitudes, because they held Yahshua to be a prophet.

Hereafter Yahshua told another parable, comparing the kingdom of Elohim, to a wedding celebration (see Matthew 22: 1- 4). In this parable, a king prepared a wedding celebration for his son. But, the invited guests refused to come to the wedding. In fact some even killed the servants who brought them the invitations. The king therefore asked his servants to find other guests to attend the wedding. The scribes and the Pharisees, who were originally invited to receive the kingdom of Elohim, rejected Messiah and His message, and eventually had Him killed². In their place Elohim called ordinary people like us to become members of His ecclesia. They would have a chance to attend the wedding at the second coming of Messiah, provided they wore their 'wedding garments'. We see in the second part of Revelation 7: 14 how to prepare our garments for the wedding: ***'and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'*** Notice also in Revelation 19: 8 that the proper clothing is symbolic of righteousness: ***'And it was given her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.'*** So only those who prepare themselves, by being immersed in Yahshua's name, growing in grace and knowledge by studying and obeying Elohim, will be allowed to one day marry Yahshua our Messiah.

At that stage the Pharisees became desperate. They held a meeting devising a plan which they hoped will entangle Yahshua. They send a group of clever men to question Yahshua. In Matthew 22: 17 these men asked Yahshua: ***"Is it lawful to give a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?"*** Yahshua asked them why they are questioning Him, and requested that they show Him a coin. He took the coin that they brought and asked them in verse 20 (of Matthew 22): ***"Whose likeness and inscription is this?"*** coin. They answered: "Caesar's" after which He said to them in verse 21: ***"Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to Elohim the things that are Elohim's."*** After hearing this they marveled and went away.

A little while later the Sadducees, a group who did not believe in the resurrection, came up to Yahshua. They wanted to make a fool out of Yahshua, asking him questions which they thought He could not answer. They started questioning Yahshua in Matthew 22: 24 – 28, telling Him that according to Moses (meaning Torah), If a man dies childless, his brother as next of kin shall marry his wife to raise offspring for him. They told Yahshua that there were seven brothers, and each one in turn married the wife, after the brothers died one after the other, but not one of them left their brother offspring. Eventually the wife also died. Their question following the story is recorded in Matthew 22: 28: ***'In the resurrection therefore whose wife of the seven shall she be? For they all had her.'*** We read in Matthew 22: 29 & 30: ***'But Yahshua answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures, or the power of Elohim. (30) For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven."'*** It is important to remember Yahshua's answer, as it shows that when we are resurrected one day, we will be like angels, and neither angels nor demons (fallen angels) have marital relations.

Yahshua continued to tell the Sadducees that YHVH said He is the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – He is the Elohim of the living and not the dead. He clearly meant that for Elohim to be the Elohim of the living Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, they will have to be brought to life again – at the resurrection of the dead. This silenced the Sadducees and they were unable to continue reasoning with Yahshua. When the Pharisees heard that he silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them a lawyer, asked Yahshua, which is the great commandment of the law. Once again Yahshua gave the correct answer, which greatly upset His critics. Yahshua then proceeded asking the Pharisees a question which they could not answer. In Matthew 22: 42 - 46 we read accordingly: ***"What do you think about the Messiah, whose son is He?" They said to Him, "The son of David."*** (43) ***He said to them, "Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'YHVH (MarYah),' saying, (44) 'YHVH said to My YHVH (MarYah), "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT THINE ENEMIES BENEATH THY FEET"?' (45) "If David then called Him 'YHVH' (MarYah), how is He his son?" (46)***

² We should however never say or think that the Jews killed Yahshua, as He came to die for the sins of the world – the scribes and Pharisees of His day where only a means of achieving this objective. We are therefore all directly responsible for His death. In addition we should remember His own words in John 10 verse 17 and the 1st part of verse 18, where He said: ***"For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative."***

And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask Him another question.”

As the leaders of the community, the scribes and the Pharisees were respected because they gave the appearance of being extremely righteous. They kept very difficult schedules of religious activities. They prayed in public for everyone to see; they fasted at least twice a week and tithed on everything they received, even on the herbs from their gardens. In addition they observed very strict rules regarding the Sabbath. However, Messiah recognizes a major character flaw in all their show of righteousness. It was because of their hypocrisy that Yahshua level cutting attacks at the Pharisees. The Pharisees wanted everyone to look up to them. They wore longer tzitzit than anyone else. They traveled long distances on land and sea, to bring converts into their brand of Judaism. Despite all their hypocrisy, Yahshua recognized the authority of the scribes and Pharisees saying they ***“sit in Moses seat”*** (in Matthew 23: 2) - Meaning that we should follow their instructions regarding Torah observance, as they are Elohim’s Lawgiver (see Psalm 60: 7 and Genesis 49: 10). However, we should not do according to their deeds; for they say things, and do not do them.

In Matthew 23: 23 we see Yahshua’s stern indictment against the scribes and Pharisees, saying: ***‘Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.’*** Yahshua knew that while the Pharisees were putting on an outward show of righteousness, they sinned with full knowledge, even plotting to kill Him. In verse 28 of Matthew 23, He said: ***‘Even so you too outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.’***

After rebuking the religious leaders, Yahshua was filled with sadness over the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying in Matthew 23: 37 – 39: ***“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks, under her wings, and you were not willing. (38) Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! (39) For I say to you, from now on you shall not see Me until you say, ‘BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF YHVH!’”*** This was Yahshua’s final public address. In the next sermon we will consider His Olivet prophesy where He addressed His disciples privately.

Chapter 4: Yahshua's Olivet prophesy.

Yahshua gave some very important teachings during the final few weeks of His life. In the previous sermon we studied His last teaching to the public as well as many of His confrontations with the religious leaders of His day. We will now study Messiah's Olivet prophesy where He addressed His disciples in private in Matthew 24.

After Yahshua and His disciples left the Temple, one of His disciples commented on the superb structure of the Temple. This is when He, with great sorrow told His disciples about the soon-coming destruction of the Temple, as we read in Matthew 24: 2, ***"Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here shall be left upon another, which will not be torn down."*** Messiah spoke of a time 40 years into the future, when both the Temple and the city of Jerusalem would be destroyed by the Roman army. As He was sitting down on the Mount of Olives, His disciples asked Him to tell them when the Temple will be destroyed and what will be the sign of His coming, and the end of the age.

Messiah and His disciples walked through the Kidron Valley and hiked up the Mount of Olives, from where they could see the city of Jerusalem. In verse 3 of Matthew 24, His disciples asked Him, ***"Tell, us when will these things be, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"*** The disciples asked three questions in one and expected Messiah to return in their lifetime. They did not realize that He will only return in about two thousand years into the future. Nevertheless, Messiah warned His disciples about many religious teachers who will come in His name, saying that He is the Messiah, but who will lead many astray. Yes, Yahshua was talking about people who claim to be Christian that will lead people astray by preaching a false gospel about His person, rather than the gospel about the coming kingdom of Elohim, which He came to proclaim. Yahshua said it is necessary to believe the true gospel to be saved. Yet, millions of professing Christians today do not know what the gospel is. In Mark 16, we read Messiah's parting commission to His apostles, sending them out into the world as teachers to put together His ecclesia, in verses 15 & 16, saying: ***"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. (16) He who has believed and has been immersed shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."***

Yahshua emphasized the importance of believing the gospel of the coming kingdom of Elohim; that it is necessary to believe it, to be saved. Yes, believing and proclaiming the gospel of the coming kingdom of Elohim, will save us, not trying to establish our own place of safety or Utopia here on earth; there is something that all believers can look forward to. The kingdom of Elohim shall be established on earth, and until then He will protect us wherever we are, provided we obey Him fully. We see in Mark 1: 14 & 15 that the true gospel was preached by Yahshua, as follows: ***'And after John had been taken into custody, Yahshua came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of Elohim, (15) and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of Elohim is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."*** Yahshua's gospel is not the one that Christianity teaches about His person; resulting in millions believing on Him (or *Christ* as they call Him), but do not believe His message about the coming kingdom of Elohim.

Yahshua warned that many false preachers would come, deceiving and misleading many. This started immediately after Yahshua's resurrection and will continue until He returns one day. Rav Shaul warned in 2 Corinthians 11: 4, ***'For if one comes and preaches another Yahshua whom we have not preached*** (one who does away with His Father's Torah), ***or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.'*** Proceeding on in verse 13 we read, ***'For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Messiah.'*** We see that this same religious deception is also symbolized by the rider on the white horse in Revelation 6: 2, ***'And I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him; and he went out conquering, and to conquer.'*** Many have falsely believed that the rider of the white horse of Revelation 6 is Messiah and have equated it with the white horse in Revelation 19. The rider of the white horse in Revelation 19 carries a sword and not a bow. The sword (of the spirit) is the word of Elohim

as we have seen in Scriptures like Ephesians 6: 17. In addition the time setting of Revelation 6 is different from that in Revelation 19. Revelation 6 describes false Messiah's and false gospels deceiving the world before the true Messiah's return and Revelation 19 describes the actual return of Messiah.

Yahshua continued telling His disciples about the end time events, by speaking about wars and rumors of war. He said continuing in the second part verse 6 in Matthew 24, ***"see that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not the end."*** In fact the world has known wars for the past 6,000 years. However in verse 7 we see that this is different to the wars waged since the beginning of time; this refers to the end time wars where nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. In addition there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. During the past century the world suffered through two world wars, killing millions of people. However the previous two world wars did not escalate into a nuclear war. But the war that is coming; that Messiah was talking about in Matthew 24: 22 will possibly annihilate all of mankind, unless Yahshua came to shorten the time of the tribulation at the end of this age.

This is the first time that mankind has the potential to totally annihilate all human life on earth. We know that, as mankind has always used the weapons that were available to them, they will eventually also use the nuclear weapons available in their arsenal. Whereas the rider of the white horse in Revelation 6: 2 rides forth to conquer in the name of false religion, the red horse and its rider in Revelation 6: 4, symbolizes the condition of world-wide war. The nations that will be punished at this time are the modern day descendants of the house of Israel and the house of Judah. There are currently power blocks being formed that will eventually result in the most gigantic battles in human history.

Famine will result quickly, as wars escalate and because of crop damages, contaminated water, destroyed livestock and excessive food demands to sustain the large armies. Yahshua referred to more than one famine in verse 7 of Matthew 24. The famines that will occur during the time of the end will in addition to war be as a result of overpopulation and a shortage of food supplies in developed nations. Even though the world's food production keeps pace with the increasing population, in many cases political and economic problems prevent the richer nations from delivering food where it is needed the most. The black horse spoken about in Revelation 6: 5 & 6 represents the scourge of famine. In the end famine will spread throughout the world, until human kind turns to Elohim. Only after we have learnt our lesson, during the millennial rule of Yahshua our Messiah, will Elohim again bless mankind.

Disease epidemics on a world-wide scale will in the end overlap the famines prophesied by Messiah. Millions of people will die, even though they might have survived the initial nuclear blasts and following famines. We read about the pale horse representing these disease epidemics in Revelation 6: 7 & 8, ***'And when He broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "come." (8) 'And I looked, and behold an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades (the grave) was following with him. And authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.'*** The catastrophic events prophesied by Yahshua in Matthew 24: 4 – 7 have yet to make its final impact on earth. This will only reach a climax in what is called the great tribulation in verse 21 of Matthew 24.

Let your mind go for a moment. We are only at the very beginning of the troubles that are facing all of mankind. Our country is facing loss of productivity in the mining industry and elsewhere, because of a shortage of power supply, mainly due to miss-management and the lack of maintenance of the national electricity supply. It is losing the country millions of Rand on a daily basis. During the last two weeks a number of trains were destroyed in Pretoria, because there was no electricity to run them. However the problem was not the fault of the national power supplier, but due to cable theft. This is only the beginning of our problems. Imagine the destruction and carnage, when eventually all the systems fail due to theft, miss-management and a lack of maintenance. We will not even need other nations to attack us; we will cause most of the destruction ourselves, because of lawlessness.

Notice how Yahshua explained this time of tribulation to His disciples in Matthew 24: 9 – 13, ***“Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name (Yahshua not J*e*s*u*s). (10) And at that time many will fall away and will deliver up one another and hate one another. (11) And many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many. (12) And because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold. (13) But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”*** We will need a lot of endurance and patience, because we will be pushed to the very limit as we see in verse 21 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 be.”*** We see that if we remain close to YHVH that He will intervene for us at that time, as we read in verse 22 of Matthew 24, ***“And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect (those of us called by YHVH at this time to be first fruits) those days shall be cut short.”*** Many believers however, misunderstand when these end-time events will occur. They often confuse the Great Tribulation with the ‘Day of YHVH’ and the heavenly signs. From the Scriptures we see that the Great Tribulation is the time when Satan will vent his anger on the world. He will be responsible for the affliction of the ones not found worthy to escape these terrible events.

Yahshua interrupted His discussion about this time of trouble to come upon the world, saying that prior to the end, the real gospel would be preached in all nations as we read in verse 14 of Matthew 24: ***“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all nations, and then the end shall come.”*** It is therefore important that we send this and other similar messages to as many people that we know, throughout the world. We should do this not to convert people, since YHVH does the calling, but to witness to the millions of despondent people out there, that there is a better way of life coming³. Yahshua showed His disciples that for most of Elohim’s people, there is a way to escape these times of trouble. We read about this in Luke 21: 36, as follows: ***“But keep on the alert at all times praying in order that you may escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”*** We should watch world events on TV, radio and in newspapers. This will help us to see these end-time prophecies being fulfilled.

Immediately after the tribulation we will witness the surprising events recorded in Luke 21: 25 & 26, ***“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, (26) men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of heaven will be shaken.”*** In Joel 2: 31 Joel describes the very same thing, calling it the great and awesome Day of YHVH. Yes, this is the time when YHVH will directly intervene in world affairs. The Day of YHVH is the time when He will punish the rebellious nations of this world. We have seen in Zephaniah 1: 17 how YHVH will deal with the defiant sinful people of the world, as follows: ***‘And I will bring distress on men, So that they will walk like the blind, Because they have sinned against YHVH; And their blood will be poured out like dust, And their flesh like dung.’***

Messiah will return to the earth in power and esteem, to rule the earth and to usher in peace, as we read in Matthew 24: 30: ***“and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all 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.”*** Ever since Messiah’s resurrection and ascension to heaven, Satan has sent false prophets to deceive people to expect the return of Messiah. This resulted in many people becoming doubtful about Messiah’s return. Events will soon be further confused when a powerful religious leader will dominate the

³ I have also written three books containing most of the sermons that I wrote since my early retirement in June 2006. If you would like me to send you e-mail copies for further distribution, I will do so gladly. I am not currently in a position to print hard copies, but will hopefully do so later as monies become available. These books are for educational purposes only and are not to be sold.

world scene. Messiah warned in Matthew 24: 24 that this great false prophet will hold sway during the Great Tribulation and will perform great miracles trying to, if possible deceive the elect.

Messiah will return to the earth as the seventh trumpet sounds. The seven trumpets will begin to sound during the Day of YHVH. We read about this in Matthew 24: 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.”*** We do not have to build our own places of safety; YHVH will gather us from all over the earth. Rav Shaul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 4: 15 – 17 that those who are dead will be resurrected. As Messiah returns at the sound of the trumpet, those who are alive, along with those who have qualified, died and are resurrected, will all be caught up in the air to join Yahshua in the clouds. They will descend with Messiah to take over the rulership of the earth.

However, Yahshua did not tell His disciples the exact day and time of His return. In verse 36 of Matthew 24, we read accordingly: ***“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.”*** However Yahshua said that it will be possible to know when His return is near. He explained in the parable of the fig tree that we know that summer is near when the fig tree puts forth leaves. In the same way we will know that the return of Messiah is near, when we observe world conditions. By watching world events we are able to see enough evidence of end time conditions. We need to be in a constant state of readiness for Messiah’s return. Yahshua warned us to be ready in the last few verses of Matthew 24, as well as in Matthew 25. He exhorts us to prepare spiritually and obey His Torah; We should be a living example of Him. We should be doing the work of proclaiming the good news of the coming kingdom of Elohim, until the day He returns, as we read in Matthew 24: 46 & 47: ***“Blessed is the slave whom His master finds so doing when he comes. (47) Truly I say to you, that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.”*** Praise the Name of YHVH.

Chapter 5: Yahshua is the same Yesterday, Today and Forever.

There are many believers in Yahshua our Messiah, who insist that He had long hair, because as they believe He took a Nazirite vow, which forbid Him to drink any wine. This according to their theory means that He could not partake of the last Passover, before His death on the tree. Others say that He could not partake of the Passover, since He became the Passover lamb that died for the sins of the world, at the time when the Jews of His day slaughtered their Passover lambs. My purpose with this sermon is to refute these misconceptions and to hopefully give us a glimpse into His life, from the pages of the Scriptures. We will study facts about His earthly life, death and resurrection to awesome power and learn about the great impact that these events have on the daily lives of each one of us.

Knowing someone involves more than knowing what he or she looks like. It involves understanding his/her personality and character traits: how the person lives, what he/she believes and stands for. Most of us, including those who have grown up, know our parents. But the question is do we know our Elohim? Think about it: How well do you know Yahshua the Messiah? Do you know His character traits and personality? As much as it is important for children to know their human parents, so is it important for us to know YHVH our Elohim. Yahshua is a perfect example of what Father YHVH our Elohim is like. We come to know the Father by knowing what Messiah was like, whilst He was on earth. We read accordingly in John 14: 6 – 11, ***'Yahshua said to him (Thomas), "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me. (7) If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him." (8) 'Philip said to Him, "Master, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." (9) 'Yahshua said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, 'Show us the Father?'(10) Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. (11) Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me; otherwise believe on account of the works themselves.'"*** Knowing who Yahshua the Messiah was and is, what He looked like, what He did and what He stood for is essential to knowing YHVH our Elohim.

During Yahshua's life time the camera was not invented yet; He could therefore not leave us any photographs or pictures of Himself. However, He has given us a written record of what He looked like when He was on earth. To find out How Messiah, who is Elohim in the flesh, described Himself, we turn to Isaiah 53. Here we find as accurate a description of our Master and Savior as He wanted us to have. We read in verse 2 of Isaiah 53, ***'For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty That we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should be attracted to him.'*** Yahshua had no unusual or particularly outstanding physical appearance. Nor did He have physical beauty. He was neither handsome nor ugly. There was nothing about His appearance that impressed people or to make them flock to Him. He did not have biceps like a weight lifter, but was probably what we would call plain looking. He possessed no striking physical traits that made Him instantly recognizable – He definitely had no halo!

Yahshua our Messiah looked so much like the average Jew amongst whom He lived that Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Messiah, had to point Him out to the people who arrested Him, by kissing Him. We read this in Matthew 26: 47 – 50, as follows: ***'And while He was still speaking, behold Judas, one of the twelve, came up accompanied by a great multitude with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and elders of the people. (48) Now he who was betraying Him gave them a sign, saying, "Whomever I shall kiss, He is the one; seize Him." (49) And immediately he went to Yahshua and said, 'Hail, Rabbi!' and kissed Him. (50) And Yahshua said to him, "Friend, do what you have come for." Then they came and laid hands on Yahshua and seized Him.'***

Also notice what else Yahshua said about the situation when Judas kissed Him in Luke 22: 52 & 53: ***'And Yahshua said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders who had come against Him, "Have***

you come out with swords and clubs as against a robber? (53) Whilst I was with you daily in the temple, you did not lay hands on Me; but this hour and the power of darkness are yours.” Yahshua said here that those who sought after Him saw Him many times in the temple. If He had any distinguishable physical traits, there would have been no need for Judas to point Him out to them.

One thing is certain, Yahshua would not have had long hair, as He inspired Rav Shaul to write in 1 Corinthians 11: 14 in the first part of verse 15: ***‘Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him, (15) but if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her?’*** Yahshua is our High Priest as we read in Hebrews 7 & 8, especially in verse 24 of Hebrew 7: ***‘but He, on the other hand, because He abides forever, holds His priesthood permanently.’*** And verse 1 of Hebrews 8, 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.’*** We read in Ezekiel 44 from verse 15 on, about the Levitical priests, the Sons of Zadok, meaning sons of righteousness, during the millennium rule of Yahshua the Messiah. We see that they will wear turbans in verse 18 and that they will not have long hair, in verse 20, as follows: ***“Also they shall not shave their heads, yet they shall not let their locks grow long; they shall only trim the hair of their heads.”***

Many supposed pictures of Yahshua have Him wearing shoulder-length locks of hair. However, from these Scriptures the pictures of Yahshua are not consistent with what the word of YHVH said to be appropriate hair for men to wear. Yahshua would not have done something that He inspired Rav Shaul to say was shameful and dishonored Him. Yahshua’s hair was worn in the same style common among Jewish men of His day. Also remember that there was nothing in His appearance that made Him recognizable or outstanding. Racially, Yahshua was a Jew. As a Jew He was Caucasian, not Oriental or black. His skin color could have been anything from olive to what we know as white. His facial features would have been characteristic of Jews. His hair could have been black, dark brown or even red. However, it is dubious that His hair color was such that it could have drawn attention to Him. If he was indeed an average looking Jew, His eyes would have been darker than wine, similar to that of Judah, described in Genesis 49: 12. At the same time, we must remember, that His description lacks enough details for us to be able to draw a completely accurate picture of Him. I believe that this was intentional on His part, since it prevents us from making, and accordingly worshipping pictures of Him, which would be a direct violation of the Second Commandment.

Yahshua our Messiah was a law keeper and He did not come to do away with Torah at all. We read this in Matthew 5: 17, ***“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.”*** The word ‘fulfill’ here means to complete: Reading the rest of Matthew 5, we see how Yahshua shows us that the Torah is to be obeyed and lived with spiritual intent – not only in the literal sense. It means that He came to make the Torah more binding, as we read in verse 27 & 28 of Matthew 5, as follows: ***“You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY’; (28) but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.”*** We also see that Yahshua our Messiah, did not abolish the Sabbath command as some claim, but as we read in Luke 4: 16, ***‘And He came to Nazareth where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read.’*** Yahshua did not only keep the letter of the law by not working on the Sabbath, but He also kept the spiritual intent by attending Sabbath services, at the synagogue.

To answer the question of whether Yahshua took a Nazirite vow as some believers assert, I quote here from note number 816 of the ‘Restoration Scriptures’ True Name Edition Study Bible, as follows: *“Yisraelites always use wine to live before YHVH, as did the Master Yahshua Himself⁴. They always partake, but are never to enter into excess. The custom that believers don’t, or should not even taste wine is a pagan tradition perpetrated by the so-called churches of Romanism and Protestantism. The only kind of Yisraelite that cannot drink wine is one under a Nazirite vow.”* There is no record of Yahshua having taken a Nazirite vow

⁴ Underlining for emphasis, mine.

anywhere in the Scriptures, and if He did, it would definitely be recorded as such for us. Instead we read what He said about Himself in Luke 7: 33 & 34, as follows: ***“For John the Immerser has come eating no bread and drinking no wine; and you say, ‘He has a demon!’ (34) The Son of Man has come eating and drinking; and you say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man, and a drunkard, a friend of tax-gathers and sinners!’”***

From Scriptures we know that He definitely kept the Passover, as He instructed His disciples to go to a certain man’s house to tell him that they will keep the Passover in his house. We read this in Mark 14: 14. Yahshua was obedient to Torah and I am therefore able to say with Scriptural authority that He would not have neglected keeping the final Passover, before His death as the Lamb of YHVH, who takes away the sins of the world. If Yahshua did not partake of the Passover prior to His death, he would have broken the commandment given in Numbers 9: 13, as follows: ***‘But the man who is clean and is not on a journey, and yet neglects to observe the Passover, that person shall then be cut off from his people, for he did not present the offering of YHVH at its appointed time. That man shall bear his sin.’*** If indeed Yahshua sinned by not partaking the Passover, He would not have been a perfect Passover lamb, and we would still be in our sin. However, we know that according to the plan of salvation of YHVH, a small part of Him became ‘the man’ Yahshua, which He purposed to die for the sins of the world. In addition we read in Mark 14: 23 - 25 ***“And when He had taken a cup, and given thanks, He gave it to them; and they all drank from it. And He said to them, “This is My blood of the renewed covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I say to you, I shall never again drink (meaning that He must have drunk it at this time) of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the Kingdom of Elohim.”*** Also we know that in Judaism, if you give thanks for something you will also partake of it.

The Passover was part of the Sacrificial Laws, which Yahshua came to fulfill. Once Yahshua became the sacrificial law – the lamb of Elohim who takes away the sins of the world, there is no longer a need for the type. Nevertheless, He instituted new symbols on the night during which He was betrayed, for us to remember His death by, until He returns. We no longer slaughter a lamb, but we partake of the new symbols and we do so on the night of the day of preparation for the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The Jews of today, like in Yahshua’s day, still keep the Passover on the evening of the first Day of Unleavened Bread. However, Yahshua kept the Passover like the Israelites did on the evening of the 14th Day of Aviv, which starts as the 13th day ends. If we want to determine when to keep the Passover memorial, from the Hebrew calendar, we move back a whole day – the day of preparation for Unleavened Bread. This is what Rav Shaul recorded for us in 1 Corinthians 11: 23 – 26, as follows: ***‘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 is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it (once a year), 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.’***

We know that Yahshua our Messiah was Elohim, before He became flesh, according to John 1: 1 to 5 and 10 to 14: ***‘In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with Elohim, and the Word was Elohim. (2) He was in the beginning with Elohim. (3) All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. (4) In Him was life and the life was the light of men. (5) And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.’ (10) ‘He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. (11) He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. (12) But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of Elohim, even to those who believed in His name, (13) who were born not of blood nor the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of Elohim. (14) And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.’***

Yahshua Messiah is our creator, as recorded in Philippians 2: 6 – 8, ***‘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 them. (8) And being found in appearance as a***

man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even the death on a cross.’ Yahshua our Messiah, YHVH in the flesh did all this so that we may one day become spiritual children of Elohim. He was the one whom Hagar, Sarah and Abraham referred to as YHVH in the Tanach. He is the form of YHVH which Moses saw as we read in Numbers 12: 8. He is the spiritual Rock that followed the Israelites in the wilderness as we see in 1 Corinthians 10: 4, as follows: ***‘and all (the Israelites) drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Messiah.’*** Yahshua is the word, the creator the healer, YHVH our righteousness, the High Priest; all of these are but different titles for the One who became Yahshua our Messiah.

Today Yahshua’s appearance is as is described in Revelation 1: 13 to 15: ***‘and in the middle of the lamp stands one like the son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His breast with a golden girdle. (14) And His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes like a flame of fire; (15) and His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been caused to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters.’*** This is similar to the vision that Daniel saw of YHVH in Daniel 7: 9, ***“I kept looking Until thrones were set up, And the Ancient of Days took His seat: His vesture was like white snow, and the hair of His head like pure wool, His throne was ablaze with flames, Its wheels were a burning fire.”***

Yahshua was called Immanuel (in Matthew 1: 23) which means Elohim with us. He is Elohim who became a ‘man’ and dwelt among men, to save them from their sin. Do you for one moment think that He, the visible image of the invisible Elohim, would have had long hair, contrary to what the Scriptures taught? Do you think that He would have neglected to partake of the last Passover prior to His death and resurrection, contrary to the command given in Numbers 9? If so then I would like you to think again, since we read in Malachi 3: 6 ***“for I, YHVH, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.”*** Yahshua is YHVH in the flesh, who died for our sins and true to character, this quoted Scripture is confirmed in Hebrews 13: 8, as follows: ***‘Yahshua Messiah is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever.’*** He changed water into wine, He drank wine and there is no record of Him taking a Nazirite vow. I am therefore 100% certain that Yahshua did not have long hair and that the last meal eaten by Him and His disciples, was indeed the Passover! Finally, we should refrain from using pictures of Yahshua, as it is a direct contradiction of the Second Commandment.

Chapter 6: What was Yahshua's main purpose?

Most people today totally misunderstand Messiah's purpose and the message of the prophets in both the Tanach and the Renewed Covenant. The reason being, that Satan has and is even now busy deceiving the entire world. After Yahshua's immersion and temptation by Satan in the wilderness, He commenced His ministry as recorded in Mark 1: 9 – 15, in this way: ***'And it came about in those days that Yahshua came from Nazareth in Galilee, and was immersed by John (Yochanan) in the Jordan. (10) And immediately coming out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him; (11) and a voice came out of the heavens: "Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well-pleased." (12) And immediately the Spirit impelled Him to go out into the wilderness. (13) And He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the beasts, and the angels were ministering to Him. (14) And after John had been taken into custody, Yahshua came into Galilee, preaching (or proclaiming) the gospel of Elohim, (15) and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of Elohim is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."***

Because of Satan's deception, most people do not understand that the gospel of Elohim is linked to both the Feast Days of Elohim and the United Nation of Israel. Yahshua's disciples only really understood His message and purpose after He opened their minds to the Scriptures, as we read from Luke 24: 45 – 49, as follows: ***'Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, (46) and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; (47) and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. (48) You are witnesses of these things. (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."*** Yahshua left His disciples at Bethany, and departed from them.

We read about His departure in more detail from Acts 1: 4 – 9, in this way: ***'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 from Me; (5) for Yochanan immersed with water, but you shall be immersed with the Set-apart Spirit not many days from now." (6) And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Master (or more correctly Adonai), is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel? (or more correctly the kingdom of Elohim in which both the nations of Judah and the lost ten tribes of Israel, will again be ruled over by a descendant of David.)" (7) He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times and the epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; (8) but you shall receive power when the Set-apart Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." (9) And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.'***

The good news about our salvation as the remnant of the lost ten tribes of Israel, have to do with both honoring the name of Elohim and keeping His annual Feast Days. This is confirmed in Isaiah 52: 3 – 10: as follows: ***'For thus says YHVH Elohim, "You were sold for nothing and you will be redeemed without money." (4) For thus says YHVH Elohim, "My people went down at the first into Egypt to reside there, then the Assyrian oppressed them without cause. (5) Now therefore what do I have here," Declares YHVH, "seeing that My people have been taken away without cause?" Again YHVH declares, "Those who rule over them howl, and My name is continually blasphemed all day long. (6) Therefore My people shall know My name; therefore in that day I am the one who is speaking, Here I am." (7) How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace and brings good news of happiness, who announces salvation, and says to Zion, "Your Elohim reigns!" (8) Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices, they shout joyfully together; for they will see with their own eyes when YHVH restores Zion. (9) Break forth, shout joyfully together, you waste places of Jerusalem; for YHVH has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. (10) YHVH has bared His holy arm in the sight of all the nations, that all the ends of the earth may see the salvation of our Elohim.'*** We are assured that as Nazarene watchmen

we will see the restoration of Zion with our own eyes. Zion was always identified with the Temple Mount and the City of David; it symbolizes the spiritual capital of the world, and is the Messianic city of Elohim. The prophet Nahum also links the Feast Days of Elohim as kept by Judah with the gospel in Nahum 1: 15, in this way: ***'Behold, on the mountains the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace! Celebrate your feasts, O Judah; pay your vows. For never again will the wicked one pass through you; he is cut off completely.'***

The good news about the coming kingdom of Elohim, is also mentioned in relation to Zion and the identification of Yahshua the right hand of Elohim to Judah, as their (and our) Elohim in Isaiah 40: 9 & 10, as follows: ***'Get yourself up on a high mountain, O Zion, bearer of good news, lift up your voice mightily, O Jerusalem, bearer of good news; lift it up, do not fear. Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your Elohim!" (10) Behold, the Master Elohim will come with might, with His arm ruling for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him.'*** Even though, Judah believes in the resurrection of the dead and the coming of a Messiah to rule the world from King David's throne, they do not believe that Yahshua is the Messiah at this time. Christianity on the other hand believes in the person of Messiah, but do not understand what the true gospel is? Even so, what most people do not understand at this time, is that YHVH personally blinded the Jews to the identity of the true Messiah, until the fullness of the Gentiles (i.e. a remnant of those Israelites who lost their identity in captivity and now believe that they are Gentiles and some genuine Gentiles) have come in, at which time all Israel will be saved as may be read from Romans 11, and especially verses 25, 26 & 32.

Continuing with the link between the name of YHVH and the gospel, we read from Romans 10: 12 – 14; ***'For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Master is Master of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him; (13) for "WHOEVER WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF YHVH, WILL BE SAVED."*** (quoted from Joel 2: 32) (14) ***How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?'*** How will those who do not know or believe in the Name of YHVH call upon His name – not realizing that His Name is not G-d? Will He overlook their ignorance? We, who honor the name of YHVH our Elohim, are presently also doing the work of Elijah, by teaching believers about the true names of YHVH and Yahshua. We read further from Romans 10: 15 & 16; ***'And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!" (16) However, they did not all heed the glad tidings; for Isaiah says, "YHVH WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?'*** The fact that our Jewish brothers is presently blinded to the identity of Yahshua is confirmed in John 12: 37 – 41, as follows: ***'But though He had performed so many signs before them (meaning the Jews of His day), yet they were not believing in Him; (38) that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke, "YHVH, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM HAS THE ARM OF YHVH BEEN REVEALED?" (39) For this cause they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, (40) "HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES, AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART; LEST THEY SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED, AND I HEAL THEM."*** (41) ***These things Isaiah said, because he saw His (Yahshua's) glory and he spoke of Him.'***

Proceeding in Romans 10: 18, Rav Shaul cited a quotation from the Greek Septuagint version (LXX) of Psalm 19: 4, showing that even David understood that Elohim's revelation of Himself has reached the entire world (as explained in previous sermons regarding the Oneness of Elohim from Romans 1: 18 – 20⁵), as follows: ***'But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? Indeed they have; "THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD."*** This is also confirmed in Colossians 1: 5 & 6, in this way: ***'Because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel, (6) which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the***

⁵ The revelation of Elohim includes His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature.

grace of Elohim in truth.' Very few people in the world believe in the Oneness of Elohim and even less believes the true gospel.

We read Rav Shaul's next question and explanation from verse 19 of Romans 10, as follows: **'But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? At the first Moses says, "I WILL MAKE YOU JEALOUS BY THAT WHICH IS NOT A NATION, BY A NATION WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING WILL I ANGER YOU."**' The words *'that which is not a nation'* here refers to the Israelites who were scattered into all the nations of the world, and do not know their identity any longer. This is in fact talking about us the remnant of the lost ten tribes, called out by YHVH, to make our Jewish brothers jealous, by keeping the same Torah that they do, with the understanding that Yahshua is the Messiah who is coming to rule us from Jerusalem. We read accordingly from verses 20 & 21: **'And Isaiah is very bold and says, "I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO SOUGHT ME NOT, I BECAME MANIFEST TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME."** (21) **But as for Israel He says, "ALL THE DAY LONG I HAVE STRETCHED OUT MY HANDS TO A DISOBEDIENT AND OBSTINATE PEOPLE."**

By now it should be abundantly clear, that we the remnant of the lost ten tribes, called out by YHVH at this time, should stop our anti-Semitic sentiment by continually trying to disprove the Hebrew calendar. Instead we should defend and encourage brother Judah, until Messiah comes to them on Yom Teruah (Rosh Hashanah) one day, when they will see His hands, repent and also accept Him as their Messiah and Savior. Not only will the true Messiah be revealed at that time, but we the lost ten tribes or Ephraim (a name used in the Scriptures for the lost ten tribes), will also be revealed to them on that day. We read about this from Zechariah 12: 7 – 10, in this way: **"YHVH also will save the tents of Judah first in order that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not be magnified above Judah. (8) In that day YHVH will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the one who is feeble among them in that day will be like David, and the house of David will be like Elohim, like the angel of Elohim before them.** (This tells us clearly that David will be like Yahshua at that time.) **(9) And it will come about in that day that I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.** (As discussed in a previous sermon, this will be at the time of Yahshua's return on Yom Teruah and save the tents of Judah first.) **(10) And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and supplication** (forgiveness of their sin – so that their eyes will open), **so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born."**

When will those hundreds of called out believers, who use the true Names of YHVH and Yahshua, understand Yahshua's purpose to reconcile us to Brother Judah (our neighbor) and also to YHVH our heavenly Father? They do not understand that at present our role is to make Judah jealous by keeping the same Feast Days and Kosher laws as they do, with Spiritual understanding; and not by keeping different Feast Days of our own design. Jews will not get jealous if we keep Feast Days a few days different to them, as that to most of them, are as if we keep Xmas or any other so-called holy day, not ordained by YHVH our Elohim. YHVH is at this time calling people out of the world, who are prepared to follow Him fully. In fact our calling at this time may be compared to the parable that Yahshua told His disciples in Matthew 13: 24 – 30, as follows: **'He presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. (25) But while men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares also among the wheat, and went away. (26) But when the wheat sprang up and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. (27) And the slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' (28) And he said to them, 'An enemy has done this! And the slaves said to him, 'Do you want us then, to go and gather them up?' (29) But he said, 'No; lest while you are gathering up the tares, you may root up the wheat with them. (30) Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn."**' The tares are obviously those who do not understand their calling and Messiah's purpose to reconcile us to brother Judah; under the auspices of Satan, they will do everything in their power to prevent our reconciliation with

brother Judah. They will always find fault with our Jewish brothers, and especially with the Hebrew calendar, which only Moses, and the ones sitting in his seat may determine, as we read from Leviticus 23: 2, in this way: ***"Speak to the sons of Israel, and say to them, '(YHVH)'s appointed times which you (Moses) shall proclaim as Set-apart convocations- My appointed times are these."***

YHVH gave His Sabbath's and Set-apart Days to all Israel. This was the Israel that King David ruled and wrote about in Psalm 147: 19 & 20, in this way: ***'He declares His words to Jacob, His statutes and His ordinances to Israel*** (meaning both houses at that time). (20) ***He has not dealt thus with any nation; and as for His ordinances, they have not known them. Praise YHVH!*** However, after both Judah and Israel were taken captive, Israel over time lost their identity, their language, and Elohim's teachings or Torah. Even though Judah was also taken captive, they returned again 70 years later. As a result they retained the words spoken to Jacob, mentioned in Psalm 147, as also confirmed by Nehemiah in Nehemiah 9: 14, as follows: ***"So Thou didst make known to them Thy holy Sabbath, and didst lay down for them commandments, statutes, and law, though they servant Moses."*** Even so, we may be sure that until our Messiah's return, there will always be those who do not want to acknowledge the fact that Judah is (YHVH)'s lawgiver (as is confirmed in Psalm 60: 7).

We need to make sure that we follow the correct Feast Days and doctrines, as approved by our Master Yahshua Messiah, and that we do not contradict His every word by our actions. Which Feast Days did Yahshua keep? We read from John 4: 22 where Yahshua said to the woman at the well: ***"You worship that which you do not know; we worship that which we know, for Salvation is from the Jews."*** Yes, He meant that He being a Jew is the Salvation of Yah – our Savior, but He also meant that the Jews know how and what to worship, as Rav Shaul explained in Romans 9: 1 - 5 saying: ***"I am telling the truth in Messiah, I am not lying, my conscience bearing me witness in the Set-apart Spirit, (2) that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. (3) For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Messiah for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh*** (meaning his fellow Jews), (4) ***who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple services*** (the timing of temple services) ***and the promises, (5) whose are the fathers*** (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob), ***and from whom the Messiah is according to the flesh, who is over all, Elohim blessed forever. Amen."***

After we have discovered what (YHVH)'s will and purpose is for us, He wants us to follow Him from the heart. YHVH wants us to be obedient to His word, and is not interested in sacrifices at all. King David explained this for us in Psalm 50, as follows: ***'El, Elohim, YHVH, has spoken,*** (Here David introduces us to The Divine Judge of the universe, by the titles and names used in the Tanach.) ***and summoned the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. (2) Out of Zion*** (literally meaning Elohim's Kingdom), ***the perfection of beauty, Elohim has shone forth. (3) May our Elohim come and not keep silence; fire devours before Him, and it is very tempestuous*** (or turbulent) ***around Him. (4) He summons the heavens above, and the earth, to judge His people: (5) Gather My godly ones to Me, Those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice."*** (This is talking about those of us called-out of the world by YHVH, who were immersed into Yahshua's name and professes to obey and serve Him only.) (6) ***And the heavens declare His righteousness, for Elohim Himself is judge. Selah. (7) "Hear, O My people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you; I am Elohim, your Elohim. (8) I do not reprove you for your sacrifices, and your burnt offerings are continually before Me. (9) I shall take no young bull out of your house, no male goats out of your folds. (10) For every beast of the field is Mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. (11) I know every bird of the mountains, and everything that moves in the field is Mine. (12) If I were hungry, I would not tell you; for the world is Mine, and all its contents. (13) Shall I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of male goats? (14) Offer to Elohim a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High; (15) And call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me."*** We who keep to the commandments of YHVH our Elohim, may call on Him and will be protected in the day of trouble, now soon to come upon the world.

Those who call themselves by the Name of YHVH, but who do not want to obey His word, is warned in verses 16 & 17 of Psalm 50(KJV) in this way: ***‘But to the wicked Elohim says, “What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth? (17) Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee.”*** In modern English the question reads: ‘Why mention My statutes, if you do not obey My words?’ Or put differently, ‘Don’t mention my commands, if you do not believe the Scriptures.’ Our father is not interested in how we determine His Set-apart Days, if we do not have His authority to do so. All He requires is that we obey His instructions clearly given in the Scriptures. Reconciliation with our brother Judah (who is our neighbor) is a necessary part of our calling. Rav Shaul referred to it as service or duty as ambassadors of Messiah in 2 Corinthians 5: 18 – 20, as follows: ***‘Now all these things are from Elohim, who reconciled us to Himself through Messiah, and gave us a ministry of reconciliation, (19) namely, that Elohim was in Messiah reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. (20) Therefore, we are ambassadors for Messiah, as though Elohim were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Messiah, be reconciled to Elohim.’***

Yes, the reconciliation will eventually have to be between both houses of Israel, as we read from Ephesians 2: 11 – 16, in this way: ***‘Therefore remember, that formerly you (those of us called out of the world), the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Un-circumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” which is performed in the flesh by human hands- (12) remember that you were at that time separated from Messiah, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenant of promise (given to Abraham), having no hope and without Elohim in the world. (13) But now in Messiah Yahshua you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Messiah. (14) For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups (Judah and Israel) into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, (15) by abolishing in His flesh the enmity (the curses of the Law, that we incurred by breaking the commandments), which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, (16) and might reconcile them both in one body to Elohim through the cross, by having put to death the enmity.’*** Those Nazarene/Messianic Israelites and likeminded believers who believe that they are going to enter the kingdom of Elohim, without Brother Judah, are in for a big surprise!

Whether you believe that we as the remnant of the lost ten tribes will ultimately be reconciled with brother Judah, or not, it will happen as prophesied in Zechariah 8: 23, as follows: ***“Thus says YHVH of hosts, in those days ten men from all the nations (gentiles or those who believe that they are gentiles) will grasp the garment of a Jew saying, “Let us go with you, for we have heard that Elohim is with you.””*** Think about it!

Chapter 7: The importance of Yahshua Messiah's resurrection.

The resurrection of Yahshua Messiah is central to the lives and objectives of His followers, and ultimately also the whole human race. Unless there is a resurrection of the dead, there is no such thing as eternal life. The Scriptures tell us in Hebrews 9: 27, ***'it is appointed for men to die once.'*** But it also shows (in 1st Corinthians 15: 22), just as all die, ***'so also in Messiah all shall be made alive.'*** We are all to be resurrected to life, but each in his own order (as per verses 23 & 24 of 1st Corinthians 15). However, it all begins with Yahshua Messiah.

At this point in time the only resurrection to eternal life has been that of our Savior, Yahshua Messiah. The first Scriptural record of Yahshua's death and resurrection was written 6,000 years ago, about 4,000 years before Messiah's birth. In Genesis 3: 15 Elohim pronounced judgment against Satan, who had subtly enticed Adam and Eve to disobey YHVH their Creator, saying: ***"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed (meaning Messiah, since a woman does not have seed); He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."*** The 'Seed' of the woman would bruise Satan's head – putting a permanent end to his influence over mankind, and Satan would 'bruise him on the heel': i.e. bring about Messiah's crucifixion. But, ironically enough, Yahshua's crucifixion and resurrection, makes eternal life possible for us.

Messiah's death on the stake makes possible the forgiveness of our sins and our reconciliation with Elohim. But that is only the first step in Elohim's plan to save humanity. Through Messiah's resurrection to eternal life about 2,000 years ago, we, through our own resurrection, can also receive eternal life. Just as Elohim commanded that the harvest in ancient Israel could not begin until He accepted the wave-sheaf offering, so the harvesting of mankind could not begin until Yahshua Messiah was accepted by the Father. Yahshua was represented by the male lamb without blemish in Leviticus 23: 12, which was symbolic of Messiah's sinless state. He was also represented of the fine flour mixed with oil in Leviticus 23: 13, symbolic of the beating and scourging through which He was perfected. The accompanying hin of wine also mentioned in Leviticus 23: 13, was symbolic of Messiah's blood to pay the penalty for our sins, as confirmed in 1 John 1: 7, as follows: ***'But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Yahshua His Son cleanses us from all sin.'***

According to Jewish Encyclopedia.com the wave sheaf mentioned in Leviticus 23: 10 & 11 was cut off prior to the 16th of Aviv and therefore had to be on the 14th of Aviv, the day before the first annual Sabbath (or First Day of Unleavened Bread) on the 15th of Aviv, to be waived by the Priest in the evening of the Second Day of Unleavened Bread on the 16th of Aviv. In similar way was the first Passover kept in Egypt in the evening of the 14th Aviv, thus saving the first-born of Israel from the angel of death that same night, as all the first-born in Egypt died. The Israelites left Egypt in the light of the full moon in the evening of 15th Aviv and forty seven days from the next evening (erev 16 Aviv) the Israelites arrived at Mount Sinai in the 3rd Month on the same day, meaning the 3rd Day (as per Exodus 19: 1). Moses instructed the people to consecrate themselves for the next two days; to wash their clothes and refrain from marital relations during the next two days and be ready on the third day, the 6th day of Sivan, when Elohim gave Moses the Commandments, ordinances and judgments on Mount Sinai. This was exactly fifty days after the second day of unleavened bread, and is even today the day on which the Feast of Weeks or Shavuot is celebrated according to the Hebrew calendar.

Yahshua was killed as the Passover Lamb on the 14th Aviv, when He was impaled at about 9 o'clock in the morning. At about 12 o'clock until 3 o'clock in the afternoon darkness fell over the whole land, as testified in Luke 23: 44 & 45, as follows: ***'And it was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour, (45) the sun being obscured; and the veil of the temple was torn in two.'*** This is when Yahshua died (or was cut off) as prophesied in Daniel 9: 26 & 27, in this way: ***"Then after sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolation are determined. (27) And he will make a firm covenant with many for one week, but in the middle of the***

week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering." Yahshua died as the Passover Lamb, but was also offered as the wave sheaf (or grain) offering on the impalement stake before YHVH, as witnessed in verse 46 of Luke 23, crying out in a loud voice He said: ***"Father, INTO THY HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT."*** ***And having said this, He breathed His last.***' When the veil of the Temple was torn in two, Yahshua's death atoned for the sins of whoever believes in Him and He was accepted as the first of the first-fruits; to be resurrected three days and three nights later at the end of the weekly Sabbath as the first-born from the dead. We read accordingly from Romans 5: 6, ***'For while we were still helpless at the right time Messiah died for the ungodly'***, so that they could be given salvation in Elohim's Kingdom and the harvest of humanity for eternal life could begin. If we as first-fruits offered at Shavuot as two leavened loaves of bread are accepted, we will be born again at Messiah's return, when we will be resurrected (or changed) as per 1st Corinthians 15: 51 & 52.

According to Romans 8: 11, Messiah's resurrection provides us with hope that Elohim's Set-apart Spirit, given us at immersion will also give life to our mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells us. The Scriptures clearly reveal that certain of the personalities in the Tanach had this same hope. The patriarch Job knew Elohim's plan for man after death. He lived and died knowing that he would eventually be resurrected, as witnessed in Job 14: 10 – 14, in this way: ***"But man dies and lies prostrate. Man expires and where is he? (11) As water evaporates from the sea. And a river becomes parched and dried up. (12) So man lies down and does not rise. Until the heavens be no more, he will not awake nor be aroused out of his sleep. (13) Oh that Thou wouldst hide me in Sheol, that Thou wouldst conceal me until Thy wrath returns to Thee, that Thou wouldst set a limit for me and remember me! (14) If a man dies, will he live again? All the days of my struggle I will wait, until my change comes.'*** Job knew he would be resurrected, but until then he would wait in his grave until his 'change comes' – from physical to spiritual, from mortal to immortal, as explained in 1st Corinthians 15: 53 & 54.

We read further about his understanding in Job 19: 26 & 27, where he wrote: ***"Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see Elohim: (27) Whom I myself shall behold, and Whom my eyes shall see and not another. My heart faints within me."*** This was Job's hope as it is also ours – eternal life which Elohim, who cannot lie, promised before time began, as recorded in Titus 1: 2. Rav Shaul told the Roman officials who questioned him about his beliefs in Acts 24: 14 & 15, saying: ***"But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the Elohim of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law, and that is written in the prophets; (15) having a hope in Elohim, which these men cherish themselves, and that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked."*** If Yahshua had not been resurrected, we would have no hope of living forever. But we have the assurance that Elohim, through Messiah, will resurrect all who have ever died.

But as Rav Shaul testified in Acts 24, there will be more than one resurrection. Rav Yochanan wrote of a vision he received from Yahshua Messiah in Revelation 20: 4, stating: ***'And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Yahshua and because of the word of Elohim, and those who had not worshipped the beast or his image and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Messiah for a thousand years.'*** Here we see a group of those who have been faithful to Messiah given thrones, authority and rulership with Yahshua for 1,000 years. These are the ones described in 1 Thessalonians 4: 16, as follows: ***'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.'***

Continuing in Yochanan's description of events accompanying Messiah's return, he writes in Revelation 20: 6, stating; ***'Blessed and holy is the one who has 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.'*** Notice that Rav Yochanan calls this the first resurrection. If there is the first resurrection, then obviously there is more than one resurrection. Indeed Yochanan goes on to tell us in verse 5, saying: ***'The***

rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the second resurrection, a bringing back to physical life that will take place at the conclusion of the Millennium rule of Messiah.

According to Romans 8: 29, Yahshua was the first-born of many brethren. We, who have truly repented and have accepted His sacrifice to atone for our sins, are now His Spirit-begotten brethren, and if we qualify, will when He returns become Spirit-born into His Kingdom. First fruits are that part of a crop that is harvested around the Feast of First Fruits in the land of Israel. The idea of us becoming first fruits, imply that there will also be second fruits. The second fruits are usually harvested after the Feast of Sukkoth. It is obvious that not everyone is now being called. Billions of people have been born, lived and died, without ever hearing the name of Yahshua the Messiah once, let alone obeying Him. Not even all those who heard the Savior speak were being called at that time. In fact YHVH does not want to save all at this time as witnessed in Matthew 13: 11, 12 & 19, as follows: ***'And He (Yahshua) answered and said to them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. (12) For whoever has, to him shall more be given, and he shall have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. (19) When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.'*** This is specific language that is hard to be misunderstood. Either their time had not yet come or Yahshua was a respecter of persons, which we know is contrary to what is recorded in Acts 10: 34. Do you think the Savior would have spoken in a way that they could not understand Him, if He knew that it would have doomed them to be lost forever?

We read further from John 12: 37 – 40: ***'But though he had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him; (38) that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke, "YHVH, who has believed our report? and to whom has the arm of YHVH been revealed?" (39) For this cause they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, (40) "He has blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; lest they see with their eyes, and perceive with their heart, and be converted, and I heal them."*** This is a hard saying to some, especially in light of what we read in 2 Peter 3: 9: ***'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.'*** In addition we are told in Acts 4: 11 & 12 that Yahshua is the only name by which we may be saved, as follows: ***'He (Yahshua) is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the very cornerstone. (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.'***

This seems like a contradiction at first -- how could Elohim purposely blind some, and at the same time not be willing that any should perish? We must also not forget that most of the ones spoken about here are already dead and buried. Romans 11 is about Jews who are presently blinded to the identity of Yahshua mentioned earlier in John 12: 37 – 40. We know that they will be grafted in when Messiah returns one day, as recorded in Zechariah 12: 7 – 10, as follows: ***'YHVH also will save the tents of Judah first in order that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not be magnified above Judah. (8) In that day YHVH will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the one who is feeble among them in that day will be like David, and the house of David will be like Elohim, like the angel of YHVH before them. (9) And it will come about in that day that I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. (10) And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born.'***

We read accordingly in Romans 11: 25 - 28, ***'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 Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; (26) and thus all Israel will be saved*** (even those who now think they are Gentiles); ***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." We read about our Father's mercy in verses 32 & 33, as follows: *'For Elohim has shut up all in disobedience that He might show mercy to all. (33) Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of Elohim! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!'* The reason for blinding the Jews to Yahshua's identity is as Yahshua said in Matthew 15: 24 *"I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."*

But, what about the rest of Mankind? Yahshua described a time during which people from all generations will be judged at the same time in Matthew 11: 20 – 24, as follows: *'Then He began to reproach the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent. (21) "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. (22) Nevertheless I say to you, it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the Day of Judgment, than for you. (23) And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You shall descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom, which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. (24) Nevertheless I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the Day of Judgment, than for you."* These people from ancient times will only respond once they have had a real opportunity to understand the Scriptures. Note that even the perverts of Sodom will find it more tolerable in the Day of Judgment, compared to those in Capernaum who personally knew and rejected Yahshua. The reason is that they had no knowledge of the true Elohim and His Torah. Messiah only appeared a number of years after them and they did not know Him or His Saving Name. These people, who have been dead for thousands of years, are going to be resurrected in the second resurrection and be judged at that time.

We read about those who will be in the second resurrection from Isaiah 25: 7 – 8, in this way: *'And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is stretched over all nations. (8) He will swallow up death for all time, And YHVH Elohim will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For YHVH has spoken.'* When will the veil which is over all nations be destroyed? When will death be swallowed up? Obviously only after the Day of Judgment. The Day of Judgment for all the billions who lived over the past centuries will only come after the Millennial rule of Yahshua Messiah. We see that these people who were blinded in the past will have the veil, which is stretched over them, removed. If these innumerable formerly blinded people are simply judged by their works, many of them who were thieves, prostitutes, dictators and false prophets will perish in the lake of fire. They did not ever repent and were not immersed as we are instructed in Acts 2: 38. They did not study the Scriptures as we read from 2 Peter 3: 18, as follows: *'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.'*

This is truly the time of Elohim's Last Great Day. This is the time spoken about by Rav Shaul in Philippians 2: 9 - 11, in this way: *'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.'* We see from John 7: 37, that Yahshua stood up and cried out to His people on the last day, the great day of the feast, saying: *"If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink."* This indicates that all the unsaved dead are to be raised and given a final opportunity to kneel before Messiah. This provision to accept Yahshua as Master and Savior is what the Last Great Day of the Feast described in Leviticus 23: 36 is about.

The prophet Daniel foretold the saint's death and resurrection in Daniel 12: 2, as follows: *"And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt."* Yahshua Himself compared death with sleep. Before the resurrection of a young girl in Luke 8: 52, He comforted those who were grieving by saying, *"Stop weeping, for she has not died, but*

is asleep.” He similarly compared the death of Lazarus to sleep before Lazarus was brought to life in John 11: 11 – 13. Elohim’s plan for human life and our goal is for us eventually to be changed into spirit, shining as the stars forever, as witnessed in Daniel 12: 3, as follows: ***“And those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”*** We are destined to be part of Elohim’s family, to be spirit, as He is spirit, as we read from 1st John 3: 2 & 3, in this way: ***‘Beloved, now we are children of Elohim, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. (3) And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.’***

In Elohim’s plan, the resurrection to eternal life of all those who desire this gift can come only through a resurrected Yahshua Messiah. Otherwise the remainder would never experience everlasting life. Rav Shaul explains this in detail in 1st Corinthians 15: 12 – 22, as follows: ***‘Now if Messiah is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? (13) But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Messiah has been raised; (14) and if Messiah has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith is vain. (15) Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of Elohim, because we witnessed against Elohim that He raised Messiah, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. (16) For if the dead are not raised not even Messiah has been raised; (17) and if Messiah has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. (18) Then those also who have fallen asleep in Messiah have perished. (19) If we have hoped in Messiah in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. (20) But now Messiah has been raised from the dead, the first fruit(s) of those who are asleep. (21) For since by 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.’***

Our resurrection to eternal life is firmly based on a resurrected Messiah. As He lives (even after His death), so we will live, as we read from Hebrews 6: 17 – 20, in this way: ***“In the same way Elohim, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, (18) in order that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for Elohim to lie, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us. (19) 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.’***

But what about the irredeemable wicked? Scriptures show that the wicked will also wake up during the second resurrection. All human beings will ultimately either receive life forever or be destroyed forever. Those who stubbornly refuse to repent will be consumed by fire. Their resurrection is for a negative reason, but for the believer with spiritual understanding, it also serves as a sobering warning: The fate of the irredeemable wicked is a reminder that we have entered into a serious covenant with Elohim through Yahshua Messiah. Once we set our hearts and minds on Elohim, we must never turn back to the wicked ways of this evil world.

Finally we need to remember that Elohim does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked as witnessed in Ezekiel 18: 23, as follows: ***“Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked,” declares YHVH Elohim, ‘rather than that he should turn from his ways and live?’***

Chapter 8: Yahshua the Salvation of YHVH.

There is an old saying that goes: Nothing is more certain than death and taxes. When we receive news that someone we know has died, we are sad as it suddenly reminds us that we, too, will die – tomorrow, next year or in the next twenty years. The fear of death has driven many men to search for the so-called fountain of youth. Many today hope that science will be able to add both quality and years to their lives. Imagine what it would mean if scientists were to discover a means to prevent aging, or even allowing people to escape death. It would indeed be the greatest and most applauded event in our history.

Even in our modern world we all realize that, that is only a fantasy. However, people still cling to the hope of eternal life or as a second prize; life after death. How wonderful it would be if there was really a purpose for human life on earth – a purpose which includes eternal life. **My purpose with this message is to tell you exactly that.**

It is the ultimate intent of YHVH to give human beings eternal life. We read this in Titus 1: 2 as follows: ***“in the hope of eternal life, which Elohim, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago.”*** We also read in 1Timothy 2: 3 & 4 ***“This is good and acceptable in the sight of Elohim our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of truth.”***

Sin entered our world when our original parents Adam and Eve, sinned in the Garden of Eden. Since that time we, their descendants have continued to sin and as Rav Shaul said in Romans 3: 10 – 12 and 18: ***“There is none righteous, not even one, There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for Elohim, All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one. There is no fear of Elohim before their eyes.”*** In Romans 3: 23 he says, ***“All have sinned and fall short of the esteem of Elohim.”*** Yes even the best behavior and thoughts of human beings fall short of righteousness.

The Torah or teachings of YHVH defines what sin is. Sin is breaking the commandments of YHVH. Sin is living contrary to His will for us. In the first part of Romans 6: 23 we read: ***“The wages of sin is death”*** This penalty came when Adam and Eve disobeyed YHVH. We read about it in Romans 5: 12 as follows: ***“Through one man(Adam) sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because all sinned.”***

Death as we read in Romans 6: 23 is the penalty every person earns by sinning. We can do nothing to escape death. We cannot bargain with Elohim to take it away. We cannot do any good works to save ourselves from our common fate as human beings. We are in dire straits as nothing that we might accomplish on our own can change our spiritual condition. Furthermore we cannot even do anything for our family, whom we love. We read in Psalm 49: 7 ***“No man can by any means redeem his brother, Or give Elohim a ransom for him.”*** However, in Psalm 49: 15 we also read: ***“But Elohim will redeem my soul from the power of the Sheol (grave); For He will receive me.”*** YHVH our Elohim will rescue us from the grave. What good news! Rav Shaul further added in Romans 8: 20 & 21: ***“For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the esteem of the children of Elohim.”***

Let us now have a look at YHVH our Elohim’s plan of salvation, which was finalized before the human race was created. Peter explained in 1 Peter 1: 18 – 20 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, but with precious blood, as of a lamb, unblemished and spotless, the blood of Messiah. For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you.”***

Yahshua of Nazareth, Elohim in the flesh, came and dwelt among us (see John 1: 14) He took upon himself our humanity and shared our grief's and sorrows. In Hebrews 4: 15 we read: ***"For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin."*** As per Colossians 2: 13 & 14 Yahshua nailed our spiritual indebtedness or our note of guilt to His execution tree. He died clearing our names before YHVH, so that we might live. This is summed up in John 3: 16 ***"For Elohim so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."***

Our salvation is possible only through Yahshua, as Peter said in Acts 4: 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."*** In YHVH our Elohim's plan of salvation we must be justified and be reconciled with Him. Justification is more than receiving His pardon for our sins, although it includes that. YHVH rescues us from our sin and enables us to love and obey Him through the power of His Set-apart Spirit. The sacrifice of Yahshua expresses the mercy of YHVH, by which He removes our sin and lifts the death penalty. Without Yahshua's sacrifice and the mercy of YHVH, we are in bondage to sin. Sin separates us from Elohim and creates a wall that must be breached by His favor. YHVH our Elohim's plan of salvation requires that sin be condemned. We read in Romans 8: 3 that YHVH by ***"sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh."***

Rav Shaul wrote to the Ephesians (in Eph. 2: 5), that even when they ***"were dead in trespasses"*** or sins, Elohim made them ***"alive together with Messiah."*** At one time, due to sin, we were as if dead – though still alive in the flesh. The people whom YHVH has justified, whilst being subject to death, are as good as being alive eternally. Justification is what reconciles us to YHVH our Elohim. Justification brings us into an intimate relationship with YHVH. Rav Shaul said in Romans 5: 1 that those in such a relationship, ***"Having been justified by faith, we have peace with Elohim through our Master Yahshua Messiah."***

We are according to Romans 3: 28 ***"justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law."*** But, if we belong to YHVH, we will seek to please Him. We did not earn His favor; it is a gift to us. Rav Shaul wrote in Titus 3: 4 & 5 that justification comes through ***"the kindness of Elohim our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His favor, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing by the Set-Apart Spirit."***

Once YHVH calls us and we respond with trust and obedience, Elohim makes us His sons and daughters. In 1 John 3: 1-2 we read ***"See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of Elohim; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know HIM. Beloved, now we are children of Elohim, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is."*** Even though we are now children of Elohim, we are not glorified yet. Our existing physical bodies must be changed if we are to live eternally. Our physical bodies must be replaced with spiritual bodies to become immortal so that we may live eternally. This is confirmed in 1 Corinthians 15: 53 ***"For the perishable must put on the imperishable and the mortal must put on immortality."***

Our final change will only occur when Yahshua returns. Rav Shaul explains in Philippians 3: 20 & 21 ***"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for the Savior Yahshua Messiah; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His esteem, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself."*** We who trust and obey YHVH already have our citizenship in heaven; however, we eagerly wait for the return of Yahshua our Savior.

Once YHVH has granted us His favor, He remains faithful, even if we occasionally stumble. The account of the Prodigal Son shows that if we are the children of YHVH, even if we fall short, we are still His children. He does not want to condemn us, but expects the wayward ones to come to themselves and return to Him. If

we are humble, when we return, as in the example of the Prodigal Son, He will receive us back with great joy. Once YHVH saves us, we become His children forever and He will work with us until we are fully united with Him at our resurrection. This is confirmed in Philippians 1: 6 as follows: ***“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Messiah Yahshua.”***

The imminent reality of YHVH our Elohim’s plan of salvation occurs at Yahshua Messiah’s return and the resurrection of the dead. That is the time when the transformation from mortal to immortality will happen. Yahshua’s own resurrection is the assurance of Elohim’s promise to us. Yahshua promised that everyone who believes in Him will have everlasting life and as per John 6: 40 Yahshua says: ***“I will raise him up at the last day.”*** Rav Shaul explains in 1 Thessalonians 4: 14 ***“For if we believe that Yahshua died and rose again, even so Elohim will bring with Him those who sleep in Messiah.”***

The resurrection will only occur when Yahshua returns. We wait and hope for that day, as did Rav Shaul when he wrote in 2 Timothy 4: 7 & 8 ***“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which Yahshua, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”*** If we are children of YHVH, we will focus our lives around Yahshua Messiah. As Rav Shaul stressed in Philippians 3: 12 - 14 ***“Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Messiah Yahshua. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call in Yahshua Messiah.”*** The prize as we know is eternal life. In Revelation 21 in the last part of verse 6 and 7 YHVH tells us out destiny: ***“I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of water of life without cost. He who overcomes shall inherit these things and I will be his Elohim and he will be MY son.”***

Chapter 9: Yahshua shall return.

The focal point of The Scriptures revolves around the coming of Yahshua the Messiah as Savior and King of Israel. In the Garden of Eden our first parents, damaged their relationship with Elohim, by sinning. However YHWH foretold the coming of a Redeemer who would repair the spiritual breach with Him in Genesis 3: 15. YHWH said to the serpent who tempted Adam and Eve to sin: **“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel”** This is the 1st prophesy in scriptures about the coming Messiah, who would smash the power that sin and death hold over humans. How will this happen? We know that it happened by the sacrificial death of Yahshua our Savior.

Yahshua accomplished this at His first coming. In John 1: 29 Yochanan the Immerser recognized Him as **“the Lamb of Elohim, who takes away the sins of the world.”** Scriptures reveal the importance of Elohim becoming flesh at the 1st coming of Yahshua the Messiah. Scriptures also reveal that Yahshua will most certainly come again, visibly and in power. After Yahshua’s resurrection, as His disciples watched him ascend, two angels asked in Acts 1: 11: **“Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Yahshua, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”** Yahshua’s Olivet prophesy in Matthew 24: 1 – 25 and 46 addressed Messiah’s disciple’s questions and concerns about His return at the end of this age.

In 1 Thessalonians 4: 16, well after Yahshua’s resurrection Rav Shaul (Paul) told the assembly how the Master Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the Archangel and with the trumpet call of Elohim. According to 1 Corinthians 15: 51 – 54, at Yahshua’s return He will raise the righteous dead to immortality and change the faithful who are still alive, and they will all meet Him in the clouds.

The big Question is when? Throughout the ages, people have speculated about the return of Messiah – and many times these people were disappointed when their various interpretations failed. Overemphasizing Yahshua’s return diverts our minds from doing the work of Elohim. Many become so engrossed in prophetic speculation that they fail to fulfill their rightful role as Nazarene Israelites, i.e. to be lights in the world; to be watchmen over both houses of Israel, warning them about impending problems, due to sin; and continuing to esteem YHWH and serve our fellow human beings.

Our focus should be on being ready for Yahshua’s return, whenever it occurs We see in Matthew 24: 44 **“You also must be ready,” said Yahshua, “because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him.”** And in Matthew 10: 22: **“He who stands firm to the end will be saved.”** Yes, according to Philippians 3: 21 Yahshua will return in all esteem “to transform the lowly bodies of believers, so that they will be like His new esteemed body”.

However, no-where in The Scriptures do we find it telling us directly or indirectly, when Yahshua will return. His return is not as important as whether we are ready when He does. Yet people have for the past 2000 years constructed elaborate ideas about His return, which actually sabotaged the main message of The Scriptures and devastated the faith of many believers. For early believers Yahshua’s return was certain. The disciples didn’t need to worry about when it would occur. YHWH wanted them to stop gazing into the sky and get on with preaching the truth.

The chaotic world in which we live today, begs us to look for ‘signs’ in the cosmos to indicate that the return of Messiah is imminent. We yearn for Messiah to come and straighten out the mess we find ourselves in. However, prophetic speculation is still ill advised. The reason is that prophetic misfires destroy faith. People were always on the lookout for ‘signs’ which, will according to ‘prophesy’ announce and accompany Jacob’s trouble, and because the signs included selfish rulers, civil disobedience, drought, floods, famine, comets,

plagues, and an increase in sinfulness, which were present throughout history, there is never any difficulty about finding these 'signs.'

People are more concerned with the date on which Yahshua will return than with how He commanded us, His followers to live until he comes. During the great plague in Europe in the 13th century, prophets of that day predicted that Messiah will return within the following ten years. John Wesley, the father of the Methodist Church, said the end would come in 1836. Jehovah's Witnesses speak of the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new world, before the generation that saw the start of the 1st world war in 1914, passes away.

When my wife and I started believing, more or less what we do today, except for the Oneness of Elohim and the use of the Set-apart Names, the group that we belonged to, believed that the end would come in 1974. That was the year we started, but many who followed the teachings of that group until then, left because predictions did not come true.

YHVH does not take us out of this hostile, selfish world; He leaves us in it to do the work of proclaiming the good news of His coming Kingdom and to 'believe in the one, whom He has sent.' In Luke 19 verse 13 Yahshua said to his disciples **"Occupy until I come."** We must not give up. We are living in the enemy's territory, spiritually, and we are supposed to witness to a better way of life. We are ambassadors of the Kingdom of YHVH in a world hostile Him. As ambassadors we need to show the people amongst whom we live in this world, the better way that we are supposed to live like in the kingdom of Elohim. We keep the laws applicable to the country in which we live (as long as these conform to the Torah of YHVH), but also the Laws applicable to the Kingdom of Elohim in heaven, i.e. the Torah. The reason is that we should be examples to the other people in the world. We have to show them that we keep the commandments and other laws for our own good.

When the Kingdom of Elohim comes to earth as it is presently in Heaven, we will already be keeping the Torah, but without ever sinning, since we will be Spiritual by then. To enable us to live in the hostile territory of our enemy here on earth, we need to put on the full armor of YHVH our Elohim, so that we may take a stand against the Devil's schemes (see Ephesians 6:11). Our orders from Yahshua are clear: we need to occupy till He returns. When He returns, He hopes to find us **'doing so'** (Matt. 24: 46).

We must not let the enemy's propaganda wear us out. We need to remain loyal to the coming King of Kings and Master of Masters. However, do not misunderstand what I am trying to get across with this book. Even though we should focus on how we live, we should also proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom of Elohim. Our world today can be compared to the time of Noah. According to Genesis 6: 15 (paraphrased); Elohim saw that the wickedness of mankind was very great and that every intent in his heart was only evil continually, in Noah's day.

Like at that time, today our newspapers are full of stories of rape, murder and other crimes against humanity. Only the very naïve do not recognize the signs of a dying world. The increasing crime and violence leaves the world with very little hope! Yahshua was serious about proclaiming the good news about the coming Kingdom of Elohim. In Matthew 24 we see that Yahshua teaches His disciples about the coming tribulation at the end of the age. He also stressed that the gospel of the Kingdom of Elohim has to be proclaimed as a witness to the entire world, before the end shall come.

Yes we need to give the people of our dying world hope for the future, by telling them about the world to come (at the return of Yahshua). The Kingdom of Elohim will usher in a time of prosperity. When Yahshua returns He is going to change the nature of people. All evil that Satan caused will be stopped. According to Micah 4: 3 & 4 **"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. 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."

Even the nature of wild animals will be changed. We read about that in Isaiah 11: 6 - 9 as follows: ***"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 the little boy will lead them. Also the cow and the bear will graze; Their young will lie down together; And the lion will eat straw like the ox. 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. They will not hurt or destroy in all My Set-apart mountain; For the earth will be full of the knowledge of YHVH As the waters cover the sea."***

Even though our commission is to tell the people in this evil world about the Wonderful World Tomorrow, giving them hope for the future, we cannot set dates. The reason according to Matthew 24: 36 is: ***"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone."*** Yes we know that Yahshua's return is near, but we cannot set dates or give ultimatums. Whenever, He returns, His orders to us are still valid; we need to occupy till He returns. This is confirmed in Matthew 24: 46 as follows: ***"Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes."***

We should look forward with complete faith to the return of Messiah to rule the world from Jerusalem for a thousand years. However, we must continue to do the work and plan to live in the present world, under worse conditions on an ongoing basis, until we die one day. We might believe that things cannot get any worse, but according to Matthew 24: 21 & 22, it is going to go a lot worse, before the end will come: ***"for then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world, until now, nor ever shall."***

Below is more than adequate evidence from The Scriptures, prophesying about Yahshua's return:

In Torah, Prophets and Writings.

Prophecy

Location in the Scriptures

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| • The obedience of the nations will be His. | Genesis 49: 10 |
| • As a star out of Jacob, He will crush defiance. | Numbers 24: 17 |
| • He will judge the ends of the earth. | 1 Samuel 2: 10 |
| • He will stand upon the earth. | Job 19: 25 |
| • YHVH will install Him as King on Zion. | Psalms 2: 6 |
| • He will inherit the nations and rule them with an iron scepter. | Psalms 2: 8 & 9 |
| • All the ends of the earth will bow down before Him. | Psalms 22: 27 |
| • The righteous will flourish and prosperity will abound. | Psalms 72: 7 |
| • He will rule from sea to sea. | Psalms 72: 8 |
| • He will deliver the afflicted who have no one to help. | Psalms 72: 12 |
| • All nations will be blessed through Him and they will call Him blessed. | Psalms 72: 17 |
| • His enemies will become His footstool: His scepter will extend from Zion. | Psalms 110: 1 & 2 |
| • He will judge the nations. | Psalms 110: 6 |
| • He will be established as world ruler, and the nations will come to learn from Him. | Isaiah 2: 2 - 4 |
| • World peace will be established. | Isaiah 2: 4 |
| • He will shatter the burdensome yoke and the rod of the oppressor. | Isaiah 9: 4 |
| • His government and peace will increase without end. | Isaiah 9: 7 |
| • He will reign on David's throne and establish it with righteousness forever. | Isaiah 9: 7 |
| • He will slay the wicked. | Isaiah 11: 4 |

• He will come to punish people for their sins.	Isaiah 26: 21
• As David's righteous Branch, He will reign wisely.	Jeremiah 23: 5
• Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell in safety.	Jeremiah 23: 6
• He will be called "YHVH our Righteousness"	Jeremiah 23: 6
• The Davidic throne will be restored to Him to whom it rightfully belongs.	Ezekiel 21: 2
• He will come with the clouds of heaven.	Daniel 7: 13
• Judah and Israel will be reunited.	Hosea 1: 11
• The earth and the sky will tremble when YHVH roars from Zion.	Joel 3: 16
• He will dwell in Zion; foreigners will never again Invade Jerusalem.	Joel 3: 17
• He will go before His people as one who breaks open the way.	Micah 2: 13
• The world will not train for war anymore.	Micah 4: 3
• Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid.	Micah 4: 4
• He will be the peace of his flock.	Micah 5: 4 - 5
• He will be with His people who will never again fear harm.	Zephaniah 3: 15
• He will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on His throne.	Zechariah 6: 13
• Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of YHVH the Holy Mountain.	Zechariah 8: 13
• His rule will extend from sea to sea.	Zechariah 9: 10
• He will pour out a spirit of grace and supplication, and those who pierced Him will Mourn For Him.	Zechariah 12: 10
• The Mount of Olives will be split in two.	Zechariah 14: 4
• He will come and all the Set-apart ones with Him.	Zechariah 14: 5
• The nations will celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.	Zechariah 14: 16
• He will purify the Levites.	Malachi 4: 4

In the Writings of the Netsarim (to all Nations)

Prophecy

Location in the Scriptures

• Those who do the will of the Father will enter the kingdom.	Matthew 7:21
• He will reject those who did not truly follow Him.	Matthew 7:22-23
• He will come in His Father's glory, with the angels to reward all people according to what they have done.	Matthew 16:27
• The nations will see Him coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.	Matthew 24:30
• The angels will gather His elect from the four winds.	Matthew 24:31
• No one except the Father knows the day or the hour of Yahshua's return.	Matthew 24:36
• Yahshua will come at an unexpected hour.	Matthew 24:44
• The Father will give Him the throne of David.	Luke 1:32
• His kingdom will never end.	Luke 1:33
• His servants must be ready when He returns.	Luke 12:35, 40
• He will feast with His servants.	Luke 12:37
• Those who have done good will rise to live.	John 5:29
• He will come back in the same way He was seen going into heaven.	Acts 1:11
• He will judge the living and the dead.	Acts 10:42
• He will give to each person according to what he has done.	Romans 2:6
• He will reign until He has put all his enemies under his feet.	1 Corinthians 15:25
• The trumpet will sound, and the righteous dead will be raised imperishable.	1 Corinthians 15:52
• YHVH will have carried His work in us to completion.	Philippians 1:6
• At His name every knee will bow.	Philippians 2:10
• When He appears, we will appear with Him in esteem.	Colossians 3:4
• He will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of YHVH.	1Thessalonians 4:16

- The dead in Messiah will rise first. 1 Thessalonians 4:16
- We who are alive and left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Master in the air. 1 Thessalonians 4:17
- He will be revealed from heaven in blazing fire with His powerful angels. 2 Thessalonians 1:7
- He will overthrow the lawless one with the breath of His mouth and destroy him by the splendor of His coming. 2 Thessalonians 2:8
- He will judge the living and the dead. 2 Timothy 4:1
- YHVH will make His enemies a footstool. Hebrews 1:13
- He will appear, for the second time, to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him. Hebrews 9:28
- His coming is near. James 5:8
- He will not be slow in keeping His promise. 2 Peter 3:9
- When He appears, we will be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 1 John 3:2
- The kingdom of the world will become His kingdom. Revelation 11:15
- He will reward His servants. Revelation 11:18
- The armies of heaven will follow Him. Revelation 19:14
- The beast and the false prophet will be thrown into the lake of fire, and the rest of those who oppose Him killed. Revelation 19:20-21
- The righteous will reign with Him for a thousand years. Revelation 20: 4

Chapter 10: Yahshua as Savior and King.

Yahshua existed throughout eternity as the Word. We read in 1 John 1: 1 & 2: ***‘What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of Life – (2) and the life was manifested and we have seen and bear witness and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us.’*** John starts this letter to the ecclesia, by talking about ***‘the beginning’*** as he had in his Gospel. He said that Yahshua was ***‘from the beginning’*** and that he bore witness to that eternal life, the Word, Messiah Yahshua. The Word who became Yahshua Messiah referred to himself as the I AM (the one who exists) in John 8: 24, 28 & 58. In Revelation 1: 17 the risen Messiah said to John: ***“Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last.”*** According to these Scriptures Yahshua was clearly Elohim. Rav Shaul wrote about Him in Philippians 2: 6 – 8, stating: ***‘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 them. (8) And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even the death of the tree.’***

Yahshua as we know lived a perfect life and paid the penalty for all human sin – past, present and future. He was then resurrected back to the eternal life, which He possessed before as the Word of Elohim. In fact shortly before His impalement, Yahshua prayed as recorded in John 17: 5: ***“And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.”*** Yahshua ***‘the image of the invisible Elohim’*** as per Colossians 1: 15 came to reveal the existence and character of YHVH. The Word will also return to the earth as Messiah to rule the nations of the world during the coming millennium. The Word created the universe and everything that exists on earth, including all human beings. The Word was Elohim transformed into a man. He walked among us. Yes Elohim the Supreme Being looked into human eyes, talked to human ears, worked, ate and drank with men and women. A divine, eternal spirit being, the Creator and Ruler of the universe touched human hands. Even though these occurrences defy human imagination, it actually happened about 2000 years ago. We read this in Hebrews 2: 9, ***‘But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Yahshua, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of Elohim, He might taste death for everyone.’***

Yahshua had another great responsibility, beyond dying for the sins of the world. He also had to live a perfect sinless life for all human kind. Rav Shaul wrote about this in Romans 8: 3 & 4, as follows: ***‘(For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh), Elohim (did:) sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh (and as an offering for sin, He) condemned sin in the flesh, (4) (in order) that the requirements of the Law might be fulfilled in us (who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.)’*** Yahshua was in the form of human flesh, yet He was the only ‘person’ ever born who lived His entire life without ever sinning. Rav Shaul wrote of the risen Messiah in Hebrews 4: 15, saying: ***‘For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.’*** As the Word, before his birth as a ‘human’, He inspired the prophet Isaiah to foretell the brutality that He as Messiah would suffer in Isaiah 53 (verses 3, 5, 7, 8 & 12). He also inspired David to write about His suffering in Psalm 22.

The time finally arrived for Yahshua’s sacrifice, preordained before mankind existed. Rav Shaul wrote in Hebrews 9: 24 – 26 ***‘For Messiah did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of Elohim for us; (25) nor was it that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood not his own. (26) Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.’*** Yahshua offered Himself outside Jerusalem almost 2000 years ago. When He died He cried out, as recorded in Matthew 27: 46: ***“MY EL, MY EL, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?”*** He uttered the same words that He

inspired David to write in Psalm 22: 1. At the time Peter wanted to fight to prevent Yahshua from being arrested and crucified. However, Yahshua told him in Matthew 26: 52 – 54: ***“Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. (53) Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? (54) How then shall the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen this way?”***

Elohim’s plan had to move forward. Elohim’s plan of salvation for all mankind always took precedence and nothing could stop it. Even while in agony during His life, Yahshua put the fate of humanity before His own needs. We read His prayer knowing his own demise looming on the horizon in John 12: 27: ***“Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, ‘Father, save Me from this hour?’ But for this purpose I came to this hour.”*** In that context the verse recorded in John 3: 16 takes on a profound meaning: ***“For Elohim so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*** Likewise we read in Romans 8: 31 and 32: ***‘What then shall we say to these things? If Elohim is for us who is against us? (32) He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him give us all things?’*** The goal was finally reached that Passover afternoon, as Yahshua hung on the stake, in pain, bleeding and saying: ***“It is finished.”*** And as we read in Luke 23: 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.’*** With His death Yahshua cancelled out the certificate of debt for the penalty of sin that all humans incurred. He reconciled us back to the Father – so that we may approach Elohim’s throne directly in prayer, in Yahshua’s saving name.

At this point in time Elohim began calling individuals out of sin and in this way the prophecies of forgiveness would be fulfilled. To remind us of some of these prophecies, let us read Micah 7: 19, as follows: ***‘He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. Yes, Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.’*** Followed by the last part of Isaiah 38: 17: ***‘For Thou hast cast all my sins behind Thy back.’*** The called out individuals would become Elohim’s own elect. Rav Kepha wrote about us in 1 Peter 2: 9 – 10, as follows: ***‘But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for Elohim’s own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (10) for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of Elohim; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.’*** This last statement is in fact a reverse of the curse that YHVH placed on us, the lost house of Israel in Hosea 1: 1- 9.

An important point to be understood at this point. Why doesn’t everyone on earth understand these truths? Are they to be lost? The answer is a resounding no! Prior to the death and resurrection of Yahshua, only a few individuals were chosen to perform special responsibilities. Their accounts have been recorded in the Tanach: They were such people as Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Moses, Deborah, Samuel, David, Isaiah, Ester and a handful of others. The uncounted numbers from Adam to Messiah were not yet given an opportunity for salvation. During the time from Messiah’s resurrection, ascension and second coming, Elohim has been calling only a selected few to be part of His elect, or first fruits. These are known as the remnant according to Elohim’s gracious choice as per Romans 11: 5 – 7. The rest were hardened – meaning simply that they lack the Set-apart Spirit as a gift of Elohim (Acts 2: 38). Elohim has purposed that only a comparatively few individuals should be part of His called out ones.

However, that will all change when the Word returns as the Messiah and King. With Satan out of the way, Yahshua will remove spiritual blindness and all people will have an opportunity to be saved, Micah showed that Messiah’s kingdom would be one of truth in 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 people 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.'

YHVH will then remove human blindness and the hardness of their hearts. We read in Ezekiel 11: 19 – 20 that every human alive will be offered the Set-apart Spirit, as follows: **"And I shall give them one heart, and shall put a new spirit within them. And I shall take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, (20) that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances, and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their Elohim."** What about those who lived and died throughout the centuries until Messiah's future return – those who were never called? They will be resurrected to physical life after the millennium rule of Messiah. We read in 1 Timothy 2: 4, that YHVH desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. These people will be given an opportunity to receive eternal life. We read about this in Revelation 20 verse 5 **'The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.'** In verse 11 to 12 we read: **'And I saw a great white throne and Him who was sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. (12) And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.'** This describes a time in history during which all people who ever lived will come to realize the reason for being born. The Scriptures will be opened to their understanding at this time. This will be similar to when Yahshua in Luke 24: 45 opened His Disciples minds to understanding the Scriptures.

These people will then have their first opportunity to understand and know Elohim's way of life. They will be given a chance to make an informed decision as to whether they want to repent of their past sins. They will be given the opportunity to accept Yahshua as their Master and Savior, or reject His way of life. Eternal life will be offered to the entire multitude who ever lived. Those who accept Yahshua as their Savior will be immersed into His saving name. However, there might be some that will never accept the way of life of YHVH. Their fate is to be burned up once and for all. They will not be tormented forever. Only spiritual beings such as Satan and his demons have that fate facing them. Human beings who are made from flesh and blood will burn until they are turned to ashes. YHVH is a merciful Elohim and He will give all human beings a chance to come to repentance. YHVH will bring the vast majority of mankind back to life and will fill those who willingly follow Him, with his Set-apart Spirit. We read in Romans 11 verse 32 - 36: **"For Elohim has shut up all in disobedience that He might show mercy on all. (33) Oh, the depth of riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of Elohim! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! (34) FOR WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF YHVH, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? (35) OR WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? (36) For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen."**

Those who have been called during this age and have obeyed Elohim by keeping His commandments, will have been resurrected if dead, or changed, if alive, into immortal beings at Messiah's return. Rav Shaul explains in 1 Corinthians 15: 51 & 52 as follows: **"Behold I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable and we shall be changed."** Salvation is described in four parts:

1. Elohim chooses a person to become a first-fruit. We read in Yahshua's own words in 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."**
2. Next Elohim applies Yahshua's sacrifice to forgive the sins of the repentant person and justifies him/her. We read what Rav Kepha (Peter) said regarding this in Acts 3: 19 **'Repent therefore and**

return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of YHVH.'

3. Thirdly, Yahshua lives His life in the repentant believer through the Set-apart Spirit. We read what Rav Shaul says about this in Galatians 2: 20, ***"I have been crucified with Messiah; and it is no longer I, who live, but Messiah lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of Elohim, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me."***
4. Finally the believer is born from above, at Messiah's second coming, to become immortal.

The word of YHVH, Yahshua is central to this entire process. The real hope of a believer is in the resurrection of Yahshua and in His life that He lives in repentant human beings. Rav Shaul puts it like this in Hebrews 12: 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.'*** Yahshua is the High Priest of those who have submitted their lives to Elohim according to Hebrews 4: 15. He provides pastoral help to bring them to full spiritual maturity in obedience and submission to Elohim. The Word came in the flesh. That is, Elohim took on flesh, as we read in 1 John 4: 2: ***'By this you know the Spirit of Elohim: every spirit that confesses that Yahshua Messiah has come in the flesh is from Elohim.'*** Similarly we know from Galatians 2: 20 that Yahshua now lives in us and as a result, we now live our lives in faith. What is real faith? It simply means that we have come to believe in Elohim and keep/do His teachings/commandments.

Yahshua promised believers that He would send a 'helper', meaning the Set-apart Spirit to lead them into all truth as per John 14: 26 and John 16: 13. To keep the spiritual laws of Elohim requires the indwelling presence of the Set-apart Spirit in those who choose to obey Him. The Set-apart Spirit does not keep the law for the person, but does it through the repentant person. It is truly a mystery to the average individual. However, it is now made clear as we read in Romans 16: 25, ***'Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Yahshua Messiah, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past.'*** Every individual called by Elohim is waiting for the return of Messiah. This will be the time of the resurrection of the righteous dead to eternal life. It is Yahshua our Messiah who will open the graves at His return. Speaking of individuals who has been faithful to the calling of the Father, Yahshua said in John 5: 26 – 29 ***"For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself, (27) and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. (28) Do not marvel at this: for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice. (29) and shall come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment."***

The resurrection to life occurs at Messiah's return. The disciples were standing with the resurrected Messiah on the Mount of Olives. As they watched Him disappear in the clouds, two men in white clothing appeared besides them, saying, in Acts 1: 11: ***"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."*** Yahshua will return at a time when the world will be experiencing the great tribulation. He will come to save us from ourselves. It will be a time of great crises and world war, as we read in Revelation 11: 18 ***"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."*** The nations will not welcome the return of Yahshua. They will fight against Him as we read in Revelation 17: 14, as follows: ***"These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Master of Masters and King of Kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful."*** The saints made immortal – will rule with Messiah on the earth as we read in Revelation 5: 10 ***"And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our Elohim; and they will reign upon the earth."***

Those human beings obedient and submissive to Elohim will be changed into Spirit beings and will be given ***"authority over the nations"*** as per Revelation 2: 26. What about the rest? During the millennium, Yahshua

will make salvation available to every human alive. After the millennium is over, the rest of the dead will also be given their first chance to be called into salvation. Yahshua will also write His laws on their hearts. The second fruits, a much greater harvest will be given an opportunity to salvation. However, as we read in 1 Corinthians 15: 24 – 25 (paraphrased) then comes the end, when Yahshua delivers up the kingdom of Elohim to the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

Nevertheless, the end is only the beginning. In a vision John saw a new heaven and earth, the first heaven and earth having passed away. We read in Revelation 21: 3 – 4: ***And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of Elohim is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and Elohim Himself shall be among them. (4) and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."*** Elohim the Father will dwell with men. No human beings will exist any longer – those who made it will have been changed to immortal Spirit beings. Yahshua Messiah will have brought many sons to glory and will have completed Elohim's plan of Salvation – the redemption of mankind. Baruch HaShem YHVH!

Chapter 11: The Priesthood of believers in Messiah.

Rav Kepha in his first letter in 1st Peter 1: 1 & 2, wrote: ***‘Kepha, an apostle of Yahshua Messiah, to those (former Israelites) who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen (2) according to the foreknowledge of Elohim the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Yahshua Messiah and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure.’*** The word ‘aliens’ used in verse 1 is translated from the Greek word ‘parepidemos’ which means ‘a people living alongside the heathens’. The question is: Who was the nation that was not living in their own country, but alongside the heathens of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia in a country known today as modern day Turkey? Rav Kepha was in fact writing to Israelites who were not living in their own country any longer, but were scattered among the nations of the world.

Rav Kepha continued to identify these Israelites who were scattered among the nations of the world, by later quoting the prophet Hosea in his letter. Kepha is addressing the ones he is writing to ‘as not My people’, being a reference to the House of Israel as may be seen from Hosea 1: 10 & 11. He continues saying that through the redemptive work of Yahshua Messiah they are now ‘a royal priesthood’. But, we know that Levi was the tribe who was selected to be in the Aaronic priestly order. However, it was not the Aaronic priesthood that Rav Kepha was referring to as fulfilling Elohim’s call conferred upon the nation as a whole. In fact the prophet Hosea already hinted at this priesthood when he wrote in Hosea 5: 1 – 3, saying: ***‘Hear this O priests! Give heed, O house of Israel! Listen, O house of the king! For the judgment applies to you, for you have been a snare at Mizpah, and a net spread out on Tabor. (2) And the revolvers have gone deep in depravity, but I will chastise all of them. (3) I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hidden from Me; for now, O Ephraim, you have played the harlot, Israel has defiled itself.’*** Why did Elohim call Israel priests here?

There was a priestly office in Israel, other than the Levitical priesthood which was mentioned immediately prior to the latter priestly order came into being. When ancient Israel arrived at Mount Sinai in the third month after leaving Egypt, YHVH said to Moses to tell the house of Jacob and sons of Israel in Exodus 19: 4 – 6: ***‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings, and brought you to Myself. (5) Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; (6) and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’*** Prior to descending upon the mountain in the cloud and fire, Elohim told Moses to tell the people of Israel to consecrate themselves for two days, so as to enable them to stand before Him and hear His voice. On the third day after consecrating themselves for two days, the people gathered around the mountain, which Elohim had warned them not to touch.

Because of mankind’s inherit weakness and tendency to worship that which he sees with his eyes and touches with his hands, YHVH send Moses down the mountain a second time to warn the people not to touch the mountain, or break through the set boundary. Then YHVH commanded Moses to go down again and tell the priests to consecrate themselves as recorded in verse 22 of Exodus 19, repeating the charge in verses 24, saying: ***“Go down and come up again, you and Aaron with you; but do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to YHVH, lest He break forth upon them.”*** Who are these priests? To determine who they are, let’s have a look at the ordination of the Levitical priests in Numbers 3: 12, where YHVH says to Moses: ***“Now, behold, I have taken the Levites from among the sons of Israel instead of every first-born, the first issue of the womb among the sons of Israel. So the Levites shall be Mine.”*** The Levites had replaced the firstborn’s priestly position.

Now, let’s go back to the day on which YHVH took the sons of Israel out of Egypt. One of the first things that He did, was to take the first-fruit unto Himself, saying in Exodus 13: 2, ***“Sanctify to Me every first-born, the first offspring of every womb among the sons of Israel of both man and beast; it belongs to Me.”*** These firstborn of man and beast did not belong to themselves, rather they belonged to YHVH for His work and purposes. They were to be priests unto YHVH that were set-apart or Holy for (YHVH)’s use. By Scriptural definition a priest is a firstborn who does not belong to himself, but is (YHVH)’s special treasure and possession. After Yahshua our Messiah fulfilled His redemptive role as the Lamb that takes away the sins of

the world, YHVH began to draw out the progeny of Abraham, a first fruit of the New Cosmic order. To fully understand this we need to proceed by reading Romans 4: 16, James 1: 1, 18 and Hebrews 2: 16 in succession, as follows:

- ***“For this reason it is by faith, that it might be in accordance with grace, in order that the promise may be certain to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.”***
- ***“James, a bond-servant of Elohim and of the Master Yahshua Messiah, to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad, greetings.”***
- ***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.”***
- ***“For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendants of Abraham.”***

The initial outpouring of the Set-apart Spirit upon the disciples on the Feast of Pentecost, the exact date upon which YHVH entered into a marriage covenant with ancient Israel, by giving them the Ten Commandments under the cover of Mount Sinai, was the beginning or germination of the Abrahamic seed which was to grow and become an expression of a priesthood after the order of Melchizedek. We read accordingly from Revelation 1: 5 & 6, ***‘and from Yahshua Messiah, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood, (6) and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His Elohim and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amein.’***

Yahshua essentially enacted the new covenant in His blood when He died on the stake and brought about the change in the order of the priesthood, as witnessed in Hebrews 7: 11 & 12, in this way: ***‘Now if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood, what further need was there for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be designated according to the order of Aaron? (12) For when the priesthood is changed, of necessity there takes place a change of Law also.’*** Whereas the Levites offered the blood of animals for the sins of the people, Yahshua offered Himself, as recorded in Hebrew 9: 13 – 15, as follows: ***‘For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled, sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, (14) how much more will the blood of Messiah, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to Elohim, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living Elohim? (15) And for this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that since a death had taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant (or priesthood), those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.’***

We see according to Hebrews 10: 1 - 4, ***‘For the (Sacrificial) Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never by the same sacrifices year by year, which they offer continually, make perfect those who draw near. (2) Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshippers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? (3) But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year. (4) For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.’*** The sacrificial laws were shadows of Elohim’s redemptive plan for mankind, or as Rav Shaul explained in Galatians 3: 24, saying: ***‘Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Messiah, that we may be justified by faith.’*** Once Yahshua became the sacrifice for sin, there was no longer a need for the sacrificial system to atone for sin, as witnessed in Hebrews 10: 8 – 12, in this way: ***‘After saying (above), “SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS AND WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND sacrifices FOR SIN THOU HAST NOT DESIRED, NOR HAST THOU TAKEN PLEASURE in them” (which are offered according to the {sacrificial} Law), (9) then He (Yahshua) said, “BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO THY WILL.” He takes away the first (priesthood and its administration of the sacrificial law), in order to establish the second (priesthood to the order of Melchizedek). (10) By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Messiah once for all. (11) And every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; (12) but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF ELOHIM.”***

The Aaronic priesthood came to an end on the day that Yahshua died; we read accordingly from Isaiah 53: 3 – 6, ***“He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. (4) Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of Elohim, and afflicted. (5) But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastising for our wellbeing fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. (6) All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but YHVH has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.”*** We read further about His saving deeds for us from Psalm 103: 12, as follows: ***‘As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.’*** It is very interesting to understand that in addition to meaning ‘*accompaniment*’, the name Levi also comes from the root ‘*to borrow*’ showing or denoting a transitory or temporary state. Because of the sin of the golden calf, YHVH ‘*borrowed*’, or temporarily selected the tribe of Levi to replace the first-born priesthood. Note again from Numbers 3: 12, where YHVH said to Moses: ***“Sanctify to Me every first-born, the first offspring of every womb among the sons of Israel of both man and beast; it belongs to Me”***, the connection between the first-born and the priesthood; that neither BELONGED TO THEMSELVES. The purpose was to be of service to YHVH.

A second look at the transliterated Hebrew word for gospel, namely ‘*bsora*’, reveals that it shares its root with the word ‘*meat*’ or ‘*flesh*’. Therefore, when ‘*the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us*’ (as per John 1: 14) the announcement of grace and truth came to life in Yahshua the Messiah. An added dimension to this flesh and blood witness is the restoration of our (earthly) identity as a remnant of the lost ten tribes. What a declaration of ‘*good news*’ of the righteousness of heaven kissing the earth, as witnessed in Psalm 85: 10 & 11, in this way: ***‘Lovingkindness and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. (11) Truth springs from the earth; and righteousness looks down from heaven.’*** What a wonderful and enlightening revelation of Elohim’s faithfulness. But, as magnificent as it is, it is only the beginning of our destiny as a redeemed chosen race. Within Elohim’s judicial order in the family of man, He has a purpose for Israel; His prophesied priestly first-born nation, whom He destined to become His royal priesthood here on earth.

But, what does this kingdom of priests look like and how will it function? As already mentioned Yahshua became the High Priest of this renewed order of (YHVH)’s coming kingdom on the earth. Why renewed? Turning to the first few chapters of the Scriptures, we see that in the beginning Elohim set up His kingdom-order on earth. Adam and Eve had a relationship with the Creator, who gave them a position or function to fulfill; in that they were in charge or dominion of the earth, while at the same time being under His power and authority. They were functioning in the role of a servant-king, providing life and light to the creation, which they received from the Light and Life Himself. Yes, they lived in a relationship with the Creator fulfilling a royal priestly role. They were in the kingly-priestly position later to become known as the ‘*Melchizedek Order*’. However, because of natural man’s inherent weakness it did not last long. Sin entered in through man’s Elohim-given natural inclinations or desires. This desire was given to man by the Creator as a gift, since desire is required by mankind in order to have and maintain a relationship with one another and with Elohim.

It was this powerful emotion in its undefiled state that took Yahshua to the crucifixion stake. It is the main ingredient of love and man’s will is many times subject to this powerful emotion. However, we should not confuse desire with lust, which is from darkness. It was the perversion of desire, through believing Satan’s lie, that caused mankind to turn to the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, as explained in 1 John 2: 15 - 17, as follows: ***‘Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. (17) And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of Elohim abides for ever.’*** After turning away from Elohim, and essentially having their spiritual umbilical cord cut from Life, they remained in their position of

dominion over the creation, but now devoid of Elohim's light and (eternal) life, the creation fell into futility and corruption. It is for this reason that we read from Romans 8: 19 – 22, ***'For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of Elohim. (20) For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope (21) that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption unto the freedom of the glory of the children of Elohim. (22) For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.'***

The creation is now awaiting the restoration of the firstborn priesthood, who will again walk as a living conduit of spiritual life, and as an example to the rest of mankind and creation, how to live Elohim's way of life. This will only happen when the priesthood is re-established and the sons of Elohim come boldly before their Father and perform their foreordained priestly duties, which is to serve Elohim with all their heart and all their soul. After the fall of man, he fell prey to another spiritual power, the order of darkness. Natural man cannot survive on his own; he is totally dependent on some sort of spiritual influence. He will either be subject to his Creator, the Spirit of Light and Life, or the spirit of darkness and death. In Rav Shaul's explanation to believers in 1 Corinthians 15: 42 – 44, he says that man as a seed, has no glory in himself, but that he has been created to receive glory from that which he worships. If man worships a golden calf, a stone, a star, or whatever else he worships, he receives glory from that object, as we read from Romans 1: 21 – 23, in this way: ***'For even though they knew Elohim, they did not honor Him as Elohim, or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. (22) Professing to be wise, they became fools, (23) and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible Elohim for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures (created things).'*** A second witness comes from Psalm 115: 4 – 8, as follows: ***'Their idols are silver and gold, the work of man's hands. (5) They have mouths, but they cannot speak; they have eyes, but they cannot see; (6) They have ears, but they cannot hear; they have noses, but they cannot smell; (7) They have hands, but they cannot feel; they have feet, but they cannot walk; they cannot make a sound with their throat. (8) Those who make them will become like them, everyone who trust in them.'*** Those who trust in dead idols will become like their idols.

This is why we read from Isaiah 60: 2, that in the last day ***"(For behold,) darkness will cover the earth, and deep darkness the peoples; but YHVH will rise upon you, and His glory will appear upon you.'*** Since man's Elohim-given position as a priest and his inherent desire to worship has at this time taken on the lowest form of glory, by the worship of a god of his own design or himself, rather than the Creator, these must be the days that Isaiah is speaking about. Mankind was placed into a preordained divine order in the creation, or as we read from Hebrews 2: 6 & 7 (quoted from Psalm 8: 4 – 6), as follows: ***'But one has testified somewhere saying, "WHAT IS MAN THAT THOU REMEMBEREST HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT THOU ART CONCERNED ABOUT HIM? (7) THOU HAST MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; THOU HAST CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAST APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF THY HANDS."*** But mankind has lost his vessel of glory to the spirits of this present darkness.

However, now through the true 'b'sora' of Messiah Yahshua, the Israelite believer has been transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of Light, as Rav Kepha witnessed in 1 Peter 2: 9, saying: ***"But you are a CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR ELOHIM'S OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."*** Yes, Elohim's order for redemption of the universe is on the road to fulfillment, but still requires His intervention. Yahshua our kinsman redeemer came to reconcile the present chaos and darkness, in order to put it in its rightful order, so that the Kingdom of Life and Light would dispel death and darkness. YHVH has called us, His people Israel, to be first fruits in humanity's restored priesthood.

The Father of Life did not send His Son to the Abrahamic family to die, in order to form some kind of new religion among all the other religions of the world. He sent Yahshua so that He might reconcile man back to the original relationship with Himself. In this way our worship of Him in spirit and truth will fill us again with

His glory or light. When Yahshua returns we will again be covered in Light as witnessed in 1 John 3: 2 & 3, in this way: ***'Beloved, now we are children of Elohim, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like him, because we shall see Him just as His is. (3) And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.'*** Think about it

Chapter 12: Yahshua speaks about two house restoration.

The restoration of the two houses of Israel is spoken about throughout the Scriptures, but what did Yahshua our Messiah have to say about it? To start with Yahshua clearly stated in Matthew 15: 24, ***"I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."*** A second witness to this comes from Luke 19: 10 (and Matthew 18: 11), where Yahshua said: ***"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."*** In addition Yahshua spoke to His disciples after instructing them in Matthew 10: 5, saying: ***"Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; (6) but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."***

Even so, where does Yahshua talk about the fundamentals of the two house restoration in more detail? This teaching is like most other important issues to YHVH hidden in plain sight in the Scriptures. This means that if we want to get the details about what Yahshua taught, we have to search out the hidden matters, as witnessed in Proverbs 25: 2, in this way: ***'It is the glory of Elohim to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.'*** Now, you might say: *'But we are only normal everyday people, not kings, so why do we have to search for it?'* In answer to this question, we read from Revelation 1: 5 & 6: ***'And from Yahshua Messiah, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood, (6) and He has made us to be a kingdom, priest to His Elohim and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.'*** As co-rulers under Yahshua in the coming kingdom of Elohim, we need to make sure that we know what Yahshua taught, if we truly want to be known by Him when He returns one day.

However to be able to discover what Yahshua had to say about two house restoration in the Scriptures, we need to go and see what the prophets had to say about the matter in the Tanach. Let's therefore turn to the book of Hosea, where YHVH through Hosea is telling us about the rebellious house of Israel and what He is planning for those of us alive during the time of the end. The name Hosea, like Joshua and Yahshua, simply means salvation in Hebrew. In Hosea 1: 2, the prophet Hosea is commanded by YHVH to marry a whore. In response to (YHVH)'s command Hosea obediently marries Gomer (Hosea 1: 3). Gomer became the whorish wife of Hosea just as the house of Israel was a whorish wife to YHVH. YHVH prophetically staged His putting away (or divorcing) the house of Israel through the naming of Hosea's three children. YHVH tells Hosea to name his first-born son 'Jezreel' (Hosea 1: 4). The name Jezreel literally means 'Elohim sows by scattering' – YHVH is therefore saying that He will take the house of Israel out of the Promised Land and scatter them into the nations of the world, as He also told Abram in Genesis 13: 14 – 16, as follows: ***'And YHVH said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are northward and southward and eastward and westward; (15) for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and your descendants forever. (16) And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered."***

In Hosea 1: 6, YHVH tells Hosea to name the second child 'Lo-ruhamah' – meaning 'no mercy/no compassion' in Hebrew. YHVH is essentially saying to Hosea that after He has scattered the house of Israel, he will no longer have mercy on them. Next YHVH tells Hosea to name his third child with Gomer, 'Lo-ammi' – meaning 'not my people' in Hebrew. YHVH is therefore telling Hosea that the house of Israel is no longer His people. This final statement is a very strong judgment on the house of Israel and the prophet Jeremiah confirms the same in the first part of Jeremiah 3: 8, saying: ***"And I saw that for all the adulteries of faithless Israel, I had send her away and given her a writ of divorce."*** However, when reading further in chapter 1 of Hosea we see that even though YHVH has scattered us, the lost ten tribes of the house of Israel amongst the nations of the world, in the end He will have compassion on both us and Judah, as we read in Hosea 1: 11, in this way: ***'And the sons of Judah and the sons of Israel will be gathered together, and they will appoint for themselves one leader (Messiah, also known as the son of David), and they will go from the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel.'*** YHVH promises to save those of us from the Lost Ten Tribes, whom He calls out of the world and who answers His call to return to Him in obedience, together with the Torah observant Jews.

If we make it, we will with the faithful Torah observant Jews, become kings and priests under Yahshua. It is for this reason that YHVH is telling Brother Judah in Isaiah 66: 20 & 21, saying: ***“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 set-apart 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.***’ The valley of Jezreel referred to in Hosea 1: 11, is approximately 10 miles from the Jordan and extends north-west toward Mount Carmel near the Mediterranean Sea. Even though YHVH has scattered us the lost ten tribes into all the nations of the world, He tells us here (in verse 11) that He will again gather us and the sons of Judah together. This is one of many Scriptural witnesses for those Assemblies of YHVH and Nazarene Israelites who are too anti-Semitic to believe that we will be joined together with Brother Judah in the end.

In Hosea 2: 1 YHVH talks to Jezreel, saying: ***‘Say to your brothers, “Ammi,” and to your sisters, “Ruhamah.”*** Here YHVH informs Jezreel through Hosea that they will again become His people and He will again have compassion on them, essentially saying the exact opposite of His original pronouncement in Hosea 1. We read further from verse 2 to the 1st part of verse 5, ***“Contend with your mother, contend, for she is not my wife, and I am not her husband; and let her put away her harlotry from her face, and her adultery from between her breasts, (3) Lest I strip her naked and expose her as on the day when she was born. I will also make her like a wilderness, make her like desert land, and slay her with thirst. (4) Also I will have no compassion on her children, because they are children of harlotry. (5) For their mother has played the harlot; she who conceived them has acted shamefully.”*** Although the accusations made here are against Gomer, it is depicted as a courtroom in which YHVH is the plaintive, bringing charges against the nation of Israel, where the physical acts of Gomer’s immorality is likened to the spiritual idolatry of Israel. Continuing in the 2nd part of verse 5, we read: ***“For she said, ‘I will go after my lovers. Who give me my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, my oil and my drink.’”*** The words ‘I will go’ indicates Israel’s intense desire for the pagan idols of her neighbors, forgetting that YHVH is our provider, and showing that nothing would deter her from chasing after her lovers. This describes the frenzy with which Christians are planning for their upcoming pagan festivities.

Verses 6 – 8 of Hosea 2, informs us about the action that YHVH will take to force us (from the house of Israel) to return to Him, as follows: ***“Therefore, behold, I will hedge up her way with thorns, and I will build a wall against her so that she cannot find her paths. (7) And she will pursue her lovers, but she will not overtake them; and she will seek them, but will not find them. Then she will say, ‘I will go back to my first husband, for it was better for me then than now!’ (8) For she does not know that it was I who gave her the grain, the new wine, and the oil, and lavished on her silver and gold, which they used for Baal.”*** The nation of Israel started worshipping Baal during the time of the judges and it became firmly established when King Ahab married Jezebel. She did everything in her power to stop Israel from worshipping YHVH. We understand from verse 8 that the offerings that Israel used in worshipping Baal, actually came from YHVH. We read from verses 9 & 10, YHVH saying through Hosea, ***“Therefore, I will take back My grain at harvest time and my new wine in its season. I will also take away My wool and My flax given to cover her nakedness. (10) And then I will uncover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and no one will rescue her out of My hand.”*** YHVH pledges to put an end to the luxurious lifestyles the house of Israel got used to during the past few centuries and to expose her wickedness for all to see, adding that not one of her idols will be able to save her from what is coming upon her. Continuing in similar vein in verse 11, we read: ***“I will also put an end to all her gaiety, her feasts, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her festal assemblies.”*** Soon after Israel left Egypt they started mixing idol worship with the worship of Elohim; and continued doing so to this day, by keeping Xmas and the like, saying they do it for Him. This is confirmed about the house of Israel in 2 Kings 17: 33, as follows: ***‘They feared YHVH and served their own gods according to the custom of the nations from among whom they had been carried away into exile.’***

In fact Hosea 2: 11 talks about the house of Israel’s feasts, new moons and sabbaths, not those ordained by YHVH through Moses. This could only mean worshipping on Sundays, Xmas and Easter, but could also mean

the annual feast days that some keep at different times to when Judah keeps them. YHVH is not pleased with these feast days and informs us the latter day descendants of Israel, how He will punish us to force us to return to Him, as recorded in verses 12 – 15, in this way: ***“And I will destroy her vines and fig trees, of which she said, ‘These are my wages which my lovers have given me.’ And I will make them a forest, and the beasts of the field will devour them. (This is happening right now In South Africa.) (13) And I will punish her for the days of the Baals (Xmas, Easter, valentines and Halloween) when she used to offer sacrifices to them and adorn herself with her earrings and jewelry, and follow her lovers, so that she forgot Me’ declares YHVH. (14) Therefore, behold, I will allure her, bring her into the wilderness, and speak kindly to her. (15) Then I will give her vineyards from there, and the valley of Achor (valley of trouble) as a door of hope. And she will sing there as in the days of her youth, as in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.”*** However, we are assured here that YHVH will again speak kindly to Israel, and restore her to Himself. Praise YHVH for He tells us that our punishment will not last forever. What a merciful Elohim do we serve.

We read appropriately from verse 16, ***“And it will come about in that day,” declares YHVH, “That you will call Me Ishi (meaning my husband) and no longer call Me Baali (meaning my master).”*** Ishi denotes affection, whereas Baali denotes rulership. We are told in verse 17 that YHVH is going to remove the names of the Baals (pagan gods) from our mouths, so that we do not mention them any longer. YHVH is not pleased with the false names that the people in the lost ten tribes use in worshipping Him. Continuing in verse 18, we read: ***‘In that day I will also make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, the birds of the sky, and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and will make them lie down in safety.’*** This gives us a preview into the time after Messiah’s return, when He will have restored everything to what it was like in paradise, when all nations will be subject to Him.

These are very encouraging Scriptures, but we still need to find out where Yahshua spoke about two house restoration in the Scriptures? Let’s look at the first few verses in Yahshua’s Sermon on the Mount with eyes of discernment. It is here where Yahshua reveals His systematic plan for the restoration of the house of Israel. To see the two house restoration teaching in these verses, we need to focus on the promises made in each verse. Starting in verse 3 of Matthew 5, we read: ***“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*** (It is in heaven at this time, but we know that Yahshua proclaimed its coming to earth in the near future). We read further from verses 4 – 8: ***“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. (5) Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. (6) Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. (7) Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. (8) Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see Elohim.”***

Now let’s consider each promise in turn to see how verses 3 – 5 reveal a three-step plan for reversing the alarming message that Hosea prophesied to happen; with the next three verses giving a three-step witness to the same: The words ***“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”*** inform us that we who were called *‘not my people’*, will again, one day soon, become Elohim’s people in His coming Kingdom. We are referred to here as *‘the poor in spirit’* because our rebellious spirits are broken and even though we have discovered that we are part of the lost ten tribes, we are remorsefully longing to be fully reconciled to our heavenly Father. We are promised to be *‘Elohim’s people’* once again, which is a reversal of Hosea’s *‘Lo-ammi’* proclamation.

The words ***“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted”*** is a promise that those who mourn for the sins of Israel and because they received *‘no mercy’* during their time of trouble in exile, will again be consoled, encouraged and strengthened by Elohim. This is a reversal of Hosea’s proclamation of *‘Lo-ruhamah’* in Hosea 1.

The words ***“Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth”*** is a promise that certain ones as also mentioned in Psalm 37 will inherit the earth. Let’s turn to Psalm 37, where we read about the ones who will inherit the land transliterated as *‘eretz’* in Hebrew, meaning the land of Israel or more specifically the

Promised Land. We read from verses 9, 11, 22, 29 and 34 of Psalm 37 who the ones are who will inherit the land, as Follows:

(9) ***'For evildoers will be cut off, but those who wait for YHVH, they will inherit the land.'*** Those who wait for YHVH does not sit doing nothing, they do everything in their power to get into the Kingdom of Elohim, by regularly praying and studying Elohim's word, to get to know Him better as the time draws near.

(11) ***'But the humble will inherit the land, and will delight themselves in abundant prosperity.'*** It is only when we are humble like little children who do not yet know how to brag about their superior knowledge that we can truly learn to know our Master. When we humble ourselves before YHVH, He will receive us, as he said in Matthew 18: 4, in this way: ***"Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."***

(22) ***"For those blessed by Him will inherit the land; but those cursed by Him will be cut off."*** We read about the blessings and curses by Elohim from Deuteronomy 28. Under what conditions will we be blessed and under what other conditions will we be cursed. We read the answers to these questions from verses 13 & 15 of Deuteronomy 28, as follows: ***"And YHVH shall make you the head and not the tail, and you only shall be above, and you shall not be underneath, if you will listen to the commandments of YHVH your Elohim, which charge you today, to observe them carefully. (15) But it shall come about, if you will not obey YHVH your Elohim, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you."***

(29) ***"The righteous will inherit the land, and dwell in it forever."*** Righteous people are those who do righteousness, as opposed to lawlessness which is sin. We read from Psalm 119: 172, ***'Let my tongue sing thy word, for all Thy commandments are righteousness.'*** Righteous people are those who obey all Elohim's commandments. The words *'dwell in it forever'*, shows they will have gained eternal life, at Messiah's return.

(34) ***"Wait for YHVH, and keep His way, and He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you will see it."*** So we see that these four verses in Psalm 37 are all a reversal of the 'Jezreel' proclamation by Hosea.

Isn't this wonderful? In the first three verses of Yahshua's first major teaching, he proclaims a marvelous threefold prophetic restoration of the dreadful threefold prophetic proclamation made by Hosea. Even so, let everything be established by two or three witnesses as Yahshua said in Matthew 18: 16. Now let's turn our focus on the next three blessings in Yahshua's teaching in Matthew 5:

We read accordingly from verse 6: ***"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."*** With what shall they be satisfied? Simply put, they shall be satisfied by what they hunger and thirst for. Let's in this case turn to Psalm 18: 24, for another definition of righteousness, as follows: ***'Therefore YHVH has recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in His eyes.'*** This is talking about our application of the commandments or Torah in what we do with our hands. Do we commit sin with our hands or do we do what is right – do we help the less fortunate and work to earn a living, or do we steal, kill and murder with our hands. We need to praise YHVH for His gift of righteousness; He has made us righteous through faith in Yahshua as witnessed in Romans 8: 3 & 4, in this way: ***"For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, Elohim did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, (4) in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."*** Because of trusting faith in Yahshua's sacrifice for us, the right standing of the house of Israel in the eyes of YHVH has been restored. Those in right standing with YHVH are no longer, *'not My people.'* Here Yahshua provides a witness to the reversal of the 'Lo-ammi' declaration of Hosea.

Continuing in Matthew 5: 7, we read: ***"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."*** We are merciful if we forgive other their transgressions against us, including those who owe us money and cannot repay because of the current economic conditions. Another word for mercy is compassion. We are truly compassionate when we help those who are poor and cannot repay us, instead of demanding that they be imprisoned for debt owed us. Yahshua here provides us with a witness to the reversal of the 'Lo-ruhamah' declaration of Hosea.

Finally we read from verse 8 of Matthew 5: ***“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see Elohim.”*** YHVH looks at our hearts – our belief system. Do we practice what we preach, or do we deceive people by not telling the whole truth. We need to remember that we are able to deceive other people, but YHVH knows exactly what we do and say. This is saying that those who are pure in their hearts, will see Yahshua at His return to earth one day on Yom Teruah, as witnessed in first Thessalonians 4: 13 – 17, in this way: ***‘But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as so 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 (on the Mount of Olives), and thus shall always be with the Master.’*** Yahshua will one day rule the world from Jerusalem. If we overcome Satan, the world and our own human nature, we will be with Him and see Him in the Promised Land. This is clearly a complete reversal of the ‘Jezreel’ declaration of Hosea.

Yahshua was sent to seek and save the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Praise YHVH, He overturned the threefold divorce proclamation of Hosea 1 and Jeremiah 3. He did this by systematically reversing each of the dreadful proclamations by Hosea, promising restoration at each step. This is interestingly enough; the same method of restoration that Yahshua used with Kepha following Kepha’s threefold denial of Him after His betrayal by Judas Iscariot. Kepha denied Yahshua three times and Yahshua provided a three-step restoration in John 21: 15 – 17, as follows: ***‘So when they had finished breakfast, Yahshua said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Master; You know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend My lambs” (16) He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Master; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Shepherd My sheep.” (17) He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” Kepha was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Master, You know all things: You know that I love You.” Yahshua said to him, “Tend My sheep.”’*** Despite Rav Kepha having denied Yahshua three times, Yahshua restored him as a teacher sent by Him (an apostle) to teach the men, women and children in the ecclesia of Elohim.

The parallel of Hosea’s and Yahshua’s teachings go one step further. Matthew 5: 9 reads: ***“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of Elohim.”*** This agrees with Hosea 1: 10, in this way: ***‘Yet the number of the sons of Israel will be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered; and it will come about that, in the place where it is said to them, “You are not My people, “it will be said to them, “you are the sons of the living Elohim.”’*** The restoration of (YHVH)’s people to Himself is the primary message of Yahshua. This message is of such importance to our loving Father that He sent Yahshua to deliver His loving message of restoration to His lost sheep.

Let these encouraging words fill your spirit, as we conclude by reading from Hosea 2: 19 – 23, as follows: ***“And I will betroth you to Me forever; yes I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, in lovingkindness and in passion, (20) and I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know YHVH. (21) And this will come about in that day that I will respond,” declares YHVH. “I will respond to the heavens and they will respond to the earth, (22) and the earth will respond to the grain, to the new wine, and to the oil, and they will respond to Jezreel. (23) And I will sow her for Myself in the land. I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion, and I will say to those who were not My people, ‘You are My people!’ And they will say, ‘Thou art My Elohim!’”*** YHVH repeats three times, that He will again betroth Israel to Himself, showing the intensity of His love for her. At that time Israel will have returned to Elohim and will no longer be a harlot; He will remarry her and will also provide the entire dowry. What a fantastic future awaits true believers. Baruch HaShem YHVH!

Chapter 13: Why do we need Yahshua?

There are Israelites, who upon discovering that they are descended from the lost ten tribes of Israel, question the need for 'Yeshua' (the name they use to refer to our savior and Messiah) in their return to the Torah covenant with YHVH. Some of them immediately join the local Jewish synagogue and embark upon a lengthy conversion process, requiring them to deny 'Yeshua'. I am not talking about Messianic Jews, who are full-blooded Jews that eventually decide to go back to Rabbinic Judaism, no I am talking about people like us; half-Jews and Israelites from the lost ten tribes.

Think about it for a moment. Don't you think that such people have a lot of nerve (or as they say in Yiddish 'chutzpah') to believe that they can simply go back and call themselves Israel? What gives them the right? Our forefathers who travelled to Europe and beyond committed a serious offense against YHVH and even though we know that Israel is our spiritual home, we are too impoverished by the multitude of our sins and spiritual adulteries, to assume that we may return on our own merit. Since we started studying Torah, we have learnt that there is a specific provision made for us; Torah specifically teaches that if an Israelite loses his connection with his inheritance and is too deprived to buy it back, his kinsman may redeem it on his behalf. This is recorded for us in Leviticus 25: 25, as follow: ***'If a fellow countryman of yours become so poor he has to sell part of his property, then his nearest kinsman is to come and buy back what his relative has sold.'*** An example of this may be found in the Book of Ruth in the Scriptures. The kinsman redeemer is according to the law of lineage the designated person to purchase the property of an impoverished relative so as to keep it in the family.

The house of Judah has returned to the land of Israel, which they lost temporarily because of mainly the sins of Manasseh who followed his father King Hezekiah up, as king over Judah as is recorded in 2 Kings 21: 16, in this way: ***'Moreover, Manasseh shed very much innocent blood until he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; besides his sin which he made Judah sin, in doing evil in the sight of YHVH.'*** Even though Manasseh repented later in his life, his sins were considered so severe and YHVH did not relent from punishing Judah for it, as we read from 2 Kings 23: 26 & 27, as follows: ***'However, YHVH did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath with which His anger burned against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked Him. (27) And YHVH said, "I will remove Judah also from My sight, as I have removed Israel. And I will cast off Jerusalem, this city which I have chosen, and the temple of which I said, 'My name shall be there.'"*** But, the house of Israel which lost all their rights because they abandoned Elohim's covenant altogether, need to have their place in Elohim's country purchased back, if they want it to be lawfully and rightfully theirs once again.

The kinsman redeemer for the lost ten tribes will therefore have to be someone who is even now totally devoted to the covenant with Elohim. As recorded in the correct translation of Hosea 11: 12 (KJV)⁶, Judah is in such a position, so the kinsman redeemer would have to come from that tribe. This is how Yahshua our Messiah fits into the puzzle. The Messiah had to be a descendant of David and was therefore also from the tribe of Judah, as witnessed from Jeremiah 33: 15 & 16, in this way: ***"In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth."*** We read from Isaiah 49: 6, ***'He says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up (from the dead) the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'"*** We see consequently that Messiah will be the one responsible to bring back the house of Israel to their inheritance. He is absolutely indispensable to bring us back in repentance (Teshuvah) to the Father.

Daniel prophesied the time frame when Yahshua would arrive on the scene in Daniel 9: 24 - 27, as follows: ***"Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make and end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and***

⁶ Hosea 11: 12, 'Ephraim compasseth me about with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit: but Judah yet ruleth with Elohim and is faithful with the saints.'

*prophecy, and to anoint the most holy (set-apart) place. (25) So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. (26) Then after the sixty two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. (27) And he will make a firm covenant with many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain (wave sheaf) offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction (the KJV reads: the consummation, meaning the end time here), **one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.**' The year of Yahshua's impalement and the Passover, can be confirmed by correlating the prophecy of Daniel 9 with the occurrence described in Ezra 7.*

Daniel explained that there would be a time period of 'seventy weeks' that is to say 490 prophetic days. We are also told that 69 of these 'weeks', i.e. 483 years would run from the time of the decree to rebuilt Jerusalem until the Messiah's appearance. This decree of King Artaxerxes that commences the count of the prophetic 'weeks' is recorded in Ezra 7. Ezra arrived in Jerusalem with the decree in the summer of 457 BCE. Adding 483 years to 457 BCE, brings us to 27 CE. This is the year during which Yahshua was immersed; He was about 30 years of age and His ministry began at the time when Yochanan the Immerser came to an end. Most researchers agree that His ministry lasted for 3½ years. He started His ministry in the fall (September/October) of 27 CE and was impaled in the spring of 31 CE. We know that Yahshua was impaled on the 4th day (or the middle) of the week and was resurrected three days and three nights later, at the end of the weekly Sabbath. This means that the Passover of 31 CE, the scripturally established time of His impalement, occurred on a Wednesday of that week. (For interest sake: Yahshua was cut off in the middle of the week, or after a ministry of only 3½ years. It is also believed that He will cut the 7 year period of the Great Tribulation (short) in half, at His return; thereby accounting for the difference of one week (7 years) between the 69 and 70 'weeks' prophesied in Daniel 9.)

Both the British and U.S. Naval Observatories confirm that, that particular Passover occurred on the fourth day of the week (or Wednesday) that year. This agrees with the prophecy in Daniel 9: 27, which predicted that Yahshua would be cut off in the middle of the week. He was in the grave for three full days and three full nights according to His claim in Matthew 12: 40 and as witnessed of His resurrection in Matthew 28: 1 – 6. Titus a Roman general overpowered Jerusalem on the 7th of September 70 CE. His soldiers burned the Temple against his orders, with the result that the gold in the Temple melted down into the temple stones. It took another seven months to remove the melted gold from the destroyed Temple building, bringing us to about the same time in 71 CE, when Yahshua was impaled 40 years earlier. Titus returned to Rome in the spring of 71 CE. 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 as may be read from Psalm 95: 10 and Hebrews 3: 9 – 10; from the spring of 31 CE to spring of 71 CE is exactly 40 years, which is in total agreement with what Yahshua said.

Zechariah even gives us Messiah's name. The righteous Branch spoken about in Jeremiah 33: 15 refers to the Messiah. In Zechariah 3: 8 & 9 he tells us that the name of ***'My servant the Branch'*** is Joshua and in Zechariah 6: 11 & 12 Joshua is crowned. We read further from verse 13, ***"Yes, it is He who will build the temple of YHVH (meaning us, the ecclesia of called out believers), and He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices."*** Many orthodox Jews are busy coming to the conclusion that Yahshua was indeed the Messiah. The great Kabbalist Rabbi Yitzach Kaduri passed away on January 29, 2005. Just prior to his death, he gave an envelope containing a letter in which he said he will reveal the coming Messiah's name. However, he told his students to only open the letter a year later, on the date that he died. When they opened the letter they found the name written in his hand, stating the name of Messiah to be Yehoshua.

Even so, these Torah keeping Jews did not because of this revelation become Christians, since they understood Messiah's message to be **'to the Jew first'**, as is confirmed in Romans 1: 16.

We who have been called from the Christian churches of the world need to realize that there is a major difference between believing in Yahshua the Messiah and *'J*e*s*u*s* C* h*r*i*s*t'* of Christianity. The one whom Christianity serve is the one who performed many miracles, but denied Torah, and is therefore not acceptable to Judaism in accordance with Deuteronomy 13: 1 – 3, as follows: ***"If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, (2) and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying 'Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them, (3) you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams: for YHVH your Elohim is testing you to find out if you love YHVH your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul."*** Forty days after Yahshua's resurrection, when He was about to ascend to heaven and He together with His disciples began climbing the Mount of Olives, His disciples became very excited since they knew that according to Zechariah 14: 14, the kingdom (of Elohim) would come when Messiah's feet touches the same mountain. That is also why they asked Him at that time in Acts 1: 6 saying, ***"Master is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"*** Yahshua replied in verse 7 & 8, saying to them, ***"It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; (8) but you shall receive power when the 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."***

Yahshua's parable of the prodigal son, who asked His father to give him his portion of his inheritance and then went and squandered it on living it up, pictures Ephraim, who is representative of the lost ten tribes. Judah is pictured by the Father's eldest son, who remained with Him. Though YHVH had forsaken Ephraim for a time, He says of him in Jeremiah 31: 10, ***'And declare in the coastlands afar off, and say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock."*** We see in John 10: 11, Yahshua identified Himself to the Jews as being the *'good shepherd'*. Continuing in verse 16 of John 10, He also said to them: ***"And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock with one shepherd."*** Yahshua was referring here to Ezekiel's prophesy in Ezekiel 34: 23, as follows: ***"Then I will set over them one shepherd, My servant David, and he will feed them; he feed them himself and be their shepherd."*** Yahshua never denied that He had come to restore the kingdom of Israel. Far from it! In fact all He did was to turn His disciples' focus on finding the subjects of the house of Israel, as we read from Matthew 10: 5 & 6, saying: ***"Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; (6) but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."*** Yahshua also said to the Canaanite woman who asked Him to show mercy to her demon possessed daughter in Matthew 15: 24 ***"I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."***

In fact Yahshua was sending His disciples out to draw Ephraim back to the covenant that they forsook, as He was the Kinsman Redeemer for the prodigal tribes. The leaders in Yahshua's community laid down four ground-rules in Acts 15 for new believers to follow at the beginning of their walk in the way of Elohim. The basics of Kashrut and niddah, and the forsaking of idolatry and immorality were the first requirements for new believers. These are the things which today's Christians do not even keep, let alone the fact that they ignore the very next qualifying statement in Acts 15: 21, in this way: ***"For Moses from ancient generations has in every city those who preach him, since he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath."*** This is saying that repentance to full Torah observance is a process, where initially we follow the basic four ground-rules, and then as we learn about the Sabbath and Feast Days of Elohim, the wearing of tzitzit, and circumcision, we will eventually grow to a point where we are fully Torah observant.

Rav Shaul was a Pharisee and continued to call himself that long after he started following Yahshua (as per Acts 23: 6). Rav Kepha warned in 2 Peter 3: 16 that Rav Shaul's letters should not be taken lightly, admitting that ***'as also in all his letters speaking in them of these things in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.'*** That is basically the story of Christianity over the past 2, 000 years. However, we need to

understand that since we were separated from our Father, as well as from brother Judah, because of our sins of idolatry, that it was Yahshua who brought us back, as Rav Shaul explains at length in Ephesians 2: 11 – 22, in this way: ***‘Therefore remember, that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” which is performed in the flesh by human hands— (12) remember that you were at that time separate from Messiah, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without Elohim in the world. (13) But now in Messiah Yahshua you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Messiah. (14) For He Himself is our peace who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, (15) by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, (16) and might reconcile them both in one body to Elohim through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. (17) AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR; (18) for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. (19) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saint, and are of Elohim’s household, (20) having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Messiah Yahshua Himself being the corner stone, (21) in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in YHVH; (22) in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of Elohim in the Spirit.’*** Yes, it was the Father who called us out of the world, but it was because of Messiah’s sacrifice that we are able to be reconciled back to the Father. It is by immersion into Yahshua’s saving name that we are forgiven our past sins and given a portion of the Set-apart Spirit, thereby giving us access to the Father in prayer, but also to be ultimately resurrected (or changed) into spirit-born children of Elohim at the Messiah’s return one day.

According to Ezekiel 37, it will be YHVH who will ensure that once the fullness of the Gentiles have come out of the world and started keeping the Sabbath and the annual Feast Days of Elohim, eating only kosher foods and studying and obeying Torah, so much so that our conduct make our Jewish brothers jealous, that the two houses of Israel, will once more become one in His hand. Yahshua died for the sins of the world, but also to be able to remarry His bride, whom He divorced because of Idolatry. We read accordingly from Roman 7: 1 – 4, in this way: ***‘Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law of divorce and remarriage), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives? (2) For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband. (3) So then if, while her husband is living, she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress, though she is joined to another man. (4) Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the law through the body of Messiah, that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit for Elohim.’*** As mentioned in an earlier sermon, that was why Yahshua’s dying words on the stake was ***‘Kalah’*** meaning *‘it is finished’* but also *‘My bride’*. When He died He confirmed that because we died in immersion in Him, He will now be able to remarry us, His ecclesia of called out believers, who will be resurrected or changed, at His return to earth.

When we come to YHVH through the only door available to us, we should not be reluctant to confess Him to those who ask us about the hope that is within us, through Yahshua our Messiah. It is for this reason that Yahshua said in Matthew 10: 32 & 33, ***“Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. (33) But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.”*** No matter who or what we believe Yahshua is, we need to be aware of what Rav Shaul wrote about Him in Philippians 2: 5 – 11, in this way: ***‘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. (9) 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.’***

This is quoted from Isaiah 45: 23, where we read: ***“I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that to Me every knee will bow, ever tongue will swear allegiance.”*** We continue to read from verse 24 of Isaiah 45, ***“They will say of Me, ‘Only in YHVH are righteousness and strength.’ Men will come to Him, and all who are angry at Him shall be put to shame.”*** It is important for those of us who are returning from the lost ten tribes, not to deny our Master and Savior, even if we are compelled through circumstances to join the synagogue, which is the last thing that I will recommend, as we are already following in the way of Elohim, shown us by Yahshua our Savior.

We see from 1st Timothy 6: 16 that no one has ever seen or can see YHVH, as He is a Spirit Being. Yahshua our Messiah; the visible image of the invisible Elohim (as per Colossians 1: 15) is the only way in which we as flesh and blood human beings can relate to the Father. It is for that reason that Yahshua the Messiah will rule us during the millennium and will remain with us until after the great white throne judgment, as witnessed in 1st Corinthians 15: 22 – 28, in this way: ***‘For as in Adam all die, so also in Messiah all shall be made alive*** (as spiritual children of Elohim). (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.*** (25) ***For He must reign until He has put all enemies under His feet.*** (26) ***The last enemy that will be abolished is death*** (as may be read from Revelation 20: 14, when there will not be any physical human beings prone to death any longer). (27) ***For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, “All things are put in subjection,” it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.*** (28) ***And when all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, that Elohim may be all in all.’*** Yes, Yahshua the visible image of the invisible Elohim will be around until all human beings have been changed into spirit-born children of Elohim.

Even though the Scriptures do not say so directly, but from reading Revelation 22: 1 – 4, it appears as if Yahshua the lamb of Elohim, will go back into the Father, from where He came (John 1: 18), as follows: ***‘And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne*** (singular) ***of Elohim and the Lamb*** (The footnote against the words the Lamb in the NASB reads: or 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.*** (3) ***And there shall no longer be any curse; and the throne of Elohim and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve Him;*** (4) ***and they shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.’*** Selah!

Chapter 14: How do we know that Yahshua is the Messiah?

Any person who do not understand or misunderstands Torah may not obey the Father's will and thereby cancel or abolish Torah. On the contrary if a person understands and obeys Torah, he would 'fulfill' the Father's will, by so doing. Because of the misinterpretation of the word 'fulfill' as used by Yahshua in Matthew 5: 17, the Christian churches came to misrepresent the true Messiah to their congregants and the world at large. It is for this reason that many in Christianity believe that Torah has been abolished by Yahshua, or even worse - that Yahshua kept Torah for them.

The Jewish people knew that the true Messiah when He comes would not abolish Torah as Churchianity teaches. In fact like all Jews we as Nazarene Jews are reminded of this fact in Deuteronomy 13: 1 – 3, as follows: ***"If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, (2) and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,' (3) you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for YHVH your Elohim is testing you to find out if you love YHVH your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul."*** The main thrust of the Jewish faith is that the Torah with its statutes and judgments, is everlasting – meaning it is spiritual and cannot be destroyed. We may never add to them nor take away from them – since whoever adds or takes away from the Torah, misinterprets the Torah. This is what Rav Shaul a Jew and Pharisee that many believe was anti-Torah basically taught in Romans 7: 12 & 14, saying: ***'So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. (14) For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.'*** This is in line with what Yahshua taught in Luke 16: 16 & 17, saying: ***"The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John (Yochanan the Immerser); since then the gospel of the kingdom of Elohim is preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it. (17) But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the Law to fail."*** This is in total agreement with what the Jews of today believe, i.e. if anyone believes in the kingdom of Elohim, he/she will keep all of Torah. But the problem is that very few in Churchianity believe in the coming kingdom of Elohim, since they believe like the Muslims that they go to heaven at death.

During Messiah's time like today, there was a weekly Torah reading on the Sabbath, divided into portions for each week. A scribe or teacher would read the Torah portion and would give the congregation a teaching on the portion. Luke's account of Yahshua in Luke 4: 16 – 30, is the oldest regarding the Jewish custom on the Sabbath to follow the public reading of Torah in the synagogue with the reading from the prophets. Although there were allocated weekly portions from the Torah to be read in the synagogue; portions from the prophets were chosen at the discretion of the reader and sections from different prophetic books were chosen at the discretion of the reader and sections from different books could be combined. Even though Yahshua proclaimed Himself to be Messiah in the synagogue at the beginning of His ministry, His fellow Jews remained skeptical. We read accordingly from Luke 4: 16 - 19, ***'And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. (17) And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book, and found the place where it was written, (18) "THE SPIRIT OF YHVH IS UPON ME. BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE DOWNTRODDEN, (19) TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF YHVH."*** Yahshua read Isaiah 61: 1, followed by a phrase from the second part of Isaiah 58: 6, then to return to read the first part of Isaiah 61: 2.

Yahshua gave His audience the clearest evidence from the Tanach that He is the Messiah. He showed His intimate knowledge of the Tanach and the contemporary Jewish interpretive method – which allowed parts of two unrelated verses to be combined, because of the appearance of comparable words, and the fact that His audience had full knowledge of the Scriptures in the Tanach to which He was referring. In the entire Tanach the common expression 'favorable year of YHVH' or 'acceptable day of YHVH' (רצון ליהוה) transliterated as 'ratzon Le'YHVH' is only found in Isaiah 58: 5 and Isaiah 61: 2 which unites them. After He finished reading He continued by saying in verse 21 Luke 4: ***"Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your***

hearing” declaring that He was the Messiah. This is considered a Messianic prophecy as it was also in Messiah’s day, since the word anointed (מָשַׁח) used in this passage has the same root as the word Moshiach (מֹשִׁיחַ) or Messiah in English. This was a bold statement that Yahshua made and even though the crowd spoke well of Him, they remained skeptical, because they considered Him to be Joseph’s son (as recorded in verse 22 of Luke 4: 22). However, Yahshua replied to them in verses 23 - 27, saying: **“No doubt you will quote this proverb to Me, ‘Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we heard was done at Capernaum do here in your home town as well.’”** (24) **And He said, “Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his home town. (25) But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land; (26) and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow** (Elijah brought this Gentile woman back to life as recorded in first Kings 17: 14, 22 & 24). **(27) And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.”** (Elisha healed a Gentile leper as recorded in 2 Kings 5: 14 & 15).” Yahshua was saying that just as Elijah and Elisha worked miracles by healing and feeding non-Israelites only, so His miracles would be limited to people outside of His hometown only. After saying this, the synagogue was filled with rage and they led Him to throw Him down a cliff, but He managed to get away.

Yahshua came as a Teacher of Righteousness – He was the One to come like Moses, as YHVH told Moses in Deuteronomy 18: 18 & 19, saying: **‘I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. (19) And it shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him.’** He was a Torah Teacher, preaching repentance (Teshuvah) and came to bring the lost-ten-tribes of Israel back to the Father. We see from Luke 9: 28 - 36 that the Father declared Yahshua the Messiah, when He was transfigured before His three disciples Peter, John and James, in this way: **‘And some eight days after these sayings, it came about that He took along Peter (Kepha) and John (Yochanan) and James (Yaa’cov), and went up to the mountain to pray. (29) And while He was praying, the appearance of His face became different, and His clothing became white and gleaming. (30) And behold two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah, (31) who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. (32) Now Peter and his companions had been overcome with sleep; but they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men standing with Him. (33) And it came about, as these were parting from Him, Peter said to Yahshua, “Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah”— not realizing what he was saying. (34) and while he was saying this, a cloud formed and began to overshadow them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. (35) And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!” (36) And when the voice had spoken, Yahshua was found alone. And they kept silent, and reported to no one in those days any of the things which they had seen.’**

The words that were heard alluded to three Messianic Scriptures, one in the Writings, the second in the Prophets and the third in Torah, showing that Yahshua was indeed the Messiah. The first Messianic Scripture comes from Psalm 2: 7, where David wrote: **“I will surely tell of the decree of YHVH: He said to Me, ‘Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee.”** The second Messianic Scripture comes from the first part Isaiah 42: 1, where YHVH says through Isaiah: **“Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights.** The third Messianic Scripture comes from Deuteronomy 18: 18 & 19, quoted earlier, where YHVH instructed Moses saying: **‘That whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him.’** Yahshua also referred to Deuteronomy 18: 18 & 19, to show that He is indeed the Messiah, when He said to the Jews in John 8: 28 – 30: **“When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. (29) And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.” (30) As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him.’**

Yahshua also proclaimed Himself as the Messiah to Yochanan the Immerser’s disciples in the countryside. Yochanan sent his disciples to Yahshua after he was imprisoned, to ask Him if He was the expected Messiah

or not. We see Yahshua's answer to them in Matthew 11: 4 – 6, saying: ***“Go and report to John what you hear and see: (5) the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED to them. (6) And blessed is he who keeps from stumbling over Me.”*** Yahshua's reply showed Yochanan's disciples that He was the Messiah, by alluding to prophecies by Isaiah in Isaiah 35: 5 and the first part of verse 6 and Isaiah 61: 1, in this way: ***‘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. (61: 1) The Spirit of YHVH Elohim is upon me, because YHVH has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners.’*** Yahshua again mentioned the two miracles done by the prophets, which He mentioned in Luke 4, saying: ***‘the lepers are cleansed’*** (1 Kings 17: 22 & 24) ***‘and the dead are raised up’*** (2 Kings 5: 8). But, what connects these two passages of Scriptures is that both the prophets are referred to as *‘the man of Elohim’*, but because Yahshua performed the same miracles than what they did more than twice, He is not only *‘the man of Elohim’*, He is Yahshua the Messiah!

As a teacher of Torah Yahshua's teachings set a standard that very few could match. His teachings were a radical and uncompromising interpretation of Torah. Even though He was a perfectionist He did not impose demands on His disciples that were impossible. However, removed from its Hebraic background and viewed from a Christian perspective, His teachings have been misinterpreted as making demands that no one can live up to. Yahshua's so called teaching on the Beatitudes in Matthew 5, where He ends off saying in verse 48: ***“Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect”*** was proof to His audience that He was the Messiah spoken about in the prophets. In Matthew 5, Yahshua discussed Torah obedience on a level better than what the scribes and Pharisees of His day kept it, concluding His teaching by quoting from Leviticus 19, where YHVH spoke to Moses, saying in verse 2: ***“Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘You shall be holy (meaning set-apart from the rest of mankind for {YHVH}'s use), for I YHVH your Elohim am holy.’*** Yahshua showed us how to keep Torah with a spiritual intent, and by so doing He fulfilled two Messianic prophecies of Isaiah, namely Isaiah 42: 21 where Isaiah wrote: ***‘YHVH was pleased for His righteousness’ sake to make the Law great and glorious.’*** The second prophecy comes from Isaiah 51: 4 & 5, as follows: ***“Pay attention to Me, O My people; and give ear to Me, O My nation; for a law will go forth from Me (as mentioned in Deuteronomy 18: 18), and I will set My justice for a light of the peoples (related to His teaching in verses 14 – 16 of Matthew 5). (5) My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth, and My arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands will wait for Me, and for My arm they will wait expectantly.”*** By considering Yahshua's teaching in Matthew 5, there are so many references to the fact that Yahshua the salvation of YHVH is the Messiah in these two prophecies of Isaiah, that only those blinded to His identity by Elohim, cannot see it.

It was for this reason that we read from John 12: 37 - 40, where it is specifically talking about the Jews of His day, stating: ***‘But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him; (38) that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke, “YHVH, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM HAS THE ARM OF YHVH BEEN REVEALED?” (39) For this cause they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, (40) “HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES, AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART; LEST THEY SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED, AND I HEAL THEM.”’*** Now the reason why the Jews were blinded to the identity of Yahshua was twofold: We read the first reason from first Corinthians 2: 6 – 8 in this way: ***‘Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; (7) but we speak Elohim's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom, which Elohim predestined before the ages to our glory; (8) the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Master of glory.’*** The second reason being that He restricted His attention and that of His followers to the lost sheep of the house of Israel – those who lost their identity, their language and faith in YHVH, as He confirmed in Mark 2: 17, saying: ***“It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”***

There are many more witnesses that Yahshua is the Messiah but I would like to mention only two additional ones. The first being at His trial before the Sanhedrin before His crucifixion after His last Passover, as witnessed in Luke 22: 66 – 70, in this way: ***‘And when it was day, the Council of elders of the people assembled, both chief priests and scribes, and they led Him away to their council chamber, saying, (67) “If You are the Messiah, tell us.” But He said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe; (68) and if I ask a question, you will not answer. (Yahshua was in essence saying to them that they do not want to dialogue with Him the way Rabbis normally taught – with a dialogue of questions and answers, but He nevertheless continued saying :) (69) “But from now on THE SON OF MAN WILL BE SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND of the power of Elohim.” (70) And they all said, “Are You the Son of Elohim, then?” And He said to them, “Yes, I am.”*** In Mark 14: 62, Yahshua’s answer to the Sanhedrin when they asked Him if He is the Messiah the Son of the Blessed One, is recorded as follows: ***“I am; and you shall SEE THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN.”***

He made it clear to the Sanhedrin since He made reference of the following two Messianic Scriptures, thereby claiming to be Messiah: He firstly referred to Himself as the *‘Son of Man coming with the clouds of heaven’*, which was clearly the vision which the prophet Daniel described of Messiah in Daniel 7: 13 & 14. He made a supernatural reference to His heavenly origin, which they as people educated in the Scriptures could relate to immediately. But, they could also recall His recent discussion with them in Matthew 22: 41 – 46, in this way: ***‘Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Yahshua asked them a question, (42) saying: “What do you think about the Messiah, whose son is He?” They said to Him, “The son of David.” (43) He said to them, “Then how does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Master,’ saying, (44) ‘YHVH SAID TO MY MASTER, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT THINE ENEMIES BENEATH THY FEET?”” (45) “If David then calls Him ‘Master,’ how is He his son?” (46) And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask Him another question.’*** They therefore also knew that by saying *‘the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power’*, He was also referring to the Messianic portion in Psalm 110: 1 with which they were all familiar. The second witness that I would like to conclude with comes from Matthew 12: 38 – 40, as follows: ***‘Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered Him, saying, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.” (39) But He answered and said 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.’*** The question is: was Messiah’s sign fulfilled? If Yahshua were in the grave only from late Friday afternoon to sometime early Sunday morning, then the sign He gave that He was the prophesied Messiah was not fulfilled. The claim of His Messiah-ship rests on the fulfillment of His words – that is how serious His statement in Matthew is.

Let’s carefully examine Messiah’s last days on earth to see how this statement was accomplished. Each of the four Gospel writers provides a fairly detailed account of the events, but each presents different aspects that need to be correctly harmonized to produce a clear sequence and understanding of what happened, as depicted in “The Timeline of Messiah’s Crucifixion and Resurrection” on the next page. Notice that when each of the Apostles’ explanation is considered, the timeline information come together perfectly.

For example John 19: 31 preserves a crucial point that provides understanding of the other apostles’ accounts. The preparation day on which Yahshua was crucified is described as the day before the Sabbath. But Rav Yochanan (John) clarifies it by stating that this approaching Sabbath ***“was a high day.”*** This does not refer to the weekly Sabbath from Friday evening to Saturday evening, but to the first day of Unleavened Bread, which is one of Elohim’s annual Sabbaths or high days as commanded by YHVH in Leviticus 23: 6 – 7, which could – and usually did – fall on other days of the week. Even though some believe that this high day fell on the seventh day of the week that year, causing it to coincide with the weekly Sabbath, with the preparation day being on Friday, Luke’s account shows that this was not the case. Notice the sequence of events outlined in Luke 23. Yahshua’s moment of death, as well as His hasty burial because of the oncoming Sabbath, is described in verses 46 – 53, in this way: ***‘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 woman who accompanied Him from Galilee, were standing at a distance, seeing these things. (50) And behold, a man named Joseph who was a member of the Council, a good and righteous man (51) (he had not consented to their plan and action), a man from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who was waiting for the kingdom of Elohim; (52) this man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Yahshua. (53) And he took down and wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid Him in a tomb cut into the rock, where no one had ever lain. Verse 54 then states, “And it was the preparation day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.”

Many falsely assumed that this was the weekly Sabbath mentioned here, but this is not the case. Instead, it was an annual Sabbath that occurred on a Thursday, since verse 56 shows that the women, after seeing Messiah’s body having been laid in the tomb, **“returned and prepared spices and perfumes”** for the final preparation of the body. Such work would not have been done on a Sabbath day since it would have been considered a Sabbath violation. This is verified by Mark’s account, which states in Mark 16:1, **“And when the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices,** (which they would not have purchased on the high-day Sabbath) **that they might come and anoint Him”** The women had to wait until this Sabbath was over before they could buy and prepare the spices to be used for anointing Yahshua’s body. Then, after purchasing and preparing the spices and oils on Friday, **“and on the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment”** (Luke 23: 56). This second Sabbath mentioned in the Gospel accounts is the regular weekly Sabbath, observed from Friday evening to Saturday evening.

By comparing details in both Gospels – where Mark tells us the women bought spices ‘*when the Sabbath was past*’ and Luke relates that they prepared the spices and ‘*on the Sabbath they rested*’ – we can see clearly that two different Sabbaths are mentioned. The first was a “*high day*” (John 19: 31) – the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread – which fell on a Thursday in 31 CE. The second was the weekly seventh-day Sabbath. So, after the women rested on the regular weekly Sabbath, they went to Yahshua’s tomb early on the first day of the week (Sunday), **“while it was still dark”** (John 20: 1), and found that He had already been resurrected (Matthew 28: 1 – 6; Mark 16: 2 – 6; Luke 24: 1 – 3). When we allow the Scriptures to interpret the Scriptures, all four accounts in the Gospels accurately harmonize and prove the validity of Yahshua’s promise that He would be in the grave three days and three nights – not only part of that time, as Christianity assert.

Several Scripture translations acknowledge that more than one Sabbath is discussed in these events. Matthew 28: 1 in Ferrar Fenton’s Translation and Green’s Literal Translation, is properly translated as **“after the Sabbaths.”** On the other hand the “*Du Tillet*” Hebrew Translation of Matthew 28: 1 reads: **‘Now on the evening of the Shabbat, as it dawned toward the first day of the week, came Miriam the Magdalene and the other Miriam to see the sepulcher.’** The wording of Mark 16: 1 – 2 is confusing to some because it seems to suggest that the spices were purchased after the weekly Sabbath rather than before it, on Friday. However, this is explained by Luke 23: 56, which clearly shows that the women bought the spices before, and not after, the weekly Sabbath, **“and on the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.”** Mark did not mention this weekly Sabbath rest in his account, but Luke, who wrote later, did.

Some also stumble over Mark 16: 9, not taking into account that there is no punctuation indicated in the original Greek. Therefore, to be in harmony with the material presented in the other Gospels, a better translation would be: **“Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene...”** These verses are not saying that Yahshua rose early on Sunday morning, but that He appeared early on Sunday morning to Mary Magdalene, having already risen some time earlier. When therefore we consider the details in all four Gospel accounts, the picture is clear. Yahshua was crucified and buried late on Wednesday afternoon, just before the annual Sabbath began at sunset. That was a high-day Sabbath, falling on Thursday that week, rather than the weekly Sabbath from Friday evening to Saturday evening. He remained in the grave from Wednesday afternoon just before sunset until Saturday afternoon

just before sunset, when He rose from the dead. When Mary Magdalene came to the tomb on Sunday morning before sunrise, ***“while it was still dark,”*** she found the stone was rolled away and the tomb empty.

We can be assured that the exact period of time spent by Yahshua the Messiah in the grave before His resurrection, was ***“three days and three nights”*** precisely as long as Jonah was ***“in the belly of sea monster”***, proving His Messiah-ship as He said in Matthew 12: 40. Yahshua rose late Saturday afternoon just before sunset – not Sunday at sunrise – which was precisely three days and three nights after He was placed in the tomb just before sunset on Wednesday. Messiah’s prophecy of the time He would be in the tomb was fulfilled exactly. Because most people do not keep the Scriptural Feast Days of Elohim, observed by Yahshua Messiah and His followers, they fail to understand the details so accurately preserved for us in the Gospels. With this preponderance of evidence before us, we cannot deny that Yahshua is indeed the Messiah promised in Deuteronomy 18: 18. Baruch HaShem YHVH!

THE TIMELINE OF MESSIAH’S CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION

Tuesday: Yahshua Messiah ate an early-evening Passover meal with His disciples (at the beginning of Nisan 14, and instituted the New Covenant symbols as per first Corinthians 11: 23 – 26 & Matthew 26:26 - 28). After Passover He was betrayed by Judas, arrested during the night and brought before the high priest.	Wednesday: Yahshua was crucified and died around 3 p.m. (Matthew 27: 46 - 50). This was the preparation day for the annual, not weekly, Sabbath, which began that evening (Mark 15: 42; Luke 23: 54; John 19: 31). Yahshua’s body was placed in the tomb at twilight (Matthew 27: 57 - 60).	Thursday: This was the high day Sabbath, the first day of Unleavened Bread (John 19: 31; Leviticus 23: 4 - 7). It is described as the day after the Day of Preparation (Matthew 27: 62).	Friday: The high-day Sabbath now past, the women bought and prepared spices for anointing Yahshua’s body before resting on the weekly Sabbath day, which began at sunset (Mark 16:1; Luke 23: 56).	Saturday: The women rested on the weekly Sabbath, according to the Fourth Commandment (Luke 23: 56; Exodus 20: 8 - 11). Yahshua rose around sunset, exactly <i>three days and three nights</i> (72 hours) after burial, fulfilling the sign of Jonah and authenticating His Messiah-ship.	Sunday: The women brought the prepared spices early in the morning while it was still dark (Luke 24: 1; John 20: 1). Yahshua had already risen (Matthew 28: 1 - 6; Mark 16: 2 - 6; Luke 24: 2 - 3; John 20: 1). He did not rise on Sunday morning, but at sunset the day before.
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Chapter 15: What does it mean to put on Yahshua?

It is very difficult for our human minds or wisdom to understand why we have to go through various trials in our lives. In addition we read from Yaa'cov (James) 1: 2, ***'Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials.'*** Without reading the subsequent verses, this verse is not easy to grasp – think about it at a basic level; how can I be joyful after dropping a hammer on my toe? The answer to this question is found in verses 3 – 6, like this: ***'Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. (4) And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (5) But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of Elohim, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. (6) But let him ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.'*** So we see here that the trials that we experience in life are to help us to become perfect, so that we may actually be conformed to the image of Elohim – Yahshua our Messiah. Even though most of us are adults, we are all able to recall the pains we experienced when we reached puberty and started growing up – our parents called it growing pains. In the same way, it hurts when we start growing in grace and knowledge, to ultimately conform to Yahshua the standard set by Elohim, as we are required to overcome many bad habits and character traits developed since childhood.

I watched a T V documentary on which a lady named Alison appeared who was raped here in Port Elizabeth a few years ago. Her car broke down in a remote area near a lonely road that runs between a game reserve and the sea. She must have thumbed a lift to get back to the beachfront and was picked up by two men. They raped her then cut her throat and left her for dead in the bushes next to the road. Somehow she got back to the road and eventually after many hours managed to flag down a motorist who picked her up and took her to hospital. After months she recuperated and in due course identified the perpetrators, who are currently serving time in prison for their crimes. Alison has since her ordeal fully recovered from her physical and physiological injuries, and started giving talks throughout South Africa, to encourage other people who suffered similar traumatic ordeals in their lives, helping them to cope. I remember her saying that even though she would not like to go through a similar experience again, this trial made her a much better person, and she can actually see Elohim's (she called Him G-d) hand in it. She has forgiven her attackers in her heart, but do not ever want to meet up with them again.

It is not always easy to understand, how various trials could be beneficial to us, but if we have Elohim's perspective, we begin to understand better what He is achieving in our lives. Yaa'cov even tells us that if we find it difficult or even impossible to understand, we should ask YHVH to give us the necessary wisdom, so that we may see what He wants us to see and understand, from these trials in our lives. This wisdom that Yaa'cov is talking about here is Elohim's wisdom and not the wisdom of so-called wise men of the world. But, is this what you and I ask for when we pray? We tend to ask for things to make our lives more comfortable, most of the time, but do we ever ask YHVH to provide us with wisdom? Wisdom to better understand our plight in life and to make the correct decisions, when required, is far more valuable and helps us building a righteous character.

We find an example of where king Solomon a servant of YHVH asked Him for wisdom to help him govern the united nation of Israel in 1 Kings 3. We start reading from verse 5 of 1 Kings 3, in this way: ***'In Gibeon YHVH appeared to Solomon in a dream at night; and Elohim said, "Ask what you wish me to give you."'*** We read Solomon's response to YHVH in verses 6 – 9, as follows: ***"Thou hast shown great lovingkindness to Thy servant David my father, according as he walked before Thee in truth and righteousness and uprightness of heart toward Thee; and Thou hast reserved for him this great lovingkindness, that Thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. (7) And now, O YHVH my Elohim, Thou hast made Thy servant king in place of my father David, yet I am but a little child; I do not know how to go out or to come in. (8) And Thy servant is in the midst of Thy people which Thou hast chosen, a great people who cannot be numbered or counted for multitude. (9) So give Thy servant an understanding heart to judge Thy people to***

discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Thine?" YHVH was pleased that Solomon asked this from Him. We read from verses 11 & 12 that Solomon asked for ***'discernment to understand justice'***, and that YHVH gave it to him, so that there has been no one like him before him, nor shall one like him arise after him. YHVH also blessed Solomon with riches and honor, so that there was no king equal to him during his lifetime. YHVH furthermore promised that if Solomon walks in the ways of Elohim, keeping His statutes and commandments, as David did, He will prolong Solomon's life.

YHVH gave Solomon a wise and discerning (or understanding) heart and he became the wisest human being ever. Even so, we see that YHVH has also given the spirit of wisdom, understanding and knowledge to other people as well. We read from Exodus 31: 1 – 6, ***'Now YHVH spoke to Moses, saying, (2) "See, I have called by name Bezalel (meaning the shadow of Elohim), the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. (3) And I have filled him with the Spirit of Elohim in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship, (4) to make artistic designs for work in gold, in silver, and in bronze, (5) and in the cutting of stones for settings, and in the carving of wood, that he may work in all kinds of craftsmanship. (6) And behold, I Myself have appointed with him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and in the hearts of all who are skillful I have put skill, that they may make all that I have commanded you."'*** We know that YHVH endowed these people with wisdom, knowledge, understanding and special skills to help Moses building furniture and utensils for the Tabernacle or tent of meeting. We also read from Deuteronomy 34: 9, ***'Now Joshua the son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; and the sons of Israel listened to him and did as YHVH had commanded Moses.'***

Especially noteworthy is the prophecy about Yahshua in Isaiah 11: 1 & 2, as follows: ***'Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse (the father of David), and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. (2) And the Spirit of YHVH will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of YHVH.'*** These are Spirit imparted attributes that enables the Messiah to rule his people effectively and justly. Solomon like Yahshua was a descendant of David, but was also a type of Yahshua. We need to follow Yahshua as our coming king, who is the wisdom of Elohim, to help us understand Elohim's plan and purpose in our lives

We turn to the book of Proverbs to discover why these three attributes are also beneficial to us. We read from Proverbs 2: 1 – 17, ***'My son, if you will receive my sayings, and treasure my commandments within you, (2) Make your ear attentive to wisdom, incline your heart to understanding; (3) For if you cry for discernment, lift your voice for understanding; (4) If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; (5) then you will discern the fear of YHVH, and discover the knowledge of Elohim. (6) For YHVH gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding. (7) He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk with integrity, (8) guarding the paths of justice, and He preserves the way of His godly ones. (9) Then you will discern righteousness and justice and equity and every good course. (10) For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; (11) Discretion will guard you, understanding will watch over you, (12) to deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things; (13) From those who leave the paths of righteousness, to walk in the ways of darkness; (14) who will delight in doing evil, and rejoice in perversity of evil; (15) whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways; (16) to deliver you from the strange woman, from the adulteress who flatters with her words; (17) That leaves the companion of her youth, and forget the covenant of her Elohim.'***

We see here that the wisdom, knowledge and understanding of Elohim, gives us the ability to keep us from doing evil and help us to obey Elohim's commandments. In addition it will keep us from going after strange (adulteress) women. Yes, it will keep us from committing adultery, but also from following after the harlot, or false church identified in the book of Revelation as Babylon Mother of the Harlots, where their ministers are so confused, that they teach that YHVH need not test those who believe in J*e*s*u*s* any longer as they have already been born again. These were the words of a Christian Minister during a morning service,

broadcast by the South African Broadcasting Service a while back. This minister like Nicodemus in John 3, had no clue what it means to be born again, despite the fact that the announcer introduced him as Doctor 'so-and so' from a town in the Western Cape. We read how Yahshua answered Nicodemus (a Rabbi of that time) in verse 10 of John 3, as follows: ***"Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not understand these things?"*** Yahshua was talking specifically about the subject of being born again - as may be read from verses 5 – 9. So we see that nothing has changed - as much as Nicodemus a Rabbi of Yahshua's time, did not know the meaning of being born again, so this modern day Doctor of Divinity does not understand the same.

Only a few people today understand the fact that being born again is directly linked to the gospel of the coming Kingdom of Elohim. Not many know that the Gospel that Yahshua preached was not a message about His life, death and resurrection, but about the coming Kingdom of Elohim. Ask yourself: Why have these truths never been understood by most people in the world? The reason is that the religious leaders of Yahshua's time rejected it and because Christianity distorted it so much, the whole world has been deceived and totally misunderstands it. The question is: Which Bible do these Christian teachers read and teach from? Have they ever read from James (Yaa'cov) 2: 17, where we read: ***'Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.'*** This is why we read from Revelation 18: 4 & 5, ***'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; (5) for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and Elohim has remembered her iniquities.'*** If we ask YHVH for wisdom, knowledge and understanding He will keep us from being deceived by these false ministers of religion, who are totally confused about what YHVH is teaching us in His word.

As we read from 1 Corinthians 2: 1 – 8, the problem with most of these teachers of religion is that they did not at the time of Yahshua or even now, knew who and what He was/is, as follows: ***'And when I (Rav Shaul) came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of Elohim. (2) For I determined to know nothing among you except Yahshua Messiah, and Him crucified. (3) And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. (4) And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, (5) that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of Elohim*** (meaning Yahshua as we read from 1 Corinthians 1: 24⁷). ***(6) Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature, a wisdom, however, not of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away*** (talking about the religious leaders of this age); ***(7) but we speak Elohim's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom, which Elohim predestined before the ages of glory*** ⁸; ***(8) the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Master of glory.'*** Yes, these religious leaders (of both Yahshua's time) and today have no clue who and what He is.

Even though Christian teachers say they believe that there is one G-d, they believe that J*e*s*u*s* came to do away with His Father's strict laws, despite reading Yahshua's own words to the contrary in Matthew 5: 17 & 18. However, if we understand what Rav Shaul was saying in 1 Corinthians 2, quoted above, we will realize that he said that the true knowledge of Elohim is hidden in Yahshua our Messiah. Yahshua being the embodiment of Torah understands all wisdom and knowledge. In Him are all the secrets of Elohim, and if we follow Him all the way, we will know the hidden treasure of wisdom and understanding of Elohim. To confirm what we have just studied, let us turn to Proverbs 3: 19, where we read: ***'YHVH by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens.'*** This agrees with Psalm 33: 6, in this way: ***'By the word of YHVH the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host'***, which is as we know, in line with John 1: 1 -3: as follows: ***'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with Elohim, and the word was Elohim. (2) He was in the beginning with Elohim. (3) All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.'*** Yes, Yahshua and YHVH is one.

⁷ 1 Corinthians 1: 24, ***'But to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Messiah the power of Elohim and the wisdom of Elohim.'***

⁸ Proverbs 8: 22 & 23, ***'YHVH possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. From everlasting I was established, from the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth.'***

If these teachers of religion knew who Yahshua was and indeed is, they would not teach the falsehood that they do, as we read from Yaa'cov 3: 1 & 8 – 16, in this way: ***'Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment*** (we who are teaching fellow believers, better teach the Truth about Yahshua, or we are in for some serious trouble in the future). (8) ***But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison*** (lies about Yahshua and how we ought to follow Him, may result in the second death for false teachers). (9) ***With it we bless our Master and Father; and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of Elohim*** (by teaching believers to obey Yahshua the embodiment of Torah we bless them, but by teaching them that Torah has been abolished, and that they need not keep it any longer, we allow the curses of the Law from which Yahshua redeemed us, to be unleashed upon them once again); (10) ***from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.*** (This is obviously talking about how we use the same tongue to pray to YHVH and to curse fellow believers; but also about the curses that these false teachers unleash upon their followers.) (11) ***Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water?***⁹ (12) ***Can a fig tree, my brethren produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Neither can salt water produce fresh.*** (13) ***Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in gentleness of wisdom.*** (14) ***But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.*** (Here in verse 14 we are given the reason why these false teachers teach what they do. They have a bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in their hearts, and that is why they lie against obedience to the Word of Elohim, which is truth – as may be seen from John 17: 17) (15) ***This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.*** (16) ***For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.'***

An example of this jealousy and selfish ambition, is like the Catholic priests who believe that they are in the Aaronic priesthood and should wear scarlet (which is essentially the color of the whore in Revelation 17) kippahs, but do not allow men in their congregations to wear head coverings or to study the Scriptures for themselves. They do everything in their power to retain their priestly role in 'heaven' one day, but do not want their members to have the same esteem. However, what they and other Christian teachers who teach and believe that the Torah has been abolished do not realize, is that Yahshua the wisdom of YHVH taught just the opposite, as we read from Matthew 5: 19 & 20, ***"Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments*** (such as for example circumcision or the wearing of tzitzit), ***and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.*** (20) ***For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and the Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven."*** The point is that the disorder or confusion spoken about in Yaa'cov 3: 16 is exactly how the Scriptures describe this false religion in Revelation 17, namely 'BABYLON' which simply means confusion. To become sons of Elohim takes more than just joining the local church on the street corner. It also takes more than just "accepting J*e*s*u*s*" in some evangelical revival meeting filled with emotion. We need to fully surrender our lives to our heavenly Father by means of a personal relationship with Yahshua the Messiah. We need to follow in the footsteps of Yahshua and learn to keep the Torah Commandments to the best of our ability, with the help of the Set-apart Spirit. It must also be understood that no one can come to Yahshua unless the Father who sent Him (Yahshua) draws him – as per John 6: 44 & 65. Yahshua Himself said in John 10: 1 - 2: ***"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. (2) But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep."***

⁹ Malachi 2: 7 & 8, ***"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. But as for you, you have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble by the instruction; you have corrupted the covenant of Levi" says YHVH of Hosts.'***

Be not deceived, if you have accepted J*e*s*u*s* in your heart, without repenting (meaning to stop breaking the commandments) and being immersed into Yahshua's saving name, you are definitely not begotten again, let alone born again. A person who was begotten again (after real repentance and immersion), will only be born again at Yahshua's return, when those who died in Messiah will be resurrected and the ones still alive, will be changed as we read from 1 Corinthians 15: 50 – 53, as follows: ***'Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of Elohim (or heaven); nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. (51) Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep (meaning to be dead and buried), but we shall all be changed, (52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. (53) For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.'***

Continuing in Yaa'cov 3: 17 & 18, we read: ***'But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. (18) And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.'*** If we have the wisdom of Elohim, we will bear good fruits such as practicing the commandments – keep the Sabbaths, eat only kosher food and the like. We need to be ever mindful of what Yahshua said about wise and foolish believers in Matthew 7: 24 – 27, ***"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his home upon the rock. (Yahshua: the embodiment of Torah and the wisdom of Elohim.) (25) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and yet did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock. (26) And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. (Those who follow false teachers who teach that Torah has been abolished.) (27) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall."***

There are many who believe that they are already born again and that they have Elohim's Spirit indwelling them, but by teaching the opposite of what Yahshua taught, they do not build their spiritual houses on Him (the rock), but on sand and will eventually come tumbling down, as we read from Luke 13: 24 – 27, as follows: ***"Strive to enter by the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. (25) Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside, and knock on the door, saying, 'Master, open up to us!' then He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know where you are from.' (26) Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets'; (27) and He will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.'"***

It is clear that those who teach believers that they need not worry about YHVH testing our faith, by works, are liars and might not be in the kingdom of Elohim at all, unless they repent and ultimately return to following the true Messiah, Yahshua the salvation of YHVH. Let us therefore put on Yahshua our perfect example, who being filled with Elohim's spirit of wisdom, understanding and knowledge, is the embodiment of Torah, in order to understand Elohim's way and purpose for each one of us. He is the way, the truth and the life!

Chapter 16: What did Yahshua do in the temple on Chanukah?

Our Nazarene community is a very suspicious people. We do not trust anyone any longer. We who come from other pagan religions are most distrustful of all people on the face of the earth. Some do not even believe The Scriptures any longer, because of the mistranslations in the many versions available to us today. In addition they say that there is so much confusion around that they do not want to be taught anything by anyone any longer. My answer to them is that our function as called out ones is to preach the good news of the coming of the kingdom of Elohim and to teach people that there is hope of a better life in the world to come (Olam Haba). We read about the question of teachers (preachers) in Romans 10: 13 & 14, as follows: ***“for “WHOEVER WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF YHVH WILL BE SAVED.” (14) How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?”***

We all need teachers. I promise you, that you may read the Scriptures through many times in a year and without guidance by true teachers you will not understand a thing. This is described in Isaiah 28: 9 – 13: ***“To whom would He teach knowledge? And to whom would He interpret the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just taken from the breast? (10) For He says, ‘Order on order, order on order, Line on line, line on line, A little here, a little there.’ (11) Indeed, He will speak to this people Through stammering lips and a foreign tongue, (12) He who said to them, ‘Here is rest, give rest to the weary,’ And, ‘Here is repose,’ but they would not listen. (13) So the word of YHVH to them will be, ‘Order on order, order on order, Line on line, line on line, A little here, a little there,’ That they may go and stumble backward, be broken, snared, and taken captive.”*** Without teachers we will go right back where we came from. We need to grow in grace and knowledge (as we read in 2 Peter 3: 18), else we will be backsliding. But, I hear you say, where will we find teachers of truth, in our deceived world? For the answer let us turn to Malachi 3: 16 – 18 ***‘Then those who feared YHVH spoke to one another, and YHVH gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear YHVH and who esteemed His name. (17) “And they will be Mine,” says YHVH of hosts, “on the day that I prepare My own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him. (18) So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves Elohim and one who does not serve Him.”’*** We cannot always sit on our own and study, we need to fellowship and get teachings. If we do that we will again be able to discern right from wrong and true teachers from false teachers.

We should not continue to major in the minors, such as arguing about the times of the Feast Days of YHVH our Elohim, as these have already been established by the Jews, who have the Oracles of Elohim (Psalms 60: 7 and Romans 3: 1 – 2). We should see the big picture: YHVH our Elohim’s plan of salvation for all mankind. This is one of the keys to the Kingdom of Elohim, but we are so busy arguing that we cannot understand it at all. It is déjàvu all over again. We need to take action and start doing something about it. To be Nazarene Israelites, we need to answer two vitally important questions. Number one is: Does YHVH exist? Number two: Is The Scriptures the word of YHVH our Elohim, from Genesis to Revelation? How do we do that, might you ask? How do we know that YHVH exists and that He is only one? Let us go to Genesis 9, where we read the account of Noah. We read about the covenant that YHVH made with Noah after the flood in verses 11 – 16 ***“And I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by water of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth.” (12) ‘And Elohim said, “This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all successive generations; (13) I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be as for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth. (14) And it shall come about, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud, (15) and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh. (16) When the bow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between Elohim and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”’*** Fellow believers, is the rainbow enough proof for you that YHVH exists? Or have you already worked out some scientific explanation other than what He told us in

these verses. I am positive that some will do that because other than taking YHVH at His word, it has become customary for some, due to 'superior intellect' to contradict (or deny) YHVH our Elohim.

I recently had a report back on a few of the teachings that I sent out weekly. Two ladies in Cape Town in conversation said the following about my teachings: 'Jim Coetzee makes too much of Yahshua being the image of Elohim.' My answer to them is: 'I am only quoting the word of YHVH, if you do not believe in The Scriptures, give it away to someone who does.' We read in Romans 1: 19 - 20: ***"Because that which is known of Elohim is manifested among them (mankind), for Elohim has manifested it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible qualities (YHVH is invisible, and has no form¹⁰) have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, both His everlasting power (Yahshua is the Power of Elohim¹¹) and divine nature (The Set-apart Spirit is the divine nature of Elohim¹²), for them to be without excuse."*** This section as I have explained before is all about the Oneness of Elohim. It states that from what has been made (created), we (mankind) should understand that, as we are made up of spirit, soul and body (as per 1 Thessalonians 5: 23); we have no excuse and should know YHVH our Elohim: That He like us is composed of three component parts; but is only ONE! After all, we are made in His image. Continuing on in verse 21 to 23 of Romans 1, we read: ***'For even though they knew Elohim, they did not honor Him as Elohim, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. (22) Professing to be wise, they became fools, (23) and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible Elohim for the image in the form of corruptible man.....'*** We should know that YHVH exists by considering His creation. The quoted verses inform us, that even if some knew YHVH, they became wise in their own eyes and regarded Him (Yahshua) as merely a man. Like explained in a recent book by Rabbi Moshe Koniuchowsky entitled 'Our Last Days Meal' Yahshua was not half man half Elohim; He was 100% Elohim, as we read in Colossians 2: 9 ***'For in Him all the fullness of Elohim¹³ dwells in bodily form.'***

Answered prayer is another proof that YHVH exists. We are told in James 5: 13 – 15 ***'Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praises. (14) Is anyone among you sick? Let him***

¹⁰ According to 1Timothy 1: 17 YHVH our Elohim is eternal, immortal and invisible: ***"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only Elohim, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amein."*** This is confirmed in 1Timothy 6: 16, as follows: ***"who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amein."*** YHVH cannot be understood by mankind, since we cannot see or define Him. He is the invisible Elohim.

¹¹ Colossians 1: 15, talking about Yahshua, states that He is the image of the invisible Elohim. This implies that we look like Yahshua as we read in Genesis 1: 27 that: ***"And Elohim created man in His own image, in the image of Elohim He created him; male and female He created them."*** YHVH worked with human beings by appearing in the flesh thus becoming their kinsman redeemer. In Exodus 13: 14 we read: ***"And it shall be when your son asks in time to come, saying, 'What is this?' then you shall say to him, 'With a powerful hand YHVH brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery."*** In the last part of Psalm 98: 1 we read: ***"His right hand and His holy arm have gained the victory for Him."*** In Isaiah 52: 10 we read: ***"YHVH has bared His holy arm in the sight of all the nations, that all the ends of the earth may see the salvation of our Elohim."*** The name Yahshua means salvation as can be understood from Matthew 1: 21 ***"And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Yahshua, for it is He who will save His people from their sins."*** Yahshua the salvation of YHVH is His right hand and holy arm. In 1 Corinthians 1: 24 we read; ***"but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Messiah the power of Elohim and the wisdom of Elohim."*** Yes YHVH has brought Israel out of both the slavery of Egypt and sin, with a powerful hand: He indeed is our Savior.

¹² The spiritual essence of YHVH is His divine nature. We are given a small portion of His divine nature, called a pledge of our inheritance when we are sealed by the Set - apart Spirit at immersion, according to Ephesians 1: 13 & 14 ***"In Him you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of salvation – having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Set-apart Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of Elohim's own possession, to the praise of His glory."*** It is by the indwelling of the Set-apart Spirit, that we demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit or divine nature of love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and the like. In 1 Corinthians 2: 11 & 12 we read: ***"For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of Elohim no one knows except the Spirit of Elohim. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from Elohim, that we might know the things freely given to us by Elohim."***

¹³ For those who prefer not to use the word Deity – rather use Elohim, instead of the word Mightiness as used by some.

call for the elders of the ecclesia, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of Yahshua; (15) and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and Yahshua will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.' The question is: How do we pray? Do we like most say the same prayer (or even reading it) over and over again, not even recalling what we say, or do we in heartfelt prayer talk to our Father in heaven and telling him what we and others need. I have many times prayed for protection, when traveling and know for a fact that YHVH has protected my wife and me at least once from certain death. I am positive that if you think carefully about it, you will be able to say the same.

Let us at this point answer the question regarding the Scriptures being the (true) word of YHVH. In Genesis 1: 7 we read: **'And Elohim made the expanse and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so** (no argument).' Turning to the book of Job we read in chapter 26: 7: **"He stretches out the north over empty space, And hangs the earth on nothing."** This fellow believer tells us that there is nothing at the North Pole and it will not be inhabited before the earth is renewed one day. It also tells us about gravity: stating that the earth hangs on nothing. Gravity like all the other laws of YHVH is an unseen force that will remain in force for ever.

Another example, showing that the Scriptures are true is where the apostle Peter prophesied about the power of the atom. In the book **"Messiah" by Moore** we read¹⁴: *'The phrase "stored with fire" illustrates that Peter, although not knowledgeable himself about the atom, accurately described the immense power stored within it, which when split, emits much heat and fire, thus causing the disintegration of matter. Peter in 2 Peter 3: 10 – 13(KJV) states: "But the day of YHVH will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and Godliness. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of Elohim, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." Here, in what Elohim inspired Peter to reveal to us, we have the explanation of how Elohim creates room for us to live in His New Earth! It is interesting to note that we could not have clearly understood these verses until the age of Einstein, nearly 2000 years after they were inscribed on papyrus. Through our modern understanding of nuclear physics, we can grasp something of Elohim's description to Peter of the immense heat and fire released when He explodes every atom. Furthermore, we now know Einstein was not the first to realize the power of the atom. We see it was also encoded by Elohim in the Holy Scriptures long ago.'*

Now that we have proven that YHVH exists and that the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation are indeed to word of YHVH, let us get back to answering the question raised at the beginning of this sermon. Let us turn to John 10 for the answer. We commence reading Yahshua's words in verse 11, as follows: **"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."** Most of us from a non-Jewish background do not fully realize what Yahshua was saying here. Our Jewish brothers understood that Yahshua was implying that He is Elohim, seeing as king David stated clearly in Psalm 23: **'YHVH is my shepherd.'** Continuing in verses 12 & 13 of John 10 we read: **"He who is a hireling, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, beholds the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep, and flees, and the wolf snatches them, and scatters them. (13) He flees because he is a hireling, and is not concerned about the sheep."** Yahshua is our owner. He is according to John 1: 1 – 3 the Elohim who created us. He is stating here that He is not simply an agent of Elohim, but He is very Elohim.

In verses 14 - 18 of John 10, we read: **"I am the good shepherd; and I know My own, and My own know Me, (15) even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. (16) And I have other sheep which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice;**

¹⁴ I replaced the title God in the quoted portion of the book 'Messiah' by Moore, with the Hebrew word Elohim.

and they shall become one flock with one shepherd. (17) For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it 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.” Here Yahshua is telling the Jews two important points. The first being, that the Jews did not kill Him, like so many Christians assert. He died willingly for the sins of the world, laying His life down for His sheep (those who follow Him). He told them that apart from them, He has other sheep also (talking about us – the called out ones), who will eventually be joining their Jewish brothers, to become one flock with one shepherd. We see in verses 19 - 21 of John 10 that at this point **‘There arose a division again among the Jews because of these words. (20) And many of them were saying, “He has a demon and is insane. Why do you listen to Him?” (21) Others were saying, “These are not the sayings of one demon possessed. A demon cannot open the eyes of the blind, can he?”’**

In verse 22 - 24 of John 10, we are reminded about the time of the year during which Yahshua gave the teaching recorded in John, as follows: **‘At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem; (23) it was winter, and Yahshua was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon. (24) The Jews therefore gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, “How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Messiah tell us plainly.”’** In verse 25 - 27 **‘Yahshua answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father’s name, these bear witness of Me. (26) But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep. (27) My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me,”** Yahshua was a Jew and attended the Feast of Chanukah. We see here that Yahshua was telling some of the Jews that they do not believe Him, because they are not His sheep. He said His sheep follow Him in whatever He does. Yahshua attended Chanukah and gave one of His most important teachings at this time. Ask yourself, are you prepared to follow where Yahshua leads? Some Nazarene Israelites insinuate that Yahshua was not keeping ‘this Jewish festival’ and was only present in the temple, because it might have been on the Sabbath during Chanukah. My question to those is: Why if Chanukah was a ‘pagan’ Jewish festival, did He not rebuke them regarding its observance? Think carefully about it. If He observed Chanukah, will you follow Him, or not. If you are not prepared to follow our Master Yahshua, then I am sorry to tell you, that you are also not of His sheepfold. Continuing in verses 28 & 29 of John 10 Yahshua said: **“and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. (29) My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”** Once we are part of the sheepfold of Yahshua, we cannot be snatched out of His hand; we have made it, provided we remain faithful to YHVH and His Torah and do not leave the fold on our own accord. The important teaching that Yahshua gave on Chanukah was that He is one with YHVH, as is recorded in verse 30 of John 10, as follows: **“I and the Father are one.”** The Jews understood exactly what Yahshua was claiming here and as we read in verse 31 **‘The Jews took up stones again to stone Him.’** How long are those who call them by His title: Nazarenes, going to contradict their Master?

We all know that Yahshua our Messiah’s return is near. Are we prepared to follow Him or not? If not, we might be the ones who are spoken about in Matthew 7: 21, as follows: **“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Master, Master,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.”** Think about it and make the correct decision.

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