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The
Fall *Feasts*



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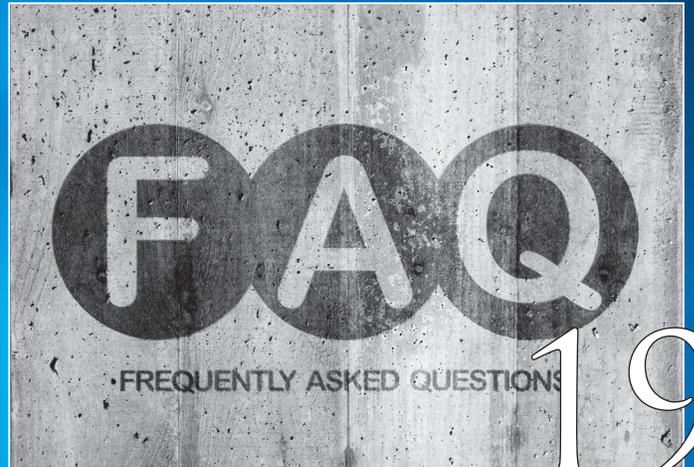


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Restoration Times expounds the close ties between the Old and New Testaments. We teach the continuity and harmony that extend from Yahweh's actions anciently down through His present activity in Yahshua the Messiah. This was also the conviction of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

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

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COVER: As we see the crop harvest coming we know Yahweh's Feasts are right around the corner.



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Keeping Feasts in the New Testament

by Alan Manager

At the end of Leviticus, after Yahweh details each of His seven annual observances, we read, “And Moses declared unto the children of Israel the feasts of Yahweh,” Leviticus 23:44.

It didn’t matter whether you were an Israelite or a stranger, you were required to observe these days. We see this in the command for the Feast of Unleavened Bread, along with a warning: “Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eats that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land.”

These special days, the only “holidays” commanded in the Bible, are given to everyone who seeks to know Him and take hold of His promise, no matter who they are or what era they live in.

Ritual or Spiritual?

“Do you mean you keep the ritual law that leads to so much bondage?” one individual asked. The common mistake is in thinking that all law in the Bible is the same.

In fact, we find various kinds of law in the Scriptures with different applications: governmental law, moral-spiritual law, commercial-civil law, ceremonial law, and judicial law. The feasts are spiritual law, which directly impacts our salvation.

Many have the mistaken belief that because animal sacrifices have been suspended, that the Feasts are also suspended. They believe this because sacrifices were made on the Feasts. This notion has a big flaw: animal sacrifices were an added element anyway and were not originally commanded, Jeremiah 7:22. Sacrifices were made every day as well on the Sabbath. Were those days also abolished?

The Feasts are therefore independent of those sacrifices. We still observe the Feasts but now we apply Yahshua’s better sacrifice to pay the penalty of our sin.

Yahweh made a unilateral covenant with Israel, the only people He ever made a covenant with. He makes a covenant with us now as spiritual Israel under the same terms of obedience.

The Old Testament represents the foundation of Yahweh’s plan, which continues today with only a few changes to allow others to join Israel. Those changes came about because of a unique change in the priesthood and not because of a change in worshippers or dispensations.

With a return to the Melchizedek priesthood led by Yahshua as High Priest, sacrifices now are fulfilled in Yahshua’s own sacrifice of Himself. Broken down was the wall of restrictions concocted by man to separate Jew and Gentile, Ephesians 2:14.

Yahweh’s basic statutes were not affected by a change in priestly administration, just as our nation’s laws continue in force despite regular changes in presidents and legislators. The same laws remain in force regardless. Proof of this is that Yahweh’s laws, including the Feast days, can be found in full force and effect all through the pages of the New Testament.

Whose Feasts Are They?

Many consider Old Testament laws “Mosaic” and given first at Sinai. Nearly two months before the Old Covenant was ratified and before he scaled Mt. Sinai to receive the codified law from Yahweh, Moses was instructed regarding Passover and the first of Yahweh’s appointed Feasts, the days of Unleavened Bread.

“And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and you shall keep it a feast to Yahweh throughout your generations; you shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever,” Exodus 12:14.

We learn from this verse some important facts: first, it is a Feast “to Yahweh.” In Leviticus 23:2 He says to proclaim these holy convocations which “are my feasts.”

Lest we are still confused as to whether all the Feasts are Yahweh’s or just some of them, He details each one for us in Leviticus 23:5-43. Notice that He prefaces

this passage with the clear and unmistakable words, “These are the feasts of Yahweh, which you shall proclaim in their seasons,” verse 4.

Clearly, these are Yahweh’s Feasts, not Israel’s, not Jewish Feasts and not just Feasts for Old Testament peoples. Being that they are Yahweh’s, and He tells us to keep them, then they transcend any arguments, dismissive interpretations or excuses anyone can come up with in order to avoid them.

Nailing Down What Was Nailed Up Yahweh’s statutes reveal the spiritual attributes of Yahweh and they transform us spiritually to be more like Yahshua when we observe them.

The change that came about in part of the law, which most mistake for the entire law, came about in the ceremonial-ritual

statutes. The Book of Hebrews details this change:

“Which was a figure for the time then present in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation. But Messiah being come an high priest of good things to come by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us” (Heb. 9:9-12).

These ritual ordinances connected with animal sacrifices had been added to the basic law obligations because of Israel’s continued

transgressions (Gal. 3:19). It was imperative for them, and us, to learn the important lesson that sin separates us from Yahweh and requires the shedding of blood for an atoning payment.

Today we trust in the Savior as the ultimate sacrifice and who now intercedes for us as our High Priest. His blood and not the blood of bulls and goats is the only effective remedy for blotting out our sin.

This is the key change in the law that the Bible speaks of. We find nothing about abolishing the spiritual law, including the Ten Commandments and Feast days. Neither the Commandments nor the Feasts were part of the ceremonial-ritual law that was changed.

“But doesn’t Colossians 2:14 say that all of Yahweh’s laws, including the Feasts, were nailed to the stake when Yahshua died?”

A Fast Look at the Feasts from the Restoration Study Bible Commentary

Passover

The Passover memorial begins at dusk at the start of the fourteenth of Abib (Ex. 12:6; Num. 28:16; Deut. 16:1). The Passover represents two significant events: the death of the firstborn of Egypt through the passing over of the death angel and the impalement of the Messiah on the torture stake (Ex. 12; John 18-19). The Passover is a memorial, not a High Sabbath. Work may be done on this day (Matt. 27:62; Mark 15:42; Luke 23:54; John 19:14). Yahshua partook of the Passover at twilight on the fourteenth day of Abib with His Apostles (Matt. 26:17-29; Mark 14:12-25), thus fulfilling the law. NT believers no longer sacrifice a lamb at Passover, but partake of the prescribed emblems, which represent Yahshua’s body (unleavened bread, matzoh) and blood (unfermented grape juice, the pure blood of the grape, Deut. 32:14). See Luke 22:12-23 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

Feast of Unleavened Bread

The Feast of Unleavened Bread begins on the 15th day of the month of Abib and extends through the 21st day of that same month (Ex. 12:15-18; Num. 28:17). The first and last days of the seven-day

observance are observed as High Days (Ex. 12:16; Num. 28:18, 25). During this time, believers are to worship Yahweh and examine themselves, removing any pride, sin, falsity or false doctrine from their lives (Ex. 5:1; 1 Cor. 5:8). Believers are to remove all leaven products from their property and eat unleavened bread for all seven days of the Feast (Ex. 12:15, 18).

Feast of Weeks

The Feast of Weeks (Heb. Shavuoth) or Pentecost is the third of the seven annual observances. This Feast is 50 days from the wave sheaf (vv. 10-11), which was offered on the day after the weekly Sabbath that fell within the Feast of Unleavened Bread (vv. 15-16). On this day, the NT Assembly received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4).

Feast of Trumpets

The Feast of Trumpets is a High Sabbath, a memorial of blowing trumpets, that falls on the first day of the seventh Hebrew month (Num. 29:1-6).

Day of Atonement

The Day of Atonement comes on the 10th day of the month of Tishri. On this day no

manner of work is to be done; it is a strict Sabbath to Yahweh. On this High Sabbath the faithful are to afflict themselves by fasting (Lev. 16; Num. 29:7-11).

Feast of Tabernacles

The Feast of Tabernacles or the Feast of Ingathering starts on the 15th day of the seventh biblical month and advances through the 21st day of the month. The Feast of Tabernacles is a seven-day Feast, which has a High Day on the 15th day of Tishri (Ex. 23:16; 34:22; Num. 29:12-34; Deut. 16:13-15). Yahshua set the example for all mankind by observing the Feast in the New Testament (John 7). Further, all people in the Millennium will observe the Feast of Tabernacles (Zech. 14:16-19; John 7:2, 37).

Last Great Day

The eighth day or Last Great Day immediately follows the Feast of Tabernacles and comes on the 22nd day of Tishri as a High Sabbath. On this day no manner of work is to be done. This special day commemorates the closing of the yearly feast cycle (Num. 29:35-38).

To learn more about the Restoration Study Bible, visit restorationstudybible.com or turn to p. 22 in this issue.

some may be asking. Let's read this verse to find out: "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his [torture stake]."

Here we find that the ordinances that were nailed to the tree were "against us." Is Yahweh's law against us? Or does Paul write in Romans 7:12, "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good"?

If the laws are bad for man, then why did Yahweh give them, and why does 1 John 5:3 say, "For this is the love of Yahweh, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous"?

The idea that Yahweh's laws were wrong and needed to be abolished goes against the whole concept of law itself.

Laws exist for our good, 1Pet. 2:13-14, including the commandments and Feasts. The problem lies not with the law but with man. Hebrews 8:8-9 explains, "For finding fault with them [Israel], he said, Behold, the days come, saith Yahweh, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, says Yahweh."

There it is. The issue with the law was entirely man's refusal to conform to it. Nothing's changed. The same problem exists today. Man is still rebellious.

In Colossians 2:14 the "ordinances" that Paul mentions is from the Greek *dogma* and means man-made rules that the Jews imposed. They are mentioned a few verses later: "(Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men." An example of these man-made laws is found in Mark 7:5, where the Pharisees accused Yahshua of breaking their traditional ordinances, in this case eating without first washing their hands.

Had Yahshua or Paul told us that under the New Covenant that we no longer need to observe the seven annual Feasts, then there would be no question. The fact is, no one in the New Testament ever said such a thing. They kept right on observing them till the end of Scripture and will continue into the Millennial Kingdom as well.

In many passages in the New Testament we see that people were intending to keep

them, were keeping them, and would be keeping them later in the coming Kingdom, including Yahshua Himself. Note the following passages:

- Luke 2:42—"And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast."

- John 5:1—"After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Yahshua went up to Jerusalem."

- Matthew 26:2—"You know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be impaled."

- Matthew 26:17—"Now the first [day] of the [feast of] unleavened bread the disciples

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came to Yahshua, saying unto him. Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover?"

- Matthew 26:29—"But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

- John 7:2, 10, 14—"Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand. But when his brethren were gone up, then went he [Yahshua] also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret. Now about the midst of the feast Yahshua went up into the temple, and taught."

- John 12:20—"And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast."

- Acts 18:21—"But [Paul] bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that comes in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if Yahweh will. And he sailed from Ephesus."

- Acts 2:1—"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place."

- 1 Corinthians 5:8—"Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

Considering all of Yahweh's many commands to keep His Feasts, as well as many New Testament occasions and witnesses, what hinders us to be obedient?

Feast Days Keep on Going

In His instructions to Moses and Israel detailing the Passover and Feast that follows, Yahweh made it crystal clear that this was not a one-time circumstance. Nor was it just for Israel at that time. He thundered, "And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and you shall keep it a feast to Yahweh throughout your generations; you shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever," Exodus 12:14.

No fewer than four times in Leviticus 23—after detailing all the Feasts—Yahweh declares the Feasts "a statute forever."

If these days were only important in the lives of ancient Israelites, then why do we find them prominent in a prophecy of the coming Kingdom?

Isaiah 66 deals with the Millennial Kingdom. We find that when His Kingdom comes to earth, everyone will come to keep Yahweh's appointed times: "And it shall come to pass, that from one new-moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith Yahweh."

And what if they refuse, as many do today? "And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, Yahweh of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, Yahweh of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith Yahweh will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles" (Zech. 14:16-18).

The Feasts, more than anything else, tell us about Yahweh's plan for His faithful and the part they will have in the coming Kingdom. Isn't it time to be faithful to Yahweh in observing days that have blessings associated both now and in the coming Kingdom? 



Halloween Frightening Fusion of Frolic and Foul

by Alan Mansager and Randy Folliard

As America sinks deeper into secularism, it is not surprising that the most noxious of profane practices continue to rise in popularity.

Halloween, as no other observance, glorifies evil, mayhem and murder. Its images become more grisly and shocking by the year. How can any Bible believer in good conscience partake of it?

Yahweh anticipated the danger of such allures when He thundered, “Learn not the ways of the heathen!” Jeremiah 10:2.

Many will say, “But how can you take Halloween fun away from the children?” The real question is, how does evil transform into fun? The culture mindlessly absorbs such contradictions and refuses to be educated about the historical roots of practices that teach revolting things to children.

Unmasking Halloween

Let’s remove the cloak from this weirdest of all observances, and see whether it is proper for the Bible follower.

It is a basic principle that the foundation of something determines its nature. You can take a rotten plank, paint it, even decorate it with ribbons and bows. No matter how good it can be made to look, it has no use but to be destroyed because it is rotten to the core.

In essence, that is what we have with the perverse holiday of Halloween. Pagan at its roots, it was baptized by the Roman Church when its trappings were coated with an ecclesiastical veneer. You can put lipstick on a pig but you’ll still have swine.

Paul warns in 2Corinthians 11:14 that Satan masquerades as an “angel of light.” He is the counterfeiter without peer! He can make an out-and-out perversion look good, even “fun,” and in the process create an enticing falsehood.

So what about this holiday? If someone were to ask why a Bible believer shouldn’t keep it, could you give good, solid, scriptural reasons that Halloween contradicts the walk of a True Worshiper?

In the following excerpts we let the

historians and other specialists provide the facts about Halloween and its toxic origins.

It Started with the Heathen Celts

“Halloween had its origins in the festival of Samhain among the Celts of ancient Britain and Ireland. On the day corresponding to November 1 on contemporary calendars, the new year was believed to begin. That date was considered the beginning of the winter period, the date on which the herds were returned from pasture and land tenures were renewed.”

—*Encyclopaedia Britannica* (online), “Halloween”

Then Adopted by the Romans

“When the Romans conquered the Celts in the 1st century CE, they added their own festivals of Feralia, commemorating the passing of the dead, and of Pomona, the goddess of the harvest.”

—*Encyclopaedia Britannica* (online), “Halloween”

Then Absorbed by the Roman Church

“In the early days the Christians were accustomed to solemnize the anniversary of a martyr’s death for Christ at the place of martyrdom. In the fourth century, neighboring dioceses began to interchange feasts, to transfer relics, to divide them, and to join in a common feast. Frequently groups of martyrs suffered on the same day, which naturally led to a joint commemoration. In the persecution of Diocletian the number of martyrs became so great that a separate day could not be assigned to each. But the Church, feeling that every martyr should be venerated, appointed a common day for all. ...Gregory III (731-741) consecrated a chapel in the basilica of St. Peter to all the saints and fixed the anniversary for 1 November [called All Saints’ Day, preceded by All Hallows Eve, shortened to Hallowe’en].”

–*The Catholic Encyclopedia*, vol. 1, p. 315

Awakening of the Dead

“On this occasion, it was believed that a gathering of supernatural forces occurred as during no other period of the year. The eve and day of Samhain were characterized as a time when the barriers between the human and supernatural worlds were broken. Otherworldly entities, such as the souls of the dead, were able to visit earthly inhabitants, and humans could take the opportunity to penetrate the domains of the gods and supernatural creatures.... Samhain acknowledged the entire spectrum of nonhuman forces that roamed the earth during the period.”

–*The Encyclopedia of Religion*, pp. 176-177

Superstition Struggles with Religion

“The three days between October 31 and November 2 see pagan and Christian celebrations intertwined in a fascinating way. All Hallows Eve, usually called Halloween, is followed by All Hallows’ Day, which is also All Saints Day, and the three-day period is a perfect example of superstition struggling with religious belief.”

Year of Festivals, p. 76.

Animal and Human Sacrifices

“It was common for horses to be sacrificed since they were sacred to the Sun god. There were also human sacrifices. Men, mostly criminals, were imprisoned in wicker and thatch cages shaped like animals or giants.

The Druid priests set fire to the tindery cages and the men were burned to death.”

–*The Complete Book of American Holidays*, p. 258.

Bonfires and Masks

“People set bonfires on hilltops for relighting their hearth fires for the winter and to frighten away evil spirits, and they sometimes wore masks and other disguises to avoid being recognized by the ghosts thought to be present. It was in those ways that beings such as witches, hobgoblins, fairies, and demons came to be associated with the day.”

–*Encyclopaedia Britannica* (online), “Halloween”

Trick-or-Treat

“There are several ancient practices that point to this tradition. One possibility is from the notion that ancient witches had to steal the materials needed for their festivals. The Druids may have believed that witches held this day to be special, something clearly true for modern witches. The idea of trick-or-treating is further related to the ghosts of the dead in pagan, and even Catholic, history. For example, among the ancient Druids, ‘The ghosts that were thought to throng about the houses of the living were greeted with a banquet-laden table. At the end of the feast, masked and costumed villagers representing the souls of the dead paraded to the outskirts of town leading the ghosts away.’”

–*The Christian Broadcasting Network* (online), “What Are the Pagan Roots of Halloween?”

Whence the Jack-o’-lantern

“The carved pumpkin may have originated with the witches’ use of a collection of skulls with a candle in each to light the way to coven meetings. But among the Irish, who, as noted, prompted the popularization of Halloween in America, the legend of ‘Irish Jack’ explains the jack-o’-lantern. According to the legend, a stingy drunk named Jack tricked the devil into climbing an apple tree for an apple, but then cut the sign of a cross into the trunk of the tree to prevent the devil from coming down. Jack then forced the devil to swear he would never come after Jack’s soul. The devil reluctantly agreed.”

–*The Christian Broadcasting Network* (online), “What Are the Pagan Roots of Halloween?”

Yahweh Speaks Out on Paganism

What does Yahweh think about observing Halloween? Does He passively sigh and say, “It’s just harmless fun for the children.

Let them have their night reveling in ancient rites of the occult and evil.” That is how many must reason if their consciences ever start to tug at them.



Most have never tried to learn what Yahweh their Creator thinks about what they do and how they live out their lives, Halloween included.

In 1 Corinthians 10:20-21 is a message for those who want it both ways, thinking that no harm is done so long as they give lip service to the Bible, too: “But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to Elohim: and I would not that you should have fellowship with devils. You cannot drink the cup of the Savior and the cup of devils: you cannot be partakers of the Savior’s table, and of the table of devils.” Devils? So appropriate in the Halloween context.

Because there is a Mighty One who demands that we follow Him in complete Truth, we have a problem with the world’s holiday rooted in ancient mystery practices that glorify the occult as well as the Evil One himself.

Imagine Yahweh giving His nod of approval while the culture glorifies all kinds of witchcraft and wizardry. Imagine that in light of Exodus 22:18, where He thunders to Israel in His law: “You shall not suffer a witch to live.”

Or consider Deuteronomy 18:10-14: “There shall not be found among you any one that makes his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that uses divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto Yahweh... You shall be perfect with Yahweh your Elohim.”



Elijah's Mount Carmel Victory

by Randy Follard

In this installment of our Holy Land series, we focus on Mount Carmel and the ministry of Elijah.

In Hebrew this location is called Har Ha Karmel, literally meaning, “El’s vineyard.” As the name may suggest, this location is rich in vegetation. According to an Israeli source, this mountain has 670 different species of plants. In Arabic it’s also known as “Jabal Mar Elyas” or “Mount St. Elias,” which is a reference to the prophet Elijah or Eliyah.

The site is located in northwest Israel off the coast of the Mediterranean Sea and near the city of Haifa. The mountain ridge is about 12 miles long and separates the Plain of Sharon in the south from the valley of Jezreel in the north. The Jezreel valley is where all the armies of the earth will gather before their attack on Jerusalem. For this reason the area is one of the most important prophetic locations on earth.

Carmel’s History

The site is called a “holy mountain” in Egyptian records dating back to the 16th century BCE. The Canaanites also had a major presence here.

According to the Jewish historian Josephus and the 4th century bishop Epiphanius, the Essenes too had a stronghold here. They were a Jewish sect of ascetics who closed themselves off from the world around them.

Christianity also left a mark on this mountain. In the 6th century CE several

hermits called it home, and in the year 1150 a Catholic Monastic order was founded, called the Carmelites.

In more recent times the Baha’i faith considers this location sacred. The Baha’i World Centre and the Shrine of the Báb is located here. Bab was the founder of the Baha’i faith.

The Prophet Elijah vs. Baal

The most important biblical event here was Elijah’s defeat of the prophets of Baal. But before we consider this account, we need some background as to who this man really was and what led up to this conflict.

His name, Elijah or EliYah, literally means, “My el is Yah.” This defined the man and his ministry. He prophesied in the Northern Kingdom during the reign of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. Ahab and Jezebel hated Elijah with a passion. For them, he was nothing but bad news.

No matter what happened, Elijah stood with his Heavenly Father, Yahweh, and never compromised his devotion. This is one reason he’s so important to us; he’s an example of what it means to stand strong even when the world seems against us.

In the New Testament he’s also used as a symbol of restoration. Before Yahshua the Messiah returns the Elijah message must go out to all the world. The ministry of YRM is helping fulfill this “my El is Yah” message.

When talking about Elijah, it helps to understand some of the history of Israel. Through the reigns of Saul, David, and

Solomon, Israel was one nation. But during the reign of Solomon’s son, Rehoboam, Israel split between north and south. The Southern Kingdom included Judah, Benjamin, and a portion of Levi, and the Northern Kingdom included the remaining 10 tribes of Israel.

Israel’s North-South Division

Why did the nation of Israel split during the reign of Rehoboam? This division goes back to King Solomon. In 1Kings 11 we find recorded that Solomon married many strange or unbelieving women, which in the end caused his heart to turn away from Yahweh and to pagan mighty ones. Because of this false worship, Yahweh told Solomon that He would tear the kingdom away from his son. However, for David’s sake He allowed Rehoboam to retain Judah and Benjamin.

Before the death of Solomon Yahweh came to Jeroboam, who would later become the first king of the Northern Kingdom. He promised that if Jeroboam would obey Him that He would establish his throne, as He did for David.

But Jeroboam did not heed this opportunity. To save his neck he rebelled against Yahweh by radically changing biblical worship. We can look at the reign of Jeroboam as an example of what happens when we change Yahweh’s worship. What’s sad is that modern churches continue in this practice. Many of today’s most popular holidays such as Easter and Christmas come

directly from paganism.

After the death of Jeroboam every king in the Northern Kingdom was evil; every one rebelled against Yahweh's Word, including Ahab, Elijah's nemesis.

The Saga Begins

The ministry and story of Elijah begins in 1 Kings 17:1: "And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As Yahweh Elohim of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word. And the word of Yahweh came unto him, saying, Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.

And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there. So he went and did according unto the word of Yahweh: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is

was conniving, ruthless, and rotten to the core. On various occasions she manipulated her husband, Ahab, for her own gain. Even Yahshua the Messiah in the Book of Revelation uses Jezebel as a symbol of seduction and false worship. This infamous duo became Elijah's opposition.

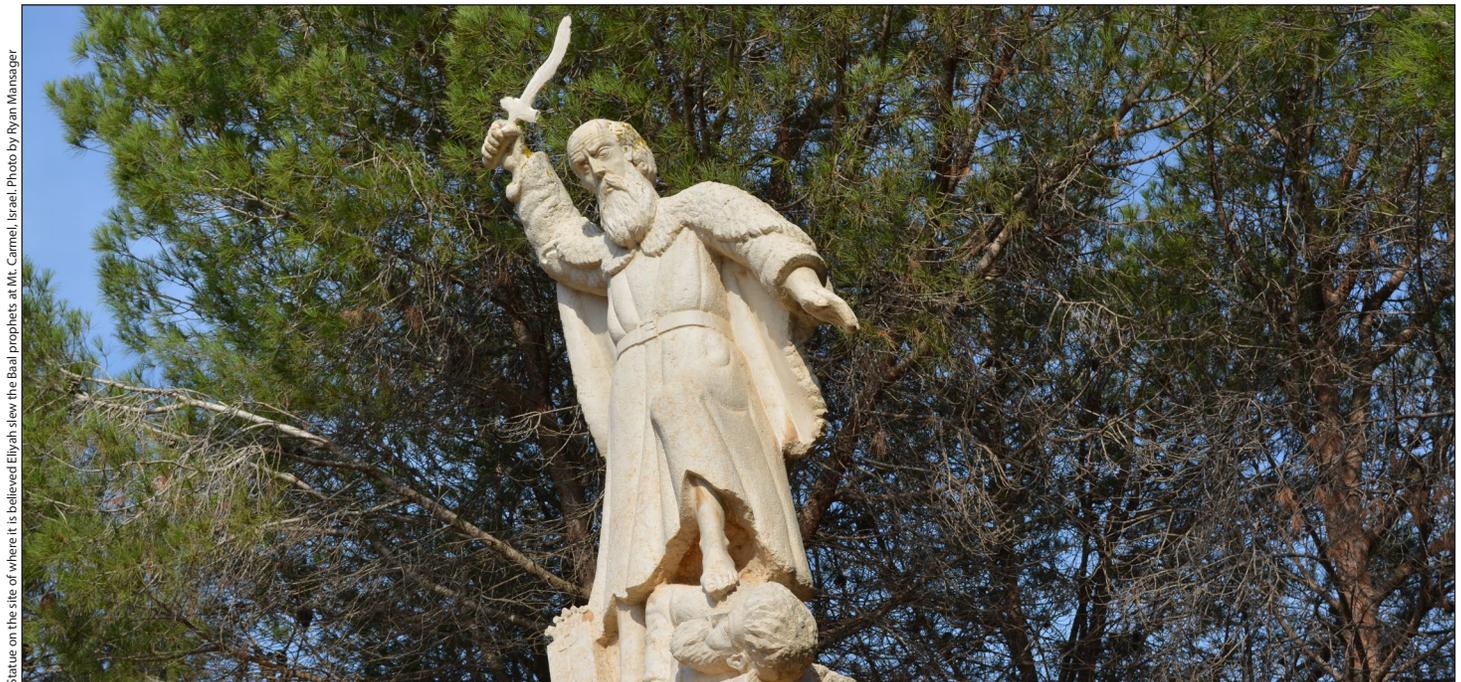
After Elijah prophesied to Ahab, Yahweh told him to flee to the brook Cherith.

Just as He provided for Elijah, Yahweh will do the same for His people now and in the future.

There he would have water to drink. We also see here He promised to feed him through ravens. Consider this last promise for just a moment. Our Heavenly Father fed Elijah with birds. Remarkable!

Saved by a Widow

At the close of the above passage we see that Elijah's water source dries up. Beginning in verse 8 Yahweh provides through a poor widow. "And the word of Yahweh came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. And she said, As Yahweh thy Elohim liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son,



Statue on the site of where it is believed Elijah slew the Baal prophets at Mt. Carmel, Israel. Photo by Ryan Mansager

before Jordan. And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook. And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land," vv. 1-7.

Elijah confronts King Ahab and prophesies that there would be a drought in the land of Israel. This famine was in response to the sin and deplorable actions of Ahab and Jezebel.

Jezebel was especially wicked. She

If Yahweh provided such miraculous help He can certainly provide for us. In Revelation 12:14 we find a future promise that He will provide for many believers during the three and a half years of the Great Tribulation. It says there He's going to nourish them. The word "nourish" means to feed or fatten.

He also mentions in Revelation that those who overcome will receive of the hidden manna. Just as He provided for Elijah, He will do the same for His people now and in the future.

that we may eat it, and die. And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith Yahweh Elohim of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that Yahweh sendeth rain upon the earth. And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of

oil fail, according to the word of Yahweh, which he spake by Elijah,” vv. 8-16.

Before meeting Elijah, this widow was planning one last meal for herself and son. She had absolutely nothing more to give. Knowing the fateful condition of this woman, Elijah asked her to share her remaining provision and promised that Yahweh would provide.

Consider, she had no way of knowing whether Elijah could deliver upon his promise and she was being asked to give up the last of her food. She did as Elijah asked and because of this was blessed with enough food for her and her son during the famine. Talk about believing in Yahweh and stepping out in faith! This is a lesson for us. If need be, our Heavenly Father can also supernaturally provide for us in the same way. Sometimes we find ourselves in a situation where we see no answer, but there’s no challenge too great for the One we worship.

While Elijah was a great prophet, he was not the one who provided; it was Almighty Yahweh. When we’re in a situation of concern or distress, let us do as this poor widow and have faith in our Heavenly Father.

Elijah Encounters Ahab

Let’s skip now to chapter 18 and read of Elijah’s encounter with Ahab and the prophets of Baal. Out of all the stories in the Old Testament, this is most remarkable.

It has been three years of no rain for the nation of Israel and three years since Ahab and Elijah have spoken. In this passage we find a man named Obadiah. This is not the prophet Obadiah but the governor of Ahab’s house. The Bible reveals that this man feared Yahweh, insomuch that when Jezebel began to persecute the prophets he hid and protected them.

Because of the famine, Ahab and Obadiah had no choice but to look for pasture for their livestock. On his way Obadiah met the prophet Elijah. Obadiah would serve an important role in this passage. Elijah told Obadiah to pass on a message to the king. Understandably so, Obadiah was afraid and was concerned that Elijah would not show himself, which would mean certain death for him.

So what did Obadiah do? Starting in verse 16, we find that he relied on Yahweh and stepped out in faith as did the poor widow before him. We read,

“So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and



told him: and Ahab went to meet Elijah. And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father’s house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of Yahweh, and thou hast followed Baalim. Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel’s table. So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel. And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if Yahweh be Elohim, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word,” vv. 16-21.

After three long years King Ahab and the prophet Elijah met face-to-face. Notice what happens first: Ahab asks Elijah, aren’t you the one who troubles Israel? To Ahab and Jezebel Elijah was nothing but bad news.

Elijah responds by pointing out that these things were happening because of Ahab’s rebellion toward Yahweh, including his worship of Baal. Because he refused to recognize and honor Yahweh, Yahweh refused to recognize and bless the king.

Shared Trends

We’re seeing this same trend in our nation. The Apostle Paul in the first chapter of

Romans warns against homosexuality and other sins.

He writes, “Wherefore Elohim also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of Elohim into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause Elohim gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain Elohim in their knowledge, Elohim gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient,” verses 24-28.

A reprobate mind is self-deluded and unfit for the kingdom of Yahweh. Today we have to wonder, how can people not understand and see what’s happening? This nation is crumbling before us, but sadly all we see is apathy and acceptance of sin. And because of this, foreign and national threats increase continuously.

Growing unrest in North Korea, Iran, and various other locations threatens the world. In addition, radical Islam continues like a plague to spread its malevolent

tentacles throughout this world, including Africa, Europe, and North America. Undoubtedly, there are many terror cells already here in the United States.

High divorce rates, single parent homes, uncontrollable children, and now the acceptance of gay marriage, are changing the traditional family. If we continue down this path, as did Israel of old, this nation will suffer Yahweh's wrath.

Don't Serve Two Masters

What was Elijah's solution to King Ahab? He told Ahab to gather all the prophets of Baal and the people and to meet him at Mt. Carmel. He then asked them how long will they halt between two opinions. They were trying to play both sides by appeasing both Yahweh and Baal.

Yahshua the Messiah in the New Testament stated that we cannot serve two masters. He said that we would hold to one and despise the other. This is why we at YRM avoid pagan rites and rituals.

The lesson from our Savior is this: either we worship Yahweh as He defines it or we compromise. It's impossible to worship our Heavenly Father and the traditions of man. If

one; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked. And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them. And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded. And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of Yahweh that was broken down. And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of Yahweh came, saying, Israel shall be thy name: And with the stones he built an altar in the name of Yahweh: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood. And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time. And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water. And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, Yahweh Elohim of Abraham, Isaac,

and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art Elohim in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O Yahweh, hear me, that this people may know that thou art Yahweh Elohim, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. Then the fire of Yahweh fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench," verses 25-38.

Elijah is challenging these false prophets to a type of spiritual duel. They set out two burnt offerings, one for Baal and one for Yahweh, and whichever mighty one consumed the burnt offering would prove to be the true Elohim.

So what happened? The prophets of Baal carried on from morning to evening trying to get a response. They were desperate. They called upon Baal, they leaped upon his altar,

they even cut themselves until blood gushed out, trying to get something out of this false god. But after crying, leaping, and mutilating themselves, nothing happened.

Next was Elijah's turn. To make sure there was no doubt about Yahweh's dominance, Elijah went to some extremes. He poured four barrels of water on this offering until water gushed out from the sides. He wanted no doubt in the eyes of those there as to whom was supreme.

He then prayed and immediately Yahweh rained fire down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering as well as the wood, stone, dust, and water. Yahweh not only consumed the burnt offering, but also everything around it, including the very stones.

Lessons Learned

The lesson here is that not only is Yahweh superior to all false worship, but there's also nothing beyond His ability.

How did the people respond after witnessing this miracle? Verses 39-40 read, "And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, Yahweh, he is the Elohim; Yahweh, he is the Elohim. And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there."

After witnessing firsthand the power of Almighty Yahweh, the people repented and avowed their commitment to Yahweh. They then brought the prophets of Baal to the brook Kishon where Elijah slew them. According to tradition, this event occurred on the summit of Mount Carmel near the monastery El-Muhraqa, meaning "the Sacrifice."

For believers this is not just another Bible story, but an inspiration. Elijah's ministry and his defeat of Baal's prophets provide many lessons, including that just one man can make a difference even when opposed by those of great power.

It shows that Yahweh, our Heavenly Father, is in control and there's nothing beyond His ability. It also shows that as believers we cannot waffle between right and wrong, pure and false worship.

One of our main goals is to restore Yahweh's truth and remove the traditions of man. As many believers have discovered in their own walks, tradition is extremely hard to overcome. To do this we must question everything and as Elijah did, rely solely on Yahweh and His Word!

The lesson from our Savior is this: either we worship Yahweh as He defines it or we compromise.

we try to follow both we will fail at both.

This is why we must choose one or the other. This is the same message that Elijah communicated to Israel. He understood that Yahweh would not bless compromise. Let's see how Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal.

Elijah's Defeat of Baal

Starting in verse 25 of 1 Kings 18, we read, "And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your mighty ones, but put no fire under. And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made. And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a mighty



Follow the Biblical **BLUEPRINT**

by Alan Mansager



Anyone involved in construction knows that if you don't strictly follow the building plans you can end up in a world of hurt. The blueprint is the design to which all facets must conform.

The Bible also has a blueprint and if we don't understand and follow it there will be consequences.

Ask the average Bible believer what his ultimate goal is and he'll say something like, "To be a good person," or "to get to heaven," or even something as mindless as "I never think about it."

The Bible on the other hand says – and Yahshua taught – that the believers' goal is to be part of a kingdom of priests in the next life ruling under Yahshua, Revelation 1:6. He said in Revelation 5:10, "And hast made us unto our Elohim kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."

If you can find one in a thousand today who grasps this goal as a clear teaching of the Bible you will be doing amazingly well. It is this foundational truth of the New Testament that is hidden in plain sight in most churches.

Today, thousands of churches spend billions of dollars – and most all of them totally miss the mark when it comes to understanding the biblical destiny of the Chosen, what is acceptable in worship, and what is not.

What does it mean to be a priestly Kingdom, and how do the elect fit into that design?

The apostles and disciples were in training to take on leadership roles in Yahshua's Work and ultimately to help govern the earth in the Kingdom. The believer today is in the same leadership school now. This is a key doctrine of Yahshua that few understand.

Yahweh is creating His family on earth. His earthly family is a reflection of the heavenly family with what is expected and done.

Half of Yahshua's ministry was about His Kingdom coming soon to earth. The other half was how to be in that Kingdom. It's the pivotal missing link in today's teachings even though it is clear as crystal in Scripture.

Amazingly, however, churches will never discuss it, refer to it or teach it. They'll endlessly repeat Yahshua's model prayer, "Thy Kingdom COME, THY WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH as it is in heaven," and they still won't

take their blinders off long enough to realize what they just prayed!

'I Did It My Way'

Suppose you started a new job. How long would you be employed if you told the boss that you would come to work whenever you found it convenient?

What if you told your employer what your job would be and how you would go about performing it? What if you told your boss that you didn't need to show up at all, but that you expected a paycheck regardless? Absurd? Sure. The subordinate doesn't instruct his superior.

Yet, when it comes to worship many think they can make up their own rules and that following the practices of man-made church tradition is fine with Yahweh.

They decide when they will worship; whether or not to obey, and even choose what to obey. What's more, they have the audacity to tell the Supreme Creator of the universe what name they will call Him – or not – by using a generic title in worship.

After all of this creating Yahweh in their own image they still expect to be ushered into heaven as their eternal reward!

Our goal should never be to please ourselves. The desire of the True Worshiper is not self-determination, self-serving, and self-adulation. Self must never be our focus.

Proper worship means learning about and then doing all that Yahweh expects. That's the essence of True Worship.

You have an opportunity that few will ever have, and it is awesome.

His Elect Must Follow His Way

During the eight days of the Feast of Tabernacles we come before the One who designed and formed this entire universe. He is a power so great that all the trillions of stars in all the billions of galaxies operate by His every command.

For eight days we will sit at His feet and learn His ways and His will for our lives. Yahweh calls it, seeing my face. It is what Israel did when they gathered at the Feasts. Psalm 24:6 reads, "This is the generation of them that seek Him, that seek your face— even Jacob."

Billions of people have no clue about Yahweh's salvation plan. Most will never understand it until after the thousand years of millennial rule are over and they are brought up in the Second Resurrection.

It is no accident to be called to obedience

by Yahweh Himself. We answer the call as the apostles did at Galilee, who did not excuse themselves or let anything stop them from following Yahshua. That means to keep the same precepts He did, including the Sabbath and Feasts.

Biblical Sabbaths include more than just the weekly Sabbath. The Feasts include high days also called Sabbaths. The Feasts are called holy convocations or a calling together and are commanded to be observed in their seasons. They are also called Yahweh's and not man's.

If that isn't enough to show the decisive importance of the Feasts, we find them listed in Leviticus 23 right after the command to keep holy times, followed by the weekly

knowing the consequences of rebellion as well. But those who break Yahweh's laws don't really know and understand Yahweh and so have no fear of the consequences.

We find in the prayer of Hannah, in the writings of the prophet Samuel, "Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let [not] arrogancy come out of your mouth: for Yahweh is an Elohim of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed" (1Sam. 2:3).

Two phrases are key to our relationship with our Heavenly Father: He is "an Elohim of knowledge" and "by Him actions are weighed..." Whose actions? Ours! Here Samuel applies Yahweh's wisdom, His understanding, and His knowledge to OUR actions.

is true as well. A person who will not obey and do His commandments will lack proper understanding.

Keep this in mind the next time you are tempted to listen to someone claiming to be a minister of the Word. Does he satisfy 1Timothy 3:2-7? Does the man pattern His life by Yahweh's Word? Does he call on Yahweh's Name (2nd, 3rd Commandments)? Does he remember the Sabbath and Feast days to keep them holy? Does he live by the statutes of Scripture? (In other words, is he truly sincere about his faith or is it just a means to his own gain?)

If a minister does not know and practice these basic things then he is a blind man leading the blind. He doesn't really know the one He claims to worship, so why place oneself under his erroneous teaching?

Yahweh says through Hosea in 4:6, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."

We are in training to be a kingdom of priests, according to Revelation 1:6. A biblical priest is very well educated in the office he holds. His life is a training ground. He knows Yahweh and knows what Yahweh requires.

Anyone who has ever held a job is familiar with one of the oldest excuses for not trying something new: "But that's the way we've always done it." It's a silly rationale. For thousands of years people worshiped non-existent, pagan deities. Does that mean they should continue in their old heathen ways when they discover the Truth?

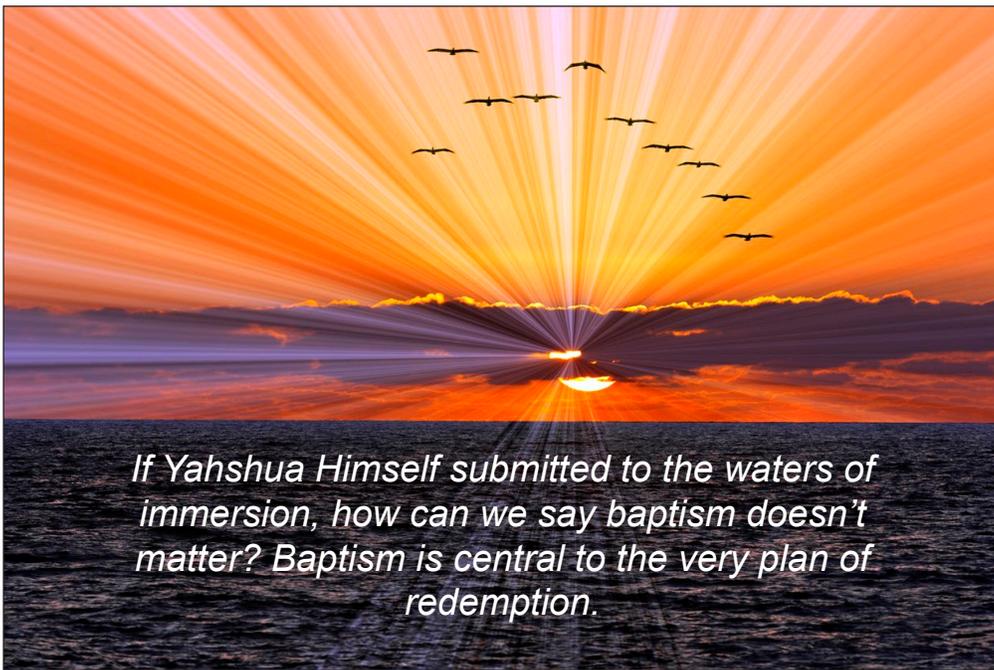
Proverbs 16:25 says, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

All that matters is what Yahweh expects of His called-out ones.

A magazine of one of the largest Sabbath-keeping organizations published a letter criticizing the group for keeping the seventh-day Sabbath. The editor's stunning response? "We have always taught that people who honestly observe Sunday (or any other day of the week) as the Sabbath are fully accepted by G-d... To say otherwise is to create a system of righteousness by works."

How about righteousness by obedience, Mr. Editor? Righteousness by submission to biblical commands; righteousness by a desire to call Yahweh Father and do what He tells us to do for our own good?

Where in the 66 books of the Bible does



Sabbath and then the seven annual festivals – all in the same context.

The Evil One knows that Yahweh Himself commands Believers to be at His Feasts. He wouldn't try so hard to obstruct their observance if the Feasts were just optional, man-made celebrations like the Fourth of July or Thanksgiving. But Yahweh's Feasts are holy times to Him and are even called "Yahweh's."

We sin when we know the Feasts are obligatory and refuse to keep them anyway. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin," James 4:17. We continue to sin when we don't fear Him or even resist Him.

Children who obey their parents have a respect and love for their parents, while

To find out whether we are pleasing Him by our lives, we need to know how He looks at our behavior, what His desires are for His creation and what we can expect from our actions.

The only way to know these things is to become a participant in His plan. Begin to follow His ways. Examine the biblical blueprint closely and build your life by it.

If we will do that then our obedience will win His favor and will draw us closer to Him. A reverential respect of Yahweh will lead us to greater knowledge still. He promises it.

"The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom," the Psalmist wrote, "a good understanding have all they that do his commandments" (Ps. 111:10). The reverse

righteousness come by anything other than what the Bible commands? Where does it say that righteousness can be achieved by doing what we choose?

The very definition of righteous means doing what is “right.” Who sets the guidelines for “right”? How can we be righteous with Yahweh if we do only what we think is right? Including the day He commands us to observe because He says it is right?

That is why in the very first commandment Yahweh lays down the rules for His people. He says I am Yahweh and you will

Do you seek priesthood in the Kingdom? Then get educated. Learn to think like a priest. Discover what Yahweh expects of His called-out ones and their worship.

worship no one or nothing else.

Romans 6:16: “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” Sin is doing what the Word commands against.

There is nothing more fundamental than pleasing the one who is worshiped. Worship means devotion to something, to give or apply oneself to—and that means in everything.

Even the pagans understood, who sought to please in ways they believed acceptable to the deity. Whether that meant sacrificing children to Molech, burning fires to the Sun deity Mithras, or coloring eggs in honor of the fertility goddess Astarte—each was done specifically for a certain deity. No doubt they learned the concept of worship itself from how Yahweh instructed man to worship Him soon after creation (Gen. 4:4-5).

Paul asks in Romans 9:21, “Has not the potter power over the clay...?”

Where do we, the clay, justify hijacking the job of the Potter? Who put us in charge? Yahweh certainly did not.

All of this is to say that a correct understanding of the Bible and what is required of us is impossible unless we know the author’s blueprint. We cannot worship in truth unless we know the One we worship. The more we know about Him the more we

will worship correctly. The less we know about Him, the more likely we will be worshipping in ways He does not accept.

He says, “Because you have rejected knowledge, I will reject you, that you shall be no priest to me.”

Do you seek priesthood in the Kingdom? Then get educated. Learn to think like a priest. Discover the elemental importance of His Name. Discover what He expects of His called-out ones and their worship.

Once you know Yahweh, then your choices in worship end. You do it all His way, all the way, if you expect a place in the coming Kingdom.

If we are not pleasing Him by aligning with His blueprint for salvation then we are wasting our worship. We may as well bow to Buddah or Mecca

five times a day. Our very blueprint for worship – Yahshua the Son – said He came to do His Father’s will, John 4:34. That’s the same thing we must do.

Taking Part in Yahshua’s Death and Life

Consider the significance of baptism, which is how we enter into the covenant to do all that Yahweh commands.

Paul wrote, “Know you not, that so many of us as were baptized into Yahshua the Messiah were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Messiah was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life,” Romans 6:3-4.

To go into the watery grave of immersion is to participate vicariously in Yahshua’s own death, as He paid the penalty for our sin.

Just as He was raised from the tomb a new, spiritual being, we come out of the baptismal burial a new person. You are never so clean inwardly as the day you rise out of the water a new son or daughter in Yahshua! We are told that we MUST be made new. We must take part in Yahshua’s death.

That is one reason baptism is necessary. Through this action we say to Yahshua, I want to join in your redemptive act for my salvation. Like the blood on the doorposts representing His blood shed for us, immersion is the joining of ourselves to

His redemption.

Paul explains how this works in the rest of the passage in Romans 6:5-13: “For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is impaled with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Messiah, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Messiah being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto Elohim. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto Elohim through Yahshua Messiah our Master. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto Elohim, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto Elohim.”

The Greek source verbs for baptism –*bapto* and *baptizo*—are never used in the passive. Water is never said to be baptized on someone such as sprinkling or pouring or touching with water. To baptize is always used in the sense of actively placing someone under water.

The Ultimate Example

An incredible thing happened one day as John the Baptist was baptizing; Yahshua showed up to be baptized, Matthew 3:13. John is blown away: “John tried to prevent Him, saying, ‘I have need to be baptized by You and You come to me?’” verse 14.

John understood that baptism includes repentance and confession of sin. John saw baptism as the death of the old, corrupt self, which after repentance and immersion, rises from the watery grave to walk in new life. But, Yahshua didn’t need to do any of that. What was the point, being that He was sinless?

He did so to set an example. If Yahshua Himself submitted to the waters of immersion, how can we say baptism doesn’t matter? Baptism is central to the plan of redemption. If you’re going to fulfill all the righteousness that Yahweh requires of you, you’re going to be baptized. Even if you are Yahshua the Messiah!

Even though Yahshua lived a sinless life, our sins were imputed to Him. Our sins placed upon Him needed to be dealt with. By His baptism He showed that those sins would not stay with Him.

Yahshua is also saying that in order to fulfill all righteousness, I must be an example and be baptized.

And recall as well that the Holy Spirit descended on Him following His immersion. At baptism the Spirit is given through the laying on of hands of the ministry. Paul said that without the Spirit you are “none of His,” Romans 8:9. You must have the Holy Spirit to be raised at the resurrection, verse 11.

Where Worship Went Wrong

How, then, did biblical worship come to the point where people no longer take it seriously and humble themselves before their Maker? Whatever happened to the need to repent and change?

At the root of the problem is that Yahweh has been presented in reverse by churchianity.

Think about how you learned to read. First you learned the letters of the alphabet. Probably yours was like my grade school, which had the alphabet written in a banner over the chalkboard. You studied those letters and learned the sound each makes. Then you started putting those letters together to make words, then put the words together to make sentences.

You learned mathematics the same way. First came basic numerals and how to count them. Then came addition and subtraction. After that it was on to more complex functions like multiplication and division.

You can't grasp any discipline without knowledge of the basics. Not knowing the fundamentals your understanding will be superficial at best, and probably wrong.

But is that how the truth of Yahweh and His Word are taught today? Are people first taught the basics of what He requires of His people? Hardly.

For the vast majority, it goes like this: He is the Heavenly Father, but don't worry much about Him; rather, He has a Son who loves you so much He's begging to save you. So just have faith and believe.” That's the faith of most in a nutshell. Worship today is what they decide to make it.

Without providing any of the essentials to understanding, you are introduced to your Heavenly Father without any instruction as to who He is, what He stands for, or what

He expects of His worshiper.

The wrong question is continually being asked. The issue is not what's in it for me. The question is, what are His expectations of His people, and how can they become a part of His design.

We don't start with us, we start with Him. Ask the average individual what he or she expects upon death. “To go to heaven,” most will say. And what will they do there? No idea. And they don't care enough even to find out what Yahweh's blueprint is! Yet they are convinced that they will be a part of it with nothing more to know or do.

At the root of it all is a basic fear that if I find out more, then I'll be accountable. And maybe I'll have to make some changes in my life, which I don't want to do because change can be hard and I'm happy with where I am.

Millions who say they believe the Bible are completely ignorant of its basic tenets. They hardly know Yahweh or the Bible at all. They couldn't name the first four books of the New Testament in order if their life depended on it.

No wonder they don't obey Him. No wonder He has no influence on them. Yahweh is not taken seriously because they are not serious about their worship of Him.

Yet, amazingly, they believe that they are saved anyway!

Israel didn't take Him seriously most of the time, either. Although it is a prophecy, Jeremiah 5:2-4 has also had a prior fulfillment in the rebellion of Judah.

“And though they say, Yahweh liveth; surely they swear falsely. O Yahweh, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return. Therefore I said, Surely these are poor; they are foolish: for they know not the way of Yahweh, nor the judgment of their Elohim.”

It is time to discover the true Father in heaven. We do this by revealing what He expects of His people. He has a Name, He has a family, and He has a plan to increase His family likely to extend to the ends of the very universe itself—starting with us, here

on planet earth.

His faithful as a kingdom of priests are told by Yahweh that following His will is essential to our future in His Kingdom.

That knowledge must come now. We can't say, “I'll just wait till Yahshua returns then I will let Him teach me.” It will be too late for the lukewarm. For one thing, that attitude says I come first, not Yahweh. That's idolatrous self-worship.

We were not put on this planet to live for ourselves. Yahweh had a reason for creating us. There is a higher purpose. And because of that, the Word tells us in such Scriptures as 2 Corinthians 6:2, “For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

Are you working out your salvation now? Now is the time.

Contrary to what the song says, He won't take me, “Just as I am.” We are in training now for a Kingdom position. We are changing and growing to be useful to

The fundamental reason most don't live by the Scriptures is that they do not know the One they worship. If they really understood Him they would be far more dedicated.

Yahweh. That all comes with understanding.

If you don't know the rules you are going to break them. No one ignorant of Yahweh's rules will be awarded a position of administering and teaching those rules in the coming Kingdom.

We are all guilty of jumping to conclusions about someone else and criticizing them—until we learn the reasons for their behavior. Knowledge changed our attitude. Without that knowledge we would have continued in the error of our ways.

When we reject knowledge, we thwart any chance for change.

The fundamental reason most don't live by the Scriptures is that they do not know the One they worship. Knowledge is key. If they really understood Him they would far more dedicated.

Revelation 3:17 tells us, “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and know not that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” Many don't realize

that their future is a dead-end.

It is time to come to understand Yahweh. Once you know Him a change in your life should automatically follow. That is the message of the Scriptures.

In Revelation 2:26 we read, “And he that overcomes and keeps my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations.” Yes, rulership in the Kingdom is promised to those who obey the Bible today!

The promise is the same today as it was when John received it on Patmos.

Yahweh has not changed His mind. In Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament, Yahweh says, “I am Yahweh, I change not; therefore you sons of Jacob [Israel] are not consumed.”

There is one body, not many, according to Ephesians 4:4. One Master, one faith, one baptism.

One can learn a great deal about the Heavenly Father by just studying His Ten Commandments. What

He commands us reveals His values and expectations. It is the same as discovering the values of a parent by what that parent expects from his or her children. If a child is taught not to steal, then we know that his parents don't like stealing.

Yahweh's laws show that these virtues are part and parcel of Yahweh's own character.

In the first few of the Ten Commandments the Father is very specific about Himself. Yahweh introduces the Ten Commandments by first defining who He Himself is, what kind of worship He expects, and the importance of calling on His rightful Name. This is all revealed in the first three Commandments (Ex. 20 and Deut. 5).

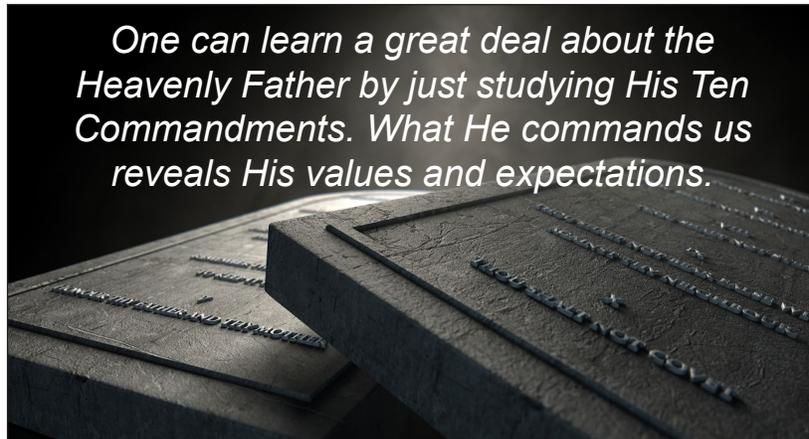
Once we know who He is and what He expects, understanding the substance of True Worship is relatively simple. Following through with that truth may be another matter entirely, however.

This approach of seeking the Father in Heaven and His will first is opposite to the way most people search for what they hope is the true “church.” Instead of going straight to the Bible to learn of their Father's desires, they go to erroneous human teaching through tradition. And millions wind up in error because of it.

For all of his failings, Pontius Pilate at least showed the right interest when he asked Yahshua the Messiah, “What is truth?” (John 18:38). The man went right to the Source. And so should you, if you truly seek the only way that leads to everlasting life!

This presents a rather difficult problem for some. Many people say or think that they do not know the Bible well enough to understand what is truth and what is not. They are unwilling to take the time to study it for themselves.

Despite their reluctance, the command



remains. You can find Yahweh's inspired words, for example, in 2Timothy 2:15: “Study to show yourself approved unto Elohim, a workman that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

In order to have the approval of our Creator, then, we are to study His Word and rightly apply what is there to our lives. Bible study is not just an option, it is a command. We must prove all doctrine from Scripture itself and not take anything or anyone's word for granted.

We are responsible for our own understanding, or lack thereof.

Ignorance can only lead to trouble. Why? Because we don't realize the importance of applying what the Word says to our behavior and actions, for which we will one day be accountable.

From the New Testament, Paul writes, “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good,” 1Thessalonians 5:21. Why? Because what you know you act on, and if what you know is wrong, your worship will be wrong. Your faith will be in vain.

Rather than a complete reliance on the Bible as the very Word of Yahweh, another popular approach today is to accept what Yahweh supposedly reveals privately to

individuals. The phrase, “He spoke to me...,” is commonly heard in religious circles today.

But know this: any private revelation is false if it contradicts the Word. The litmus test of truth is the Bible itself, and always has been. How many false doctrines have been spawned by those who claimed divine revelation and then proceeded to teach things that are not in the Bible. Like the rapture. Or immortal soul doctrines. Or gnosticism.

Yahshua said in Luke 4:4 that we are to live by every Word of Yahweh. Peter wrote in 1Peter 1:16, 19-20 that the Word of Yahweh is more certain than personal experiences. Isaiah 8:20 says that if someone does not speak according to the law and testimony (OT and NT) that there is no light in them.

That being the case, what need is there of extrabiblical instruction when it comes to salvation? If it doesn't comply with the Word, there is no need of it. If it does comply, then what's the use of bringing in something we already have?

Whatever cannot stand the test of Scripture is a lie and Yahweh neither said it nor inspired it (see Jer. 23:25-32). Scripture is not of any private interpretation.

When Yahshua battled Satan, what was His weapon? “It is written.” He quoted Scripture.

Scripture is the very Word inspired or “inbreathed” as Yahweh gave it through His Spirit. And no other truth is needed, according to the very Word itself. Psalm 119:89 says Yahweh's Word is settled.

All we need to know for salvation is already in our hands. No extra revelation is necessary. Notice: “For I testify unto every man that hears the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, Elohim shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book,” Revelation 22:18.

From Scripture we learn that a study of who Yahweh is and what He expects of His people is also a study in True Worship.

- Praying for health and financial help is a waste of time if we refuse to obey Him and put Him first in our lives.
- Seeking a solution to our personal problems through prayer is futile unless

we are willing to obey what He asks of us as well. John writes, “Now we know that Yahweh hears not sinners: but if any man be a worshiper of Yahweh, and does His will, him He hears.” Sin is disobedience to His laws and commands, 1John 3:4.

Are you willing to obey your Father in Heaven? Do you do His will? If you do, then He will answer your prayers. He will be your Guide, your help, and your happiness. He will bless you in this life and in the Kingdom to come. But you have to take that first step to answer His call.

Obedience to the Scriptures is not a popular concept. The unconverted, unregenerate person truly hates being told what to do, especially by Yahweh his Creator. People will fight endlessly against the laws of the Bible. They will come up with a thousand human reasons not to obey Yahweh. And then they wonder why they are having so many personal problems and difficulties in their lives and are not being blessed.

John 9:31 says “Now we know that Yahweh hears not sinners: but if any man be a worshiper of Yahweh, and does His will, Him he hears.”

The prophet Malachi wrote over 2,000 years ago: “Even from the days of your fathers you have gone away from Mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto Me, and I will return unto you, says Yahweh of hosts.” You must take the first step.

A True Worshiper has a childlike innocence, willing to do whatever he or she is expected to do. Yahshua said that the Kingdom of Heaven will be given to those with a similar attitude of unquestioning obedience, much the same attitude as innocent children have (Matt. 19:14).

How do we, then, please the One we worship? By doing what He tells us in His Instruction Book. This is not some half-hearted profession about accepting the Messiah as personal Savior and then forgetting about it, thinking we are saved. He will not accept anything less than a real, honest commitment in our everyday lives to walk in the footsteps of Yahshua the Messiah. To obey all that He said to obey. Day in and day out until it becomes second nature to us.

The Messiah chided Satan, “It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of Elohim,” Matthew 4:4. “Every

word” includes both Old Testament and New.

The Apostle Paul said that even our very thoughts should conform to the obedience of Messiah Yahshua, 2Corinthians 10:5.

To know Yahweh is to know True Worship. So how can we know Yahweh? We often hear people ask, “Do you know the ‘L-rd’?” But rarely do they explain what they mean by that.

Know Him in what way? By His revealed, true Name? By what He taught and expects from us? By becoming like Him in every respect? By obedience to the Son as He Himself obeyed His Father?

In fact, doing these things will certainly help us “know” Him. No one knows us better than those who live with us: our spouse and children. They have spent time with us, day after day. They do what we do, go where we go. See what we see and see how we respond in all manner of circumstances. That is how we come to “know” someone.

The Scriptures say that these things are necessary: “And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that says, ‘I know Him,’ and keeps not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keeps His word, in him verily is the love of Elohim perfected: hereby we know that we are in Him... Brethren I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you have heard from the beginning,” 1John 2:3-5, 7.

Most basic to knowing Yahweh is that He has an identity that His people know: “Therefore my people shall know my name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that does speak: behold it is I,” Isaiah 52:6.

Knowing His Name means calling on His personal Name in worship, not just to say, “Yes, I heard it taught once. I know it.” That is not the kind of knowing the Bible talks about. The prophet Joel (Heb. “YahEl”) said that whoever calls on the Name of Yahweh will be delivered, 2:32.

A fact of life is that each of us has a name. Surely the very One who created us and taught us what names are—having Adam to name the animals on earth—would Himself have a personal name that identifies Him above all generic titles!

Knowing Yahweh and His Son means obeying them. It is no different from a son who obeys his father because he knows and

honors his father and clearly understands what his father expects of him. Yahweh’s own Son tells us, “Not every one that says unto Me, ‘Rabbi, Rabbi’ shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but he that does the will of My Father which is in heaven,” Matthew 7:21.

In Revelation 14:12 the saints are defined as those who “keep the commandments of Yahweh, and have the faith of Yahshua.” Paul writes in 1Corinthians 6:2 that the saints will judge the world in the coming Kingdom. Therefore it is the saints, the obedient ones, who will be in the Kingdom, not the disobedient. And they will judge the world and its sins.

In fact, Paul says clearly in 1Corinthians 6:9 that the unrighteous – meaning sinners – will not inherit the Kingdom. Those who practice such things as sexual sins, thievery, drunkenness, extortion, and other sins, will be shut out of the Kingdom if they don’t stop it and repent.

Knowing Yahweh was incumbent upon Israel in the Old Testament. Yahweh did not desire all the rigamarole and ritual. What He wanted was His people to do what He told them. The same thing a parent wants of his children. And when Israel could not obey, they had to kill an animal to impress upon them their neglect of His commandments.

Knowing Yahweh is better than much sacrifice, Hos. 6:6. 

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Q Doesn't Ephesians 2:15 do away with the need to obey the Old Testament commandments?

A While many use Ephesians 2:15 to say that Paul abolished the Old Testament commandments, nothing could be further from the truth. The key to understanding this passage is found in the word "ordinances." This word is from the Greek *dogma* and refers to man-made decrees or ceremonial law. Strong's provides the following definition: "...a law (civil, ceremonial or ecclesiastical)." In addition to this passage, *dogma* occurs four times in the New Testament. Below are the passages:

"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree [*dogma*] from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed" (Luke 2:1).

"And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees [*dogma*] for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem" (Acts 16:4).

"Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees [*dogma*] of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Yahshua" (Acts 17:7).

"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances [*dogma*] that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his stake" (Colossians 2:14).

Based on the above, Luke 2:1 and Acts 17:7 refer to Roman civil law; Acts 16:4 refers to ecclesiastical laws from the apostles; and Colossians 2:14 and Ephesians 2:15 likely refer to rabbinical laws that

served as a wedge between Jew and gentile. It's important to note that in all of the above examples, as well as Ephesians, *dogma* never refers to Old Testament law, including laws dealing with morality and worship. It is clear from the New Testament that the Messiah and apostles, including the Apostle Paul, were not opposed to the Old Testament commandments, but taught compliance to them, Matthew 5:17-20; 19:17; 22:37-40; Mark 10:19; John 14:15; Romans 3:31; 7:12; 13:8-10; 1Corinthians 7:19; 1John 2:3; 3:4; 5:3; and Revelation 12:17; 14:12; 22:14.

Q Is it really necessary to belong to a congregation of believers or can I just study and worship on my own and apply my own understanding as I see fit?

A The framework for worship in both Old and New testaments was always a structured assembly with a man ordained to a leadership position to lead worship.

Yahshua intended that worship to be organized. He Himself said He would build His Assembly on Peter's confession that He was the Messiah. He also appointed Apostles to start and lead various Assemblies.

The tabernacle and temple were established as the physical structures for common worship where believers gathered regularly. The leadership was also established to unite the body and keep fidelity in beliefs and worship. Yahshua was continuing that ordered worship environment.

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some,

pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Messiah: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of Elohim, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Messiah: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive," Ephesians 4:11-14.

Leadership is given specifically to minister, teach, and safeguard the Assembly so that not everyone is going in different directions, being misled by "cunning craftiness." Individuals in the Scriptures who converted to the Truth always connected with others in regular worship and fellowship. There are many important reasons why, and they speak directly to the way Yahweh intended for Truth to operate, thrive, and increase.

Today we are commanded in Hebrews 10:25 not to neglect to gather with the assembly of the saints. Fellowship is even more critical in these last days: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is: but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as you see the day approaching."

Virtually every believer in the New Testament was associated with a true assembly. Paul refers in 1Timothy 5:9 to the "number" or list of widows enrolled in the Assembly, and he thus reveals an organized body of believers. Paul and others sent letters to various Assemblies in an effort to help them with their problems and to keep all united in harmony with the teachings of Yahshua.

If following Yahweh were intended as an exercise in private independence, then Hebrews 13:17 would never have admonished us, "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you" (*New American Standard Bible*).

The only structure within which the gifts and fruits of the Spirit operate is the collective Assembly of believers. Those gifts and fruits cannot work in an "assembly" of one. In 1Corinthians 12:14 Paul said the Body is not one member but many. He continues in verse 18: "But now has Elohim set the members every one of them in the

body, as it has pleased him.” He then asks a pivotal question. “And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body.”

Just as a hand cannot survive detached from the body it belongs to, every follower of Yahshua needs a firm connection with other believers in unified worship if he or she is to remain strong and on track in spirit and Truth.

The Truth cannot reach the world without a united body behind it. It takes many to make a ministry go. Each believer must come to a decision about which assembly is teaching all the Truth and whose leaders are in compliance with 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 qualifications, and then work wholeheartedly in that assembly so that it will grow and be a guide to others.

Q Being that we are all saved by grace, why do we need to keep the Feasts?

A Grace does not give license to sin or to ignore our Father’s commandments. Paul in Romans 6:14-15 states, “... for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? Certainly not.” In this case, it’s important to remember how Scripture defines sin. First John 3:4 states, “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.” From these passages, we learn that grace does not permit or justify sin, i.e., the breaking of the law. This would include the Feast days.

Additionally, here are a few facts on grace: Grace is first found in the Old Testament, Genesis 6:5 and not in just the New Testament

Grace is to bring us to repentance and

justification (Romans 2:4; 5:15-21), while the law provides a way to live a sanctified or set-apart life, Romans 3:20.

We are not to use grace to justify lasciviousness or sin, Jude 4.

Regarding the Feast days, there are several reasons why these days remain crucial to proper worship.

- They were commanded by Yahweh in the Old Testament, e.g. Leviticus 23.
- They were observed by Yahshua and apostles in the New Testament, e.g. Mark 14:1; John 7:2, 37; Acts 2:1; 12:3; Acts 20:6, 16; and 1Corinthians 5:7-8.
- They will be observed in the millennial Kingdom by all peoples and nations, Isaiah 66:23; Ezekiel 44; 46; and Zechariah 14:16-19.
- They foreshadow our Father’s plan of salvation.

The fact that the Feast days were observed in the Old Testament, in the New Testament, and will be in the millennial Kingdom, confirms that we are to observe them now. Also, the fact that Yahshua the Messiah, our example, observed them is critically important to recognize.

Q I notice that you use the word Assembly instead of church. Why?

A In 123 passages of the Hebrew Old Testament, the chosen ones of Yahweh were known as the *kahal*, from which we get our word call. The term congregation, which is found 86 times in the Old Testament, derives from either *moed* (a fixed time and by implication a convened assembly), *edah* (a stated assemblage) or *kahal* (to call out). Other terms for the select ones in the Old Testament are assembly and company (each used 17 times) and multitude (3 times).

In the Greek New Testament the word used for the Body of Messiah is *ekklesia*, which is parallel in meaning to *kahal*, denoting a “gathering of called-out ones.” *Ekklesia* occurs 115 times but New Testament translators always rendered it “church.”

According to Appendix 186 of the *Companion Bible*, church “is derived from the Gr. *kuriakos*, [meaning] of or belonging to the L-rd’s house (Gr. *oikos*) being understood. It comes to us through Anglo Saxon word *circe* (Scottish *kirk*.” Circe was the Greek goddess who turned the men of Odysseus into swine in the pagan Greek myth.

In his book, *History in English Words*, Owen Barfield writes about the origin of “church” that the Greek ‘*kuriakon*,’ from which church is said to be derived, was in use in the Eastern provinces, picked up by pagan forefathers, p.44.

Clearly, “church” has no biblical roots or scriptural support.

Q Isaiah 3:16-26 seems to show Yahweh’s displeasure with the wearing of jewelry. Is wearing jewelry okay?

A The wearing of beautiful things made Israel vain. Because of their rebellion Yahweh will bring her down low and strip off all her finery, and “destitute, she will sit on the ground,” verse 26, NIV. If this passage is an indictment of jewelry, we must also condemn the wearing of veils, headdresses, fine robes, capes, cloaks, linen garments and shawls, which were also to be “snatched away” according to this passage.

In Exodus 3, Yahweh instructed Israelite women to take the Egyptians’ jewels and put them on their children (Ex. 3:22). Why command this if wearing jewelry is wrong?

Those who wore jewelry included: Rebecca, Genesis 24:30; Joseph (Gen. 41:42); Daniel (Dan. 5:29); women and children of Israel (Ex. 32:2-3); Yahweh’s adorning the faithful of Jerusalem with symbolic ornaments (Ezek. 16:11-13), and the prodigal son given a ring (Luke 15:11-24).

Some have pointed to 1 Timothy 2:9-10 and 1 Peter 3:3-6 in arguing that jewelry is forbidden. The point of each is that inner beauty matters most.

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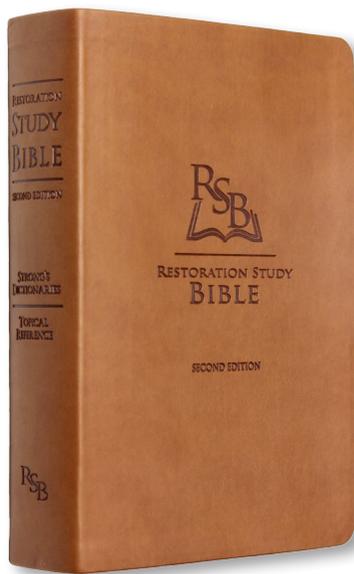
• ***What Name was the Messiah given in the New Testament?***

The Savior’s name in the Hebrew is “Yahshua,” composed of five Hebrew letters, yod-hey-waw-shin-ayin, incorporating the designation “Yah” of the Father, “Yah”(weh), and “shua,” from a Hebrew word meaning “salvation.” Hence its meaning: “Salvation of Yah.”

The name “Jesus” lacks any etymological connotation, being a combination of several disparate elements. “Jesus” is Latinized Greek, employing the letter J, the newest letter in the English alphabet. The “J” was nonexistent in any language until the 14th century. The “e” possibly resulted from dissimilation. The Greek has no “sh” sound and employs the simple “s” in rendering the Hebrew “sh” of Yahshua. The “us” ending is the nominative masculine singular ending in the Greek. No scriptural authority allows changing the saving Name Yahshua into a designation that lacks even a semblance of the original pronunciation and meaning. [Companion Bible] note: “Jesus is the same as the Hebrew Hoshea (Num. 13:16) with Jah prefixed.” - RSB, note on Matt. 1:21

• ***Did Yahshua die on a cross?***

The KJV along with most modern translations render this word “cross.” This word comes from the Greek [stauros] meaning, “an upright post.” The other Greek word rendered “cross” in the NT is [xulon], which denotes “a dead log of wood or timber.” According to Dr. E.W. Bullinger in his [Companion Bible], [stauros] and [zulon] “never means two pieces of timber placed across one another at any angle, but always of one piece alone” (Appendix 162). The [Encyclopaedia Britannica] says that the traditional cross is also connected with



Biblical answers from the Restoration Study Bible

pagan worship, which was later adopted by the Church: “In the Egyptian churches the cross was a pagan symbol of life borrowed by the Christians and interpreted in the pagan manner” (11th edition, vol. 14, p. 273). It is for these reasons that the RSB has adopted the word “stake” in place of “cross.” - RSB, note on Matt. 27:22

• ***Did Yahshua promise us mansions in heaven?***

This passage is not speaking of places of dwelling, but of positions within the heavenly family. The word “house” is derived from the Greek oikia, which by extension refers to a family, and the word “mansions” is derived from the Greek root meno, meaning, “to stay in a given place, state, relation or expectancy” (Strong’s Concordance). This passage may be better

rendered, “In my Father’s ‘family’ are many ‘positions or relations’: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a ‘position’ for you.” When the Messiah returns, Scripture states that the saints will receive positions in a kingdom of priests (Rev. 20:6) and will reign on the earth (Rev. 2:26, 5:10). See note on John 3:13.

- RSB, note on John 14:2

What was the meaning of Peter’s Vision in Acts 10?

Peter’s vision is a lesson about accepting repentant gentiles into the Body of Messiah as those grafted into the promise of Israel (Rom. 9:17-24). This was a major change as gentiles were considered unclean by the Jews. The meaning and purpose of this vision is explained by Peter himself in verse 28, “but Elohim hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.” Peter admits to learning the object lesson in vv. 34-35, having had a personal problem with discrimination (Gal 2:11). The passage is not about eating unclean food, which would have been a violation of the Law of Yahweh.

- RSB, note on Acts 10:9

• ***Doesn’t John 10:35 say that men are deities?***

If He called them mighty ones - this is a Hebraism that means magistrate. It refers to earthly judges representing Yahweh. We get the correct sense in Psalm 82:6, “I have said, Ye are mighty ones; and all of you are children of the most High.” These are humans, not supernatural beings, who understand Yahweh’s Word. The word is “Elohim” and in Exodus 22:28 it is translated judges, as elsewhere. “Elohim” can be used of Yahweh or man, but typically is used of Yahweh as the supreme Judge.

- RSB, note on John 10:35

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"I am a hospital manager who lives in Qatar with my wife and kids. I grew up in a Trinitarian Baptist church, but have rejected many of those teachings. After considerable reading and searching online, looking at meanings in Hebrew and Greek over the last 3 years (and praying an awful lot) I was confused about the trinity concept and came to a set of beliefs no one else I have met really agrees with - It's a very lonely and frustrating experience, but I endured and kept searching the Word and praying. I was quite happy to stumble upon your videos on YouTube today - and then found your site.

"I want to do more for [Yahweh], but haven't committed until now because I haven't agreed with the doctrine. This day I agree with the YRM doctrine I have read, as it is seems straight out of the Bible. I am sure an awful lot of research has gone into the conclusions and development of the materials." - GS, Qatar

"I'm super excited for this [Restoration Study Bible]! I've been searching for the truth for about 6 months now. I am 20 years old from Southern California, I have studied with Jehovah's Witnesses, but I have found some truth that your ministry teaches that

is over-ruling their teachings. It's amazing! I listen to the podcasts all the time and I am doing research on the Sabbath and keeping it...thank you so much!" - DM

"I have enjoyed your messages on Livestream over the past year. I stumbled across YRM one Shabbat. We have a Sabbath fellowship in Southern Manitoba that meets once a month at a community hall, and on Feast Days. Other Sabbaths, we're in our home fellowship. That's where the Livestream services come in. Thanks for making the Livestream available!"



Feast Grounds Development Fund — Can You Help?

The HVAC system on the gymnasium end of the multi-purpose building is now operational. Security lighting has been installed on the outside west end, and landscaping is being done in various areas. We anticipate that it will require an additional \$175,000 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 new center could serve as a future meeting room for tabernacles with an approximate 350-seat capacity in the gym. Please consider helping YRM with this initiative to advance worship for Yahweh's glory by creating facilities for Feastkeeping.

As for lodging at this year's Feast, many will be tenting on the grounds along with lodging in hotels and area homes.

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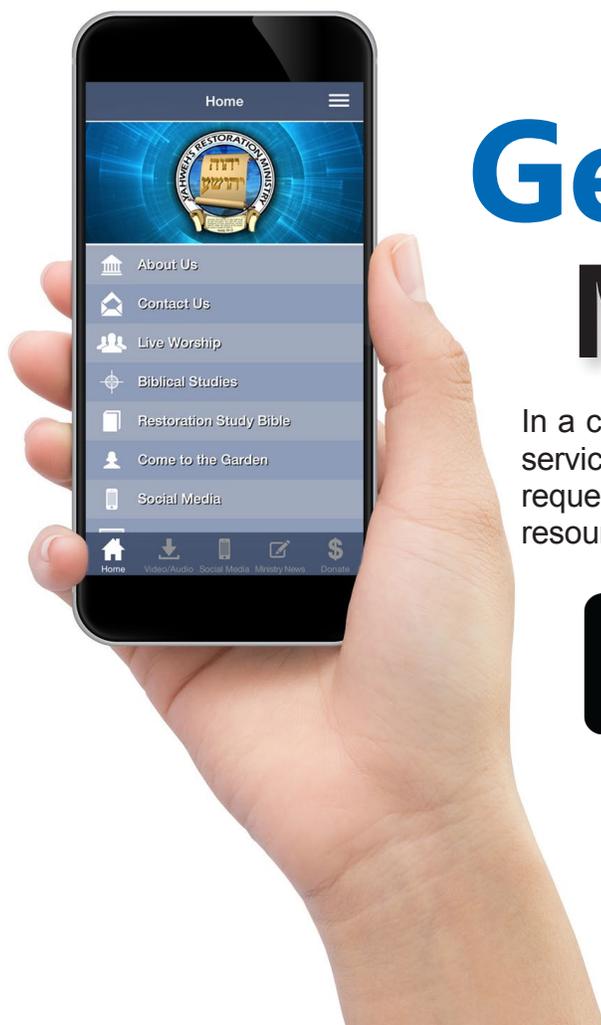




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