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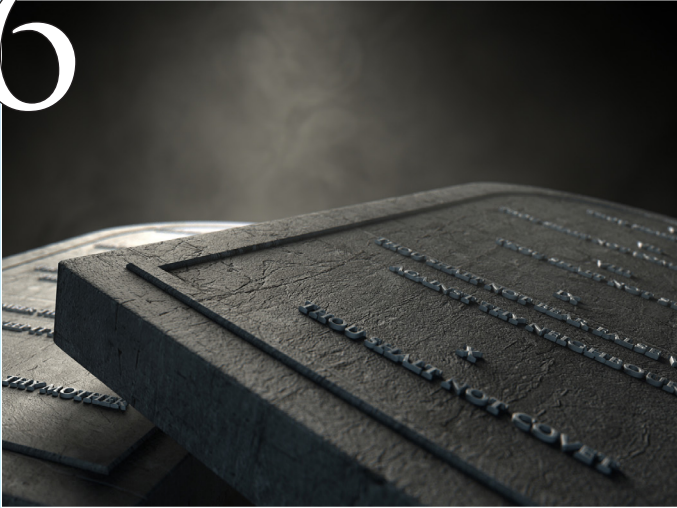


A New BEGINNING

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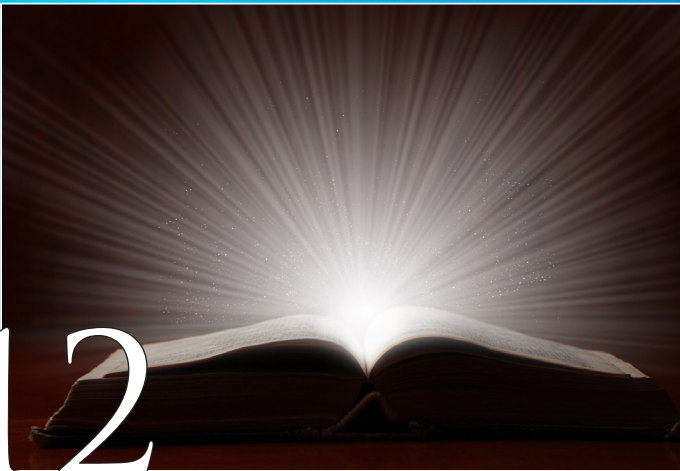


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Restoration Times expounds the close ties between the Old and New Testaments. We teach the continuity and harmony that extend from Yahweh's actions anciently down through His present activity in Yahshua the Messiah. This was also the conviction of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

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

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COVER: The decision to change our lives is one each has to decide alone. Man looking over the fjords in Norway. (iStock)



The Spirit of PENTECOST

by Randy Folliard

The day of Pentecost, also known as the Feast of Weeks in the Old Testament and *Shavuot* in Hebrew, is a day full of biblical insight and importance.

It's significant in both the Old and New testaments and is a day that Israel, along with the apostles, observed. It represents two essential gifts from our Heavenly Father – the giving of the Torah and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Examining the Command

As with any truth of Yahweh's Word, understanding the foundation is important. Leviticus 23 is a key passage providing a summary of the seven annual Feasts, including the Feast of Weeks. It reads,

“And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto Yahweh,” vv.15-16.

Normally Yahweh gives the day and month for His appointed times. For example,

He commands that we observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread on the 15th day of the first month. He follows this same pattern for all His Feasts except for this one. Instead of providing a specific month and day, He commands that we count seven complete Sabbaths or weeks from the time that the wave sheaf was offered.

The wave sheaf was presented to Yahweh by the priest on the morrow after the weekly Sabbath (Sunday) during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The grain harvest could not begin until this firstfruits sheaf was waved before Yahweh. After we count seven complete weeks, Scripture commands that we add a 50th day. This 50th day marks the Feast of Weeks and is where we receive the name “Pentecost.”

In verse 16 Yahweh says that on this day Israel was to offer a new grain offering. The type of grain is key. As believers it's important that we understand the agriculture in the Old Testament. The first month, i.e., Abib, commemorates the barley harvest, Ex. 9:31. The next grain to be harvested is wheat. Therefore, the Feast of Weeks

commemorates the wheat harvest. The first two major Feasts in the Word were based on agricultural harvests.

In verse 17 Yahweh commanded Israel to make two loaves of bread on this day. It reads, “Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; they are the firstfruits unto Yahweh.”

Notice that these two loaves both contained yeast or leavening. What might this leavening symbolize? It's possible that it represents the establishment and growth of Yahweh's assembly. We also find that leavening doesn't always symbolize sin or something negative, as believed by many. Here leavening represents something pure or holy.

Pentecost is also a time of worship and fellowship: “And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, that it may be an holy convocation unto you: ye shall do no servile work therein: it shall be a statute for ever in all your dwellings throughout your generations,” verse 21.

The phrase “holy convocation” comes from the Hebrew *qodesh miqra*, which means “a holy or sacred meeting.” Yahweh commands that we come together to worship Him on this Feast. It’s also a day of rest. It says here specifically “servile work.” This phrase derives from the Hebrew *abodah*, meaning “work of any kind.” This is a day not for ordinary work, but for the worship of our Elohim and fellowship with other like-minded believers.

Giving of the Law

Let’s now consider the Old and New testament fulfillments of this Feast. Yahweh’s Feasts reveal His plan of salvation for mankind. Our first clue is found in Exodus 19:1: “In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai.”

It’s important that we understand the timing here. This passage confirms that Israel was in the wilderness of Sinai in the third month. Based on the 50-day count from the wave sheaf, this is the month Pentecost is in. We find here that Israel was in the wilderness of Sinai during the month of Pentecost. We also know chronologically that this passage was immediately before Moses went up into Mount Sinai to receive the Law.

While it doesn’t say here that Moses received the law during this Feast, yet based on the evidence this is a high probability. In addition to Exodus 19 confirming they were at Sinai in the third month, the Jews maintain that the Law was given on this day.

Another consideration is that nearly every major event in the Old and New testaments occurred on a Feast day. What event was more significant in the Old Testament than the giving of the Torah? Additionally, Scripture shows a relationship between the giving of the Law and its counterpart in the New Testament—the giving of the Spirit at Pentecost.

Outpouring of the Spirit

The second chapter of Acts provides a description of this event: “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And

suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance,” verses 1-4. The people here were gathered for Pentecost.

Contrary to popular church doctrine, New Testament believers continued observing the Feast days even after Yahshua’s death and resurrection. Acts 20:16 shows Paul’s desire to keep Pentecost

*Through the Law we
receive the knowledge
of Yahweh’s Word and
through the Spirit we
receive the ability to rightly
apply that knowledge.*

in Jerusalem. Scripture also tells us that the Feasts will be observed in the millennial Kingdom, Isaiah 66:23; Ezekiel 45-46; and Zechariah 14:16-19.

Two important events occurred on this day in the New Testament: First, Yahweh poured out His Spirit on those gathered for Pentecost. And second, through Yahweh’s Spirit the people were given the gift of tongues.

This outpouring of the Spirit is the New Testament fulfillment for this Feast. While some believe that Pentecost foreshadows the resurrection of the saints as the firstfruits of mankind, Scripture shows that this occurs at Yahshua’s Coming, likely depicted in the Feast of Trumpets.

The Bible also confirms a relationship between the Torah (Old Testament) and Spirit (New Testament). Through the Law we receive the knowledge of Yahweh’s Word and through the Spirit we receive the ability to rightly apply that knowledge. Therefore, the Law and Spirit are complementary. What Yahweh began in the Old Testament He completed in the New Testament.

As noted, on that day those who received the Spirit were given the gift of tongues. Through the ages this gift has been misunderstood by many. In short, this

gift is the ability to speak in another known language, often divinely inspired.

The word “tongues” comes from the Greek *glossa* and means “a language (especially one naturally unacquired),” Strong’s. Based on this definition, *glossa* is a known language that often was supernaturally given. In this example, those gathered acquired this gift through the Holy Spirit.

Peter’s Pentecost Sermon

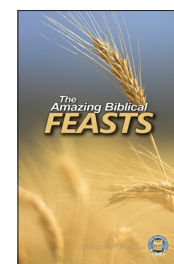
In addition to the giving of the Spirit, on this day Peter also gave a dynamic message that rattled the very foundation of the New Testament assembly. “But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith Yahweh, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they

Messianic Prophecy, Redemption and the Coming Kingdom

The Bible’s central teachings are embodied in its seven annual observances. From the salvation of the Passover to the call to obedience at Pentecost and the returning Savior and the Kingdom come to earth in the final four Feasts—it is all there.

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shall prophesy: And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of Yahweh come: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of Yahweh shall be saved," verses 16-21.

Peter begins by quoting the prophet Joel who describes how Yahweh would pour out His Spirit upon both men and women and how they would prophesy, see visions, and dream dreams. He said that all these things would occur through Yahweh's Spirit and would come to pass in the last days.

The term "latter days" describes the time between Acts, the beginning of the New Testament assembly, and the Second Coming of Yahshua the Messiah. Remember that a thousand years is like a day to Yahweh. So like Peter, we too are living in the last days. As we get closer to Yahshua's return, we will see greater manifestations through the power of Yahweh's Spirit.

One of the most important lessons we find here is in v. 21. Peter verifies that those who call on Yahweh's Name will be saved. Yahweh's Name is one of the most important and pivotal truths in Scripture.

As the Sabbath serves as a sign of Yahweh's people, Yahweh's Name serves as a seal. If we desire a relationship with our Heavenly Father, we must begin by calling on and honoring His Name, Yahweh!

Beginning in verse 36 we find the impact of Peter's high-powered message: "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that Elohim hath made that same Yahshua, whom ye have impaled, both Master and Messiah. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 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 ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as Yahweh our Elohim shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls," vv. 36-41.


After all the signs and wonders and after Peter's message, Scripture records that those gathered were pricked in their hearts for

being responsible for the death of Yahshua the Messiah. The people asked Peter, "... what shall we do?"

At this point, they were distraught, realizing for the first time the mistake they had made. They understood the magnitude of what had happened. They were guilty of putting to death the Son of Yahweh. Peter told the crowd to repent and be baptized. As a result, about 3,000 people were immersed into Yahshua's Name.

Yahweh used this day as the fire that would ignite the growth of the early New Testament assembly. If not for the outpouring of the Spirit, the gift of tongues, and Peter's message, this likely would not have happened.

The Feast of Weeks provides many valuable lessons and great insight into Yahweh's Word. Not only was the law delivered on this day, but also the Holy Spirit. Through the Law Yahweh has given mankind His instructions for righteous living and through His Spirit the wisdom to rightly apply the Word and give acumen in our lives.

If you have never experienced this Feast, we encourage you to join us for this important time. We will observe the Feast of Weeks June 4, 2017. 

Churches Keep Pentecost but Fail the Six Other Observances

Many of churchianity's observances have their roots in paganism, but were baptized into new understandings, thereby making them acceptable to both their pagan associations and to those claiming to follow the Savior.

- The Bible's Sabbath (Saturday) was transferred in later worship to Sunday.
- From the Passover came the "Mass," known as the celebration of the Eucharist. Instead of an annual celebration of His death as commanded in the Bible, the Mass is observed weekly and even daily today.
- Easter is a transmutation from the Savior's resurrection. We are told to remember His death; no injunction is given in the Word to observe His resurrection. The false notion that the Messiah rose on Sunday is also church justification for Sunday worship.

Some fifty days after the celebration of Easter the church observes the day it

calls Whitsunday, so named because of those dressed in white who were either confirmed or baptized on Pentecost.

The Bible refers to this day as "Feast of Weeks" or "Firstfruits," and is known in the New Testament as Pentecost.

Churchianity celebrates Pentecost as the birthday of the church. Biblically, Pentecost is known for the giving of the Holy Spirit as promised by our Savior. Now the Holy Spirit has come to this earth to stay and indwell sincere, repentant believers.

To the early church the day of Pentecost (by them called Quinquagesima) was a memorial to the exaltation of the Messiah at the right hand of the Father. A joyful time, it was in marked contrast to the pious observance of the days of Lent prior to the Passover season, which they changed to Easter.

Pentecost (known as Firstfruits or Feast of Weeks, and in Hebrew, *shavuoth*) has been fulfilled in both the Old as well

as the New Testament. The early church was well aware of this as church father Jerome comments on the similarities found both in the Old Testament and New Testament occasions of Pentecost:

"Both revelations of the divine law," writes Jerome to Fabiola, "took place on the fiftieth day after the Passover; the one on Sinai, the other on Zion; there the mountain was shaken, here the temple; there, amid flames and lightnings, the tempest roared and the thunder rolled, here, also with mighty wind, appeared tongues of fire; there the sound of the trumpet pealed forth the words of the law, here the cornet of the [evangel] sounded through the mouth of the apostles."

Even after the death and resurrection of the Savior, His followers were keeping this Feast called Firstfruits.

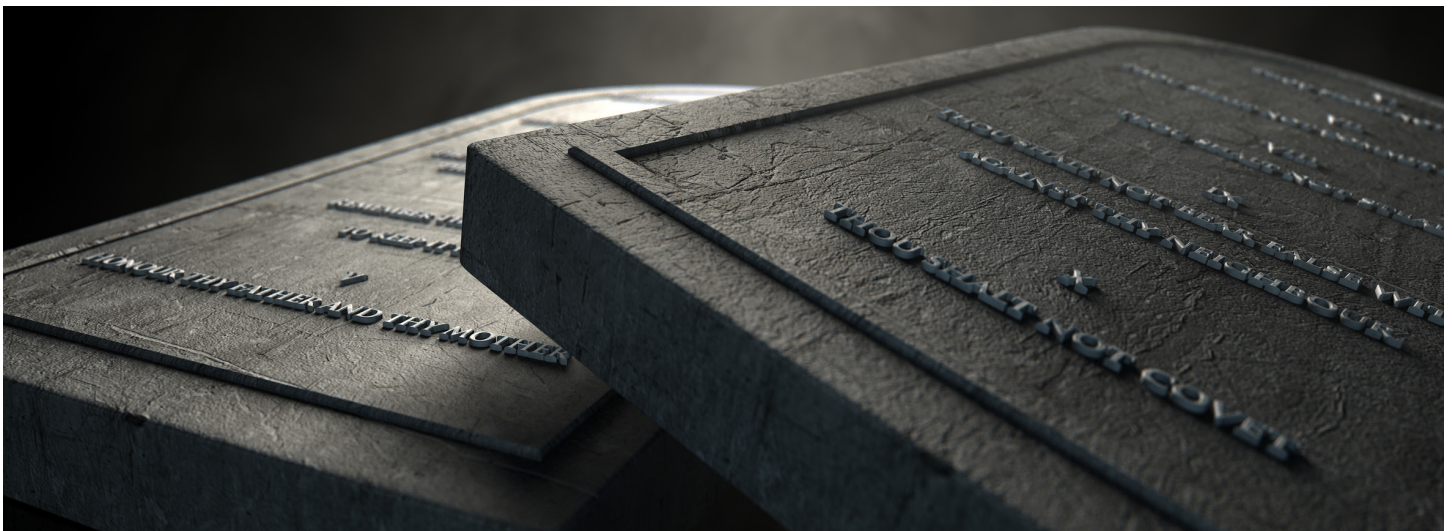
The question becomes, why don't we see all seven Feasts being observed by the church today, and not just Pentecost?

Spirit Empowers Us *to* Do YAHWEH'S *Will*

came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and [he had] nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done,” Judges 14:6. The spirit was eventually removed from him.

In the New Testament Yahshua prepared His disciples to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, which happened when they were obediently observing the day of Pentecost. Yahshua told them that if He did not go away that the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, would not come to them. He promised to send the Spirit to them, John 16:7.

Man was never promised that Yahweh would do away with His righteous laws or would no longer demand obedience to His way of life. His promise was to change the



According to scholars and tradition, on Pentecost the words of the covenant and the Ten Commandments were ratified by Israel, Exodus 24:3-11. They promised to be obedient and do all Yahweh had commanded. They were given the Tabernacle and the priesthood to help them.

The one thing they lacked, which led to their downfall, was the heart to obey. They were unable to overcome their carnal nature and be obedient to Yahweh. They lacked the Holy Spirit to help them.

In the Old Testament the giving of the Spirit was selective and temporary. It was not until the Savior had shed His blood that His redemption allowed for Yahweh's Spirit to be available to all who obey Him, Acts 5:32.

In the Old Testament we read of


certain righteous ones accomplishing great things through empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Individuals with the Spirit included the craftsman Bezaleel, who was filled with the Spirit of Yahweh in constructing the Tabernacle, Exodus 31:1-5. Other individuals were given wisdom of the heart, 35:35.

King David was endowed with the Spirit to help him rule righteously (1Sam. 16:13). Others possessing the Spirit included: Joshua (Num. 27:18); Othniel (Judg. 3:10); Jephthah (Judg. 11:29); Gideon (Num. 6:34); Jahaziel son of Zechariah (2Chron. 20:14); Saul (1Sam. 10:10); Daniel (Dan. 4:18) Micah (Mic. 3:8), and other prophets (Neh. 9:30).

Samson's great strength was given by the Holy Spirit, "And the Spirit of Yahweh

heart and mind of man through a spiritual circumcision ensuring that man would obey Him:

"And Yahweh your Elohim will circumcise your heart, and the heart of your seed, to love Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your soul, that you may live" (Deut. 30:6). The giving of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost was a fulfillment in part of the giving to mankind a willingness to obey and keep Yahweh's Commandments.

The Prophet Ezekiel prophesied, "And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: that they may walk in my statutes and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their Elohim" (Ezek. 11:19-20). 

Requirements of Baptism

by Randy Folliard

There is no greater step in our spiritual walk as believers than baptism. Yahshua the Messiah was immersed by John the Baptist as an example for us. Immersion is also the one single act that confirms our discipleship to the Messiah.

Considering the magnitude of baptism, it's crucial that we get it right. So what does the Bible say about baptism or immersion? What name or names should we be baptized into? Is anything required before we undergo this commitment? Who is qualified to baptize? And what is the consequence if we forego this step or if we are not properly immersed?

Let's begin the inquiry with some basics.

Defining Baptism

Acts 2:38 is an early account of baptism. Before discussing what Peter reveals here, let's first consider the events that led up to this pivotal moment. A large group of people just witnessed the outpouring of Yahweh's Holy Spirit and heard Peter's

dynamic Pentecost message on the death and resurrection of Yahshua the Messiah. As a result, many were pricked in their hearts.

Once the people realized what they had done in putting the Messiah to death, they were in complete remorse for their transgression. They asked Peter what they should do now. Peter replied, "...repent and be baptized." These are some of the most important words in all of Scripture.

The first step to baptism begins with repentance. Repentance comes from the Greek *metanoeo* and means "to think differently or afterwards, i.e. reconsider," Strong's.

Before entering the waters of baptism we must reconsider our past ways and commit to a new way of life. In essence, repentance is acknowledging that we cannot live as we did before and that we must change our ways and begin living according to Yahweh's Word.

The word "baptism" comes from the Greek *baptizo* and means "to immerse,

submerge; or to overwhelm (i.e. to be fully wet)," Strong's. This is why baptism is a full immersion into water and not just a sprinkling. As we'll see later, baptism also represents a burial.

Baptism first and foremost is for the remission of sins. Baptism is the only way to find forgiveness, i.e. a washing away of our past sins. To be cleansed from our previous sins and be justified we must seek water baptism into Yahshua's Name.

We also find here that the Holy Spirit is given at baptism with the laying on of hands. Contrary to what many theologians teach, the Holy Spirit is not the third person of a "Holy Trinity." Instead, it represents the power and influence emanating from our Heavenly Father that guides us into deeper truth.

Yahshua's Name Alone for Immersion

Based on the biblical record, baptism was done into the singular name of Yahshua the Messiah. This is the only form of baptism used by the apostles in the New Testament.

Besides Acts 2:38, there are several more accounts to consider:

“For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Master Yahshua” (Acts 8:16).

“And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Yahshua. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days” (Acts 10:48).

“When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Sovereign Yahshua” (Acts 19:5).

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Yahshua Messiah were baptized into his death?” (Rom. 6:3).

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Messiah have put on Messiah” (Gal. 3:27).

From these passages we find that baptism was always done into the singular Name of Yahshua the Messiah. As Peter relates in Acts 4:12, there is only one name whereby we find salvation, i.e., Yahshua. This is why we exclusively immerse into Yahshua’s Name. This is also the reason we advocate re-baptism for those who were immersed into a different name or form. As Paul states in Ephesians 4:5, there is only “one Master, one faith, one baptism.”

This includes baptism into the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as seen in Matthew 28:19. Besides the fact that this formula was never used by the apostles, there are serious questions regarding this passage’s legitimacy.

As we note in the *Restoration Study Bible*, “This Trinitarian formula is highly suspect. According to the *Jerusalem Bible*, ‘It may be that this formula ‘Father... Son... Holy Spirit,’ so far as the fullness of its expression is concerned, is a reflection of the liturgical usage established later in the primitive community.

“It will be remembered that Acts speaks of baptizing ‘in the name of Yahshua only.’ Equally important is Eusebius’ omission of this phrase: ‘The facts are, in summary, that Eusebius quotes Matthew 28:19, 21 times, either omitting everything between “nations” and “teaching,” or in the form “make disciples of all nations in my name,” the latter form being the more frequent” (*Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*).”

Baptism and the Presbytery

Being there is only one baptism, as believers we must ensure that we follow the example of Yahweh’s Word. If not, Yahweh may not

honor our baptism. For this reason it’s also important that the baptism be performed by someone who has the authority to immerse.

As we find in Scripture, the presbytery or body of elders was given the sanction to baptize and lay on hands. The only exception is that deacons too can baptize, but they must not lay on hands. As seen in the eighth chapter of Acts, while Deacon Philip was able to baptize, only Peter and John could lay on hands for the Spirit.

“Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of Elohim, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Master Yahshua.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit,” Acts 8:14-17.

Peter in Acts 10:45-46 baptized Cornelius and his household (adults only). Also, Paul in Acts 19:5-6 baptized, followed by the laying on of hands. Not only were Peter and Paul apostles, but they were also elders, 1 Peter 5:1.

Baptism is also a type of anointing, similar to ordination or praying for the sick. Why is this important? Because in every instance of anointing, whether for a priest or king in the Old Testament or ordaining an elder or deacon in the New Testament, it was always by a member of the priesthood or someone already appointed to the office of minister. For more, see “Authority to Baptize and Anoint” sidebar on p. 9.

Minimum Age for Immersion

A question many ask is, what is the appropriate age for baptism? Assuming the mother or father is in the faith, should we baptize infants or those in their teens or near it? Does the Bible provide any insight to this question?

It does, and that age is 20 years old. We call this the “age of accountability.” Several situations show that this is the age Yahweh determines that a person is answerable for their actions. Consider the following:

- “When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom for his soul unto Yahweh, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when thou numberest them. This they shall give, every one that passeth among them

that are numbered, half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary: (a shekel is twenty gerahs:) an half shekel shall be the offering of Yahweh. Every one that passeth among them that are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering unto Yahweh,” Exodus 30:12-14.

- “Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When a man shall make a singular vow, the persons shall be for Yahweh by thy estimation. And thy estimation shall be of the male from twenty years old even unto sixty years old, even thy estimation shall be fifty shekels of silver, after the shekel of the sanctuary,” Leviticus 27:2-3.

- “From twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth to war in Israel: thou and Aaron shall number them by their armies,” Numbers 1:3.

- “This is it that belongeth unto the Levites: from twenty and five years old and upward they shall go in to wait upon the service of the tabernacle of the congregation: And from the age of fifty years they shall cease waiting upon the service thereof, and shall serve no more,” Numbers 8:24-25.

- “Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith Yahweh, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you: Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me,” Numbers 14:28-29.

- “And Yahweh’s anger was kindled the same time, and he sware, saying, Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; because they have not wholly followed me,” Numbers 32:1-11.

- “For by the last words of David the Levites were numbered from twenty years old and above: Because their office was to wait on the sons of Aaron for the service of the house of Yahweh, in the courts, and in the chambers, and in the purifying of all holy things, and the work of the service of the house of Elohim,” 1 Chronicles 23:27.

- “Now in the second year of their coming unto the house of Elohim at Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the remnant of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all

they that were come out of the captivity unto Jerusalem; and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to set forward the work of the house of Yahweh,” Ezra 3:8.

While each one of these accounts is important, perhaps the most notable are those describing Yahweh’s judgment of Israel in the wilderness. Because of their rebellion, all those 20 years and older and considered mature and accountable died in the wilderness!

Repentance is key

Peter in Acts 3:28 told the people first to “repent.” The word repent means to think differently or to reconsider. In essence, it’s recognizing our past sins and committing to live a better way according to Yahweh’s commandments. We also know from the Word that those who backslide from this covenant promise will be judged harshly.

Realizing the awesome gravity and commitment in baptism, it is essential that the person who obligates himself to this crucial step is of a responsible age

and accountable for their actions going forward. Scripture unquestionably teaches this age to be 20 years old.

Some might argue that their teenager is ready. While this may be true of a very small portion of teens, most in this stage of life are not experienced enough in life, committed, and mature in heart and mind to grasp such a life-altering promise to Yahweh. They cannot appreciate the profound significance of repentance in our lives.

Once committed to the “burial” water Yahweh will hold the person to their decision for life and there is no turning back; there are no “do-overs” when we pledge our life to Yahweh. Any minister who would baptize an immature youth has no regard for the magnitude of his actions. Consider that Yahshua held off His own baptism and the beginning His ministry until 30 years of age. While we don’t believe this requires us to wait until 30 for baptism, it shows that waiting at least until 20 is minimal, even for the most advanced and mature teen.

Dying A Spiritual Death

Baptism symbolically represents a death of our old nature. Paul in Romans 6:3 states, “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Yahshua Messiah were baptized into his death?”

Paul explains that baptism represents a type of burial. The death that it represents is something special; it symbolizes the death of Yahshua the Messiah. When we’re immersed into Yahshua’s Name we emblematically take part in His death.

By dying to Him through baptism we put to death our old man and essentially become part of Him. It should be remembered that a sinner cannot enter into Yahweh’s Kingdom, 1Corinthians 6:9-11, and that only those in Messiah will be resurrected at His Second Coming, 1Corinthians 15:23.

Paul goes on to say, “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Messiah was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection,” verses 4-5.

Paul confirms here that baptism represents a death; the death of Yahshua the Messiah. He also explains that after baptism we are to walk in newness of life. The word “newness” comes from the Greek *kainotes* and refers to a “renewal.”

At baptism we start over as a new person with a new life and aspirations, and goals that make Yahweh and His Word the center of our lives. We become dead to our old man and walk in a new and better way. This is what it means to walk in newness of life.

We find here a third reason that baptism into Yahshua’s Name is necessary for salvation. In verse 5 Paul explains that as we were buried with Yahshua at baptism, we will also be resurrected in His likeness at His coming. Therefore, to be resurrected in Messiah we must first die to Messiah through baptism. Without baptism into Yahshua’s Name we are none of His and cannot partake in His resurrection.

Avoiding Sin

Starting in verse 6, Paul explains the need of removing sin: “Knowing this, that our old man is impaled with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead

Who Has the Authority to Baptize and Anoint?

The following listing of circumstances reveals that anointing, whether for kings, priests, ministers, or for the Holy Spirit following baptism, was always conducted by the priesthood or ministry and never by unordained laymen:

- Moses anointed Aaron as high priest, Leviticus 8:12
- Moses anointed Aaron’s sons as priests, Leviticus 8:30
- Moses anointed Joshua as leader of Israel, Numbers 27:23, and Deuteronomy 34:9
- Samuel anointed Saul as king, 1Samuel 10:1
- Samuel anointed David as king, 1Samuel 16:13
- Zadok the priest anointed Solomon as king, 1 Kings 1:39
- Apostles anointed the sick, Mark 6:13
- Yahweh anointed Yahshua, Luke 4:18, Acts 10:38
- Yahshua anointed (healed) the blind man, John 9:6
- Apostles laid their hands (ordained) the seven deacons, Acts 6:6
- Deacon Philip baptized; Apostles Peter and John laid on hands for the Holy Spirit, Acts 8:12, 17
- Peter baptized a group of gentiles during his visit with Cornelius, Acts 10:45-46
- Paul baptized and laid his hands on disciples in Ephesus, Acts 19:6
- Timothy was ordained by the body of elders and for the granting of the Spirit, 1Timothy 4:14
- Elders anoint the sick, James 5:14

is freed from sin.... Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto Elohim, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto Elohim," verses 6-7, 12-13.

Paul state that at baptism our old man is impaled with Yahshua the Messiah. We impale the flesh so that our carnal, sinful nature might be destroyed. After baptism we can no longer justifiably live a life of sin. This is why Scripture describes baptism as a death to our old person. If something is dead it no longer exists. For example, Scripture says that the dead cannot praise Yahweh.

Baptism works the same way regarding sin. Those immersed into Yahshua's Name have an obligation to abstain from sin and the breaking of Yahweh's commandments, 1John 3:4. Have those immersed into Yahshua's Name become complacent? Do we find ourselves compromising His Word? The commitment that we made at baptism holds as true today as it did the day of our baptism.

In verse 13 Paul says that we should yield our members as instruments of righteousness unto Elohim. The word "righteousness" here comes from the Greek *dikaioisune*. The **Thayer's Greek Lexicon** defines this word: "(1) the doctrine concerning the way in which man may attain a state approved of G-d and (2) integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness of thinking feeling, and acting."

These are the characteristics and values that believers in the Messiah must exhibit in their own lives. How do we measure up? Are we fulfilling the commitment we made when we underwent immersion into Yahshua's Name? Are we displaying integrity and righteousness in our lives?

If Yahshua returned today, would we have the confidence to stand boldly before Him knowing that we faithfully served Him? If the answer is "yes," praise Yahweh. However, if we are uncertain or the answer is "no," then let us better serve Him. Scripture states that we were bought with a price and that we no longer belong to ourselves, but to our Savior. This commitment occurred at baptism.

If you have not yet been immersed into Yahshua's Name, but desire this crucial

step, then we encourage you to contact the Ministry or seek out a congregation following the truths of Scripture, including calling on the Names of Yahweh and Yahshua along with observing the Sabbath and Feast days.

As long as we are committed to our Heavenly Father, Yahweh, and to our Savior, Yahshua the Messiah, then there's no reason to wait. A person does not need to be perfect for baptism, but only possess a resolute faith and a humble heart to faithfully obey the One they worship.

Excerpts from our booklet, If You Seek Baptism...


To be considered one of Yahweh's sons or daughters a dynamic transformation in your very thinking must first occur. That change includes the desire to put sin out of your life by leaving behind the old nature in the burial waters of baptism. You come out of the water a new person, a new creation with a different way of looking at life. See Ezekiel 18:31.

What was once important to you as a carnal individual now takes a backseat to pleasing Yahweh in everything. It means nothing less than surrendering your very life to your Creator. It comes down to saying, "All that you have said in your Word I will do and be obedient." Paul describes it as "putting on Messiah," Galatians 3:27.

Yahshua now rules your thoughts and your actions. His life becomes the pattern for your life. Through Yahweh's Spirit you see the world and look at your life through His eyes. Your earthly existence is nothing less than training for an everlasting Kingdom.

Before you commit to baptism you must be absolutely sure of your decision. You must be aware that there are severe consequences for not following through in your commitment to Yahweh after your baptism. The irrevocable promise you make at immersion includes complete obedience to Yahweh.

Living for Yahweh will entail difficulty at times. Paul wrote, "Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of Elohim, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of Elohim, for which you also suffer." (NASV)

Nothing worthwhile comes easy. That is especially true of the Kingdom. 

What About the 613 Laws?

Many embrace Jewish traditions more than Scripture. They observe purely Jewish holidays like Hanukkah and Purim and neglect the commanded seven annual Holy Days of Leviticus 23. Incidentally, the word Purim is Persian and means "lots," as in casting lots. The ancient practice worked like a horoscope, where the heathen cast lots to divine the future each day.

Following Jewish practices often leads to renouncing the New Testament and along with it, Yahshua the Messiah.

The Ten Commandments

You shall not murder.^m

Neither shall you commit adultery.

Neither shall you steal.

Neither shall you bear false witness against your neighbor.

Neither shall you covet your neighbor's wife.

Neither shall you desire your neighbor's house, or field, or male slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

These words the Lord spoke with a loud voice to you in the assembly at the mountain.

At the other end of the spectrum are critics of obedience as practiced in the New Testament. "So do you keep all 613 laws?" they typically ask in a "gotcha" attempt intended to entrap. Let's take an overview of what the Jews contend are the 613 laws of the Old Testament.

Granted, we observe the vast majority of Yahweh's commands in the way He intended. But there are some commands that clearly could only apply to the time of ancient Israel.

For instance, a statute in Deuteronomy 22:8 says to make a low wall about 3 feet tall around your roof. That law makes sense for safety on flat roofs in Israel because families used their roofs as living spaces. But it makes no practical sense for most homes today in America.

Following are more laws we today cannot comply with because of their nature:

Leviticus 25:34 says Levites are to redeem their homes in their Levitical towns; their houses are redeemable but the land surrounding them is not. To keep this law we need first to find out where any remaining Levites are today, where their fields are and where their cities are. If we can't determine that then we fail in this law.

Deuteronomy 12:2-3 directs Israel to destroy their idolatry and its appurtenances. Anyone care to go through retail stores in December and take a hammer to all the Santa figures and cut down all the Xmas trees?

Exodus 22:18 targets witchcraft with a mandate not to allow a witch to live. What would happen if we took this law into our own hands vigilante style?

Then there are all the laws pertaining to the high priest and the conducting of temple worship. Being we are not under the Levitical priesthood, these laws are unobservable today. Hebrews 5:6 tells us, "As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."

Anyone with a physical defect shall not serve in the sanctuary, Leviticus 21:17. There is no sanctuary or priesthood even existing now.

We get ourselves into a real predicament if we attempt to keep the sacrificial laws today because sacrifices are owned by Yahshua's power as our High Priest in the Melchisedec order. His sacrifice covered all sacrifices for sin. We best not offer animal sacrifices if we value our salvation as there

is no complete removal of sin under the old system of animal sacrifices.

Those 613 laws (a number not found in Scripture but only in Talmudic tradition) were also the constitution of Israel. Those statutes were necessary for running a righteous, theocratic government under Yahweh. They include laws on how a ruler should conduct himself as well as statutes governing political interactions with other nations. They regulated court proceedings and judgments, punishing of criminals, citizen behavior, social interactions, and worship.

Many of these statutes are not in our power to comply with because we live under a Roman system, a government of man, which has assumed some of Yahweh's prerogatives. The Bible was Israel's constitution and it will be again in the millennial Kingdom.

Now, biblical laws dealing with Yahweh's worship, social relations and morality are for everyone. Many cross over categories. The following is a quick breakdown of major divisions of biblical law and some examples of each.

Governmental Law

The king must not have too many wives and horses, Deut. 17:16,17

The king must not have too much silver and gold, Deut. 17:17

Regulations of houses in walled cities, Lev. 25:29

How can such statutes apply to us?

Judicial Law

Appoint impartial judges, Deut. 1:17 and 16:18

A judicial court must not execute anyone on the testimony of a single witness, Deut. 17:6; Num. 35:30

Anyone who knows the evidence must testify in a court case, Lev. 5:1

Punish the false witness exactly as he sought to punish the accused, Deut. 19:19

How can these laws apply to us in a court system that's not ours?

Moral Law (*regulates relationships with fellow man*, Ex. 20:12-17; Matt. 22:37-39)

Don't bear a grudge, Lev. 19:18

Don't wrong any one in speech, Lev. 25:17

Don't curse father or mother. Ex. 21:17

Keep your word and your promises,

Deut. 23:23

Don't take revenge, Lev. 19:18

Don't be superstitious, Lev. 19:26

Keep the Ten Commandments, Ex. 20

These laws are for everyone in any age.

Spiritual Law

Observe the Ten Commandments, Ex. 20; Deut. 5

Keep the Feasts and Sabbath, Lev. 23

Eat only clean foods, Lev. 11

Observe the sabbaticals and jubilees, Lev. 25

Yahweh no longer wants animal sacrifices (Hebrews 10:5)

Animal sacrifices did not remove sin. (Hebrews 10:11). They simply pointed to the Messiah who was to die as the Lamb of Elohim who would take away the sin of the world.

Crossover laws: Don't allow anyone practicing witchcraft to live (Ex. 22:17)

Slay the inhabitants of a city that has become idolatrous and burn that city (Deut. 13:16-17)

Man's statutes do not change perpetual spiritual laws such as sodomite marriages.

Civil Law

Order of inheritance, Num. 27:8

Help a brother with his fallen beast of burden, Deut. 22:4


Don't overcharge or underpay for an item, Lev. 25:14

Don't charge a believer interest, Deut. 23:19-20

Houses sold within a walled city may be redeemed within a year, Lev. 25:29

Yahshua Our Standard

Yahshua is our guide when it comes to obedience, as He provided the proper example of how to live the precepts of His Father Yahweh. Being sinless, Yahshua was faithful to the Old Testament commandments, including the weekly Sabbath and Feasts, Hebrews 4:15, 1 Peter 2:22.

The saints at the end of the Bible are defined as those who "keep the commandments of Yahweh, and the faith of Yahshua," Revelation 14:12. They have both Yahshua and the law. Obedience to the commandments as well as fidelity to the same standard of living shown by Yahshua come as a unit. Those who do Yahweh's commandments are called blessed, and they will have right to Yahshua's coming Kingdom, Revelation 22:14. 



Yahweh's Word Is

One **INCREDIBLE** Book!

by Alan Mansager

What 3,400 year-old book can you cite that is errorless in its prophecies, flawless scientifically, spot-on historically, up-to-the-minute both sociologically and ethically—all the while being as current as today's newspaper?

The Bible is all of that, and much more.

There are 1,800 prophecies in the Bible and not one has ever been proven wrong. Being that the Scriptures are Yahweh's inspired words, nothing in the original autographs could be anything but totally true, accurate, and irreproachable.

Psalms 12:6 tells us, "The words of Yahweh are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times." In other words, perfect.

Everything the Scriptures give us in terms of direction in life is absolutely faultless. John 17:17 tells us, "Thy Word

is Truth."

The Word itself also claims inerrancy. Proverbs 30:5 and 6 tells us, "Every word of Elohim is pure." It is thoroughly accurate.

The oldest texts of the Dead Sea Scrolls were produced about four centuries before Yahshua, and they validate the faithfulness of later manuscripts that were used for the translations of the Old Testament. Compare them with one Hebrew manuscript after another and you find them amazingly accurate.

Bible Is Perfect and Complete

There has never been anything in the Bible proved false. The Bible is way ahead of its time in every category.

The Bible is also complete, with nothing more needed for the believer. From Genesis through Revelation all 66 books are comprehensive and nothing is to be

added or removed from the text.

At the beginning of the book Yahweh cautions, "You shall not add to the Word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it," Deuteronomy 4:2. In the middle of the Scriptures we read, "Every word of Eloah is pure...Add not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar," Proverbs 30:5-6. At the end, in Revelation 22:18-19, we find the same prohibition against introducing any additions or deletions.

The perfection of the Scriptures also perfects us. Paul told Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture is inspired by Yahweh and is profitable for instruction, for correction, for reproof, for training in righteousness that the man of Elohim may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." It is sufficient. Nothing more is needed as to proper, spiritual training for salvation.

No special revelation from on high to individuals is required. Yahweh doesn't need to buttress His Word in that way. Neither is Yahweh's Word open to personal, private interpretation, 2Peter 1:20.

Scripture is authoritative and final for the entire universe. Isaiah 1:2 says, "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth, for Yahweh has spoken." Psalm 119:89 verifies, "Forever, O Yahweh, Thy Word is settled in heaven."

This imperious book comes to us in the form of many commands. It reveals blessings when we follow it and sufferings when we don't.

The Word even predicts that many won't accept it or Yahweh's laws as His standard of behavior today. The natural mind has innate resistance to obedience. The Bible calls it enmity in Romans 8:7:

"Because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward Elohim; for it does not subject itself to the law of Elohim, for it is not even able to do so," *New American Standard Bible*.

Man Naturally Dislikes Limits

We live by laws that regulate our everyday existence. We can't survive without law. We see law operating in what we eat, how we move, and how we drive; law is behind what we live in, it regulates our finances, our government, our activities. Laws keep us healthy and safe.

Natural laws also make life possible—everything is controlled and kept in order by natural law—macro life or micro life, it all responds to and is limited in well-defined, fixed ways.

When we move to the moral realm, however, in the minds of the obstinate there is no absolute law. They want the wild West where you can do whatever you want with impunity.

That's impossible. There are built-in moral principles and restraints in life. Serious social problems result when moral laws are ignored or violated. Prisons are filled with violators of moral-ethical laws.

Break Yahweh's spiritual laws and you will get kickbacks and consequences just as when breaking physical laws like jumping from a skyscraper or ingesting poisons.

Paul clearly taught that law is always in effect, New Testament-focused doctrine notwithstanding, Romans 7:1.

How many know that the Bible contains over 250 passages in the Old

Testament as well as 55 passages in the New Testament that require obedience to everything that is commanded in Scripture? In addition there are 1,050 New Testament passages that speak of obeying Yahweh in His commands, statutes and judgments (Dake's).

The Bible is an incredible book that explains the way to true happiness. Get in line with it and your life will be filled with hope and deep-down joy and satisfaction. Go against it and you will be miserable and suffer consequences. The Creator who put in place natural laws is the same one Who established moral and spiritual law.

Bible Scientifically Accurate

The Scripture presents the only viable explanation for the universe. And it has not been proved false in anything it says. Not a single statement is in error. No human work can do that.

Why don't some brilliant professors who believe nothing produced everything write a book detailing the universe, the nature of man, and hundreds of long-range prophecies. Then, 6,000 years from now we'll compare and see if everything they wrote is still true and accurate as the Bible.

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

In the physical world the Bible affirms that mass doesn't go out of existence. It can alter form but it doesn't disappear. Communities found that out when they burned trash at city dumps. You didn't really get rid of the trash, you simply changed its form, going from land pollution to air-polluting smoke.

The first law of thermo-dynamics says that energy cannot be created or destroyed. The total amount of energy and matter in the universe remains constant,

Does the bible know anything about that?

Note what Isaiah said thousands of years ago, "Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness

of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth," 40:26.

Here we find not only that all the stars and planets are named, but also a confirmation that their matter cannot go out of existence. Nehemiah 9:6, also reads, "Thou hast made heaven, the earth and all things therein, the seas and all things therein and Thou preservest them all."

Ecclesiastes 1:10, "Is there anything of which it may be said...See, this is new? No, it has already been from of old." The Bible has been proclaiming this for thousands of years.

The Bible also affirms another law which says, left to themselves things break down, become disordered. They don't become more complex, more sophisticated, more organized. Build a sand castle and eventually wind, waves, and rain will flatten it out. Erect a skyscraper and it will in time rust away and collapse. It won't evolve into a space shuttle.

The law of increasing disorder (also the Second Law of Thermodynamics) alone disproves evolution because it says

The Bible speaks of the nature and behavior of man that is the same today as at the dawn of man's existence.



things start from order and go to disorder, not the other way around. In other words, everything put together will eventually fall apart on its own, not become more complex and sophisticated.

Disbelievers want to believe in evolution because they don't want a Creator; because then they'd be subject to His commands and be under His judgment. So just eliminate Him with a theory that everything happened all by itself! That's lunacy.

Incredibly, supposedly “smart” scientists believe it! Scripture even addresses them in Romans 1:22, 25: “Professing themselves wise they became fools... They exchanged the truth of Yahweh for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator who is forever praised,” NIV.

Evolution focuses entirely on created things, trying to find a link between them that would support their hypothesis.

Romans 8 presents this to us in very clear terms. Listen to what the Apostle Paul wrote before any scientist had come up with it. “The creation was subjected to nothingness.” Evolution has to begin with something. It can’t run on nothing.

When the Bible talks about scientific things it is totally accurate. Even science fails to explain where the primordial soup came from. Where the spark came from that supposedly began life, and all of the other impossibilities inherent in this theory.

The Book of Job in 26:8 and 36:27-28 describes a great deal about the scientific workings of the earth, including evaporation and condensation. Ecclesiastes 1:7 gives the water cycle.

Wise, Foolish Man

Man professing himself wise is but a fool. Old ideas about the earth and about the solar system were very strange. Before 500 years ago many thought that the earth was a CD, a flat disk.

When Copernicus came along in the 15th century he presented the idea that the earth was in motion. He asserted that the earth rotated on its axis once daily and traveled around the sun once yearly: it was a fantastic concept for the times. People first thought he was crazy when he said the earth was spinning at 1,000 mph because they couldn’t feel the motion.

Hippocrates—another “great” mind—said there were one thousand and twenty-two stars in the sky. Ptolemy said, “No, there are one thousand and fifty-six.” And Kepler said, “You’re both wrong, there are one thousand and fifty-five.”

Why didn’t they read Jeremiah 33:22, which says the stars can’t be counted. Give it up, fellows, they are too numerous to be counted. Estimates today reach into a hundred billion stars and planets in our galaxy alone, and there are billions of galaxies!

Job says Yahweh hangs the earth on nothing. How did he know that? One

ancient Eastern book says it rests on seven layers of sugar, honey and butter. The Hindu says it rests on the backs of elephants. And when Job says He turns the earth like the clay to the seal, he’s simply saying it rotates on an axis.

How did Job know that? In fact he uses the word *klug*, which speaks of the circle or sphere of the earth as does Isaiah 40:22. How did he know it was a sphere? Job said Yahweh imputed weight to the wind. It wasn’t until the seventeenth century that anybody realized that a column of air had weight.

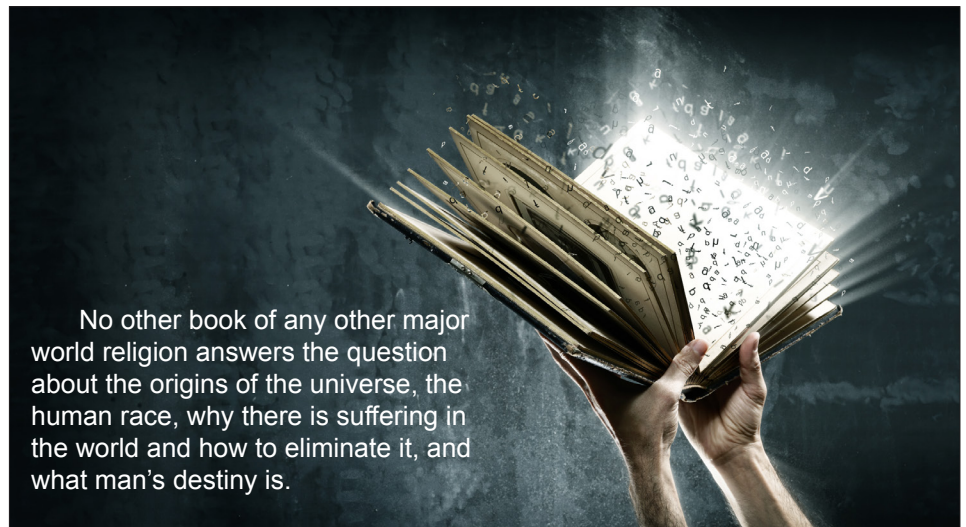
It’s said that George Washington died after doctors bled him to death trying to

would be, and his act of releasing Israel from captivity. In addition, King Josiah was named 300 years before his birth, 1Kings 13:2.

Prophetically the Bible is without peer. No human could write such pre-history and come even close to the precision as in the Word. Nobody on earth knows what the future holds. But Scripture does.

The Bible refers to the Hittite people 36 times. Because no outside record could confirm their existence, skeptics said the Bible couldn’t be trusted. Excavations in Turkey now have shown that the Hittite empire was extensive.

The same nonexistence was claimed



No other book of any other major world religion answers the question about the origins of the universe, the human race, why there is suffering in the world and how to eliminate it, and what man's destiny is.

cure a viral infection. They used to bleed you for healing until they finally figured out what the Scriptures had been saying for thousands of years: “The life of the flesh is in the blood,” Leviticus 17:11. Blood carries life. When Yahshua shed His blood for us, He gave His life for ours. Blood for blood.

Astronomical Chances for Accuracy

The Bible has made amazing prophecies that have already been fulfilled.

No human could predict with such exactness what the Bible prophesied about Yahshua’s identity, name, birthplace and burial all 700 years before He was born. The likelihood that 48 prophecies about someone were accurately fulfilled would be 1 in 10 followed by 157 zeros. Yahshua fulfilled more than 300 prophecies about Himself, made 150 years before He was born,

Isaiah predicted where Cyrus, king of Persia, would be born, what his name

of the biblical cities of Ur, Sodom, and Gomorrah until the Ebla tablets were found in the 1960s.

No other book of any other major world religion answers the question about the origins of the universe, the human race, why there is suffering in the world and how to eliminate it, and what man’s destiny is. Only the Bible does.

Nothing explains all of this except that Yahweh wrote it.

Nothing else explains its scientific accuracy.

Nothing else explains its prophetic accuracy.

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

Nothing else explains its miracles which are from front to back in the Word—verified by many eyewitnesses. Being that the Bible is proven totally true and accurate on many levels, let alone that it is the very key to life, who would not want to learn it

for the sake of their own salvation?

One of the biggest hindrances to Bible study is when we come to Scripture with presuppositions and force the Bible to conform to those beliefs.

Time for Proper Study

You can't learn Scripture if you don't know what it says. Begin with prayer, asking Yahweh for His guidance.

One effective way to learn the Word is to take a book like Acts and read it. Read all of the book. Then read it again. Read it 30 times in a row until you know the book. You'll know where certain verses are by location on the page in your favorite Bible (like the RSB!).

Look at chapter headings in the RSB. Memorize what those chapters are about.

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

So how do we handle it accurately?

Appreciate the Language

As we know, the Bible was not written in English. The Old Testament was written in a more ancient Hebrew with some passages in Aramaic, spoken during the time of Yahshua among the Jews.

Right at the start we face a problem. Not only was the Old Testament written in Hebrew but it was also written in a kind of Hebrew that isn't spoken today. Hebrew changed over time as languages do. And the New Testament was translated into a Greek language that is different from the Greek of today.

It's even called *koine* Greek which means common Greek and it was different from the more sophisticated or literary Greek.

To know the Bible well knowing the language is very important. Somebody has to know the language. If you as a Bible student don't know it you need to have somebody who does know it informing you about it. That's where commentaries come in and word aids, as well as lexicons and studies, like: *Vine's Expository Dictionary of New and Old Testament Words*, *Gesenius, Brown Driver Briggs Hebrew Lexicon*, *Thayers Greek Lexicon*.

There never was a time when we had more opportunity to be good students of

Scripture because there have never been more study tools available.

Another difficulty we face is the culture gap, which deals not with the speech but with the customs. Speech is connected to custom.

Idioms—Language Landmines

Speech is idiomatic. We're familiar with certain English idioms that make the language difficult for foreigners.

Imagine a foreigner trying to figure out what you mean when you use the following idioms:

"I smell a rat"

"Pay through the nose"

"Knock your socks off"

Imagine the problems of trying to learn English that's filled with these strange idioms!

When you deal with ancient language you're also dealing with idiomatic speech, and you're dealing with expressions that are reflective of an ancient culture, and knowing culture is crucial. You can't recreate the setting biblically unless you know the culture.

Understanding many things about culture—Jewish culture, Greek culture, pagan culture—is key to interpreting some passages.

Another hurdle is the geographical problem. For example, Deuteronomy 16:1 discusses Abib as the first biblical month. What occurs at this time in this area of the world? Barley ears of grain are green, and "green" is where the word Abib derives.

Hebrew-Greek Differences

It has been said that the best way to learn your own language is to study a foreign language.

Hebrew is not as complex as Greek. In fact, there's no single Greek verb that is uniformly regular. Which means that in learning Greek you do a lot of memorizing of irregular verb parts and every verb has a myriad of forms. Each time you change any of the grammar in the sentence the form of the verb changes.

If you understand the mechanics of language, you can better understand its meaning.

If you want to study Hebrew or Greek be prepared to do an immense amount of memorization, and Greek more so than Hebrew. In Hebrew virtually every word is tied to a three-letter root. You can

understand a variety of related words just knowing the one root word.

Another issue we confront in Bible understanding is the culture gap. How did the Hebrews think? How did the Greeks think? When Paul is writing to the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 11 he gets into long hair and headcoverings.

One of the things Greek women were doing in Paul's day was demanding liberation. They were shaving their heads. Understanding that background, when Paul talks about a woman's hair being her glory your understanding is enriched.

Historical context is also key, as in understanding, for example, why Pilate tried so hard to get the Jews to release Yahshua, why he washed his hands of the whole sham after finding Yahshua innocent, and yet impaled Yahshua anyway.

Realize that Pilate was already up to his neck in trouble with the Roman Empire because of at least three major mistakes that he made while he was governor. And the Roman Caesar wanted Pax Romana, Roman peace in the Empire, and all Pilate kept doing was getting hostile Jews angry with Rome.

The Jews realized this when they finally pulled their trump card and said to him, "If you don't impale Him, we'll tell Caesar." Knowing the back story provides greater depth of insight.

To understand 1 Corinthians 12 to 14 in regard to speaking in tongues you need to realize the meaning of two words in the Greek language, *enthusiasmos* and *ekstasia*, which is enthusiasm and ecstasy transliterated into English.

Those words defined the nature of worship in the mystery religions, which included whipping the people into ecstasy and enthusiasm, both of which were sort of altered states of consciousness in which you flipped out and did bizarre and wild things. To the pagans this was sort of mystically how you connected with the deities.

We at Yahweh's Restoration Ministry are dedicated to returning to the faith once delivered. That includes preaching the Word without fear or compromise. We know that to do so is not popular, even among those who should know better. Yet, we can do nothing else if we are to be faithful to the Word. If you would like to join in that goal in these last days, we would be greatly blessed to have your help in any way.

We were once visited by a relative who knew that my wife and I were firm believers in keeping Scripture as our Savior taught. Expecting an assault on his liberal, no-law theology, he preempted an anticipated first strike by firing off a volley of tired old bromides on love and grace.

Whenever I hear these sweet nothings, my brain slips into neutral and then flames out. Why do so many replace serious study and investigation of Scripture with jargon they don't understand themselves?

Many self-claimed teachers cling to featherweight phrases they've heard and now personally own – superficialities with no bearing on anything, just empty calories.

We'll look at some of the shallow sweet nothings you often hear today and compare them with Scripture. This may prove useful if you are ever confronted with cliché abuse.

Frivolous Fluff

It's the kind of message you hear in countless worship settings.

Preacher Peter steps to the pulpit. "The L-rd spoke to my heart today and He gave me this message. Brother Brad has been struggling in his marriage. Brad, just take it to Him in prayer. Just let go and let G-d.

"Brothers and sisters, what is YOUR burden today? Whatever your struggle, it's covered by the blood! Can I get an amen? Remember, He is working things out in your favor, He will never leave you where He found you. No weapon formed against us shall stand. Every assignment has been canceled. Devil, we're returning everything you sent signed, sealed, and undelivered!"

So did you learn anything? Were you given any fresh insights that motivate you to walk closer to Yahweh in your life?

New clichés are launched all the time. Even Bible verses can become clichés when wrenched from their context and forced to apply where they don't belong. The worst clichés are the ones that rhyme. "My worship is anointed and appointed." And, "I'm too blessed to be stressed."

TV evangelists are great at spinning cotton candy. Throw in some audience participation, some "Speak it brother," and the crowd will rave, thinking it's a great message. Platitudes abound where critical thought is absent.

Clichés live in the world of generalities, as do countless sermons today. The minute you get specific is when you must be ready to defend your beliefs and teachings.

Twisted Ways of Today's Clichés

by Alan Mansager

Where in the Word do we find support for clichés? Paul said to Timothy, "Avoid profane and vain babblings which some professing have erred concerning the faith," 1Timothy 6:20.

Let's dig into some of the more common clichés and see what lurks there. Can we take away anything worthwhile?

- **"If G-d brings you to it, He will bring you through it."** So how do you know He brought you to it? As in the lesson of Job, Satan can also bring you to it. Or maybe Yahweh did bring you to it and wants you to stay there for a while and learn something. Trials offer great learning lessons.

In 2Corinthians 4:16-17 Paul wrote, "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

Peter cautioned: "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Messiah's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy," 1Peter 4:12-13.

Trials make the dedicated believer stronger. As the *Companion Bible* notes, the same sun that melts the wax hardens the clay.

- **"G-d wants me to be happy."** Where

is that in the Bible? Happiness is driven by emotion; commitment comes by conformity to the Word, and THAT is what makes Yahweh happy. Yahshua told His disciples in John 13:17: "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye DO them." True happiness is not about us. It's about being united with Him through following His will, which leads to wisdom and righteousness.

Worship became emotion-driven about 50 years ago, where happiness became the new goal. Happiness is not an entitlement. Getting in line with Yahweh is what leads to satisfying, real happiness in the Believer.

Peter teaches a counter-intuitive lesson on happiness: "If ye be reproached for the name of Messiah, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of Elohim rests upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified," 1Peter 4:14.

James 5:11 adds, "Behold, we count them happy which endure. You have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of Yahweh." Incidentally, if the law came to an end, so did Yahweh and Yahshua, because the same word *telos*, meaning goal, is used for Yahshua as being the end goal of the law as well (Rom.10:4).

You can recite clichés all day long, but unless you get out of your comfort zone and do something about the faith you profess, it is just smoke and mirrors in Yahweh's eyes.



Yahweh is a Creator of action just like the Hebrew language that He uses to describe Himself. Yahshua said in John 5, “My Father works and I work.”

To say what Yahweh is, is tantamount to saying what He does; to describe Him is to talk action and behavior. He is a mighty One of doing and achieving; clichés, on the other hand, live in a world of inertia and indolence. When Yahweh called out Israel, they were expected to start doing His will.

- **“G-d loves you.”** In a television series years ago the main character, playing an angel, repeated this phrase in every program as the antidote to every problem and trial. This bromide taught the viewer that all Yahweh wants is to love you the way you are—even in your sin. How does that fit with Yahshua’s teaching in Luke 13:3, and 5: “except you repent you shall all likewise perish”?

In Acts 17:30-31 Paul explained about Yahweh to the pagan Greeks on Mars Hill, “And the times of this ignorance Elohim winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent.”

The word repent and its permutations occur 112 times in the Scriptures. That TV actor never told anyone, “Turn to Yahweh in repentance, as the Word admonishes.”

Most people would run from such counsel to change their behavior. They are happy where they are in whatever faith they have

found themselves, and expect Yahweh to honor that.

Rather than conform to His will they expect Yahweh to bend to theirs, and want to be assured that He is completely pleased with their anemic performance, which that TV show, as well as these clichés, promote.

Paul continues, “Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained.”

The center of gravity in Yahshua’s salvation plan includes His teachings about overcoming and righteousness. The central theme of the entire Scriptures is to conform to Yahweh’s will. We please the One we worship by changing our life, not spouting meaningless jargon.

The apostle said in 1John 2:5: “But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of Elohim perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.”

- **“Where G-d guides, G-d provides.”** This implies that Yahweh leads you to Truth so He can make you prosperous. Yahshua was never endowed with wealth. He said in Matthew 8:20, “The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.” This was never Yahshua’s desire.

Today’s prosperity doctrine has abandoned this fact. The false teaching completely

misses the message and example Yahshua brought through overcoming sin and the world. Speaking of false ministers in 1Timothy 6:5, Paul warned about “perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is holiness: from such withdraw thyself.”

- **“We are saved by faith alone – but not by a faith that is alone.”** This belief nowhere exists in Scripture. The first extant writing to contain the phrase “faith alone” is John Calvin’s *Antidote to the Council of Trent* (1547).

“Faith alone” is a spurious twisting of James 2:17: “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.” Also verse 24, “Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.” James then tops it off in verse 26 with, “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” The “faith alone” doctrine was promulgated by Martin Luther in his attack on Roman church works like indulgences.

Often used is Romans 3:28, which does not speak of being set apart but of justification: “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the works of the Law.” We are not saved by faith alone but are justified by faith alone. Faith justifies the man but works justify faith. Justification is followed by sanctification or being set apart by our actions.

- **“Let go and let G-d.”** This cliché makes a catchy bumper sticker but can eviscerate the purpose and goal of the believer’s walk. Taken wrongly, it slams the door on obedience and forecloses on any working out of our salvation with fear and trembling, as commanded in Philippians 2:12. Those who repeat it ignore the crucial next step, which is sanctification or being set apart through obedience.

Obedience is a core teaching in every book of the Bible. Those who are called can’t let go, because they are committed to a life of active overcoming. Where in the New Testament do we find any disciple letting go of his walk and “letting Yahweh”? Yahshua never taught it. He said in Matthew 7:21 that we must do the will of His Father. Paul in Philippians 2:12 admonishes to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. James writes in 1:22 to be doers of the Word and not hearers only.

First John 3:24 says, “And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.” And He gives His Spirit to those who obey Him, Acts 5:32.

Often ignored are Revelation 12:17 and 14:12, which say we need the faith of Yahshua as well as keeping of the commandments for salvation. Revelation 22:14 teaches that if we obey then we have the right to the tree of life.

We must not confuse unconditional grace with unconditional salvation. The world thinks salvation is automatic, so they consider "Let go and let Yahweh" a great fit. At funerals you hear that the deceased is now looking down and smiling. Does anyone ever ask how he or she measured up in order to be awarded everlasting life? Let alone explain how they were judged worthy even before Yahshua could return to initiate the judgment.

Paul wrote in 2Corinthians 5:10: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Messiah; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

"Letting go" is just another way of buying into the once-saved always-saved belief and avoiding the command to follow Yahweh's Word. Many of these superficial clichés have an anti-law, anti-obedience basis.

Yahshua further explained in Matthew 7:21: "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."

Living by the Bible's commands, which is sanctification, is anything but passive. The true believer's life can be taxing. He combats opposition from family, friends, employers, and others who have not been enlightened to the Truth.

Yahshua never promised a free ride down Easy Street, but rather tribulation as we follow the Word. He said, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Why mention this at all if Yahweh does everything for us? Promoters of such classic clichés also discount the work of the Holy Spirit that indwells the saint and helps him to obey Yahweh's statutes, Ezekiel 36:27.

When Paul reflects on the activities of the believer he says nothing about La-Z-Boy recliners and cozy days watching pigeons in the park. Paul's metaphors for the walk of the True Worshiper are soldiering, tough athletic contests, and planting and farming in the hot sun. The Puritans called their walk "holy sweat."

Paul defines the metrics clearly in 2Corinthians 5:9: "Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him."

• **"He or she is in a better place."** One

of the most quoted of the clichés, this one is offered in sympathy at funerals, but also in ignorance. How can the grave be a better place? Like the old dog Rover, when we die we die all over.

"For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten," Ecclesiastes 9:5. Verse 10 says further, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." At death we no longer are conscious or sentient.

Of course, this cliché assumes the deceased are in heaven. Even if the Bible taught salvation at death, only Yahshua decides who is worthy of it, and then only at the judgment, Luke 20:35. "But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage."

When Paul reflects on the activities of the believer he says nothing about La-Z-Boy recliners and cozy days watching pigeons in the park.

Scripture says that we lose total consciousness at death. When He returns, Yahshua our Judge will raise to life those He finds worthy of the first resurrection. The dead remain dead until this resurrection event at the Second Coming, Matthew 24:30-31.

Solomon did not say the dead go to a better place. Only that the person's breath of life, not the person's immortal soul, goes back to Yahweh: "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit [ruach] shall return unto Elohim who gave it," Ecclesiastes 12:7.

All thoughts perish at death, Psalm 146:4, and the dead can't praise, Psalm 88:10.

Only Yahweh has immortality, 1Timothy 6:16. No one has it automatically.

Furthermore, the dead are RAISED incorruptible. They don't come DOWN from heaven but rise to meet the returning Yahshua in the air when He comes to earth, John 6:40.

• **"There, but for the grace of G-d, go I."** This cliché is used to minimize or excuse the bad behavior of another. It says in effect, "That could have been me there." It really says that Yahweh's grace restrains you but didn't quite work for them.

• **"Ask J-sus into your heart."** Why my heart? Why not my head as well? This is yet another emotional cliché void of nutrition. What does it mean in the practical world where we all live? Clichés like these make living by the Bible just an ethereal, emotive experience rather than, as Yahshua teaches, one that mirrors His own examples. John tells us in 1John 2:6 to walk as He walked. He says in verse 4 that to say you know Him but don't keep the commandments makes you a liar without the truth.

The Word teaches action, doing, sacrificing of self, and working out your salvation with fear and trembling. Asking Him into your heart just doesn't have the same ring.

• **"Do you have a personal relationship with the L-rd?"** For the True Worshiper, an honest-to-goodness relationship with Yahshua means taking part in His death and resurrection by repenting and being baptized. It is followed by living a life befitting the example He set.

Paul admonishes in Romans 6:3: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Yahshua were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Messiah was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

In John 15:14 Yahshua defined the personal relationship He wants: "You are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." There is no other valid "personal relationship."

• **"G-d said it. I believe it. That settles it."** This cliché serves no purpose in a discussion of doctrine or belief. It is used only to deflect any serious inquiry, and padlock the door on further discussion. It is a one-size-fits-all comeback for those who are unskilled in the Word.

Truth to tell, the Bible doesn't actually say what they may think it says, which means they don't in fact believe it, and so nothing whatsoever is settled.

With most of these popular clichés the thrust is antinomian, meaning faith over obedience, and passivity over action. Revelation 2:26 counters that with: "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations." Overcome. Keep my works. These are action verbs, words of doing, dynamic words that define the True Worshiper's life.

Forget the ways of false clichés. Start living and applying Bible Truth and discover all the joy and satisfaction that you have been missing in your life. ✓



Q I was talking with a pastor about following the seven feasts, the food laws and the 7th-day Sabbath. He directed me to 2 Corinthians 3:1-18, Hebrews 8:5-13, and Galatians 5:1-26, to name a few. He states Yahshua made a new covenant with us, the gentiles, with His death. Anything not repeated/reestablished in the New Testament we are no longer to follow. He also stated that the laws in the Old Testament were never meant for the gentiles, that we were never part of the covenant established with Abraham. Is he right?

A The answers you got from the pastor are typical. Yahshua faced much the same with the Pharisees and Sadducees. We always caution against going to nominal teachers rather than studying out the Word for oneself to avoid being thrown off track. The man is either misled himself or purposely avoiding the truth. He misunderstands the covenant promise, which was given to Israel and into which we can be grafted via the New Covenant, Romans 9 and 11. His answer also shows that he believes in two avenues to truth, one for Israel and the other for us, which contradicts Ephesians 4:5.

In specific answer to his passages, 2 Corinthians 3 addresses the New Covenant through Yahshua. It deals with what changed in the Old Covenant concerning requirements like animal sacrifices. It starts by saying that converted brethren are a living epistle because of their trust in following Yahshua and the Spirit working in them. The religious leaders of the time forgot this aspect of the law, just as they do today. The law was meant to change

the inner person, and the Pharisees and Sadducees relied completely on the letter with no inward change. This is what Yahshua railed against constantly.

Paul says the law is a ministration of condemnation, and yet is still glorious, verse 9 (Greek *doxa*—honorable, praiseworthy worship), meaning that the law is to be respected and its penalties are worthy of proper honor and regard in worship. And then he says, but even more glorious is what remains (New Covenant). Where churchianity swerves from the Truth is in thinking that the New Covenant does away with the law, which they say was only for Jews. Read what Paul wrote in Romans chapters 9 and 11, where everyone not of Israel is grafted into Israel's promises. Yahweh didn't make an agreement with two sets of people, but only with Israel. To have a part in the promises is to become part of Israel, which means to do what He commanded them to do in the covenantal agreement.

What changed from Old to New testaments is the animal sacrificial system and administration of the priesthood, both of which are taken over now in Yahshua as our sin-sacrifice and High Priest. Isaiah 31:31-34 prophesied that under the New Covenant the law will be put in our hearts. Now with the law in our hearts we obey impulsively and willingly, and Yahweh forgives our sins, v. 34.

The prophetic fulfillment of this prophecy was initiated at Pentecost in the New Testament (notice they were still commanded by Yahshua in Acts 1:4 to remain there to keep Pentecost, one of the seven Feast days, Acts 2:4). Far from abolishing the law, Yahshua will put

Yahweh's laws in the mind and heart of the believer, Hebrews 8:10; 10:16. It is interesting that the minister referenced Hebrews 8 as well!

As for Galatians 5, several issues arise here. Paul says we must walk in and by the Spirit. The Spirit is given to those who obey Yahweh, Acts 5:32, and is also given for obedience to Yahweh, Ezekiel 36:27. The Spirit is quenched when we don't obey His laws, 1 Thessalonians 5:19, just as David feared might happen to him after he sinned, Psalm 51:11.

The pivotal point is the definition of sin. Sin is defined in Scripture as breaking of the law, 1 John 3:4. Where no law exists there is no sin (as in the teachings of churchianity). Therein is a huge contradiction because everyone on earth sins, Romans 3:23. If everyone sins, and sin is breaking of the law, then the law must still be in force even in the New Testament.

Paul said of Yahweh's discipline of His people, "You have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin," Hebrews 12:4. The minister said that anything not repeated in the New Covenant or New Testament we should no longer follow. But does he teach and follow what IS repeated and carried forward into the New Testament? Did he never read that Yahshua and the apostles observed the Feasts and weekly Sabbath? How about what the New Testament Apostle Paul said in Hebrews 4:9 that there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of Yahweh? Lawkeeping runs throughout the New Testament. See Matthew 7:23, John 7:19, Romans 2:13, 3:31, 7:1 and 12, Revelation 22:14.

We urge you to get a **Restoration Study Bible** from YRM and read the chart, "Remarkable Harmony of the Testaments," which shows what remains in force from Old Testament to New. In the New Testament faith does not replace obedience, rather obedience comes from faith, Romans 1:5, 16:26. You will be amazed at all the myriad of the exact same teachings are found in both testaments.

The RSB also explains Luke 23:43, where Yahshua told the thief that he would be with Him in paradise. The thief didn't go to paradise that day with Yahshua, as Yahshua was dead in the tomb for the next three days and nights. It is a translator's punctuation problem, where a comma should follow the word "today" and not precede it.

Q How do you know which church is the right church to attend? Also I am interested in learning more and getting baptized but am nervous as to keeping Sabbaths and feasts.

A The only way you know if the “church” is right is by measuring what they believe against the Word. Below are a few questions you need to ask yourself:

- Are they using and honoring the Names of Yahweh and Yahshua?
- Are they worshipping on the Sabbath (Saturday) and keeping it holy?
- Are they observing the biblical Feast days as we see in the New Testament?
- Are they eating kosher based on Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14?
- Are they applying Yahshua’s living example in their own walk?

Nothing is more necessary than baptism into Yahshua’s Name and the subsequent receiving of the Holy Spirit. As Acts 4:12 states, there is only one name under heaven whereby we find salvation, i.e., Yahshua. Baptism is the only way we become part of Messiah and receive the Holy Spirit, which is necessary for the first resurrection. While it’s normal to be nervous about baptism, that should not stop you. However, before baptism make sure you understand the commitment involved and repent for a life-change.

Q I watched the video where you talked about Saturday vs. Sunday, and I will preface with saying that I completely agree with the requirement for a Christian to worship on Saturday over Sunday, though confusing aspects arise for me. My question is that surely we are supposed to worship

G-d every day of the week as to build our relationship with him not just on Saturday, therefore making worship on Sunday not a negative aspect of Christianity? I am unable to keep the Sabbath at the moment, which is something I want to do. What is your view on the inability to keep the Sabbath where western life seems to prevent this (i.e. no Saturday services in many churches)?

A There is a difference between worshipping Yahweh and observing the Sabbath. You are right, we should worship Yahweh every day through prayer, song, study, etc. However, it’s not possible to observe the Sabbath every day. If we did we could not work (Ex. 20:8-11), buy or sell (Neh. 10:31).

As believers we do not have the authority to change worship. The problem with Sunday worship is that it is not the day Yahweh appointed. It is a day authorized by the Roman church alone. He’s very particular about His days of worship, and the Sabbath is a sign of His true worshipers.

Man has no authority to transfer the Sabbath. This includes replacing the biblical Feasts with worldly holidays. Even when Jeroboam changed the Feast of Tabernacles from the seventh to the eighth month, he was condemned, 1Kings 12:25-33. We can also see Yahweh’s anger when Nadab and Abihu offered their own brand of worship by using strange fire at the altar. Yahweh consumed both men with fire, Leviticus 10:1-3.

Keeping the Sabbath can be a challenge in a world that does not know Him, yet it can be done and thousands do so every week of the year. Nothing is more important than pleasing the One we worship, putting ourselves second. Come out of Sunday worship and simply observe the Sabbath, even if it means doing it alone.


Q On page 1597 in the RSB, in the “Did You Know?” box, it states that due to Hebrew grammar, the Messiah was in the ground for a full 72 hours and this contradicts the facts of scripture. Please explain. I was always told there are no contradictions in the Bible. Is there a difference between scripture and the Bible?

A Carefully reread the “box.” This is not a contradiction of Scripture, but a contradiction in the church’s teaching that the Messiah was in the tomb from Friday evening through Sunday morning. Yahshua said in Matthew 12:40 that He would be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights, i.e., 72 hours. Based on the chronology given in the Evangelists, He was placed in the tomb late Wednesday and resurrected late Saturday (just before sunset).

Q My family and I are coming into knowing that the whole Bible is for today. But I’m not good at compression and I don’t understand why we’ve been and still are being lied to from the churches all around. We’ve been through many churches trying to find where we’re supposed to be. I feel the journey will turn more of my children away from Yah and into the world’s ways. I worry more for them than myself.... I feel my faith isn’t strong, because of the junk I’ve been dealing with through my life, I wonder why He would allow it to happen! If he wants all his children to follow Him why are we given a choice?

A We empathize with your concern. However, you need not be so troubled. Your desire to follow Yahweh and His Word is commendable. He’s certainly not going to fault you for striving to please Him. There’s nothing more important in this life. We are told to “search the Scriptures” for the truth, John 5:39. Regarding your family, find a spiritual home that is teaching the truth. We have an extensive selection of articles and videos covering a range of topics. We encourage you to visit www.yrm.org.

Q I have questions regarding the 12 tribes of Israel. Who are they today?



hebrew nation radio

BUILDING A NATION, NOT A DENOMINATION

We can now be heard online from Hebrew Nation Radio. Listen to the weekly Sabbath teachings of Elders Alan Mansager and Randy Folliard on Saturdays at 10 am, Pacific; 12 pm, Central; and 1 pm, Eastern, at hebrewnationonline.com. The station is dedicated to the Hebraic roots of the faith, teaching both the Torah and the truth of Yahshua the Messiah.

A Some claim that today's Jews along with many of the European nations constitute the 12 tribes. While this is plausible, the evidence is not conclusive. Also, when it comes to salvation, we are not to concern ourselves with ethnicity or gender. Paul in Galatians 3:28-29 writes, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Messiah Yahshua. And if ye be Messiah's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." He also cautions in Titus 3:9 against disputes about genealogy: "But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless."

Q Do you have a video showing how a man and woman should get married according to Scripture and Yahweh?

A We don't offer any such video. Interestingly, there is actually no set wedding ceremony mentioned in the Bible. We believe that Yahweh left the door open for different ceremonies based on the culture. The key is in the vows of the wedding made before Yahweh, a fact many don't realize today and don't see how sacred the marriage institution actually is. However, as believers we should obviously avoid any pagan traditions within our own marriage ceremonies.

Q An issue I've been asked: Was Yahshua crucified on a cross or a stake? Consensus thus far is that since it was a Roman decree to put Him to death, then it would be a Roman cross. Can you provide me documentation of the truth?

A We believe that Yahshua the Messiah died on a stake or upright post and not on a cross. However, we acknowledge the cross was used during the time of Roman rule. We provide the following explanation in the *Restoration Study Bible*: "Cross... this word comes from the Greek *stauros* meaning, 'an upright post.' The other Greek word rendered 'cross' in the NT is *xulon*, which denotes 'a dead log of wood or timber.' According to Dr. E.W. Bullinger in his Companion Bible, *stauros* and *zulon* 'never means two pieces of timber placed across one another at any angle, but always of one piece alone' (Appendix 162). The later adopted by the Church: 'In the Egyptian churches the cross was a pagan symbol of life borrowed by the Christians and interpreted in the pagan manner' (11th edition, vol. 14, p. 273). It is for these reasons that the RSB has adopted the word 'stake' in place of 'cross'" (note on Matthew 27:32).

Q I hear that one group keeps a Passover meal together just before taking the emblems of the Passover. Is this scriptural?

A They seem to be confused over scriptural aspects of the Passover and man-made rituals that developed from them. In the original Passover, Israelites were gathered in their homes and required to slay a lamb. In Exodus 12 we learn that Israel was to roast the lamb and eat its charred carcass with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

This is hardly a feast. It was a solemn memorial, eaten in fear (12:11—where "haste" is the Hebrew *chaphaz*). Widespread death of firstborn was about to occur; therefore it was a solemn, apprehensive time, just the opposite of a joyful feast or

fellowship meal.

Perhaps this group's practice is a take-off of the Jews' traditional meal called Seder, meaning "the order of the ritual," on the 14th prior to their Passover on the 15th. The Seder grew out of the biblical Passover on the 14th, the true Passover time (Ex. 12:6). While the main Passover was kept at the Temple, the Seder was kept as a family prior to it.

The Seder meal had added rituals. Its four cups of wine are a talmudic legacy. After the Temple was destroyed many of its Passover rituals, except for the paschal lamb, were transferred to the home service.

In the New Testament Yahshua instructs the disciples to prepare the Passover lamb and unleavened bread for the memorial service in the large upper room (Luke 22:7). This is the same observance Israel kept in Egypt when they killed, roasted, and ate a lamb and the unleavened bread that went with it.

As they were eating the lamb and bread, Yahshua stood up and gave them new symbols to be used to represent Him: the cup with the fruit of the vine for His blood and the unleavened bread to represent His body. They were NOT eating a regular meal prior to the formal Passover service. They were observing the Passover itself by eating the sacrificial lamb (Luke 22:15). It was all one observance and one activity.

Paul chastises the Greek-influenced Corinthians for having a fellowship meal at Passover (1Cor. 11:20-22).

The *Companion Bible* says this was a social meal. This custom was Greek and called for each to bring his own food, so the rich ate well while the poor did not. It also led to the exclusion of some. Paul condemns this, saying they are destroying the spirit of the Passover by this prior meal (vv. 23-31). The Bible is clear: the Passover is not a time for fellowship meals—not before or after.

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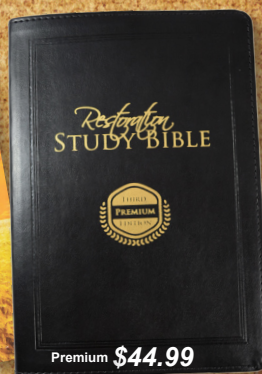
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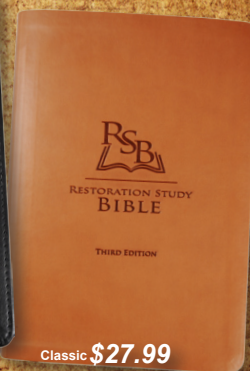
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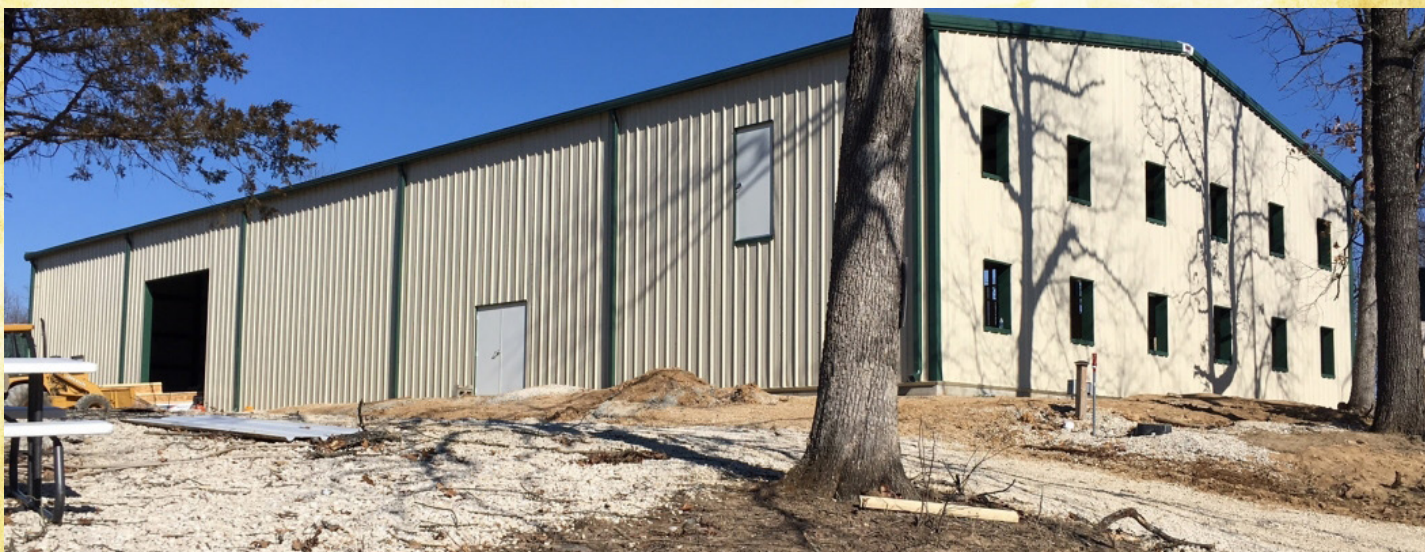


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Feast Grounds Development Fund — Can You Help?

The first phase of construction on our new multi-purpose activity center is complete. Work is awaiting additional donations for the lodging, kitchen, and restroom phase. Depending on funding this will likely be a two- to three-year construction effort. We anticipate the need for an additional \$150,000 for the HVAC system and to finish the construction. The activity building will not only provide space for indoor activities throughout the year, but also crucial meeting space, lodging, and activities for Feasts and other events like youth camps. We are already past full seating capacity in our existing meeting hall for Tabernacles. This added building could serve as a future meeting room for Tabernacles with an approximate 350-seat capacity in the gym. Please consider helping YRM with this project.

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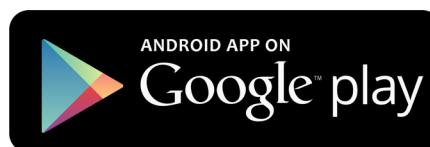
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