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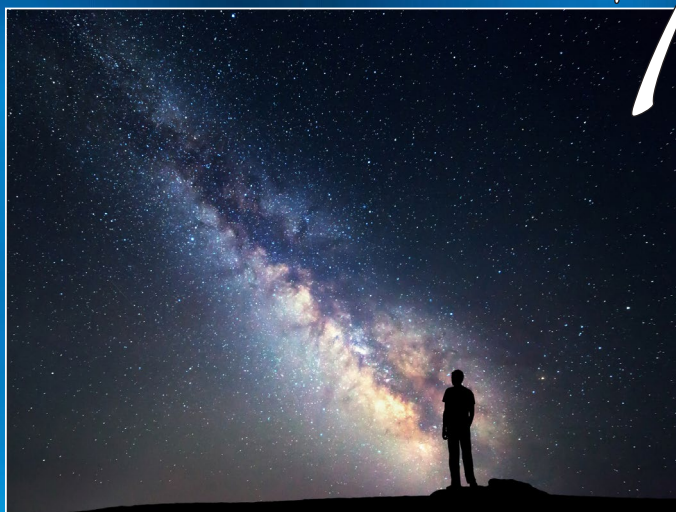
The **GAP**
Theory
Fitting science into the Bible

RESTORATION TIMES

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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: A large radio telescope scans the heavens in search of data for the origins of the earth and universe. Yahweh already answered that question in Genesis 1.



WISHY-WASHY WORSHIP

by Alan Mansager

What will happen to the semi-serious dabbler in the Word? Can he go just halfway and still believe a Kingdom reward awaits him?

Even with today's widespread decline in church turnout, millions still attend church regularly. There they can get warm and fuzzy from featherweight sermons about a girl and her puppy or how they can become personally prosperous.

The more serious-minded believers want substance to strengthen their faith, so they pick up the Bible and read it.

Then there are those who faithfully study the Word with purpose. They understand the necessity to align their lives with what they learn from the Scriptures.

This conviction was more common before psychology invaded church pulpits, replacing powerful teachings of Yahweh's Word with useless fluff that glorifies the worshiper.

We are seeing fulfillment of what Paul prophesied: "Who changed the truth of Elohim into a lie, and worshiped and served the creature more than [rather than] the Creator, who is blessed for ever," Romans 1:25.

Rewarded for Nothing?

Today's Gospel-lite messages have created a vast contradiction. Despite his shallow comprehension and anemic dedication to the Scriptures, the nominal worshiper still expects a salvation reward. Even the fellow who has a hard time just locating books in the Bible believes he will be among those saved at

the end.

All would do well to heed what Yahshua said in John 5:39: "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

Many see no connection between studying the Word, changing their lives, and being found worthy to serve Yahweh in the coming Kingdom. Yet, that's the main thrust of Yahshua's teachings as well as those of the prophets and apostles.

Yahshua defined the terms of salvation when He said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Master, Master, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven," Matthew 7:21. He Himself did the will of His Father, and so must all who expect eternal life, 1 Peter 2:21.

Also John wrote, "And the world passes away, and the lust thereof: but he that does the will of Elohim abideth for ever," 1 John 2:17.

Many believe they are justified in their anemic commitment to the Word. Flare has left fervor in the dust. Yahshua speaks directly to this delusion in Matthew 7:22-23:

"Many will say to me in that day, Master, Master, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Iniquity is the Greek *anomia* and means unrighteousness, specifically defined as violation of Yahweh's laws. Those who won't learn and obey the commands of Scripture are

separated from Yahshua in a state of *anomia*.

On the other hand Yahshua said, "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock," Matthew 7:24.

Superficial Piety

Have you ever wondered what Yahweh will do with the tens of millions who claim a belief in the Bible, go to church regularly, and consider themselves saved – but who never dig below surface level to really understand and conform to the Scriptures?

Relatively few understand His covenant contract with the called-out ones anciently as well as with us in the New Testament. It includes adherence to all that Yahweh commands and all that Yahshua taught.

What will become of those who refuse to call on His personal Name, even when He commands it and they know it is right? What about those who ignore the Sabbath, which He ordained at creation as a memorial of His miraculous work?

Nowhere in the Word are we allowed to disregard His annual Feasts days and celebrate the useless worldly holidays instead. But that is what most churchgoers choose to do.

It is time for some clarity as to how Yahweh deals with the religious hobbyist, the part-timer, and the semi-involved dabbler who firmly believes that he or she will one day eat from the Tree of Life and live forever.

Years ago an inquirer raised this very

issue. He said he didn't understand the spiritual line of demarcation. He was confused about those morally decent people who say they believe, and profess to be guided by the Bible, but in reality don't follow even the basics. Will they be gathered with the saints at Yahshua's coming?

If everyone ends up at the pearly gates anyway, as churches teach or imply, then it would have been pointless for Yahshua to teach conformity to Yahweh's teachings.

Indifference to personal compliance is at the root of the negative G-force holding millions down and smothering any desire to dig into the Scriptures. They have been told that they already have salvation, so why worry about the details? Just have faith.

Yahshua taught that the walk of truth leaves no room for fuzzy faith. In both Matthew 4:4 and Luke 4:4 He clearly told us how to live, "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh." What proceeds out of Yahweh's mouth are His laws and precepts meant for believers in all eras. It's that simple.

Yahshua Himself followed them and His example of obedience is for us.

Two key passages, 1Peter 2:21-22 and 1John 2:5-6, require us to follow Yahshua's model of obedience to the laws of Scripture. Peter wrote that Yahshua was sinless, meaning He observed His Father's statutes perfectly, 1John 3:4.

The believer is to conform to the image of Yahweh's Son, Romans 8:29, so that the True Worshiper might be among the first to be born into the Kingdom.

Professing faith is useless unless His Word is applied directly to our lives. James 2:20 reads, "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" What we do in life has eternal consequences.

We find in Romans 1:5 that obedience comes from faith (NIV). Paul in Romans 16:26 melded the two concepts when he used the term "obedience of faith." He wrote in Romans 2:13, "For not the hearers of the law are just before Elohim, but the doers of the law shall be justified." Note that verse in light of those who argue against obedience:

"For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law." This is Paul speaking in the New Testament.

Complete submission is a command, not only in statute but also in applying Yahshua's same compassionate and faithful living of those laws.

The Family Challenge

The biggest obstacle to the walk of Truth, besides our own nature, comes from the pressures of those closest to us.

Family pulls and coercion from friends cause many to compromise their walk and play both ends against the middle. They believe that they can still please everyone, Yahweh included.

Take honoring the Sabbath command, for example. Many see room there for fudging. Let's say there is a game Friday night at sunset and friends want you to join them; or the relatives are having a picnic Sabbath afternoon and have asked you to come instead of attending worship services.

Your sister or brother from out of town is visiting on the Sabbath and it may be your only time to see them. Do you join in and put Yahweh at the end of the line?

Or maybe a weak-in-the-walk spouse wants to celebrate the worthless worldly holidays and expects your participation with the rest of the family – or face unpleasant backlash. Do you compromise, or have the courage of your convictions?

Yahweh sees it all. We read in Revelation 3:15-16: "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou were cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue you out of my mouth."

Yahweh doesn't bless half-hearted devotion. That is what got the church into trouble in the first place 2,000 years ago. Lukewarm leads to compromise of the Word. Compromise is sin no matter how you slice it. Yahweh demands total commitment from those who seek Him. If you don't worship Him in Truth and faithfulness you may as well throw in with the world.

We read His warning in Revelation 3:16, "So then because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue you out of my mouth."

The very early New Testament believers were dedicated to their faith. They clearly understood what it means to follow Yahweh. But a few centuries later all that started to change – leaving us with the sad state of today's wishy-washy worship.

The first major departure came with the Sabbath. The Sabbath is usually the first focus of fracture when it comes to waning commitment and apostatizing.

Read this eye-opening excerpt from the *Encyclopedia of the Lutheran Church*, the people who once knew a lot about change and reformation.


Under the heading "Sabbatarian" we find: "The Jewish Christian congregations of the first century observed the Jewish Sabbath regulations without any hesitancy. Occasionally we meet a dual emphasis upon both Sabbath and Sunday (e.g., in the eastern part of Christianity in the fourth century and in Christian Ireland in the sixth century)."

This denomination that split with the Roman church knows that the early New Testament congregations faithfully observed the Sabbath and not the first day of the week, which was still the case several centuries after the death and resurrection of Yahshua. Many who could not completely accept switching over to the first day of the week compromised by keeping both days. For them there were two Sabbaths in a week, a direct violation of the Fourth Commandment in Exodus 20:9-10.

What most fail to grasp is that Yahweh made a unilateral agreement with Israel. He called it a covenant: if you obey my voice and live your life to honor me, then I will be your salvation. Either get on board or be left by the wayside. And that agreement remains intact in today's New Testament.

The covenant agreement Yahweh first made with Israel will find its fulfillment when Yahshua returns and marries His bride, the Assembly. It's a promise going all the way back to the beginning.

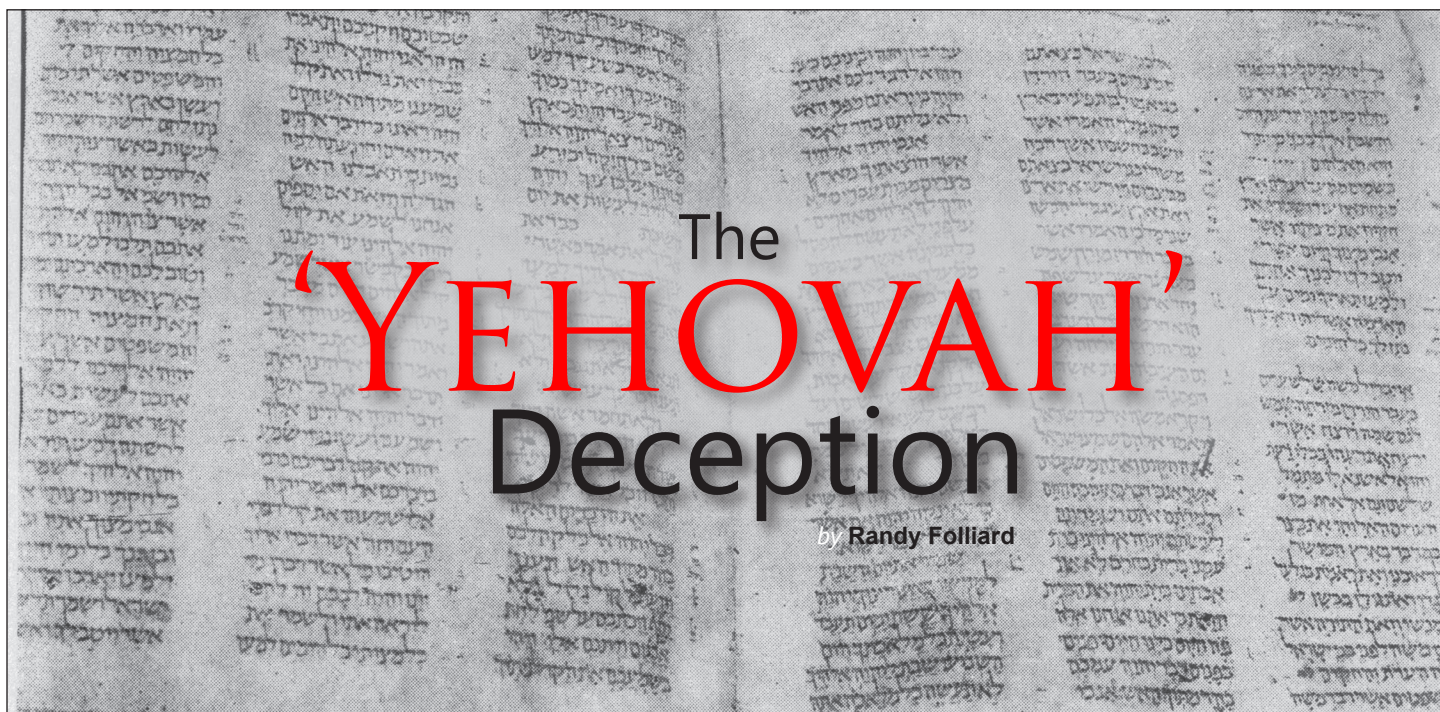
Yahweh is calling many today to leave trivialities behind and get serious about conforming to the Word. Blessings of the Kingdom will come to those who make life-impacting changes now.

Don't put it off. "Someday" is not on the calendar. 



Watch "What Happened to Worship?" Eighty percent of churches today are either losing members or are not growing. Only 37% of Americans attend church regularly. What is the problem? Subscribe to our Youtube channel to see this program and all our latest releases.

[Youtube.com/yahwehsrestorationministry](https://www.youtube.com/yahwehsrestorationministry)



Yehovah, this latecomer in the rendering of our Creator's Name, has gained popularity within the Messianic and Hebrew Roots communities. However, there are serious issues with this pronunciation.

Before discussing those, however, it's important to understand the premise of those who advocate "Yehovah."

This rendering is largely based on the Aleppo and Leningrad codices. The Aleppo codex is nearly a full copy of the Hebrew Old Testament. The Leningrad codex is considered by many to be the oldest complete copy of the Hebrew Old Testament. According to scholarship, these codices date back to the 10th century and 11th century CE, respectively.

This is the same timeframe as the Masoretic text, the authoritative text of the Hebrew Old Testament.

Within these codices there are several instances where the vowel points for "Yehovah" (English, "Jehovah") are found. Based on this fact, it is theorized by some that the scribes who produced these codices accidentally preserved the name "Yehovah" by not removing the vowel points. There are serious flaws in this reasoning.

Jewish scribes were ultra-meticulous. After copying a text, scribes would painstakingly review the script for any errors. The thought that a scribe would overlook numerous instances of the same mistake is unthinkable. According to the Jewish

Talmud, there were 20 steps a scribe would go through to ensure textual accuracy. Below are some of these steps:

- The scribe must be a learned, pious Jew, who has undergone special training and certification.
- All materials (parchment, ink, quill) must conform to strict specifications, and be prepared specifically for the purpose of writing a Torah scroll.
- The scribe must pronounce every word out loud before copying it from the correct text.
- The scribe may not write even one letter into a Torah scroll by heart. Rather, he must have a second, kosher scroll opened before him at all times.
- A Torah scroll is disqualified if even a single letter is added.
- A Torah scroll is disqualified if even a single letter is deleted.
- Every letter must have sufficient white space surrounding it. If one letter touches another in any spot, it invalidates the entire scroll.
- If a single letter is so marred that it cannot be read at all, or resembles another letter (whether the defect is in the writing, or the result of a hole, tear or smudge), the entire scroll is invalidated. Each letter must be sufficiently legible so that even an ordinary schoolchild could distinguish it from other, similar letters.
- The scribe must put precise space between words, so that one word will not

look like two words, or two words look like one word.

- The scribe must not alter the design of the sections, and must conform to particular line-lengths and paragraph configurations.
- A Torah Scroll in which any mistake has been found cannot be used, and a decision regarding its restoration must be made within 30 days, or it must be buried.

Considering these extraordinary measures, it is unfathomable that a scribe would leave the same mistake multiple times in a Hebrew manuscript of the Old Testament.

Written One Way, Read Another

So how do we explain the instances where the vowel points for "Yehovah" are found in these ancient Hebrew codices?

Since the Babylonian exile the Jews have substituted the Creator's Name (the four Hebrew letters of Yahweh's Name often called the Tetragrammaton) for titles.

One way this was done was by reading the vowel points from the Hebrew Adonai into the Tetragrammaton. The motivation behind this practice was not from irreverence but through a strong veneration for the Name. They were afraid that if it were pronounced, someone might misuse or blaspheme the Name. While their reasoning was admirable it went against clear teachings of Scripture.

The Bible undeniably shows that our Heavenly Father's Name was used in both the Old and New testaments, e.g. Genesis 12:8; 13:4; Exodus 3:15; Acts 2:21, and Romans



Watch the “Yehovah or Yahweh Question” answered by Pastors Randy Folliard and Don Esposito in the Land of Israel. You can find this video under our *Israel, a 2016 Biblical Journey* playlist. Subscribe to our Youtube channel to see all our latest releases. [Youtube.com/yahwehsrestorationministry](https://www.youtube.com/yahwehsrestorationministry)

10:13. Clearly, our Heavenly Father’s Name was used by all believers.

Vowel Pointing Throws the Name

The decision to hide or replace the Tetragrammaton with the invalid vowel points from Adonai is what led to “Yehovah” (“Jehovah” in English). Note:

- “In the early Middle Ages, when the consonantal text of the Bible was supplied with vowel points to facilitate its correct traditional reading, the vowel points for Adonai with one variation—a *sheva* (short ‘e’) with the first *yod* [Y] of YHWH instead of the *hataf-patah* (short ‘a’) under the *aleph* of Adonai—was used for YHWH, thus producing the form YeHoWaH. When Christian scholars of Europe first began to study Hebrew they did not understand what this really meant, and they introduced the hybrid name ‘Jehovah’” (*Encyclopedia Judaica*, vol. 7, p. 680).

- “The Tetragrammaton or Four-Lettered Name...which occurs 6,823 times, is by far the most frequent name of God in the Bible. It is now pronounced ‘adonai; but the church father Theodoret records that the Samaritans pronounced it as (Iabe), and Origen transcribes it as (Iae), both pointing to an original vocalization yahveh [The *waw* yields a ‘w’ sound, not a ‘v’]” (*The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia*, vol. 5, p. 6).

- “Jehovah, modern form of the Hebrew sacred name of God, probably originally ‘Yahweh.’ From c.300 B.C. the Jews, from motives of piety, uttered the name of God very rarely and eventually not at all, but substituted the title ‘Adonai,’ meaning ‘Lord,’ the vowels of which were written under the consonants of ‘Yahweh.’ In the Middle Ages and later, the vowels of one word with the consonants of the other were misread as Jehovah” (*The Collegiate Encyclopedia*, vol. 9, p. 580).

- “Jehovah....What has been said explains the so-called *qeri perpetuum*, according to which the consonants of Jehovah are always accompanied in the Hebrew text by the vowels of Adonai except in the cases in which Adonai stands in apposition to Jehovah: in these cases the vowels of Elohim are substituted. The use of a simple *shewa* in the first syllable of Jehovah, instead of the compound *shewa* in the corresponding syllable of Adonai and Elohim,

is required by the rules of Hebrew grammar governing the use of *Shewa*” (*The Catholic Encyclopedia*, vol. VIII, p. 329).

- “Jehovah, an erroneous pronunciation of the name of the God of Israel in the Bible, due to pronouncing the vowels of the term ‘Adonay,’ the marginal Masoretic reading with the consonants of the text-reading ‘Yahweh,’ which was not uttered to avoid the profanation of the divine name of magical or other blasphemous purposes. Hence the substitution of ‘Adonay,’ the ‘Lord,’ or ‘Adonay Elohim,’ ‘Lord God.’ The oldest Greek versions use the term ‘Kurios,’ ‘Lord,’ the exact translation of the current Jewish substitute for the original Tetragrammaton Yahweh. The reading ‘Jehovah’ can be traced to the early Middle Ages and until lately was said to have been invented by Peter Gallatin (1518), confessor of Pope Leo X. Recent writers, however, trace it to an earlier date; it is found in Raymond Martin’s *Pugeo Fidei* (1270)” (*Encyclopedia Americana*, vol. 16, p. 8.)

These are only a few references confirming the erroneous pronunciation of “Jehovah” or “Yehovah.” This hybrid arose from combining the vowel points of Adonai with the Tetragrammaton. In the case of “Jehovah,” because the Hebrew and Greek languages are without a letter “j” or “j” sound, this name is an impossibility. Interestingly, the letter “j” was also the last letter to be added to the English alphabet. The original 1611 KJV did not contain the letter “j.” Prior to the “j” the hybrid name “Jehovah” would have been read “Yehovah.”

In addition, the “v” in the name “Yehovah” comes from the Hebrew (Ashkenazi) letter “vav.” “Vav” was originally “waw,” pronounced as a “w.” Sephardic and Yemenite Hebrew, both closely resembling biblical Hebrew, attest to the “waw.”


Edward Horowitz in his book, *How the Hebrew Language Grew*, states, “The sound of waw a long time ago wasn’t ‘vav’ at all but ‘w’ and ‘w’ is weak. The Yemenite Jews of Arabia who retain an ancient, correct, and pure pronunciation of Hebrew still pronounce the waw as ‘w,’ as does Arabic, the close sister language of Hebrew,” pp. 29-30. As Horowitz notes, the “vav” is a modern form of the older “waw.”

These references all show that “Yehovah” or “Jehovah” is a deliberate amalgamation and is impossible in ancient Hebrew. They also verify the correct form, “Yahweh.”

The name Yahweh can be corroborated in multiple sources, including Jewish, Greek, and Samaritan scholarship. Along with these, Yahweh’s Name is also confirmed in the Nag Hammadi Scriptures, a translation of Gnostic texts. These diverse sources offer only a fraction of the overall proof for Yahweh’s Name. For additional substantiation, see our booklet, *Your Father’s Name* or request a copy of our Restoration Study Bible (see p. 22).

Some may ask, does it really matter what Name we call our Heavenly Father?

His Name appears 6,823 times in the Hebrew Old Testament and many additional times in the New Testament. The Bible shows that we are to: bless His Name (Ps. 145:21), call on His Name (Ps. 80:18; 99:6; Isa. 12:4), declare His Name (Ex. 9:16; Ps. 22:22; John 17:26; Rom. 9:17; Heb. 2:12), confess His Name (2Chron. 6:24-25; 1Kings 8:35-36), exalt His Name (Ps. 34:3), glorify His Name (Ps. 86:9, 12), honor His Name (Ps. 66:2), magnify His Name (2Sam. 7:26), praise His Name (2Sam. 22:50; Ps. 69:30), trust in His Name (Isa. 50:10), and remember His Name (Ex. 3:15; Ps. 45:17).

The correct pronunciation of His Name matters to Him more than properly pronouncing your name matters to you. It is essential that we get it right. 

His TRUE NAME

It’s the greatest cover-up in all of human history and the original identity theft. Many have lived their entire lives never realizing that their Father in heaven has a personal Name that is a part of proper worship.

It is time you understood the truth about the only Name that offers man salvation.

Request the free booklet, *Your Father’s Name*. You’ll truly be amazed by what you’ll learn!





Your part in the COMING KINGDOM

by the late Donald R. Mansager

One of the unspoken truths of the Bible today is the teaching of the Kingdom and the part the believer will have in it. Yahshua taught much about the believer's future in the Kingdom of Yahweh coming to earth.

In essence, the promise of the Kingdom to come is the Evangel or Good News, which Yahshua preached and which His followers are to proclaim today.

When many recite the Master's prayer, they repeat the words, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." Not fully engaged, they don't recognize that they are actually praying for the Kingdom of Yahweh to be established so that Yahshua will govern this earth and enforce His laws upon the world. That is what He foretold in His prophetic prayer.

True Assembly to Continue

The disciples also missed part of the Messiah's message and mission. They failed to understand that He came the first time

as Prophet, then went to the heavens as our High Priest, and will return as the ruling King. Thus, He will fulfill His offices as Prophet, Priest, and King.

The Apostles and those with Him were the beginning of His Ekklesia (the "called-out ones" or the Assembly). He promised that upon establishing His Ekklesia that the "gates of the grave will not prevail against it"—meaning that His true Assembly would continue to exist somewhere on this earth and would endure until the day of His return, Matthew 16:18-19.

His true Assembly has been active ever since. Yahshua encouraged the followers of truth when He said in Luke 12:32, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

Small, weak, ignored, but diligently following in the footsteps of the Master, the "called-out ones" continue to proclaim the Good News of the coming Kingdom of Yahweh to all the world.

Yahshua's crowning legacy was His

innocent death for the sins of the world. He was then taken to heaven where He now sits at the right hand of the Father and is the mediator or advocate for His people.

The Savior promised to return to put down all rule and authority. Then He will reign and divide the wicked from the righteous:

"When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides [his] sheep from the goats: And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left" (Matt. 25:31-33).

He will enforce Yahweh's laws and those who are redeemed will rule with Him in the Kingdom: "And he that overcomes, and keeps my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even

as I received of my Father” (Rev. 2:26-27, also 1:6).

It is those who are in the first resurrection who will become the priests and rulers in the coming Kingdom: “Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection: on such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of Yahweh and of Messiah, and shall reign with him a thousand years” (Rev. 20:6).

You – A Future Ruler?

Because churchianity in general teaches little about more than one resurrection, there is a distinct loss in comprehending the grand program Yahweh has laid out for bringing His creation to Himself.

He began with Israel, and He is still working with Israel even today. Once Israel has been saved, He will have them join Him as He turns His attention to the rest of His creation.

He will start with His servant David who will rule right under the Savior: “I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations” (Ps. 89:3-4. See also Isa. 16:5).

Being called into discipleship with Yahshua is to take part in ruling with Him in the Kingdom, as we see from both Matthew and Luke: “Blessed is that servant, whom his master when he comes shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods” (Matt. 24:46-47).

“Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations. That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Luke 22:28-30).

You – a Priest?

From both Old and New testaments we find eternal promises foretold for the saints, who will be rewarded priesthoods to teach the way of righteousness; the Gentiles shall even bring them gifts.

“But you shall be named the Priests of Yahweh: men shall call you the Ministers of our Elohim: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves” (Isa. 61:6). These resurrected saints will be the priests and Levites in the Kingdom, verse 21.

Peter writes of this in 1Peter 2:5 and 9: “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to

SALVATION IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Leviticus 18:5 – “You shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am Yahweh.”

Job 14:14-15 – “If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. You shall call, and I will answer you: you will have a desire to the work of your hands.”

Job 19:25-26 – “For I know that my redeemer lives, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in (out of) my flesh shall I see Eloah.”

Psalms 16:10 – “For you will not leave my soul in the grave; neither will you suffer your Holy One to see corruption.”

Psalms 17:15 – “As for me, I will behold your face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with your likeness.”

Psalms 49:15 – “But Elohim will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me.”

Isaiah 25:8 – “He will swallow up death in victory; and my Sovereign Yahweh will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for Yahweh has spoken it.”

Isaiah 26:19 – “Your dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, you that dwell in dust: for your dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.”

Jeremiah 32:40 – “And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.”

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (replete)

Daniel 12:2 – “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”

offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to Elohim by Yahshua the Messiah. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”

The prophet Daniel in 7:18 and 27 also speaks of an everlasting reward and those who will be chosen. “But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever. And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.”

This life is training for the called-out ones in overcoming sin and the Adversary in preparation for positions of rulership in Yahshua’s Kingdom reign over the earth.

Who’s Winning at Saving

Mainstream teachers say that Yahshua’s main purpose was to save the world. Some contend that there is great controversy going

on right now between Yahweh and Satan. They claim Yahweh has been desperately trying to get the world to believe on His Son, and Satan is out to disrupt that goal and induce the world to follow his way of sin, wickedness, and corruption.

Satan continues to test our sincerity, but he cannot try us beyond our ability to withstand, Yahweh says. Mainstream teachings make much of the question of whether those who have died have been “saved.” If any died without the knowledge and acceptance of the Savior, then they are eternally lost, they contend. Their goal is to preach the Good News of salvation and get the world saved now. But Yahweh is not trying to save the whole world now.

If saving the world now is Yahshua’s goal, then Satan is winning by a lopsided score as the world is becoming more corrupt and wicked each passing day. His Commandments are set aside and ignored, and His Name is besmirched every day.

Yahweh is still on His throne, however, and in firm control of this earth.

Yahshua gave us a prime example of His goals when He spoke to the multitude in

parables. At first His own disciples did not understand and asked Him why He spoke in parables. He answered them, "Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever has, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever has not, from him shall be taken away even that he has. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand" (Matt. 13:11-13).

Yahshua went on to explain that Isaiah had referred to this very thing because not everyone is to be converted by Yahshua now:

"And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, which says, By hearing you shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing you shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and [their] ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with [their] eyes, and hear with [their] ears, and should understand with [their] heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them" (Matt. 13:14-15).

Even the Old Testament bears record that Yahweh was not struggling to get the world saved back then. Neither is He trying to save the world now. He is choosing from the world a small group of firstfruits He is calling out of the world now to be kings and priests in His Kingdom.

"And hath made us kings and priests unto Elohim and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever" (Rev. 1:6).

Only Few Prove Faithful

The Evangel or Good News of the coming Kingdom is to be preached to all the world – not to save all the world, but as a witness or warning to mankind: "And this evangel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24:14).

The Evangel is to draw attention to the coming government rulership of Yahweh, not to save the world's populations. Those who have a heart to obey will turn to seek Yahweh in deep contrition and repentance. But most of the world will continue on its evil way.

Yahshua lived a perfect life as an example for us.

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Messiah also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth" 1Peter 2:21-22.

His sinless, perfectly law-abiding life was a pattern for our own goal of salvation. He told us in Matthew 4:4 and Luke 4:4 to

world. Now we can approach the Heavenly Father directly. In fact, the only way we can approach the Heavenly Father is through the shed blood of the Lamb.

Yahshua said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

Yahweh is the One Who calls out certain people. At present the chosen ones are being trained and tested as they allow Yahweh's Spirit to guide them in the lessons to be learned.

Makeup of Spiritual Temple

We are to become a spiritual house, built of living stones, to be a royal priesthood of the household of Yahweh: "You also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to Yahweh by Yahshua the Messiah" (1Pet. 2:5).

Each of us is spiritually different in shape, color, density, size, texture. The chiseling, shaping, grinding, fitting and polishing is taking place in this life to mold us for our position in His spiritual temple.

Yahweh is the One Who is calling out a people for His Name.

Many overlook the statement that Yahweh is very jealous of His Name. James declared that Yahweh is even now calling out a people for His Name's sake to prepare for Yahshua's return. We find in Acts 15:14,

"Simeon hath declared how Elohim at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out

of them a people for his name." Yahweh is calling dedicated seekers of righteousness to build up the Assembly, the body of believers. Yahshua says He will restore the ruins of David's Tabernacle so "the residue of men might seek after Yahweh, and all the Gentiles, upon whom My Name is called, says Yahweh Who does all these things" (Acts 15:17).

This verse emphasizes that Yahweh has not forgotten His promise to Israel, and that Gentiles also are called into the New Covenant He is making with His people.



live by every word of Yahweh. We walk in His footsteps, striving to tread the path of righteousness, seeking to achieve His stature.

Only a few will respond now to Yahshua's call. "So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen" (Matt. 20:16).

Beyond fulfilling Yahweh's law perfectly as an example for us, Yahshua became the perfect Lamb that takes away the sins of the world by His death. He was the sacrificial Lamb Who died for the sins of the

They will be known by His Name, for His Name is the seal by which we are sealed unto the day of redemption.

“And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel” (Rev. 7:2-4).

Revelation 14 shows the 144,000 being sealed with Yahweh’s Name and Yahshua’s Name in their foreheads. This is accomplished by baptism into the saving Name of Yahshua, for Yahshua has within His Name the family

things spake Yahshua unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake He not unto them” (Matt. 13:34).

Later in private He explained many of His statements to His disciples, Matthew 13:36. A number of Bible scholars note that there is to be a joining together of two special groups before the end of the age who will unite in their efforts to proclaim Bible truth.

One group is well-versed in the New Testament and the message of the Savior Yahshua. They understand His loving kindness and the grace He freely bestows upon us. But these New Testament believers do not understand the significance of Old Testament’s statutes. They have been wrongfully told that the laws of the Old Testament have been done away.

Judaism, on the other hand makes much

Yahweh is the One Who calls His people. It is Yahshua Who does the choosing. “And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles” (Luke 6:13, John 6:70, Acts 1:2.)

You Can Have His Promises

Yahweh is calling a few at this time to comprehend the deeper truths of the Word. If you have a desire to seek a deeper understanding of the plan of Almighty Yahweh, then He is calling you. From those whom Yahweh calls, Yahshua chooses the ones He wants to be His bride and be part of His Body. It is those who are called and chosen who will be in the first resurrection.

“Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection: on such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of Yahweh



Name of the Majesty on High, “YAH.”

“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty [and] four thousand, having his [name and his] Father’s name written in their foreheads” (Rev. 14:1). We are given the Holy Spirit through baptism (Acts 2:38) and are sealed by His Spirit (the sealing agent) at that time.

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Yahshua Messiah for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). “And grieve not the holy Spirit of Elohim, whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption” (Eph. 4:30).

Judah and the Converted Unite

Yahshua spoke in parables throughout His ministry. He did not clarify what He meant in His parables, deliberately leaving the general public with no clear explanation. “All these

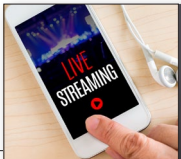
of the law and pursues the letter of the law, thinking that keeping the law alone is what is needed for salvation. The rabbis have uncovered deeper truth in the Old Testament which helps us to comprehend some of the hard sayings of Yahshua and the Evangelists as well as Paul.

Through Yahshua the House of Israel and the House of Judah will perform His will, for the hatred of one for the other is done away in Him: “For he is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, [even] the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto Yahweh in one body by the stake, having slain the enmity thereby” (Eph. 2:14-16).

Before the end of the age, there will be a promised reunion of the House of Israel and the House of Judah.

and of Messiah, and shall reign with him a thousand years” (Rev. 20:6).

We must continue to sow the seed of truth so those who have ears to hear and eyes to see will turn to Yahweh and accept the New Covenant through His Son. We never know who will answer His call and seek to walk in His ways. If the seeds of truth fall on good ground they will sprout and grow according to Yahweh’s Word.

If you have an earnest desire for deeper understanding of the plan of Almighty Yahweh, then He is calling you. He wants you to humble yourself and come to the knowledge that your goal should now be to learn more of the great plan of salvation and how you can be a king and a priest in that wonderful future Kingdom. 

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CLOSING THE **GAP** THEORY

by Randy Folliard

The gap theory of creation has gained popularity over the last century. It arose in response to geologists' claim that the earth is billions of years old. Bible believers apply the theory to a supposed "gap" of time between verses 1 and 2 of Genesis 1.

But does the biblical evidence support this belief?

Before we analyze the gap theory, there are a few other theories we should review. (All quotations are from blueletterbible.org, an online Bible search and study tool.)

The first is often called the 24-Hour Interpretation. "The most traditional of interpretations, the 24-Hour Interpretation, holds that Elohim created all the universe in the space of six regular solar days."

This is what YRM affirms, and the most traditional view. Many years ago I believed in the gap theory. My belief began in high school when I was taught that evolution was a fact and not a theory. Like so many impressionable young people, I wanted to fit evolution somewhere into the Bible, and the gap theory made the most sense. Since then, I've come back to the traditional view

of creation.

Another popular theory is called Theistic Evolution. "Surrendering the historicity and honesty of Scripture beyond all other popular viewpoints, theories of theistic evolution force interpreters to mythologize the Genesis narrative. While maintaining that God did truly maintain control of all creative processes, the view strips Scripture of its accuracy by positing that Adam was not arrived at by fiat creation but through thousands of years of natural evolutionary process aided and directed by a divine touch."

This theory is nothing more than a compromise for evolution. Those who espouse it maintain that Yahweh created everything through the process of evolution. In other words, evolution was the mechanism that our Creator used to form this universe, including mankind. As a result, those who hold this view believe that the Genesis account is nothing more than mythology. In other words it's a great story, but it never happened.

A third theory that has gained some acceptance is called the Day-Age Theory.

"Easily one of the most popular of current theories to reconcile scientific evidence with God's Word, the Day-Age Theory takes aim on the Hebrew word for "day": *yom*. Stating that the word, while often meaning a 24-hour period, can also refer to an indeterminate duration, these theorists proclaim that a valid (and moreover, proper) literal understanding of the Creation account will interpret each day as an era, or age, lasting a great length of time."

As with Theistic Evolution, this belief arose to reconcile evolution with the Bible. It does so by reinterpreting the meaning of the word "*yom*," which is the Hebrew word for day. Instead of representing a literal 24-hour day, this belief says that *yom* represents a long duration of time, even billions of years, making room for evolution.

This belief not only contradicts Hebrew grammar, but also defies the laws of nature. For example, the Bible says that plants were created on the third day and the sun and moon on the fourth day. How is it possible that plants existed a billion years without sunlight? Plants require sun for life and photosynthesis, which is how they produce



energy. Based on this single example, there's nothing logical about this belief.

Breaching the Gap Theory

The last theory to review is the gap theory. Once more we refer to the blueletterbible.org for an explanation.

"When the scientific community began discovering evidence to support long geological eras in the 18th century, a segment of Christendom felt compelled to syncretize their interpretation of Scripture with this newfound empirical data. Motive askew, they postulated that the universe was already in existence for an indeterminate duration before the Creation Week began (and hence allow for a very old earth, but are able still to maintain God's recent fiat creation of mankind). A once-popular revision of this theme is the Restoration Theory. Proponents of this version of Gap Theory believed that the universe was created full-form and populated only to be decimated by a cataclysmic war led between God and Satan. This war left the earth a wasteland, 'formless and void' (and explains why we find fossilized dinosaur bones that seem to be millions of years old). So then,

by theory, the recent Creation Week would be a re-Creation or restoration of a world that was once destroyed."

There are actually two theories connected with the gap theory: the traditional view and the Restoration Theory (no relation to Yahweh's Restoration Ministry). The traditional gap theory provides a gap in time between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. In this gap proponents believe that billions of years existed.

Generally, it's also believed that there was a first earth and second earth and the second earth is what we live on now. Now the Restoration theory goes on to say that Yahweh created humans without souls along with animals, including dinosaurs, on this first earth.

Weston W. Fields further explains this in his book, *Unformed and Unfilled*. "In the far distant dateless past God created a perfect heaven and perfect earth. Satan was ruler of the earth which was peopled by a race of 'men' without any souls. Eventually, Satan, who dwelled in a garden of Eden composed of minerals (Ezekiel 28), rebelled by desiring to become like God (Isaiah 14). Because of Satan's fall, sin entered the

universe and brought on the earth God's judgment in the form of a flood (indicated by the water of 1:2), and then a global Ice Age when the light and heat from the sun were somehow removed. All the plant, animal, and human fossils upon the earth today date from this 'Lucifer's flood' and do not bear any genetic relationship with the plants, animals and fossils living upon the earth today...."

The restoration theory maintains that Satan's rebellion destroyed the first earth, including dinosaurs, with a global flood. It goes on to say that the plants and animals of today do not resemble those from this first earth. Now the obvious problem with this belief, which again is part of the Gap Theory, is that there's no biblical support for two separate creations, including two worldwide floods and a creation prior to Adam and Eve.

Motivating Factors

According to wikipedia.org, "From 1814, gap creationism was popularized by Thomas Chalmers, who attributed the concept to the 17th century Dutch Arminian theologian Simon Episcopius. Chalmers became a divinity professor at

the University of Edinburgh, founder of the Free Church of Scotland, and author of one of the Bridgewater Treatises. Other early proponents included Oxford University geology professor and fellow Bridgewater author William Buckland, Sharon Turner and Edward Hitchcock. It gained widespread attention when a 'second creative act' was discussed prominently in the reference notes for Genesis in the influential 1917 Scofield Reference Bible."

The gap theory attempts to reconcile with the Bible the claim that the geological record proves that the earth is billions of years old. This is like many other creation theories attempting to merge the Bible with pseudo-science.

The problem is, not all scientific theories are based on good science and evolution is an example. Just because science may say

Hebrew grammar.

Scriptural Evidence

Let's now consider the evidence from Scripture. Our investigation begins in Genesis 1:1-2: "In the beginning Elohim created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of Elohim moved upon the face of the waters."

The traditional view says that Yahweh created both the heavens, i.e., universe, and earth and that in the very beginning the earth was formless and empty.

The gap theory interprets this passage this way: "In the beginning Elohim created the heaven and the earth [insert in billions of years]. And the earth was [had become] without form, and void; and darkness was

Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon states "...to create, to shape, to form." *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words* provides a more exhaustive definition: "...This verb is of profound theological significance, since it has only God as its subject. Only God can 'create' in the sense implied by *bara*'. The verb expresses creation out of nothing... All other verbs for 'creating' allow a much broader range of meaning; they have both divine and human subjects, and are used in contexts where bringing something or someone into existence is not the issue."

According to Hebrew linguistics, *bara*' refers to original creation. Why is this important? It means that the creation in Genesis 1:1 is part of an original creation and not a re-creation as believed by the gap theorists. This is why it's important that we understand the Hebrew in Genesis 1:1 and 1:2.

And (Waw)

Now the most critical word is the word "And," as we find in Genesis 1:2. This word comes from the Hebrew letter "waw," which corresponds to our "w." In the Hebrew language you have what's called the *waw* consecutive and the *waw* disjunctive, also called the *waw* copulative. What are the differences between the two?

The *waw* consecutive expresses a sequence of time or continuation of a new thought, while the *waw* disjunctive is an explanatory thought for the previous phrase.

Do we know which *waw* is used in Genesis 1:2? Based on the Hebrew grammar, it's the *waw* disjunctive or copulative because it is not fixed to a verb, but to a noun. As support, here's what W. Fields states, "Genesis 1:2 begins with 'and' (Hebrew *waw*, a copulative) which argues against a long time span between these verses. The Hebrew grammars and lexicons consider 1:2 to be an explanatory noun clause which describes a state contemporaneous with that of the main verb in verse 1" (*Unformed and Unfilled*, Weston Fields, pp. 75-86).

We find a similar statement from Dr. Robert McCabe, Professor of Old Testament from Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, "The *waw* disjunctive appears at the beginning of v. 2. This type of *waw* is also easily identifiable. It is always attached to a non-verbal form, such as a substantive, pronoun, or participle; and it stands at

“Not all scientific theories are based on good science and evolution is an example. Just because science may say that something is a certain way doesn't make it true.

that something is a certain way doesn't make it true. For example, if nothing was known about Mount Saint Helens, geologists might date the layers created by the explosion by millions of years, when we know it took only a short period of time.

The "proof" for billions of years of development can be explained by the account of Noah's flood. Two things happened at that time:

- the earth was ripped open, Genesis 7:11
- flood waters covered the entire earth.

This catastrophic event explains many of the geological sediment and rock layers today. We can see how something like the gouging of the Grand Canyon could have occurred very quickly and not over billions of years.

So we find at least three problematic issues with the Gap Theory:

- It presupposes life and death existed before Adam and Eve;
- It was formulated in response to the unproven belief that the earth is billions of years old and
- It contradicts the Bible as well as its

upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of Elohim moved upon the face of the waters."

By inserting billions of years between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 they reconcile the theory that the earth is billions of years old. The gap theory also assumes that the earth was not without form and void, but had become that way. According to Hebrew grammarians, this assumption is not supported by the Hebrew grammar.

Dissecting the Scripture

First, we must understand the word "created," which comes from the Hebrew *bara*'. We must also understand the use of the "And" at the beginning of verse 1, which comes from the Hebrew letter *waw*. Another word to consider is "was," which is from the Hebrew *hayah*. Finally, we will review the phrase "without form and void," which is from the Hebrew *tohu wa bohu*.

Created (Bara')

We begin with the Hebrew *bara*'. Strong's defines this term as, "...a primitive root; (absolutely) to create..." The *Brown-*

the beginning of a clause...As a *waw* disjunctive relates to its preceding clause, it can be used in a number of different ways, such as introducing a clause of contrast, reason, etc. In this context, the *waw* disjunctive is best seen as introducing an explanatory clause, and could be translated as “now” (meaning, “at the time” of its creation in v. 1), or in some similar way” (oldtestamentstudies.org).

Based on these sources, the *waw* in

On the contrary, it is exactly what one might predict from Gesenius’ statement that a *waw* copulative (disjunctive) which connects a noun clause to the main thought of the sentence, and which describes a state or circumstance, corresponds to the Greek *de*, used to interpose an explanation” (*Unformed and Unfilled*, pp. 83).

As W. Fields explains, the Greek word “*de*” corresponds to the *waw* disjunctive and is found only once in Genesis 1 and that

“The day of Yahweh, representing Yahshua’s Second Coming, is going to be one of destruction and judgment.

Genesis 1:2 is *waw* disjunctive because the *waw* is connected to a noun and not a verb. What this means is that Genesis 1:2 is an explanatory verse of Genesis 1:1. It also confirms that there’s no possibility of a gap in time between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. For a gap to exist this would require a *waw* consecutive, of which we don’t find evidence here.

According to author W. Fields, we also find evidence for the *waw* disjunctive from the Greek Septuagint. “The Septuagint translation—As previously stated, the translation of the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek by Jews in Alexandria (traditionally by 70 scholars, hence the name) about 250 B.C. is known as the Septuagint, and generally abbreviated LXX. While it is a translation, and therefore subject to all the problems of such, it nevertheless gives a very ancient opinion about how the Hebrew should be rendered. The work of the Septuagint in the Pentateuch has generally been recognized as some of its best, and it appears that in Genesis 1 and 2 the translators were especially careful, for they were remarkably precise in distinguishing the *waw* disjunctive from other uses of the *waw*. The only *waw* disjunctive in Genesis 1 is the one in verse 2.

“This is also the only occurrence of the Greek word *de*. The second *waw* disjunctive is found in 2:6 along with the second *de*; the third *waw* disjunctive is in 2:10 together with the third *de*. The fourth *waw* disjunctive is in 2:12 and so is the fourth *de*. Now this is not really surprising.

is in verse 2. Both the Hebrew and Greek confirms the use of the *waw* conjunctive. This removes the possibility of a gap in time between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2.

Was (Hayah)

We transition to the English word “was” in verse 2. This word comes from the Hebrew *hayah*. For those who may not know, *hayah* is the primitive root of Yahweh’s Name. Every Hebrew word goes back to a primitive or triliteral root.

So what is the meaning of *hayah* within the context of Genesis 1:2? Here’s how it’s defined in *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance* Hebrew Dictionary and *Brown, Driver, Briggs Hebrew Lexicon*, respectively.

“...a primitive root; to exist, i.e. be or become, come to pass...”

“...to be, to become, to come to pass, to exist, to happen, to fall out.”

As we see from these definitions, “become” or “came to pass” is a possibility based on the Hebrew. However, as we saw from the *waw* disjunctive, we must also understand the Hebrew grammar. And based on the Hebrew grammar of verse 2, *hayah* cannot be rendered “to become.”

Dr. McCabe explains, “The only translation that can be consistently justified is the translation ‘was.’ This translation can be supported in three ways. First, as I noted above, ‘was’ is in an explanatory clause introduced by a *waw* disjunctive, connecting this verse with v. 1.... Second,

the translation of *hayetah* as ‘was’ finds early support from the Septuagint...the Septuagint translators of the Pentateuch rendered this Hebrew verb as ‘was,’ the imperfect form of *eimi* (to “be”)...Because of the semantic distinctives of the verbs *eimi* (to “be”) and *ginomai* (to “become”), the Septuagint provides early support for the rendering ‘was.’ Third, the vast majority of lexicons and grammars support the rendering as ‘was’ Whitcomb and Smith have appropriately summarized this evidence: ‘Hebrew grammars could be cited in abundance to the effect that a nominal clause (with no verb or else with a form *hayah*) as in Genesis 1:2...is the normal way to describe a state of being without any verbal activity or change of state’ (p. 134). Therefore, the traditional translation of *hayetah* as ‘was’ is the most accurate translation.”

As we saw from the *waw* disjunctive, both the Hebrew and Greek indicate that the best rendering of *hayah* in Genesis 1:2 is “was.” As Dr. McCabe confirms, this is overwhelmingly the opinion of many Hebrew grammarians.

We also see this in nearly every historical English translation of Genesis 1:2. Here are a few examples:

“The erth was voyde and emptie ad darcknesse was vpon the depe and the spirite of god moved vpon the water.” (*William Tyndale Bible*, 1530).

“And ye earth was voyde and emptie, and dareknes was vpon the depe, & ye sprete of God moued vpo the water” (*Myles Coverdale Bible*, 1535).

“And the earth was without fourme, and was voyde: & darknes [was] vpon the face of the deepe, and the spirite of God moued vpon the face of the waters” (*Bishops Bible*, 1568).

“And the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the deep, and the Spirit of God moved upon the waters” (*Geneva Bible*, 1599).

“The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters” (*RSV*, 1952).

“The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters” (*NAS*, 1963).

From old to new translations *hayah* is translated as “was.” Abundant evidence



shows that the rendering of “had become” in Genesis 1:2 is simply not supported.

Without Form and Void (*Tohu WaBohu*)

Let’s consider the phrase “without form and void.” The phrase comes from the Hebrew *tohu wabohu* and generally refers to a state that is formless and empty. According to the *Keil and Delitzsch Commentary on the Old Testament*, “‘And the earth was (not became) waste and void.’ The alliterative nouns *tohu wabohu*, the etymology of which is lost, signify waste and empty (barren), but not laying waste and desolating.”

This commentary confirms again that the Hebrew *hayah* should be rendered “was” and not “became.” It also states that *tohu wabohu* refers to a state that is waste and empty or barren.

Let’s now examine the evidence for these words separately. The first is *tohu*:

“...from an unused root meaning to lie waste; a desolation (of surface), i.e. desert; figuratively, a worthless thing,” Strong’s

“...formlessness, confusion, unreality, emptiness,” BDB.

The second is *bohu*:

“...from an unused root (meaning to be empty),” Strong’s.

“...emptiness, void, waste,” BDB.

Based on these definitions, *tohu wabohu* describes a state that is formless, empty, waste, chaotic, or void.

In a desire to be balanced in our study, this phrase can also refer to a void or emptiness from previous destruction. Examples of this usage are found in Isaiah and Jeremiah.

Let’s first consider Isaiah 43, “But the cormorant and the bittern shall possess it; the owl also and the raven shall dwell in it: and he shall stretch out upon it the line of confusion, and the stones of emptiness. They shall call the nobles thereof to the kingdom, but none shall be there, and all her princes shall be nothing. And thorns shall come up in her palaces, nettles and brambles in the fortresses thereof: and it shall be an habitation of dragons, and a court for owls,” verses 11-43.

This passage is a prophecy of Yahweh’s wrath that will befall the nations of this earth. We know from eschatology that the day of Yahweh, representing Yahshua’s Second

Coming, is going to be one of destruction and judgment. According to Isaiah 24, few men will be left.

Now we see the words *tohu* and *bohu* both used here to convey destruction upon the earth. So in this instance, *tohu wabohu* is used to describe a state of ruin and devastation that was caused by a previous destruction.

We find a similar usage in Jeremiah 4:23-26: “I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of Yahweh, and by his fierce anger.”

This prophecy is again speaking about destruction. But here it is focused on the destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon. And as we saw in Isaiah, *tohu wabohu* is used here to convey this devastation.

Now why are these examples important? Those who advocate the gap theory will

often use them to prove that *tohu wabohu* refers to an emptiness or void caused by previous destruction. The problem with using this to support the gap theory is that *tohu wabohu* doesn't always describe a previous destruction. And as we've already seen, the grammar of Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 doesn't allow for a gap in time.

Meaning of Replenish

In addition to Isaiah and Jeremiah, Gap Theorists will also point to Genesis 1:28 as proof for their belief: "And Elohim blessed them, and Elohim said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."

Those who believe in the gap theory will focus on the word "replenish" as evidence for this doctrine. In this case, this is an easy passage to explain. The word "replenish" is from the Hebrew *male*, which is a primitive root, meaning "to fill or be full of, in a wide application," Strong's.

There is nothing within the definition of *male* denoting the concept of replenishing or refilling, as often defined in English. The word "replenish" in Genesis 1:28 simply means to fill.

For in Six Days

Another common argument in defense of the gap theory comes from Genesis 20:8-11: "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of Yahweh thy Elohim: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore Yahweh blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."

Notice that it says that Yahweh made the heavens and the earth in six days. Exodus also states that both the heavens, i.e., universe, and the earth were made in six days. According to Hebrew grammar, when the Hebrew *yom* (English, "day") is connected with a numeral, as found here, it refers to a 24-hour day.

Now some will point that the word "made" found in Exodus 20:11 is not from *bara'*, but from the Hebrew *asah*. They will

then claim that *asah* refers to a re-creation and not to an original creation. According to Strong's *asah* literally means, "to do or make, in the broadest sense and widest application."

So what's the difference between *bara'* and *asah*? *Bara'* specifically means original creation from nothing, while *asah* is a general or broad word referring to any act of creation. What's important is that *bara'* and *asah* are not contradictory as it pertains to creation. While *bara'* is limited to original creation, there is nothing within the definition of *asah* that would prohibit this interpretation. In other words, since *asah* is broad in meaning, it can be used synonymously with *bara'*. Matter of fact, both *bara'* and *asah* are used interchangeably in the first chapter of Genesis

Adam's Sin

One of the most significant challenges against the gap theory is that death was introduced through the sin of Adam. Paul in Romans 5:12-14 writes,

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

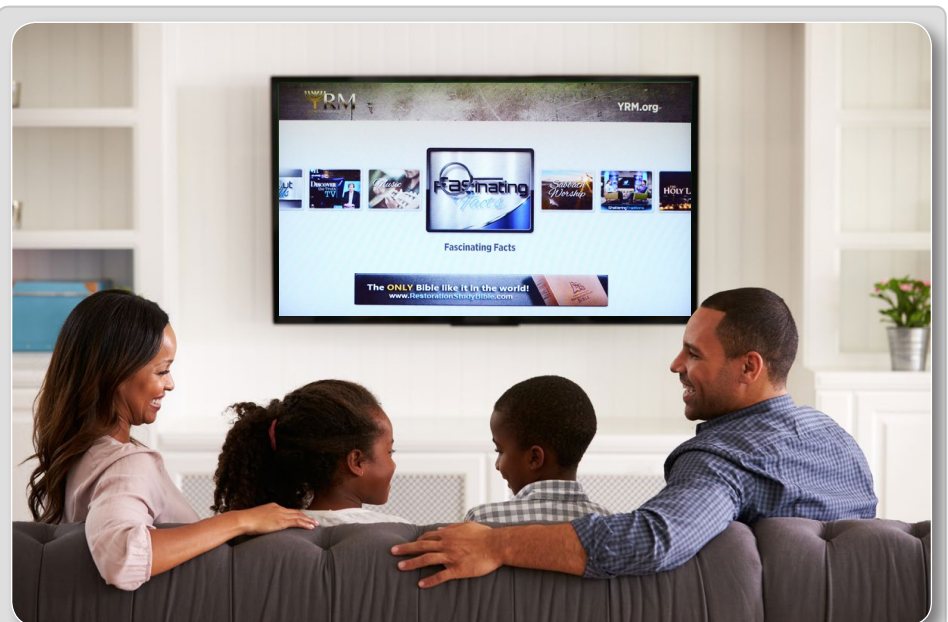
(For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.)"

If death did not exist until Adam's sin, what about those who died on the "first earth" as a result of Satan's flood? Paul provides the final nail in the coffin of the gap theory.

Just why is it important that we understand the error behind this popular theory? Because the gap theory contradicts the Bible and it undermines the authority of Yahweh's Word. It places more emphasis on pseudo-science than on Scripture.

As believers we must never allow our personal beliefs, pseudo-science, or man-made doctrines to contradict what our Heavenly Father says within His Word.

The Bible has never been proven wrong and never will be. Let us not be remiss to remember that Yahweh's ways are greater than man's ways. He thunders, "Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding," Job 38:3. ✓



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Why the World Has a Heart for Valentine's Day

Every February 14 we see an “angelic” infant with a bow and arrow aiming for the heart of his “Valentine.”

Cupids are everywhere with bows and arrows, along with heart shapes, paper lace, birds, and flowers. All are associated with St. Valentine's Day. But just where did these symbols and the celebration of the 14th of February come from? And is this seemingly innocent day on which so many remember sweethearts and lovers appropriate for believers in the Word?

A Priest with a Heart

The origin of this day is debatable, as there seems to be more than one explanation. The most accepted legend is that a Roman priest named Valentine had special affection for young people.

When the Roman Empire needed soldiers, Emperor Claudius I decreed that no one could marry or become engaged. Claudius believed that marriage made men want to stay at home instead of out fighting his wars.

The kindly Valentine defied the Emperor's decree and secretly performed weddings for a number of young couples. He was arrested, imprisoned, and put to death.

Another legend holds that Valentine was put in prison for aiding persecuted Christians. A jailer and his family were so impressed by his sincerity that they became Christians themselves. Valentine was fond of the jailer's blind daughter and by a miracle restored her sight. On the morning of his execution he sent her a farewell message signed, “From your Valentine.”

St. Valentine was beheaded on February 14. When he was buried, the story goes, a pink almond tree near his grave burst into bloom as a symbol of lasting love.

February Fertility Festival

February 14, when Valentine is supposed to have died, was also the eve of an important Roman Festival, the Lupercalia. On this evening, Roman youths drew names of girls who would be their partners during this spring ceremony (February came later than it does today).

To the Romans Lupercalia was serious business. Mark Antony was master of the Luperci College of Priests. He chose the Lupercalia festival in the year 44 BCE as the proper time for offering the crown to Julius Caesar.

On February 15 the Luperci priests gathered at the cave of Lupercal, where according to legend, Romulus and Remus were nursed by a mother wolf. (“Lupus” is the Latin for wolf.)

Following a sacrifice, two youths of noble birth were brought forward. After a ceremony, they would run through the Roman streets, lashing about with goatskin thongs. The streets would be crowded with young women because a lash of the sacred thongs was believed to increase their fertility.

The goatskin thongs were called *februa*; and the lashing of these *februatio* was meant to purify. From this rite comes the name for the month of February.

Long after Rome had become a walled city and the seat of a powerful empire, the Lupercalia lived on. When Roman armies

invaded what are now France and Britain, in the first century BCE, they took with them many pagan customs. Included were those of the Lupercalia.

Church Attempts to Stop It Fail

By the fourth century Christianity became the dominant religion in Rome, and the Lupercalia was declared unlawful. Throughout the empire, the church endeavored to stamp out such pagan practices of heathenism.

“Unable to abolish some of the pagan festivals that the people loved, they accepted these and gave them Christian names” (from *The Story of Valentine Symbols*, by Edna Earth).

Earth goes on to say, “So it was with the Lupercalia, which survived late into the 5th century. St. Valentine’s name was given to a festival that had celebrated springtime and fertility in human beings and other animals. And, do what the church might, the ancient meaning never quite left it. Memories of the Lupercalia as a celebration of mating were handed down, attaching themselves to the saint’s name.”

It was the eve of the ancient feast of the Lupercalia, when the Romans habitually preserved the memory of an ancient rural deity, Faunus.

It is not difficult to imagine the joy among pagans who publically beheaded the Christian Valentine—the priest who upheld the Bible at this heathen celebration!

Frank Staff writes in his book, *The Valentine and Its Origins*, “In later years when the early Christian fathers were busy obliterating pagan superstitions and dates by substituting those of the Christian belief, names of many of the martyred Saints were used to replace the old festivals.

“In this way St. Valentine, having suffered on the eve of the Lupercalia, the 14th of February, was now to perpetuate forever the memory of this festival of the return of the Spring when a young man’s fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love and when the birds begin mating.

“Centuries later it was usual on St. Valentine’s Day for young men to draw by lots the names of young women, a custom that lingered in some of the more remote villages of the British Isles right up to Victorian times. Some accounts written

during the Victorian era of St. Valentine’s Day maintain that the putting of the names of young women into a box to be drawn for by the men was part of the ceremony of the Lupercalia, and has been repeated so often as to be believed true. But it has been authoritatively stated that this has yet to be proved.”

Not all writers agree with author Staff, but see a direct connection between



Lupercalia is believed to derive from lupus, “wolf,” (bronze wolf’s head, 1st century CE)

drawing names for Valentine’s Day and the Lupercalia.

Strong evidence points to the custom of sending valentines and other festivities on February 14 having erotic origins, and it likely was a licentious festival. Lupercalia was a spring festival involving peculiar fertility rites and especially embraced young people.

The little cherub called cupid, from the latin *cupido* or “desire,” is actually the Greek deity of love known as Eros. Alexandrian poets made him popular in Rome (*Funk and Wagnalls Encyclopedia*, p. 2542).

Most European countries, with the exception of Germany and Britain, have little to do with St. Valentine’s Day. The customs in the United States go back to the early settlers who brought this rite from the

European culture.

Bottom Line: the Dollar Sign

St. Valentine’s Day is perpetuated by manufacturers of greeting cards and chocolate merchants and retailers who see the opportunity to induce customers to buy special gifts for their “valentine.”

Through slick advertising, the public is made to feel guilty in neglecting to give just the right gift to their valentine. The implication is that if they don’t give a gift, they don’t really care, for this is the day to show our love for others.

Getting involved in worldly holidays and special days from pagans overshadows and replaces the days Yahweh has given us for our own good. Satan, the deity of this world, has many more promoters of his pagan days than Yahweh has for His Sabbath and Feast days.

Merchants seem to live from one holiday to another, even for Valentine’s Day. Greeting card makers, florists, cosmetic manufacturers, candy and toy makers, bakeries, and clothiers are all out to make a buck. Merchandisers are key to keeping alive and growing society’s major holidays.

It is up to believers in the Bible not to place anything before Yahweh and His way of life. We should not wait for a special day of pagan origins to show our love to our fellow man, but to exhibit fraternal concern and love every day in every way we can.

The Adversary hopes that worldly holidays will totally overshadow the really important times commanded now and which will be observed for all time in Yahweh’s Kingdom.

Our world is steeped in heathen, truth-transplanting tradition. The days of Lupercalia are with us even in subtle ways. Consider one writer’s observation:

“Today we still refer to one who fancies himself with the ladies as something of a ‘wolf,’ and when a pretty girl walks down the street young men give a ‘wolf’s whistle,’ which shows that the spirit of the Lupercalia is still with us.”

Yahweh’s true Spirit is here as well, and available to those who have a real desire to live honestly and purely for Him. A position of rulership in His Kingdom awaits those who do. V



Feast Grounds Development Now Underway — Your help is needed!

After 18 years in the “wilderness,” keeping the Feast in ten different camps across the Midwest and investigating possible use of hundreds of other camps around the country, we have stepped out on faith and made the decision to observe next year’s Feast of Tabernacles at YRM’s facility in Holts Summit, Missouri. Our new fellowship hall makes this feasible. However, we still lack adequate lodging and activity space. With potentially 200-300 people descending on our current grounds (and even more, as the cost now to attend a YRM feast will be nominal) we were forced to start our development immediately, which was begun the week after Tabernacles 2016. Our present capacity is about 175.

Because our camping and RV spaces are very limited and our grounds don’t allow for expansion without considerable excavating, we have concluded that a basic metal structure that will include simple lodging is the most economical solution to meet most of our challenges. Shown above is the framework of our 130’x60’x20’ building. This facility will serve many other purposes: children and youth activities, overflow meeting space with an additional cafeteria and refrigeration for campers during Feasts, youth and family retreats during the year, and approved community use.

The building is essential for the Feasts, especially for Tabernacles, and will also be a blessing in so many other ways! For the time being most feast-goers will stay in tents, campers, or local hotels.

Once we pay for the construction work the funding set aside by the Ministry received from our faithful partners will be depleted. After the current expenses are paid, we project a need for an additional \$211,421 to finish the interior of the structure, which includes the heating and cooling system. Your support is greatly needed! Please consider providing your help in this important endeavor. Don’t forget to designate that your gift is for the Development Fund.





Q What is the mission or goal of your restoration ministry?

A As our name implies, we are dedicated to restoring the original Bible teachings lost or neglected through the centuries. Most are unaware that a lot of what is taught today as basic doctrine in Christianity was unknown in the first century when our Savior walked the earth. Millennia of church practice and tradition have obscured the truth.

Most don't realize that Yahshua the Messiah never established today's Christianity, a movement that took centuries to develop after His resurrection. Most of today's church doctrines and practices were concocted by Roman Church councils starting in the third century and not by the Word. Challenge your Christian friends to show you where in the Bible Christians observed Sunday as the weekly day of worship; where in Scripture any Christian kept Christmas, New Year's, or Easter. On the other hand, we can cite book, chapter, and verse where the seventh-day Sabbath and biblical holy days were faithfully kept from Exodus all the way to the end of the New Testament. And will be kept in the coming Kingdom!

Our aim is to get back to what was inspired by Yahweh down to our day. The problems come with not accepting the entire Bible. All 66 books harmonize from Genesis through Revelation; the widespread error today is seeing the Bible as two separate divisions, Old Testament for Jews and the New for Christianity. A right

foundation is having a clear grasp of the covenant requirements or agreements that Yahweh established with His people Israel. That includes taking into account what our Savior Yahshua taught about the Old or first covenant.

Yahweh made a covenant only with Israel. He has never established a close relationship with any other nation. Israel encompasses more than just the tribe of Judah; 12 tribes constitute Israel. Many make the fundamental error of seeing all Israel as Jews. For anyone today to have a part in the promises that lead to salvation means getting in line with Yahweh's promises given to His people. He did not replace Israel with today's worshiper, but instead grafted in today's believer to have a part in Israel's promises if found worthy. And that means accepting the Savior and living an obedient life. Once you understand this you have solved a major hurdle holding back many when it comes to the Scriptures. The restoring message is prophesied in Isaiah 58:12-13: "And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in."

Interestingly, the prophet Isaiah in 58:13 immediately launches into the keeping of the Sabbath, which is what was originally taught in the Word. "If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of Yahweh, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight

thyself in Yahweh; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of Yahweh hath spoken it."

To restore the paths given to Israel of old means to begin doing what they were given as well.

Q I always thought that heaven is where good people go when they die. Is heaven the destination of the saved?

A You can search for the rest of your life and you will not find one verse in Scripture where heaven is ever promised to the believer at death. You won't find words like, "When we get to heaven," "I'll see you in heaven," or "Peter is waiting for you at the pearly gates of heaven." That's because heaven is not the reward of the saved. The Kingdom is promised, however, and there is a difference.

The millennial kingdom will be right here on earth where the saints will reign under Yahshua. Revelation 5:10 reads, "And has made us unto our Elohim kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." The prophet in Zechariah 14:4 says that when Yahshua returns to earth that His "feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east..." Paul then tells us in 1 Thessalonians 4:17, "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Master in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Master." Nowhere do we read that Yahshua then makes a u-turn and goes back to heaven with the saints.

Heaven was never promised to man. Millions had been dying for thousands of years before Yahshua the Messiah said, "No man has ascended to heaven, John 3:13. Acts 2:29 and 34 clearly say, "For David did not ascend into the heavens." We know he will be ruling in the Kingdom on earth right under Yahshua, Ezekiel 37:24-25. Where do the dead go if not to heaven or hell? They remain in the grave where they await the resurrection at Yahshua's return.

The goal of the saved is the Kingdom coming to earth. Yet no one will attain that Kingdom until Yahshua comes back at the last trumpet sound to establish it and reward the faithful. What will the saved do in the

earthly Kingdom? Revelation 2:26 reads: “And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations.” Overcoming sin and being obedient to the Word will lead to a position of rulership in the Kingdom. But it does not happen until the end, at the return of Yahshua. In Luke 19:11 he told a parable: “He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.” The parable was about Himself and His return to set up rulership on earth. Further in Luke 19 Yahshua spoke a parable about the faithful inheriting rulership over cities.

Q I was told that there is a second chance for salvation after death, according to 1Peter 3:18-20. Is this correct?

A Traditional teachings say that right after He “died” that Yahshua descended to hell to preach to lost souls agonizing in sulfurous flames. The passage in 1Peter 3:18-20 reads, “For Messiah also has once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to Elohim, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of Elohim waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.”

“Prison” here is from the Greek *phulake*, which also means a place, condition or a hold. “Ever-burning hell” is a misinterpretation of what “prison” means in this verse. It would be useless for the Savior to go preach to the wicked who are automatically sent to spend eternity in agonizing hellfire. Further, the

Word says the wicked will not see life, John 3:36. How then can the incorrigible suffer alive forever in hellfire?

In 1Peter 3:18-20 Peter says there were disobedient people alive in Noah’s day and that Yahshua through the same Spirit that raised Him also spoke to them through the preaching of Noah while the “ark was a preparing,” verse 20. Besides sawing planks and pounding pegs into boards for the ark, Noah was also warning the people of his day of the impending doom on the impenitent. Peter calls Noah a “preacher of righteousness,” 2Peter 2:5.


Scriptures reveal that the dead are no longer sentient beings, so they cannot think, reason, or possess any awareness of anything, and that also applies to the death of Yahshua the Messiah for three whole days and nights, Matthew 12:40. Because all have sinned, Romans 3:23, and because sin mandates the death penalty, Romans 6:23, if He did not completely die then we have no payment for our sins, Acts 10:39-40. Without His intercessory death we must pay for our own sins through our own deaths and therefore none of us has an ounce of hope for salvation – that is, if Yahshua did not literally die for our sins for three days and nights.

The deceased are dead in every sense of the word. We read this in Ecclesiastes 9:5,10; Psalm 88:10; 115:17; and 146:4. All people go to their graves at death and remain there until the resurrection. The Hebrew word for hell (*sheol*) means grave; the Greek word for hell (*hades*) also means grave. When Yahshua returns He will gather His elect up from their graves, not bring them down from heaven, 1Thessalonians 4:15-16. If the wicked immediately at death go to suffer for eternity in hellfire, then the wicked have immortality! This contradicts the Word, which says only the faithful are rewarded immortal life, John 3:16.

The Bible does not support a “second chance” for the unrepentant, but it does offer a first chance. Those who never learned the Truth in this life and never had the opportunity to understand it will be given that chance in the White Throne Judgment period of Revelation 20.

Q I discovered that the Creator’s calendar was changed, and the weekly Sabbath is never the same day the world keeps now. The weekly Sabbath always starts at the first full moon. Aren’t you misleading when you say it is always on a Saturday?

A Scholars and historians say that a lunar Sabbath system follows the Babylonian calendar. Here are solid proofs that a lunar Sabbath week is bogus according to Scripture:

- Genesis 1:14 reveals that the moon was not established until the fourth day; therefore it could not establish the fourth day or the seventh day.
- Exodus 20:8-11 commands that we are to work six days and rest the seventh. Because lunar months lack an even 28 days, we would violate this command once every month if we went by the full moon or the new moon to set the Sabbath.
- A lunar-Sabbath month leaves additional days after the fourth Sabbath. This violates the Sabbath command of a specific, seven-day week.
- Leviticus 23:14-15 instructs that we are to count seven complete weeks to establish the Feast of Weeks. This is impossible when a lunar Sabbath month has leftover days and parts of weeks.
- Yahshua observed the same sequence of Sabbaths as the Jews in the first century, which is the same sequence we use. 

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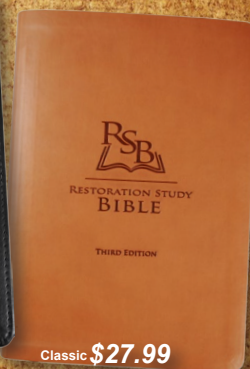
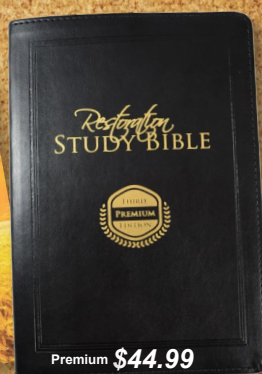
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"I would like to give all praise to Yahweh and thank Him for blessing me through you with this amazing book [Restoration Study Bible]. Thank you for the time and effort you put in to restore the true name of the holy Father and Yahweh's son Yahshua. Today I will continue my journey to true spiritual enlightenment with the Bible. I just wanted to let you know that your hard work is truly appreciated." – M.R.

"Have been watching your programs for some time now and find them to be so refreshing. One thing is you use the sacred names. We were attending a small church very close to home and that was great. A young man that spoke at our services very often decided to use the sacred names as he felt led

to. After he finished the "head honcho" stood in front of the congregation and said those names would never be used in that pulpit again as long as he was in charge. Needless to say, after several years in that church we walked out. The young man doesn't speak anymore, but still attends because of his mother. How heavy his heart must be. And after all this, we were led to YRM. Praise Yahweh! Please accept our contribution in good faith." – D.A.

It never ceases to amaze how some will run from the Truth. Entrenched tradition presents an insurmountable barricade for many, no matter how erroneous it is (see the next letter). In Malachi 2 Yahweh issues a stark warning for those who refuse His Name: "If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith Yahweh of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart." – ED

"We are not under law we are under Grace! G-d's will is worship! Which is daily! The law was fulfilled by Jesus Christ! Israel are G-d's first covenant and won't be perfect until G-d reveals the Messiah to them! Christmas is in the heart of the believer of our Lord! Why would you want to take the Only Hope of Salvation from the lost for the law?" – D.O.

We have several booklets that explain the Bible's actual teachings on these commonly misconstrued beliefs.

We will review each briefly here.

First, grace does not abrogate the law. If grace means we no longer need to keep Yahweh's laws, then grace is permission to sin, as sin is defined

as breaking of the law, 1John 3:4. In Romans 6:1 Paul wrote that sins stops at the acceptance of grace, which means law obeying. Therefore, accepting His grace means to become lawabiding. Titus 2:12. To say that grace negates lawkeeping is to be guilty of Jude 4, where wicked men were turning grace into disobedience. If we love Yahweh we will keep His commandments, 1John 5:3. There are 1,050 commands for us in the New Testament (DARB).

As for the will of Yahweh, Paul wrote in 1Thessalonians 4:3, "For this is the will of Elohim, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication." And verse 7 reads, "For Elohim hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness." To be sanctified (be holy) is to be set apart, and that is done by our obedience to Yahweh, which starts with repentance from sin. Note 2Peter 3:9, "Yahweh is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

The natural man despises Yahweh's laws and will use any and all counter-arguments he can concoct. Paul warns in Romans 8:7: "Because the carnal mind is enmity against Elohim: for it is not subject to the law of Elohim, neither indeed can be."

*Yahshua declared that He did not come to abolish the law, but to make it ironclad, Matthew 5:17-18. We must have both Yahshua **and** the law, Revelation 12:17, 22:14.*

Today's Christmas was invented centuries after the Messiah. Nowhere in the New Testament do we see Christians observing Christmas – or New Year's or Easter. The same for Sunday worship.

– ED

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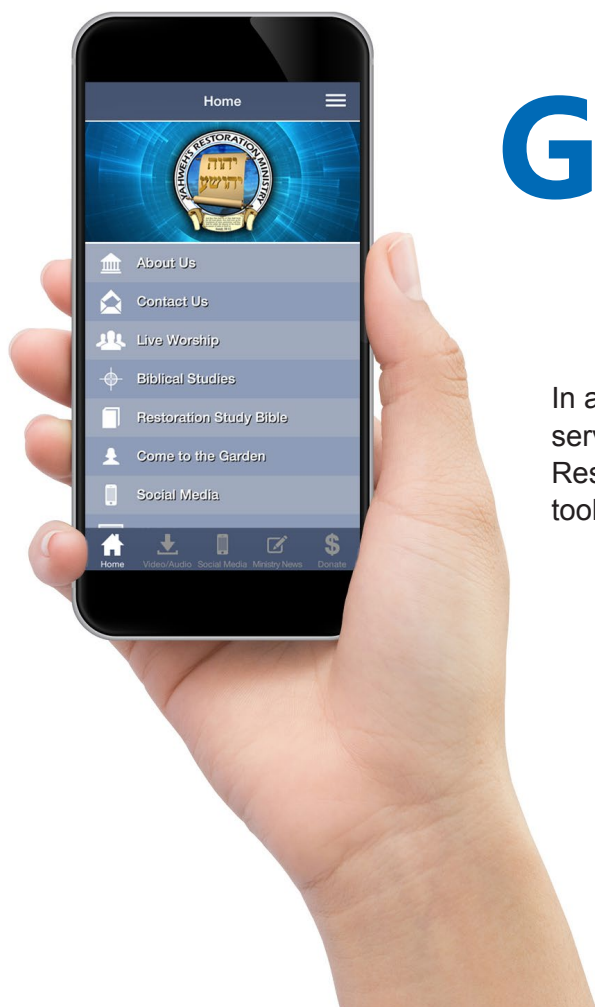
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