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May-June 2021

RESTORATION TIMES



The Persecution of the
Waldensians

RESTORATION TIMES

VOL. 11 | No. 3 | May-June 2021

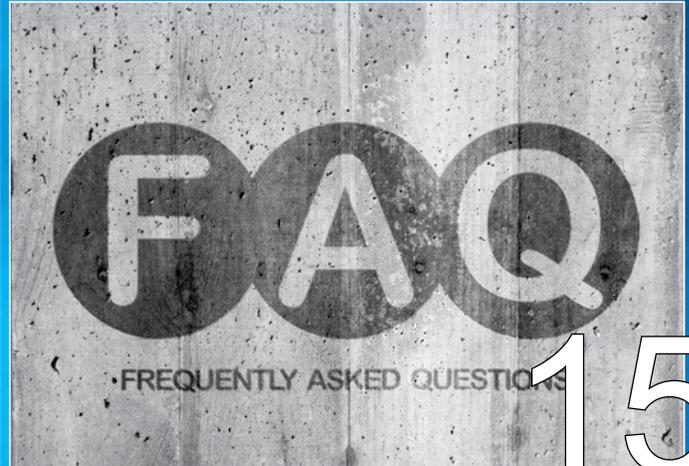
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Restoration Times expounds the close ties between the Old and New Testaments. We teach the continuity and harmony that extend from Yahweh's actions anciently down through His present activity in Yahshua the Messiah. This was also the conviction of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

Middle Ages scene depicting the persecution that True Believers endured.

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Power *of* Pentecost



by Alan Mansager

The disciples are energized – and nearly overcome with anticipation. A sense of expectancy saturates the air. It’s the kind of suspense you feel deep inside.

The glorified Savior’s astonishing statement a few days before left them riveted to His words. We read it in Acts 1:4: “And, being assembled together with them, Yahshua commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, said He, you have heard of me.”

The disciples were doubtless thinking it was a promise about restoring the Kingdom. Who could have imagined

what was about to happen as they came together on that Feast of Weeks nearly 2,000 years ago.

As they had since their conversion, they gathered to keep this Feast as one of the seven annual appointments that Yahweh had directed them – and us – to observe.

Yahshua was far from ready to establish His Kingdom, however. Many more faithful would need to be tried and tested for their worthiness for important positions in that future Kingdom. It would take centuries and countless more lessons before the Kingdom would come to earth. But for the disciples, at least, school was about to begin.

Rejecting the Holy Spirit?

Pentecost is the one biblical Feast that churchianity has been unable to deny or ignore, for at least two reasons: at the core of Pentecost or Feast of Firstfruits is the Holy Spirit, which was sent by Yahweh on this day to those desiring to follow the Truth. Yahweh’s Spirit is an essential part of a True Worshiper’s life and is central to his or her salvation.

Today’s church teaches that it was on this Feast day that the New Testament church was born in Acts 2. To accept one feast day is to accept all seven. We can’t pick and choose biblical injunctions.

To reject this day as a dead Old

Testament relic is to reject the teaching of firstfruits and the authenticity of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, Pentecost is a modern-day dilemma to the churches! They say at the same time that the Feasts are no longer in effect, yet they are. They say at the same time that the Old Testament is no longer necessary, but it is.

Does Yahweh allow His worshipers to decide themselves which Feast days are important and which are not? Not on your life! If we accept one Feast, then we must accept them all.

All of Yahweh's Holy Days are presented as a package, with the admonition that these are the Feasts of Yahweh (not just Feasts of the Jews), Leviticus 23:4. To argue that these special days are just "Mosaic law" and therefore are done away is to be ignorant of the many statements in Scripture telling us that these are Yahweh's observances, not simply rites handed down by Moses.

John wrote, "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 2:7. The only Word available that New Testament believers could learn and teach from was the Old Testament.

Verse 24 continues, "Let that therefore abide in you, which you have heard from the beginning. If that which you have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, you also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father."

Yahshua Was Totally Obedient

Yahshua kept every one of the biblical Feast days. He confirmed that fact when He said He had kept His Father's commandments and we are to follow Him, John 15:10, and walk as He walked, 1John 2:6. He never failed in His obedience and we must follow in His steps, 1Peter 2:21-22.

He kept the Passover at the start of Abib 14 just as the law prescribed. If He failed He broke the law and is not our sinless Savior. We, then, remain condemned in our sins and without any hope of salvation.

One of the commands of this Feast

of Weeks is found in Deuteronomy 16:9-11: "Seven weeks shall you number unto you: begin to number the seven weeks from such time as you begin to put the sickle to the corn. And you shall keep the feast of weeks unto Yahweh your Elohim with a tribute of a freewill offering of your hand, which you shall give unto Yahweh your Elohim, according as Yahweh your Elohim has blessed you: And you shall rejoice before Yahweh your Elohim, you, and your son, and your daughter, and your manservant, and your maidservant, and the Levite that is within your gates, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are among you, in the place which Yahweh



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your Elohim has chosen to place His name there."

This Feast is marked by offerings and rejoicing. It was at the time of the Feast of Firstfruits that Israel received the law at Sinai, which can be synchronized by timing their journey in the wilderness with the timing of the Feast.

The biblical Feasts are a pattern of the spiritual trek we make as we come out of the world and follow the ways of Yahweh. Seeking Truth is also

a wilderness adventure at times as we travel a path not well-traveled today!

Let's understand the series of lessons presented by Yahweh's appointed observances leading up to Pentecost: We accept the shed blood of the Lamb at the Passover. We then cleanse our worship of the error of false doctrines and teachings, symbolized by the leavening that is removed at the Feast of Unleavened Bread. At the same time we take in the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth, 1Corinthians 5:8.

Then at the Feast of Weeks, after counting seven complete Sabbaths, we receive the true will and worship of Yahweh, represented by His laws, along with the Holy Spirit in the New Covenant that empowers us to be obedient to those laws. His Spirit helps us overcome the temptations and pulls of the world.

The significance of the Feast of Firstfruits centers on bold teaching of the Truth. In Acts 2, after the 120 received the power of the Holy Spirit, they began powerfully to teach the truth with unflagging courage. Peter gave such a stirring message that 3,000 people sought and received baptism into the Name of Yahshua. Peter and John spoke with uncommon boldness, Acts 4:13. Miracles started happening, and the disciples exhibited abilities they never had before.

The Feast of Firstfruits shows us that Yahweh's laws exist beyond the physical sphere. Now the spiritual intent of obedience must be proclaimed. The real purpose for obedience becomes clear and a righteous attitude takes root within.

Hebrews 8:10 promises that Yahweh's laws would be put into our minds and written on our hearts. Some may claim that this means we obey only in a fuzzy, spiritual sense and don't actually observe physical Feast and Sabbath mandates. However, in biblical terms writing something on one's heart means to obey even more passionately and sincerely.

Ezekiel 11:19-20 says, "And I will



give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh: That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their Elohim.” We “take to heart” Yahweh’s laws when those laws are on our hearts.

Pentecost and the Kingdom

Pentecost marks the beginning in earnest of Yahweh’s purpose ultimately to bring His Kingdom to this earth, with all His faithful to rule with Him. It was likely on this Feast of Weeks that the covenant with His people was ratified at Sinai, when Israel said, “All that You have said we will do and be obedient,” including observing the very laws He commanded them.

But the events of Sinai are not the only reason we keep this Feast of Weeks. Also known by the Greek name “Pentecost,” this Feast provides the means by which the Covenant could be kept, as well as makes the way by which Yahweh’s message can be taken to all the World—through the work of Yahweh’s Spirit power.

But there is even more...

This is also the Feast called Firstfruits, where the saints as spiritual firstfruits join in Yahweh’s plan of salvation as the cream of the crop.

As we can see, the Feast of Weeks is a multi-faceted, meaning-packed observance, the most recent Feast to have had a second fulfillment in the New Testament.

In a nutshell, this Feast encompasses the main salvation plan:

- The giving of the law to bring us in line with Yahweh’s will,
- The sending of the Spirit not only to help us obey, but also to empower His chosen with the ability to take the truth to all the world, and
- The bringing of the firstfruits into the kingdom, preceded by the first of the firstfruits, Yahshua.

Some confuse this Feast with the day of the firstfruits wavesheaf during Unleavened Bread. In fact, it falls Scripturally seven weeks from the Feast of Unleavened Bread, not during it.

Keep in mind that there are two different wavesheaves: the first ripe sheaf of barley during Unleavened Bread, representing Yahshua, and the other a sheaf of wheat at Pentecost, which represents the firstfruits of saints. The wheat wavesheaf is made into two loaves of bread. When we add the ingredient of the Holy Spirit given at Pentecost to the mix we see a progression. The firstfruits of the wheat are made into something useful as Yahweh intends His firstfruits to develop into servants to be used in His Kingdom. The Spirit is given to further the purpose to grow His called-out into acceptable members of His family.

The entire plan of salvation and the coming Kingdom itself are revealed in Yahweh’s seven annual Feast days.

Changeless Times and Laws

Many are taught that these observances no longer have meaning for the New Testament believer. Can that be true? Suppose you start a business that operates under specific rules and procedures.

Johnny Rebel, your new office manager, takes it on himself to redefine those rules. He tells everyone that the office rules have been displaced. His grounds for this change is a company newsletter article that he misread. He believes that a merger with another company has revamped the articles of incorporation and that now he and the other employees are no longer subject to the old system and rules.

How long are you going to continue keeping Johnny Rebel on your payroll?

This is also what modern clerics have done with Yahweh’s Word. They have in essence abolished Yahweh’s “articles of incorporation.” They cite some misunderstood letters written by the Apostle Paul as justification.

Isn’t it significant that Yahweh made sure that His regulations are still readily available in case we want to check the official record? Despite the chorus of voices claiming for the past 2,000 years that the Old Testament and its laws are now invalid and void—it is self-validating that the same Old Testament and its laws are still published alongside the New Testament in every major version of the Bible.

Yahweh’s Feasts are jam-packed with profound, salvation truths, as well as prophetic meaning! What’s more, these holy days are commands from Yahweh’s own mouth. They are part of His instructive law given to all men. “These are MY Feasts, and you will follow them if you want blessings and salvation,” He thunders (Lev. 23:2, 4, 6)

Yahweh’s Feasts center on a harvest theme which gives these days substance. Let’s look the Feast of Weeks and what it reveals about salvation.

In the plan of salvation, Yahshua represents the first of firstfruits. He became the spiritual wave sheaf offered to Yahweh during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Remember that He cautioned Mary Magdalene in John 20:17 not to hang on to Him because He had not yet ascended to His Father. As the firstfruits wavesheaf He had not yet been “offered” or presented before Yahweh.

Powerful Parallels

Those who don’t keep his Feasts would have no clue why He ascended to heaven after the resurrection, then came back, and ascended again just before Pentecost. The reason for the first ascension was so that He could present Himself to Yahweh to fulfill the firstfruits wave sheaf offering, just as was commanded that the firstfruits barley offering to be waved before Yahweh in Leviticus 23:11—on the morrow after the Sabbath within the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

The Apostle Shaul [Paul] writes of this in 1Corinthians 15:22-23: “For as in Adam all die, even so in Messiah shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Messiah the firstfruits [wavesheaf]; afterward they that are Messiah’s at His Coming.” Yahshua is clearly connected with the firstfruits of barley presented to Yahweh.

Fifty days later the firstfruits of the human harvest is presented, represented by the first of the wheat harvest. Finally comes the general harvest in the autumn, at the Feast of Tabernacles—also called the Feast of Ingathering that represents the millennial Kingdom.

Harvest is a pivotal theme in all of Yahweh’s Feasts. Is it any wonder

(please turn to p. 14)



Let's now move on to our second fruit, i.e., faith. Looking at the *Strong's Concordance*, we see that "faith" is from the Greek word, *pistis*, and means, "persuasion, i.e., credence; moral conviction (of all religious truth, or the truthfulness of [Elohim] or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon [Messiah] for salvation..."

We learn here that "faith" refers to a persuasion or moral conviction of a religious truth and refers to our dependence upon Yahshua the Messiah for our salvation.

I'll focus on two words here, persuasion and conviction. The *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines persuasion as, "the condition of being persuaded, i.e., an opinion held with complete assurance or a system of religious beliefs." This same source defines conviction as "a strong persuasion or belief or the state of being convinced." For me, one of the definitions that stands out is having an opinion or belief in complete assurance.

Thayer's Greek Lexicon defines faith as, "Conviction of the truth of anything, belief; in the New Testament of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to [Elohim] and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervor born of faith and joined with it."

Thayer's defines faith as a conviction of any truth, but as it pertains to our faith, it refers to a conviction or belief in Yahweh, including the ideas of trust and fervor. This includes the idea that Yahweh exists and created all things and that Yahshua is the Messiah and that salvation or eternal life comes through Him.

As believers, do we have the conviction and do we truly believe in Yahweh, our Heavenly Father, and Yahshua the Messiah? And how deep is that belief and confidence? Faith is a deep, intense, and passionate belief in our Creator and Savior. It should penetrate the core of who we are, motivating us and driving our daily actions and thoughts.

Conviction of the Unseen

In Hebrews 11, known as the faith chapter, we find the biblical definition of faith, its importance, and many examples of this important characteristic. In verse 1 we find the meaning of faith: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen" (*Restoration Study Bible*).

The New International Version reads, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

Both the *RSB* and *NIV* define faith as a substance of things we hope for. So when it comes to our faith in Yahweh, how sure and confident are we in that belief? Another way of asking this is, how far are we willing to go to show our faith in our Elohim? Would we give up our jobs if it meant not working on Sabbath? Would we choose Yahweh over certain friends who may be a bad influence? Would we freely give to Yahweh our tithe, even in those months when the budget was tight?

Faith is more than a verbal confession; faith is a belief in Yahweh that drives our behavior and worship. It is a deep, intense, passionate belief in the One we worship. If we have faith in Yahweh, we're going to follow Him in all ways, including those times when it may be difficult. It's in those very times of trial and persecution when we have the opportunity to show and strengthen our faith.

A Test of Faith

In verse 6 of Hebrews 11 we see that faith is an absolute must if we're going to please Yahweh. Without it we can't please Him. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to Elohim must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Based on this, then, how important is it that we have faith in Yahweh? That depends on how important it is for us to please our Heavenly Father. It should be the desire of all to please the One we worship.

But again, what it comes down to is how far we are willing to go to show our conviction and persuasion. To have faith in Yahweh, first we must believe that He exists and second, we must believe in His promises. For most, believing that Yahweh exists is not difficult, but sometimes believing in His promises is a bit harder.

When we're faced with a bad situation, sometimes it's hard to have faith in Yahweh. Whether it be a loss of a loved one, a severe sickness, or even a financial crisis, sometimes we lose hope and our faith suffers. But if we desire to please Him we must believe in Him! This includes when life is going well and also when we're struggling.

The fact is, having faith is easy when everything is going as planned, but when trials and tribulation come, it's much harder to maintain that faith. But it's in those moments that our faith and belief in Yahweh are the most important.

Champions of Faith

Consider a few examples of faith we find in this passage and begin with

the example of Noah in verse 7. "By faith Noah, being warned of Elohim of things not seen as yet, moved with fear prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."

Yahweh had warned Noah of the coming flood and commanded him to build an ark. Some believe that before the flood it had never rained upon the earth, and judging from what is stated in Scripture, I tend to believe this to be true.

It seems that before the flood a canopy of water enveloped the earth and Yahweh used a mist to water it (Gen. 2:6). We first see a rainbow once rain started to fall from the sky. I believe this canopy of water may be restored as part of New Jerusalem.

Assuming this canopy of water to be true, consider what Noah must have thought when he was warned about a worldwide flood and commanded to build an ark. This vessel he was to build was enormous, especially for his time. According to Genesis 6:15, it was 300 cubits in length, 50 cubits in width, and 30 cubits in height. Taking into account that one cubit equals 18 inches or 1.5 feet, in modern measurements, the ark's dimensions would have been 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high – that's the width of two school buses, the



Faith is a deep, intense, and passionate belief in our Creator and Savior. It should penetrate the core of who we are."

height of three giraffes stacked high, 1.5 football fields in length, and a volume of 483 semi-trailers!

While the Bible doesn't tell us how long it took Noah to build this mammoth structure, most likely with help from his family, estimates range from 55 to over 100 years. Imagine spending even 50 years building this large craft on the promise that there would be a flood.

In many ways, I don't think we grasp the enormity of the ark, the time it took to build, and the faith that it required from Noah. There's a reason he's mentioned here as a man of faith.

Father of the Faithful

The next of three examples of faith center on a man known as the father of the faithful, Abraham.

Hebrews 11:8-10 summarizes the first account: "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed and he went out not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is Elohim."

As with Noah, I don't believe many consider the extraordinary faith that Abraham showed throughout his life. As seen here and in Genesis 12, Yahweh told Abraham to leave his family and country and travel to a place He would show him.

Consider this for a moment: It is believed Abraham was 75 years old when he received this call from Yahweh to leave Ur of the Chaldees.

Imagine what he was giving up.

He was leaving his family and his country, forsaking everything he knew to live in a land that he knew nothing about. When we talk about stepping out in faith and allowing Yahweh to guide us, there's no better model than Abraham.

Some will make rash decisions without thinking it through. I'm not discouraging anyone from stepping out in faith, but I believe this was a special case. As believers, when we make a

decision, along with faith, we also need discretion and wisdom.

Proverbs 21:5 says, “The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.” The lesson here is that we’re to have a plan and not rush, especially with life-changing choices.

But saying that, we must have the faith Abraham exemplified here. From a prophetic standpoint, if the tribulation would happen within our lifetime, like Abraham we could be called to leave everything we know and everything we have behind.

Yahshua in His Olivet Prophecy said, “When you therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes” (Matt. 24:15-17).

There’s coming a day when we as believers may have to walk away from everything we have and like Abraham travel to a place that we know nothing about. Will we have the faith and dedication to simply leave our homes and follow Yahweh’s leading?

Faith of the Childless

Moving on now to Hebrews 11:11-12, we read another example of extraordinary faith, this time involving Abraham’s wife Sara. “Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.”

Sara believed she was unable to conceive when beyond the years of childbearing. From a natural standpoint she was right. But when Isaac was conceived, Sara was 90 years old and Abraham was 100!

Sara, along with Abraham, believed in Yahweh and she conceived a son

whose lineage would eventually number like the stars of heaven in multitude.

The most obvious application for us today is that we should never view anything as impossible for Yahweh. He can make the impossible possible, but for this to happen we must have faith in Him. Maybe we’re struggling with a sickness or disease. Even in those moments when the doctors say nothing more can be done, we need to remember that no illness is beyond Yahweh’s ability to heal.

Another way of saying that He can make the impossible possible is to make the natural supernatural. That’s precisely what he did for Sara; He allowed her dead womb to conceive when it was naturally impossible. But for miracles like that to happen we need to have faith in Yahweh and to remember that we can do all things through Him.

The Sacrificing of a Son

One final incident involving Abraham is in verses 17-19. “By faith Abraham, when he was tried offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said that in Isaac shall thy seed be called, Accounting that Elohim was able to raise him up even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.”

This event is one of the most powerful accounts in the Bible. In many ways it parallels Yahweh’s sacrifice of His own Son, Yahshua the Messiah.

Yahweh had told Abraham to go to Mount Moriah to offer up his son Isaac as a burnt offering. Still, just moments before Abraham was ready to plunge the knife into Isaac, the angel of Yahweh called out and stopped him. In place of his son, Yahweh had provided a ram caught in a thicket.

No example more than this one shows Abraham’s deep faith and devotion to Yahweh. He was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac, the son of promise, as a show of his faith and obedience to Yahweh. How many parents would have this same devotion as to offer their child as a burnt offering? Very few, if any, would.

Abraham was an extraordinary man with tremendous faith in Yahweh,

which is why he is called the father of the faithful. One point to bring out here is Abraham’s belief that Yahweh could’ve raised the patriarch’s son from the dead. Even though I don’t believe this diminishes the faith that Abraham showed, it indicates that he believed in Yahweh’s power of the resurrection.

The main lesson here is that we must be willing to sacrifice everything we have for Yahweh. This means we can hold nothing back. Everything we have is because of Him, including our existence. For this reason everything we are and everything we have inevitably belongs to Him.

That’s one reason I’m such a firm believer in the tithe. More than any other command, the tithe shows our willingness to sacrifice ourselves for Him and the Kingdom.

All is Possible Through Faith

We now transition to Yahshua’s words in Mark 9:23. “Yahshua said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.”

We’ve already seen that nothing is impossible for those who have faith in Yahweh. This is the message we find here from Yahshua the Messiah, the Son of Yahweh, and our Example. With Yahweh there are no limitations, there are no boundaries. What we view as impossible is nothing for Him.

For a moment, think about who Yahweh is. He brought this universe and all life into existence. He is all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-present. With a resume such as this there is nothing beyond His ability. We need to remember that all things are possible through Him.

We also need to realize that all of this is based on our faith.

So how strong is our faith in Him? Are we partially convinced or fully convicted? The answer to that is essential because our blessings could be partly based on the answer.

Faith of a Mustard Seed

In Matthew 17:20 Yahshua gave an example of what we could do even with a small amount of faith. “And

Yahshua said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain,

wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of Yahweh. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

always having a firm and unwavering belief in Yahweh without which we may even be lost.



Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”

Yahshua refers to the faith of a mustard seed, a tiny kernel that produces a large plant. Based on what Yahshua says, then, we can move mountains with this small grain of faith. Some view this concept literally, others figuratively, but I tend to believe it's more symbolic. Yahshua's saying here is that even with a small amount of faith we can accomplish great things.

To be honest I believe that most fall short when it comes to faith. In some ways, we give lip service without fully believing in Yahweh's promises. For example, we may say we believe Yahweh can heal our sicknesses, but deep down many harbor unbelief or doubt. It's this unbelief and doubt that stifles many of our potential blessings.

James addresses this failure of faith in James 1:6-8. “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the

Doubting Yahweh is not something we can afford to do. If we have uncertainty in our hearts, we're not going to reap His blessings. We must believe without hesitation and be fully convinced that He can fulfill these promises and answer our prayers. After all, faith is a deep, intense, passionate belief in our Father in heaven.

Think about the last major issue in your life and ask yourself, during this time did I seek out Yahweh in faith? Did I go to Him in prayer believing, knowing, that He could deliver me from my suffering?

It's time we question how much faith we really have in the One we worship. When we say we have faith, do we believe it? Do we believe in the One we're worshipping and believe He can do all things? Only we know the depth of our faith, but know this; we will not be blessed if we're weak in faith and commitment. This includes all aspects of our spiritual life: faith in prayer (Matt. 21:22), faith for healing (Mark 10:52),

Put Your Faith into Action

We find an invaluable lesson regarding faith and works in James 2:14-20. “What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one Elohim; thou doest well: the devils also believe and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?”

Clearly, faith without works is dead. This is an essential lesson for us as believers in the Messiah. The vast majority of churchgoers today believe that faith and works are incompatible. The truth is we must both believe and obey our Heavenly Father.

In Revelation 12:17 and 14:12, we find that a believer is defined as a person who obeys the commandments and has faith in Yahshua the Messiah. If either is left out we no longer qualify as a saint or believer in Yahweh.

Another important point here is that we show our faith by what we do. As we saw earlier, Yahweh told Abraham to leave his country. It was Abraham's works, i.e., his willingness to obey and leave his home, which showed his faith.

This was also true of his willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac. The message here is that we must act upon our faith. If we believe in Yahweh, we show our faith by also obeying Him.

Our hope is that we would all be faithful and follow the examples of Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and above all, Yahshua the Messiah. Without faith it is impossible to please Yahweh, and our belief must be firm and resolute.

Waldenses

People Persecuted for Truth

by Alan Mansager



While traveling many years ago in southwest Missouri we passed a church with the name Waldensian Presbyterian Church. My interest was piqued because I had heard that the Waldenses were European carryovers from the early New Testament who believed much as we do.

This church in Monett, Missouri, was one of the first Waldensian congregations established in the United States.

Who exactly were the Waldenses who suffered unspeakable persecution from kings and a church bent on wiping off the face of the planet those who stood against common church teachings?

In his book, *A History of Christianity*, Kenneth Scott Latourette, describes the Waldenses as “a humble folk. Even their enemies described them as dressing simply, industrious, laboring with their hands, chaste, temperate in eating and drinking, refusing to frequent taverns and dances, sober and truthful in speech, avoiding anger...Such Waldenses as survived persecution sought refuge in the valleys of the Italian Alps, where we are to meet them again at the time of the Reformation.”

Most assume that Roman Catholicism was the only worship existing from the second century up to the Protestant Reformation. But that’s not so. There have always been men and women who kept the faith of the apostles down to our day. These remnant believers had nothing for the Roman religion or the Anglican Church. And it was these holdouts for truth who helped drive the Reformation. Protestant historians regarded the Waldenses as early forerunners of the Reformation.

At any time in New Testament history there were always those faithful to the teachings of Yahshua and the apostles. In Matthew 16:18 Yahshua said, “...thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my assembly; and the gates of the grave shall not prevail against it.” In other words, upon his confession that Yahshua is the

Messiah, the true assembly will be built by Yahshua and it would not die out.

Keepers of Sabbaths and Feasts

Historical records show that the Waldenses were ardent observers of the Ten Commandments, and kept holy the Seventh-day Sabbath as well as the seven annual Feasts. They came out strongly against Roman church doctrine centuries before the Protestant Reformation. Luther, Zwingli, Calvin and other reformers were Johnnies-come-lately in the whole scenerio.

Toward the latter portion of the nineteenth century, Dr. Samuel Kohn, the Chief Rabbi of Budapest, Hungary wrote, “Of the Christian groups in Transylvania during this period [1588-1623], there were those who restored the original and true Christianity, in that they accepted and practiced Jewish religious customs and statutes which the Old Testament prescribes and which original Christianity observed as binding and only later discarded.” (*The Sabbatarians in Transylvania: Their History, Literature and Dogmatics*)

Dr. Kohn affirmed that “original Christianity” also observed and practiced Jewish religious customs as binding. He says this Waldensian group of saints had a Sabbath songbook, which he says “consisted of one hundred and two hymns. Forty-four for the Sabbath, five for the New Moon, eleven for Passover and Unleavened Bread, six for the Feast of Weeks, six for Tabernacles, three for New Year, one for Atonement, and twenty-six for everyday purposes.”

They knew Truth and they kept it. Even down to the New Moons, which are part of the ordained observances that draw little interest today, even among true worshipers. These Waldenses knew the command in Ezekiel 46:3: “Likewise the people of the land shall worship at the door of this gate before Yahweh in the sabbaths and in the new moons.”

Offerings were ordered not just on the Sabbath and Feasts, but also on the new moons, further underscoring their importance. We read of new moon offerings in Numbers chapters 10 and 28; 1Chronicles 23:31; and 2Chronicles 31:3.

A book store clerk was once asked for a copy of the Jewish New Testament by David Stern. She responded, how can there be such a book? The New Testament is for Christians. Jews don’t belong in the New Testament.

Where, dear lady, do you think Christianity came from? The early believers all started out as Jews. Yahshua said of His own ministry in Matthew 15:24: “I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” All or nearly all the apostles were Jews. (Luke being the one in question.)

So the Waldenses celebrated the three main Jewish Feasts, according to Kohn. “Passover was held in great admiration among them. They ate only unleavened bread during the time, even though they had not come out of Egypt themselves with the Jews. They observed the first and seventh day as high holidays, and the days lying between them, which were designated weekdays of the Passover after the literal translation of the Hebrew designation, were semi-feast days. ...”

Kohn continues, “They celebrated all of these Jewish celebrations, however, as they so seriously stressed at every opportunity, in order to obey the teaching and example of [Yahshua]. They sanctified the Sabbath because one who does not do so does not participate with [Messiah] in eternal life. They celebrated the Feast of the Passover of

Israel according to the instruction of our [Messiah], and the Feast of Tabernacles, because whoever observes it belongs to [Messiah].”

Could these Waldenses be in league with the Puritans, some of whom also came to America for religious freedom and to escape persecution?

Yes indeed, historical writings link the Puritans to the Waldenses of Piedmont Valley in northwest Italy and the Alps. Both were reformers and both opposed Roman church doctrines.

They Nixed the Trinity

Kohn says they restored the original and true Christianity and were known as Unitarians. “Unitarian” meaning those who opposed the teaching of the Trinity, and believed that only Yahweh is the one supreme Mighty One.

It was the translations of the New Testament by Erasmus that further prompted people skilled in Greek and Latin to examine the premises on which Trinitarianism had been established – and found them lacking.

Unitarianism in England desired to restore the correct apostolic faith. Now enabled to read for themselves, scholars started to see that the Bible was not Trinitarian. By examining Scripture, Sir Isaac Newton, probably the greatest scientist ever, found Unitarianism to be true.

In 1579 the Unitarians split into Sunday and Sabbath worshipers. The Sabbath branch was the more faithful to the truth in that:

- They practiced adult baptism.
- They kept the Sabbaths and Holy Days, including Passover, Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Atonement, Tabernacles and the Last Great Day, and the New Moons. Trumpets is not listed separately in their hymnal and appears to have been celebrated with the hymns of the New Moon. (maybe because Trumpets is also a new moon?)
- Their doctrines encompassed the physical Millennium of 1,000 years at the beginning of which Yahshua will return and regather Judah and Israel.
- They used Yahweh’s calendar based on the New Moons.



There have always been men and women who kept the faith of the apostles down to our day.”

- They taught two resurrections, one to eternal life at Yahshua's coming and another to judgment at the end of the Millennium.

- They taught salvation by grace but that the laws still needed to be kept.

- They held that Yahweh calls people, while the world in general is blinded.

In her book *Daniel, Understanding the Dreams and Visions*, author Charlene Fortsch provided ample historical evidence that the Apostles and the Waldenses religiously kept the observances of the Old Testament, including Passover.

Some have disputed this. A senior Waldensian minister was asked about it and he denied that they had kept Sabbath or Feasts. But what would you expect? Had he admitted they did he would then face the charge, "Then why aren't you still keeping the Sabbath and feast days like your church founders did? Shouldn't you be true to your roots?" Especially when the Waldenses claim to originate from a side-trip by the Apostle Paul who visited Spain and who himself kept and taught the Sabbath and Feasts?

The Roman church faces the same dilemma of not sticking to the teachings of its alleged founders.

Problem No. 1: Peter, as their alleged first pope, was a Sabbath-keeping, feast-keeping Jew. The Roman church did not exist in Peter's day and so he could never have supported or taught any of the church's man-made doctrines that developed over 1900 years—hammered out and decided by popular vote of the attending bishops during 21

ecumenical councils. Peter kept the true Sabbath and Feasts as Yahshua taught him. So why aren't they practicing the same today?

Problem No. 2: The church claims that its teachings take precedence over the Bible, the inspired words of which come from Yahweh's very breath. But Peter said in Acts 5:29 to obey Yahweh rather than men. That means the Word has supremacy over any church doctrine,

and change them as time goes on. A recent survey found that 58 percent of young people believe that you can get salvation from other religions.

For the first time in our history nearly half of Americans don't profess a biblical faith. But Truth doesn't change with time, 2Timothy 4:3-4: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

1John 2:7 says, "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."

There is a tradition stemming from the 12th century that the Waldenses remained true to Paul's apostolic faith. "The Reformers held that the Waldensian Church was formed about 120 C.E., from which date on, they passed down from father to son the teachings they received from the apostles," *Our Authorized Bible Vindicated* by B. G. Wilkinson, p. 33.

Apparently, when these reformers later joined league with Presbyterians and Methodists their teachings changed.

All was not entirely lost in Protestantism.

Many churches today still acknowledge Pentecost or Feast of Weeks. Why don't they come clean



PIEDMONTESE CHILDREN FORCED FROM THEIR PARENTS.

according to Peter himself, the alleged first pope.

Man likes to water things down

and observe all of the high holy days?

Many also teach that Pentecost in Acts 2 was the start of the New Testament assembly. Not so.

Paul wrote, speaking of Moses in Act 7:38, "This is he, that was in the *assembly* in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us." "Lively" is the Greek *zao* and means living. "Oracles" (*logion*) means the utterances of Yahweh.

Therefore, these living laws, statutes and judgments that Moses got from Yahweh were given to us on this side of the resurrection, Paul says. That means we still have Yahweh's laws to obey.

Israel gathered at Sinai was considered an assembly. The laws they kept, the 10 Commandments and feasts, were for us, too, Paul said.

In 1179 the Third Lateran Council condemned the Waldenses and others and issued numerous decrees against them. To wipe these "heretics" from the face of the earth, these believers were persecuted mercilessly by the church for their faith, tortured and murdered by the thousands if they didn't recant.

Not too long ago, in 2015, after a historic visit to a Waldensian Temple in Turin, Italy, Pope Francis, in the name of the Catholic Church, asked Waldensian Christians for forgiveness for the past persecutions. The Pope apologized for the Church's "un-Christian and even inhumane positions and actions."

Now there's an understatement. Read of the martyrs of the Middle Ages and the tortures "heretics" were subject to. On second thought, don't read about them if you want to sleep at night. It's ghastly.

It is said the Waldenses were known as "The Church of G-d," by Protestants in the New World.

Also called the Pilgrim Fathers, their descendants initiated the Great Religious Awakening in America and Europe in the 1840's. That is also the underpinnings of what became today's Sacred Name movement.

These ancestral Puritans brought Sabbath observance to America. This is confirmed by Andrew Dugger, who co-wrote the book, *A History of the True Religion*.

In December, 1934, Hugh Sprague, editor of the *St. Joseph Missouri Gazette*, wrote the following editorial: "Strange as it may seem in the early history of America there was an attempt at suppression of the Christmas spirit. The stern Puritans at Plymouth, imbued with the rigorous fervor of the Old Testament, abhorred the celebration of the orthodox holidays. Their worship was on the Sabbath (Saturday), rather than Sunday, and Christmas in particular they considered a pagan celebration."

In a private conversation between Elder Dugger and editor Sprague after this editorial appeared, Sprague stated that the Pilgrims were his direct ancestors, and that he very well knew their religious beliefs and practices. And he stated that all his grandparents and great-grandparents knew that the Pilgrims of the Mayflower days were strict Sabbath keepers on the seventh day of the week instead of Sunday."

When you read that the Puritans and pilgrims left Europe because of religious persecution, keep in mind what these believers believed and why they were being persecuted. Under the fiercest opposition they maintained their faith.

What these people endured was nothing new. In the face of distress the Apostle Paul wrote:

"For I think that Elohim hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. We are fools for Messiah's sake, but ye are wise in Messiah; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised. Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace; And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are

the offscouring of all things unto this day. I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you," 1Corinthians 4:9-14.

Our beliefs and faith require a principled approach to righteousness. And like the saints of yesteryear, we should expect opposition.

To have the faith of the early apostles requires a "hungering and thirsting after righteousness" (Matt. 5:6). A devotion to understanding the Word, and putting a lot of blood, toil, tears and sweat into it.

Through much tribulation we enter the Kingdom.

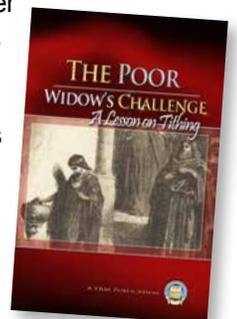
Romans 8:35: "Who shall separate us from the love of Messiah? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of Elohim, which is in Messiah Yahshua our Master."

May Yahweh be praised forever as we continue onward, seeking His Kingdom. 

Blessings from the Heart

When Yahshua pointed out the poor widow's remarkable giving to support the temple, He made a statement about the true heart. One doesn't support what is not believed in. You can donate either online or by mail. See the contact information on the back cover of this issue.

Request the booklet, *The Poor Widow's Challenge*



Power of Pentecost

(continued from p. 5)

that the Feast cycle begins with the wavesheaf made of green ears of barley in the spring and ends with the general ingathering of all crops in the fall? The barley had to be at a certain stage of maturity to harvest the wavesheaf.

Similarly Yahshua had to finish His work in order to be the firstfruits of the brethren. Just as firstfruits are relatively young grains, so Yahshua was not sacrificed as an old man, but in His early 30's, the most productive time of life.

He could have kept going with His earthly ministry, but He did enough to prepare us to take up His cause for truth, and to help us He sent His Spirit.

In chapter 1 of Acts, Luke picks

to Yahweh, as Moses told Pharaoh. Yahweh protected Israel from Pharaoh's pursuing army. Exodus 19:4-5 says, "You have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then you shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine."

Compare that with Revelation 12:6: "And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared of Elohim, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and sixty days." We see that spiritual Israel is:

- taken to the wilderness (just as ancient Israel was, to keep a Feast)
- brought to a place prepared by

brethren at a Feast, either Unleavened Bread, Pentecost or Trumpets – the three main times cited for when Yahshua could return. There you find protection while others who are not obedient are left out in the world to suffer from His wrath on the wicked of "Egypt."

It will prove to be a hard pill to swallow realizing you are shut out because of your disobedience.

What Are Your Spiritual Plans?

The Bible is such a complex collection of books that much of what it has is parallel to something else or to another place or time. Yahweh works in dualities, types and antitypes—especially with prophecy where there is often both an ancient and a modern fulfillment.

We see through a glass darkly. We see only the tip, while the rest of the



up where His Book of Luke left off—discussing the life of Yahshua the Messiah and his last act on earth, called the transfiguration.

Because of His actions following His resurrection they could not deny that He was the risen Messiah. Had the disciples left Jerusalem or had they not come to attend the Feast of Firstfruits, or Shavuoth, they would not have been present to receive Yahweh's Spirit. The same lesson to assemble at His Feasts is for us.

All indications are that Yahshua will return at a Feast, a "time appointed" or *moed*, meaning Feast, as Daniel 8:19 and 11:27 reveal.

The woman (assembly) will be carried on eagle's wings into the wilderness for her protection, but when does it happen?

The first time such a protective move happened, ancient Israel was taken into the wilderness to keep a Feast

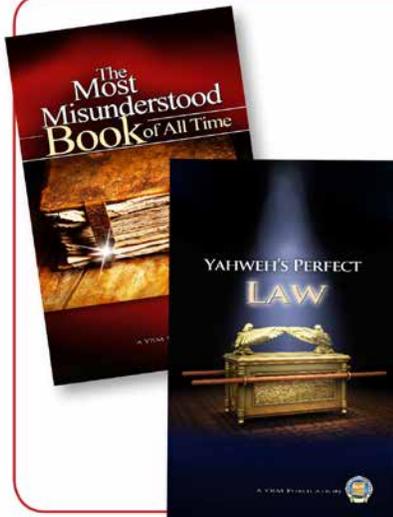
Yahweh (we are to keep a Feast where Yahweh places His Name; just as Israel did.)

- fed for a period of time (just as we feed on Yahweh's Word at His Feasts and as Israel fed on manna)

Suppose you are gathered with the

iceberg lies submerged and out of sight. One day we will see crystal clearly the entire plan

Make this your year of obedience and watch your life change as you receive the blessings of doing Yahweh's will.



Lawkeeping in the NEW Testament?

For many in churchianity, advocating obedience to the Word today is bondage to a bygone era and an attempt to earn salvation. Nothing could be further from the truth. The law represents the character and values of Yahweh and Yahshua, which believers are to emulate in their lives. Forget misguided church teachings. Get the facts. Request or go online to read the dynamic duo of booklets, **Yahweh's Perfect Law** and **The Most Misunderstood Book of All Time**.

Q Where did baptizing children originate? I cannot find any passage in the New Testament where either babies or children were baptized. – MA

A No precedent exists in the New Testament in which babies or children were baptized. We find only references to three “households” being baptized, but no mention of children in any of them (Acts 16:15, 33 and 1Corinthians 1:16). To claim there were adolescent children in those families being baptized is arguing from silence.

The Bible shows there is an age of maturity when we are held accountable for our actions. For at least eight biblical reasons that minimum age is 20. (see <https://yrm.org/requirements-baptism/>)

The clearest exhibit of such accountability is when the Israelites who rebelled in the wilderness under Moses, and who were at least age 20 at the time, were barred from the Promised Land. Those under 20 were allowed to enter because as youths they were not held responsible for Israel’s rebellions, Numbers 32:11.

Repentance is the first critical step in immersion, Acts 2:38. No matter how mature a child appears to be, while still under parental supervision and guidance he or she has yet to experience life with all the temptations, pulls, trials, and difficulties of adulthood. Their brains, according to science, have not reached the necessary development and maturity to fully grasp the serious gravity surrounding the lifelong commitment that baptism brings, including the initial act of repentance.

The following is from **Schaff’s History of the Christian Church**: “...during the first three centuries, and even in the age of Constantine, adult baptism was the rule, and that the actual conversion of the candidate was required as a condition before administering the sacrament... But when the same high view is applied without qualification to infant baptism, we are confronted at once with the difficulty that infants cannot comply with this condition. They may be regenerated (this being an act of G-d), but they cannot be converted, i.e., they cannot repent and believe, nor do they need repentance, having not yet committed any actual transgression.”

Yahweh requires conviction leading to repentance before baptism. To baptize babies who have no convictions, as well as children who are still learning accountability, effectively devalues all the standards Yahweh requires for baptism. It basically puts the adult in the same basket as children.

How can anyone in good conscience immerse adolescent children, forcing them to hold to an adult standard of righteous faithfulness for the rest of their lives when they don’t even know what that means?

Q How much does one give with the third tithe? How do we go about keeping this command?– MS

A “Tithe” means a tenth. It is a tenth of one’s increase, as from a salary and other monetary income. The three tithes commanded in the Word are detailed in a chart at Leviticus 27 in the Restoration Study Bible, fourth edition. The first tithe is used for worship and the ministry. The second is for the worshiper to fund his feast-keeping. The third is for the priest, the fatherless and widow. It is taken every third year as part of the scriptural welfare system, Deuteronomy 14:28-29 and 26:12.

Q Some use their tithes to support charities. Others give it to needy individuals. One man tithes to himself. Are these the right uses of the biblical tithe?

A The tithe — namely the first tithe — is holy to Yahweh and belongs to Him. The tithe is a firstfruit, like the first gatherings of the harvest at Unleavened Bread and Pentecost, also called the Feast of Firstfruits. The first ten percent of our increase is to be used to glorify Yahweh by proclaiming His truths.

Neither the tithe nor firstfruits was for personal use. When something is holy (set apart) to Yahweh, we must be careful how we handle it. We want to make sure that He gets what belongs to Him. To do otherwise is clearly robbing Him, Malachi 3:8.

Scripture mentions three tithes, Deuteronomy 14 and 26:12-13. The first is Yahweh’s, the second is for attending His Feasts, and the third is gathered every third year for the poor, fatherless, and widow.

Yahweh’s people are commanded to deliver the first tithe to the treasure house: “And the priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites, when the Levites take tithes: and the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes unto the house of our Elohim, to the chambers, into the treasure house. For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the corn, of the new wine, and the oil, unto the chambers, where are the vessels of the sanctuary, and the priests that minister, and the porters, and the singers: and we will not forsake the house of our Elohim,” Nehemiah 10:38-39.

This tithe is put in charge of the priesthood to be used in the service of Yahweh (Neh. 12:44; 13:11-12).

Some argue that tithing is only for the Old Testament Levitical priesthood. In the New Covenant, the Melchizedek priesthood, which we are under today, takes precedence.



over the Levitical priesthood. In Hebrews 7 our Melchizedek priesthood is presided over by Yahshua, taking tithes even of the lesser priesthoods of Abraham and Levi. Therefore it is even more incumbent on us to tithe because we are under a higher priesthood to which even the other priests were subservient and to which they also tithed!

The priests were commanded to take the tithe, Hebrews 7:5, as does the New Testament Melchizedek priesthood of Yahshua. A special chamber was set aside for the tithe, 2Chronicles 31:11-12. In Malachi 3:10 we read, "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, says Yahweh of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it," Malachi 3:10.

And even offerings are to be used first for the glory of Yahweh and the truth that the ministry proclaims.

A woman once poured expensive ointment upon Yahshua and was criticized by the disciples, who said she should have sold it and given the proceeds to the poor. In support of this woman Yahshua responded that we would always have the poor among us, Matthew 26:11. He defended her actions by putting Himself before all, including the poor of society.

We are in great company, then, when we use offerings in addition to tithes to further the work and ministry of Yahshua first. In doing so, we receive the praise of the Savior Himself. Yahweh's chosen are expected to go to all people with the message of the truth, but especially to the household of faith, Galatians 6:10. If Yahweh's own people do not support their obligation to fulfill proclaiming the Good News, who will?

Yahweh does not forget the poor and needy, either. Those who use the first tithe for the poor need to be reminded that Yahweh made the third tithe for that purpose, Deuteronomy 14:28-29.

Q Do you really need to use His name in order to worship Him? It seems to me He knows when we worship Him without using the sacred Name.

A The issue is not whether He knows who we mean when we worship and praise Him. Rather, He is looking for us to respect and revere Him by honoring His holy, personal Name when we approach Him. Once we know the truth of His revealed, personal Name, using a title or a name that is not His shows blatant disrespect.

Psalm 96:8 says, "Give unto Yahweh the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts." Hebrews quotes from Hosea, pointing out that the praises of our lips are to Yahweh like offering up a sacrifice of a bullock or calf: "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to Yahweh continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His Name," Hebrews 13:15.

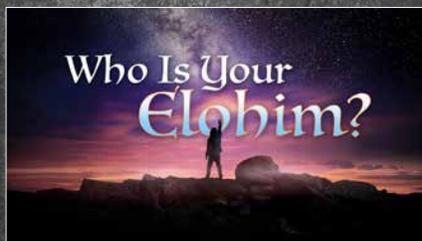
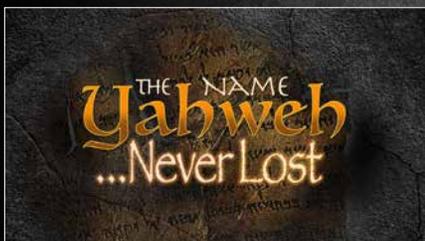
Under today's Melchizedek order, instead of animal sacrifices our offerings are spiritual in nature, 1Peter 2:5. Sacrifices offered to Yahweh were always the best the offeror could give, being perfect and free of blemish and defect. By the same token, we cannot mix His perfect, holy Name in our sacrificial worship with names and titles also used for heathen mighty ones. He does not accept imperfect offerings in worship.

The Old Testament acknowledged that praise and thanks to Yahweh was an acceptable sacrifice: "Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips," Hosea 14:1-2.

So we enter into Yahweh's courts singing with joyful, thankful hearts, acknowledging He is supreme. We worship Him and further acknowledge His power by honoring His Name Yahweh. When we acknowledge Yahweh as our Mighty One, He promises to direct our paths: "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his Name," Psalm 100:4.

The true people of Yahweh are to be known and called by His one, true Name: "If my people, which are called by my Name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land," 2Chronicles 7:14.

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On the other hand, if we do not “fear the glorious and fearful Name, Yahweh thy Elohim,” then He promises we will have trials, Deuteronomy 28:58-59.

The New Testament emphasizes gathering in His Name. Matthew 18:20 reads, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

How can anyone ignore or demean the name Yahweh, knowing we are to be called or known by that name now, as well as in the Kingdom? Prophecy says we will call upon His name to serve Yahweh in unity: “For then will I change to the peoples a pure language, that they may call upon the name of Yahweh to serve Him with one consent,” Zephaniah 3:9.

When we enter into His presence and we praise Him by His name Yahweh, He is pleased and He joins us. Pleasing the One we worship is our number one priority.

Q Doesn't Ephesians 2:15 do away with the need to obey the Old Testament commandments? It says, “Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace.”

A The key 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.

Nowhere does dogma refer 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, see 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.

In Romans 7:1 Paul said that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives.

In Romans 2:13 Paul said that not the hearers of the law are justified, but the doers of the law.

James 1:22 says to be doers of the law and not just hearers. How could the law be abolished then?



BIBLICAL
HEBREW WORD
LESSON

אופן
T

Ophan
o-fawn

Composition: Aleph, Holem Waw, Pe, Qamets, Final Nun.

The Hebrew word **Ophan** is a masculine noun and literally means “a wheel.” The word origin is uncertain. It occurs 35 times in the Hebrew Bible.

“This was the appearance and structure of the wheels: They sparkled like topaz, and all four looked alike. Each appeared to be made like a wheel intersecting a wheel.” Ezekiel 1:16

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Outreach Program's Current Partners

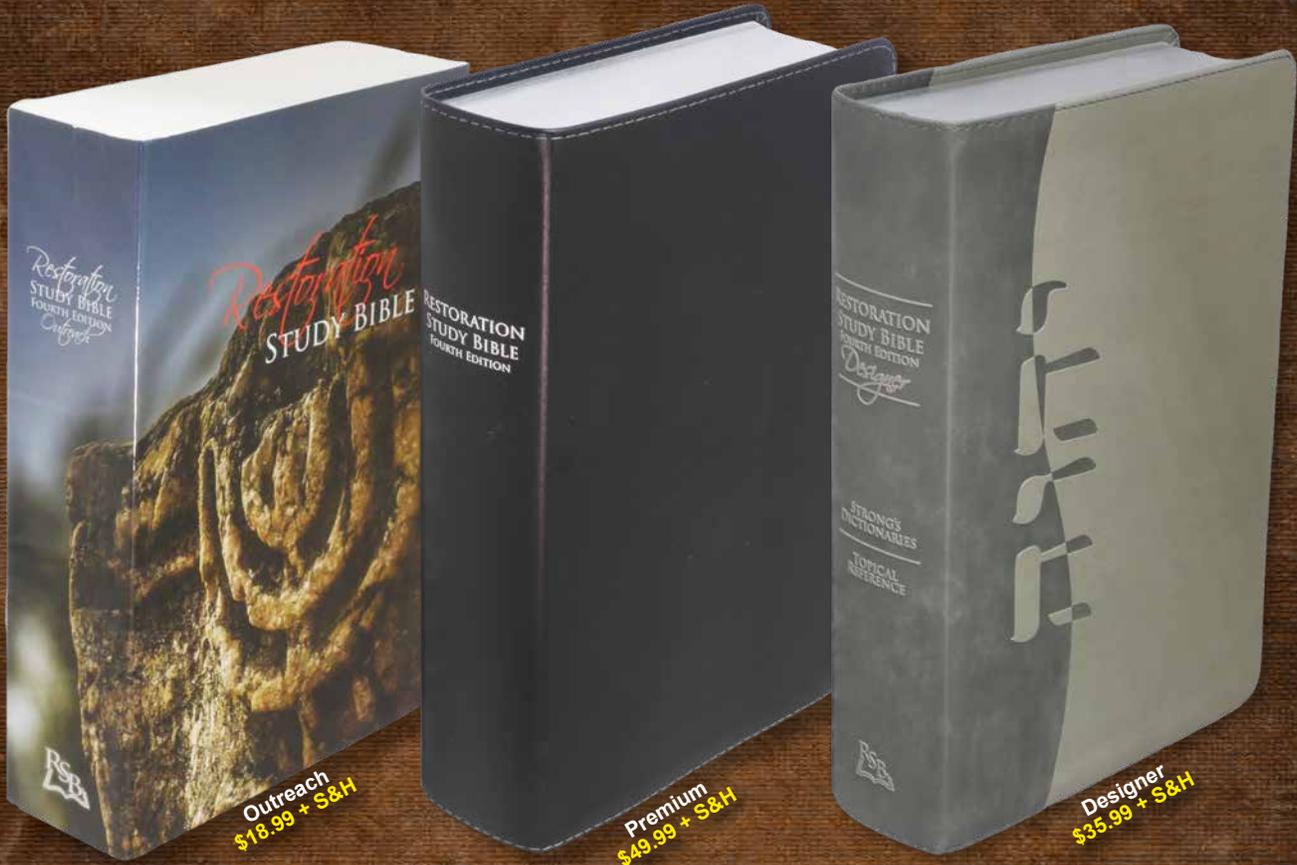
We recognize our outreach partners for their outstanding dedication to the Truth in their effort to fulfill the Great Commission. If you are interested in becoming an outreach partner to help us spread the Truth, visit: <http://www.yrm.org/outreach> or call us at (573) 896-1000 during normal office hours (M-F, 8:00 am- 4:00 pm.) We will explain how you can join this group committed to spreading the Good News!

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4th Edition



In addition to restoring the sacred names Yahweh and Yahshua, this unique Bible includes: in-depth book introductions, thousands of eye-opening study notes, cross references, instructional and archaeological charts, chronological timelines, and an extensive topical reference section. This unique Bible has Strong's numbering for all significant words in the text and Strong's Hebrew and Greek dictionaries at the back so you can confirm meanings yourself. It even has a family record section for recording important life events. It is three books in one – a real value.

Three cover choices: Outreach (Paperback), Designer (imitation leather), and Premium (cowhide); the contents are the same in each.

Ten-point main text (as in standard newspapers and magazines); footnotes are slightly smaller.

Thumb tab cutouts for quick-and-easy referencing (Designer and Premium)

* Ribbons for place-holding

Place your order at: yrmstore.org/shop or telephone 573-896-1000



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"You answered many questions I have had for a while. Particularly about the law of the Old Testament. I never understood the idea that it was abolished. You have confirmed my belief that it has not been abolished. A really fascinating site." – PM
"Finally a fellowship that knows the name and keeps holy. Love the truth. The bridge the holds us together may it not be defiled." – KB

"We have been watching YRM on YouTube for a little over a year. We have been so disappointed and yet so relieved to discover that there was so little we knew about Yahweh and Yahshua. How could we go to church all our lives and never heard this? I'm 46 and my husband is 43. We are so excited that there is so much to learn and 'unlearn' if that is a word. YRM and His Wondrous Works and reading the YRM Study Bible has been such a gift to us. I would hate to have continued in this life and in traditions of man without ever thinking there was anything different. I am so grateful for this channel. It has given me direction that otherwise I

would've continued in a stagnant religion."
– SBC

"I wish there was a church like this near my home. The work ya'll are doing is amazing." – HS

"I have two (Bibles) The first that I bought was the soft cover version to put inside a travel portfolio to carry in the truck. Then I had to have the black leather bound with the silver trim... MOST beautiful thing I've ever held in my hands! ... and the best part is between the covers! I'm eternally grateful for finding HIS 'special flock' at YRM!" – Denbo

"I just bought the Bibles! Two of them are paperback and one cowhide. This Bible is

very excellent! This is a must have! This is like a KJV corrected edition!" – AB

"Good research and more detailed information than other sites. The booklet helps me have a better understanding and correct relationship with my Creator. I do need clear understanding of the roles of women in general, mainly single women like myself." – MF

"I've been following your ministry for the last 3 to 4 years and I am so happy to have found a ministry that abides by true worship as it was originally instructed. I'm still learning in these regards, about the feast days, the Hebrew calendar, how and when to worship properly. I truly appreciate the work you're doing."

"I Didn't Know That"

The New Testament includes 263 direct quotations from the Old Testament

The Old Testament constitutes 80 percent of the New Testament directly or in shared quotations and references.

Sixteen hundred quotations, references, and allusions link the Old to the New Testament.

A total of 456 passages about Yahshua or messianic times are in the Old Testament.

There are 1050 commands in the New Testament for us to obey.

The annual Feasts are found 34 times in the New Testament.

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