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# RESTORATION TIMES



HOW TO  
**RIGHTLY  
DIVIDE**  
THE **WORD**

# RESTORATION TIMES Magazine

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6



9



## A R T I C L E S

12



16



**3 | This Amazing Book!**

by **Alan Mansager**

**6 | How to Rightly Divide the Word**

**9 | Gauging Our Emotional Intelligence, Part I**

by **Randy Folliard**

**12 | Will You Recognize Loved Ones in the Resurrection?**

by the late **Donald R. Mansager**

**16 | Word Reconnaissance**

by **Randy Folliard**

**21 | Answers to Your Questions**

**23 | Letters**

### COMBINED ISSUE

With the press of the early Feast, production of a new booklet, and the diversions in finishing our building project, we have combined the March-April and May-June 2016 issues..

Restoration Times expounds the close ties between the Old and New Testaments. We teach the continuity and harmony that extend from Yahweh's actions anciently down through His present activity in Yahshua the Messiah. This was also the conviction of the early New Testament Assembly.

This publication is sent free of charge, made possible through the tithes and offerings of those who desire to see the truth of Scripture restored in our day.

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**FRONT COVER:** Soldier with sword illustrating strength and willingness to divide the word of Yahweh.



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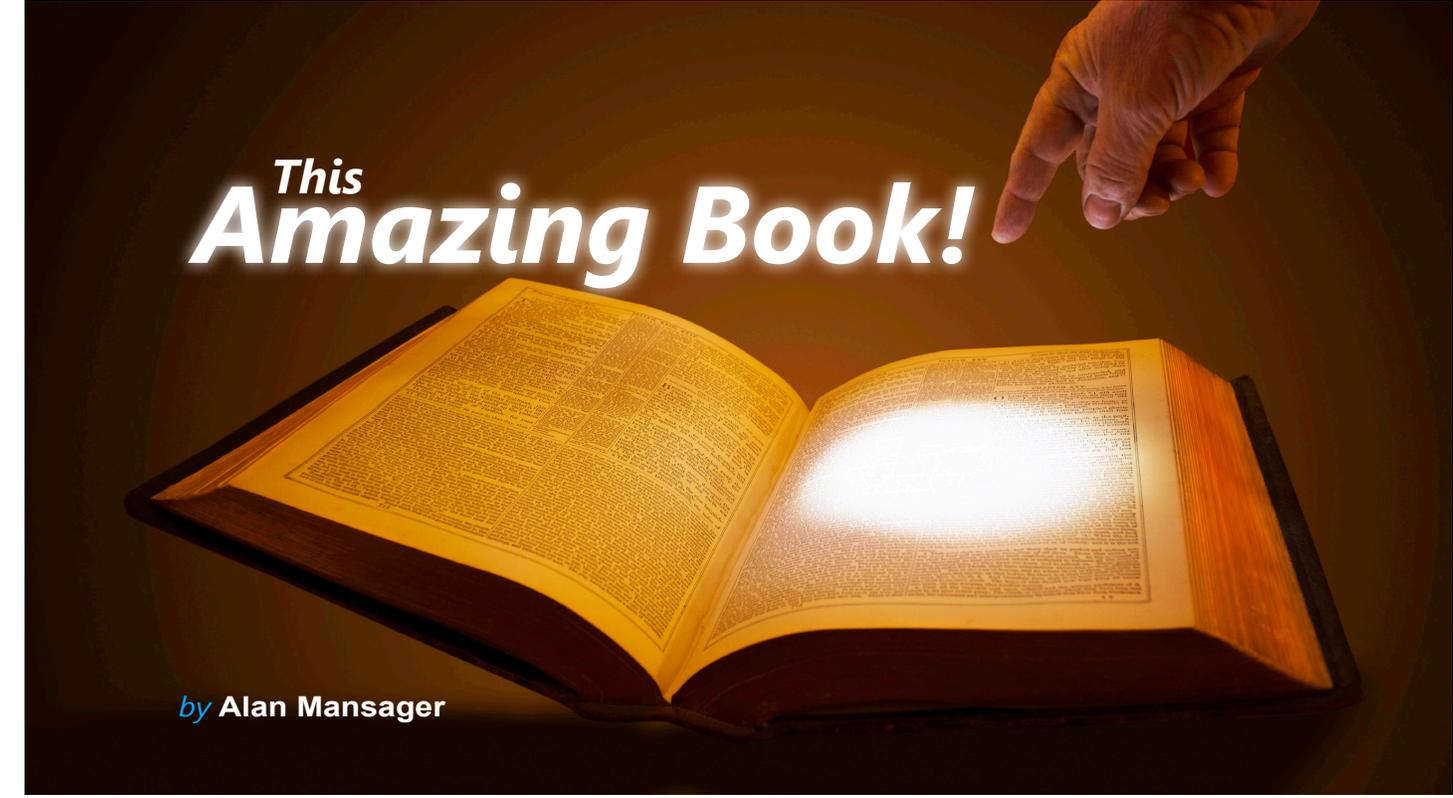
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# *This* **Amazing Book!**

by Alan Mansager

**T**ime for a short Bible quiz:

**The Bible was written mostly by:**

- A. Doctors of Theology**
- B. Average people under inspiration of the Holy Spirit**

**To understand the Bible you need:**

**A. Seminary degrees and a thorough knowledge of church teachings and traditions**

**B. A heart and zeal for the Truth**

*Correct answer to both questions: B*

Most people are intimidated by the Bible. They don't think they can understand it on their own and so they rely on traditional teachings of a minister and his church, without realizing that the Bible is meant to be self-taught. We are each commanded to study and follow it. When we give that obligation to others, we abdicate our own responsibility.

Paul instructed Timothy as well as us, "Study to show thyself approved unto Elohim, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth," 2Timothy 2:15.

If you want to get on the fast track and save yourself years of study, you can order the Restoration Study Bible (RSB) from YRM, which is a compilation of decades of intense study and research.

As with so many issues in life, if you want the truth you go to the source. That is what the RSB does with its emphasis on the Hebrew and Greek behind the text.

### **Facts About Easter**

An example is the use of the word "Easter" in Acts 12:4. The original word is *Pascha*, or Passover. All modern translations have corrected this blatant error, but not before centuries of Bible students were misled into thinking Easter is a biblical holiday.

You would hope that many would have read that single word Easter, found only once in the KJV and virtually in no other translation, and wondered, what about the 28 times the word "Passover" is in the New Testament?

Some believe that the word Easter is the correct word in Acts 12:4 because it was being celebrated by the pagan Romans at that time.

Beyond the fact that the etymology of the word is *Pascha*, which is Aramaic for Passover and unrelated in any way to Easter, is the fact that the ruling prefect of Judea at the time was Herod Agrippa I. It was not Tiberius Caesar sitting on a throne in Jerusalem keeping Easter.

The Herods were Idumaeans or Edomites, who were quasi-Jews. Agrippa was installed to maintain peace amid the

volatile relationship between the Jewish nation and Rome, especially in light of the earlier Maccabean revolt against the decrees of Antiochus IV.

Herod was an astute politician and highly tactful in his interaction with the Jews. It would have been suicide for this would-be Jew to keep the pagan celebration of Easter in the land of Judea.

All facts point to the word Easter as a botched translation of Passover, which has been acknowledged and restored as Passover in all modern English translations.

### **Two 'Branches' with Same Root Name**

Another of many translator missteps is Hebrews 4:8, where the name "Jesus" makes no sense in the context. It is from No. 3091 in the Hebrew, which is Joshua, the son of Nun, or more correctly, Yahshua. The same error is made in Acts 7:45. In their wholesale changing of "Joshua" to "Jesus," we see strong evidence that translators changed the Hebrew Name Yahshua to the latinized Greek "Jesus" wherever they found it.

It is easy to show that the Savior's Name is the same as the Old Testament leader of Israel, Joshua or Yahshua. In Zechariah 6:12 Joshua is called the Branch (capital B). In Jeremiah 23 is a King from David's lineage, Yahshua, also called the

Branch (capital B again) who will rule the earth. The shared designation “Branch” for both individuals ties the Savior’s name to Joshua’s.

No mistakes exist in the inspired text of the original autographs. But there are errors in every one of our translations. That’s the nature of translations. It is a fact the Bible student must be cautious of because many of these errors have caused serious doctrinal derailments.

The Bible claims to be Yahweh’s very word right from His own mouth. Foremost, it tells us in 2Timothy 3:16, “All scripture is given by inspiration of Yahweh, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of Elohim may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

First, the Scriptures declare infallibility, being the very words that Yahweh breathed, which is the meaning of “inspired” (from the Latin *inspirare*). If Yahweh breathed it, it can’t be anything but pure, unadulterated truth.

King David was inspired to write in Psalm 12:6: “The words of Yahweh are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.” In other words the Scriptures have been tested and found complete and perfect.

### Word Is Comprehensive and Faultless

Everything Yahweh’s Word gives us in terms of direction in life and salvation is comprehensive. Nothing needed has been left out. In John 17:17 Yahshua said: “Thy Word is Truth.” No additional revelations are necessary for salvation. No special church teachings are required, nor is “truth” that someone claims to have been given privately from on high. When it comes to salvational instruction, Yahweh needs no co-authors.

Another fact that the Scriptures claim about themselves is inerrancy. Proverbs 30:5 and 6 reads, “Every word of Elohim is pure.” It is accurate. The oldest texts we have, the Dead Sea Scrolls, were produced about four centuries before Yahshua, and they authenticate the accuracy of the current manuscripts used for the translations of the Old Testament. Compare them with one

Hebrew manuscript after another and you will find an amazing consistency. There has not been anything in the Bible proved false yet. Not in its history. Not in scientific understanding. Not in its prophecy. The Bible is far ahead of its time.

The Bible is also complete. We don’t need added church doctrine or someone’s supernatural revelations to complete our walk. From Genesis through Revelation, these 66 books give us all we need for salvation. At the start, in Deuteronomy 4:2, Yahweh instructed His people, “You shall not add to the Word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it.” And then in the middle, Proverbs 30:6 says don’t add to it. Also at the end, in



The War Scroll, part of the Dead Sea Scroll collection, found in Qumran Cave 1.

Revelation 22, we find the same command not to change anything.

The autographs of the Bible are quotations from Yahweh. Yet we have modern language versions that have fiddled with the quotations and changed the meaning of passages. The New International Version, for example, has an anti-law bias in the New Testament.

The Scriptures are also authoritative. Isaiah 1:2 says, “Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth, for Yahweh has spoken.” Psalm 119:89, “Forever, O Yahweh, Thy Word is settled in heaven.” Once the Word was finalized no added teachings were necessary or wanted.

This authoritative book gives us instructions for living to please the One who created us. And it reveals what happens when we ignore those instructions, which are statutes given to all mankind. It also tells us of the blessings that come when we follow Yahweh.

Whatever you’re focused on will eventually show up in your conversation. If you speak about the Scriptures in casual interaction, it shows what is on your mind as well as showing that Yahweh is in your heart.

Here we are, committed to Yahweh in a world not only indifferent to but becoming hostile to the Word. The Bible presents a moral standard for living that our culture increasingly disrespects.

### Rx for Sin: Obedience to Yahweh

The carnal mind hates Yahweh’s laws. Some say that obedience is “works righteousness.” But obedience to the Word is exactly what we are commanded.

Forget the assumption of earning salvation. We obey Yahweh because we worship the One with a superior standard. It comes as a package. Obedience is key to His worship in both Old and New testaments.

Laws control our universe. We either live by them and respect them or we die. Laws are behind what keeps us healthy and safe from harmful things in this hazardous world.

Yahweh’s laws keep us safe spiritually as well, and spiritual hazards are far reaching. Satan is called a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Obedience to Yahweh protects us from

Satan’s schemes.

When we move into the moral, spiritual sphere, law-opposing teachers in effect teach that all of that evaporates, and that moral laws no longer apply.

Paradoxically, we suffer all the problems that result when we violate Yahweh’s moral laws by throwing them out of Yahweh’s Word.

We are reaping the whirlwind in our declining culture from our disobedience. Bad news is in every news broadcast and newspaper. The Creator who ordered all natural laws is the same who enacted moral and spiritual law.

The Bible is an incredible book that explains the path to true happiness. Get in line with it and you will find joy, peace, and fulfillment. Go against it and you will have a life of misery, heartache, and despair.

The Bible contains over 250 passages in the Old Testament as well as 55 verses in

the New Testament that require adherence to what is commanded in the Scriptures. The whole Bible is truth for all mankind.

Scripture presents the only viable explanation for the universe. And for millennia has not been proven wrong in anything it says. Not a single statement is in error. Can any human do that?

Could you or I write a book detailing all the complexities of this world, the universe and the nature of man and 5,000 years from now still have everything current and accurate?

The Bible speaks of the nature and behavior of man that is the same today as it was at the dawn of man's existence. That's one reason the Word is still fresh as the day it was written. Man's basic nature doesn't change.

Look at our physical world. The Bible says that mass does not go out of existence, Ecclesiastes 1:9. Its form can be changed like water into ice or vapor, but the subatomic particle remains.

The first law of thermodynamics says that energy can be changed from one form to another, but it cannot be destroyed. The total amount of energy and matter in the universe is constant, merely changing from one form to another.

Did Yahweh know about that? Of course! He inspired Nehemiah to write in 9:6, "Thou hast made heaven, the earth and all things therein, the seas and all things therein and Thou preservest them all."

Ecclesiastes 1:10 asks, "Is there anything of which it may be said...See, this is new? No, it has already been from of old."

The Bible also affirms another law that flies in the face of evolution. It says, left to themselves things break down, they become disordered. They don't become more ordered, better developed, more sophisticated, more complicated.

The law of increasing disorder alone disproves evolution because it says things start from order and complexity and go to disorder and eventually to complete breakdown—not the other way around. We see everywhere that whatever is put together will eventually fall apart and deteriorate, not improve and get more complex.

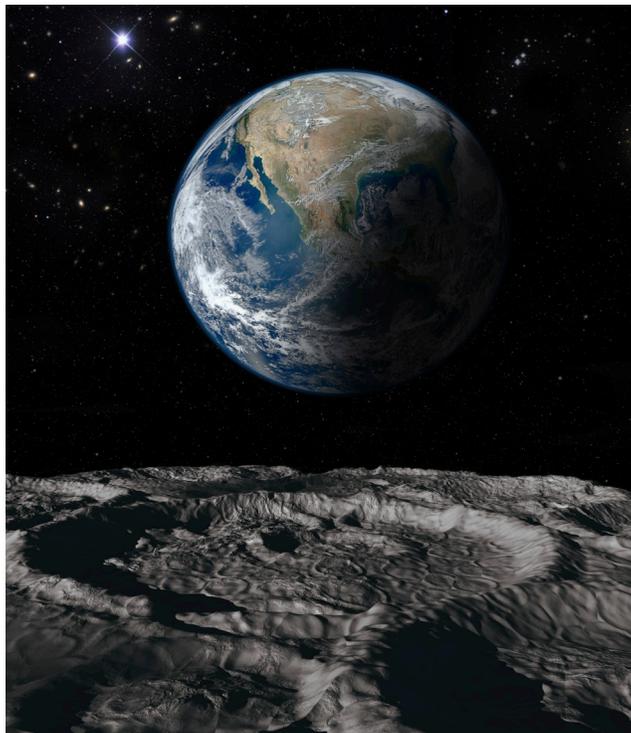
Build a sand castle and wind and

waves soon flatten it. Erect a skyscraper and left alone it will in time rust away and collapse. It won't evolve into a Saturn V rocket.

### Nothing Created Everything – Really?

Disbelievers want to believe in evolution because they don't want a Creator and be subject to His judgment. So they just eliminate Him with a ridiculous theory that everything created itself, without Him.

The theory teaches that the miraculous intricacy that we see in this amazing world and universe came into existence on its own without any thought, plan, direction



or meaning. And in doing so violated every natural law there is, as well as all evidence to the contrary that we see operating today!

Most supposedly "smart" scientists claim to believe this universe came to exist from nothing with no intelligence guiding it. Romans 1:22 answers them with the indictment, "professing themselves wise they became fools." Verse 25 says, "They exchanged the truth of Yahweh for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator who is forever praised."

That is evolution in a nutshell. When the Bible talks about scientific things it is totally accurate. Science fails to explain where matter and life came from. The best some professional atheists can do is speculate that life was introduced to earth by aliens. But they can't say how these

aliens themselves came to exist. They can only kick the can down the road and avoid troubling questions about their theory and life's origins.

The Book of Job describes a great deal of science, including evaporation and condensation. Whenever Yahweh speaks in His Word about something scientific, it is always proved true by the evidence. Therefore, thousands of years ago Isaiah 55:10 gave us the planetary water cycle.

Man professes himself wise but is a fool in comparison to His Creator.

### Bible Is Scientifically Spot-on

Old ideas about the earth and solar system were very strange. Before 500 years ago most thought that the earth was the center of the solar system.

When Nicolaus Copernicus came along in the 15th century he presented the idea that the sun was the center of the solar system and the earth was in motion. He asserted that the earth rotated on its axis once daily and traveled around the sun once yearly—a fantastic concept for the times. People first thought he was crazy because they couldn't feel the motion.

Up to then Hippocrates, a contemporary of Plato, said there were one thousand and twenty-two stars. Ptolemy said, "No, there are one thousand and fifty-six." Why didn't they read Jeremiah and end the argument? The prophet wrote in 33:22 that the stars can't be

counted. Now we know there are a hundred billion stars just in our Milky Way galaxy and there are billions of galaxies.

Job says Yahweh hangs the earth on nothing. How did he know that? When Job says He turns the earth like the clay to the seal, he's simply saying it rotates on its axis. How did he know that? He uses the word *klug*, which speaks of the circle of the earth. How did he understand that the planet was a circle or sphere?

Job said Yahweh imputes weight to the wind. It wasn't until the seventeenth century that anybody understood that a column of air had weight.

It's said that George Washington died after doctors bled him to death trying to cure a viral infection. Bleeding was a treatment for sickness back then. Now physicians

add blood through transfusions rather than take it away because they figured out what Leviticus 17:11 had stated for millennia, “The life of the flesh is in the blood.” Blood contains life sustenance. When Yahshua shed His blood for us, He gave His life.

### Flawless in Every Way

There is so much more we could say about this book.

It is historically accurate, scientifically proven, and prophetically faultless. No man knows what the future holds. But the Word does – in minute detail.

There’s no explanation for this amazing book other than that Yahweh wrote it. Nothing else explains its total accuracy on every level.

Nothing else explains its penetrating spiritual power and its ability to transform lives.

No one else but Yahweh can explain its miracles, which are found from beginning to end, verified by eyewitnesses.

When the Apostle Paul went to Berea, he preached the truth to them, we read in verse 11 of Acts 17, “These were more noble minded than those in Thessalonica for they received the Word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.”

Here was a group of people called noble because they did essentially what Joshua 1:8 says, they meditated day and night on the Word of Yahweh in order that they might discern its truth and against that truth measure the preacher.

They were noble because they diligently searched the Scriptures and they did it daily with great eagerness so that they might discern who was speaking truth.

If you want to be a student of the Word you must begin with a high view of Scripture because His Word is truth. And then learn it with the desire of following it as well.

### Know the Textual Background

We can’t learn it if we don’t crack it open. Take a book and read it. Read all of the book. Like Acts. Then read it again. Read it 30 times in a row until you thoroughly know the book. You know where certain verses are by their physical location on the page of your favorite Bible.

You may not understand it all, but at least you will know where you can find it. You will never know what it is about unless

you read it.

In 2Timothy 2:15 we have a starting point biblically that gives us the mandate for the necessity of Bible study. It says, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to Elohm as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.”

The Bible was not written in English. The Old Testament was inspired in Hebrew and some passages in Aramaic, a common street language spoken during the time of Yahshua among the Jews.

Right at the start we face a problem. Not only was the Old Testament transmitted in Hebrew, but it was written in a kind of Hebrew that isn’t spoken today. Hebrew changed as all languages do. And the New Testament was translated in a Greek language different from Greek of today. It’s even called *koine* Greek which means common Greek and it was different from formal, literary Greek even in the time it was written, both of which are different from Greek today.

Knowledge of the ancient source

words is key. Somebody has to know the language. That’s where commentaries and lexicons come in. *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New and Old Testament Words*, *Gesenius, Brown Driver Briggs Hebrew Lexicon*, and *Thayers Greek Lexicon* are some of the many great helps.

Another difficulty we face is the culture gap, including customs. Speech is custom. Speech is also idiomatic.

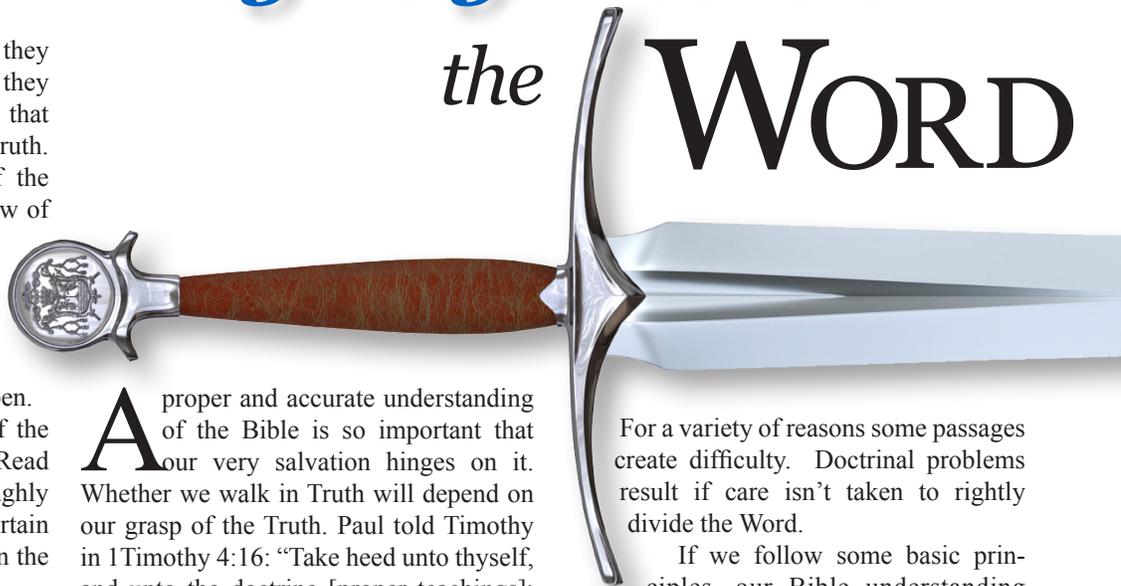
We’re familiar with certain idioms. People say things like “he’s one sandwich short of a picnic.” Imagine a foreigner trying to figure that out. Or what it means when you use idioms like: “I’ll be a monkey’s uncle” or “I paid through the nose.”

Imagine the problem with trying to learn a language filled with such strange idioms! When you deal with ancient language you’re also dealing with idiomatic speech, and expressions of an ancient culture that have lost their meanings.

Having a grasp of the culture is important.

Third, knowing the geographical

# How to Rightly Divide the WORD



A proper and accurate understanding of the Bible is so important that our very salvation hinges on it. Whether we walk in Truth will depend on our grasp of the Truth. Paul told Timothy in 1Timothy 4:16: “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine [proper teachings]; continue in them: for in doing this you shall save both yourself, and them that hear you.”

For a variety of reasons some passages create difficulty. Doctrinal problems result if care isn’t taken to rightly divide the Word.

If we follow some basic principles, our Bible understanding will come far easier and it will be more accurate and greatly enhanced. The following are five helpful guidelines.

setting is helpful in understanding some Scriptures. Deuteronomy 16:1 says Abib is the first month. At this time of year in this area of the world you have fresh, young barley ears, the greening of the barley crop.

Another issue we must deal with in Bible understanding is the culture gap. How did Israel think? How did the Romans and Greeks reason?

When Paul is writing to the Corinthians in 1Corinthians 11 he gets into long hair and headcoverings. Greek women in Paul's day were demanding a kind of liberation. Many were shaving their heads. With that background when Paul talks about a woman's hair being her glory you have a fuller understanding.

It also helps to understand the geography of the land. You understand why Megiddo will be the staging area for the final conflict of the ages. You could call Megiddo Israel's Bonneville Salt Flats. The Plain of Megiddo, where the term Armageddon derives, along with the Jezreel Valley provide clear access to Jerusalem from the north. When the Scripture talks of

an army invading from the north, it doesn't necessarily mean northern nations. It could be an army from an eastern oriental nation that makes a sweep around the fertile crescent and then drops in from the north.

The immensity of this plain is so overwhelming that when Napoleon Bonaparte first viewed it, he was reported to have said: "All the armies of the world could maneuver their forces on this vast plain... There is no place in the whole world more suited for war than this...[It is] the most natural battleground of the whole earth." Others have called it the battle field of empires.

Historical context is also key. You will never understand why Pontius Pilate struggled with releasing Yahshua to the Jews, why he found Him innocent, washed his hands of the whole situation, and impaled Yahshua anyway unless you understand that Pilate was already up to his neck in trouble with the Roman Empire because of at least three major mistakes that he had made while he was governor.

The Roman caesar wanted *Pax Romana*,

Roman peace, and all Pilate kept doing was getting hostile Jews angry with Rome. The Jews finally pulled their trump card and said to him, "If you don't impale Him, we'll tell Caesar." With this background in mind Pilate's dilemma is more understandable.

To grasp 1Corinthians chapters 12 to 14 regarding speaking in tongues we need to know two words in the Greek language, *enthousiasmos* and *ekstasis* which is enthusiasm and ecstasy. Those words defined the nature of worship in the mystery religions.

The pagans tried to whip people into altered states of consciousness where they flipped out and did bizarre and wild things. This mystically was how you connected with the deities just as the priests of Baal in the contest with Elijah mutilated themselves to get their deity to answer.

The biggest hindrance to Bible understanding is that many come to Scripture with their presuppositions and force the Bible to conform to those presuppositions, rather than jettison those notions and let the Word speak for itself. 

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## *Applying five key principles will help ensure a proper interpretation and meaning when studying Yahweh's Word.*

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### *Principle One: Take It at Face Value*

The first principle in proper Bible understanding is to take the passage just as it appears. Look first for the literal meaning.

A symbolic or deeper sense of the

The passage would be better rendered, "Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy" as a few versions read.

### *Principle Two: Read the Passage in Context*

When faced with a difficult verse,

support Sunday worship. "One man esteems one day above another: another esteems every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."

By reading the entire chapter we easily can see from verse 2 that Paul is speaking

passage will usually be evident, especially in combination with other related verses.

When Yahweh commands in Exodus 20:8, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," and then explains that we are to work six days and rest the seventh, He means to keep the Sabbath by resting from work. He does not mean to "remember" it by just thinking about the Sabbath.

read all the verses surrounding it. Read what comes immediately before and after the passage. Read the entire chapter, if necessary. Often this will reveal the true meaning.

As obvious as this is, many "experts" fail to do it and end up twisting a passage or missing its message entirely as with Romans 14:5, which has been used to

about both fasting and vegetarianism, not about observing a day of rest.

### *Principle Three: Let Scripture Explain Itself*

One of the biggest mistakes is in failing to harmonize the Scriptures, a violation that has led to a myriad of contradictory teachings. One verse will never disagree with any other passage in the Word.

In John 10:35 Yahshua said the Scriptures cannot be broken (“broken” is the Greek *luo*, meaning to loosen or dissolve). Paul in 2Timothy 3:16 tells us that ALL Scripture is inspired, meaning it is “Yahweh breathed.” And Yahweh never contradicts Himself, Hebrews 6:18; He cannot lie.

We can’t say Paul did away with the law in Galatians 3 only to have him upholding it in Romans 7.

In the same way we cannot read of the Savior’s plain instruction to the young man, “If you will enter into life, keep the Commandments,” Matthew 19:17, and then turn right around and say He abolished the law at His death.

When a particular view of a passage does not hold up in light of other Scriptures that say the opposite, then something is wrong with our understanding of the passage.

#### *Principle Four: Know the Setting*

Just as you sometimes need to know the context of a verse to understand it properly, it often is helpful to know to whom the passage is written and why.

For example, 1Corinthians 16:2 has been grossly misinterpreted to support worship on the first day of the week. “Collection” does not refer to passing an offering plate at a church service on Sunday. Rather, Paul is seeking help for a drought in Jerusalem. He asks that the brethren in Corinth have their aid ready for the Jerusalem brethren on the first of the week so that he can pick it up when he comes by. “Day” is not in the Greek but was added.

No reference to Sunday worship service is intended or implied. A careful reading of the first 4 verses reveals the truth of the circumstances and will dispel any erroneous conclusions drawn from this passage.

#### *Principle Five: Language and Grammar*

Nuances of meaning are often lost in the translation. In the NT we are looking at English translations that are at best three steps removed from the original texts. By going back as close to the original language as possible, one can come much closer to

understanding the passage.

The common interpretation of Romans 10:4 is that Yahshua did away with the law. “For Messiah is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believes.” The Greek word “end” is *telos* and means “goal.” Far from being the termination of the law, Yahshua is the very purpose for the law! The law transforms us to be like Yahshua when we adhere to it, and draws us into His holy family.

He said in Matthew 12:50, “For whosoever shall do the will of my father Which is in heaven, the same is My brother, and sister, and mother.”

Now we can employ principles three and five together. The same word *telos* is found in James 5:11, “...you have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end [telos] of Yahweh, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.”

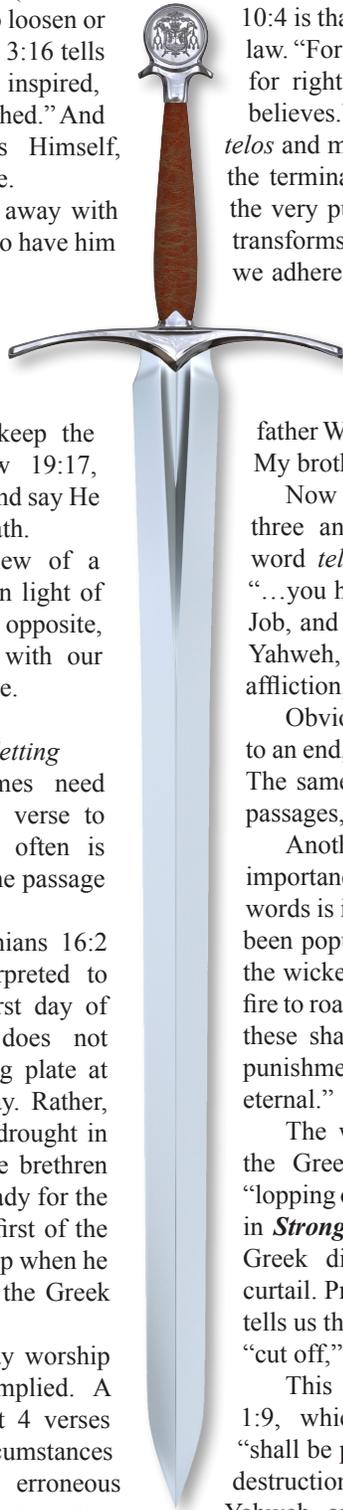
Obviously Yahweh has not come to an end, and neither has biblical law. The same word *telos* is used in both passages, meaning “goal” in both.

Another example of the importance of the original meaning of words is in Matthew 25:46, which has been popularly interpreted to say that the wicked go to an ever-burning hell fire to roast in agony for eternity. “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”

The word “punishment” is from the Greek *kolasis*, and signifies a “lopping off.” It derives from No. 2849 in *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance* Greek dictionary, which means to curtail. Properly interpreted, the verse tells us that the wicked will forever be “cut off,” their lives “curtailed.”

This agrees with 2Thessalonians 1:9, which reads that the wicked “shall be punished with an everlasting destruction from the presence of Yahweh and from the glory of his power.” “Destruction” in this verse is the Greek *olethros* and means to destroy, not live forever sizzling for an eternity in a world of flaming sulfur and fiery brimstone.

Understanding Yahweh’s Word is not something too difficult or He would never have given His Word to us as our guide for life now and hereafter.

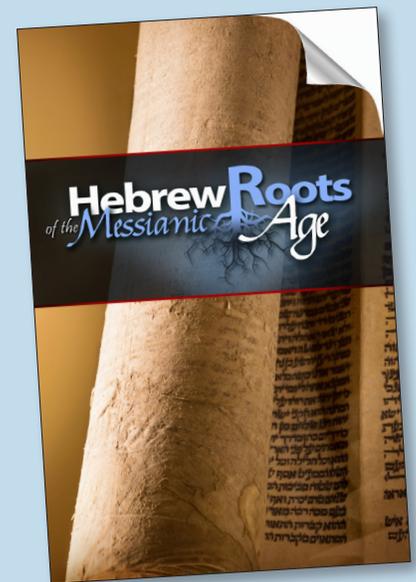


## Your Savior a Hebrew?

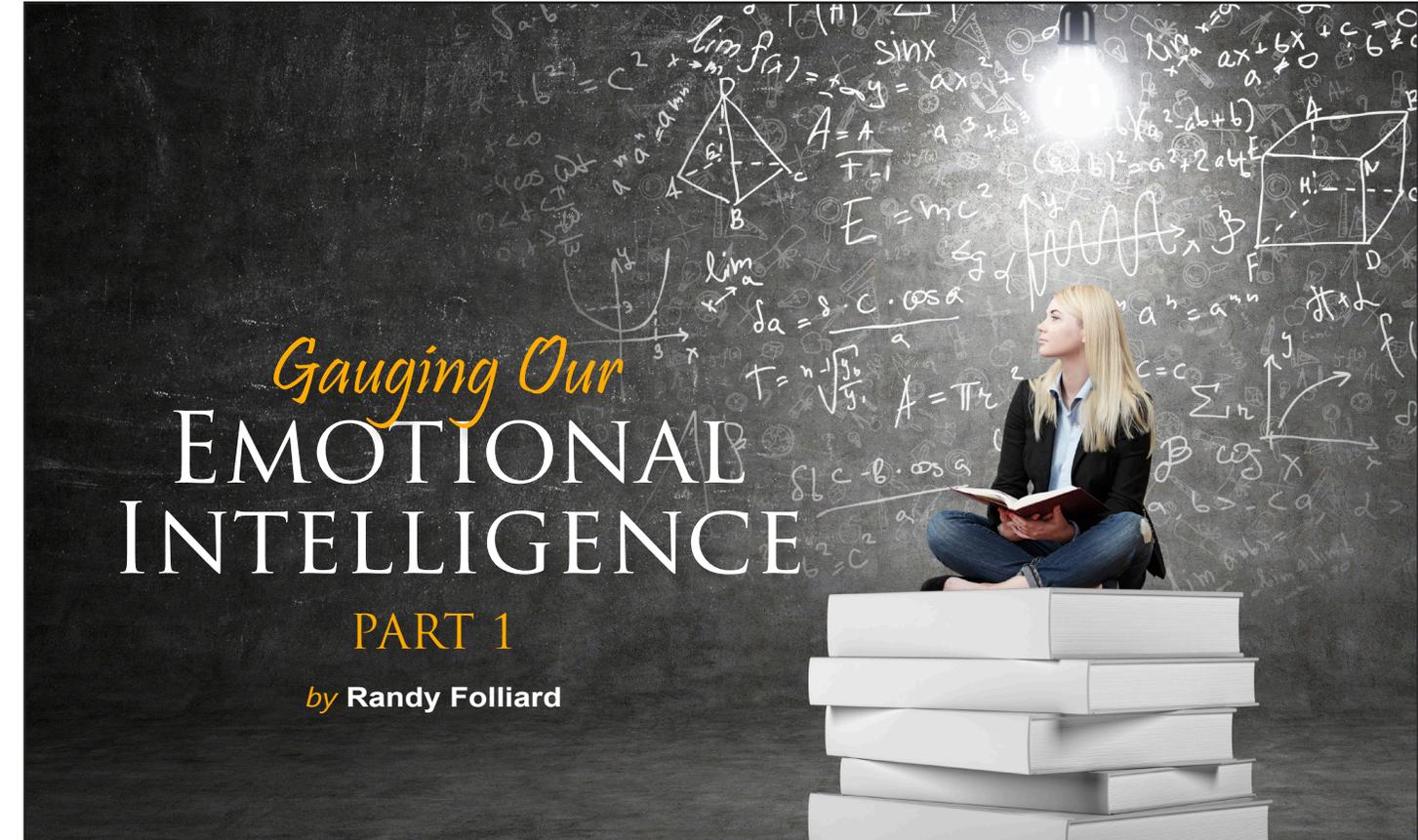
Why do churches accept the authority of the New Testament but dismiss its Old Testament foundation? In our latest booklet, *Hebrew Roots of the Messianic Age*, we get to the heart of this issue.

We show proof from the Bible that the Messiah and His apostles, including Paul, were law-observant Hebrews who held the Old Testament as foundational. We explain why the church deviated from its Hebraic origins and what happened to truth as a result.

Buckle up and brace for a spiritual journey that will unravel centuries of man-made traditions and misinformation.



For your copy, free of charge, see the contact information on the back cover of this magazine.



# Gauging Our EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

## PART 1

by Randy Foliard

**A**cademic knowledge is important, but equally important is knowledge and awareness of our emotions and the emotions of others. In 1964 Michael Beldoch coined the term “emotional intelligence.”

However, it was Daniel Goleman who made this term popular in 1995 when he used this phrase as the title of his book. For those unfamiliar with Goldman, he is an author, psychologist, and science journalist. Admittedly, we do not normally place much emphasis on psychology or business theories at YRM. Howbeit, this one deserves attention.

### Defining Emotional Intelligence (EI)

According to Wikipedia, “Emotional intelligence (EI) or emotional quotient (EQ) is the ability of individuals to recognize their own and other people’s emotions, to discriminate between different feelings and label them appropriately, and to use emotional information to guide thinking and behavior.... Studies have shown that people with high EI have greater mental health, exemplary job performance, and more potent leadership.”

Controlling our emotions and behavior is essential for all believers, especially for

those who minister in the Word. Not only will a high EI lead to greater success in life, but will also do the same in our spiritual walk.

There are different EI models; we will focus on what’s called the “Mixed Model.” This model contains four components: 1) self-awareness; 2) self-regulation; 3) social skills; and 4) empathy.

Wikipedia provides the following definitions:

“Self-awareness – the ability to know one’s emotions, strengths, weaknesses, drives, values and goals and recognize their impact on others while using [the Holy Spirit] to guide decisions.

“Self-regulation – involves controlling or redirecting one’s disruptive emotions and impulses and adapting to changing circumstances.

“Social skills – managing relationships to move people in the desired direction

“Empathy – considering other people’s feelings especially when making decisions.”

In this first installment we will review the first two principles of self-awareness and self-regulation. It’s important to realize that each of these principles is crucial in our walk and supported by Scripture. For example, self-awareness is central to the

life of a believer. Before we can overcome sin we must first be aware of that sin. This happens only through self-awareness.

After we are self-aware of the sin we must then regulate that sin by removing it. This only happens through self-regulation. If we refuse to self-regulate our actions then we will never change and be found worthy of Yahweh’s calling. It’s really that simple.

In the twelfth chapter of 1Corinthians the Apostle Paul describes the assembly using a metaphor of the human body. As the human body contains different functions and complexities the same is true in how we interact with one another. This is why social skills, the third component of the mixed model, are so crucial.

The last attribute is empathy. When we make decisions we must consider the emotions and well-being of others. There’s no better example of empathy than Yahshua the Messiah. His focus was always on the needs of others. The sad reality is most exhibit the opposite of empathy, i.e., indifference, selfishness, disunity, discord, apathy, and hatred.

If we are ever mindful of our emotions and the emotions of others, putting ourselves second for the benefit of others,

we will reach a spiritual maturity that few experience.

### Self-Awareness

Let's focus on what the Bible says about these attributes beginning with self-awareness. Solomon in Proverbs 14:8 speaks to this trait. From the NIV we read, "The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception. An attribute of wisdom is to know one's own thoughts. This is the same as being self-aware of our own emotions. Being self-aware means being wise.

Now what does Solomon say here about the fool? He says a fool is deceived by his own foolishness. A major reason for this is insensitivity to his emotions and as a result he says or does what is counterproductive to himself and others.

If we think about it, we all remember situations that turned out poorly because we were not self-aware. And again, based on the definition, it's not just being aware of our emotions, but also the emotions of others.

This is where self-awareness becomes difficult for many people, including many believers. One reason is that it requires a level of selflessness and the ability to look beyond self. Raw human nature doesn't do this, it only happens when we proactively seek to put others first. This is why a self-centered and selfish person is stagnant in spiritual growth.

In Proverbs 20:5 Solomon speaks about the depth of man's heart. He says, "The purposes of a man's heart are deep waters, but a man of understanding draws them out."

Solomon here compares a man's heart to deep waters. Sometimes to get to the root of the issue we must look beneath the surface. We must look beyond our raw human nature.

For example, to forgive we must learn to look beyond our own anger and animosity. To show compassion we must look beyond our own selfishness. And this all begins by being self-aware of our own strengths and especially shortcomings.

Have you ever sat down to consider where you excel and where you fall short as a believer? This is a beneficial exercise regardless of your experience, status, or maturity. After an honest and open introspection you can then work to enhance your strengths and overcome your

weaknesses.

Our Heavenly Father Yahweh expects us to be in control of our emotions and the first step is being self-aware of those emotions. And remember these are not only our emotions, but also the emotions of others.

Now Paul in 1 Timothy 4:16 applies this concept to our faith: "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."

What do you suppose Paul meant by "take heed"? He's referring to self-awareness. This phrase comes from the Greek *epecho* and means, "to hold upon, i.e. (by implication) to retain; (by extension) to detain or to pay attention to."

This applies to both our life and our faith. When Paul says to be aware of ourself and doctrine it covers us and what we believe as truth. This refers to our actions, our behaviors, our words, and how we interact with and perceive others.

It also refers to what we hold as truth. How many Bible believers today really know what they believe? Most simply go with whatever their ministers say without ever questioning whether it's scriptural. As disciples of the Messiah, though, we must "take heed" or be aware of what we follow as truth.

### Self-Regulation

Self-regulation involves "controlling or redirecting one's disruptive emotions and impulses and adapting to changing circumstances."

Self-regulation comes from self-awareness, from knowing to acting. The Bible has much to say about self-regulation.

Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:17 explains why this is so important. "Therefore if any man be in Messiah, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

When Paul says "if any man be in Messiah" he is speaking about those baptized into Yahshua's Name. So what happens at baptism that makes us part of Messiah? As Paul explains in Romans 6, baptism represents the death of Yahshua the Messiah. When we partake in baptism we symbolically partake in Yahshua's death, and by so doing we become part of Him. Scripturally, this is why we're not a brother or sister in Messiah until we're immersed into Yahshua's Name.

Now at baptism we also rise as new creatures, meaning that our goals and aspirations in life must be different. Once we're part of Messiah, we must then live according to His examples and this is why self-regulation is so crucial. It's not enough to simply know our thoughts, but as believers we must control our thoughts and by extension our behavior and actions. This all begins by controlling our emotions.

All relationships are affected, including in the home, at work, and in the assembly. Remember that self-regulation does not only involve action, but also our speech and how we respond or not respond to others. An example is choosing to respond with compassion instead of strife. An example of a nonresponse would be remaining silent, likely leading to greater contention.

Those immersed into Yahshua's Name must strive to live according to His values and ethics. Yahshua was kind, He was considerate, He was compassionate, He was thoughtful, He was humble, He was giving, He was selfless, He was slow to anger, and He understood what was important. Are we believers living up to those standards?

Being aware of our emotions and the emotions of others takes effort, and might be the hardest transformation for a believer.

### Overcoming Carnality

Paul in the fifth chapter of Galatians explains why this is such a challenge. He says, "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of Yahweh," vv.17-21.

Paul reveals that the flesh and spirit are constantly at odds with one another. As the saying goes, the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. We humans have negative pulls we contend with and it doesn't matter who we are or what position we're in. The bottom line is, we all struggle.

In over 20 years in the ministry I've seen many sincere people come and go from

the faith. Within each of us there is a battle waging. Through the spirit we desire to live according to Yahweh's Word, but through the flesh we want those things that please our natural man.

This is what's called "carnality." The *Merriam Webster Dictionary* defines this word as the "excessive pursuit of fleshly pleasures." In this passage Paul provides a list of examples of different forms of carnality. In this list he describes two different types of carnality. One pertaining to our flesh and the other to worship.

For example, he mentions idolatry or the worship of idols. This type of rebellion is what led Yahweh in Jeremiah 3:8 to give Israel a bill of divorcement.

At that point Israel had completely forsaken Him for the false mighty ones of the nations. On a side note, we know that Israel will be restored in the millennial Kingdom. As we see correction from our Heavenly Father we also see compassion.

The lesson is that there is a battle within ourselves that will determine our salvation. Winning this battle largely comes down to awareness and regulation. In other words, we must be cognizant of our emotions and control our actions based on our Father's Word and our Savior's examples. If so then we will be worthy of Yahweh's Kingdom.

### Subjugating Our Flesh

In 2Corinthians 10:3-5 Paul talks more about restraining our carnal nature: "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through Elohim to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of Elohim, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Messiah."

An inescapable fact is that we're all predisposed to satisfying our flesh. So how do we overcome this carnality? Paul says by restraining our flesh through submission or subjugation to our Heavenly Father.

What does it mean to subjugate or restrain our flesh? These are terms that convey the idea of submitting or imprisoning ourselves to the will of our Heavenly Father and Savior. The Bible says that we were bought with a price and that price was the shed blood of Yahshua the Messiah. Therefore our lives don't belong to us but to the One who died for us.

It's for this reason that Paul says that we must bring our flesh into "captivity" through the obedience of Messiah. He says that to overcome our flesh we must surrender

ourselves to Yahshua the Messiah. This means that our first priority in this life must be our Heavenly Father and Savior.

The one thing that stands between us and Yahweh is simply the tendency to sin. Sin is the greatest enemy we have when it comes to our relationship with our Creator. Because Yahweh cannot look upon

or tolerate sin, he cannot embrace those who willfully engage in sin. This is why Paul says we must place our flesh into captivity through Yahshua the Messiah.

A direct connection exists between what Paul says here and what he says in Galatians pertaining to the flesh. It's those attributes of the flesh we are placing into bondage, and we do this through self-awareness and regulation.

### Following the Blueprint

In addition to overcoming the flesh, we must also learn to become Messiah-like. In the second chapter of Philippians Paul provides several positive attributes that we're to emulate. He writes, "If there be therefore any consolation in Messiah, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his

own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Messiah Yahshua: Who, being in the form of Elohim, thought it not robbery to be equal with Elohim: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the stake," verses 1-7.

Our Savior is our blueprint. Yahshua humbled Himself and took the form of a servant. Besides His death, this possibly is the greatest lesson and legacy of Yahshua's earthly Ministry. If anyone had the right to exalt himself it would be Yahshua. But instead He humbled Himself. We're to follow suit.

Spiritual maturity is about humility or being able to look beyond self and focus on the needs of others. Again, Paul says here that we're not to look to our own needs, but to the needs of others. As believers, how do we measure up? Is our focus on others or on our own selfish needs? A sign of a true believer is a person willing to sacrifice for others.

We can keep the Sabbath, the Feast days, pronounce Yahweh's Name just right and in the end still miss the mark. "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing," 1Corinthians 13:3.

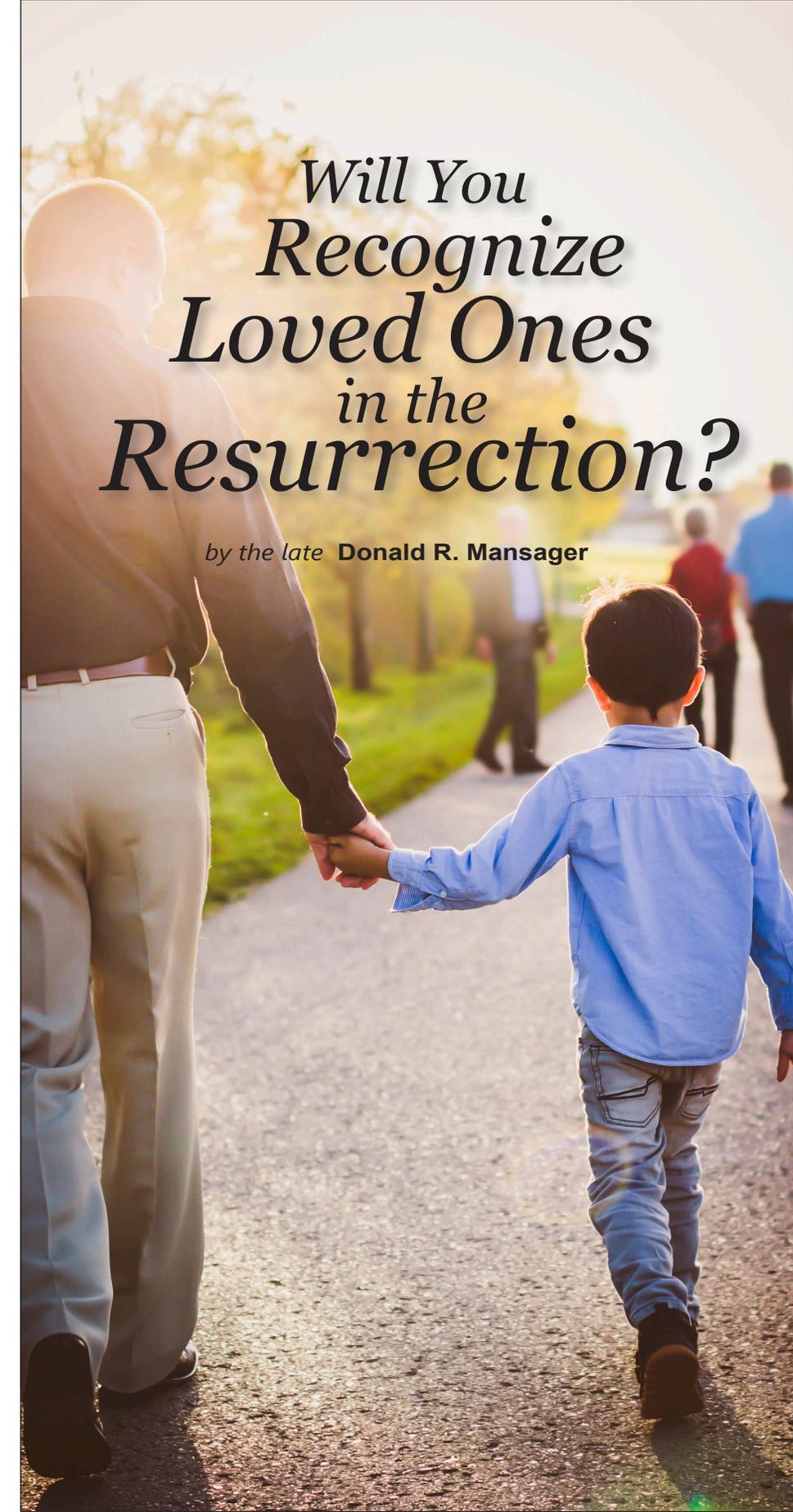
If we're not changing who we are inside then we're no better than the Pharisees. Yahshua did not reprimand the Pharisees for not obeying the commandments, but for neglecting what He called the "weightier matters."

Many, including believers, are oblivious to their own shortcomings because they refuse to look beyond self. We must be better than this; we must examine ourselves and make sure that we're behaving in a way that's honoring to Yahweh's Word. And again this begins by being aware of our emotions and the emotions of others along with controlling our emotions.

In the next installment we will review the remaining two attributes of this mixed model, which are social skills and empathy. As with self-awareness and self-regulation, these attributes are equally important.

May we examine ourselves and be cognizant of our emotions, actions, and behavior. Remember, we must not only clean the outside of the cup, but also the inside. Only then will we be found worthy. 





# Will You Recognize Loved Ones in the Resurrection?

by the late **Donald R. Mansager**

**Y**ahweh's elect are thrilled with the prospect of everlasting life in Yahshua's Kingdom. Yahshua said the righteous will be given immortal, spirit bodies at that time to replace their physical ones. But many worry whether they will still know and recognize family and others who may also be in the Kingdom.

The resurrection and what follows is a weighty teaching of the Word. Although we have only rudimentary information about the resurrection, the New Testament gives us some answers to the question of individual identity in the Kingdom.

The first resurrection is the raising of the righteous to immortality at the return of Yahshua to establish His reign on earth.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "For Yahshua Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of Yahweh; and the dead in Messiah shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet Yahshua in the air, and thus we shall always be with Yahshua," 1Thessalonians 4:16-17.

All followers of the Messiah will be transformed into spirit beings at His return to earth. The righteous dead are first to be raised from the state of death, followed almost immediately by the living saints who will be changed from physical to spirit.

The saints are striving for the better resurrection of incorruption and immortality (1Cor. 15: 52-54), not for the fleshly pleasures and comforts we can now have. In John 11:43 the Savior called forth Lazarus who had been dead four days. He came out of the tomb wrapped in burial bandages with a napkin around his head and was resurrected to the physical realm as before.

Matthew 27:52-53 reveals that graves opened up when the Messiah was resurrected, but these dead were not resurrected to the spiritual plane. They obviously were brought back to life as physical humans and eventually died again, and are now awaiting the resurrection. This miracle showed that Yahshua's resurrection signified life for man, although physical in this instance.

In addition to spirit beings ruling with the Messiah, there will still be physical human beings, including children and animals, left upon the earth, Isaiah 11:6-8. Yahshua will set up His kingdom and

rule from Jerusalem. Spirit-bodied saints shall be given positions of rulership and reign with the Messiah a thousand years, Revelation 20:4.

Another resurrection comes a thousand years later, verse 5. Those in the first resurrection shall be immortal and the second death will have no power over them, verse 6. They cannot die or be killed in the lake of fire.

Because the saints will be resurrected with another body, 1Corinthians 15:35-36, will resurrected individuals be recognized in the Kingdom? Even those who are alive at the return of the Messiah will have their bodies changed from mortal to immortal, from corruption to incorruption, vv. 50-54. If we will not have the physical body we have now, how will our identity be preserved so that we will be known in the resurrection?

Yahshua reveals that there will be many who will come from all around the world and enter into the Kingdom to sit with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Matthew 8:11.

prove it was He Himself by the nail holes in his hands and feet.

Yahshua also had the ability to move through solid objects. Walls and doors didn't stop Him when He suddenly appeared before the assembled disciples in John 20:19. He suddenly appeared to the disciples as they were reclining and eating as well, Mark 16:14.

In Luke 24:30-31 Yahshua joined two as they walked to Emmaus. When they recognized Him as He broke bread, He suddenly vanished. From there they joined the eleven disciples. Yahshua suddenly appeared in the midst of them, verses 36-39. He showed them His hands and feet and ate broiled fish before them.

The point is that Yahshua could manifest Himself to His disciples by "slowing down" His spirit body. This allowed His energy to become physical substance so the disciples could see and feel His material flesh, Luke 24:39-40 and Matthew 28:9. Yahshua even ate physical food (Luke 24:42-43) to prove He was not

Yahshua was unique in that He was not recognized immediately by Miriam or His disciples. He was so viciously beaten before He died that His skin was torn open and His flesh severely lacerated. Isaiah says His appearance was marred more than any other man, 52:14.

When Yahshua appeared to Mary and the disciples, Yahweh had apparently given Him a reconstituted body that was free from rupture, bleeding, slashed skin and torn muscles. This explains why He might not have been easily recognized even by those closest to Him.

He still retained the nail holes in His hands and feet as well as the spear wound in His side, John 20:20. He will have these nail prints as proof He is the returned Messiah, Zechariah 12:10 and 13:6.

Mark 16:12 reveals that He was manifested in another form when He appeared to the two who were walking to Emmaus. He was recognized by Mary only after speaking her name (John 20:16), and the disciples knew Him only after they saw His hands as He broke bread for them, Luke 24:30-31.

He also upbraided them for not accepting the fact that even though they saw Him they did not acknowledge that He was risen from the dead, Mark 16:14.

Matthew 8:11 tells us that many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of the heavens. Luke goes a step further. Yahshua told the rulers of the synagogue that although they would be thrust out, that they would see not only Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom, but all the prophets, Luke 13:28.

Clearly these three ancient patriarchs would be known and recognized even by the foes of Yahshua, but all the prophets will be included as well.

From Hebrews 11, known as the faith chapter, we learn that Abraham sought a heavenly Jerusalem (verses 10 and 16) which is the celestial body of believers as the saints will become spirit beings, Hebrews 12:22, Revelation 3:12, 21:2 and 10, Galatians 4:26.

Undoubtedly, Abraham will be in that first resurrection, as the writer of Hebrews reveals that he, like us, is also looking for that heavenly city, Hebrews 13:14.

Moses evidently will be in that first resurrection as Hebrews 11:26 shows that he feared the reproach of the Messiah

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## In addition to spirit beings ruling with the Messiah, there will still be physical human beings, including children and animals, left upon the earth.

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Obviously they will know and recognize these patriarchs who are identified by name.

Notice that the rich man who had ignored Lazarus in his earthly sojourn (Luke 16:19-31), in his vision did indeed recognize Lazarus and Abraham at their resurrection. He pleaded for relief from his anguish and also for his five brethren.

Clearly we will be able to recognize others in the resurrection.

Consider the example of Yahshua who was resurrected from the dead. Notice that He could be seen, recognized, and touched. He first appeared to the disciples, who were terrified, believing they had seen a spirit. He said to them, "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see me have," Luke 24:39.

Furthermore, He ate some broiled fish and a honeycomb, verses 41-43. Thus, even being from the spirit realm He still had the ability to appear in a material body and

a spirit or the figment of their imagination, even though He needed no physical food for energy.

John tells us that in the resurrection we will have a spirit body like our Savior, 1John 3:2, being partakers of the holy nature, 2Peter 1:4.

### Spirit Similar to Energy

It is a law of physics that matter can neither be created nor destroyed. However, matter like wood or coal can release energy such as heat and light when burned up. Energy can also be changed to physical substance.

Energy in the form of light from the sun is stored in vegetables and plants through the process of photosynthesis. Complex molecules of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and nutrients from the soil are converted by plants into fruit, grain, nuts, and vegetables, which are eaten and digested for energy. As our body breaks down these complex molecules, energy is released and utilized by the body.

rather than enjoy the good life of Egypt. He already had in mind the coming Kingdom and was willing to suffer indignation and insults with Yahweh's people rather than be a ruler in Egypt in this life.

All of these patriarchs will be in the Kingdom, and we will evidently recognize them, for they will join in the marriage supper of the Lamb when He returns. It will be that time when Yahshua rewards those who have followed Him, and the Apostles are made judges over the 12 tribes of Israel, Matthew 19:28.

We understand that "judge" is used in the sense of judges such as Joshua, Samson, Jephthah and others who were rulers over Israel and helped guide the people in following Yahweh's way of life. All of this will be done under the rulership of Yahshua the Messiah.

Of all the billions of people who will have populated the earth and then died, how can Yahweh resurrect these to have the same individual personality and character they had before?

How can He bring these people back to life, having the same appearance, when some have had their ashes scattered to the four winds? Or some perhaps torn apart in accidents, or killed at sea, consumed by sharks and fishes? Is there a way that Yahweh can bring man back to be the same as he was before death?

Revelation 20:13 plainly tells us that the dead will be resurrected from the sea and graves. We know Yahweh is able to do anything He wants. He has said in His Word that He will bring the dead back to the land of the living. Through His Son He will "change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself," Philippians 3:21.

Those who have accepted Yahshua as their Redeemer have taken on a different nature. They will have had a change in their attitude and character because they now have the Holy Spirit within them as a part of their spiritual makeup.

When a human dies, the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit goes back to Elohim who gave it, Ecclesiastes 12:7. Yahweh is the "giver of breath to the people thereon, and of spirit to them who walk therein," Isaiah 42:5.

Because Yahweh has a perfect memory, He could resurrect any individual from

death exactly as he was. We read that the "spirit" goes back to Yahweh upon death. Just what the spirit of life is we are not sure. It apparently is more than the wind or air in our lungs as that is mentioned along with the spirit in Isaiah 42:5. See also Jeremiah 1:5 and Galatians 1:15.

Yahweh gives man life when man is just an embryo in the womb (Isa. 44:2). This ethereal "spirit" could well be a microcosm of the individual, like spiritual DNA, which determines the composition of the individual.

Much as we might push a key on a computer, Yahweh can resurrect and remake and produce a spirit individual from the spirit particle that had returned to Him upon the death of the person.

### **Holy Spirit Like a Magnet**

While man has a human spirit within him, the Holy Spirit of Yahweh is omnipotent and much more majestic, pervading the whole universe. When His Holy Spirit power dominates the believer that man or woman will be closely attuned to Yahweh.

Upon Yahshua's return with a shout, the sound of the trumpet, and the voice, those having the Holy Spirit dominant in their lives will easily respond to the call. Much like a magnet draws iron particles to itself, the power of Yahshua's Spirit will draw His Spirit-filled followers to Him. Yahshua said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto myself," John 12:32.

First the believers are drawn now in this life to follow Him and His teaching. Then, when He returns they will be drawn to Him to meet Him in the air before He sets His foot on the Mount of Olives, Zechariah 14:4. Later will come those in the second resurrection.

The word "draw" in John 12:32 is from Strong's Concordance No. 1670, *helko*, and is akin to No. 138 *haireotnai*, meaning primarily "to take for oneself, prefer." It is related to No. 142, *aim*, meaning "to lift or take up or away." The word has the sense of extract, tow, haul, drag, pull out, lead, persuade or influence.

At His return Yahshua will have the power to draw up to Himself those who have allowed Yahweh's Spirit to take over their lives and dominate their thinking and attitudes. For those desiring to be resurrected to everlasting life, the spiritual preparation begins now, in this life. Learn

His ways. Obey His will so that you will be prepared in heart and mind when your Savior comes to gather His elect.

### **The All-important First Resurrection**

Of the two resurrections, the first is the goal of the True Worshiper. Here's why.

After a thousand years, the righteousness of Yahshua's rule will permeate all mankind, who will be drawn to Him. Even those who have not yet come to accept His righteousness will be given the opportunity to learn of His ways.

They will be given the chance to prove their sincerity and become followers, just as we are being tested even now in this life.

Those who attain the first resurrection will be the ones who inherit the Kingdom. They will be ruling in the Millennium over people who live on into the Kingdom.

We see from Isaiah that there will be babies born in the Kingdom when "the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them," 11:6.

A thousand years later will be another resurrection, when those who died in ignorance will be resurrected to the mortal plane. Those who come up in the second resurrection will then be taught, as we find this is a resurrection to judgment, Revelation 20:5.

A judgment implies more than merely a sentencing. One has to understand the way of righteousness first and then be given the opportunity to demonstrate obedience to the Covenant we all must make with Yahweh through His Son Yahshua.

It is the first resurrection that carries the favored position. Just as the firstborn of Israel were given more than those who followed, those in the first resurrection will be given greater rewards, responsibilities, and opportunities.

### **The Elect Will Serve in the Kingdom**

Those in the first resurrection will rule with the Messiah for a thousand years, Revelation 2:26-28, 5:10, 20:6. Even the Apostle Paul was eager to be in the first resurrection. He wrote, "If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead..." The New International Version renders this the resurrection "from the

dead.” Paul knew that he did not have automatic immortality and that he would need to be raised from the dead.

A resurrection means that the dead are still there, and Paul would be resurrected from those corpses while others are left behind. Yahshua calls it the resurrection “of the just,” Luke 14:14.

Just as the Savior was given the highest position in the coming Kingdom because of His sacrifice, and is the “Firstborn of many brethren,” so we

in parables to hide the truth from those He did not want to become converted and be healed at that time.

Take heart if you have a loved one who rejects the truth of the Bible now and refuses to follow the Savior as the Captain and Ruler of his or her life. Everyone will get an opportunity.

You and I have our calling now. If we are faithful, we can be in that Kingdom and help others later to learn the way of righteousness.

hang on and never let go, Matthew 24:13.

Though trials, temptations, and persecution might hound them all the days of their lives, they can see the Holy City whose builder and maker is Yahweh, Hebrews 11:10, 16.

We must overcome and keep His works unto the end (Rev. 2:26-27) for the full reward. Through the Word our Savior calls to you, “Follow Me!” Once we put our hand to the plow, we cannot look back with longing for the life we



in the first resurrection will be given responsibilities and opportunities to serve Yahweh in the Kingdom. It will be our job to bring the world and all humans into harmony with Yahweh’s government.

With this awesome potential and responsibility, let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not!

In His wisdom Yahweh has called certain ones now to understand and comprehend what He expects of them. Although “many are called and few chosen,” Matthew 20:16, Yahshua made the point that not everyone is called now. Only some are given to understand the mysteries of the Kingdom of Yahweh, Matthew 13:11-15.

The Savior deliberately spoke in parables so that the multitudes would not understand and be condemned. He spoke

Although many of our loved ones are truly deceived by Satan (Rev. 12:9), and possibly won’t be in that spiritual realm as kings and priests with Yahshua (1Pet. 2:9), they will have an opportunity to learn Yahweh’s truth after the Kingdom is set up.

They will then be given the chance to live forever just as Adam and Eve could have lived forever in Eden if they had taken of the tree of life instead of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Perhaps if you are faithful in following Yahshua, you will have the opportunity to teach a loved one in the time just ahead of us.

Yahshua is choosing only those who will be the overcomers — those who “overcome with El,” Israel! Modern Israel is that select group of people who, when they find the truth of the Bible, will

have left behind.

We look for a better resurrection. Think of the glories of the coming Kingdom and the joy and bliss that will be ours when we make it in that first resurrection! “Eye has not seen nor ear heard, neither has entered into the heart of man the things that Yahweh has prepared for those who love Him,” 1 Corinthians 2:9.

For the Bible’s list of the faithful and dedicated overcomers, read the eleventh chapter of Hebrews. Then make your commitment to join the faithful followers and be immersed into Yahshua’s Name to wash away your sins.

Be determined to seek that city of Yahweh. Start your spiritual trek in earnest today, redeeming the time because the days are evil. 



# WORD RECONNAISSANCE

Discovering What's Really Behind Some of the Most Common Terms

by Randy Folliard

At the core of Yahweh's Restoration Ministry is the quest to know and teach the truth. This organization began with the single desire to preach the truth regardless of any impact on future growth or opinions of others.

The first step in this goal is uncovering years of tradition. There are hundreds, if not thousands, of traditions conformed to without questioning. While some of them are harmless and come from innocent origins, many are toxic.

We are going to examine the origins of three of the most popular words heard in today's worship: "cross," "god," and "lord."

What if you were told that these words are not only unsupported scripturally, but also have connections to false worship and paganism? For many such a statement is hard to fathom. After all, how is it possible that so many could be wrong? What could be so bad about words venerated by the vast majority of Bible believers?

Words are amazingly potent. They have been responsible for beginning and ending wars. They can be both a blessing and a curse. For our Heavenly Father, using the right words is important, especially those involving Him and His worship.

Before commencing our journey it is not the intent or purpose of this writing to condemn, criticize, or disparage those who may not understand these truths. At

one point many of us were unaware of these realities ourselves. For this reason we should always be considerate when sharing Yahweh's truth, remembering that our Heavenly Father is merciful toward the uninformed. "And the times of this ignorance Elohim winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent," Acts 17:30.

## Cross an Ancient Symbol of Tammuz

The first stop in our word reconnaissance is "cross." This word is from the Greek *stauros*, which refers to an upright post and not a cross.

*Vine's Expository Dictionary* explains: "*stauros* NT:4716 denotes, primarily, 'an upright pale or stake.' On such malefactors were nailed for execution. Both the noun and the verb *stauroo*, 'to fasten to a stake or pale,' are originally to be distinguished from the ecclesiastical form of a two beamed 'cross.' The shape of the latter had its origin in ancient Chaldea, and was used as the symbol of the god Tammuz (being in the shape of the mystic Tau, the initial of his name) in that country and in adjacent lands, including Egypt. By the middle of the 3rd cent. A. D. the churches had either departed from, or had travestied, certain doctrines of the Christian faith. In order to increase the prestige of the apostate ecclesiastical system pagans were received into the churches apart from regeneration

by faith and were permitted largely to retain their pagan signs and symbols. Hence the Tau or T, in its most frequent form, with the cross-piece lowered, was adopted to stand for the 'cross' of Christ."

What an eye-opening statement from a mainstream Bible dictionary! It attests that the Greek *stauros*, both noun and verb forms, refers to a simple upright pole or stake.

Moreover, it testifies that the cross arose in ancient, pagan Chaldea or Babylon as the symbol of the god Tammuz. In Babylon, Tammuz was called Dumuzi and was the deity of pasture, flocks, and agriculture. He was also the husband-brother to Ishtar, the goddess of love and fertility. Our modern celebration of Easter arose from Ishtar. Eggs and rabbits are both ancient symbols of fertility used in heathen worship rites.

A reference to Tammuz is found in the eighth chapter of Ezekiel, "He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do. Then he brought me to the door of the gate of Yahweh's house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz."

Yahweh calls the worship of Tammuz an abomination. Knowing that the cross is a symbol connected to Tammuz, why would the church ever adopt it? As confirmed in *Vine's*, this symbol was important to

the pagans coming into the early church. During this time of transition the church had a choice: remove and not allow any form of paganism and risk losing potential members or compromise and grow the church. It chose the latter.

This is one example of why it is important to investigate the common beliefs in today's churches. If a tenet is not rooted in truth then remove it! We cannot mix truth with error and expect our Heavenly Father to be pleased. If the early church had understood and followed this lesson we would see a much different church today. Interestingly, even the word "church" is rooted in error, coming from the Greek goddess Circe.

### Greek Reveals an Upright Post

Dr. E. W. Bullinger in the Companion Bible confirms the meaning of *stauros*. This reference reads, "In the Greek New Testament two words are used for 'the cross' on which the Lord was put to death. (1) The word *stauros*; which denotes an upright pole or stake, to which the criminals were nailed for execution. (2) The *xulon*, which generally denotes a piece of a dead log of wood, or timber, for fuel or for any other purpose...."

"As this latter word *xulon* is used for the former *stauros*, it shows us that the meaning of each is exactly the same. The verb *stauroō* means to drive stakes. Our English word 'cross' is the translation of the Latin *crux*; but the Greek *stauros* no more means a *crux* than the word 'stick' means a 'crutch.' Homer uses the word *stauros* of an ordinary pole or stake, or a single piece of timber. And this is the meaning and usage of the word throughout the Greek classics. It never means two pieces of timber placed across one another at any angle, but always of one piece alone. Hence the use of the word *xulon* in connection with the manner of our Lord's death, and rendered 'tree' in Acts 5:30; 10:39; 13:29. Galatians 3:13. 1 Peter 2:24. This is preserved in our old English name rood, or rod...."

"The Catacombs in Rome bear the same testimony: 'Christ' is never represented there as 'hanging on a cross', and the cross itself is only portrayed in a veiled and hesitating manner. In the Egyptian churches the cross was a pagan symbol of life, borrowed by the Christians,

and interpreted in the pagan manner," Appendix 162.

According to Dr. Bullinger, *stauros* does not refer to a cross or to the Latin *crux*, but to a single piece of timber or simple pole or stake. This can be verified by the meaning of the word as found in classical Greek.

Interestingly, we also learn that the symbol of the cross is nearly non-existent in Roman catacombs, an underground temple and burial place for early Christians.

Bullinger states that the Messiah is "never represented" as hanging on a cross! The catacombs in Rome were in use between the second and fourth centuries of our common era. Logic tells us that if the cross were a common symbol in the early church that we would see evidence of it in the catacombs. This lack of evidence speaks volumes.

Like so many other facets of nominal worship, even the image of the Messiah has been altered to fit a more Greco-



Roman slant. The depiction of the Messiah in an ancient catacomb reveals a common anomaly from what is often portrayed today. From the rendition (above) of a Hebrew Savior found in the San Domitilla catacombs it is not hard to see stark contrast with the modern image of a European Messiah with light skin and long blondish hair and thin nose.

In the same vein, in the Egyptian churches the cross was a pagan symbol of life, which was borrowed by the Christians and reinterpreted for the Messiah. If you study church history you will find many other examples of this amalgamation, including such popular beliefs as the Trinity and Sunday worship. It was very common for the church to adopt a pagan belief and then reinterpret that belief to apply to something in the Bible. In doing so they pleased the heathen initiates.

### Ancient Nature-worship Symbol

The Companion Bible is not alone in its understanding of the cross. The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* confirms this pagan etymology:

"From its simplicity of form, the cross has been used both as a religious symbol and as an ornament, from the dawn of man's civilization. Various objects, dating from periods long anterior to the Christian era, have been found, marked with crosses of different designs, in almost every part of the old world. India, Syria, Persia and Egypt have all yielded numberless examples, while numerous instances, dating from the later Stone Age to Christian times, have been found in nearly every part of Europe. The use of the cross as a religious symbol in pre-Christian times, and among non-Christian peoples, may probably be regarded as almost universal, and in very many cases it was connected with some form of nature worship" (11th ed., p. 506).

Most would agree that the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* is a nonbiased reference with no axe to grind. The cross is undeniably pagan. It was used by heathens throughout nearly every country long before the Church ever adopted it.

Our Father Yahweh warns against adopting and accepting pagan practices. He gave the following warning to Israel regarding the Canaanite nations, "And thou shalt consume all the people which Yahweh thy Elohim shall deliver thee; thine eye shall have no pity upon them: neither shalt thou serve their mighty ones; for that will be a snare unto thee," Deuteronomy 7:16.

Notice the impact when we accept foreign or pagan beliefs. They will be a snare to us. The word "snare" is from the Hebrew *mowqesh* and refers to "a noose (for catching animals): by implication, a hook (for the nose)," Strong's. Knowing the repercussions, why would we venerate a symbol with pagan origins and no direct connection to the Messiah?

### 'God' Means Molten Image - Britannica

Next in our word reconnaissance is the etymology of "god." The vast majority use this term without realizing its origins, believing it is the actual name of the Creator. The Bible teaches that our Heavenly Father has but one Name, Yahweh. As Exodus

3:15 teaches, this is His memorial Name for all generations. As a memorial this Name is to be remembered and called on in all generations.

Understanding that Yahweh has but one Name, what is so wrong with “god” as a title? Isn’t this simply a word describing Him as a mighty one or deity? While this title does convey those attributes, it also conveys others that are not so honoring to Him.

The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* explains: “GOD, the common Teutonic word for a personal object of religious worship. . . . applied to all those superhuman beings of the heathen mythologies who exercise power over nature and man and are often identified with some particular sphere of activity; and also to the visible material objects, whether an image of the supernatural being or a tree, pillar, &c. used as a symbol, an idol. The word ‘god,’ on the conversion of the Teutonic races to Christianity, was adopted as the name of the one Supreme Being, the Creator of the universe, and of the Persons of the Trinity. The *New English Dictionary* points out that whereas the old Teutonic type of the word is neuter, corresponding to the Latin numen, in the Christian applications it becomes masculine, and that even where the earlier neuter form is still kept, as in Gothic and Old Norwegian, the construction is masculine. . . . The word would thus mean the object either of religious invocation or of religious worship by sacrifice. It has been also suggested that the word might mean a ‘molten image’ from the sense of ‘pour’” (1911, Vol. 12).

As revealed here, the word “god” comes from a Teutonic or Germanic word referring to pagan mythology and possibly to molten images. As believers, why would we ever want to use such a word in reference to our Heavenly Father? It is not a name but a classification.

### God, the Supreme Teutonic Deity

Some might argue that this is no longer the meaning or intent of the word. Even so, why would we risk offending the most important One in the universe with a term originally used in pagan worship? What was Yahweh’s response when Israel made the molten image at Mount Sinai? He saw it as a form of blasphemy. Why would He view a word meaning a “molten image” differently?

Possibly the strongest case against this title is its connection to the ancient Teutonic religion. The proper name of their supreme deity was “God!” This is easily confirmed. Following are two references verifying this fact:

“It is much more difficult to trace the Teutonic word, ‘God,’ back to its origin. There is no doubt that the Supreme Being has always been called by this name in all German tongues. . . . We can only say, therefore, that ‘God’ was probably an old Teutonic word, used long before the introduction of Christianity, to signify either one Supreme Being, or gods in general. Indeed, we find that in the Old Norse, god in the neuter means a graven image, an idol,” *The Edinburgh Review (or Critical Journal)*, Vol. XCIV, p. 170.

“In all Teutonic tongues the Supreme Being was always with one consent been called by the general name God. . . . Some remarkable uses of the word God in our older speech and that of the common people may have a connexion with heathen notions,” *Teutonic Mythology*, 1882, pp. 13, 15.

Long before the introduction of Christianity, the word “God” in the Teutonic tongue was the proper name of their supreme being. Evidence shows that it also refers to graven images or idols. Knowing this, how can we justify using this word as a replacement for our Heavenly Father?

The Bible is clear that we are to honor, hallow, sanctify, and praise His Name. Using a title originating with a pagan supreme deity of the ancient Teutonic religion is anything but honoring to Yahweh. This is another reason that this title should be avoided in proper worship.

The Hebrew Old Testament provides several titles that are honoring to Yahweh. They include: El, Elah, Eloah, and Elohim. El, Elah, and Eloah are all singular, while Elohim may be used in the singular or plural. Unlike “god” which originated with the ancient Teutons or Germans, these titles are found in the oldest of the Hebrew texts.

### Lord: ‘Keeper of the Loaf’

The last word reconnaissance on our journey of learning is the word “lord.” As with the previous title, many churchgoers see nothing wrong with this word. Many would argue that this is either the Heavenly Father’s proper name or is equivalent to His Name. With careful study you might

be surprised what you find hiding beneath years of tradition.

At best, this word is demeaning to our Heavenly Father. *The Barnhart Concise Dictionary of Etymology* provides this insightful definition: “lord. Before 1121 lavedr; loverd, lord (about 1250); developed from Old English hlaford master of the household, ruler, superior. . . . literally one who guards a loaf or loaves,” 1995, Harper Collins.

The word “lord” originated about the year 1250 and comes from the English *hlaford*, which literally means, “one who guards a loaf or loaves.”

As believers in the Elohim of this grand and magnificent universe, why would we use a diminutive title that conveys guarding a loaf of bread in reference to Yahweh? Is this not belittling or condescending? It would be like calling the President of the United States the White House chef. Now beyond the obvious disrespect, there’s another reason why we should avoid this title in reference to Yahweh.

### Connection to Baal

There is strong evidence that “Lord” and “Baal” are connected. Consider the following references:

“The Babylonian Belu or Bel, ‘Lord,’ was the title of the supreme god among the Canaanites” (*International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*, Baal).

“Ba’al; Heb. *ba’al*, “lord, possessor”. A common name for god among the Phoenicians; also the name of their chief male god” (*The New Unger’s Bible Dictionary*, Ba’al).

“(lord, master)-the name of one or more false gods, a place, and two people in the Old Testament: A fertility and nature god of the Canaanites and Phoenicians” (*Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, Baal).

Knowing there is an association between “Lord” and “Baal,” why would we desire to use either title in reference to Yahweh? Yahweh reprimanded Israel throughout their history for their rejection of Him and for the worship of Baal.

Now some might suggest that we are making a mountain out of a molehill and that this really doesn’t matter. After all, many will say, He knows who I’m referring to. The latter may be true, but this does not remove the connection to a form of worship that He condemned in the Old Testament.

He commands us not to use titles that refer to other deities, Exodus 23:13. He commands that we use His Name, which is the only Name for salvation, Acts 4:12.

One of the most intriguing prophecies involving Baal is found in the 23rd chapter of Jeremiah. It reads, “The anger of Yahweh shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly.... Which think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour, as their fathers have forgotten my name for Baal,” verses 20, 27, emphasis added.

This prophecy is reserved for the latter days. It speaks of the time immediately before Yahshua’s Second Coming. Based on many of the prophetic signs, we may very well be living in these days. At this time, Jeremiah prophesies that Yahweh’s Name will be forgotten for Baal.

Considering the connection between “Lord” and Baal” and the fact that the Church has replaced Yahweh’s Name with “the Lord,” the coincidence is beyond belief. Just as Jeremiah foretold, we are witnessing this prophecy in our day.

Yahweh in Deuteronomy 30:19 conveyed the following promise to Israel, “I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.”

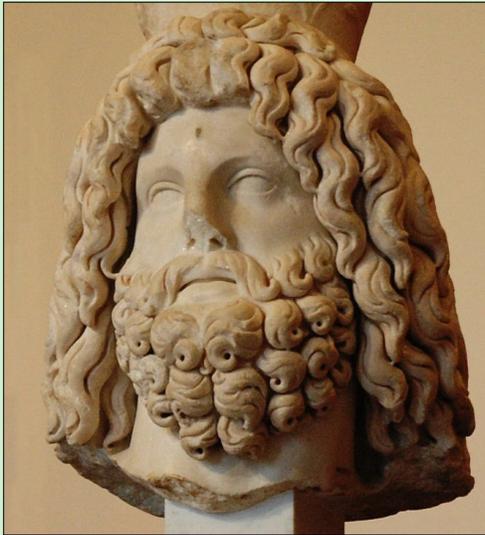
The promise we have with our Heavenly Father is conditional. If we follow and honor Him we will be blessed. However, if we refuse, we will be cursed. It’s the obligation of every believer to honor Him in both word and deed. And when speaking about words, there are no words more important than those involving worship and calling upon Him by His Name Yahweh.

While Yahweh looks on our heart and does not condemn those truly ignorant, He also expects us to fully worship Him in spirit and truth once we know that truth. He thunders, “I am Yahweh, that is my Name, and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images,” Isaiah 42:8.

If you have not yet committed to calling upon our Heavenly Father by His Name, we encourage you to make this day a turning point in your spiritual walk. Come to know Him by His true Name. 

# The Pantheon and the Messiah

Many early Christian converts (primarily from the Roman Empire) would polytheistically mix their former pagan gods and ideas into this new worship of the Messiah. We see this example play out with the Early Alexandrian Christians who were syncretic in their worship of the Messiah and Serapis (a Hellenistic god) and they would prostrate themselves



Marble bust of Serapis

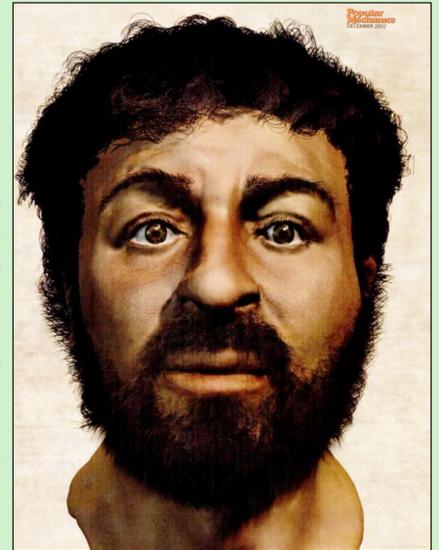
without distinction between the two. A letter inserted in the Augustan History, ascribed to the Emperor Hadrian, refers to the worship of Serapis by residents of Egypt who described themselves as Christians: “The land of Egypt, the praises of which you have been recounting to me, my dear Servianus, I have found to be wholly light-minded, unstable, and blown about by every breath of rumour. There those who worship Serapis are, in fact, Christians, and those who call themselves bishops of Christ are, in fact, devotees of Serapis...”

From the 4th century and later depictions of the Messiah have disturbing similarities to Serapis and other Greco-Roman gods who are shown with long flowing hair. Traditionally, Hellenistic pagan philosophers and gods were

depicted with long hair. Many statues from the Greek and Roman pantheon such as those depicting Zeus, Hephaestus, Poseidon, etc., bear this out. The long hair was a sign of wisdom and knowledge.

What does the Bible say? The Apostle Paul in 1Corinthians 11:14 tells us it is a shame for a man to have long hair. Yahshua looked like a typical Jew of His day with plain, average features, a fact that was prophesied: “For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he has no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him,” Isaiah 53:2.

A *Popular Mechanics* article from 2002 entitled, “The Real Face of Jesus” dispelled many inaccuracies regarding what the Messiah or a typical Jew would have looked like from the Second Temple period. British scientists, assisted by Israeli archeologists using skulls dating from the 1st century have re-created what a typical Jewish male looked like during the Messiah’s time (See picture on right). The article found that the average Semite man during the first century was 5 ft. 1 in. tall. This is remarkable, as the average height of a male today is nearly 6 feet. Regarding the Messiah’s hair the article says, “It was the Bible, however, that resolved the question of the length of Jesus’s hair. While most religious artists have put long hair on Christ, most biblical scholars believe that it was probably short with tight curls.”



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**Q** What scriptural evidence is there that the new moon is the crescent sliver after the dark conjunction? Also, what day specifically is the new year and what scriptural evidence proves that? - BH

**A** Both Scripture and scholarship show the new moon as the first visible crescent. For example, we find in Deuteronomy 16:1, “Observe the month of Abib, and keep the Passover unto Yahweh thy Elohim.” The word “observe” is from the Hebrew *shamar* and means to guard and by extension to watch.

The word “month” comes from the Hebrew *chodesh*. Strong’s says this word refers to “the new moon.” The trilateral root of *chodesh* is *chadash* and means “to be new or to rebuild.” The facts that the Hebrew word *shamar* conveys that we are to watch for the new moon while the trilateral root, *chadash*, refers to a moon that is new or in the process of rebuilding, provide evidence that the first visible crescent is the new moon.

In addition to the Bible, we also

find evidence for the crescent moon from history. “The Hebrew or Jewish calendar had three stages of development: the preexilic, or Biblical; the post-exilic, or Talmudic; and the post-Talmudic. The first rested on observation merely, the second on observation coupled with calculation, and the third on calculation only. In the first period the priests determined the beginning of each month by the appearance of the new moon,” *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, “Calendar.”

“As the festivals, according to the Mosaic law, were always to be celebrated on the same day of the month, it was necessary to fix the commencement of the month. This was determined by the appearance of the new moon; for the new moon was reckoned not by astronomical calculation, but by actual personal observation. On the thirtieth day of the month watchmen were placed on commanding heights around Jerusalem to watch the sky. As soon as each of them detected the moon he hastened to a house in the city kept for this purpose and was there examined by the president of the Sanhedrin. When the evidence of the appearance was deemed satisfactory, the

president stood up and formally announced it, uttering the words, ‘It is consecrated.’ The information was immediately sent throughout the land from the Mount of Olives by beacon fires on the tops of the hills. The religious observance of the day of the new moon may plainly be regarded as the consecration of a natural division of time,” *The New Unger’s Bible Dictionary*, “Festivals.”

**Q** I would like to know what you believe on the subject of self-defense?

**A** When your life or the lives of those around you are in danger, we believe that self-defense is permissible. We find many examples of self-defense in the Old Testament, including during Israel’s conquest of the Promise Land. We also find accounts in the New Testament.

One of the best known is when Yahshua the Messiah instructed His apostles to purchase a sword in Luke 22:36: “Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.”

The only reason for a sword at this time was for self-defense. Although the Bible supports self-defense, Matthew 24:43, it’s important that believers are to first try a peaceful solution and only use force when absolutely needed.

**Q** I was watching your program the other day and basically you said that there is no afterlife when one dies in a lost state. Could you please explain Luke 16:22-25 and also Revelation 14:9-11?

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**A** The note in the Restoration Study Bible explains Luke 16 with the following: “The parable teaches that there is no chance of repentance after death (a condition compared to a great gulf). Abraham has died and is still awaiting the resurrection (Heb. 11:13). Both men, the Pharisee and Lazarus, end up like Abraham in the same resting place of the grave, not heaven (v.22). The Greek *basanos*, translated ‘torment,’ signifies the lowest part of the grave. With no chance of eternal life (Matt. 5:20), the Pharisee is in anguish (Ezek. 36:31), and asks for just a fingertip of water for his dry tongue, not gallons of water as if in hellfire. He is in ‘hell,’ which from the Greek is *hades* and means the grave. Yahshua reminds us that no man has ascended to heaven but Himself (John 3:13). The Pharisee enjoyed the good things of temporal life, while the beggar Lazarus (representing faithful servants, including spiritually transformed gentiles) are assured eternal life (Gen. 15:2-3)” (note on Luke 16:19).

As for Revelation 14:9-11, we believe that this is an allusion to the eternal destruction that awaits the wicked. According to Jude 7, Sodom and Gomorrah suffered the example of eternal fire. While most assume that eternal fire represents ever-burning hellfire, clearly in the case of Sodom and Gomorrah this was not the case. This phrase refers to the totality of Yahweh’s destruction, no different from what is being expressed in the ninth chapter of Revelation. We find similar messages in Isaiah 66:24 and Jeremiah 7:20. Both refer to Yahweh’s complete and utter destruction.

The concept of ever-burning hellfire developed not from the Hebrew Scriptures or the New Testament, but through Greek paganism that would permeate the early Church after the death of the Messiah and His apostles.

**Q** Should we partake of communion as often as we used to do in church, now that we follow Torah?

**A** When Paul says “...as often as you eat” in 1Corinthians 11:26 he’s referring to taking the Passover emblems, which occurs only once a year, i.e., on the 14th

of Abib (the first biblical month). The “communion” as you see today was developed from the Passover by the Roman Church. They called it “communion” to escape the “Jewish” Passover. In reference to the “Lord’s Supper,” the *Fausset’s Bible Dictionary* states, “The designation occurs only in 1Corinthians 11:20. The institution by our Lord in connection with the Passover is recorded in Matt 26:19-30; Mark 14:16-26; Luke 22:13-20.”

**Q** I have watched your TV program and bought your version of the Holy Scriptures, and I’m amazed that you are knowledgeable beyond the mainstream BUT I must question your understanding of EL.

1. Yahweh is not El. El is a pagan god.
2. You have in print p. 905 that Isaiah’s name is Isayah. So why is it not in your text?
3. Why not print a version of the Scriptures that is MORE accurate than this one?
4. Please read Malachi 2:1-2

**A** First, El (Elohim) is found in the oldest Hebrew manuscripts. It appears in many Old Testament Hebrew names and even in the name of the nation of IsraEl. Which came first, Scripture or paganization through usurping of scriptural truths and the names therein? We opt for inspired Scripture and know that people will always pervert the truths of the Word.

The RSB has proved to be an effective means to draw others into the Truth. We chose not to change the KJV text and risk being accused of writing our own Bible, which would defeat our purpose.

Being a study Bible, the KJV allows us to use Strong’s numbers, which give access to Hebrew and Greek lexicons and dictionaries. If corrections are called for we placed them in the footnotes as a ready reference so that the RSB owner can give a solid, scriptural answer when he or she is confronted with those errors.

As for changing names, we do so only when it comes to the Names of the Father and Son, which Yahweh says are holy. No other names are called holy. If we were to change every name to the Hebrew, we would limit our effectiveness, cause needless confusion, and work against our

purpose of providing clear Bible teaching.

For example, “Turn to the book of Yaaqob (Jacob).” How many will know to turn to the New Testament Book of James? How about Kepha for Peter, Yahchanan for John, Hadassah for Esther, Chagyah for Haggai, Yahnah for Jonah, and Nachumyah for Nahum? Does unnecessary changing of those names help or hinder understanding?

**Q** In your Bible it says Yahweh and Yahshua in a lot of places, but when I look at the Strong’s for those places with Yahweh and Yahshua, it doesn’t say in the Strong’s Yahweh or Yahshua at all.

**A** Back in the 1800s James Strong was not “strong” on the sacred Name, just as the translators of the KJV did not see the importance of the Name, being influenced by the Great Bible and Bishop’s Bible that preceded the KJV. But if they had been faithful to the Hebrew they would have noticed the Tetragrammaton (YHWH) appearing nearly 7,000 times in the text.

The Name Yahweh is not an issue today, and virtually all Bible versions say that it is the correct Name, as the prefaces to their versions attest. At times we need to return to the ancient languages to get to the core truth, as in this case.

As for “Yahshua,” if you go to 3442 in Strong’s Hebrew dictionary you will see Joshua in the Hebrew as Ye(a)shuwa (cognate to 3091). These are the same names, as Yahshua was born a Hebrew. The angel told Miriam to name Him Yahshua in Matthew 1:20-21, which is a Hebrew Name as confirmed in Strong’s Greek dictionary under 2424.

Advanced scholarship has since fine-tuned Strong’s scholarship but Strong’s was at least close in his dictionary, he just chose to use in the English text the erroneous substitute names for the Father and Son.

We corrected the sacred Names in the RSB because of the salvational truths of the Names. “Jesus” is obviously wrong, as there was no “J” in any language until the 15th century, and we know that He came in His Father’s Name, Yah, which is the divine surname (Ex. 23:21). “Jesus” is a Latinized-Greek hybrid, which no Hebrew writer in the NT would ever use. He was neither a Latin nor a Greek but Hebrew.



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“Approximately four years ago I began listening to messages via the Internet from various splinter organizations of the original WWCG. I ended up joining [one of the splinters]. I was with them for about a year when [the leader] decided to declare himself Elijah and many other things. I knew I had to leave, but I didn’t know where to go. I finally decided that all the splinter groups had some degree of ‘crazy’ so I just stayed home. ...I began searching again and came across your site. I’ve been reading and listening. I just wanted to thank you for the recent teachings and published booklet regarding Paul and the message to the Galatians. This is helping me to see that I must be a part of a group that follows the laws and the days of the Bible. I have ordered a Bible and sent a donation. I will begin my tithes with my next pay.” -KD

“I love the RSB. It has given me more truth than I have been given in any other Bible. Your magazine is a blessing to me. Keep up the Good Work.” - RP

“You actually do what the Bible says. Harder to find that these days.” - LV

“I always felt there was more to the Bible than what was preached in church. Reading with your ministry has gotten me closer with Yahweh, opening up my heart to love Him more and more. It was never taught in church how to avoid Satan and his deceiving ways. Only one thing I regret, there is no Yahweh’s ministry here in my area.” - PH

“I have come to the conclusion that Yahweh’s protocol is defined in how we are to worship and honor Him based in the Scriptures. We as Christians are to blend our faith and beliefs in the ordained feasts three times a year and tithes to the temple

and more. Your ministry confirms what I am enlightened to see.” - KM

“We enjoy your booklets, and use the DVDs every Sabbath as we have no local congregation. Your Restoration Study Bible is an excellent in-depth study tool.” - LL

“My husband and I have been blessed by your program. We also really enjoy watching the programs online. We love the material that we have received.” - J and JL

“The Ministry’s name identifies what I consider my current situation, where I need to restore Yahweh in my life and I humbly pray that Yahweh forgives my sin as I prayerfully seek Him. I also found out that there is new truth to be learned as I do the Bible Mini-studies and listen to the Discover the Truth tv.” -JM

“The biggest blessing is knowing that [Messiah] is really Yahshua, His real name, so I am learning to pray with His real name. It saddens me though that the church teaching just goes along with what has been taught as truth from the Holy Roman Empire. You are teaching the truth and that is what I want to live out.” - MF

## A Recent Letter Exchange

“I am extremely distressed on this matter. I desperately want to join the new covenant through baptism and receive the Ruach HaKodesh through the laying on of hands through an ordained elder of Yahweh. I am in need of advice and I don’t know who else to go to since I am only fourteen and do not have the money or authority to go to anywhere outside of my area. I would ask some sort of guidance by an elder on this matter. If I am to be patient, I will, but I do not want to be alone on this.” - BF

**Our response** – *Your desire for baptism and to follow Yahweh’s Word at age 14 is amazing. We commend you for such dedication and zeal. Regarding baptism, we believe that a person must meet the age of accountability before baptism (Exodus 30:14; Leviticus 27:3; Numbers 1:3; 14:29; 26:2; 32:11; and 1Chronicles 23:24). For now, I would encourage that you continue to study and do everything you can to follow our Heavenly Father. I’m sure He is very pleased with your desire.*

“Thank you so much for responding. I can finally breathe easy now knowing He DID choose me to join His family, I’m just not old enough to be baptized. However, I have one more question. Am I still considered a child of Yahweh? If not now, I will become one at baptism, but I was wondering am I considered His son? And do I have the authority to tell my friend about the good news of Yahshua about these matters? Also, would you pray for my friend? I apologize for the questioning, I am just overjoyed (and most certainly blessed) to speak to someone who proclaims the name of Yahweh and does not call His Torah ‘bondage.’”

*Yahweh has a very special place for children. Matthew 18:10 seems to convey that He provides all children with guardian angels. Yahshua shared this compassion and concern. So even though you are not immersed, Yahweh remains with you, especially with your fervent zeal. As far as being a son of Yahweh, this relationship begins at baptism and is fulfilled at the resurrection. Those at Yahshua’s Second Coming not only receive everlasting life, but also positions as His sons and daughters.*

*Whether baptized or not, every person is eligible to share the Good News. We encourage you to be a good witness to your friend.*

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# Tribulation

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