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RESTORATION TIMES



THE
FALL OF AMERICA?

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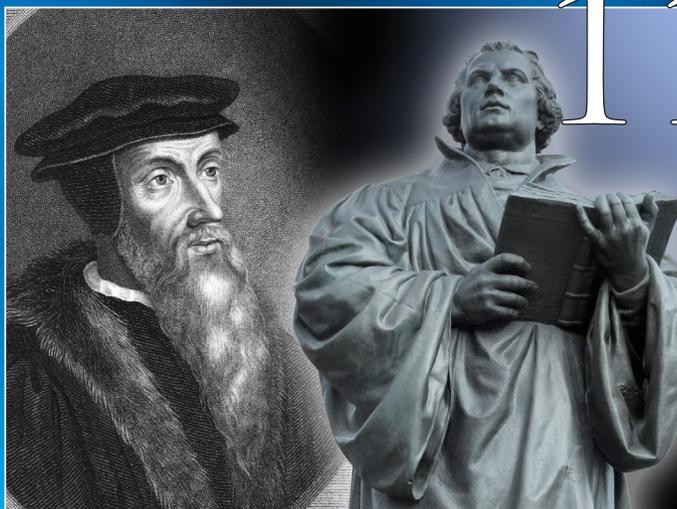
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Restoration Times expounds the close ties between the Old and New Testaments. We teach the continuity and harmony that extend from Yahweh's actions anciently down through His present activity in Yahshua the Messiah. This was also the conviction of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

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

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COVER:

Prophecy is in high gear as we witness one fulfillment after another of a declining world preparing for Yahshua's return.



The Fall of America

by Randy Folliard

A June 2, 2015, Gallup Poll reported that most Americans are pessimistic regarding the moral trend of this nation. It stated, “Most Americans (72 percent) continue to believe the state of moral values in the U.S. is ‘getting worse.’

“Large majorities have said the state of moral values in the U.S. is declining since Gallup started asking this question annually in 2002.”

It’s not hard to see why so many are less than optimistic today about the moral direction of this once great nation. To make matters worse, the Supreme Court on June 26 possibly placed the last nail in the coffin when they legalized homosexual (sodomite) marriage in all 50 states.

Amazingly, what the Supreme Court now defines as marriage, the Supreme Creator defines as an abomination, “Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with woman-kind: it is abomination,” Leviticus 18:22. This word “abomination” comes from the Hebrew *tow’ebah* and refers to “something disgusting (morally), i.e., an abhorrence,” Strong’s Concordance.

Clearly this ruling is the most radical shift in the last 30 years of this nation and perhaps second only to the 1973 ruling that legalized abortion. When we as a country change the definition of marriage, we change the very foundation of our culture, and tell Yahweh we no longer need Him.

Spiritual Faith to Bondage

Alexander Fraser Tytler lived from 1747 to 1813. He was a Scottish advocate, 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. He stated the following in reference to democracies, “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 with our nation? This is in fact the strategy of most politicians today. Our current national debt is over \$18 trillion and we continue to increase government spending and programs. Shockingly, much of the populace supports this out-of-control spending so long as it benefits them. According to many economists, this fiscal trend is unsustainable; at some point we’re going to hit rock bottom, as we’re seeing in

nations like Greece.

Tytler is also credited with the following 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.”

This man had incredible insight on the rise and fall of nations. Where do you suppose America falls in this progression? Based on current trends, many would agree we are somewhere between apathy and dependence.

The majority of the people in America are indifferent to what’s occurring, and more than half are now dependent in some way on government welfare. According to Tytler’s theory, bondage follows dependence.

It’s not difficult to see that the policies of our current government are increasingly more oppressive. As time goes on, those who openly speak out against certain sins, including sodomite marriage, will likely face retribution.

As believers, it’s important that we

follow the Word of our Heavenly Father above all else. As we find in Hebrews 11, the faith chapter, we look to a greater kingdom, one not ruled by the opinions and ever-changing morality of man, but by our Savior, Yahshua the Messiah.

Who's Really to Blame?

As much as we would like to blame our politicians for the monstrous straits we're in, the majority of blame belongs elsewhere. Before we pinpoint where, consider the following quotation from Alexis de Tocqueville. He was a French political thinker and historian who lived between 1805 and 1859.

He wrote in *Democracy in America*, "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 an amazing observation! This man realized that the greatness of America was to be found in the church and the message of our Father's Word and not in its riches or political structure.

Back in the day, most ministers understood and taught morality. They understood principles like sin, repentance, and the virtue of living a righteous life. Where do we hear these same concerns from the pulpits today? Sadly, we don't. Many are too busy competing for cash and numbers; they're too concerned with fitting in with the trends of this world and putting a Starbucks in their own vestibules.

The blame for the state of our union is placed at the feet of the ministers in this nation. Many have abandoned morality and biblical principles for numbers and greed; in doing so they've allowed the culture to fall, possibly beyond the point of return.

Ignorance Is Not Bliss

The Apostle Peter tells us that this rebellion is not because of ignorance, but choice. He says, "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, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water,” 2Peter 3:3-5.

When will these events happen? Peter attests that they are reserved for the last days. If we’re not in those days, we’re likely very close. He confirms that we’re going to see scoffers. This is from the Greek *empaiktes* and refers to “a derider, i.e. (by implication) a false teacher” (Strong’s).

Describing many people in our culture, he goes on to say that these scoffers will walk after their own lusts. They’d rather do it their way instead of Yahweh’s way; doing it their way allows them to pursue selfish wants unhindered by our Father’s Word.

We also see that these scoffers will question the return of Yahshua the Messiah, asking, where is His coming? How many people in this nation really believe in the return or Second Coming of our Savior? According to a 2013 poll by the Pew Research Center, only 47 percent of Christians believe that the Messiah will “definitely” return. Even more alarming is the fact that 52 percent of Christians either say that He will not return or are unsure.

Peter closes this passage by saying these scoffers “willingly are ignorant.” This phrase comes from the Greek *thelo lanthano* and refers to those who choose or prefer not to know the truth. How many do you know who simply choose to ignore what they know to be right? Deep down most people know that what we’re seeing in our world is very wrong, but they simply choose to ignore it.

And the Cycle Continues

Solomon in the Book of Ecclesiastes verified that events have a way of repeating themselves. Even though much of the prophecies in Isaiah are directed at Judah, it’s almost as if these same passages were written for America. It’s true that many prophecies in the Word are dual in nature. We find one such prophecy in the first chapter of Isaiah: “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,” verses 3-4, 10, 15.

Here Isaiah describes the nation of Judah before its fall to the Babylonians. Does any of this sound familiar? As a people, we too have forgotten our Heavenly Father. There’s no better proof of this than the recent decision by the Supreme Court changing the definition of marriage.

It’s ironic that Isaiah compares Judah to Sodom and Gomorrah. As time goes on, we too are looking increasingly more like these deplorable cities. Sadly, there are many people, including some who claim to believe in the Bible, who try to justify homosexuality or sodomy. These people are “willingly ignorant.”

Even though Judah was guilty of horrible sin, Yahweh still offered her an opportunity to repent (see verse 18). We know historically that Judah never accepted this offer and as a result was taken captive by the Babylonians. As a nation, will we repeat Judah’s mistake or find it within ourselves to humbly repent and turn back to our Heavenly Father?

Consider the level of change this type of action would require. Political correctness would need to be thrown out. Sins like abortion and homosexuality could not be culturally accepted. The biblical family union would need to be restored. Without some sort of divine awakening the chances of all this happening are slim to none.

As believers it’s important that we never lose hope. If not for us, for our children and their children after them.

What happens when a nation becomes incorrigible in her sin? As Isaiah prophesied, Yahweh will not hear their prayers. Sin matters. Sin has consequences. When we refuse to honor and acknowledge our Heavenly Father, He in turn will refuse to bless and acknowledge us. If we’re going to reap His blessings we must be willing to follow Him.

Woe Unto the Wicked

In Isaiah 3:8-12 the son of Amoz prophesied that Judah had no remorse for her sin. “For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah is fallen: because their tongue and their doings are against Yahweh, to provoke the eyes of his glory. The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves. Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings. Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him. As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.”

Just as Judah did many years ago, we as a culture parade our sins. There’s nothing more abhorrent than the current sodomite parades and other shows of public immorality. The people who partake in these events are proud of their sin. Instead of hiding or being discreet, they make it as visible and deplorable as possible.

As Isaiah says, “Woe unto the wicked.” Those who engage in this behavior not only harm themselves, but society as well. The tragic consequence of all this is the family. As Isaiah prophesies, children are their oppressors and women rule over them.

Many families are in disarray today. Consider the following: people living together out of wedlock; a divorce rate at 50 percent, single parent homes with multiple children; and kids killing kids.

Many of these problems are the result of absentee fathers and diminishing of his function. 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.

Our Heavenly Father defines fathers as the head of the family. Fathers bring strength and stability to the family. When the father is absent his significance is weakened, families suffer. As we learn from wise Solomon, there’s nothing new under the sun; what has been will be again.

As Isaiah prophesied in the fifth chapter, people no longer understand common notions of biblical morality. “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter,” verse 20.

Do we see in our nation where good is considered bad and bad is considered good? A person who speaks against fornication is ridiculed as old-fashioned and narrow-minded. A person who speaks against homosexuality is considered intolerant and hateful. A person who speaks out against abortion is judged uncompassionate and antiwomen. A person who speaks out against radical Islam is called racist and an Islamophobe.

What we read in Isaiah is happening right now in this nation. Many today don't know the difference between right and wrong, moral and immoral. The belief in absolute morality has all but vanished.

Reprobate Mind

What is the cause of this twisted understanding? Paul in the first chapter of Romans explains why this is and its connection to homosexuality. "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," verses 26-28, 32.

How can anyone read this passage and still justify same-gender unions? Whether it's men with men or women with women, Paul defines their behavior as vile and against nature. Our Heavenly Father created marriage as a lifelong union between one man and one woman. Anything outside of this is against what He established in the beginning at creation.

To understand the depth of our Father's disgust for homosexuality, consider the meaning of the word "vile." it comes from the Greek *atimia* and means, "disgrace." *Thayer's Greek Lexicon* defines this word as, "dishonor and ignominy."

The Bible condemns homosexuality as an abomination. It's one of the worst sins a nation can allow and now we've changed the very definition of marriage to include this debauchery. How is it possible that

we as nation have strayed so far from our Father's Word?

Paul says that when we refuse to acknowledge Yahweh that he will give us up to a reprobate mind. The word "reprobate" comes from the Greek *adokimos* and means, "unapproved, i.e. rejected; by implication, worthless (literally or morally)," Strong's. Similarly, *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words* states, "... (a) of things, Heb 6:8, 'rejected,' of land that bears thorns and thistles; (b) of persons, Rom 1:28, of a 'reprobate mind,' a mind of which [Yahweh] cannot approve, and which must be rejected by Him, the effect of refusing 'to have [Elohim] in their knowledge';... in 2Tim 3:8 of those 'reprobate concerning the faith,' i.e., men whose moral sense is perverted and whose minds are beclouded with their own speculations; in Titus 1:16, of the defiled, who are 'unto every good work reprobate,' i.e., if they are put to the test in regard to any good work (in contrast to their profession)."

As seen above, the word "reprobate" refers to a person who's been rejected and unapproved because of sin and perversion. Even though Paul wrote Romans in reference to what was happening in his own day, it's also prophetic of ours. All that we find in this epistle is happening right now in this nation.

It's amazing just how much support there is for gay rights and gay marriage in this country. Most people are simply oblivious to the impact we will suffer as a nation because of this sin and others like it.

Is Repentance Possible?

Considering everything that's occurring and the state of our union, is it possible for this nation to repent? Absolutely. We find a promise in 1Kings 8:33: "When thy people Israel be smitten down before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee, and shall turn again to thee, and confess thy name, and pray, and make supplication unto thee in this house: Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which thou gavest unto their fathers."

If we as a nation would fall down and repent, our Heavenly Father would heal the land. Understand, though, that repentance is not merely a verbal confession of our remorse. It's a complete forsaking of our sin and a return to Yahweh. If the populace

of this nation would sincerely repent and change their ways, we would see a change like never before. For this to happen, though, we would need to fall down in sackcloth and ashes and realize what we've done.

If this doesn't occur, what are we as believers to do? We are to hold firm and make our own election sure. For some, there will be persecution and for others there will be protection. There are many examples in the Bible and throughout history where good people had to suffer.

As Yahweh told Joshua, though, as believers we must obey Him and be of good courage. We must never back down, we must never compromise what we know to be right; and we must never forsake the One we worship.

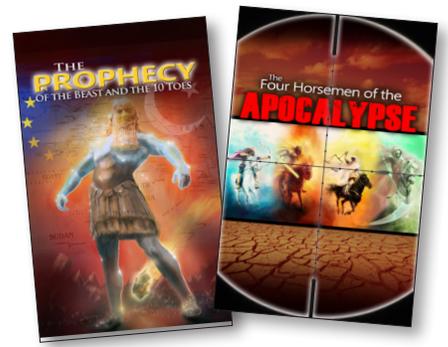
Yahshua the Messiah said that if we lose our life for His sake, we would find it. It's important to remember that no matter what happens in this life, we have a greater life to come. If we believe in the resurrection and the promise of everlasting life in our Father's Kingdom then nothing now should make us lose hope. 

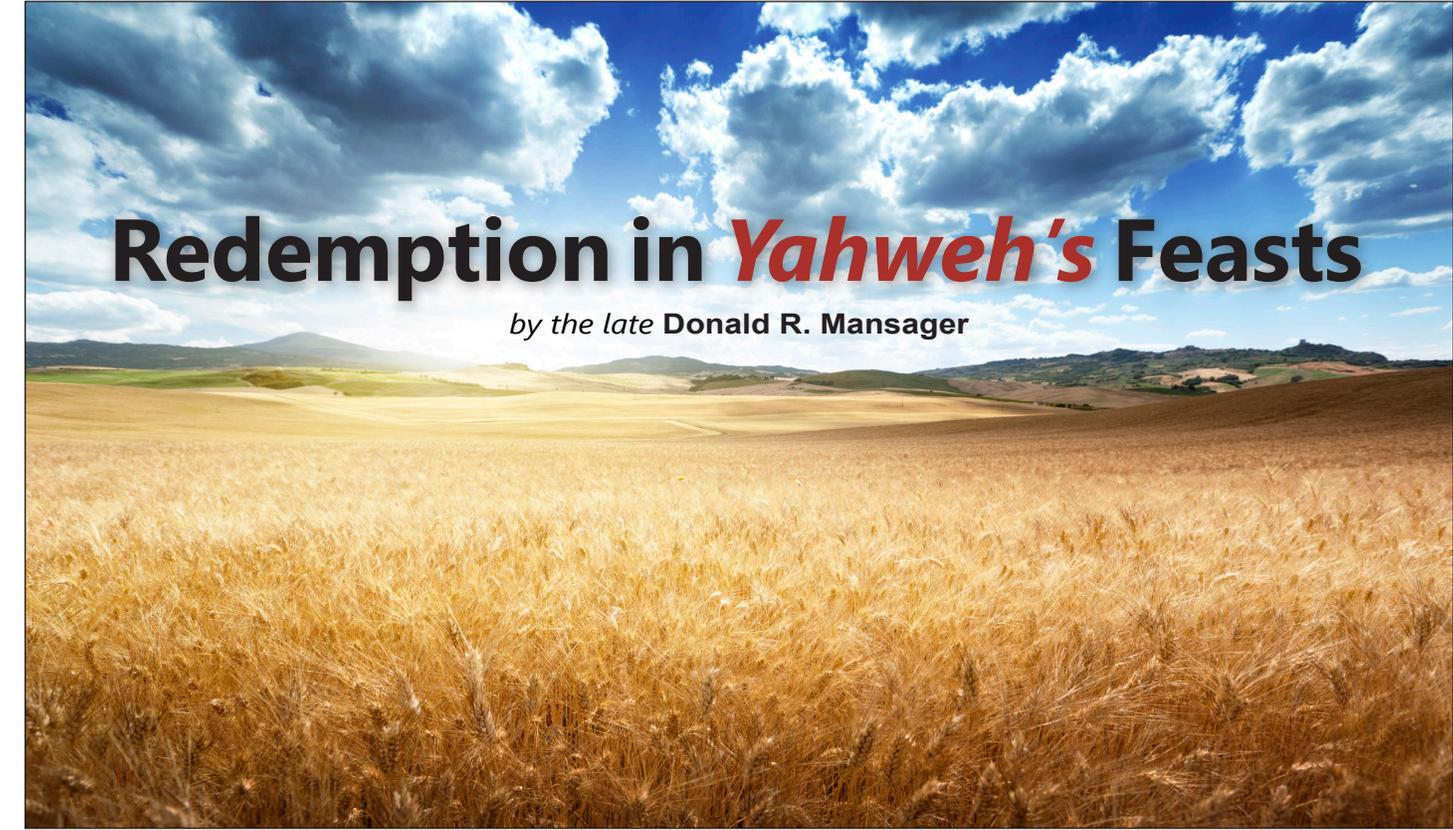
What's Coming Now?

War, disease, famine and an evil dictator – these are all prophesied for our day. What will you and your family do and how will you fare when events force life-and-death decisions?

The Apostle Paul wrote of a great falling away that would precede the coming of the Man of Sin, or Antimesiah. That is being fulfilled today in the decline of biblical teachings in favor of fluff and ear-tickling messages that lack power to convict.

Discover more prophecies that are coming to pass. Request *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* and *The Prophecy of the Beast and the Ten Toes*. Visit ym.org or write to the postal address on the back cover of this issue.





Redemption in *Yahweh's* Feasts

by the late Donald R. Mansager

Understanding the seven annual observances of the Bible is to grasp the plan of salvation. These appointed times offer a wealth of “insider” knowledge that includes keys to when Yahshua will return and who will be chosen for salvation.

These decreed observances are also a covenant promise between Yahweh and His people. They teach us of a coming heavenly Kingdom on earth, where the chosen will have positions of authority under Yahshua. Our lives are a preparation to rule with the Messiah when He returns. His annual feasts are a time of gathering to rejoice, celebrate the blessings Yahweh has given us, and to focus on the awesomeness of eternity with the King. The Feasts unlock the future.

Yahweh’s holy times begin with Passover in the month of Abib when green ears of barley appear and the firstfruit of the grains is harvested. Fifty days later is Pentecost, when the wheat harvest begins. In the seventh month are four High Sabbaths, which complete the harvest season and end with the Last Great Day of the Feast.

Yahweh’s plan of redemption is all about spiritual harvesting. Yahshua is the Firstfruits of the resurrection. Yahweh’s people are also a type of harvest, which is

clear from James 1:18.

Passover commemorates the deliverance of His physical people Israel from the bondage of the Egyptians. The Feast of Tabernacles reminds us that Israel lived in tents or booths before they were brought into the Promised Land. As with Israel, we face a future of virtual slavery and tribulation before He steps in to deliver His people.

Duality of Harvest

Pentecost or Feast of Firstfruits points to the harvest of those called out of the world now to help Yahshua rule for a thousand years. Also known as the Feast of Weeks, this time commemorates the giving of the law at Sinai, which Israel ratified under the Old Covenant.

In the New Testament the Holy Spirit was sent to the earth to help us be obedient and keep the law. This became known as the New Covenant. On this day the called-out people entered the New Covenant.

In Acts 2:39 Peter confirms that the chosen will be heirs in the Kingdom. The *ekklesia* (improperly rendered “church”) is being called out of the world now to become a kingdom of priests under the coming rulership of the Messiah. We are not yet in the Kingdom, but those in the

ekklesia are heirs of the Kingdom, joint heirs with Messiah, and are in training now to help rule in the righteous government of the heavens brought to earth.

Many prophets were given visions of the latter days and the future deliverance of Yahweh’s people, which will be far greater than the deliverance of the 2-3 million Israelites from Egyptian bondage. Jeremiah gives the reason:

“Wherefore has Yahweh pronounced all this great evil against us? or what is our sin that we have committed against Yahweh our Elohim? Then shall you say unto them. Because your fathers have forsaken me, says Yahweh, and have walked after other deities, and have served them, and have worshiped them, and have forsaken Me, and have not kept My law; and you have done worse than your fathers; for behold, you walk everyone after the imagination of his evil heart, that they may not hearken unto Me,” Jeremiah 16:10-12.

The ‘Easy Way’ Teaching

When people today read Jeremiah’s prophecy they get the idea that it refers in the modern context to someone else. Christians do not realize this prophecy is directed against perverting Scriptures today and forsaking Yahweh by walking

after other deities and serving mighty ones called G-d and L-rd (Baal, Jer. 23:27).

Most nominal churchgoers would declare that they indeed worship the Mighty One of the Bible. However, when clear, explicit verses are presented – such as Exodus 23:11-17, commanding Yahweh's people to keep the Sabbatical years; to keep the seventh-day Sabbath; not to utter names of pagan deities; to keep the annual holy days – almost to a person they will quickly shrug it off and say that it does not mean me.

Seeking shortcuts is a common human failing. We tend to follow the path of least resistance. Preaching an easy road to salvation is a pastime of many ministries.

When it comes to pure worship, Yahweh does not offer shortcuts. His is a doctrine of self-discipline, of overcoming our sinful nature and viewing and living life from His perspective, no matter what the obstacles.

“Therefore thus says Yahweh, Elohim of hosts. O my people that dwell in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrian; he shall smite you with a rod, and shall lift up his staff against you, after the manner of Egypt,” Isaiah 10:24.

Hebrews 12:22-24 clearly shows that the true people of Yahweh are referred to as those dwelling in Zion. These saints will undergo a future persecution and tribulation under the hand of the Assyrian as did ancient Israel. They will be delivered with a mighty hand just as were the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. It is during this time that the saints will be living in tabernacles just before Yahweh intervenes.

“And it shall come to pass in that day, that Yahweh shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people, which shall be left from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros and from Cush, and from Elam and from Shinar, and from Hamath and from the islands of the sea. And He shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth,” Isaiah 11:11-12. The gathering of His saints will be from the area around Jerusalem, and will include “the islands of the sea.”

And now read verse 16. “There shall be a highway for the remnant of His people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt,” Isaiah 11:16.

Note that it will be but a remnant of His people that will be left as He sets His hand to recover His people the second time. He will be known as the One who saved His people from the north country, not as the Elohim who saved His people from Egypt. This series of events will surpass anything that the world has ever seen prior to this time.

Disobedience Carries a Price

The world is not obediently keeping the feast days as Yahweh commands. The result is judgment. “Howl ye; for the day of Yahweh is at hand: it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty ... Behold the day of Yahweh comes, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and He shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine,” Isaiah 13:6,9-10.

Yahshua Himself spoke of this time in the Olivet prophecy in Matthew 24:29. Notice that He begins verse 21 stating,

“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.” Verse 24 shows that the elect, or chosen people, will still be on the earth, for He

come in like a flood, the Spirit of Yahweh shall lift up a standard against him. And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgressions in Jacob, says Yahweh,” verses 19-20. Yahweh promises deliverance to His people who overcome and live for Him. But he does not promise a rapture from earth.

Fall Festivals Unfulfilled

Isaiah 60 tells of the re-gathering of His people from around the world. He promises untold glory for those who remain steadfast. In Isaiah 61 we find the same verse that Yahshua quoted when He began His public ministry.

“The Spirit of Yahweh is upon me because he has anointed me to preach the Good News to the poor; he has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of Yahweh,” Luke 4:18-19.

Yahshua stopped in the middle of the second verse. But it is obvious that He was speaking of the sabbatical year in this prophecy. Yahweh always brings events about according to His timetable. Passover has been fulfilled twice, as has Pentecost or the Feast of Weeks. But the Feasts of the seventh month have never been fulfilled.

Yahweh is so adamant that we observe His Feasts that He is willing to punish with starvation and death those who refuse.

speaks of false messiahs and false prophets who will show great signs and wonders that will be so astounding and real that if it were possible, even the elect would be deceived.

The Savior goes on to say in Matthew 24:29, “Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven.” This prophecy is also seen in Joel 2:31. It is a time of Yahweh's wrath upon a lawless and defiant world.

Many times Isaiah refers to the end of the age when Yahweh's wrath is poured out on a sick, sin-filled world. Isaiah 59:18 shows that Yahweh will repay the sins of His adversaries with fury.

“So shall they fear the Name of Yahweh from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall

Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles are awaiting fulfillment and Yahweh undoubtedly will be right on schedule.

His feast days help us remember His plan of redemption, which we are reminded of at three harvest times during the year. The fall *moedim* begin a time of tribulation and foreshadow the deception of the false prophet and the iron grip of the man of sin. These festivals go on to remind us of the coming Kingdom of Yahweh where His law and government will rule the world.

Temporarily dwelling in *succoth* or shelters, as we are commanded of Yahweh at Tabernacles, reminds us that we are but sojourners and travelers in this world. Our real goal is to be in that Kingdom wherein is righteousness and where the entire world will be keeping His Sabbaths and His laws, Isaiah 66:23. We are merely passing



through this present veil of tears, knowing that a tabernacle represents our temporary dwelling on earth.

“For the leaders of this people cause them to err: and they that are led of them are destroyed,” Isaiah 9:16.

We today have the greatest opportunity ever to worship Yahweh in spirit and in truth. We have more study resources to prove the truth of the Bible than did any generation before us.

In spite of these advantages, most are more ignorant of the Scriptures than those of Jeremiah’s time. Few desire to search out the truth of the Bible as they should. The difficulty comes when they ignore or work their way around the plain statements of obedience.

Almighty Yahweh is not pleased with His creation of humans when they refuse to do what He expects. What a disappointment man must be to Him – defiantly insisting that he doesn’t need to obey the precepts Yahweh established for man’s own protection and happiness.

Knowing and loving Yahweh means

doing what He asks, just as a child shows love and respect to his parents by obeying them – and they love him all the more in return.

By obeying Yahweh’s commands, including the observance of the seventh-month festivals, we show that we indeed want His awesome blessings. We want the awesome promises of rulership with Him in His Kingdom that come only by proving that we first will obey Him.

John wrote. “But whoso keeps His word, in him verily is the love of Elohim perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him,” John 2:5.

The Feast of Tabernacles is a taste of the Kingdom on earth. You can have a foretaste of that joyous Kingdom today. Decide right now to be closer to your Heavenly Father. Join us for the Feast of Tabernacles. Find out what happiness comes in living for Yahweh, rather than just talking about it!

Yahweh has a different plan for the planet, which will begin with the return of Yahshua to wrest global control from a

Beast empire that will be in power for only a few years.

The perennial prize, Jerusalem, will not be his for long before Yahshua returns, which is exactly where He will return to: “And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives...” (Zech. 14:4). Once He takes control, Yahshua will immediately implement His righteous rule and Yahweh’s holy laws will be enforced from Jerusalem.

Notice the first thing that is required of all people everywhere on earth once He takes the earthly throne: “And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, Yahweh of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles” (14:16).

Feast or Famine – the Coming Choice

But what if the world’s masses refuse to comply, just as vast millions today choose not to keep Yahweh’s Feasts in obedience? “And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the

earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, Yahweh of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain" (v. 17).

Those who resist the commandment to keep His Feasts will soon discover that Yahweh will, by force, change attitudes. "And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith Yahweh will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles." Everyone, including the heathen, will be required to attend His Feasts!

Yahweh could not be more serious. He is so adamant that we observe His Feasts that He is willing to punish with starvation and death those who refuse.

Yahshua's first millennial act as earthly King is to enforce the keeping of Yahweh's Feasts. Clearly His Feasts are not optional now and will not be optional when He is in control. His directive is not a casual one. He expects us to put Him first and make time for His Feasts! He expects us to put aside a tithe in order to attend His Feasts, (Deut. 14:23). He expects us to take off work and school to attend His Feasts. He expects us, His people, to be examples of true obedience to the rest of the world.

Yahweh's Feasts are part of His royal laws, and are just as obligatory as the Ten Commandments. Law is law. We don't decide which laws of His we will keep and which we will ignore, anymore than we decide which laws of society we will abide by and which ones we will not obey.

All laws are in full force and effect at all times. In the same way all of Yahweh's commands are obligatory for those who seek life everlasting. In Matthew 19:17 Yahshua said, "But if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments."

Break One, Break Them All

Believers faithfully keep the weekly Sabbath holy because it is part of the law. For some reason, however, they don't see that the Feasts are just as binding as His Fourth Commandment. They were all given at Sinai! They have not come to terms with the fact that the Feasts are just as essential as the clean food laws and just as important as revering and calling on His revealed, true Name.

Implicit in the Sabbath command is the command to keep ALL Sabbaths – weekly and annual.

Because with Yahweh there is no

difference when it comes to His laws, ignoring the Feast commands is no different from working on the Sabbath. This means that even fastidious weekly Sabbath keeping can be voided out by nonobservance of the Feasts.

Knowing the Truth means living the Truth or else it means nothing. We are not given to understand His great statutes and judgments and then not apply what we know.

Yahshua reminded us, "Many will say to me in that day, Master, Master, have we not prophesied in your name? and in your name have cast out devils? and in your name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity," Matthew 7:22-23. Iniquity is *anomia* and means "the condition of being without law."

Imagine the utter shock on the faces of those who thought that they had an automatic "in" with Yahweh because they thought they were blessed in their lives as believers – only to find out that their lackadaisical attitude when it came to Yahweh's laws barred them from the Kingdom!

Yahweh's Feasts, Not Jewish Feasts

We live in the time of the great falling away when all of Yahweh's commandments and laws are being cast aside wholesale. Only a few, known as the Chosen, will be obedient to all commanded observances.

In an attempt to excuse themselves from keeping His commanded days, many will call His Sabbath and Feasts "Jewish." Yet, Yahweh defined these observances in Leviticus 23 as "My Feasts." They transcend every religion and race because they don't belong to any one people. They are Yahweh's, and therefore are commanded for all people on earth in every era of man's entire history.

Yahshua knew all of this, of course, and kept the Feasts all His days on earth. In John 7:14-16 we find Yahshua observing the Feast of Tabernacles. His example is for us. He said in John 12:26, "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour."

Just as ancient Israel was called out of Egypt to keep His Feast in the wilderness (Ex. 3:18; 5:1; Hosea 11:1), so Yahweh is calling out a people from the world today to observe His Feast days. He has grand plans for those who obey. We read of them in Revelation 1:6, "And has made us kings and priests unto Yahweh his Father."

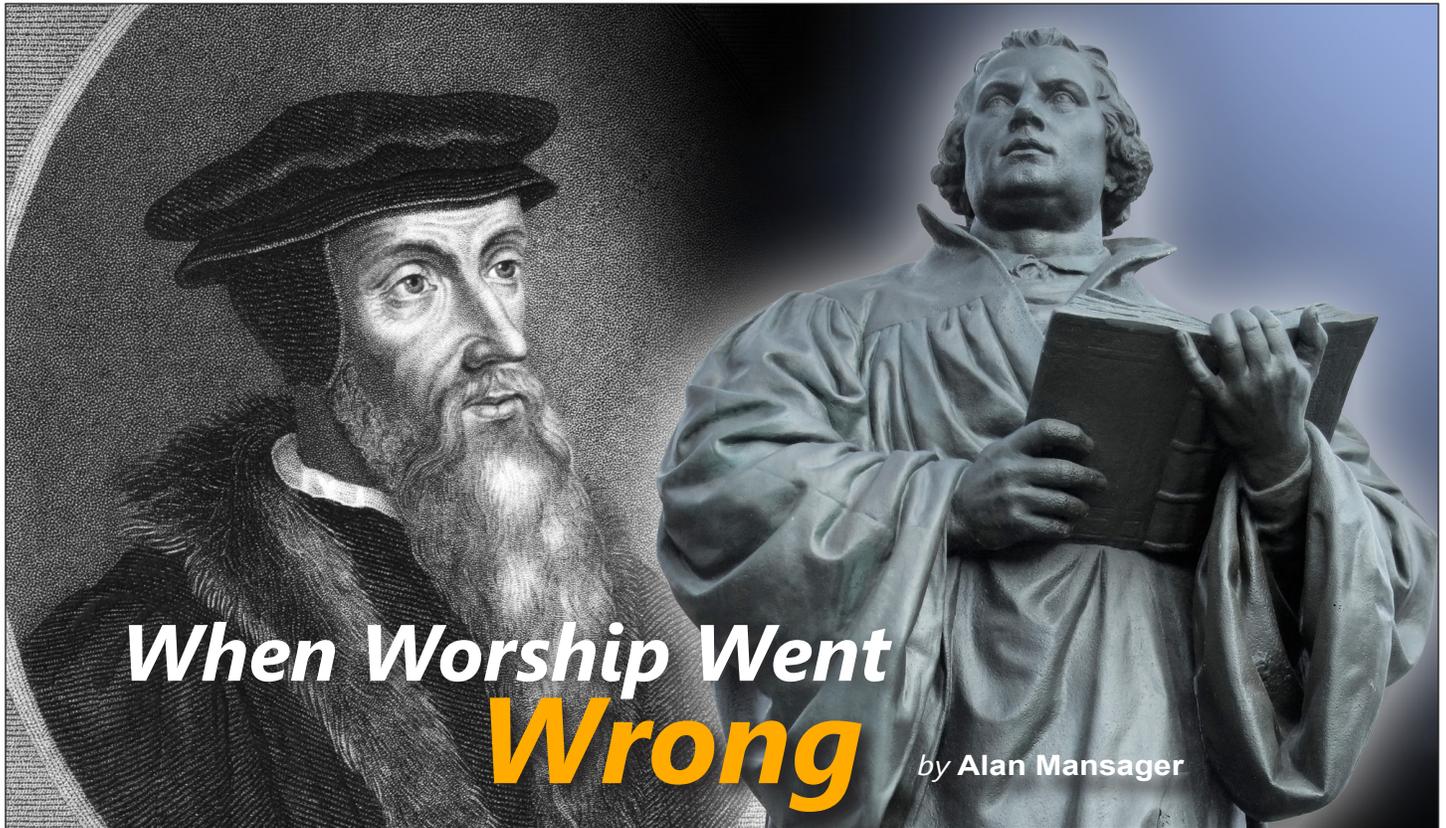
For those who still think His Feasts are optional, Yahshua gave a pointed lesson about His own expectations in the parable of five wise and five foolish virgins in Matthew 25. The wise had oil in their lamps and were prepared for the Bridegroom when He came for the wedding Feast. The five others were foolish because they were not ready. They didn't take their responsibility seriously. Obedient preparation meant little to them initially.

But when it finally dawned on them that the Bridegroom was really coming they begged oil of the five wise virgins. Suddenly it became very important to them that they be ready and found worthy, because they realized it meant the difference between being accepted and being rejected by the Bridegroom.

Will you be prepared? Will He reward you with a position in His Kingdom because you proved your worthiness by your obedience to His commands? Only you can answer that question. Rest assured, though, that question is being answered for you right now in whether you honor His commands to obey and follow the Savior's examples, including joining the saints each year at His commanded Feasts. 

Tabernacles 2015

Join us for the 2015 Feast of Tabernacles at Camp Allen. Don't miss the Bible's final, year-end observance Sept. 29-Oct. 6. Call 573.896.1000 for details or visit <http://yrm.org/fot2015/>



When Worship Went Wrong

by Alan Mansager

At Yahweh's Restoration Ministry we spend a great deal of time and energy debunking error, both from the pulpit, on television, and in this magazine and literature.

We aren't alone by any means. This effort has been ongoing by others for 1500 years. Still, most of the world remains steeped in fourth century heresies and 15th century Reformation deviations from the Scriptures.

A huge challenge for us is that most of churchianity doesn't know any better. They blindly trust in clerics and in traditional dogmas. And they don't bother to test what they are told against Scripture.

Once the resistance from unbelieving relatives and friends is overcome, tradition is the next barrier for the new truth seeker. The vast majority are not even looking for truth. They blindly accept the beliefs they grew up with, thinking there is no need to go further. In their minds their inherited belief system has to be right because "Mom and Dad believed it, and that's good enough for me."

We read in Proverbs 14:12: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Do you not agree that testing the veracity of your faith against Yahweh's Word is serious

business? Incredibly, the vast majority leave the most crucial part of life – their personal salvation – up to someone else.

If I planned to climb a 10,000-foot mountain peak and someone gave me an old rope to use, I would be crazy not to check that rope for integrity first before I trusted it with my life.

Yahweh won't accept willful indifference to the Truth that's right there in plain sight. He demands that we examine our beliefs and then make necessary changes. "Prove all things, hold fast to that which is good," 1Thessalonians 5:21. Any minister who refuses to take questions from the congregation about doctrinal teachings is playing with their salvation. He is guilty of malfeasance for violating a clear, biblical directive.

Today we will zero in on the most widespread and popular of traditional errors. We at YRM test all of our teachings against Scripture, as well as anyone else's teachings. In fact, we welcome inquiries about what we believe and teach. A prime purpose for publishing the Restoration Study Bible was to answer the many questions people have about certain passages.

How else will anyone discover what they may have missed unless they critically

test what they believe against Scripture? How else can we come to the Truth unless we separate out error through diligent inquiry?

Because of a refusal to put their teachings to the test, a tangled mishmash of error runs deep in today's church culture. Conflict with the Word is why so many are turned off by traditional belief systems.

A Failed Reformation

Many of today's popular deviations from Scripture began in the Reformation, driven by a desire to get as far away from the Roman Church as possible, just as the Roman Church itself turned away from the Hebraic roots of the New Testament and developed their own teachings.

We can cite their inventing of Easter to replace Passover and Sunday to replace the Sabbath and a myriad of other serious deviations. Where the Bible commands that we honor Yahweh by His real Name, the church manufactured a name and turned titles into names that are still used today.

The reformers didn't do any better by taking off on their own tangents and not dealing with gross errors. Beginning in the 1300s the Reformers themselves threw one baby after another out with the bathwater

(please turn to p. 15)

Successful Marriages

Part 3

by Randy Foliard

In this final installment on Successful Marriages we'll be reviewing the following: respecting differences, intimacy, the Seventh Commandment, and "till death do us part." Each one of these principles is essential to a blessed marriage.

Let's begin our journey with respecting differences. Even though the Bible says that the husband and wife are one, the truth is they are still two separate people, oftentimes with different opinions, personalities, and likes and dislikes.

Managing Differences

As believers we must learn how to come together in a marriage while respecting the uniqueness of our spouse. This lesson is first found in Genesis 2:24: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

This passage is the foundation of biblical marriage. It says that the man is to leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife. Does this mean that the husband is to forsake and dishonor his father and mother for his wife? Of course not. The responsibility transitions from his parents to his wife. In other words, his concern and focus changes from his parents to his spouse. This concept also holds true for the wife.

For a moment, let's consider what it

means to "cleave" to your spouse. This word comes from *dabaq*, a primitive root in the Hebrew. Strong's defines this word as "to impinge, i.e., to cling or adhere." This word describes the inseparable relationship between the husband and wife.

Scripture also confirms that the two are to be one. The word "one" comes from the Hebrew *echad*. Strong's defines this word as to be "united, i.e., one; or (as an ordinal) first."

Interestingly, this is also the same word used in Deuteronomy 6:4, known as the *shema*, which says, "Yahweh our Elohim is one." In the example of marriage, it refers to the cohesion of the husband and wife. Even though they are two people, they are united as one in holy matrimony.

Now for those married, even though you're one, you know that you and your spouse don't always think alike or see everything in the same way. So how do we deal with these differences? It begins with mutual love and respect.

There's a common saying about marriage: "Women marry men hoping they'll change. Men marry women hoping they won't." The reality is, while we do influence our spouse, seldom does the one completely change the other.

Now that's not to say people cannot or should not change. As believers we're to always seek to emulate and follow

the example of our Savior, Yahshua the Messiah. Married or not, poor behavior is never okay for disciples of the Messiah.

Consider some of these real life scenarios that you and your spouse might be dealing with as they relate to differences.

Maybe you're an extrovert and your spouse an introvert. Maybe you're assertive and your spouse is more laid back. Maybe you're fiscally conservative and your spouse is more of a spender. Maybe you're one to avoid conflict and your spouse prefers to resolve conflict. Maybe you're very open and your spouse is more private.

The fact is there are no two people completely alike and for this reason we must learn how to work within these differences.

One of the best ways to manage these dissimilarities is learning how to communicate. Just as varied forms of discipline work better for certain children, people respond differently to alternate forms of communication. As spouses we must learn how to effectively communicate in marriage.

Strength in Diversity

Instead of looking at contrasts negatively, we should view them as a strength and blessing. Solomon speaks to the power in numbers in Ecclesiastes 4:9: "Two are better than one; because they have a good

reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.”

Solomon confirms that there’s strength in numbers. This same concept also applies to differences between spouses. One of the benefits of marriage is that normally you become a better person through the influence of your spouse. This doesn’t happen because you’re the same, but because you’re different.

This same concept is also true for an assembly or body of believers. It’s the strengths and talents of all the members of an assembly working together in harmony that make the body strong. Instead of viewing these differences as negative, we should consider them positively.

Importance of Intimacy

Another key to a successful marriage is intimacy. The Apostle Paul speaks about this in the seventh chapter of 1 Corinthians. “Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency,” verses 3-5.

Paul here is referring to the marital or conjugal duties within a marriage. In the marital covenant, intimacy is not to be viewed as shameful, but holy or sacred.

Paul teaches that spouses don’t have power over their own bodies. For this reason, we’re not to defraud one another, meaning willfully withhold intimacy or other forms of affection from our spouse.

The only exception is mutual consent to withhold for the purpose of fasting and prayer. The needs of marriage between the husband and wife are multifaceted and the physical needs are an essential part of that marital covenant. When this aspect is neglected it can often lead to separation or even divorce.

Honor the Seventh Commandment

According to some surveys, a lack of intimacy is one of the top ten reasons for divorce. Husbands and wives are to provide for all the needs within that relationship.

For a strong marriage it is important to remain true to the seventh commandment. Exodus 20:7 says, “Thou shalt not commit adultery.”

The word “adultery” comes from the word *na’aph*, which is a primitive root in Hebrew, literally meaning “to commit adultery.” Metaphorically, it can also mean to apostatize. Here, it means to have unlawful relations with anyone other than your spouse.

This command is so important that the Messiah in the New Testament said just to look lustfully at another woman was the same as committing adultery in your heart.

Marriage is a holy union that was established by our Heavenly Father and forms the basic building block of a culture. Because it’s both a sacred and critical institution, it’s essential that we remain true to the commitment we make.

We need only to look at our culture to realize what happens when marriage is compromised. When mommies and daddies leave the home and children are without both parents, it impacts them in many negative ways.

For example, consider the following facts from the National Fatherhood Initiative: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 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.”

In a study examining father involvement with 134 children of adolescent mothers over the first 10 years of life, researchers found that father-child contact was associated with better socio-emotional and academic functioning.

The results indicated that children with

more involved fathers experienced fewer behavioral problems and scored higher on achievement tests. This is true even in cases of nonresident fathers.

Even after controlling for community context, there is significantly more drug use among children who do not live with their mother and father.

As a culture, there’s no denying we have a crisis with marriage and family breakdown. As a result, children are suffering. Because they are the future, this is obviously a trend we should be concerned about.

Impact of Infidelity

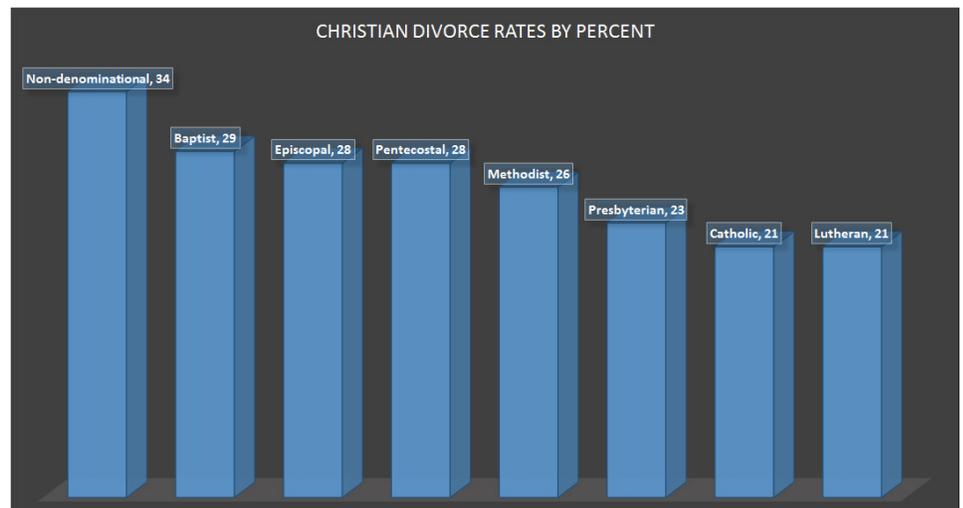
Years ago it was assumed that adultery was committed mostly by men, but today this is changing. According to statistics, while the percentage is still higher for men, women are not far behind.

This is a major indicator showing the collapse of today’s family. Only 31 percent of marriages recover from infidelity. This means that the vast majority of marriages don’t last when a spouse has committed adultery. This is why we find many passages speaking about this sin and the need to remain faithful.

For example, Hebrew 13:4 states: “Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for [Yahweh] will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral” (NIV).

Marriage was established by our Heavenly Father as a divine union between one man and one woman for life. It’s a sacred bond that we’re not to break.

The word “honored” here is from the Greek *timios*. Strong’s defines this word as something that is “esteemed or beloved.”



When we esteem something we protect and cherish it. Besides our commitment to Yahweh and Yahshua, nothing means more than marriage and the family.

Keeping the marriage bed pure simply means to remain faithful to our spouse. Again, there's a reason this command is part of the Ten Commandments, i.e., the foundation of our Father's morality and ethics.

Those who break this trust will be judged by Yahweh Himself. He was the one who established marriage as a sacred, lifelong union. Therefore, those who defile this marital covenant will be judged accordingly.

The sad reality is, most people never think about the impact of sin. Not only does infidelity create division and separation between spouses, but also between parents and children. The sin impacts more than the one guilty of adultery. The innocent spouse and children suffer tremendously when this occurs, often far more than the one guilty of the infraction. This is why Yahweh is so adamant about remaining faithful to our marital vows.

Till Death Do Us Part

The last point to consider is "till death do us part." In Malachi 2:16, Yahweh emphatically states, "I hate divorce...." The word "hate" comes from

sane, a primitive root in the Hebrew. The King James Version translates this word: "enemy, foe, hate, hateful, hater, and odious." Synonyms for odious include, "abhorrent, loathsome, and revolting." This is how Yahweh views divorce; he finds it abhorrent.

Why do you suppose He has such a deep hatred for divorce?

First, He was the one who established marriage as a sacred, lifelong union between one man and one woman.

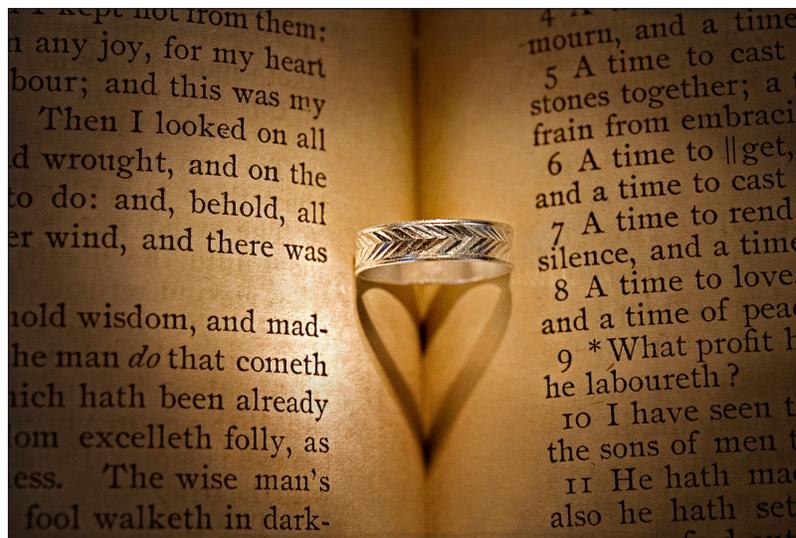
Second, He knows and understands the impact of divorce.

And third, marriage is a blueprint for the relationship we have with Him through His Son.

We see confirmation in the Old and New testaments that marriage is a lifelong and sacred union that Yahweh puts together between a man and a woman.

Yahshua in the New Testament states, "Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore Elohim hath joined together, let not man put asunder... And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery. His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry. But he said unto them, All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given," Matthew 19:6, 9-11.

Yahshua begins by confirming that what Yahweh has joined together, man is not to separate. This is one of the most important statements by our Savior on the topic of marriage. He verifies that when we



commit ourselves in marriage, that there's no turning back.

In this way marriage is similar to baptism; once we commit ourselves to our Savior through baptism, there's no going back on our promise. This statement removes any possibility of divorce in the New Testament.

He continues to say, except for fornication, anyone who divorces his wife, commits adultery. The word "fornication" is the Greek *porneia*. This word is very broad in meaning and can include several types of sexual immorality. However, in the current context it refers to premarital relations within the engagement period.

In the first century Jewish culture, engagement began marriage. In most cases the future bride and groom would sign a contract committing themselves to the marriage. The only dissolution of this

contract was if fornication were committed during the engagement or betrothal.

The sad reality is, about 50 percent of marriages today end in divorce. Even though we see less divorce among Bible believers, it still occurs far too often. According to these recent statistics, 21-34 percent of Christian families suffer from divorce. It's for this reason that we must speak out against this epidemic, including when it's convenient and not convenient to do so.

As we find from the apostles' reply in Matthew 19:10, this is a difficult matter. With such high standards, the apostles felt it was better not to marry. For a moment, consider their response. If what Yahshua said was easy to follow, they would have said nothing. But Yahshua's high expectations of marriage had the apostles very concerned, and this speaks volumes!

Yahshua closes in Matthew 19:11 by saying that not everyone could receive this saying (could handle it).

Over the years, we've seen many cases of those who simply could not meet the high standard that Yahshua reestablished. If more people understood and accepted this standard for marriage, we would see

the divorce rate plummet in this nation. Sixty years ago most people understood that marriage was for life, but over the last few decades this divinely inspired institution has been under attack.

Nothing illustrates this more than the recent decision by the Supreme Court legalizing homosexual marriage. What Yahweh defines as an abomination, man has now made equal to holy matrimony. Even though this may be the law of this land, it's not the law of our Father's Kingdom or a standard we should accept. Our Supreme Creator trumps the Supreme Court.

Believers must follow Yahweh's Word as it pertains to marriage. It's our prayer that this series on marriage has encouraged and strengthened your own relationships. In a society that disregards all that is holy, we must never forget and stray from Yahweh's standards made for our good. ✓

When Worship Went Wrong

(continued from p. 11)

until there wasn't much left of the Apostolic faith. They thought they were cleaning up the church when all they did was whitewash it and overlay more aberrations that proved just as far off from Scripture.

Instead of following the Word as it is written, the 14th century reformers created their own doctrines by twisting the Word and eliminating fundamental teachings of Yahshua that bind the Scriptures into a harmonious unit, as Yahweh designed it. The first big leap into their apostasy was to eliminate the Old Testament as the foundation of truth.

This is news to many today. Because they never looked into the Scriptures and compared church teachings diacritically with the Word, they just assume everything is okay. They believe that their faith flowed seamlessly from the apostles into their church pulpit.

Apostasy was prophesied. Age-old sacrilege was not lost on the apostles in the New Testament era. They saw what was happening, and what was coming.

The brother of James wrote in Jude 4: "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."

They denied Yahshua by ignoring what He taught about obeying the Father. And then there was GRACE. They turned grace into an excuse for lawless living. Quite reminiscent of what we hear today! "Grace over obedience, grace covers all. Just rely on His grace," no obedience necessary.

They reasoned that the more sin you commit the more grace you get in a corruption of the true purpose of grace and forgiveness.

To show how corrupt things can get, one of Martin Luther's key objections to the Roman Church was its selling of indulgences to get souls released from purgatory, as if the church had such powers. But the belief degenerated further into the practice of paying the church to absolve you of your sin even BEFORE you committed the sin!

Luther railed against the church's arrogation of Yahweh's authority. The world's way of thinking is to compromise

your beliefs, find a work-around. In the case of the Roman Catholic Church, just make your own rules and authority. The mindset of the church for centuries has been to change for expediency, back away from truth for the sake of numbers.

No one, including the biggest church in the world, has the right to fiddle with Yahweh's ordinances and usurp His authority.

Peter prophesied, "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of," 2Peter 2:1-2.

At one time or another every believer has been criticized for following the Scriptures as commanded. Yahweh will turn such criticism on its head. Those who will not follow the Word are in for some big surprises.

The Protestant reformers missed the mark by failing to follow all the Bible's teachings.

Often when people leave a group because of a serious doctrinal disagreement they also start believing teachings other than those for which they left.

Luther fit this dynamic. He made a left turn after his original grievances with the Roman church and he struck at the heart of the biblical teaching of obedience itself.

He reinterpreted the Bible's teaching on justification and called it "the chief article of the whole Christian doctrine, which comprehends the understanding of all godliness." He said the church stands or falls on it. Luther maintained that justification by grace alone through faith alone in Yahshua's righteousness alone is the gospel, the core on which all other Christian doctrines stand. Luther added the word "alone" to the Bible's teaching on grace and justification.

Calvin: Organizer, Consolidator

Along comes John Calvin, a latecomer to the Reformation. He took Reformation teachings to a new level. His doctrines permeate most Protestant denominations today. Calvin systemized the doctrines of Protestantism and organized its ecclesiastical discipline. He consolidated

the scattered forces of the Reformation.

Whenever someone claims to be saved by faith alone, believes it is impossible for a believer to be eternally lost, and believes in salvatory predestination, he is reflecting Calvinist teachings.

Ironically, Calvin and other reformers based their teachings on the supposed principle that the Scriptures are the sole source of truth. The problem is, they didn't teach the Scriptures. They totally missed the mark. That led to more controversies, which in turn led to more than 33,000 distinct groups and denominations in the world, according to the *World Christian Encyclopedia*.

Calvin differed with Luther over the nature of communion. And Calvin could not tolerate Spanish theologian Michael Servetus' teaching against the Trinity, so Calvin testified against him at a Catholic inquisition and Servetus was then burned at the stake in 1553.

The central idea of Calvinism is the sovereignty of Yahweh. Calvin did not discover the sovereignty of Yahweh. He isolated it as an idea. He exalted the sovereignty of Yahweh to override all other truths of Scripture.

Now, we have no problem with Yahweh's sovereignty. But Calvin twisted the idea to say that if Yahweh is absolutely sovereign, then it follows that salvation depends entirely on Him and not on man. Exit teachings of obedience. Exit the law. Enter total, supreme grace.

Calvinism Creates More Error

Calvin said Yahshua died only for the ones Yahweh had unconditionally chosen to save. This flies in the very face of the most quoted passage in all the Bible, John 3:16. Yahshua said that anyone can accept the truth and conform their lives to it.

We are saved only at the resurrection. Before that we are subject at any time to falling away. Yahshua clearly tells us in Matthew 10:22: "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved." Paul corroborates that in Hebrews 3:14: "For we are made partakers of Messiah, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end."

Calvin taught that we are saved now, and once we are converted there is no way we can change our destiny. I discussed this with a Calvinist once and I quoted Hebrews

6:6, saying we surely can fall away once we have been converted. He had no answer, except that maybe those who fall away never were really converted, an argument that contradicts the very definition of being converted.

Calvin said that because Yahweh is supreme and salvation comes only through Him, and because man can do nothing but evil, then when He saves us we need do nothing to remain saved. Two points here:

First, the whole biblical teaching of obedience is turned on its head if we believe Calvin. In Matthew 7:21, Yahshua said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Master, Master, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

Hebrews 5:9 reads: "And being made perfect he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."

Paul wrote to the Romans in 2:13: "For not the hearers of the law are just before Elohim, but the doers of the law shall be justified."

And we find in 1John 2:5-6, "But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of Elohim perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."

Eternal Security Not Secure

Calvin also taught the doctrine of once saved, always saved, or eternal security. That means that you cannot fall from grace once you have been called by Yahweh, because that would be resisting the power of Yahweh.

This teaching does not take into account that calling does not mean choosing. Yahshua said many are called, but few are chosen. Yahweh doesn't want robots or He would have created automatons instead of humans with free will.

The Apostle Paul wrote in 1Corinthians 9:27: "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

Another major teaching of Calvinism is irresistible grace. It is also called efficacious grace or invincible grace.

Calvinists believe that those who have been unconditionally elected to eternal life cannot resist Yahweh's grace and His determination to save them. Just as those elected to damnation can do nothing about

The Truth About Grace

—from *The Dake Annotated Reference Bible*—

Not one scripture teaches unconditional grace, or that [G-d] gives grace to men who disobey the gospel. If so, then [G-d] is under obligation to save all, even sinners who disobey if He saves even one (Rom. 2:11). [G-d] is under obligation to saints only when they walk in the light and remain true to the gospel (1Jn. 1:7). He is not under obligation to sinners until they come to full obedience of the gospel. "For the grace of Elohim that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying perverseness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and piously, in this present world" (Tit. 2:11-12). If men do not obey its teaching grace can go no further. Anyone may:

- ▶ Receive grace in vain (2Cor. 6:1)
- ▶ Frustrate grace in his life (Gal. 2:21)
- ▶ Fall from grace (Gal. 1:6-3; 5:4)
- ▶ Fail of the grace of Elohim (Heb. 12:15)
- ▶ Turn grace into lasciviousness (Jude 4)
- ▶ Sin in spite of grace (Rom. 6:1)
- ▶ Continue or discontinue in grace (Acts 13:43)
- ▶ Minister grace to others (1Pet. 4:10)
- ▶ Grow or not grow in grace (2Pet. 3:18)

it, those who are elected to salvation can do nothing to resist it.

Again, their timing is way off. Yahweh chooses us at the resurrection. Until then we are merely called. Elect means chosen. Calvinists say those being called are already chosen.

Titus 2:11 says that the grace of Elohim that brings salvation has appeared to all people (Titus 2:11) and yet millions have rejected it. Each person is accountable for his own life, according to John 12:47-48. Those who reject the teachings of Yahshua are held accountable.

Personal accountability is the central teaching of the Scripture. If we have no accountability, if we are simply on salvational auto pilot and there is nothing we can do one way or the other to be ultimately saved or lost, then the whole plan of salvation of honing a people for Yahweh's service is irrelevant.

The message of conforming to the image of Yahshua and the will of Yahweh is rendered meaningless by many major doctrines today as well. Yahshua's teachings tell us to obey the Father and not the will of man just as He did.

Salvation Based on Obedience, Not Talk

Nowhere in Yahweh's Word can we find that salvation is instantly guaranteed in a believer's life based on a mere confession or pronouncement. The Apostle Paul talked about having a "hope" of salvation in 1Thessalonians 5:8-9. He explained in 2Corinthians 2:15 that being saved is a process that is not completed until the end.

In 1Corinthians 3:15 he describes salvation and being saved as a state no one automatically possesses and is not instantly achieved upon conversion. He wasn't even sure of his own future but he simply had the "hope" that he might attain the resurrection.

He said in Philippians 3:11-12: "If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after..."

If this apostle who was taught by the mouth of the resurrected Savior Himself (Gal. 1:11-12) and who wrote much of the New Testament was not certain of his own salvation, how can anyone today say they are already saved? Yet you hear well-meaning evangelists ask, "Are you saved?" and then

tell you just to pronounce a few words to accept the Savior and you are permanently home free.

Those who think they have salvation may then live any kind of life they please and still be assured an eternal reward.

Repentance from Sin

You don't hear much about repentance these days, yet the act of repentance is essential to being a converted child of Almighty Yahweh in the process of becoming saved. Many have missed this key part of conversion in the New Testament. Without understanding repentance and changing of your life, you cannot know what it means to be saved.

Before we can repent of sin we need to comprehend what sin is.

Everyone knows what crime is. A crime is like a sin. Webster defines a crime as an act that violates a law. The same is true for sin. In the clearest and most precise definition in the Bible, 1John 3:4 says that sin is a violation of Biblical law: Here is the Bible's fundamental definition of sin: "Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." That's crystal clear.

If sin is breaking of law, then NOT breaking of law means obedience to the law. We can break a law in ignorance because we did not know about it. That doesn't mean that sin is not imputed to us simply because we were unaware of it. We are still a violator.

We can speed down a highway not knowing what the speed limit is and still be charged with a traffic violation. Ignorance is

The Scriptures tell us that unless we confess our sins, seek forgiveness, and turn completely around to live a different life, we are spiritually lost. There is no hope beyond this earthly life unless we change and conform to the Scriptures in how we live.

James 4:4 tells us that the ways of the world make one the enemy of the Heavenly Father Yahweh, and those ways lead to death. On the other hand, Proverbs 12:28 reveals, "In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death."

And that is where repentance is pivotal. Repentance moves us away from sin and toward righteousness.

Almighty Yahweh will not allow an unrepentant sinner to sit on a throne in His coming Kingdom. The Messiah Yahshua instructed His followers in Matthew 18:3, "Except you be converted and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Conversion requires change and it begins with repentance.

Repentance Is a Transformation

In Luke 13 we read that there were some murdered Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. In verse 3 our Savior said, "Except you repent, you shall likewise perish."

Repentance is fundamental. Our sins have separated us from our Father in Heaven. Those sins must be forgiven as the first step to salvation.

One Greek word translated repent in the

180-degree reverse course in how we live. It means a renouncement of sin and its destructive ways and to practice it no more.

Too often, however, is the more common and erroneous understanding of repentance, signified by the Greek *metamelomai*. It simply means that I regret what I did because I got caught. It is the kind of regret children often have when their parents punish them for doing something wrong.

In the Bible it is also the kind of regret that Judas Iscariot felt for betraying the Savior Yahshua. But this is a false regret that lacks the power and force to effect permanent change in one's life. It is shallow and easily reversed. As soon as the punishment stops, the person is back to his sin again.

Genuine, scriptural repentance is the person who admits his sin, seeks forgiveness, and then makes a complete turnaround – permanently stopping what he or she had been doing, never to repeat it. True repentance leads to true conversion. Nothing less will do.

Just to say I'm sorry is not enough. Just apologizing for your sin but failing to turn from sinful behavior is not repentance. If I steal your car, then tell you I am sorry but I still keep the car, I have not repented. A change must take place in the heart. I must make everything right again by a complete heart transformation

In the New Testament, which in most doctrinal respects is simply a mirror of the Old Testament, we read from Acts 17:30: "And the times of this ignorance Elohim winked at; but now commands all men every where to repent."

Ezekiel 18:21 gives us the proper perspective on repentance. The prophet writes: "But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he has committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die. All his transgressions that he has committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he has done he shall live. Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? says Yahweh Elohim: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?"

For all its efforts, the Reformation only scratched the surface in church cleanup. It missed the real mark. The reformers, in reaction to what they rightfully saw as a plethora of man-made dos and don'ts in a man-made religion, made a radical turn that derailed truth even further.

For all its efforts, the Reformation only scratched the surface in church cleanup.

no excuse.

Everyone has broken Biblical law and therefore all humans are sinners whether they know it or not. The law includes the Ten Commandments. Lying, stealing, killing – these are all acts of sin by Biblical definition. The Bible also gives other laws that Yahweh commands to be observed, and violation of any one of them is also sin by the simple definition of sin. Sin leads to eternal death.

If we are guilty as charged of a lifetime of unrepented, intentional, premeditated sin, our hope of salvation will be dashed.

New Testament is *metanoeo*. It is a verb that includes a realization that one is a sinner. But it goes beyond just realization. It means to change one's very perception or view of sin and to understand that sin is death. Sin that is practiced in one's life ultimately ends in spiritual death.

A related word for repent in the New Testament is the Greek noun *metanoia*. This word signifies a real change in one's entire attitude toward sin itself, which affects the whole life. It means a change in how we live. It amounts to a complete turnaround, not just to be sorry for sin but to make a



Unhallowed Halloween

by Alan Mansager

The annual rite of Halloween is bigger than ever – especially among adults. But it’s lots of harmless fun, they say. Harmless? Let’s look below the surface of Halloween to see what lurks there in this age-old mask-erade.

Every October 31 children across the land learn how extortion works through one of the world’s most popular of ancient pagan festivals.

We know it as Halloween, which is a contraction of the words “Hallowed” and “evening” (Hallowe’en). But there is nothing hallowed about this night.

“Trick or treat!” the bantam, masked marauders cry as they go from door to door coercing goodies from mostly compliant residents. Along with blackmail, the chance to deface private property and get away with it is also a part of the “hallowed evening.”

Not Just for Children Anymore

Visit many office buildings and department stores on October 31 and you’ll see adult employees dressed in silly or grotesque costumes sporting painted faces and hair.

They are psyching up for the Halloween party that night – when they’ll have a chance to act foolishly with impunity. This high holy day of the ancient heathens

has zoomed to the top of the holiday charts.

But is Halloween just a harmless time of frolic and fun for the whole family, where everyone can don hideous costumes and glorify blood, gore, and thinly veiled murder? Actually, it tacks another nail in the coffin of wholesomeness and decency in an increasingly decadent society. The popularity of this holiday should concern anyone who professes a belief in the Scriptures.

Night of the Walking Dead

Rooted in Druidic demon worship 2,000 years old, Halloween continues to cast its noxious spell on modern society.

The ritual was not known as Halloween when the Celts of pre-Christian Ireland and Scotland observed it on November 1. For them it was the Feast of Samhain (pronounced Sa-ween), Lord of the Dead. This was also the beginning of the Celtic new year, a time to give thanks to the sun god for the harvest.

But it was also a foreboding time when the ancients believed the souls of the dead walked abroad, mingling with the living and playing malicious tricks. The Celts thought that the sinful souls who died during the year had been transferred to the bodies of animals. Samhain judged these souls and decreed the form in which their

existence was to continue – as animal or human. Through gifts and sacrifices these souls could be freed to claim a heavenly reward.

The ghosts of the dead that were thought to collect around houses of the living were greeted with banquet-laden tables to feed the spirits. When the feast was over, villagers donned masks and costumes to represent the souls of the dead and paraded to the outskirts of town to lead the ghosts away to avoid any calamities the roving ghosts may cause them in the event they were displeased by a lack of sufficient sustenance.

Such calamities included the death of livestock, souring milk, and spoiling food.

Often food was set outside for the spirits so that they would leave the house untouched. The trick-or-treat custom re-enacts these ancient superstitions.

Amid all of this the Druids were offering sacrifices to the sun god. “It was common for horses to be sacrificed since they were sacred to the Sun god. There were also human sacrifices. Men, mostly criminals, were imprisoned in wicker and thatch cages shaped like animals or giants. The Druid priests set fire to the tinders and the men were burned to death.

“In the Middle Ages in Europe black cats were still being thrown to the flames in

wicker cages, for they were thought to be the friends of witches or even transformed witches,” *Celebrations, The Complete Book of American Holidays*, p. 258.

From Samhain to All Saints’ Day

So how did “Halloween” fit with the church? The celebration in the Roman Catholic Church that was later to merge with Samhain was known as All Saints’ Day. All Saints’ Day originated in the 7th century when the Pantheon at Rome was wrested from the barbarians, made into a cathedral, and renamed the Church of the Blessed Virgin and All Martyrs.

Thus, from honoring all gods (which is the meaning of the Greek word “pantheon”) the Pantheon became the center for glorifying all saints. (*Funk and Wagnalls Encyclopedia*, vol. 1, p. 363).

This day that honored all the “hallowed” or holy saints was first observed on the evening of May 13, and was known as the Allhallows festival. The day was officially sanctioned in 835 by Pope Gregory IV after it was moved to November 1 to coincide with Samhain. It began on the evening of October 31, and therefore was called All Hallows Eve.

Without forcing the pagans to drop their pagan practices and accept the Bible, the Roman church simply made room for the barbarians and their heathen rites.

Just as it confiscated the pagan Pantheon for its own use, the Roman church incorporated the customs of Samhain to further its mission of converting the known world to Catholicism. The merged celebrations made strange bedfellows: one in respect of evil spirits, the other honoring so-called saints.

One writer noted, “The three days between October 31 and November 2 see pagan and Christian celebrations intertwined in a fascinating way. All Hallows Eve, usually called Hallowe’en, is followed by All Hallow’s Day, which is also All Saints Day, and the three-day period is a perfect example of superstition struggling with religious belief,” *Year of Festivals*, p. 76.

Can we mix light with darkness? “But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to Elohim; and I would not that you have fellowship with devils. You cannot drink the cup of the Master, and the cup of devils: you cannot be partakers of the Master’s table, and of the table of devils,”

1Corinthians 10:20-21.

The joining of the two celebrations spawned an odd hybrid of beliefs about what was supposed to happen in the spirit world. Souls in purgatory appeared as witches and toads to persons who had wronged them. Halloween fires now were used to comfort souls in purgatory and people prayed for them while holding burning straw in the air.

Even the idea of trick-or-treating by evil spirits took on an acceptable church flavor: costumed children went around on All Souls’ Day offering to fast for the departed souls in return for money or an offering.

As the Celts converted to the new religion, they did not forget their stories of the dead traveling to the afterworld on Halloween. Rather, exhibitions of this night became more evil and the observance adopted even more malicious overtones.

That Leering Jack-o-lantern

In America it’s a pumpkin, but in Europe it was often a turnip, large beet, potato, rutabaga or even a skull with a candle in it. The fearsome face of the fat jack-o-lantern represented the god of the dead, Samhain, who would drive off less powerful evil spirits abroad that night.

Rooted in Druidic demon worship 2,000 years old, Halloween continues to cast its noxious spell on modern peoples.

As glimmering lights flickered over an English marsh or an Irish bog, people imagined dead souls had returned to earth. They would place the jack-o-lantern on posts and in windows to ward off the spirits of the dead on Halloween.

The word is an abbreviation of “Jack of the Lantern.” Jack is another name for joker or Satan. In the Irish tale, a man named Jack was fond of playing tricks on the devil. Annoyed, the devil tossed Jack a burning coal from hell and with that in his lantern Jack was forever condemned to wander the earth. The jack-o-lantern keeps alive demonic superstition.

Witches and Black Cats

Witches were thought to be possessors of magic. The word “witch” comes from the Old English *wicce* (feminine of *wicca*), or “sorcerer.” Witches, who worship the

deities of nature, have living talismans or symbols through which they derive their dark powers. They invoke evil spirits to enter the bodies of their talismans. Some witches have dogs, owls, snakes or swine for their talismans, but the most common are cats.

Cats have been closely associated with mystery religion from the Egyptians to the Norse. Celts had a particular fear of cats, believing they were humans who had been changed into feline form by evil powers. The black cat particularly was connected to demonic powers.

Black cats are the chief idol of the goddess of Wicca, Diana. In legend, she turns into a black cat to commit incest with her brother, Lucifer.

Eventually the Druids themselves came to be regarded as witches. Witch hunting during Halloween became almost a national pastime in the colonial years of our nation. Today Halloween is regarded as the highest “sabbath” for practicing witches.

Witchcraft is demonic worship in diametric opposition to the worship of Yahweh. Yahweh minces no words about it. He told Israel through Moses, “Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live” (Ex. 22:18). He says in Deuteronomy 18:10, “There shall

not be found among you any one that makes his son of his daughter to pass through the fire, or that uses divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch.”

How can a True Worshiper allow his son or daughter to dress up in imitation of a witch or warlock, knowing how Yahweh condemns witchcraft? We are commanded to avoid even the appearance of evil (1 Thes. 5:22).

Why Witches Fly

The broomstick is a symbol of the male organ, on which the witch mounts and leaps high around the fields to “teach” the crops how high to grow (*ABC’S of Witchcraft*, pp. 48-49). The notion of flying witches relates to the fact that witches believed they could fly great distances to their feasts by smearing their bodies with ointments containing drugs. The drugs gave them

psychedelic “trips” making them think they flew. (*Ibid.*, pp. 142-146).

Shrouded in Blackness

“Orange, black, and red, the devil’s colors, are the colors associated with Halloween...,” so says the *Good Housekeeping Book of Entertainment* on page 168. Black prefigures black magic and demonic influence. The black of night is when these forces of evil are busiest, using the cover of darkness for their sinister works.

Yahweh warns, “Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from Yahweh, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who sees us? and who knows us?” (Isa. 29:15)

In John 3:19-20 Yahshua said, “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that does evil hates the light, neither comes to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov’d.”

How much time should any Bible believer give to a rite that is observed in the dark and that revels in the colors, symbols, and practices of Yahweh’s adversary, Satan the devil?

Of Skulls and Skeletons

The skeleton is a form of the god of the dead, or the witches’ “horned god.” *The Dictionary of Satanism* by Wade Baskin says under “skull worship”: “Skulls play an important role as sacred relics and as objects of worship among primitives.

“Among Polynesians and Melanesians, skulls of ancestors are worshiped in order to establish connections with the spirits of the dead. Like the head of Osiris in Egypt, the skulls of ancestors may also serve as titular deities. The head or its parts, each of which may stand for the whole, can be used as magical food or as a means of increasing the fertility of the soil.”

Isaiah tells us what Yahweh thinks of courting death and the dead: “When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their Elohim? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living?” (Isa. 8:19-20, NIV).

Fire Rites... and Wrongs

Being that Halloween is a Celtic new year’s festival, many of its surviving rituals trace to the Celtic feast. The fire rite was

practiced in many areas around the world on the night before the new year. The old fire was allowed to go out and a new one was kindled – usually a sacred fire from which the fires of the village were relit. The fires were thought to rejuvenate the waning sun and aid in banishing evil spirits. The Druids built hilltop fires to celebrate important festivals. (*Celebrations, the Complete Book of American Holidays*, pp. 258-259).

Ghosts and witches feared fire, it was

Can we live a lie? Can we mix the holy with the profane and expect Yahweh to bless us?

thought, and so fire became the best weapon against evil spirits. Witchcraft was punished by burning at the stake, fire being used as a means of purification. The light that fires gave off was a sign of sacredness.

Apple Bobbing

Popular at Halloween parties is apple bobbing. It was a means of divination with the Druids and survives in cultures influenced by the Celts.

Because the apple is also a common love charm, the practice of apple bobbing seems to have been associated with the selection of a lover (see *The Folklore of American Holidays*).

Selling Out to Sin

People have always been tempted to compromise their faith by selling out to the dominant culture and its practices. For those who are satisfied with less than total truth, the concessions come easier.

Today we witness Easter egg hunts on church lawns, Christmas trees in church vestibules, and Halloween parties in church basements (on the pretext of keeping the children off unsafe streets and away from tainted Halloween candy).

“But it’s for the children,” goes the argument. “We really just do it for them.” What children practice they also learn. Why would we introduce pagan falsehoods to them? How can we instill in them a desire for righteousness if we let them revel in ancient customs of evil on Halloween and pass them on to their children?

How can we promote healthy,

decent values while allowing children to don hideous masks of vile creatures or deformed humans – with the underlying themes of murder, mayhem, and death?

Can we live a lie? Can we mix the holy with the profane and expect Yahweh to bless us? “Learn not the way of the heathen!” He thunders in Jeremiah 10:2. Come out from among them and be separate, and touch not the unclean thing, Paul writes in 2Corinthians 6:17.

Halloween has no redeeming value. It is one huge trick on an ignorant and indifferent society, and another victory for the forces of darkness.

Almighty Yahweh gives us a final warning about demonism and witchcraft: “For all that do these things are an abomination unto Yahweh... You shall be perfect with Yahweh your Elohim” (Deut. 18:12-13).

Become right before Yahweh. Drop the empty, senseless, heathen observances of man and resolve to begin keeping the true Holy Days our Father has commanded in His Word. Discover what true blessings and deep fulfillment can be when you begin to comply with His will and live your life His way.

Halloween EXPOSED!

One must wonder what Yahweh thinks when a Bible believer celebrates with a clear conscience a holiday that revels in the occult, evil, and death.

Halloween is today’s direct link to the demonic beliefs of ignorant pagans and their abominable religions.

In a world that is growing more malevolent by the day, it is time that society stop being led to celebrate depravity. For your free copy of the booklet, *Unmasking Halloween*, just write to us at the following:



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Answers in Scripture



Q There doesn't seem to be any way to prove, confirm or deny what thousands of groups claim is true. How is one able to discern truth from falsehood? — EF

A Yahshua said in John 17:17, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." The Bible is the basis for all truth and not tradition or church creed. The Bible harmonizes, meaning one verse will never contradict another. The Old Testament does not contradict the New Testament. If you hear of a doctrine someone is pushing, before you should embrace it as truth you should check it against all other related Scriptures. Check the context of a verse and then check it against the Hebrew or Greek behind the translation. That will catch most flaws.

Most focus on just the New Testament, ignoring the Old Testament that gives foundation to the New Testament. They also embrace the errors of traditional teaching that grew out of compromise with pagan beliefs and philosophies. The Bible comes as a unit, and the Old Testament is the basis from which even Yahshua and

His disciples taught; there was no New Testament in their day.

We emphasize to the beginner to learn the Scriptures well and test every teaching. Do we think we have all the Truth? Of course not, nobody does. But we believe we have the basic salvation truths correct, and that is what really matters.

Q Please give a brief history of Yahweh's Restoration Ministry as well as your goals.

A As with the apostolic assembly in the New Testament, we have no connections to nominal worship that arose in the third century. Most of our members became interested in the teachings of this ministry when they learned that scripturally there was more to worship and practice than what they had believed. Our desire is to return to those original teachings and beliefs held by our Savior and His disciples. To do that we must re-focus on the foundation of Scripture just as they did. The Bible used by the Messiah Yahshua and His disciples was the Old Testament. Our contemporary

roots trace to the religious reawakening that was sparked in the 1840s, that gave rise to today's major Sabbath-keeping groups. And again in the 1930s. The question at that later time among those who kept the seventh-day Sabbath was, what name is proper for baptism. This led to a full-scale investigation of the sacred Names. From there they became convicted through much study that the seven annual observances or Feasts are also still in effect for the believer in the New Testament, among other key Bible truths. YRM continues these pursuits to restore what has been lost through time.

Q I want to be baptized into Yahshua's Name. I believe that it should be done in running, living water like a river. What do you believe?

A There is a tradition that baptism is proper only in moving or running water, but the Bible does not state this as a requirement. The only "living water" we find in the New Testament refers to Yahshua in a metaphorical sense (John 4:10,11, 7:38). We see no connection

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there with baptism. In John 3:23 we find John the Baptist at work: “And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.” Dake’s Annotated Reference Bible note says that springs and streams were prevalent at Aenon. In baptism water is the agent for the figurative burial, Romans 6:3. Must that water be running then? Baptismal waters are an extension of the *mikveh* in type, an immersion bath for ritual cleansing. Most homes in Jerusalem had these baths.

Q Does your ministry adhere to Anglo-Israel/British-Israelism? I ask only because I know that other organizations share a similar view of the Law and how it relates to Christians as your ministry does and a big reason for that is their belief in British-Israelism.

A While we believe that some of the European nations may be descendants from the Israelite tribes, this is not something we emphasize and neither do the Scriptures. Besides possibly having some prophetic impact, it does not change the Good News or requirements for salvation. According to Paul in Galatians, there’s no distinction between the Jew and gentile in Messiah. Those who establish barriers based on race or ancestry do so to their detriment. Paul told Timothy, “Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than righteous edifying which is in faith: so do,” 1Timothy 1:4.

Q First, should my tithe be given every time I receive a paycheck and as soon as I receive a payment? I prefer to pay my tithe to you, since you all have enlightened me with this information. Also, as you may know it is common for Christians to have their children baptized at a young age, such as when I knew none of the information I know now. But I also read that after baptism if you stray away then you have turned your back on Him.

A The Bible does not provide a frequency for tithing, but examples show that it took place when payment was

received. Tithing is the firstfruits of our increase and should be given to Yahweh off the top because He must come first in all things.

Infant or child baptism is not a practice the Bible supports but was introduced by the Roman church. The church believed that because children were born polluted by original sin that they needed baptism for the remission of that innate sin. Church father Tertullian was much opposed to child baptism because of what it lacked. Repentance is a prerequisite to baptism, Acts 2:38. Immersion must be followed by an immediate, permanent change and redirection of one’s life of sin to one of obedience. Children haven’t even experienced life yet in all its trials and temptations. From their disadvantaged point children don’t grasp the gravity of repentance. Repentance is not a simple confession, but a complete turnaround in behavior, thinking, and action. This requires the maturity of an adult mind. Nowhere in Scripture do we find a single case of child baptism. Based on Yahweh’s Word (Ex. 30:14; Lev. 27:2; Num. 1:3; 14:29; 26:2; 32:11; 1Chron. 23:24; Ezra 3:8), we believe that 20 is the age when a person is considered a mature adult and accountable for his or her actions in Yahweh’s eyes. For these reasons we believe that 20 is the minimum age for baptism.

Q If no one has gone to heaven what about Enoch and Elijah, who were translated to heaven? Also, please explain the transfiguration in Matthew 17 where Moses and Elijah are talking to a transfigured Yahshua.

A Genesis 5:24 reads, “And Enoch walked with Elohim: and he was not; for Elohim took him.” The RSB note reads, “Hebrews 11:5 says that Enoch was translated or transferred

that he should not see death. The Greek word ‘translated’ is *metatithemi* and means ‘carried over,’ which is the same word used in Acts 7:16 when Jacob died in Egypt and was carried over to Sychem to be buried. The tense is conditional future, so that ‘he should not die’ (John 8:51; 11:26). In Hebrews 11:13 Enoch is included with the other saints who died having not yet received the Promise of everlasting life.” Enoch was simply transported from one place to another here on earth. The same is true with Elijah.

We read in 2Kings 2:11, “And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.”

The RSB footnote reads, “Elijah (Hebrew EliYah, meaning ‘Yah is my El’) was transported to a different location on earth. This is evident from Elijah’s letter to Jehoram, which chronologically followed Elijah’s being taken into the whirlwind (2Chron. 21:12).

“The fifty sons of the prophets who were nearby (2Kings 2:7), and who witnessed from afar, knew that Elijah was taken somewhere else on earth because that’s where they searched for him after getting permission to do so from the prophet Elisha (2Kings 2:15-18). They would not have looked for him on earth if they thought he went to heaven, neither would the inspired Elisha have consented to their search.” The Bible speaks of three heavens: the atmosphere, outer space, and where Yahweh dwells (Gen. 7:11; Dan. 4:21; 2Cor. 12:2; Rev. 9:1). Whirlwinds operate only in the air of the first heaven. Elijah was simply transported from one place on earth to another.

Yahshua called the transfiguration a “vision” in Matthew 17:9. This was a glimpse into the future Kingdom, as is clear from the preceding verses (Matt. 16:28). In 2Peter 1:16-18 the Apostle Peter corroborates that this is what they saw (RSB). 

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Recent Visit and Baptism

"We were very happy that we decided to visit Yahweh's Restoration Ministry. We were pleased to participate in the Bible study and your weekly Sabbath. We also enjoyed the friendly fellowship which we will miss each Sabbath. The best part of our trip was being baptized into Yahshua's name. Thank you for letting us share our thoughts and for all of the above." - MM

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"Love this ministry...where so many have gone wrong this one stays strong. I truly feel for ministries that fall for the money curse." - BW

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Restoration Study Bible Comments

"The RSB is a Bible based on the KJV with the restored Names of the Father and Son, i.e., Yahweh and Yahshua. It also contains Strong's numbers, Strong's dictionaries, and about 7,500 footnotes and many cross references. It's many references in one!" - AT

"Love mine. Many words are numbered and Strong's is right in the back for easy reference." - RB

"I have truly enjoyed your publications. The Bible I received is such a blessing to me and to finally learn the true and actual Name of my Heavenly Father. Thank you so much." - E.K.

"I ordered the Deluxe Edition of the Restoration Study Bible and sent for the Bible Mini Course in the mail. I greatly look forward to growing in knowledge and understanding of Yahweh's Word and comprehending what His Will is for my life. I must say that the materials you present make much more sense to me than anything else I've come across

related to the same subject. They have an enlightening effect on the reader that tends to make clear what was once so muddled and confused." - Anon

"Thanks so much for doing the work that you do. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help with the spreading of this message. I hope to one day be counted worthy of having membership in His Assembly." - E

"I agree that humanity has not been here for millions of years! I also want to tell you that your work is being heard more than ever in Parks, Arizona, since I can't seem to stop debating our Father's name with all who will listen. Furthermore, I plan to attend the Feast of Tabernacles next year if money and our Creator allow it. Since I had the notion to study our Creator's name in Hebrew, a year or so ago (and it took 32 years) ...I started reading and watching YRM material and wish you had a congregation to attend here!" - JH

*One fact is for sure: Yahweh allows it. In fact, He **commands** Feast attendance. You won't gain anything by putting it off another year. We encourage all to become obedient now. There will come a day soon when we will be unable to worship Yahweh freely. Time is of the essence.* - ED

"I really do like watching your TV program. Sound doctrine is hardly heard. People are unaware of what is truly going on. I hope and pray that you will continue the great work you have started." - J.W.

"I am happy to have found your program 'Discover the Truth.' Keep up with this important work, you and your staff. There are many of us who seek the word of Truth." - R.C.

"It was so fulfilling to read your booklet 'Your Father's Name'. Thank You." - CC.T.

"Thank you for the Bible studies and the Restoration Times magazine. ...it has given me true knowledge that I didn't know before, even though I have been reading the Bible for many years. I am more aware of His Truth and now apply it." - VD.T.

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"I am blessed by your ministry and am happy to tithe. I know it's not much but please accept it with blessings and prayers for all of you at Yahweh's Restoration Ministry." - T.B.

Feedback on New Addition Progress

Very nice! As the stone mason works on the stones around the pillars, Yahshua our Cornerstone is the pillar of our salvation. The running power of the Holy Spirit enlightens those who believe, empowering the body of believers." - AM



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