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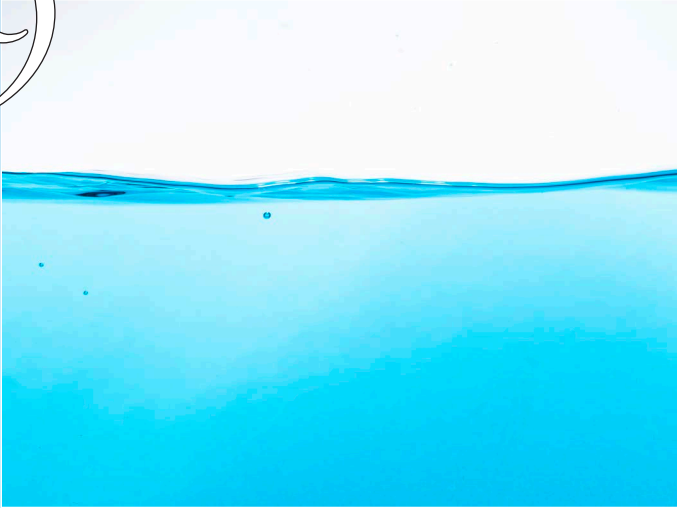
TEL MEGIDDO'S ROLE IN

ARMAGEDDON

RESTORATION TIMES

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

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

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Yahweh's Restoration Ministry

PO Box 463
Holts Summit, MO 65043

Telephone: **573-896-1000**

Office hours M-F 8am-4pm

www.yrm.org

info@yrm.org



COVER: Looking from Earth to the sun. What will the world look like in the time ahead?



Was Yahshua the **First** Christian?

by Alan Mansager

It is time to get down to reality and help our Christian friends to understand just how far their churches have drifted from what the Bible teaches is the foundation of New Testament Truth.

So buckle your seatbelts and hang on. You are about to learn what is guaranteed to surprise, stun, and even shock many to the core of their understanding. But the Truth is as rock-solid and provable as gravity.

Most will never question the faith they find themselves in, irrationally swallowing everything as valid just because that's what was handed to them by their parents. Being unable to prove from Scripture what they believe, they refer you to their minister.

Before diving deep, let's consider some crystal clear facts.

If Christianity is the faith of the New Testament, then why didn't the Savior or the apostles ever call themselves "Christian" or refer to their teachings as "Christian"? It is an age-old question desperately longing for an answer.

Even when questioned by the civil and religious authorities, our Savior and His apostles never used that term for the faith they practiced. Why do we never find either Yahshua or Paul saying something like, "Gather around everyone because we're now

beginning a new faith, a new religion."

The term "Christianity" exists only three times in the Scriptures. It is not found in any of the accounts of Yahshua's mission or teachings in Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. The first time anyone was called Christian was at Antioch ten years after the death of Yahshua. Antioch was a metropolis hosting pagans of every stripe.

We learn, then, that the term was not homegrown but was given to the early believers by outsiders. In Acts 26:28 Herod Agrippa used the term Christianity with Paul.

By contrast to the three times "Christianity" is found, the word "Jew" appears 195 times in the New Testament, and is found 82 times in the Evangelists of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

No wonder. The early New Testament faith was made up entirely of Jews who accepted Yahshua and His teachings as well as the same teachings of the apostles later.

These original believers were Israelites who did not convert to Christianity because Christianity did not exist. That's a tough concept for the Church to accept because it sees Yahshua as its founder and the disciples as the first church congregation. But the truth is historical fact.

Geza Vermes is the first professor of

Jewish studies at Oxford, and one of the premier experts on the origin of Christianity. In his book, *Christian Beginnings*, Vermes writes: "How did the religious practices of the primitive church relate to those of [Yahshua] and his Palestinian co-religionists? The short answer is that they were identical in substance. At the start, all the members of the [Yahshua] confraternity were Jews, and they continued their traditional Jewish way of life, cultic practice included. Only when the question of the acceptance of non-Jews into the church first arose was the new movement confronted with an apparently unforeseen issue – the attitude they should adopt to pagans who wished to become Christians" (p. 62).

The whole question about the integrity of the New Testament movement embroiled the church in controversy for centuries. What cost would blending with outsiders bring? As one notable historian wrote, "It was natural that the first major conflict within the Church should be over the issue of whether Christianity should remain within Judaism as one of the many sects of that faith, or whether its genius demanded that it become an independent and distinct religion" (*A History of Christianity*,

Kenneth Scott Latourette, p. 120).

So if “Christianity” was a part of Judaism, how could Yahshua be the founder?

In his book, *From Jesus to Christianity*, L. Michael White writes, “[Yahshua] did not appear as the founder of a new religion, and what we now know as Christianity did not exist for perhaps two generations after his death. [Yahshua] was a Jew, and the movement originated as a Jewish sect...In fact the name ‘Christianity’ as a designation for the new movement did not even exist until nearly a century after [Yahshua’s] death...two new sectarian movements arose within Judaism. One became rabbinic Judaism; the other Christianity,” pp. 13, 16, 117.

This fundamental truth reveals the New Testament in ways otherwise not possible. The problem is churchianity has been falsely indoctrinated about its origins and so it looks at everything from a false foundation. If it had stayed on the proper track at the beginning, so many issues and false teachings would be resolved and today it would align with the truth as Yahshua taught it.

But a bogus belief has stood in the way for 2,000 years, as Bruce Chilton explains in his book *Rabbi Jesus*. Chilton writes that it is a “fallacious belief that [Yahshua] rejected Judaism and wanted to found a new religion. Nothing could be further from the truth,” p. xxi. He points out that prejudice on the part of both Jews and Christians dredged a rift between them. “...the huge body of New Testament scholarship has been largely deaf to Judaism, while Jewish scholars regard [Yahshua] as a forbidden topic, and with few exceptions refuse to examine him.”

This prejudice helped tear churchianity away from its Hebraic roots, opening the door to numerous departures from what Yahshua and the apostles taught. Without the stability that its foundation afforded, the church was adrift in murky waters, fabricating its own doctrines and practices without scriptural support and making doctrines up as it went.

Old Testament Roots of the Truth

Most churchgoers are clueless that what morphed into Christianity was a movement that started out deeply rooted in the Old Testament, a historical fact that speaks volumes about teachings and doctrines of Yahshua, like the Sabbath and Feasts.

Most churchgoers never consider the

significance of something as plain and obvious as to why their Bibles still contain an Old Testament with the New.

Also hidden in plain sight is the fact that their Savior was a Jew living a Hebrew faith in the Jewish land of Israel. The same is true of His apostles. The implications run deep and are far-reaching.

Churchianity refuses to teach that the Savior’s early followers kept and instilled the same Old Testament teachings that Yahshua also taught and practiced. They continued doing so many decades after the Messiah died and ascended to heaven.

“Because they don’t study the Word, they don’t realize that Yahshua and His followers neither believed nor practiced much of today’s teachings.”

Throughout the New Testament believers worshiped in the tradition of Israel. In Acts 24:14 the Apostle Paul, the falsely presumed champion of Christianity, said he “believed [was committed to] all things written in the law and the prophets,” a term that means the Old Testament Scriptures.

The Old Testament was the only Bible Yahshua, Paul, and the apostles had, as the New Testament was not yet produced. The fact that the New Testament quotes the Old Testament 263 times shows a tight bond between the New Testament and the Israelite faith based in the Old.

Today’s Doctrines Absent Early On

Most think that Christianity in all its myriads of forms, beliefs, and practices is a direct, seamless pass-me-down from Yahshua and the apostles. That alone is self-contradictory. Because they don’t study the Word, they don’t realize that Yahshua and His followers neither believed nor practiced much of today’s teachings. If they would just take each major doctrine of the church and try to find it in the Scriptures, they would realize how much of popular teaching and belief is baseless.

The development of Christianity comes centuries after Yahshua, when the Roman church began revving up its own doctrines and ultimately solidified them into a Christian dogma that most all of churchianity embraces.

A big problem is that a lot of modern doctrines are backformations, teachings that developed hundreds of years later and force-

fit into the original faith where they never were to begin with.

As Michael White writes, “We must be careful of retrojecting conditions or developments that only arose much later, on the period of its origins. To do so is to create a myth of beginnings that never actually existed,” *From Jesus to Christianity*, p. 117.

Examples are Easter, Lent, Christmas, Sunday worship – all of which were never part of the original faith of Yahshua. He never taught them or practiced them. They were introduced into the church later, and force-fit into a prior orthodoxy, and that goes

for many dozens of major church teachings and practices.

Also surprising to discover is that Christianity had no single founder, like Muhammed with Islam or Siddhartha with Buddhism.

Here’s another surprise: Christianity basically developed on its own. It happened with nothing actually steering it, not even the Scriptures. It was like a ball in a pinball machine, bouncing here and there and changing direction by whatever it happened to hit. This went on for 300 years.

The early faith sprouted from the roots of Judaism but then grew away from it through numerous influences. Those influences included Gnostic beliefs, heretical teachings, pagan practices, Roman church councils and commands, and finally a secular king’s politically motivated edict.

The biggest influence came through other religions, as well as writings from apostates looking for a following after they saw the success of the apostles..

As we read in *Lost Christianities*, “We now know that at one time or another, in one place or another, all of these non-canonical books and many others were revered as sacred, inspired, scriptural,” p. 4.

Another cause for separation was prejudice from both sides. Michael White writes, “There was, in fact, a growing rift between Jewish and gentile streams within the Christian movement. It was to be expected, perhaps, as the split with Judaism itself further polarized the rhetoric on both sides,” p. 407.

Once a Hebraic Faith

Yahshua said He was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, Matthew 15:24. He chose Hebrew apostles as His core group of emissaries. The only people Yahweh ever made a covenant with were those of Israel.

These facts define the constraints of the Hebraic beliefs on the early believers.

Never going by the term Christian, the New Testament believers were known as people of the way. What way? There was no other way in the Book of Acts but the way being taught from the perspective of Old Testament Scriptures. If you wanted to be part of the New Testament faith you had to be grafted in to the Israelite promise, as Paul taught in Romans chapters 9 and 11.

Throughout all aspects of His teaching and practice we see a fundamental Old Testament alignment of the faith Yahshua came to bring. Because the Scriptures never teach a departure from the Old Testament, the church got its justification from heretical beliefs.

Was Peter Given the Nod?

Also in an attempt to legitimize Christianity as endowed by Yahshua, the church says that a completely new faith was born when Yahshua told Peter in Matthew 16:18: "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my assembly; and the gates of the grave shall not prevail against it."

To think that Yahshua allowed Peter to carry out a transformation of the faith at Peter's own pleasure is nonsense.

In fact Yahshua presents His plan with a play on words. "You are Peter," a name that means a little stone (*petros*). Yet the large Rock (*petra*) on which the assembly would be built was Yahshua Himself and Peter's confession about Yahshua.

Peter was not the foundation. Paul wrote that Yahshua is the foundation of the Truth, not Peter or any other person. "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Yahshua the Messiah," 1 Corinthians 3:11.

Even in Matthew 18:1, when asked directly who would be the greatest Yahshua didn't say, "Peter is. I designate Peter to take over. Do whatever he says." Peter was never separated out as the prominent disciple. Besides, Peter had some issues, like prejudice in Galatians 2:11, and at one point Yahshua implied Peter was being satanically influenced, Matthew 16:23.

Another gross misinterpretation from Matthew 16:19 is that Peter as the "first pope" was given the keys to salvation and could set doctrine at will. Yahshua said to him, "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

What the Roman church conveniently leaves out is that this statement was made to the other apostles as well. See Matthew 18:18. Each of the apostles had the same authority to teach and govern the assembly through the inspired Scriptures.

They also miss the future perfect tense used in binding and loosing, as noted in the *Restoration Study Bible* on Matthew 16:19: "The passage is rendered in the *New American Standard Bible* as, 'And whatever you shall bind on earth shall have

Him to say that His teachings had a short shelf life because in a few years He would abolish biblical law anyway with His death? If He had planned to abolish obedience then He was disingenuous in not informing His listeners about it.

Theologian Jean Guitton, in the book *Great Heresies and Church Councils* says Yahshua "did not mean to found a new religion. In his historical humanity, Yahshua was a devout Israelite, practicing the law to the full, from circumcision to Pesach, paying the half-shekel for the Temple."

Stop and think: if Yahshua were no longer a Jew but a Christian, then the Sanhedrin would have had no jurisdiction over Him and His teachings. Their accusations that He broke the Sabbath would be pointless. Pilate would not have told the Jews to take Yahshua and judge Him by their own laws, John 18:31.

Protestant Reformers
Martin Luther and
John Calvin are largely
responsible for today's
no-law, faith alone,
and eternal security
teachings.



been bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.' Another version translates it: 'And whatever you forbid on earth must be what is already forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth must be what is already permitted in heaven.'" *The New Testament: A Translation in the Language of the People*. The same is rendered by *The New Testament, an Expanded Translation* (Wuest).

Serious Quandaries Abound

If Yahshua wanted to start a new religion called Christianity, with its no-law basis, why was the core of His ministry about teaching and keeping Yahweh's statutes? Why did He continue the practice of observing the major Feasts and Sabbath at the Temple in Jerusalem, teaching from the Torah, the books of the Law, and how they are to be applied to the lives of His followers?

Wouldn't it have been much easier for

If Yahshua had started Christianity, why then after His death didn't His disciples stop worshiping at the Temple in Jerusalem and stop keeping the Sabbath and other days? Consider also that had the disciples even hinted that they were launching a new religion or if they were even suspected of doing so they would never have been allowed anywhere near the Jewish Temple. In fact, His disciples viewed themselves as a reform movement in the Hebrew tradition.

But if Yahshua did not start this new "Christian" religion, then what about Paul? Many look to him as the founder of Christianity.

Thirty years after the death of Yahshua, when Paul made his third visit to the disciples at the Temple in Jerusalem (by the way, why were they still attending the Temple and not a church by then?), Paul made no declaration of starting a new religion. Neither did James nor the other disciples. If they had, then they would not have been allowed into the Temple.

On that third visit Paul was arrested after creating a disturbance at the Jerusalem Temple, where some Asian Jews attacked him for blasphemy (Acts 21:27-31).

If Paul had left Judaism and launched this new Christian religion why didn't he say so, being that his life was at stake? Why didn't he say, "Being I am now a Christian, you Jews have no jurisdiction over me. You must release me."

Instead of freedom Paul spent five years in prison at Caesarea, a long boat ride and house arrest in Rome.

Still dedicated to his Jewish faith, Paul called together the Jewish leadership (Acts 28:17-20). He bitterly complained that the Sanhedrin had falsely charged him with blasphemy. But they never charged him with being Christian. They never even hinted it. At the risk of death, he held to his Jewish identity and died as a Jew.

The Chaos Called Christianity

With Paul gone and Gentile conversions accelerating, many different sects sprang up. Irenaeus, an early church father and leader, counted twenty forms of Christianity, and 21 ecumenical councils. And these Gentile/pagan sects became increasingly distant from Judaism, taking on an independent Christian identity.

There was great diversity of beliefs in early Christianity, creating a tangled mishmash. No wonder we see so many doctrines today that are widely contrasted, convoluted, and in conflict with Scripture.

According to the book, *Lost Christianities*, in the second and third centuries there were some Christians who believed in one deity. But there were others who insisted that there were two. Some said there were thirty. Others claimed there were 365. In this latter vein Catholics believed in a saint for every day, and so Halloween is followed by All Saints Day just to be sure they didn't overlook any in their worship.

In the second and third centuries there were Christians who believed that the Jewish Scripture (the Christian "Old Testament") was inspired by the one true Elohim. Others believed it was inspired by the Elohim of the Jews, who was not the one true Elohim. Others believed it was inspired by an evil deity. Others believed it was not inspired at all.

In the second and third centuries some Christians believed Yahshua was both divine and human. There were other Christians

who said He was divine and not human. Still others insisted that Yahshua was a full flesh-and-blood human, adopted by Yahweh to be His son but not himself divine.

There were yet other Christians who claimed that "Jesus Christ" was two individuals: a full flesh-and-blood human, called Jesus, and a fully divine being, called Christ, who had temporarily inhabited Jesus' body during his ministry and left him prior to his death.

In the second and third centuries there were Christians who believed that Yahshua's death brought about the salvation of the world. There were others who thought that Yahshua's death had nothing to do with the salvation of the world. There were yet other Christians who said that Yahshua never died.

How could some of these views even be considered Christian? Why did they not just read the New Testament that explained Yahshua? Because although the books that make up the New Testament had been written by the second century, they were not compiled and canonized.

The biggest problem is that there were other writings floating around espousing other gospels, other books of Acts, other epistles and apocalypses all claiming to be written by early apostles of Yahshua.

Heretics were everywhere looking for a piece of the action.

Eusebius, a church historian who lived in the fourth century, is the best source for early Christian history. He named 47 heretics who operated in a period of less than 200 years. They divided the church and corrupted faith and morals. They introduced apocryphal writings and threw out books of the Bible that contradicted their beliefs.

Sects Propagate Like Rabbits

Paul Flesher, University of Wyoming Professor of Religious Studies, names numerous sects that the fledgling Christianity generated: Donatists, Gnostics, Arians, Adoptionists, Modalists, Manicheans, Montanists, Marcionites, Ebionites, Nestorians and Meletians, among others.

These disparate sects, says Flesher, had disagreements about fundamental theological doctrines, choice of scriptures and religious practices.

By the fourth century competing sects still flourished. One reason that Emperor Constantine initiated councils like the Council of Nicaea in 325 CE was to sanction

a unified Christian church and doctrine. His motives were mostly political, however.

Christianity is the most diverse religion in the history of the planet. How does that fact fit with Ephesians 4:5, saying there is only one faith, one baptism?

But the newly established Catholic Church was still uncomfortable that its authenticity was rooted in a Hebraic faith with a Jewish Messiah and Jewish messianic prophecy. So the church sought to sever the Christian-Jewish connection by stepping up vilification of Jews and Judaism. They thus threw away their only hope of and foundation for getting their teachings right.

"New doctrines were formed by combining human philosophy and paganism with Christianity. With these changes the church became an apostate organization wholly unlike the church of the New Testament age," *History of the Church Through the Ages*, Robert Brumback, p. 47.

Just how did it happen that scriptural teachings got twisted nearly out of existence?

Why did Yahshua never practice what we see in churchianity today?

Why do we never find Him or His apostles espousing today's most popular doctrines?

Where do we find Him making any doctrinal changes to core teachings in the Old Testament?

Most say He did away with obedience by fulfilling the law. They cite Matthew 5:17. "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."

Let's put to rest this error once and for all in the sidebar on the next page called "The Meaning of 'Fulfill' in Matthew 5:17."

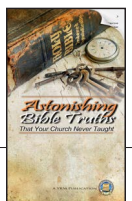
Yahshua's Family: Hebrew, Not Roman

In John 12:49 Yahshua said, "For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak."

If worship were intended to be Greco-Roman in flavor and practice, as it is today, why didn't Yahweh have His Messiah come from a nice little Roman family?

Why did He choose to have Paul, His most ambitious apostle-evangelist, be well-studied in the Torah as a Pharisee, come under the tutelage of Gamaleel, the preeminent law teacher in Judaism?

Sure, animal sacrifices were changed when Yahshua



THE MEANING OF 'fulfill' IN MATTHEW 5:17

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil," Matthew 5:17. With these words did Yahshua abolish the law? Not only did He say don't even think it, but an analysis of the word fulfill also shows that He never did away with His Father's statutes nor the Old Testament itself.

Meaning of the Word Fulfill' in English

Fulfill is defined in *Webster's New World Dictionary* as: "Cause to be or happen; to do (something required); obey; to fill the requirements of; satisfy." The thesaurus lists for "fulfill": "Conform to, meet, complete, accomplish, follow, obey, submit, implement, follow, meet the terms, act in accordance with, abide by, carry out, comply with."

Meaning of the Greek from Which 'Fulfill' Is Derived

Fulfill = *pleroo* (4137) – to make replete, literally to cram it full, level up, satisfy, execute (an office)." Nothing in the Greek or English meanings of fulfill shows an abolishment. "Meet the terms of" does not mean to eliminate.

But let's suppose "fulfill" (*pleroo*) in Matthew 5:17 means to terminate, as some believe. Then what about the same Greek word translated fulfill in other passages? The following are all the other New Testament verses where "fulfill" is translated from *pleroo*. Let's see whether the idea of "abolishment" fits in these other contexts.

- Matthew 3:15 – "And Yahshua answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him." By "fulfill all righteousness" did Yahshua abolish everything that is righteous?
- Philippians 2:2 – "Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." Was Paul asking the assembly at Philippi to put an end to his joy and not have the same love, the same harmony, and the same mind as he?
- Colossians 1:25 – "Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of Elohim which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of Elohim." Was Paul made a minister so he could abolish the Scriptures?
- Colossians 4:17 – "And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Master, that thou fulfil it." Did Paul want Archippus to take his ministry seriously and then terminate it?
- 2Thessalonians 1:11 – "Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our Elohim would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power." Did Paul pray that those called in Thessalonica would be worthy of their calling, and then to stop all the work they are called to do?

became our sacrifice, but He never changed the keeping of the Sabbath and Feasts. Animal sacrifices transitioned over to Yahshua's sacrifice but the Feasts keep rolling along independently.

Did Yahshua and His apostles just decide to wait and let the upstart Paul make all sorts of changes and amendments to the faith, or were there no fundamental changes, other than in the administration of Temple worship and animal sacrifices?

Why do we have not one instance where either Yahshua or His followers ducked

into a church on Sunday morning to take communion instead of the annual Passover? Why did they never tell anyone to do that if they were now Christians?

The perfect time to announce the switch from Passover to communion would have been at the Last Supper Passover. To neglect to inform His closest of such a huge change as this is untenable and would destroy the integrity of our Savior.

"But He did make a change," the unstudied may say, "Just read 1Corinthians 11:24-25, where Paul wrote, 'And when

he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.'"

Matthew 26 is the source for what is going on here, that being the Passover. Clearly what Paul was doing in 1Corinthians 11 was celebrating an annual observance called Passover. The Passover is the memorial of Yahshua's death.

Nowhere did Yahshua institute a new observance called the Eucharist or Communion. He said He taught only what His Father Yahweh gave Him to teach. John 8:28: "...I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things."

He said in Matthew 4:4 and Luke 4:4 that we must live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh. Included in what proceeded out of the mouth of Yahweh was the inspired Old Testament.

Yahshua's words, "As often as you do it" is for many the green light for today's switchover to communion and doing it oftenevery week or every day.

But do we see Yahshua or the apostles ever keeping communion? And doing it every week or every day?

A key litmus test is that almost no pastor today ever addresses what Yahshua and the apostles practiced themselves, like the Sabbath and Feasts and the Law itself. It was the church, not Yahshua, that authorized all the changes that would ultimately make nominal worship what it is today.

Here are just some things to ask yourself: Why don't either Yahshua or the Apostles ever use holy water or teach the use of it?

Where is Lent, Palm Sunday, and Ash Wednesday? Who can you find in the New Testament walking around with an ash cross smudged on his forehead?

Where is the New Testament teaching about going to heaven, excruciating pain in hellfire for sins, and the challenges of purgatory? Where are such teachings in the Old Testament, for that matter?

Where are the Apostles Creed and the Nicene Creed in Scripture?

Where is sprinkling for baptism? Or baptizing infants and children?

One can look for decades and never find where a building is ever called a church. How did that notion develop?

Writing in *Bible Review*, Delbert L.

A Chuff, Jr., a retired Episcopal minister, wondered what would happen if Yahshua were to return to earth to worship today. “He would probably be amazed at what the worshipers accredited to Him. The accretions from having passed through several cultures would puzzle this peasant Jew who said He came to fulfil the Law not to destroy it.

“St. Paul too is understood in a whole new light when seen as a Jew who is a member of the new sect, defending his new understandings of Torah and relationship with [Yahweh]. Later he calls it the New Covenant, but the word (*b’rith* in the Hebrew) is meaningless if one does not know the Old Covenant.”

In both Jeremiah 31 and Hebrews 8:10 we see that the force behind the New Covenant means Yahweh’s laws are put in our hearts and minds. If you were trying to do away with something, the last thing you would do is place it in the inner being and make it a part of a person’s thinking and desire. That is what putting it in the mind and heart means. See Luke 6:45 and 12:34.

Paul wrote in Romans 6:17, “But Elohim be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.”

Once we realize that Yahweh’s commandments, statutes and judgments reflect His own nature, then to comply with them makes us like Him. We take on His nature through obedience. His character and persona are revealed in this same code of conduct He lives by, exhibited in the very ordinances He shares with us.

Rather than a burden, it is the highest honor to follow the same code of conduct that the Creator of the universe lives by.

Our whole desire and goal is to be like Him, to think and act like Him. He is replicating His nature and character and growing His family in His people now. Yahshua is His Son and we are also His children, just as Israel was called the children of Israel.

This is a central aspect of the Good News Yahshua taught. That is what He came to show us through His own life on earth.

The more you dig into the history of churchianity, the wider becomes the chasm between the doctrines of the apostles and what is practiced today.

The simple fact is that most of the major teachings of the church are nowhere in the Bible. Just take *Strong’s Concordance* and

see whether you can find the words rapture, faith alone, church, Christmas, Sunday, Trinity, Lent, and communion in the Bible. Most of these doctrines were derived from the Catholic church or because of the Catholic Church, not from teachings of Scripture.

You can find the teachings of a rapture, Faith alone, antinomianism (anti-law) and a host of others down through history in many religions. But one thing you can’t find is Yahshua or any of His apostles teaching or believing any of them. In fact, churchianity absorbed these teachings hundreds of years after the New Testament ministry of the apostles.

Let’s be honest. When we say Christianity we are mostly saying Roman Catholic. That is where a large share of the major doctrines of today’s churchianity originated. But it

took time, because most of the teachings are not in the Bible. They developed over many centuries through human debate, disagreement, permutation and compromise. Gradually, doctrines like immortal soul, trinity, and Sunday worship became accepted.

Because of deliberate derailments over the span of centuries, right and proper biblical understanding commonly taught in the first century is seen today as strange and contradictory. Sadly, centuries-old and embedded error thwarts many before they even have a chance to get on the pathway of truth.

Tradition is powerful. Most are afraid to make changes. Getting them to break free of calcified error will set them on a journey of truth that will amaze and excite anyone called to the “faith once delivered.”

FAKE NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS

Apocrypha Writings Found Unacceptable

Non-canonical Gospels

The Gospel of the Nazareans
The Gospel of the Ebionites
The Gospel According to the Hebrews
The Gospel According to the Egyptians
The Coptic Gospel of Thomas
Papyrus Egerton 2: The Unknown Gospel
The Gospel of Peter
The Gospel of Mary
The Gospel of Philip
The Gospel of Truth
The Gospel of the Savior
The Infancy Gospel of Thomas
The Proto-Gospel of James
The Epistle of the Apostles
The Coptic Apocalypse of Peter
The Second Treatise of the Great Seth
The Secret Gospel of Mark

Non-canonical Acts of the Apostles

The Acts of John
The Acts of Paul
The Acts of Thecla
The Acts of Thomas
The Acts of Peter

Non-canonical Epistles and Writings

The Third Letter to the Corinthians
Correspondence of Paul and Seneca
Paul’s Letter to the Laodiceans
The Letter of Clement
The “Letter of Peter to James” and its

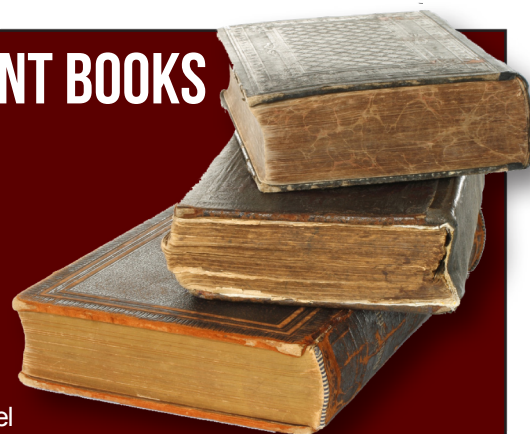
“Reception”
The Homilies of Clement
Ptolemy’s Letter to Flora
The Treatise on the Resurrection
The Didache
The Letter of Barnabas
The Preaching of Peter
Pseudo-Titus

Non-canonical Apocalypses and Revelatory Treatises

The Shepherd of Hennas
The Apocalypse of Peter
The Apocalypse of Paul
The Secret Book of John
On the Origin of the World
The First Thought in Three Forms
The Hymn of the Pearl

Canonical Lists

The Muratorian Canon
The Canon of Origen of Alexandria
The Canon of Eusebius
The Canon of Athanasius of Alexandria
The Canon of the Third Synod of Carthage



Scriptural Maturity for Baptism

“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child...” 1Corinthians 13:11. Who is accountable when a child, typically lacking knowledge and discernment, is baptized and later as an adult fails to follow the faith?

Does the Bible provide any guidance into the proper age for baptism? Some believe that the decision should be based on what a child is ready for and not on a specific age.

The Roman church brought infant baptism to the fore in a move to make membership compulsory.

Scripture on the other hand teaches a maturity and accountability for this serious commitment in one's life. This was clear to the early believers who baptized adults only, “as men were accustomed to conceive baptism and faith as strictly connected,” *History of the Church Through the Ages*, p. 62.

Several Scriptures show that 20 is the age when Yahweh determines that a person is answerable for his or her actions. Baptizing children shows a serious lack of understanding of what baptism means and what it requires of an individual.

That is one reason immersion is left only to ordained ministers who should realize the gravity and consequences of a life-time commitment through the baptismal waters. Consider the following:

At Least Age 20 for the Census

“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.

Dedication to Yahweh by Vow at Age 20

“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.

Age 20 for Military Service

“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.

Age 20 Plus 5 for Priestly Service

“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.

Over Age 20 Accountable for Actions

“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.

Under Age 20 Not Held Accountable

“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 32:10-11.

Levites Age 20 and Over for Service


“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 23:27-28.

“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 Teshua 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.

There is only one baptism, Ephesians 4:5. Baptism is a crucial and solemn commitment through repentance to be faithful to Yahweh the rest of one's life. If Yahweh deems that a person younger than 20 years old is not mature enough for spiritual, adult responsibilities, then baptizing that child forces him or her to take on the responsibility for righteous living. If that child at adulthood then rejects the faith, he undermines the whole commitment that follows immersion.

Those baptized are to be true to all the precepts of Scripture for the rest of their lives. The baptized must be ready to handle all adult-sized challenges and temptations, and make the right choices. A child lacks the wisdom as well as the life experience to handle such according to the Word. If a minister is willing to baptize a child, then where does that minister draw the line? At ten years old? Five years old? Infancy?

As in all important decisions, Yahweh has clear standards. There is no instance in all of Scripture where a child was baptized. Even Yahshua was not baptized until 30 years of age.

Overcoming the sins and pulls of the world is tough enough for an adult. How can a child be held to such a requirement when he or she has not even experienced life yet? 



Origins of the Kippah Cap

by the late Donald R. Mansager

Some have asked how and where the practice of wearing the kippah or yarmulke developed. The Old Testament is silent on the wearing of the kippah or skull cap. Neither is it found anywhere in the New Testament. So if the kippah is absent from the Bible, why was it adopted?

Grecian Formula: Assimilate Jews

The tradition likely goes back to Greek culture. Antiochus Epiphanes, the Seleucid Greek emperor, made it his personal goal to force the Greek culture upon all of his empire, including the Jewish people. This is what stirred the Maccabean revolt and the rise of the Hasmonean Empire. In the year 175 BCE, Jason of the Oniad family was appointed high priest. As recorded in 2 Maccabees 4:7-17, he favored the Greek culture and vigorously sought to incorporate Antiochus' policy of assimilation.

When Seleucus died and Antiochus Epiphanes succeeded the kingdom, Jason the brother of Onias obtained the high priesthood and by paying 440 talents to the king got the authority to establish a Greek gymnasium and to enroll the people of Jerusalem as citizens of Antioch. When the king assented and Jason came to office, he at once shifted his compatriots over to the

Greek way of life.

"He destroyed the lawful ways of living and introduced new customs contrary to the law. He took delight in establishing a gymnasium right under the citadel, and he induced the noblest of the young men to wear the Greek hat. There was such an extreme of Hellenization and increase in the adoption of foreign ways ... that the priests were no longer intent upon their service at the altar... putting the highest value upon Greek forms of prestige. For this reason heavy disaster overtook them, and those whose ways of living they admired and wished to imitate completely became their enemies and punished them. It is no light thing to show irreverence to the divine laws—a fact that later events will make clear."

All but the Wings

There is general agreement that this Greek hat traces to the hat of Hermes (a.k.a. Roman deity Mercury). Ancient depictions of the hat of Hermes are very similar to the modern kippah. The only notable difference was that the hat of Hermes typically had wings on the sides.

Except for the high priest's turban, there is no command in the Old Testament to wear a skull cap. The only remote connection of the kippah with the Old Testament is where

Yahweh commanded Israel not to round the corners of the head, Leviticus 19:27.

Referring to this command, *Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary* states, "It seems probable that this fashion had been learned by the Israelites in Egypt, for the ancient Egyptians had their dark locks cropped short or shaved with great nicety, so that what remained on the crown appeared in the form of a circle surrounding the head." Most kippahs have the same circular design worn by Jews as well as the pope.

Alexander Hislop's *The Two Babylons* reveals on p. 222 eye-opening facts about shaving the top of the head into a circular baldness called the tonsure, associated with Roman Catholic priests.

Round as the Sun

"... the heads of the monks or regular clergy are shaven, but both alike, at their consecration, receive the circular tonsure, thereby identifying them, beyond all possibility of doubt, with Bacchus, 'the mutilated Prince.'" Hislop describes the circle as an ancient symbol of the solar disk or sun deity in many religions, from Babylon to Hinduism and in Persia and Assyria.

"It has been already shown (p. 18, Note) that among the Chaldeans the one term 'Zero' signified at once 'a circle' and 'the seed.' 'Suro,' 'the seed,' in India, as we have seen, was the sun-divinity incarnate. When that seed was represented in human form, to identify him with the sun, he was represented with the circle, the well-known emblem of the sun's annual course, on some part of his person. ... And the circle of light around the head of the so-called pictures of [Yahshua] was evidently just a different form of the very same thing, and borrowed from the very same source. The ceremony of tonsure, says Maurice, referring to the practice of that ceremony in India, 'was an old practice of the priests of Mithra, who in their tonsures imitated the solar disk.' (Antiquities, vol. vii. p. 851. London, 1800.) As the sun-god was the great lamented god, and had his hair cut in a circular form, and the priests who lamented him had their hair cut in a similar manner, so in different countries those who lamented the dead and cut off their hair in honour of them, cut it in a circular form. There were traces of that in Greece, as appears from the Electro of Sophocles (line 52, pp. 108, 109)."


Besides its absence in the Old Testament, nothing is said about men wearing

headcoverings in the New Testament, except for Paul's forbidding it in 1 Corinthians 11:7, "For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of Elohim."

As believers we avoid following any man-made, heathen practice not ordained in Scripture. Yahweh has a disdain for synchronizing with pagan beliefs.

Writing to Israel in Deuteronomy 12:30-31, He says, "Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their mighty ones, saying, How did these nations serve their mighty ones? even so will I do likewise. Thou shalt not do so unto Yahweh thy Elohim: for every abomination to Yahweh,

which he hateth, have they done unto their mighty ones; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their mighty ones."

Yahweh wants His worship and people to be free of all heathen trappings. "Learn not the way of the heathen" He thunders in Jeremiah 10:2. The beanie is just that, a carryover from ancient sun worship. 



the Kippah

The Jewish tradition of the male kippah or yarmulke derives from a heathen Greek custom of wearing a beanie-like cap in sports competitions (see 2Maccabees 4:10-13). Greek philosophers wore the hat of the pagan god Hermes to show that they were educated, a custom still seen in the beanie under the tasseled mortarboard worn at graduation ceremonies. In the Scriptures the male headcovering was a sign of mourning, as seen in 2Samuel 15:30; 19:4; and Esther 6:12. Had the average man customarily worn headcoverings the Scriptures would have no need to make special mention of it in these passages. It appears the Roman Catholics have been wearing the scull cap at least since 1290. A fresco from 1290 in the Church of St. Francis at Assisi shows cardinals wearing them. The modern Jewish tradition seems to have started when Rabbi Yerucham ben Meshullam decreed wearing kippahs while in synagogue as *halakha* in the 14th century. It was Rabbi Joseph Karo who in the 16th century said that Jewish men must have their heads covered at all times based on a passage in the Talmud.





Tel Megiddo's Role in Armageddon

by Randy Folliard

Megiddo has been inhabited for millennia. According to many experts, you can find more than 25 levels of different occupations on this site. That's why this site is called Tel Megiddo.

The word "tel" is Hebrew and refers to an artificial mound. The mound was created through layers of civilizations over thousands of years, including the Canaanites, Egyptians, Assyrians, Persians, and Israelites. More than two dozen separate civilizations resided at Tel Megiddo throughout 5,000 years of history.

From this location you can see several other important sites, including: the Jezreel Valley, Mt. Gilboa (where Saul died), the Jordan Valley, Nazareth (the home of Yahshua the Messiah), and Mt. Carmel (where Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal).

It was a vital trade route connecting Egypt to Assyria, Anatolia (now known as Turkey), and Mesopotamia. It connected Africa with the Middle East and the Fertile Crescent. Today this route is also known as

Via Maris, Latin for, "way of the sea."

Because of its tactical location, hundreds of battles occurred here, including even in modern times between the British and Ottoman Turks. During World War I the Allied troops, led by General Allenby, defeated the Ottomans here. This location has a very long history in the Middle East. Thutmose III, the sixth Pharaoh of the Eighteenth Dynasty, once said, "Capturing Megiddo is as good as capturing 1,000 cities."

Archaeological Significance

Because of many foreign occupations, Tel Megiddo is rich in archaeology. This site has two layers of walls. The outer layer was constructed by the Canaanites and the inner layer was later built by the Israelites. Within Megiddo we find a 5,000-year-old altar that was used for animal sacrifices when the Canaanites occupied this city. This altar is 28 feet in diameter and 5 feet high.

From the time of the Israelites are

stables built by King Solomon and grain silos built by Jeroboam II. The grain silos were roughly 22 feet deep by 36 feet in diameter and could hold an impressive 1,000 tons of grain. Along with many other smaller items, including pagan idols from the Canaanites, is a church from the third century.

One of the most striking archaeological features is an underground water system built by King Ahab. It's about 300 feet from the surface to the pool of water. The source of water is an underground spring. Only two other locations have this type of structure. One is in Hazor and the other is in Jerusalem, which is where we find the Gihon Spring.

Israel built this tunnel to ensure that they had access to water in case the city was ever at war. Megiddo saw hundreds of battles. Before Ahab constructed this underground water system those in the city had to go outside the city walls to collect water. From a strategic standpoint you can imagine how important this underground tunnel was for

those who lived here. It literally could make the difference between life and death.

Scriptural Importance

Most significantly, Megiddo is important scripturally. Here Joshua defeated the king of Megiddo. This city was then assigned to the tribe of Manasseh. The Bible tells us that Solomon later further fortified this city. It was also here where Josiah, one of the best kings in Judah, was killed in the conflict with Pharaoh-necho. We also know that this was a key city for many of the kings of the Northern Israelite Kingdom, including Jeroboam II and Ahab.

This area is extremely critical in end-time prophecy. It is better known as Armageddon, coming from the Hebrew *har* Megiddo. The word “har” refers to a mountain. Tel Megiddo isn’t a natural mountain, but an artificial mound. This is why it’s normally called Tel Megiddo and not Har Megiddo.

In the New Testament we find Megiddo in Revelation 16:16. Starting in verse 12, “And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of Yahweh Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon,” vv. 12-16.

Sixth Vial – Armageddon

Before we talk about Armageddon let’s review some background. In the Book of Revelation we find three sets of seven plagues. It describes seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven bowls or vials.

Each one of these plagues represents a different epidemic or challenge to this world and those in it. Also, as the plagues progress they become worse and more intense.

Armageddon fits into the second to last plague. So what do we see in this plague? To begin with, the River Euphrates dries up for the kings of the east. The Euphrates is the longest river in western Asia. It begins in

eastern Turkey and goes through both Syria and Iraq. It also has a long history. It is first mentioned in the second chapter of Genesis.

In “the kings of the east” the word “east” comes from the Greek *anatole* and some say it refers to China, Japan, and Korea. Others speculate it refers to the Arab nations. John also witnesses three unclean spirits coming out of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. According to Revelation 13, the dragon symbolizes Satan the devil. Scripture shows that Satan will empower both the beast and the false prophet.

According to Revelation 13, the beast is the Antimesiah or the Man of Sin. He’s also known as the Son of Perdition. At the end of this age this man will rule over the earth as a dictator or despot, a type of Adolf Hitler

most of the world will be deceived.

Staging for War

This deception is to bring all nations to Armageddon or Tel Megiddo. This is where all the armies of the earth will gather for earth’s final war.

Many believe that this end-time battle will happen in the Jezreel Valley. There’s only one issue with that. The Bible shows that although the armies will meet here, they will then march toward Jerusalem to fight. So Tel Megiddo will be a staging point for all the armies of the earth before moving on to attack Jerusalem.

Zechariah 12:1 prophesies of this final battle. The prophet provides very specific descriptions as to how this will happen. It



Megiddo is an ancient, strategic, fortified mountaintop location overlooking the Jezreel valley. This region was a natural crossroads through the Carmel Ridge. It guarded the western arm of a narrow pass on the most important trade route of the ancient Fertile Crescent, linking Egypt with Mesopotamia and Asia Minor. Archaeological excavations have unearthed 26 layers of ruins of civilizations dating as early as 3500 BCE. Here you can see the excavated valley with an ancient altar from the Canaanites dating to the early Bronze Age.

or Joseph Stalin. Just like these men, but worse, the Antimesiah will commit horrible atrocities on mankind during the three-and-a-half years of the Great Tribulation.

He will not be alone. He will be helped by a false prophet. As we see in Revelation 13, this false prophet will cause all the earth to worship the Man of Sin through many signs and wonders, including raining fire down from heaven and giving life to a lifeless image. Because of such miracles

reads, “The burden of the word of Yahweh for Israel, saith Yahweh, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him. Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in

pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it,” vv. 1-3.

Jerusalem is ground zero in the final battle. One fact to note about the Jezreel Valley is just how big this area is. It stretches 146 square miles. Knowing this, it’s easy to imagine how all the armies of the earth could meet here and prepare for battle.

Yahweh Fights for Jerusalem

Yahweh says those who come against Jerusalem will be cut to pieces. Beginning in verse 4 we find: “In that day, saith Yahweh, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness. And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, The inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be my strength in Yahweh of hosts their Elohim. In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem. Yahweh also shall save the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify themselves against Judah. In that day shall Yahweh defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as Elohim, as the angel of Yahweh before them. And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem,” vv. 4-9.

Imagine the scene. If you think Moses’ defeat of Pharaoh was something to behold, just wait until this day. Yahweh is going to supernaturally defend His people. This will be done in a multipronged approach.

First, He will strike every horse with blindness. Some have asked, why in this technological age are horses mentioned? This is either symbolic (as modern machinery

was not around when this prophecy was given) or it may refer to actual horses. If this is referring to horses, there may be a few reasons why, including the use of an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) bomb, which could render modern machinery useless.

Also, horses today are still used by some armies like the Janjaweed, an Arab militia group in the Sudan. Whether it’s symbolic or literal, Scripture prophesies that Yahweh is going to somehow blind the enemy.

We also see that Yahweh will supernaturally strengthen His people Israel as seen in Zechariah. The governors of Judah will be like a torch to a sheaf of grain. Judah’s governors will be like a flame to

He spoke this universe into existence. If He can do this, then He can certainly defend His people at the end of this age. If He desires, He can create an army out of the most weak and feeble people.

That’s not to say Israel is weak; just the opposite. But again the lesson here is that our Heavenly Father is going to supernaturally defend His people from the armies of this earth.

Yahshua the Messiah Returns

Now from verse 10 is also when Yahshua the Messiah will return to this earth. It says, “And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and



Napoleon Bonaparte, who once stood here, looked out into the Jezreel Valley and remarked: “All the armies of the world could maneuver their forces on this vast plain.”

those who come against Jerusalem. And this will all begin at Megiddo.

How else will Yahweh defend His city and His people? The most feeble will be like David and the house of David will be as Elohim. He’s going to make the people of Israel into super soldiers.

So even though the armies of the world will come against Jerusalem, they will not succeed. If Yahweh is for you, who can be against you? Everything in this universe is within His control. If He desires to do something, absolutely nothing can stop it from happening.

they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon,” vv. 10-11.

This is one of the most remarkable prophecies in the Word. When Yahshua returns at His Second Coming, Scripture records that a miraculous thing is going to happen. The people of Judah and Benjamin will finally accept Yahshua as the one true

Messiah and their Savior.

This will also fulfill Matthew 23:39, where Yahshua said, “You shall not see me henceforth, till you shall say, BLESSED IS HE THAT COMETH IN THE NAME OF YAHWEH.”

There’s one other reason this passage is so important. It confirms the method of the Messiah’s execution some 500 years before it ever happened. Considering all the prophecies Yahshua fulfilled, including this one, it’s hard to imagine how anyone cannot accept Him as the Messiah. This is one of the most significant passages showing proof that Yahshua of Nazareth was in fact the Messiah and the Son of Yahweh. The evidence here is overwhelming.

Day of Yahweh

So let’s recap what we’ve seen so far. First, the sixth vial in the Book of Revelation prophesies that all the kings of the earth will be gathered at Armageddon or Tel Megiddo. It is here where they will stage for battle against Jerusalem.

Second, when they come against Jerusalem Yahweh will defend His people by striking their enemy with blindness and by supernaturally empowering them. And third, after all this they will witness the return of Yahshua the Messiah, mourn for Him as they would their only son, and also confirm the saying, “...blessed is He who comes in the name of Yahweh.”

What a wonderful time this will be for the people of Judah. They will regain their city, but even more importantly, they will accept their Savior, Yahshua the Messiah, for the first time. This will be a family reunion of mammoth proportions!

Chapter 14 of Zechariah picks up where 12 leaves off. Let’s continue with chapter 14, starting in verse 1. “Behold, the day of Yahweh cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.”

What does the day of Yahweh, or as we often see it, the “day of the Lord,” represent? Most will say it refers to Sunday as a day of worship.

Here are the facts about the day of Yahweh. This phrase occurs 25 times in the Bible, 20 times in the Old Testament and 5 times in the New Testament. Each verse speaks about a day of trouble with words like distress, anger, destruction, cruel, doom, tribulation, and anguish. It’s going to be so bad that the prophet Amos says that

we are not to even desire this day.

The belief that it refers to Sunday or the first day of the week as a day of worship is a misnomer. It’s not even close to what we find in the Bible. The evidence shows that it refers instead to the day of Yahshua’s return.

Now starting in verse 2 we find this referring to the Messiah’s Second Coming. It reads, “For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall Yahweh go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle,” vv. 2-3.

A gathering of all nations against Jerusalem is the same message we found in chapter 12, all beginning at Megiddo. Ultimately Yahweh Himself will fight these nations.

When it says Yahweh here it is referring to Yahshua the Messiah. Throughout the New Testament, Yahshua taught that He would be the One who would return and remove the wicked. From His parable of the wheat and tares He will first remove the wicked and then gather the righteous, His elect.

This parable also proves that there will be no rapture. Remarkably, this is precisely what we find in Zechariah.

Mount of Olives Divides

Verse 4 continues, “And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and Yahweh my Elohim shall come, and all the saints with thee,” vv. 4-5.

When Yahshua the Messiah returns His feet will literally stand on the Mount of Olives. When this happens an earthquake will split the mountain from north to south, which will create a great valley in Jerusalem through the Mount of Olives.

What’s amazing is that a fault line has been discovered going down the Mount of Olives. From the article, “Jerusalem’s Natural Fault

Line and the EU,” from IsraelNationalNews.com, we learn,

“The fault line in Jerusalem rivals that of the more well known San Andreas Fault in the West Coast of the United States...As it turns out the worst hit area when an earthquake occurs will be the Temple Mount. Earthquakes have already occurred in Jerusalem. Zechariah mentions the earthquake that occurred in the days of King Uzziah of Judah. Scientists estimate that this earthquake was 7.8 to 8.2 on the Richter Scale. An earthquake in Jerusalem on January 15th, 1546 was 6.7 on the Richter Scale. The last earthquake was in 1927 and caused the Allenby Bridge to collapse.”

It’s amazing how often science proves the Bible. The splitting of the Mount of Olives to create a large valley is reminiscent of when Moses divided the Red Sea, which allowed Israel to escape the Egyptian army. The only difference here is that this is going to provide a way of escape from all the armies that invade Jerusalem.

Try to imagine this scene: Yahshua comes down from heaven, His feet stand on the Mount of Olives and immediately you hear rumbling and feel the ground shaking beneath you as you see it ripped in two. Once the dust settles you see a long canyon as a way of escape.


This is precisely what’s going to happen. So along with supernaturally empowering His people, He will also provide a way of escape. The bottom line is that His people Israel will be saved. It’s prophesied, and it will happen as predicted!

A Coming Restoration

Verse 9 concludes with this statement, “And Yahweh shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Yahweh, and his name one.”

When Yahshua returns He’s going to establish His Father’s Kingdom here on earth. This will be a great day for all believers. Yahweh will be one and His Name one.

Pure worship will be restored to all mankind. Isaiah prophesies that all flesh will worship Yahweh from one Sabbath to another. Ezekiel also speaks about how the Feast days will be brought back at this time. And it all begins at Megiddo, when the armies gather to advance upon Jerusalem.

So let us prepare for this coming time by following Yahweh’s Word and dedicating our lives to Him. While these may be frightening times, we know that there is coming a great day when our Father’s truth and eternal Word will shine to all men. 



Read: **The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse** for a fascinating look at what is ahead for our world in the time just ahead of us. Visit yrm.org/four-horsemen-apocalypse

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HOLY SPIRIT

Person or Power?

by Randy Folliard



The Holy Spirit most often is considered the third person of the Trinity or a separate “mode” in the Pentecost Oneness doctrine. However, with a careful study of Scripture you will find that the Holy Spirit is not a person, but an inanimate force that represents the power of Yahweh.

In this short summary we will explore some of the most common passages used in the support of this teaching.

Trinitarian Baptism Nonexistent

For many who claim that the Holy Spirit is a person, Matthew 28:19 is a key passage. It reads, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

On the surface this verse certainly gives credence that the Spirit represents a person. After all, it’s mentioned here in connection with the Father and Son. The problem with this passage is that many scholars question its authenticity.

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*). All immersions in the NT were done into the single Name of Yahshua (Acts 2:38; 8:16; 10:48; 19:5; 22:16).”

Three important facts are in this note:

1) the expression “Father, Son, and Holy Spirit” may be the result of early church worship;

2) Eusebius quotes this passage a total of 21 times, but never with the Trinitian formula (this omission certainly offers evidence that this may be spurious); and

3) this formula was never used by the apostles in Acts. This last point offers the greatest reason for concern as it pertains to the authenticity of this phrase. If Yahshua commanded that the apostles baptize into the Name of the “Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,” why then did they baptize only in the singular Name of Yahshua? Did they forget? The likely answer is these words were never spoken by the Messiah.

As a side note, this fact was the main motivating factor for the modern Pentecostal Oneness doctrine. Many in this movement rightfully recognized that baptism was always in the Messiah’s name alone and never in the “Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

However, their Oneness doctrine also departs from the truth in Scripture in that they claim that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit represent one singular being that appears in different “modes” throughout time. The Bible clearly teaches that the Father and Son are separate beings with only the Father being immortal (1 Tim. 6:16), i.e., eternal, and superior to the Son (John 10:29;

14:28; 1 Cor 11:3).

The fact that the expression “Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,” as found in Matthew 28:19, was undoubtedly added, it’s impossible to use it as proof for the Spirit’s personage.

Used in the Masculine

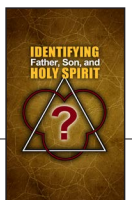
Another popular proof for this position is John 14:16: “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.” The “Comforter” here is the Holy Spirit. As many will point out, this word comes from the Greek *parakletos*, which is masculine. They will claim the masculine gender confirms that the Spirit is a he, i.e., person, and not simply a force. The problem is the New Testament also shows the Spirit in the neuter (e.g. Matthew 10:20 and Romans 8:16, 26).

Perhaps even more troubling for those who insist on a masculine gender, in the Hebrew it is neither masculine nor neuter, but feminine. This example is not to prove that the Holy Spirit is female, but to show that it appears in all genders, including neuter. Therefore, you cannot assert a gender based on the Hebrew and Greek languages.

Personal Traits

Another proof text often used to justify this doctrinal position is John 16:13: “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

As in John 14:16, the Spirit here is masculine. However, as we’ve already verified, the



Spirit is also in the neuter, not to mention feminine. Therefore, the gender offers little evidence as to the essence of the Spirit.

In addition to gender, many will also point out that Paul confirms here that the Spirit itself guides us into truth. They will assert this reflects a person and not simply a power. Does this offer proof that the Spirit is a separate, rational being?

When we realize that the Spirit is an extension of Yahweh's power and that it points back to the actions of the Father, we understand that the Father through His Spirit guides us into deeper truths. Indeed, most often when the Spirit is mentioned, it's in connection with the Father. Since the Spirit represents the Father's power, it and the Father cannot be separated.

Characteristics of a Power

While there are passages that seem to describe the Spirit as a separate entity, there are a number of others describing the Spirit in connection with actions that are best attributed to a power. For example, Isaiah 32:15 states that the Spirit is "poured out." We find the same in Isaiah 44:3 and Acts 2:17. How is it possible to pour out a person? This certainly seems to be more expressive of a power.

Titus 3:5-6 states that the Spirit is "shed" on believers in Messiah Yahshua. According to Strong's, the word means, "to pour forth." As with Isaiah 32:15, how do you pour a person into another? Also, Paul in 1Thessalonians 5:19 confirms that the Spirit can be quenched. How is it possible to quench a person within us?

Key Omissions

If the Spirit were a person why is there no mention of someone praying to the Spirit? You would think that if the Spirit were part of a "divine G-dhead" that there would be instances of people praying to the Spirit.

Perhaps the most serious question is why does Paul never include the Spirit in his greetings or salutations? Consider the following examples from his writings:

- "... Grace to you and peace from Yahweh our Father, and the Master Yahshua Messiah" (Rom. 1:7).
- "Grace be unto you, and peace, from Yahweh our Father, and from the Master Yahshua Messiah" (1Cor. 1:3).
- "Grace be to you and peace from Yahweh our Father, and from the Master Yahshua Messiah" (2Cor. 1:2).

- "Grace be to you and peace from Yahweh the Father, and from our Master Yahshua Messiah" (Gal. 1:3).

- "Grace be to you, and peace, from Yahweh our Father, and from the Master Yahshua Messiah" (Eph. 1:2).

- "Grace be unto you, and peace, from Yahweh our Father, and from the Master Yahshua Messiah" (Phil. 1:2).

- "...Grace be unto you, and peace, from Yahweh our Father and the Master Yahshua Messiah" (Col. 1:2).

- "...Grace be unto you, and peace, from Yahweh our Father, and the Master Yahshua Messiah" (1Thess. 1:1).

- "Grace unto you, and peace, from Yahweh our Father and the Master Yahshua Messiah" (2Thess. 1:2).


- "...Grace, mercy, and peace, from Yahweh our Father and Yahshua Messiah our Master" (1Tim. 1:2).

- "...Grace, mercy, and peace, from Yahweh the Father and Messiah Yahshua our Master" (2Tim. 1:2).

- "...Grace, mercy, and peace, from Yahweh the Father and the Master Yahshua Messiah our Saviour" (Tit. 1:4).

If anyone would have understood the identity of the Holy Spirit, it would have been the Apostle Paul. This man was an intellectual, theological giant and understood truths that many grapple with today. Assuming Paul understood that the Spirit constituted part of the same "G-dhead" as the Father and Son, he would have included the Spirit within his many salutations. But he never did. This omission by Paul speaks volumes and maybe offers the greatest evidence against the Spirit representing a person.

We are commanded to prove all things and to hold fast to that which is good, 1Thessalonians 5:21. This means all aspects of His Word, including what the Bible reveals regarding the Spirit.

As we've seen from the biblical record, the Spirit is not a separate rational person, but the power that emanates from the Father and the conduit by which He works with His people. For additional information on this subject, including the Trinity and Oneness doctrines, request or read online our booklet, *Identifying the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*. 

Holy Spirit: The Languages Speak

Ruach and *Pneuma* = Wind, Breath

"The basic meaning of *ruach*, the Hebrew for spirit, is both 'wind' or 'breath,' but neither is understood as essence; rather it is the power encountered in the breath and the wind, whose whence and whither remains mysterious...2. *ruach* as a designation for the wind is necessarily something found in motion with the power to set other things in motion...The divine designation also apparently has an intensifying function in a few passages: *ruach* elohim (Gen 1:2) and *ruach* yhw (Isa 59:19)" (*Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament, "Ruach"*).

The Greek equivalent of *ruach* is *pneuma*, and denotes the same. *Pneuma* is the first part in the word *pneumatic*, which means of or containing wind, air or gas, as in *pneumatic* tires.

"The expression Spirit, or Spirit of God, or Holy Spirit, is found in the

great majority of the books of the Bible. In the OT the Hebrew word uniformly employed for the Spirit as referring to God's Spirit is *ruah*, meaning 'breath,' 'wind' or 'breeze.' ... The word for Spirit in the Gr is from the vb. 'to breathe, 'to blow.'

"...We have no way of tracing exactly how the minds of the Bible writers connected the earlier literal meaning of the word with the Divine Spirit. Nearly all shades of meaning from the lowest to the highest appear in the OT, and it is not difficult to conceive how the original narrower meaning was gradually expanded into the larger and wider. ... The idea and importance of personality were but slowly developed in Israelit-ish thought. Not until some of the later prophets did it receive great emphasis, and even then scarcely in the fully developed form," *International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*, p. 1407.



When asked how we know what is the true faith taught in the Scriptures, we simply point to Yahshua the Messiah as He is the living embodiment of Truth in every facet presented in Scripture. He came to show us how to learn, live and teach the Word of Truth that leads to salvation. He said His teachings were given to Him by His Father Yahweh, and He passes them on to us, John 14:31.

He is also our future Judge, a fact that raises the bar on the necessity to follow His example in everything, not just what He taught but how He lived and what He observed Himself. It all comes in a package. But some pull only certain things out of the package and just do and teach those, like love, grace, and the Beatitudes of Matthew 5, and totally ignore Yahshua's obedience in how He walked.

Yahshua's spiritual foundation and teaching text was the Old Testament, which was the only Bible in existence as the New Testament was not yet written. When He referenced the Word so many times, it was the Old Testament He used.

He never said anything about throwing out the Old Testament after He died. He never said the Old Testament was good enough for Israel, but the New Testament shows a different road to salvation for the Truth seeker today. Paul said that there is only one faith and baptism for all people, not one for Hebrews and a different one for Christians, Ephesians 4:4-5.

Why would Yahshua waste all His time and energy on teachings and doctrine that would be null and void in three years? When did He ever tell His audiences that what He was teaching them had an expiration date, after which the standards

Yahshua's Obedience Is Our Standard for Life

Yahshua's foundational teaching text was the Old Testament, which was the only Bible in existence in His day.

of obedience that He fervently taught for three-and-a-half years of ministry would no longer be required? (There are 1,050 laws and commands teaching obedience in the New Testament, according to *Dake's Annotated Reference Bible*.)

The New Covenant did not eliminate the Old Testament. As we find in Jeremiah 31 there is little actual difference between Old and New covenants. One key difference is that in the New Covenant the law is now put in our hearts, verse 33.

Putting something in the heart means to impact us at the deepest and most profound level. That's a far cry from terminating it! See Hebrews 8:10 for a New Testament confirmation of the New Covenant's re-emphasis on Yahweh's laws.

Yahshua was without sin, and by the definition of sin in 1John 3:4 we find that as our gold standard He obeyed the law perfectly. Yahshua told the man in Matthew 19:17 that if he sought salvation he must "keep the commandments."

In Matthew 5:17 Yahshua said He did not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill it. In Romans 3:31 Paul says we must

establish the law, not void it.

Some refer to Romans 7:4 that we must die to the law. Note that WE die to the law, not that the law dies. The death penalty brought by the law has no effect on us, a bit of word play because Yahshua's death paid our death penalty. Verse 6 tells us that we no longer serve in the oldness of the letter but now in its full, spiritual intent.

Note also that verse 1 contradicts the notion that the law has been abolished when it says, "The law has dominion over a man as long as he lives." Whether we choose to obey it or not, the law is still the standard by which everyone by their works is judged, Romans 2:12-13; Revelation 20:12.

Romans 7:6 shows that when we die to the law, our obedience takes on a newness of spirit (v. 14), meaning we don't just obey out of routine as did the Pharisees, but now we have a heart that truly desires to obey. Reading further, we note that verse 12 says "the law is holy, just and good." Paul wrote this long after the death and resurrection of Yahshua.

Yahshua would never abolish His own code of ethics. 



Q I am a police officer and required to work Fridays and Saturdays. I try to spend my downtime reading scripture and being mindful of Yahweh. But I understand it's not exactly the way we are supposed to honor the Sabbath. What does one do in a situation like this where I don't have the option of being off on the Sabbath?

A While we certainly respect our law enforcers, believers should not be working on the Sabbath. The same would also apply to those in the medical field. The only option is to receive a waiver to get off on Sabbaths or look for a position that would allow you to correctly observe the Sabbath.

The Sabbath is a sign between us and our Heavenly Father. In two places we find this confirmed:

"Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am Yahweh that doth sanctify you" (Exodus 31:13).

"I am Yahweh your Elohim; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; and hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am Yahweh your Elohim" (Ezekiel 20:19-20).

No other command is called a "sign." This honor is given only through the Sabbath. Therefore, when we work on the Sabbath we are not only breaking an important commandment, but harming our very relationship with Yahweh.

When it comes to working on the Sabbath, Yahweh is incredibly strict.

Following are two examples:
 "And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the Sabbath day. And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation. And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him. And Yahweh said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp. And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as Yahweh commanded Moses" (Numbers 15:32-36).

"Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the Sabbath, in it there shall be none. And it came to pass, that there went out some of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none. And Yahweh said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws? See, for that Yahweh hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day" (Exodus 16:26-29).

In the above, Israel was punished for the breaking of the Sabbath. With the man picking up sticks, based on the Hebrew, it's possible the word "sticks" refers to lumber for construction work. Regardless, both accounts show the seriousness of breaking the Sabbath.

The Sabbath is a day of worship and convocation (coming together). It's also a day that we're not to spend focused on our hobbies or pleasures outside of the Word. Isaiah 58:13 reads, "If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing

as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and Yahweh's holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words."

Some might question Yahshua the Messiah's actions in the New Testament. The fact that He healed on the Sabbath and said that it was okay to do good on the holy day, does this give those in critical, life-saving positions, the grace to break the Sabbath?

While Yahshua certainly showed that it was permissible to do good on the Sabbath, these actions were not part of His employment and were done only when absolutely necessary. As believers, we should not be purposely pushing our "ox into a ditch."

Even though law enforcement and medical staff serve important functions in society, this does not give believers a free pass to ignore the Sabbath, especially when there are many non-believers willing and able to do the work. The Sabbath was set at the beginning (Genesis 2:3) and serves as a sign between Yahweh and us.

Q What role did Esther play in Scripture? I'm asking because I was surprised that you say that women cannot hold any public office within the assembly. I thought Esther was a prophet and even asked for permission to approach the king. I also thought women were allowed to teach other women and still share the good news of Yahshua to others and especially to other women.

A We are not saying that women have no role or value in the assembly. In many cases women served in support roles, Luke 8:1-3; Acts 16:13-15; 18:24-26; Romans 16:1-6. They are also instructed to teach their children and other women, Titus 2:3-5. When we say that they have no official role, we are referring to ministers and those ordained to the work (priests, elders, deacons, etc.). There are no instances where ladies were ordained to the ministry or placed in public teaching roles in either the Old or New testaments.

Esther was not a prophetess but a queen. While she saved her people through her bravery she never taught the people. This job was given to Ezra and the priests.

It's never our intention to degrade the

value of women. We believe that women provide many blessings to the home and to the assembly and none is greater than being a mother and mentor to other ladies.

Q “Do you believe J-sus is G-d or created Son of G-d? In John 1:1, if you master the Greek biblical language, there is no doubt that J-sus is G-d. It is not by coincidence that the New Testament was written in Greek because it’s so specific that it leaves no doubt about the correct meaning. Only idolatrous gods are created like the 12 gods of Olympus. I would really like to have your opinion on this.”

A First of all, the New Testament was originally Hebraic. It was written by Hebrews who spoke Hebrew as their native language.

We believe that Yahshua the Messiah was the firstborn of *creation* and that only the Father Yahweh has immortality (i.e., existed from the beginning), see 1 Timothy 6:16. Clear evidence for this can be found in Colossians 1:15, where Paul states, “Who is the image of the invisible El, the firstborn of every creature.” Paul here is referring to the Messiah and confirms that He was the “firstborn of every creature.”

The word “firstborn” comes from Greek *prototokos*. According to Strong’s, *prototokos* literally means, “first-born.” *Thayer’s Greek Lexicon* states, “...of Christ, the first born of all creation.” The word “creature” comes from the Greek *ktisis* and refers to “original formation,” Strong’s.

Thayer’s states, “...creation, that is, a thing created; used of individual things, beings, a creature, a creation.” Based on the Greek, Colossians 1:15 is literally stating that Messiah was the firstborn of

creation. This obviously implies that He had a beginning and confirms that He and the Father are separate beings, especially since only the Father has immortality.

Another passage is Revelation 3:14, “...These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of El.” Yahshua, speaking here to John, confirms that He was the beginning of Yahweh’s creation. The word “beginning” comes from the Greek *arche* and means, “...a commencement, or (concretely) chief (in various applications of order, time, place, or rank),” Strong’s. While it may be possible to define *arche* as referring to rank, based on the content, it’s more likely a reference to a commencement in time. This is nearly how all Greek translators have understood this passage.

We also find evidence for Yahshua’s creation in Proverbs 8:22, “Yahweh possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.” Many scholars believe that this passage is referring to the Messiah, as do we.

If so, we see here that Yahweh “possessed” Yahshua in the beginning. This word comes from the Hebrew *qanah*, a primitive root. Strong’s defines this word as, “...to erect, i.e. create; by extension, to procure, especially by purchase (causatively, sell); by implication to own.” Notice that the primary meaning implies creation. This corroborates Colossians 1:15 and Revelation 3:14.

There are several problems with believing that the Father and Son are the same being. For one, how to explain the many passages showing the Son praying to or calling out to the Father? Was He speaking to Himself? Below are a few examples:

Matthew 11:25: “At that time Yahshua answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Sovereign of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and

prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.”

Matthew 26:42: “He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.”

Luke 23:34: “Then said Yahshua, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.”

Another issue is that the Bible confirms that the Father is greater than the Son. If you have two beings, one greater and one lesser, how can they be the same? Consider the following:

- John 10:29: “My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.”

- John 14:29: “Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.”

- Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 11:3: “But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Messiah; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Messiah is Yahweh.”

In addition, according to Acts 2:24, the Father resurrected the Son. If the Father and Son are one being, how did He resurrect Himself, assuming we believe that He literally died for our sins? Also, how is it possible that the Father, being immortal, could die?

Many explain this by stating that the Messiah was “G-d” manifested in the flesh and the Father was “G-d” manifested in the spirit. There is nothing in Scripture that teaches such a notion. This is the same human reasoning that led to the Trinity. When it comes to the relationship of the Father and Son, the Bible is clear: only the Father has immortality, the Father is greater than the Son, the Son was created, and the Father and Son are two separate beings. For more, see the booklet at <https://yrm.org/identifying-father-son-holy-spirit/>

Q Does the keeping of the Feasts bring us back to legalism when we have been saved only by grace and mercy through our Savior? Doesn’t this divide us from J-sus’ provision to save us?

A The Bible speaks about justification and sanctification. Justification refers to the remission of sins through



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the atonement of our Savior, Yahshua the Messiah. This is not something we earn or are given based on obedience or good works, but is a gift from our Father Yahweh (Romans 3:20-28; 4:2; 5:9; 6:23; 1Corinthians 6:11; Colossians 2:16). However, once we are justified from our sins, the Bible speaks about living a sanctified life (Acts 26:18; 1Corinthians 1:2; 6:9-11; 1Thessalonians 4:3-7; Hebrews 10:26-31). We do this by obeying Him and living a life of righteousness.

Sin is the breaking of the commandments. 1John 3:4 states, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." Few would argue that sin doesn't exist or as believers we should continue to sin, even after coming to grace.

Knowing that sin is defined as "transgression of the law" and as believers we should be avoiding sin, this leads to only one conclusion: we should be obeying the commandments. Also, Jude warns against turning Yahweh's grace into a license to sin. He states, "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, unrighteous men, turning the grace of our Elohim into lasciviousness [i.e., sin], and denying the only Sovereign Yahweh, and our Master Yahshua Messiah," verse 4.

Paul wrote in 1Corinthians 6:9-10 that law breakers will not inherit the Kingdom.

Following are a few additional passages confirming that we are to obey after coming to the knowledge of the truth:

- "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments,

and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven," Matthew 5:17.

- "Do we then make void the law through faith? Elohim forbid: yea, we establish the law," Romans 3:31.

- "Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?... What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Elohim forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good," Romans 7:1, 7-12.

- "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of Yahweh, and have the testimony of Yahshua Messiah," Revelation 12:17.

- "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of Yahweh, and the faith of Yahshua," Revelation 14:12.

- "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through

the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie," Revelation 22:14-15.

We do not obey to earn justification or redemption from our sins, but once we are justified – which is "just as if" we had no sin – we are then to live a life of sanctification or holiness by obeying our Father's commandments. Obedience shows our love, as well as worthiness and desire to join His family of saints, 1John 5:3 and Revelation 20:12.

Q No one in the churches talks about what happens after the Millennium. So please explain, if you can.

A The Book of Revelation details events that follow the millennial Kingdom, declaring that Yahweh will come to earth in the New Jerusalem and describing the city. Before that the White Throne judgment will immediately follow the Millennium. At that time Satan, the man of sin, and death are destroyed in the lake of fire, Rev. 20:7-15.

Revelation chapters 21-22 discuss various aspects of the New Jerusalem. Here are some highlights:

- There will be no more sorrow (21:4).
- All things will be made new (21:5).
- Overcomers will inherit all things (21:7).
- The wicked will have been destroyed in the lake of fire (21:8).
- Revelation 21:9-22:7 describes the New Jerusalem, with Yahweh dwelling on earth.
- The Tree of Life will be back.
- Yahweh's Name will be in the foreheads of the people (22:4).

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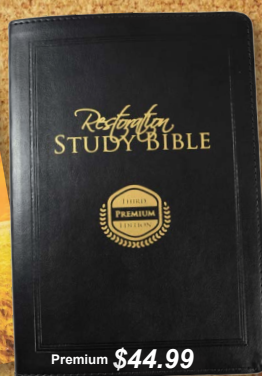
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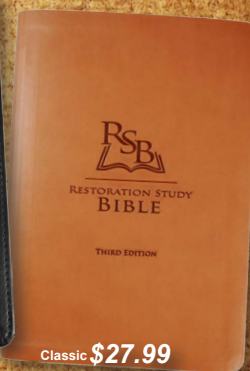
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"I recently had a family friend purchase for me your Restoration Study Bible. I absolutely love it! Its commentary is filled with so much truth." - A.M.

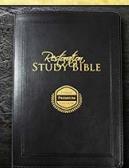


Feast Grounds Development Fund — Can You Help?

We have been busy installing the new HVAC system on the northern end of the multipurpose activity center along with the main electric panels and storm drains. We were greatly blessed to receive four high-efficiency HVAC heat pump units donated for the activity side. This will complete the northern end of the building while we seek additional donations for the lodging, kitchen, restroom and southern-end HVAC phase. We anticipate that it will take an additional \$150,000 to finish the interior 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 beyond capacity in our existing meeting hall for Tabernacles. The center could serve as a future meeting room for Tabernacles with an approximate 350-seat capacity in the gym. Please prayerfully consider helping YRM with this important initiative.

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