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IMPACT
of an Apostate
NATION
AND MORE....

RESTORATION TIMES Magazine

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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.

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COVER: The United States was once a great nation, but humanism, atheism, and a lack of biblical teaching have caused the very fabric of our country to tear to shreds. As goes the USA so goes the world!



Impact *of an* Apostate Nation

by Randy Folliard

No matter where we look in our world we see troubling trends, including the ever-increasing immorality and the growing threat of radical Islam. Many, including most of our political leaders, are either asleep at the wheel or are working to drastically transform this nation.

Perhaps the turning point toward our undoing as a society was the 2015 decision by the Supreme Court legalizing homosexual marriage. This far-reaching act of tyranny may prove to be the final nail in the coffin for our once devout Judeo-Christian nation. This was certainly the case with ancient Greece and Rome, in which not only was sodomy accepted but also pedophilia, which may be the next spiritual depravity we face.

Sins Against Nature

The Apostle Paul in Romans 1 warns of the egregious sin of sodomy. He states, “For this cause Elohim gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain Elohim in their knowledge, Elohim gave

them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient...knowing the judgment of Elohim, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them,” vv. 26-28, 32.

It’s amazing how anyone can read this passage and still justify same-sex relationships. Whether it’s men with men or women with women, Paul defines it as vile and against nature. Our Heavenly Father created marriage between one man and one woman. Anything outside of this relationship is against the moral code established at creation.

The word “vile” comes from the Greek *atimia*. Strong’s defines this word as, “infamy, i.e. (subjectively) comparative indignity, (objectively) disgrace.” The *Thayer’s Greek Lexicon* corroborates with, “dishonor, ignominy, disgrace.” Our Heavenly Father considers homosexuality one of the most abhorrent of all sins.

How is it possible that as a nation we have included this abomination in the definition of marriage? We have all but forsaken Yahweh. Paul confirms here that the penalty for this negligence is a “reprobate” mind, from the Greek *adokimos*.

Strong’s defines reprobate as “unapproved, i.e. rejected; by implication, worthless (literally or morally).” *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words*

states, “...of a ‘reprobate mind,’ a mind of which God cannot approve, and which must be rejected by Him, the effect of refusing ‘to have God in their knowledge.’” A reprobate is a person rejected by Yahweh because of flagrant perversion or immorality.

Family in the Crosshairs

In addition to homosexuality we’re now seeing a new perversion from the transgender community. Those who push this agenda are trying to break down all social norms, including basic distinctions between male and female.

Consider the following excerpt from *The Federalist*, “If we agree to change language to suit the transgender lobby, we ultimately agree to destroy in law the entire basis (sex distinctions) for the only union that can result in autonomously formed families. The implications for privacy and personal relationships are vast, and we need to understand that” (*How The Trans-Agenda Seeks To Redefine Everyone*).

The agenda to transform America actually began several decades ago through the attack on the family. It included the feminist movement, the acceptance of divorce, and living together outside of marriage.

The days of Father Knows Best are no more. Instead of reinforcing moral values, today’s Hollywood is using every tool in

its arsenal to dismantle the last vestiges of morality in this country.

While it would be nice to believe that we could see a moral awakening in this nation, the odds of that happening are slim to none. Only a catastrophic event could provide for such a course correction.

Perhaps another Great Depression would wake the masses from their slumber. Even this might not be enough for our nation to see the error of its ways.

Historical Insight

Alexander Fraser Tytler, who lived from 1747 through 1813, was well acquainted with the shortcomings of government. He was a Scottish judge, writer, and historian who served as Professor of Universal History and Greek and Roman Antiquities at the University of Edinburgh.

As a historian he understood governments and specifically democracies. He is credited as stating: “A democracy is always temporary in nature; it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of government. A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover that they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse due to loose fiscal policy, which is always followed by a dictatorship.”

Does this sound familiar? Aren't we seeing exactly this in our nation? It seems that this is the strategy of most politicians today. As of June 2016, our nation's debt was at \$19 trillion and we continue to increase government spending and programs. The problem is that many simply don't get it; they support more spending so long as it benefits them. This financial trend is unsustainable; at some point we're going to hit rock bottom, as we're seeing in some European nations today.


Tytler also made this observation: “The average age of the world's greatest civilisations from the beginning of history has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, these nations always progressed through the following sequence: From bondage to spiritual faith; From spiritual faith to great courage; From courage to liberty; From liberty to abundance; From abundance to selfishness; From selfishness to complacency; From complacency to

apathy; From apathy to dependence; From dependence back into bondage.”

America was founded on July 4, 1776. This means that we've surpassed the average 200 years of a democracy's longevity. Based on current trends, how much longer can this nation continue? While no one knows the answer, most would agree that our days are numbered. Certainly, without a drastic change in direction, it's nearly impossible to see any positive change on the horizon.

What's amazing about this quotation is the insight this man had on the progression of a nation. Now where do you suppose our nation falls within this progression? Based on the evidence, we fall somewhere between apathy and dependence.

Let's face it, the majority are apathetic, meaning indifferent to what's occurring.

 *Many ministers have abandoned morality and biblical principles for numbers and greed and are thus allowing the culture to fall.*

How many are concerned about the growing influence of homosexual marriage and of the transgender movement? The answer is very few. The vast majority are simply going through their daily lives without any thought or concern as to what's occurring.

According to this man's theory, what comes after dependence? Bondage! Not only will a continuation of our current policy lead to less spiritual awakening and prosperity, but also eventually to bondage. This is nothing new. Such apathy and greed also led to the fall of Rome and other great nations in antiquity.

The policies coming from our government are increasingly oppressive. This includes even our freedom of speech. More than likely it's only a matter of time when those who openly speak out against sodomy and other abominations will be persecuted for their biblical conviction. As believers it's important that we follow the Word of our Heavenly Father above all else.

As found in Hebrews 11, the faith chapter, we look toward a greater kingdom, a kingdom not ruled by the opinions and

ever-changing morality of man, but by Yahshua the Messiah, our Savior and soon-coming King. Micah in the fourth chapter of his prophecy provides insight into this future Kingdom:

“But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of Yahweh shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh, and to the house of the Elohim of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem,” verses 1-2.

As much as we would like to blame our politicians for our current situation, the majority of blame belongs elsewhere.

However, before we discuss where to put the real blame, consider the wisdom of the scholar Alexis de Tocqueville. He was a French political thinker and historian (1805-1859) best known for his works, *Democracy in America* and *The Old Regime and the Revolution*.

In *Democracy in America* he wrote: “I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers - and it was not there . . . in her fertile fields and boundless forests and it was not there . . . in her rich mines and her vast world commerce - and it was not there . . . in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution - and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great.”

What a remarkable observation! This man realized that the greatness of this nation was found in the profound preaching of its pastors and ministers. Back in the

day, many clergy understood and taught morality. They understood truths like sin, repentance, and the virtue of living a righteous life.

Where do we see these same concerns from pulpits today? Many are too busy competing and vying for numbers and looking at how to appease the world and broaden the way of truth. Instead of taking a strong stand on the Scriptures they compromise the Word.

Most of the blame for the state of our union rests on the shoulders of today's pastors. They are not pastoring to win souls, but to win seats. Many have abandoned morality and biblical principles for numbers and greed and are thus allowing the culture to fall.

They Willfully Forget

As we see from the Word this is nothing new. Peter in his second epistle writes about such departure: "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of Elohim the heavens were of old," 3:3-5.

When will all these things happen? Peter says that we'll see them in the last days. If we're not in the last days, we're likely very close. So what are some of these signs?

He prophesies that we're going to see scoffers. In the Greek this word refers to those who would mock or ridicule the Truth. This describes many people in our nation today. Many have a hatred and even an abhorrence for their Father's Word. They choose their way and not Yahweh's way. Doing it their way allows them to pursue their own selfish wants unhindered by His morality. These scoffers will also doubt the return of Yahshua the Messiah, asking, where is His coming?

Notice the last thing Peter says here: he prophesies that scoffers will be "willingly ignorant." This phrase comes from the Greek *thelo lanthano* and refers to those who choose not to know the truth. This is describing a conscious effort to ignore biblical truth and morality.

Now why would anyone choose not to know the truth? Because truth requires personal change, something many do not

want. As the expression goes, they bury their heads in the sand.

While we might be able to ignore the situation now, it's going to become harder as the culture collapses. The problem is, once it reaches the boiling point, a course correction may be impossible.

The solution does not lie with politicians but with the ministers. We must forsake the "prosperity gospel," which only serves to enrich the pockets of the clergy, and preach the truth again, regardless of the fallout, and begin by strengthening marriage and families.

Living together out of wedlock is sin. Marriage is a holy union between one man and one woman dissolved only by death. Divorce should never be an option. Adultery is an egregious sin and act of betrayal.

Following Judah's Bad Example

Our situation is nothing new. In the history of civilization many nations have come and gone. In many cases they fell because of their own selfish desires and acceptance of sin. This pattern plagued the ancient nation of Judah. While Judah was once a great nation under the leadership of such kings as Hezekiah and Josiah, they eventually became bloated with sin. As a result, Yahweh gave them over to the Babylonians where they remained a people in exile.

In the first chapter of Isaiah we see a description of Judah before her fall, "The ox knoweth his owner, and the donkey his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken Yahweh, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward...Hear the word of Yahweh, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our Elohim, ye people of Gomorrah...And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood" vv. 3-4, 10, 15.

Does any of this sound familiar? As a people, we too have forgotten our Heavenly Father. There's no better evidence of this than the recent decision by the Supreme Court on gay marriage and the growing acceptance of transgender. People are no longer concerned about biblical morality as they once were.

Christianity is on the ropes. According to a 2015 report from the Pew Research Center, "Christians are declining, both as a share of the U.S. population and in total number. In 2007, 78.4% of U.S. adults identified with Christian groups, such as Protestants, Catholics, Mormons and others; seven years later, that percentage has fallen to 70.6%. Accounting for overall population growth in that period, that means there are roughly 173 million Christian adults in the U.S. today, down from about 178 million in 2007."

Notice also the reference here to Sodom and Gomorrah. As Judah accepted this abominable practice, we've done the same. While many today try to justify this lifestyle, including entire Christian denominations, the Bible is clear.

Again, as Paul states in Romans, homosexuality and lesbianism are vile and against nature. In Leviticus 18 Yahweh defines it as an abomination.

When a people forsake Yahweh and embrace sin they will be cursed. Our Heavenly Father makes this abundantly clear in Deuteronomy 28, "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of Yahweh thy Elohim, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that Yahweh thy Elohim will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of Yahweh thy Elohim.... But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of Yahweh thy Elohim, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee," verses 1-2, 15.

Sin has consequences. When we refuse to honor Yahweh, He in turn will refuse to bless us.

Family Breakdown

Owing to the rejection of biblical morality and acceptance of sin, today's traditional family is in disarray. According to a 2014 report by the Pew Research Center, "Fewer than half (46%) of U.S. kids younger than 18 years of age are living in a home with two married heterosexual parents in their first marriage.

This is a marked change from 1960, when 73% of children fit this description, and 1980, when 61% did, according to a

Pew Research Center analysis of recently released American Community Survey (ACS) and Decennial Census data.”

One of the hardest hit demographics in the decline of the traditional family is children. The health of children requires a stable home with both a father and mother. When one of these is missing from the equation, children suffer. This is especially true in the case of divorce. Consider the following statistics from Focus on the Family:

Children from divorced homes suffer academically. They experience high levels of behavioral problems. Their grades suffer, and they are less likely to graduate from high school.

Children whose parents divorce are substantially more likely to be incarcerated

psychological distress. And the emotional scars of divorce last into adulthood.

Yahweh in Malachi 2:16 states that He hates divorce. One reason is because of its effect on the family, especially the children. Our Heavenly Father knows the benefits of a traditional (or biblical) family and also the negative impact of separation and divorce. Even though we understand that divorce is often not the decision of a believing spouse and cannot always be avoided, we should do everything within our power and ability to prevent it and seek reconciliation.

As Paul states in 1Corinthians 7:11, in the event of separation or divorce we are to remain unmarried or reconcile with our spouse.

Another reason for this breakdown of the family is diminishing of the father’s

the fact that children with involved fathers do better across every measure of child’s well-being than their peers in father-absent homes.

“A father’s involvement in the family impacts poverty, maternal and child health, incarceration, crime, teen pregnancy, child abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, education, and childhood obesity.”

Live in - Not Like- the World

Regardless of how man tries to manipulate and reinvent society, the only structure that works is the one our Heavenly Father engineered. This is why we as believers must set the example regarding marriage and morality in general.

As Paul states in Romans 12:2, “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye



for committing a crime as juveniles.

Because the custodial parent’s income drops substantially after a divorce, children in divorced homes are almost five times more likely to live in poverty than are children with married parents.

Teens from divorced homes are much more likely to engage in drug and alcohol use, as well as sexual [relations] than are those from intact families.

Children from divorced homes experience illness more frequently and recover from sickness more slowly. They are also more likely to suffer child abuse.

Children of divorced parents suffer more frequently from symptoms of

role. In today’s culture it’s common for the father to be viewed as nothing more than a babbling buffoon incapable of leading his family.


Yahweh established the father as the head of the family. Fathers bring strength and stability. When the father is absent or his role weakened, families suffer.

According to the National Fatherhood Initiative, “...24 million children in America -- one out of every three -- live in biological father-absent homes. Nine in ten American parents agree that this is a ‘crisis.’

“Consequently, there is a ‘father factor’ in nearly all of the social issues facing America today. But the hope lies in

transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of Elohim.”

Even though we live in the world, we must not live like the world. As believers in the Messiah, especially those immersed into Yahshua’s Name, we have an obligation to set an example of holiness. This includes honoring our marital commitments, showing agape to our spouse and children, and setting an example that mirrors Yahshua the Messiah.

Doing so will not only ensure success in our own families, but also provide a light in a very dark world. 

Coming Clean Through Baptism

by Alan Mansager

A local church did a survey and discovered that half its congregation thought that baptism was unnecessary. Clearly they were unstudied in the scriptural teaching of immersion. Had they understood the purpose of baptism and how it impacts salvation they likely would have taken it more seriously.

In a simple and direct statement, the Apostle Peter declared, “baptism now saves us” (1Peter 3:21). “Save” here means

- to deliver from the penalties of the Messianic judgment;
- to save from the evils that keep the unconverted from Yahshua’s deliverance from sin.

Simply put, our sins must be eliminated. If they remain, our hopes for eternal life are dashed. If our sins are not washed away, they will block our path to salvation. In baptism we are dealing with the deadly effects of sin.

That’s a message that is getting more and more difficult to get across today. As one conservative commentator said, “You remember sin, don’t you? It was our diagnosis before we all became ‘dysfunctional’ and turned to Oprah instead of to Yahweh.”

You can bank on one fact: sin destroys

lives. Get rid of it in yours. That is the key task of a True Worshiper. When we head out in the morning to face the day, keeping sin at bay should be a top priority – don’t let sin in. Don’t even give it a chance. If Yahweh says a behavior is wrong, it is wrong – regardless whether society accepts it.

Sin Starts Small, Then Grows

What happened to King David that impacted his life from the day of his big sin didn’t happen overnight. It was a progression.

We look at his behavior from our vantage point and wonder how he could have strayed so far to have sinned as he did? But David had already breached Yahweh’s law concerning a king: “Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away” (Deut. 17:17). Having started down this slippery slope it was easier and easier to continue the momentum.

The lesson for us is that our world’s sinful way is one of the biggest hindrances we face after our own carnal nature. Solomon was the matchless example of failing this mandate when he took a thousand wives and concubines. It ended in his downfall.



Yahshua Explains Baptism

The first thing to do when you are confused with what to do about a practice or teaching is to check what Yahshua said and did.

When it comes to immersion, what did Yahshua teach and what did He Himself do? If we can get it right with Him, our Judge, then we have nothing more to worry about.

Yahshua's plain statement about baptism was, "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). He added in John 3:5, "Except a man be born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of heaven." Yahshua is talking about the waters of immersion as well as imparting the gift of the Spirit by the laying on of hands following baptism.

The New KJV reads, "Yahshua answered, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of Elohim.'" Why was He so emphatic about the importance of baptism?

He mentioned two significant aspects of baptism: water and Spirit. The water He referred to was not about being born in the watery womb, as some believe, because everyone is born of the womb. To mandate what happens automatically is pointless.

He includes the Spirit, which is given after immersion, as it was to Yahshua Himself after His own immersion by John the Baptist.

Baptism involves these essentials:

- It follows repentance from sins;
- It involves a voluntary, free-will decision that you want to change your life to live as Yahshua your coming King did;
- The receiving of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands of the ministry.

Our Savior's Example for Us

The account of Yahshua's own immersion is in Matthew 3:13: "Then comes Yahshua from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him." He travels to the river Jordan where John the Baptist is busy immersing others.

Yahshua was sinless and so the washing away of sin was completely unnecessary in His case. Still, Yahshua walked a great distance to be baptized by John. When our Savior Himself makes a special trip we can be sure that there is a key lesson to be learned from it.

"But John forbad him, saying,

Seven Reasons Baptism Is Necessary

- Yahshua set the example for us. Although sinless, Yahshua sought out John the Baptist to be immersed to fulfill all righteousness (Matt. 3:13-15).
- By being baptized into Yahshua's Name we participate in His death burial, and resurrection, Rom. 6:3-4, Col. 2:12.
- Through baptism our sins are forgiven. "Repent and be baptized for the remission of sins. . ." (Acts 2:38).
- Yahshua taught the necessity of baptism for salvation. "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16; also 1Pet. 3:21).
- Baptism marks the start of a new life in Yahshua, Rom. 6:3-4, as we put on Messiah, Gal. 3:27, 1Cor. 12:13.
- Baptism is essential to receiving the Holy Spirit, Acts 2:38; 19:3-6. Without the Spirit we are none of His, Rom. 8:9. Without immersion and the receiving of the Spirit we cannot enter the Kingdom, John 3:5; Romans 8:11; 2Cor. 3:6.
- Acts of miracles like healing and so-called tongues-speaking are no substitute for obedience in baptism, Acts 9:18.

I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?" This should speak volumes to the unordained who take it upon themselves to baptize others.

Yahshua teaches that it very much matters who performs the immersion.

Yahshua didn't pick out just any baptized believer to baptize Him. He didn't even ask any of His disciples like Peter, James or John to immerse Him. Nor did He baptize Himself. He went to a man who had the proper credentials, who even as an unborn baby jumped with joy while yet in the womb of his mother, clearly revealing the power of the Spirit within him at birth.

John the Baptist was a functioning minister whose ministry focused on repentance of sin and immersion. Yahshua said there was no man greater than John.

Paul reminded Timothy not to disregard his spiritual gift. Note how Peter was given that gift in 1Timothy 4:14: "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. [eldership]." In order to receive the spirit after immersion the ministry is to lay on hands in a special anointing. No layman can do this. Deacons can immerse but not lay on hands as Philip discovered with the Ethiopian he immersed.

Now let's return to Yahshua's immersion with John the Baptist: "And Yahshua answering said to him, Suffer [it to be so] now: for thus it becomes us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him."

"Fulfill all righteousness" means to carry through to the end, to accomplish, carry out. Yahshua's coming was to show us how to live acceptably for Yahweh. Nothing could be left out. The essentials all had to be there and displayed in His life or we have an incomplete pattern to follow.

John's baptism was one of repentance. But being sinless, Yahshua had nothing to repent of. Still He submitted to immersion. There is no greater example for us to follow.

The Proper Method

Today many denominations baptize by sprinkling or pouring. *Baptizo* means complete submersion in water. Scriptural baptism or *baptizo* should not be confused with *bapto*.

An ancient practice showing the meaning of *baptizo* is found in the writings of the Greek writer Nicander, who lived about 200 B.C. E. It is a recipe for making pickles and is helpful because it uses both cognate Greek words.



Nicander says that to process a pickle the vegetable should first be ‘dipped’ (*bapto*) into boiling water and then ‘baptised’ (*baptizo*) in the vinegar solution. Both verbs concern the immersion of vegetables in a solution. But the first is fast and temporary. The second, baptize or the act of baptizing the vegetable, produces a permanent change. The same should also be the result of *baptizo* on the believer.

“And Yahshua, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of Elohim descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Yahweh is also well-pleased any time one of His called-out ones obeys Him and takes the critical step of immersion. By that act we promise Yahweh that we will lead a life of obedience. Knowing He is directly involved in our baptism we would never want to disappoint Him by falling away and losing our salvation.

No Going Back

The candidate for immersion must realize that he or she is preparing for a lifelong, totally committed walk with our Father in heaven. Unless he or she is ready to follow through and stay committed to the end, the danger is always the sin of falling away for which there is no remedy, Hebrews 6:4-6. It is a grave situation that none of us should ever want to be in.

This passage reads, “For [it is] impossible for those who were once enlightened, [to enlighten, spiritually means imbue with saving knowledge] and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, And have tasted the good word of Elohim, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they impale to themselves the Son of Elohim afresh, and put [him] to an open shame.”

There is no going back once we have the Truth and the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands following immersion.

Having committed the unspeakable sin of killing Yahshua, the crowd in Acts 2 pleaded with Peter, “What should we do?” Peter’s remedy: “Repent and be baptized,” verse 38.

Even they could be forgiven of the worst act imaginable and the most

unintelligent as well. They had put to death the only One who could save them from eternal death. Talk about drilling a hole in your own lifeboat! But of course many did it in ignorance.

These Jews who consented to Yahshua’s death realized they were spiritually lost at this point. They were as good as dead. Their sin condemned them and each would need to pay the ultimate price for it unless they submitted to Yahshua through immersion.

The second reason they were lost is that they did not have the Holy Spirit. In Acts 8:15-17 we see that the Spirit is given at immersion: “Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit: For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Master Yahshua. Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.”

Re-baptism into Yahshua’s Name

We read in Acts 19:3-5: “And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Spirit since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so

believe on him which should come after him, that is, on the Messiah Yahshua. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Master Yahshua.”

We don’t find any dispute, disagreement or delay in the people’s reaction. Once they discovered that they had to be re-baptized they promptly got immersed into Yahshua’s Name.

Without the Spirit there is no access to the Kingdom. Yahshua said in John 3:5, “Except you be born of water and the Spirit you cannot enter the Kingdom.” He also said in 6:63 that it is the Spirit that quickens or gives life.

Paul admonished in Ephesians 4:30: “And grieve not the holy Spirit of Elohim, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

Paul called the Holy Spirit the spirit of life in Romans 8:2. Notice what he said further. “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of Yahweh dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of the Messiah, he is none of his,” verse 9.

Without the Spirit we have no part in salvation. The Spirit is given at baptism. “And if the Messiah be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life



much as heard whether there be any Holy Spirit. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John’s baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should

because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Yahshua from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up the Messiah from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you,” vv. 10-11.

Spiritually Magnetized

At the resurrection the Holy Spirit will act like a magnet, gathering Yahweh's chosen. Paul explains, "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Yahshua from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Messiah from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you," Romans 8:11.

Yahshua continues this truth in John 12:32: "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." The elect are raised to everlasting life through the power of the Holy Spirit that is given at immersion.

Highest Form of Worship

The Spirit guides us into a changed life. Romans 8:13-14 reads, "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of Yahweh, they are the sons of Yahweh." Being children, they are part of the heavenly family, Galatians 4:6.

Through immersion into Yahshua's Name the believer allows himself to be symbolically put to death to follow Yahshua's example.

Our Savior said no greater love exists than to give up our own life for a friend. We are baptized into His Name and vicariously experience His death. Baptism is acting out the death and resurrection of Yahshua.

Romans 6:4-11 explains, "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as the Messiah was raised up from the dead by the majesty of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is impaled with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

In baptism we mark the formal beginning of a new life in Yahshua. After our baptism we walk in "newness of life." There are ending points and starting points in our spiritual journey just as in temporal life.


Those starting and ending points can't be fluid or our life will reflect indecisiveness and lack the needed resolve. We see resolve in those in the New Testament. The crowd didn't hesitate after Peter's Pentecost sermon.

"Those who received his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day" (Acts 2:41).

Baptism is required of all regardless of sex or race or economic status. "...they were baptized, both men and women" (Acts 8:12). "We were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free" (1Cor. 12:13).

Proper baptism is into the name of our King, Yahshua, Acts 8:16, which is a pledge of our loyalty to our new King.

Paul sums it up in Galatians 3:27-29: "For as many of you as have been baptized into the Messiah have put on the Messiah. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in the Messiah Yahshua. And if ye be the Messiah's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

A great place to be baptized is at the Feasts of Yahweh, where you will meet many brethren who will support and encourage you in your new walk. Join us at Camp Allen near Greenville, Missouri, September 17-24. You'll have the best time of your life! 

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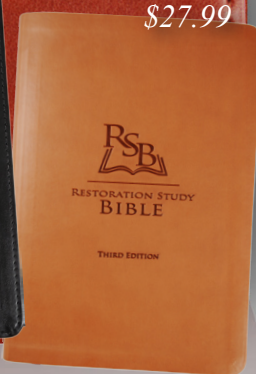
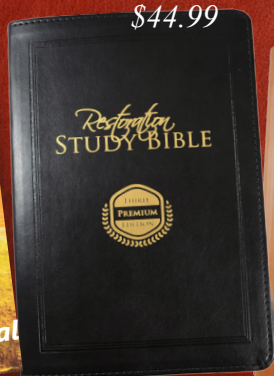
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Truth TRUMPS Tradition

How can we believe that we please the One we worship if we follow man's traditions instead of Yahweh's Word?

by Alan Mansager

Our world is suffering the penalties of turning from Yahweh. Regrettably, most people don't even know what it means to live and worship in truth. The problem began with missteps thousands of years ago.

Churchgoers have been arguing for centuries about which biblical teachings are in effect now. There have been reformations big and small conducted over this issue. Churches and fellowships have split because of it. Families were and are divided over it. Endless arguments and even fistfights have broken out when disagreements reached a boiling point.

Although the debates can be convoluted, the matter is quite simple to settle. The ultimate test for validating what is biblically sound for us today is this: if in the New Testament Yahshua and the apostles like Peter, Paul, James, and John taught and practiced it, then that is sufficient for right direction leading to salvation.

A key question is, did Yahshua give us a new faith to replace the one given to Israel by Yahweh in the Old Testament? Let's discover what He and the apostles said.

- John 4:34 – “Yahshua saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish His work.”
- John 8:28 – “Then said Yahshua unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall you know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father has taught me, I speak these things.”
- John 14:12 – Again Yahshua said,

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”

- 1Corinthians 11:1 – Paul charged, “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Messiah.”

- 1Peter 2:21-22 – Peter admonished, “For even here unto were ye called: because Messiah also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.”

To do no sin is to be law-observant by the simple definition of sin as the transgression of the law, 1John 3:4.

Peter clinches it: to follow in Yahshua's footsteps is to be obedient to the Bible's commands and precepts.

We know that certain practices like animal sacrifices changed from the Levitical system back to the Melchizedek priesthood.

If it was not taught or practiced in the ministries of Yahshua or His disciples, then let it go. But if they preached and followed it themselves then that's our gold standard. How can we go wrong doing exactly what our future Judge and Savior did and what He is telling us to do?

Bible Teachings Abandoned

After 2,000 years the big problem we see today is that little remains of what Yahshua, Peter, James, John, and even Paul, followed as true faith.

Original New Testament worship has

been so hollowed out that only a shell remains. A whole different worship has replaced what Yahshua and His disciples established as New Testament devotion and faith—right down to the fundamentals like which day to keep as the Sabbath.

The New Covenant today mandates what we must do, nothing less. The New Covenant was completed and confirmed with Yahshua's death, according to Hebrews 9:14-15: “How much more shall the blood of Messiah, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to Elohim, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living Elohim? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.” This passage is packed with importance. The whole chapter is about the two covenants. Let's compare them.

- Both covenants, the first with Israel and now with both Israel and all who are willing to walk in it, were put into effect through a death and blood sacrifice, verses 7 and 12. The first was confirmed by animal blood, the second with Yahshua's blood.
- The New Covenant remedied the fault of disobedient Israel in the first covenant, and also offered eternal rewards generally lacking in the first.
- Through the second covenant is the promise of eternal life. Nothing is guaranteed now but we will ultimately be rewarded if we remain faithful to the end.

Unchangeable Agreement

How a covenant works is the key to biblical truth today. Paul told the Galatians in 3:15, “Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man’s covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.”

The Apostle says that once a covenant, even one made by man, is confirmed, it can’t be voided or expanded.

Then he adds in verse 17, “And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of Elohim in Messiah, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.”

As Yahshua was dying He cried out in John 19:30: “It is finished.” His mission to earth was finalized at His death. With His death He completed and affirmed the terms and requirements of the New Covenant.

Death Sealed the Covenants

As we have seen, a death was required to seal a covenant in both Old and New testaments. With Yahshua’s death the covenant and all its mandates became unchangeable.

The Roman church’s justification for changing the Sabbath to Sunday worship is because Yahshua was resurrected on Sunday morning (which He wasn’t—He rose just before sunset Saturday, Matthew 12:40. Besides, how can churchmen decide that a resurrection day can be morphed into a worship day?).

Yahshua’s mission in bringing a New Covenant (New Testament) and showing us how to keep everything in it was completed at His death. Anything that happened afterwards would be a post-covenant addition with no bearing on the completed covenant mandate.

All of this means that because Yahshua’s resurrection occurred after He finalized the covenant by His death, Sunday worship was therefore an unauthorized and illegal addition to worship.

Sunday worship was not in the New Covenant but was tacked on by man outside of it. The church had no authority to add anything to that covenant after Yahshua’s death.

Church Made Its Own Path

If we can nail down exactly how the church continually made illegal turns early on, then the true-hearted and sincere seeker of truth

should have all the justification he or she needs to return to the faith once delivered.

This writer’s eyes were opened many years ago by Alexander Hislop’s book, *The Two Babylons*. His work detailed the man-made origins of dozens of church teachings, like Xmas and Easter, heaven, hell, immortal soul, and the Trinity.

The only Bible the early New Testament believers had to teach from and follow was the Old Testament. No other weekly observance but the seventh-day Sabbath existed in either the Old or New Testament.

Starting with the most important New Testament example of Sabbath keeping, we turn to Luke 4:16:

“And he [Yahshua] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.”

Incidentally, here Yahshua read from the Old Testament prophet Isaiah, chapter 61, some of the 300-plus prophecies about Himself. There was no New Testament in existence when Yahshua walked the earth.

Mindboggling Odds

Imagine the incredible improbability that any one man other than Yahshua could fulfill all 300 prophecies of Scripture -- in every exacting detail. If it wasn’t Yahshua, who else could it be?

A few of the hundreds of remarkable prophecies He fulfilled are that He would be:

- born in Bethlehem, Micah 5:2;
- born of a virgin, Isaiah 7:14;
- rejected by His own people, Psalm 69:8;
- betrayed for 30 pieces of silver, Zechariah 11:12;
- given vinegar to drink, Psalm 69:21;
- impaled with criminals, Isaiah 53:12;
- pierced in His hands and feet, and His garments parted, Psalm 22.

Isaiah 53 is chock-full of specific prophecies only Yahshua could fulfill.

Charles Ryrie points out that by the law of probability that one person who could fulfill 100 messianic prophecies with total accuracy and no errors in sequence would require 200 billion earths each populated with 4 billion people. Yahshua perfectly fulfilled a far greater number of prophecies!

For those who still think Yahshua’s fulfillments could just be coincidence,

we can illustrate the incredible odds against such in another way: cover the entire western United States with a layer of quarters a foot deep. Mark the back of one of them with an “X.” Then blindfold a man and parachute him into any one of the western states and ask him to pick out this single, marked quarter on the first try.

That’s the same probability as one man perfectly fulfilling in exact sequence just 10 of the Bible’s 300 prophecies concerning Yahshua’s coming to earth.

Doctrinal Changes Galore

In the ensuing 2,000 years since our Savior and His apostles ministered on this earth, monumental changes and deletions were made to their original teachings and worship. Most of those came in the first 400 years of the New Testament era.

What is meant by Christian doctrine is the teaching of the Catholic Church from the end of the first century onwards.

Many church traditions began as deliberately calculated efforts to establish a different path away from Judaism. That led to a totally different worship from what was first established by Yahshua.

In his book, *Early Christian Doctrines*, JND Kelly writes, “Most significant of all, however, is the fact that the Church of the fathers was set in the complex cultural environment of the Roman Empire... Christian theology did not take shape in a vacuum. The atmosphere in which it had to grow and develop was crowded with religious, philosophical and even theosophical notions.”

In the book, *History of the Church Through the Ages*, Robert Brumback reveals where many modern church teachings originated. He observes how dozens of nonbiblical teachings took shape through the rulings of church councils. “New doctrines were being advocated by those who were seeking for prominence,” he writes.

Brumback explains that through a simple vote a teaching foreign to Yahweh’s Word would be bound upon the church.

“Had there been no councils, no conferences, and if people had been content to take [Yahweh’s] Word as their guide, there would have been no apostasy,” he notes on page 40.

As we have shown, no doctrine outside of the Word and added after Yahshua’s death is sanctioned by Yahweh.

These councils were being influenced by pagan Greeks through Gnostic sects and others coming into the church from throughout the pagan Roman Empire.

For instance, Brumback attributes the Trinity doctrine, a major deviation from the Word, to the teaching of the Monarchians, one of the budding contemporary sects. They taught that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit were all one person.

He notes that Easter had no set date until the fourth century, just one proof that it originated entirely with man, having no basis in the 3,000 years of biblical teaching that preceded it.

"The observance of Lent was first taught by Telesephorus, a bishop at Rome" in the year 140 CE (p. 20), he writes.

"Of the Lenten fast the first mention of it is in the fifth canon of the council of Nicea..."

He reveals an eye-opening fact about sprinkling for baptism: "It is possible to find the time when the church of Rome changed from immersion to sprinkling for baptism." He notes that Catholic church buildings built prior to the 13th century still had large pools used for baptistries. Such structures still stand as a witness to proper immersion.

Priestly celibacy is contrary to the teachings of Yahshua and the disciples. Peter was a married man and Paul taught that a bishop must have only one wife.

Inherited Religion

Each of us is born into a ready-made world where for most people their family's religion is automatically accepted without confirmation. What we grew up believing becomes a part of who we are and for that reason alone few will validate from Scripture what they were taught by their family's worship tradition.

The Word demands otherwise. The Apostle Paul said to "prove ALL things, hold fast to that which is good," 1Thessalonians 5:21.

He did not say prove all things unless you put all your trust in church tradition, your ancestors or your minister instead of the Scriptures.

For hundreds of millions of churchgoers the most important issue in life – finding the truth leading to eternal salvation – is entrusted to someone else. To bank your eternal future on teachings you never checked out is playing Russian

roulette with your own eternity.

"My minister is a good man. He would never mislead me," many say. But what if he himself has been misled? Seminaries everywhere are turning out misleaders by the droves who are passing on all the traditional errors and myths they have been taught.

The Sabbath Cornerstone

Certain truths are so obvious they don't even need explaining. Like Sabbath worship on the seventh day, with its surplus of evidence and many examples from Genesis through Revelation. And yet, with no biblical support whatsoever, the Roman church switched worship to the first day of the week and virtually every Protestant denomination swallowed the substitution without batting an eyelash.

Sunday-keeping churches have no interest in honoring Yahweh's seventh-day rest as He commanded when He made the seventh-day Sabbath memorial at creation. They have no regard for the Fourth Commandment, see no connection to the day everyone in the Bible observed, including their Savior and His apostles, no thought of Yahweh's statement that the Sabbath is the sign of His people.

Titles Are Not Names

Most honor tradition over biblical truth because of the ease in doing so. Their interest is in church and family worship customs, which are mostly Roman Catholic hand-me-downs from the fourth century.

The majority are so indoctrinated that they even dismiss the true Name of the One they worship, in effect saying it isn't what they grew up with. Something so obvious as that names identify and distinguish never occurs to them when it comes to the One they worship. Yahweh's Name, however, separates Him as well as His unique worship.

He commanded in the plainest terms that His personal Name be honored and used. No substitutes allowed. He said in Isaiah 42:8: "I am Yahweh: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images." It can't be more simple and direct than that.

Why would anyone read Yahweh's own crystal-clear statement and argue that generic titles – which

apply to any false deity – are perfectly acceptable to use in place of His personal name?

"God" is a classification, a category of heavenly beings, not a name. Paul said there are gods many and lords many, 1Corinthians 8:5, and Yahweh commanded His people not to call Him by the names and terms of false deities, Exodus 23:13. No True Worshiper in Scripture ever called Yahweh "God."

Did any of the millions through the ages reading the mistranslation of Isaiah 42:8 ever ask, How can "Lord" be a name?

Right worship results from obeying the one you venerate in every way. It means not violating His commands. So why do many argue passionately against obeying Yahweh and His laws?

The sincere person will get off the fence and discover just how steeped in error modern worship traditions are.

In 2Timothy 2:15 the Apostle Paul wrote: "Study to shew thyself approved unto Elohim, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Rightly dividing means to carefully study, measuring a belief's veracity against the uncompromising Word.

He says to check the facts because there is a lot of error, confusion, and even fraud out there. If you don't find agreement throughout the Word then something is wrong. Maybe there is a translation problem in the version you are using, or an interpretation issue that needs to be resolved. Maybe there is false tradition that needs to go.

The entire Bible harmonizes from Genesis through Revelation because it is all inspired by Yahweh. All teachings must conform to the same authority of the Scriptures or else they are flawed. If an understanding seems to fit in one place but conflicts with passages elsewhere, then question the conclusions.

Apostates Come Fast and Furious

Even 2,000 years ago, while Paul was writing his letters, there were major problems with spurious teachings in his day that had no basis in Scripture. He spent a lot of time exposing heresy.

We read about some of these bogus beliefs in the Book of Acts. The apostles had to contend with popular error just as



we do today.

If any of those who sat at the feet of Yahshua the Messiah during His earthly ministry could hear today's church teachings, they would be blown away to see outright falsities eagerly accepted like bobblehead dolls nodding up and down on the rear windows of station wagons.

Beyond grace and loving your neighbor, they would expect to hear about repentance from sin and overcoming the pulls of the world on one's life. They would be well-versed in changing personal behavior to emulate the Savior's own life, in the keeping of the commandments, and in observing the commanded holy days of Scripture.

All of this was taught and practiced by the Messiah Yahshua and His disciples and which they emphasized in their own

“What became Christianity was a mishmash of foreign beliefs, divergent teachings, and conflicting practices.

ministries time and time again. But where are His teachings today? Why don't we hear the rest of the story?

In today's worship environment people are given heavy infusions of Romans 5:20 (grace) and none of Romans 6:1 (don't continue in sin to try to make grace abound).

This was warned about in Jude 1:4 when heretics were using grace to justify disobedience: "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, wicked men, turning the grace of our Elohim into lasciviousness, and denying the only Sovereign Yahweh, and our Master Yahshua Messiah."

The Apostle Paul instructed the young Timothy at the onset of Timothy's

ministry in 2Timothy 4:2 to "preach the Word, be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

Paul was speaking of the Old Testament, but it has gone much further when not even the New Testament's obedience is preached today.

Whence the Deviation?

Why is most of today's worship so foreign to the worship and teachings of the New Testament? How did so much get changed? It certainly wasn't because of Yahshua the Messiah's teachings. He upheld the Old Testament commands given by His Father Yahweh. So did Peter, Paul, James, and John.

Something went awry to transform a powerful and vibrant Hebraic faith into today's teachings more on par with Gnosticism.

In his book, *The Apostasy of the Lost Century*, S. Gusten Olson writes that something monumental happened in the first 100 years to change worship from the pure teachings of the Scriptures to something resembling mystery worship.

A great deal of doctrinal transforming was going on even in the early New Testament. The era was awash in heresy. This abandonment from His teachings was foretold by Yahshua in Matthew 26:31: "Then saith Yahshua unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad."

The growth of heresy exploded once Yahshua was gone. Little would-be Messiah's tried to usurp His role. What became known as Christianity was a mishmash of foreign beliefs, divergent teachings, and conflicting practices.

It was not a neat package that carried on the faith and practice that Yahshua and the apostles engendered. It became a convoluted hodgepodge of man-made teachings and practices. And it still is.

There were so many heresies and heretics going around, there was so much pagan influence, there was such a divergence of beliefs that to find the Truth took a lot of sifting and searching. The Catholic church came along and combined this tangled jumble into one universal belief system (catholic is from the Greek *katholikos* meaning universal).

It could not do it alone, however. The church needed the power and persuasion of the civil government, which was supplied by Emperor Constantine. He enforced by edict the doctrines the Catholic church councils imposed.

They Pin It on Peter

Most false church doctrines got their alleged authority from the Apostle Peter, supposedly through Yahshua Himself. Yahshua said to Peter, "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my assembly; and the gates of hell [grave] shall not prevail against it," Matthew 16:18.


The Roman Church taught that Peter became the first pope by the authority of Yahshua. Therefore, the authority of the popes to change biblical teachings came from Peter. Several serious difficulties are posed by this teaching.

First, Yahshua didn't say, "Upon you, Peter, I will build my church." He said "upon this rock" I'll build my assembly. They miss the play on words. "Peter" is the Greek *petros*, meaning a stone. "Rock," as in "upon this rock I will build my assembly," is *petra* and means a great ledge of rock (not upon Peter, a small stone). Yahshua said He would establish His Assembly on the large rock of Peter's confession that Yahshua is the Son of Yahweh. From the Greek we get, "Thou art Petros and upon this Petra I will build my Assembly."

A second quandary is how and when did Simon Peter, a Jew, become a Roman Catholic?

The third snag is how could Peter be the "head of the church" when Yahshua already was?

Over the next two centuries churches in Rome, Alexandria, and their satellites changed worship to the first day of the week. Others continued to observe the seventh-day Sabbath for many more years.

The result was that two worship days were honored side by side in many countries. Even as late as the fifth century almost the entire Christian world observed both Saturday and Sunday for weekly religious services. The very early Church did not regard Sunday worship as a substitute for the Sabbath. It took an edict by an unconverted Constantine to enforce the changeover. 

A FORK *in the* ROAD

by Terry O'Neal

Most everyone today has things to do and places to go on a daily basis, especially traveling from home to work and back home again. To accomplish this we count on a network of roads, streets, and highways that enables us to get from point A to point B; sometimes easily and quickly and then sometimes not. The Bible speaks of highways for travel in ancient times. Two examples are 1 Samuel 6:12 and Isaiah 40:3.

A road is similar to a highway but not quite as large or major of a thoroughfare. Then there are boulevards, avenues, streets, dirt roads, and even paths. A path could be similar to a highway or road but just smaller. Paths can be paved, graveled, or even dirt and are most likely less traveled or in some incidences are shortcuts.

Of Paths and Gates

Scripture has important lessons to teach about “a path” or “paths.” We read in Psalm 27:11, “Teach me thy way, O Yahweh, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.” We need Yahweh to teach and guide us in a path separate from the world and those who would be our enemies.

We need to set our path toward Yahweh

and not veer to the left or right. As Proverbs 4:26-27 tells us: “Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.”

When not deviating we travel in a straight direction and are able to enter through the “strait gate” as Matthew 7:13 instructs us: “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat.”

Some paths have gates to prevent just anyone from entering. In the two paths in Matthew 7:13, one had a “strait gate.”

Looking further ahead we see that there is a wide and broad way that most choose to travel; then there is the narrow path with a “strait gate.” Two different directions; two different ways; two different choices that usually lead away from each other.

A fork in the road gives us a choice of which way to go. In our lives we also come to forks in the road or paths on our life’s journey; choices we have to make. Some of these forks are minor, everyday decisions and some are major, life-changing decisions.

From the very beginning man has faced a choice in life, a fork in the road, starting

with Satan’s tempting Adam and Eve with the forbidden fruit.

Adam and Eve chose the wrong fork (path) with their decision to partake of the “tree of good and evil” and their disobedience put a separation between them and Yahweh. “And Yahweh Elohim said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever.” Genesis 3:22. This sin of disobedience also removed them from the Garden of Eden and the tree of life.

Ancient Forks in the Road

Throughout the scriptures we have a chance to learn from wrong choices made by the children of Israel or individuals that always come with consequences.

Many times Yahweh told the children of Israel through Moses and the prophets that in choosing, choose Him and obey His voice. Deuteronomy 30:20 says, “That thou mayest love Yahweh thy Elohim, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which Yahweh sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

The choices they would make would result in a blessing or a curse depending on the choice (path) they took. The choice (path) to love Yahweh and whether or not to obey His voice, was set before the children of Israel; Deuteronomy 11:26-28,

“Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of Yahweh your Elohim, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of Yahweh your Elohim, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other mighty ones, which ye have not known.” Also, in Deuteronomy 30:15 Yahweh spoke to the children of Israel through Moses saying: “See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;”

This applies to us today as well: to choose the path of truth by keeping the Sabbath, the Holy Days and serving Yahweh by obeying His commandments, the path of “life and good.” With this choice, we start down the right path and depend on Yahweh’s Word to show us the way.

Psalm 119:105 says, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

We are told to ponder the paths in order

to choose the right one; Proverbs 5:6 reads, "Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them." Also, Proverbs 4:26 reads: "Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established."

Count the Cost

When we come to this fork in the road, to choose whom we will obey and serve, we need to count the cost of the decision we will make. Luke 14:28 instructs us: "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?"

Yahweh warns about choosing the wrong path in Proverbs 1:15, "My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path." Instructions in Proverbs 4:14 warn us: "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men."

Choosing the path to obey Yahweh and to serve Him points to the promise of the future through Yahshua Messiah. Proverbs 4:18 reads: "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." A True Worshiper's shining light, traveling down the narrow path, is shining to that perfect day, the day of our future hope through Yahshua Messiah.

If we continue to obey Yahweh and depart from evil, we will preserve our soul as Proverbs 16:17 promises: "The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul."

We need guidance and understanding for this major choice in our lives. We can ask Yahweh for help with understanding about choosing the right path as instructed in these three Scriptures:

- Psalm 16:11, "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."
- Psalm 119:35, "Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight."
- Proverbs 2:9, "Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path."

Ruth Chooses Different Path

Rather than staying in her native land, Ruth chose to follow Naomi back to her homeland and also to believe and to worship in the way of her mother-in-law. Ruth's choice is found in Ruth 1:16-17, "And Ruth said, Intreat me

not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy Elohim my Elohim: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: Yahweh do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me."

This was a very brave and profound decision Ruth made; to leave her kinfolk (a descendant from Lot), her nation (a Moabite) and her religious beliefs behind. Because of her choice Ruth became an important part of history; she married Boaz and ended up becoming King David's great-grandmother.

Paul's Fork in the Road

Paul persecuted the True Worshipers until he came to a fork in his road on the way to Damascus when Yahshua appeared to him in Acts chapter 9. Yahshua told Ananias that Paul was a chosen vessel for His work; v. 15. Paul chose to obey Yahweh and in 2Corinthians 11:24-33 he wrote of his experiences as a result of going through the narrow gate, following the narrow path. He testifies that it is not always an easy journey; it comes with trials and persecution, therefore making him stronger sometimes, as he states in 2Corinthians 12:10.

Can we be as strong and devoted as Paul? We are warned in Matthew 22 that only a few are chosen from many who are called. Verse 14 reads, "For many are called, but few are chosen." We need to choose the right fork and work diligently to be counted worthy of the future promise through Yahshua Messiah.

Joshua 24:15 tells us to choose whom we will serve: And if it seem evil unto you to serve Yahweh, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the mighty ones which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the mighty ones of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve Yahweh."

Our Choice Today

Back in Deuteronomy Yahweh explains to the children of Israel and to us today, to choose between life and death as recorded in 30:19, "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."

Choosing the keeping of Yahweh's Sabbath, Holy Days, and His Commandments

is the beginning of many more choices we will make for our faith that will profoundly change the course of our lives. Will we stand strong as the apostles or as strong as Paul? Will we have the strength, physically and spiritually, to stand even unto death as Yahshua did or as Stephen or as many of the apostles and disciples?

Matthew tells us that this choice we make is not easy but is worth the price. Let's read Matthew 7:14: "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Can we be some of "that few" who find life through Yahshua Messiah? This should be our heart's desire as we strive, working diligently, to obtain this promise.


Those who find life through Yahshua Messiah are given a promise in Revelation chapters 21 and 22. Revelation 21:5-7 says, "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his Elohim, and he shall be my son."

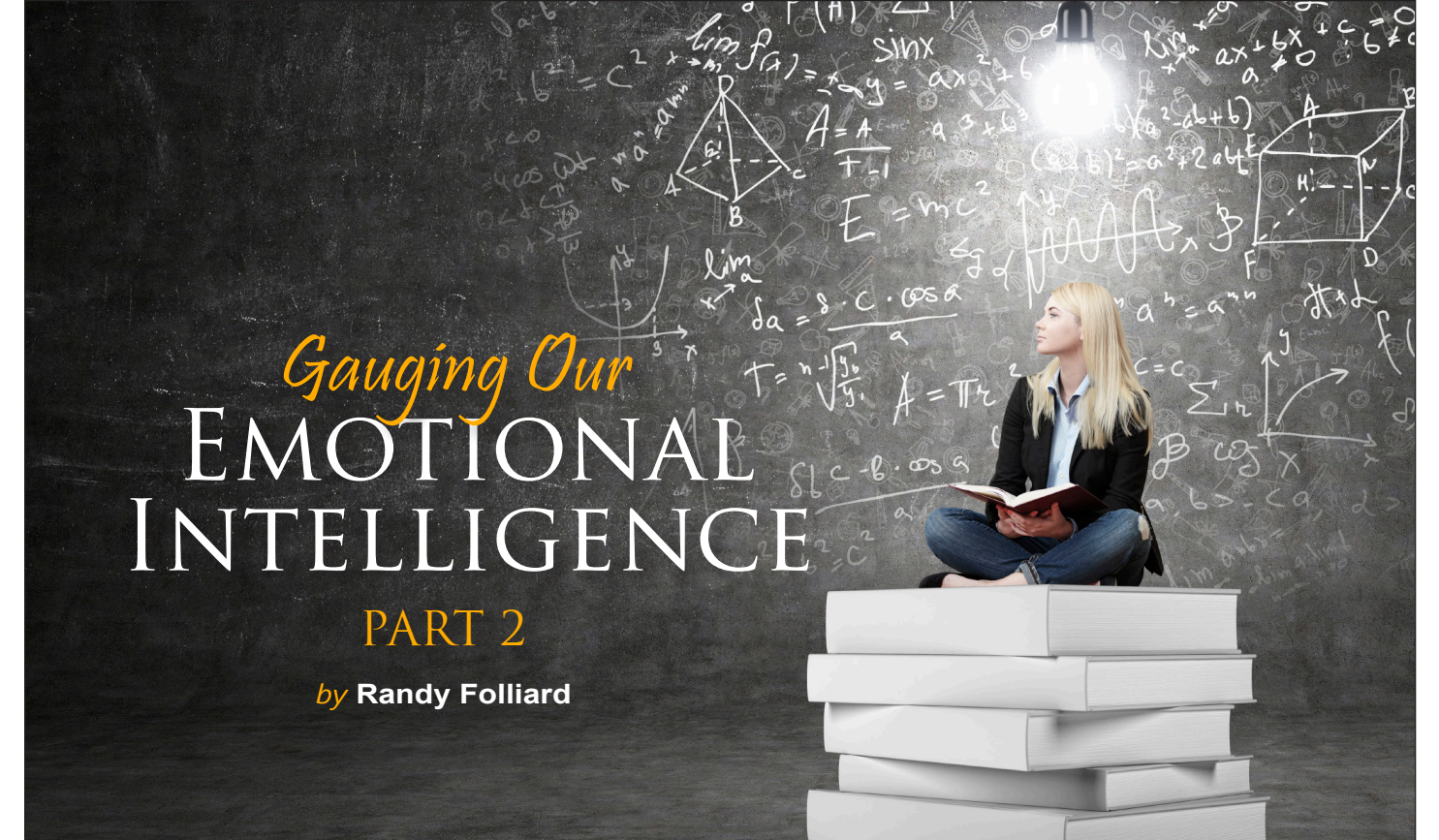
Those who overcome will be able to drink of the fountain of the water of life and will be sons of Elohim; sons of Yahweh Almighty through Yahshua Messiah.

Notice what Revelation 22:12-14 promises: "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

Adding to the promise in Revelation 21 is to be able to enter in through the gates into New Jerusalem and to have the right to the tree of life. What a promise to all those who choose the straight gate and narrow way (path) in life!

So when we come to a fork in the road of life we count the cost and choose the narrow path to follow by serving Yahweh through Yahshua Messiah for the promise of eternal life in the Kingdom.

Let us be like Joshua, son of Nun and general, and stand with the very words he proclaimed; "As for me and my house, we will serve Yahweh." 



Gauging Our EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

PART 2

by Randy Folliard

Yahshua the Messiah had no greater nemesis than the scribes and Pharisees. While these men kept the letter of the law to the smallest detail, they missed the essential, life-changing part: a heart change. Our Savior and Judge not only expects that we obey the written law, but also that we change our old nature.

One way of accomplishing this feat is through a theory called “emotional intelligence.” While this approach is often connected to management theories, it’s also applicable in our spiritual walk.

Wikipedia explains how this theory works and its benefits: “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.”

As mentioned in Part 1, we are now going to focus on the “mixed model.” This model contains four components: self-

awareness, self-regulation, social skills, and empathy.

Here’s a definition for each:

- 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.

Having considered the first two principles in Part 1, we now focus on the remaining two.

As you may have noted, the above definition for the principle of social skills sounds like an excerpt for a management manual. Let’s modify this definition for a more biblical application: “Social skills is managing relationships to foster an environment of unity, cohesion, peace, and love.”

For a moment think about the blessings we would experience if we could generate

such an environment. A good assembly would become a GREAT assembly! It’s for this reason that this component holds so much value.

While it’s impossible to review all the social skills in the Bible, we will review those most important.

Lead by Example

Let’s begin in 1Peter 5:2, “Feed the flock of Elohim which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being masters over Yahweh’s heritage, but being examples to the flock.”

There are several points to consider. What is Peter conveying when he says, “... not by constraint, but willingly”? Yahweh doesn’t force His will upon us. If we follow Him, it is because we choose to follow Him.

This same lesson applies to those in the ministry. A minister should lead by example and not by force. To this point Dwight Eisenhower, our 34th president, once said, “You do not lead by hitting people over the head. That’s assault, not leadership.” Even though these words were

partially spoken in jest, they are a great lesson for those in leadership positions.

Think about the leadership of Yahshua the Messiah who led by example. One of the best illustrations of this is when He said, “I come not to be served, but to serve.” Throughout His ministry he showed what it meant to serve and sacrifice for the good of others. As a believer in the Messiah, we’re to emulate these same qualities.

Next, we must learn how to motivate. Now motivation is where social skills really come into play. What’s challenging about motivation is that people respond in different ways. Some are self-motivated and others must be motivated by some incentive. Incentives can be praise or monetary reward.

Leading by example and motivation is not easy. In many ways it’s much easier to lead by force. The problem with that, though, is that autocratic leadership usually doesn’t change the heart. To quote one of my mentor’s sayings, “He who is forced against his will is of the same opinion still.”

Yahweh wants a people with a willing heart. As we learn from 1 John 5:3, love is measured by obedience that’s not grievous. In other words, love is when we obey Yahweh not from necessity, but from an eager desire to please Him. In the same way, leadership is having people follow you because they desire to follow you and not because they must.

Don’t Forget Diplomacy

Paul in Colossians 4:6 provides some insight as to how this is done: “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

One word that describes Paul’s message here is “diplomacy.” The Merriam Webster dictionary defines this word as the “skill in handling affairs without arousing hostility.” There are many ways to convey a message, even one that may be viewed negatively. As Paul explains, we can either use grace (diplomacy) or we can speak in a way that causes unnecessary strife and anger.

What’s amazing is how many, including believers, choose the latter. As we explained in Part 1, this is why being self-aware of our emotions and the emotions of others is so important. If we’re not doing this, we may say or do something insensitive that only serves

to inflame an already tense situation. As future sons and daughters of the Most High we should desire to do better.

While training as a project manager with the state of Missouri someone told me, “If people like you, they’ll work for you; if they don’t, they won’t.” Whether as a project manager or pastor, I’ve found this true. A big part of likeability is in how we communicate.

Be Bold

Some have the notion that diplomacy means weakness. Nothing could be further from the truth. It takes more courage to show grace than hatred. One of the greatest qualities that defined Joshua, the son of Nun, was courage. In Joshua 1:6 Yahweh told this famous general, “Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them.”

Why was it so important that Joshua

“If others view you as weak they are going to be less likely to follow you and to have faith in your message.

show courage? After the death of Moses he became the leader of Israel. This occurred right before they had begun to conquer the Promised Land. So not only was he a leader of a great nation, but he also faced the challenges of war. As you can imagine, courage was an important attribute for Joshua.

As it was for Joshua, courage is also imperative for believers today. There are many examples in the New Testament where the apostles and other believers stood in boldness, even in the face of almost certain death.

Courage is not only important as it pertains to external threats, but also to social skills. Whether we’re in a position of leadership or in the laity, courage and strength are important attributes. If others view you as weak they are going to be less likely to follow you and to have faith in your message. So if we desire to lead others to Yahweh’s truth then we must show strength in our message, and resolve.

Peter speaks of another attribute in the first chapter of his second epistle, “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience holiness,” verses 5-6.

Spiritual Maturity

Peter shows how morals build upon one another. He first refers to virtue or goodness. He then explains how goodness leads to knowledge. The Greek word for “knowledge” is *gnosis* and refers to the act of knowing. When we live a moral life we come to know Yahweh’s Word in greater ways.

This *gnosis* then leads to temperance. Another word for temperance is self-control. Self-control then leads to “patience.” This word comes from the Greek *hupomone* and refers to endurance or constancy. And finally, patience leads to righteousness, which refers to respect

or piety toward Yahweh.

Consider these last two attributes: temperance and patience. These qualities are essential in managing relationships. If we’re going to positively influence and impact others then we need self-control. This includes control of our emotions, actions, and behavior, as we learned through the first two principles of the mixed model.

One of the worst things we can do as believers is say one thing and do another. This is what the Bible calls hypocrisy and was one of the sins that upset Yahshua most during His ministry. It was this fault that led to the seven woes found in the 23rd chapter of Matthew.

Patience is another virtue we need if we’re going to rightly influence and manage relationships. Patience is required if we’re going to follow Yahshua’s examples by sacrificing and serving others. Keep in mind also that this is one of the nine fruits of the spirit mentioned by Paul in the fifth chapter of Galatians.

We now transition to empathy, the final and fourth component of what it means to have emotional intelligence. Empathy is considering other people's feelings especially when making decisions.

Understand that empathy is normally not something we're born with. For most of us it's a learned behavior often over much time and struggle. So how do we learn empathy?

The Golden Rule

Yahshua provides an example in Matthew 7:12, "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." Most people know this passage as the "golden rule." What's intriguing is we find similar sayings in other cultures. Consider the following:

"What is hateful to you, do not to your fellow man. This is the law: all the rest is commentary" (Talmud, Shabbat 31, Judaism).

"What I do not wish men to do to me, I also wish not to do to men" (Analects 15:23, Confucianism)."

"...a state that is not pleasing or delightful to me, how could I inflict that upon another?" (Samyutta Nikaya v. 353, Buddhism).

"Do for one who may do for you, that you may cause him thus to do" (The Tale of the Eloquent Peasant, ancient Egyptian).

These examples are given not to endorse those religions, but to show the universality of the golden rule. As Paul illustrates in Romans 2:14-15, certain principles are ingrained in mankind: "For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another."

So what is the essence of the golden rule? That which we desire from others we ourselves should be willing to do. Here are a few examples:

If we desire forgiveness or compassion, we must be willing to forgive and show compassion to others.

If we want people to consider our needs, we must first consider their needs.

If we desire people to listen to us, we must first stop and listen to them.

If we want respect, we must also show respect to others.

As you might have noticed, the relationship is reciprocal, meaning it goes both ways. This is why there's no room for a selfish believer in the body of Messiah. A person who is obsessed about self will never live by the golden rule. They're too focused on numero uno.

What's amazing about the golden rule is its simplicity. However, even with its simplicity few follow it. Why? Simple doesn't always mean easy. There's nothing easy about our emotional intelligence, including empathy. These are learned behaviors, no different from learning a specialized skill like engineering. It takes time and a lot of study to become a good engineer. Likewise, it also takes time and much labor to learn how to control our emotions and be empathetic.

The Platinum Rule

The golden rule is great, but Paul in the second chapter of Philippians raises the bar even higher. He writes, "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."

The platinum rule requires much more thoughtfulness and sacrifice than the golden rule. Now this is not to disparage what Yahshua said, but to show the depth of sacrifice of Paul's message.

Not only is this an essential quality, but is also one of the best descriptions of empathy we find in Scripture. As Yahshua's disciples we need to be more concerned about the needs of others before our own. How many of us are sacrificing first for the good of others, even when it negatively affects us?

Our Great Advocate

The best model of empathy is Yahshua the Messiah, our risen Savior. As we see in Hebrews 4:14-16 He understands this virtue, "Seeing then that we have a

great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Yahshua the Son of Elohim, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."


Nobody is more empathetic to mankind than Yahshua. He was tempted in all points as we are. That means that our Savior had the same pulls and troubles that we face as human beings. The only difference between Him and us is that He was never overcome by them. He was without sin.

The fact that He was tested as we are today gives Him a unique perspective from all others. Not only did He prove himself worthy as the Son of Yahweh and the Messiah, but He was also the advocate and judge of mankind. So how does this relate to empathy? Again, empathy is considering other people's feelings especially when making decisions.

He understands the pulls and struggles of mankind, which provides him with great compassion. For this reason no one is more equipped than Yahshua when it comes to empathy towards mankind. For this reason we can stand boldly before the throne of grace knowing that we have a fair and just judge.

Just as Yahshua was, we as believers must be considerate and compassionate toward others. Believers showing empathy is a cornerstone of the messianic principle, an attribute that exemplifies Yahshua the Messiah.

If we fail to put on Messiah, we will not find everlasting life. While keeping the commandments (e.g. Sabbath and Feasts) is an essential part of our faith, changing who we are on the inside is even more critical. As Yahshua told the Pharisees, Yahweh's not only concerned with the outside of the cup, but also with what's on the inside.

If we succeed and learn to apply emotional intelligence to our life and spiritual walk, not only will we experience blessings in this life, but also more importantly in the life to come. That is the overriding goal of the Believer. Blessed are those who hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" 



Q Please explain your understanding of the Holy Spirit. Is the spirit part of a trinity? And what about salvation, how does one find it?

A In both the Hebrew (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament) the words for holy spirit mean holy power or force, like the wind (*ruach, pneuma*). The Holy Spirit is not a person. The notion of a triune deity was developed by the Roman church in the early centuries of the New Testament era as it was being influenced by the polytheism of the heathen nations it was absorbing.

Some historians attribute the Trinity to the teaching of the Monarchians, one of the many New Testament offshoot sects. They taught that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were the same person. The following key questions go unanswered by this belief: If it's a person, then why doesn't the Holy Spirit have a name as do the Father and Son and every other notable in the Bible? If a person, why did no one in Scripture pray to the Holy Spirit? If a person, then

Yahshua's real father was the spirit, and not Yahweh, Matthew 1:18.

Paul taught that the Holy Spirit can be quenched (1Thes.5:19). Peter preached that the spirit is poured out (Acts 2:17; Acts 10:45). It is stirred up within the believer (2Timothy 1:6), and it also renews the believer (Titus 3:5). Paul wrote in 2Corinthians 1:22 and 5:5 that Yahweh gives us the earnest (down payment) of the spirit, of which the faithful will receive in full measure at the return of Yahshua, Romans 8:23. Elisha asked for a double portion of the Holy Spirit in 2Kings 2:9. None of these characteristics fit the context of an individual.

As to salvation, Yahshua plainly told the young man that if he sought salvation then he must keep the commandments, Matthew 19:17. Hebrews 5:9 says salvation is for those who obey Yahshua. We will all be judged when Yahshua at His coming will reward all according to their life's record. Judgment will be based on how one lives and does (Rom. 14:10, 12; Eccl. 12:14; 2Cor. 5:10; Eph. 6:8; James 2:14; Rev. 20:12, 13 and 22:12).

No one is "saved" until either the end

of their lives or the end of the age when Yahshua returns, Matthew 10:22, 24:13. In Hebrews 3:14 we are to hold fast until the end and continue living a life worthy of salvation, 1Corinthians 3:14. Yahshua came to raise the bar on obedience, not abolish it, Matthew 5. Follow His teachings and His life of obedience and you will find salvation.

Q Since John 1:3 states that the Son created the universe and Isaiah 43:11 states that all things were created by YHWH alone, does this not prove that the Father and Son are the same being?

A John 1:1-3 says that the Son created all things (through the Father's plan and directive). However, Isaiah 43:11 is simply acknowledging Yahweh's superiority over creation. The same correlation can be applied to anyone in a position of authority. For example, the Bible speaks about King Solomon constructing the temple: "So Solomon built the house, and finished it. And he built the walls of the house within with boards of cedar, both the floor of the house, and the walls of the ceiling; and he covered them on the inside with wood, and covered the floor of the house with planks of fir ..." (1Kings 6:14-16, 19, 21-22). This passage gives credit to Solomon as the builder in every phase of temple construction. Does it mean he was out there with gloves and hammer chipping away at stones while sweating in the hot sun? No, Solomon was just overseeing and directing the construction. Yet, he received full credit for the work because it was his project. Similarly, Yahweh also oversaw creation of the universe and justifiably received all credit. In both cases each was

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acknowledged for the accomplishments but the actual work was carried out by others.

Q In your faith, is using the name Jesus wrong? What does the name Jesus mean in your faith?

A Is it wrong to call Tom “Calix”? Our Savior Yahshua was never called Jesus when He walked this earth. It is a provable fact because the letter J did not exist in any language until the time of Christopher Columbus in the 15th century. “J” was the last letter to be added to the English alphabet. Jesus (without the J) is a Latinized Greek name. He was neither Italian nor Greek but a Jew.

If you saw the subtitles in Mel Gibson’s Passion movie you noticed that He was called Yeshua throughout and not Jesus. The recently released drama about Yahshua called Risen uses Yahweh and Yeshua as well. He said He came in His Father’s name, John 5:43, and therefore shared the family surname Yah. More accurately, then, He was Yahshua, a Hebrew name that means Yahweh is Salvation. All Hebrew names have a meaning. The name Jesus, being a manufactured hybrid, has no etymological meaning. (Request our definitive booklet, **Your Father’s Name** or read it online at yrm.org.) There is salvation in only one name, Acts 4:12. We must be sure we get that name right. Many ministers are starting to catch up with scholarship, archaeology (and even Hollywood!) in recognizing the true Name of the Hebrew Messiah, just as most of them already concur with the veracity of the Father’s Name Yahweh.

Q Luke 17:34 mentions two men in one bed. Is this promoting homosexuality?

A The word “men” in Luke 17:34 is not in the Greek. It was added by the translators. This is likely referring to a man and woman in bed, in which one is taken and one left. The NIV says “two people,” and the New Testament in Modern Speech says “two lying in one bed.” Neither is this passage referring to the rapture, as some teach, but to the Second Coming of Yahshua the Messiah. They are taken in destruction as well, just the opposite of a rapture.

Q Which nations represent the ten toes? I have read literally dozens of articles from a variety of theorists on this subject and they all seem to miss what I consider an integral point of consistency with the representations of the other parts of the image. The common denominator for each empire is to not place their timeline from when they initially became an empire, but when that empire was the ruling kingdom over the land of Israel. Therefore, the ten toes must represent the subsequent entities that ruled over Israel at the end of the Holy Roman Empire. Interestingly, unlike the other empires, the Roman Empire did not end during the time that the Byzantine Empire became the first of the ten toes that have ruled over the land of Israel. Following the Byzantine Empire were the Persians, the Arab Muslims, the European Christian Crusades, the Arab Sultan Saladin, the Mongols, Egyptian Mamluks, the Ottoman Empire, Great Britain and now the United Nations. The only issue that I am still not sure about is if I should not separate Great Britain from the United Nations due to the fact that in each case they have been and are still under the control of one family, and that family is the Rothschild family. Please let me know what you think of my insight in regards to the Ten toes representation from the image that was dreamt of by King Nebuchadnezzar.

A According to Revelation 17:12, the 10 toes / kings represent 10 kings who will rule with the man of sin or antimessiah in the Great Tribulation. For this reason we believe that the 10 toes represent future kings. The question is, what nations do they represent? Psalm 83 mentions a confederacy of 10 nations for the purpose of Israel’s destruction. According to nearly all scholars and historians, this specific confederacy has not yet occurred. This means that they must be future and therefore prophetic. Interestingly, the Psalm 83 nations are all Middle Eastern. The following is a note from our **Restoration Study Bible**, “Ten nations here form a confederacy to destroy Israel from being a nation. There is no historical account depicting the fulfillment of this Psalm. Therefore, its fulfillment is for the future. These ten nations may identify the ten toes of Daniel and the ten

kings of Revelation (Dan. 7:7; Rev. 17:12). The following are the modern locations for these ten nations: (1) Edom - Southern Jordan, (2) Ishmaelites - Arabs, (3) Hagarenes - Egypt, (4) Gebal - Lebanon, (5) Ammon - Northern Jordan, (6) Amalek - Sinai Peninsula, (7) Philistines - Gaza Strip, (8) Tyre - Lebanon, (9) Assur - Syria and Iraq, and (10) Children of Lot—Jordan” (note on Ps. 83:4).

We also see an Islamic connection in two other key passages. The first is Revelation 20:4: “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Yahshua, and for the word of Yahweh, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Messiah a thousand years.” Besides Islam, what other nation or demographic routinely beheads its enemies today? The fact that Islam is the only religion doing this offers only more evidence for Islam’s fulfillment of the 10 toes/10 kings.

The other passage is Daniel 2, “And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters’ clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay,” verses 41-43.

There are two key points here to consider. First, the 10 toes are partly strong and partly weak. We believe that this, too, describes the Middle East and Islamic nations. While they can have cohesion against a common foe, they are also divided. Also, while we see them mingling with the seed of man (dispersed to other nations), they refuse to assimilate. This is no more obvious than in Europe where Islam is transforming the culture and judicial system through Sharia law. ✓

*For a detailed analysis of the ten toes prophecy, see our booklet, **The Prophecy of the Beast and the Ten Toes**.*

(See contact information on back cover)



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Getting Back to Basics

"I immensely applaud your ministry. So many have lost touch with the roots of our Faith. Thank you for your ministry. It is obvious you are trying to bring people back to the reality of Life in [Messiah] and to point out the TRUTH. We celebrate the Sabbath on Saturdays and are also active at our Conservative Christian congregation. I am also continuing to take additional Jewish/Christian studies to better understand prophecy, the untainted word of [Yahweh], and so much more. I am very interested in your Sabbath Fellowship initiative, perhaps introducing it to my home church, as well as my ministry. Keep on keepin' on! with your blessed effort to implore us to get back to basics!" –BB

You Have Confirmed What I Understood

"For years I thought my family and I were weird as we found the truth and didn't want

to be known as Christians. We were alone and couldn't find people who believed as we did. Yahweh has brought a few people into my life that believe as I do. I found out that we are few and scattered so praise Elohim for helping me find you in your booklet, ***Astonishing Bible Truths That Your Church Never Taught***. You have confirmed everything I knew and understood. Thank you. Carry on with your GOOD work of telling people Yahshua is the only way we may be saved." –AN

Spirit of Man and Yahweh Made Clear

"I have read the article *Will You Recognize Loved Ones in the Resurrection?* in the March-June 2016 issue of Restoration Times several times. Although I have read many times throughout the years regarding the resurrection and the saints ruling in Yahweh's Kingdom, I have never heard it explained so in depth before. It

gave me a clearer understanding of the spirit of mankind and the power of Yahweh to resurrect and remake and produce a spirit individual from the spirit particle that had returned to Him upon the death of the person. It gave me a better understanding of the scriptures regarding the hope that is to come, and I believe it has also increased my faith to know and have a better understanding on this matter. This is one of the most informative articles that I have read on this topic in a long time." –DW

Don't Stop Publishing

"Since first seeing [Discover the Truth] a few years ago my spiritual welfare has grown so much. I have purchased two of the YRM Bibles, giving one to my grandson. I have an indescribable hunger for the Word. Your magazine, Restoration Times, is also a blessing. I hope you never quit publishing it." –SG

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