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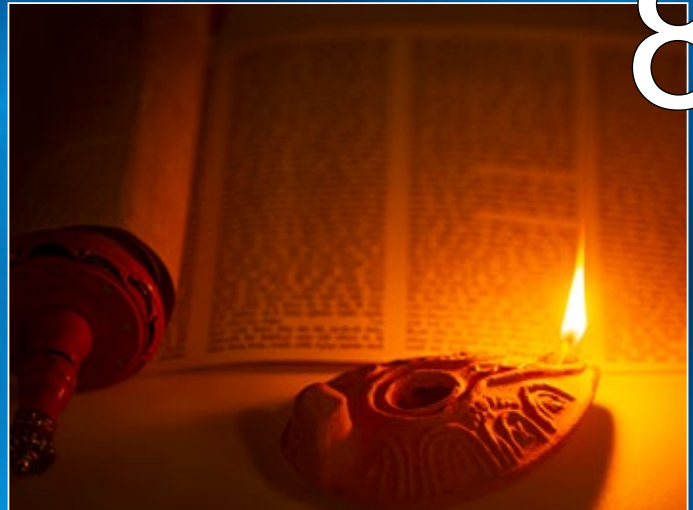
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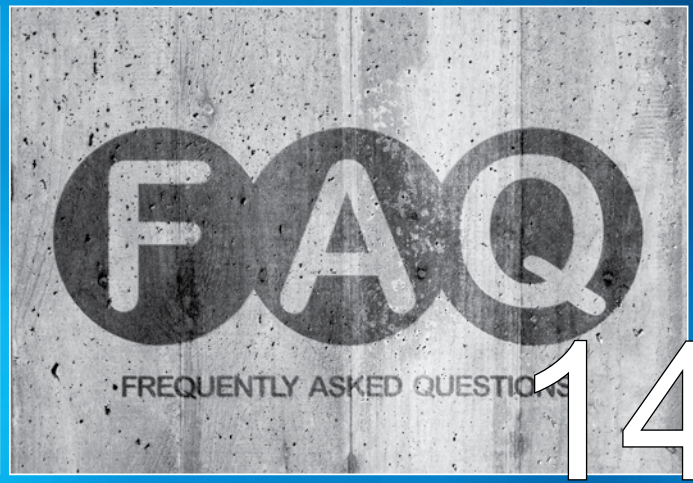
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Restoration Times expounds the close ties between the Old and New Testaments. We teach the continuity and harmony that extend from Yahweh's actions anciently down through His present activity in Yahshua the Messiah. This was also the conviction of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

Deception is what keeps the Truth from the hearts of billions, and is no more evident than in the holiday of Halloween.

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Untangling Halloween's Sinister Web

by Alan Mansager

When someone asks whether you are ready for Halloween (or Xmas) just tell them that you observe the Bible's holidays and that holiday is not in it. That should get them thinking, and hopefully asking serious questions.

Halloween is one of the oldest celebrations in the world. After Christmas, it is the most celebrated and commercially indulgent, secular holiday, having displaced Easter as number 2 in the secular holiday hit parade, to the tune of \$10 billion spent this year on candy, costumes and parties.

Don't ignore the Christmas-ization of Halloween, either. There are now Halloween trees decorated with ghosts and pumpkins, orange strand lights on houses, and even gross displays of evil increasingly popping up as lawn ornaments.

So why does the culture obsess over Halloween? Is it because there's no money in Thanksgiving? There's always a demand out there to party, and this observance is especially attractive in that regard. But it is much more. Halloween is a made-for-Hollywood extravaganza, with all of the elements Hollywood loves: Murder, bedlam, spiritism, fear, gore, intrigue—Halloween has it all.

As the culture indulges in more kinds

of evil, Halloween rises even further. It is not only the most profane of popular observances, but it also competes with itself each year to be even more hideous.

What a weird observance. Think about its strange, over-the-top customs. What redeeming value is there in grotesque displays of guts and gore, monsters and mayhem. The more grotesque it becomes the more the world clamors for more.

Many argue, "But you can't take Halloween fun away from the children." Question: Do you want your children seeing what I just described? Where is the spiritually redeeming value in this observance? How does it teach solid, wholesome, life-preparing lessons that make a child a better adjusted individual?

Compared with the Scriptural holy days, there is no contest whatsoever with the goodness they teach and fulfillment you are left with having observed one. Even at its base the entire trick-or-treat rite is built on extortion. The same thing pirates do off the Somali coast.

Today just as many adults as children revel in this unhallowed observance, and are just as ignorant about why. What's the point of murderous scenes and mayhem all around. A chance to let loose and indulge in

secret obsessions? Is this what people long to join with?

Fun is fun, if it's the right kind. The wholesome variety that leaves you feeling deep-down good, happy and conscience-free.

The Evil That Yahweh Hates

Have you ever looked beneath the surface of this bizarre observance called Halloween? When Yahweh tells us in Jeremiah 10:2 not to learn the way of the heathen, nothing applies better than Halloween.

He warns in Leviticus 19:26, 31: "You shall not eat any thing with the blood: [an appropriate metaphor in this context] neither shall ye use enchantments, nor observe times. Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am Yahweh your Elohim."

Yahweh hates all things evil: divination, sorcery, mediums, spiritists, and Halloween has them all.

It is a fact that the essence of something comes out in its manifestations. You can take a putrefying apple, paint it up, even decorate it with ribbons and bows, but you still have an apple that's rotten to the core. And no matter how good it can be made to appear,

it has no use but to be tossed out.

We just observed the highlight celebration of the Bible: Yahweh's Feast of Tabernacles. Those who attend His feasts discover that just being there fills them with a rich spiritual satisfaction and indescribable glow they never experienced before. It is Yahweh's Spirit working. You begin to sense deep within the contrast with the insignificance and inadequacy of this pitiful world.

Those who treat Yahweh's Feasts as optional just don't comprehend them on multiple levels. Fundamentally they do not know the one they worship or they would never defy Him in such a direct manner. They are too tainted by a history of non-observance.

Non-involvement is forceful opposition in itself. It has its own inertia that pulls against good intentions. Getting others to take the first step and break free of their own inertia and start keeping the Feasts is a first huge step. But it is one everyone who seeks the Kingdom must take.

The Bible's observances are not casual pursuits like the Fourth of July, family reunions, or weekend outings. These are Yahweh's own COMMANDED observances. His called-out believers have no choice. They will attend. Every time a Feast comes around, you can count on their presence. They have been given a command from their very Maker and excuses will not be honored in heaven.

On the other hand, Halloween is an observance bought, blessed and baptized by the Roman Church. Its irreverence is more than legendary. And its only value is to make retailers who sell its merchandise rich.

Paul warns in 2Corinthians 11:14 that Satan masquerades as an "angel of light" He is a counterfeiter par excellence! That means he can make an out-and-out perversion look pleasing ... or at least fun...and so the falsehood looks white as snow.

So what about this holiday? If someone were to question you as to why you don't indulge in it, could you give them good, solid, Scriptural reasons why it is utterly incompatible with the walk of a true Worshiper?

What are the roots behind this holiday? Historically, Halloween is a union of several ancient threads that interlace through the centuries to form the tangled web that exists today. Let's trace each thread back to its origin.

The Celtic Strand

The first thread originated in western Europe with a people known as the Celts. The Celts, who lived in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom, and northern France were a warring, thoroughly pagan people who worshiped many gods. They were known as "Gauls" by the Romans.

Some of these Gauls migrated to what became known as Gaulatia and it was their wicked religious practices that Paul condemned in his Book of Galatians. Galatians 4:8-11:

"But then, when ye knew not Yahweh, ye did service unto them which by nature are no mighty ones. But now, after that ye have known Yahweh, or rather are known of Yahweh, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.

"I fear [for] you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain."

Paul was not condemning the worshipers of Truth here as many think. Notice he charged them with wanting to return to the weak and beggarly elements that kept you in bondage. He was in fact telling these Gauls, these Celts, not to go back to their old, worthless paganism.

So what were these origins?

Legions of Spirits and Demons

The Celts believed that demons and spirits were everywhere. They believed that omens and portents were found under every rock and behind every tree. They counted on their priests, the Druids, to keep them safe from trouble. The Druids were responsible for all religious rituals, as they were the only ones who could talk to a god.

Even though these Celts were ruled by various kings, the real power behind their thrones rested with the Druids. Druids were a secretive, bloodthirsty society of priests who ruled by terror, sorcery and witchcraft. Even the Celtic kings feared the black powers of the Druidic priests.

Now, the most important religious day for the Druids was the celebration of "Samhain, Lord of the Dead," a.k.a. Satan. The Celtic New Year began on November 1. The night before, on October 31, was the night to reverence Samhain. It was the time of the falling of leaves and the seasonal

dying of vegetation when days grew darker and colder—a time chosen by these northern Europeans to celebrate the dead.

There was a prevailing belief among all nations that at death the souls of good men were taken by good spirits to paradise; but the souls of the wicked were left to wander in the space between the earth and the moon, consigned to this unseen world. These wandering spirits were in the habit of haunting the living.

They believed that on the night of Oct. 31 the spirit world came into its closest contact with the mortal world. On this night the disembodied spirits of all the evil people who had died during the preceding year would come back in search of living bodies to possess for the next year. It was believed to be the spirits' only hope for the afterlife.

But all was not lost. There were means to protect oneself from their evil ways.

Peace Offerings for One's Safety

To be free of these spirits the Celts would set out food and provide shelter for them during the night. If they were satisfied with their offerings, they would leave you in peace.

But if food, shelter, and provision were not provided, the evil spirits would cast spells, wreak havoc on man and beast, and endlessly torment the living! If the proper "treat" was not awaiting to appease them, they would respond with an appropriate "trick"—thus was born the "trick-or-treat" ritual.

In modern day Satanism and also in witchcraft covens, this is the day when Satan himself comes to "fellowship" with his followers.

Many changes have occurred over the centuries, but the practice of giving an "offering" has stayed the same. Our culture does it under the guise of fun, but what is the real meaning? Is it not the same old appeasement of Satan himself?

To protect themselves, the Celts would try to fool these wicked spirits by dressing up and masquerading as evil spirits, ghosts, and ghouls themselves. They wore masks



and costumes as disguises so they would not be recognized as mortals and not risk becoming possessed by the evil spirits they thought roamed the towns and countryside on Halloween night.

So now Tommy, with no clue as to why he goes trick or treating, other than he did it last year and the year before and all his friends are doing it (and besides, he loves free goodies) puts on a grotesque costume and knocks on your door pretending to be evil and threatening. He wants a treat or you'll get a trick, just like those malicious spirits of old.

The ghastly climax to this dark night were animal and human sacrifices to placate the "Lord of the Dead" or the devil himself. These rituals were carried out by the priestly Druids who would murder their victims (we won't detail how) and use the blood for religious rites. They would also use the entrails and other body parts to divine the future and forecast the New Year.

Isn't this what Paul said about their divining the future days, months, times and years in Galatians 4? The sacrificial remains were then burned in "bone fires," from which we get "bonfire" without the "e."

This was a deadly serious time for the Celts. They were filled with apprehension. Many dangers lurked – at least in their minds. During this time the ancients believed their crops were in jeopardy, babies could be stolen, farm animals killed, food and milk spoiled – all because of this window of opportunity for evil spirits. It was a frightening time and grim business for the superstitious.

Even though the Celts were eventually conquered by the Romans, their pagan practices never were fully rooted out of Western Europe. Many of their rites also survive in the Xmas observance of today.

When the Puritans came to America, they were far too biblically oriented to indulge in such occult practices. They knew that all forms of the occult were strictly forbidden in the Scriptures.

However, in the 18th and 19th centuries a host of immigrants came to America from the British Isles during the Irish potato famine. They brought with them many of their ancient pagan practices, including Samhain, the Festival of the Dead, or Halloween. The result was that this thoroughly occult and sinister observance took rapid root in American soil.



Halloween-keeping Christians fool themselves into believing they can celebrate with the devil and still be saved by J-sus!

The Roman Strand

A second thread in the tangled web originates with the ancient Romans.

Besides the Celts, the Romans and many other ancient peoples, celebrated harvest time in the fall of every year. Their festival was in honor of Pomona, goddess of fruit. Now you know why apples are so prominent at Halloween time—with apple treats, apple ducking, putting an apple in the trick-or-treat bag and all the rest. Although societies may die, their beliefs and practices live on, embraced by the next generation.

It is natural for carnal man to keep alive his traditions, especially the profane. Man in his natural state is drawn to evilness and sin. It comes naturally. Following Yahweh's ways is unnatural for most. It takes dedication and unyielding effort.

Secular holidays are overwhelmingly popular. Yahweh's commanded observances are not so much. That's why you find a few thousand keeping the Feast of Tabernacles and millions observing Halloween.

Jeremiah 17:9 says about the natural man, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I Yahweh search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings."

The Roman general Agrippa built the first Pantheon (temple for all of their gods) in 27 B.C.E. It was rebuilt by the Roman Emperor Hadrian in about C.E. 100 and dedicated primarily to "Cybele" the goddess of nature. Since it was a "Pan"theon (*pan*-*theo* meaning "all gods"), many pagan deities

were also worshiped there.

The Pantheon became the principal place of worship for the Romans and the place where they went to honor and pray for their dead.

Rome eventually fell to the invading barbarian horde, who overran the Pantheon, along with everything else. Gradually, it fell into disrepair. In C.E. 607 it was recaptured by the Emperor Phocas, who gave it to Pope Boniface IV. Boniface then re-consecrated and dedicated the Pantheon to the Virgin Mary.

In other words, the Roman church baptized the pagan temple and enlisted it into its own worship.

From C.E. 609 the Pantheon was used as a Christian church (Santa Marie Rotunda). It was an easy enough transition from Cybele, goddess of nature, to Mary, mother of the Savior. Every May a major celebration was held in the Pantheon to the Virgin Mary.

Repurposing took over a lot of once pagan edifices. Instead of tearing them down as Yahweh commanded Israel to do with the pagan altars in the lands they conquered, they just moved their own icons into them and kept using them. The result was a blurring and confusion of worship. Exactly what Yahweh wanted His people to avoid.

While the Roman Church had sought to "Christianize" the culture, it has been dominated by pagan trappings. And so today Halloween-keeping Christians fool themselves into believing they can celebrate with the devil and still be saved by J-sus!

This second stream that flows into Halloween involves syncretism – the combining and merging of different religious distinctives into one religion. They don't call it the universal church for nothing.

Isaiah 5:20 warns: "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

Halloween is one of the blatant examples of the merging of differing religious beliefs into a single observance.

Along comes the pagan Roman Emperor Constantine and in CE 313 he makes Catholicism the official state religion in the Edict of Milan. Now the whole Bible-confessing world was sucked into this hodgepodge religion, with only a faithful remnant left.

During the Dark Ages, the Roman Church

had sought to increase its influence over many pagans—sometimes more successfully than others. Many pagan superstitions and practices that the Church had early on sought to eradicate began to reappear in Europe during this period. Involvement in witchcraft became widespread.

Witchcraft: Part of the Tangled Web

One of the key rites of witchcraft was the number of celebrations held each year called “Witches’ Sabbaths.” The most important of those was known as the “High Sabbath,” or the “Black Sabbath,” which occurred on October 31.

It was generally a night of feasting and revelry. It was that feast that provided the many trappings of modern-day Halloween, like witches riding broomsticks, black cats, skulls and pumpkins—so much of today’s Halloween rites stem directly from this Witches’ Sabbath celebrated in Europe during the Dark Ages.

Some believed spirits could be warded off by carving a grotesque face into a gourd or root vegetable like a turnip and placing a candle inside. The word jack-o’-lantern is an abbreviation of “Jack of the Lantern.” Jack is another name for Satan. In the Irish tale, a man named Jack was fond of playing tricks on the devil. Annoyed, the devil tossed Jack a burning coal from hell. With the coal in his “lantern” Jack was condemned to walk the earth forever searching for rest.

Because ghosts and witches feared fire, the candle within the jack-o’-lantern, with its scary face, became defensive armor against evil influences when placed in front of the home.

Witches used skulls on Halloween to communicate better with the dead. It was also believed that witches derived from black cats their power to invoke evil spirits. The Celts were particularly fearful of black cats because they thought the animals were originally humans who had been transformed by sinister powers.

The Church Strand

The third strand in the historical development of this heathen holiday gives it the name “Halloween.”

In the early Roman Church there was a movement to honor and reverence the lives of certain church leaders and martyrs of the



It never crosses the minds of most to ask what Yahweh their Creator thinks about what they do and how they live out their lives, and Halloween does not escape that.

faith. They were put in a special category and called “saints.” While the Bible calls living believers saints, the Roman church uses the term for dead church people.

One saint was honored for each day of the year. Church father Chrysostom tells us that as early as the 4th century the Eastern Church celebrated a festival in honor of the saints.

Eventually there came to be more saints than there were individual days to honor them. The solution was to consolidate the remembrance of all of them into one special day called “All Saints Day.”

In CE 705 Pope Gregory III changed the celebration date of All Saints Day to November 1. In 834 Pope Gregory IV extended the celebration to the entire Roman Church. This was an apparent attempt to coincide with the ancient Druidic festival of “Samhain.” The Church wanted to accommodate itself to the conquering German Saxons and Norsemen of Scandinavia. So it simply baptized yet another pagan celebration.

Even later, in CE 1000, the church would make November 2 All Souls’ Day to honor the dead. It was celebrated much as Samhain, with bonfires, parades, and dressing up in costumes as saints, angels, and devils.

If the Celts wanted to keep Samhain, they could simply switch over to All Saints Day instead. To make it more enticing they

just swapped symbols. The problem is, those symbols of Samhain were the ones to survive to be the predominant representation of the transformed observance.

So where did the name Halloween derive?

Together, the three celebrations, the eve of All Saints’, All Saints’, and All Souls’, were encompassed by Allhallowmas. It was shortened into “All Hallows” for the “hallowed ones” or “saints” who were being remembered. The night before October 31 came to be called “All Hallow Evening.” It, too gradually was shortened to “All Hallow Eve,” then “Hallow Ev’en,” to finally become “Halloween.”

So a day that started out as a remembrance of the saints progressed to a reverence for the saints and finally ended in a worship of the saints. This is the polytheistic pagan out worshipping his many gods. And remember, they now had the pagan Pantheon to do it in!

Halloween was an unholy marriage of the “saints” and “Samhain,” a union of “light” and “darkness,” an effort to commingle the “cup of the Master” with the “cup of demons.”

Turn to 1 Corinthians 10 and see what Yahweh Himself says about this syncretism. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 10:19: “What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing? But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to Yahweh: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of Yahweh, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of Yahweh’s table, and of the table of devils.”

Satan Must Be Rejoicing

These strands have intertwined to form the polluted net called Halloween that ensnares so many unsuspecting celebrators.

Satan has given the true, sinister nature of Halloween a seemingly benign, cultural veneer of innocent fun and even respectability.

He is the master of deceit and disguise. His favorite deception is to convince educated people that he doesn’t exist. What better way for him to infiltrate minds and hearts than through the ruse that he himself is just a harmless caricature in a red body suit.

It is all just a fun diversion and amusement for the children. Just put him in the same “harmless” category as fairy tales and make-believe.

When Yahweh gave the Promised Land to the early Israelites, He clearly warned them in Deuteronomy 18:9: “When thou art come into the land which Yahweh thy Elohim giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. 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: and because of these abominations Yahweh thy Elohim doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with Yahweh thy Elohim. For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, Yahweh thy Elohim hath not suffered thee so to do.”

Whenever the apostles encountered fortune telling, witchcraft or the occult, they rebuked it and resisted it with utmost vigor. Read Acts 8 about Simon the sorcerer wanting to buy the Holy Spirit. He was told in verse 22 to “Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray Elohim, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.”

The enterprising merchants of Ephesus had capitalized on the economic opportunities of the occult and witchcraft just as today’s merchants have exploited Halloween into a financial bonanza!

The Undoing of the Unenlightened

Today the masses just drift along letting the culture shape their personal beliefs and practices, not stopping to question anything the world observes but leap blindly over the cliff. It never crosses the minds of most to ask what Yahweh their Creator thinks about what they do and how they live out their lives, and Halloween does not escape that.

Can we mix light with darkness? Is a little compromise with idolatry acceptable to a sovereign Heavenly Father? Will He reward such behavior? Maybe He’ll look the

other way when we dabble in these annual rites and then embrace us again when it is all over. “C’mon, it’s for the children, He understands,” they reason.

Imagine Yahweh giving a passive nod of approval as He sees evil and witchcraft being glorified at Halloween. Imagine this in light of Exodus 22:18, where He thunders in His law: “You shall not suffer a witch to live.”

Participating in the practices of rank heathens as is done in the observance of Halloween is expressly denounced in the Word.

Deuteronomy 12:29-32: “When Yahweh your Elohim shall cut off the nations from before you, whither you go to possess them, and you succeed them, and dwell in their land; Take heed to yourself that you be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before you; and that you enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. You shall not do so unto Yahweh your Elohim: for every abomination to Yahweh, which he hates, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods. What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: you shall not add thereto, nor diminish from it.”

One of the biggest problems Old

Testament Israel struggled with was their inability to keep their worship pure. The Apostle Paul in 1Corinthians 10:6 tells us that their experiences are an example for us “that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.” Yahweh does not accept compromise with any other belief system, let alone practices that spring from the darkness of rank heathen religion and superstition.

It is a basic principle that the origin of something determines its nature. You can take a rotting plank, paint it, decorate it with ribbons and bows, but you still have rotten lumber. And no matter how good it can be made to appear, it has no real value but to be burned up.

Halloween is an occult observance baptized and consecrated by the Roman Church. Its vileness is obvious. It has no better purpose than to make retailers rich.

Paul warns in 2Corinthians 11:14 that Satan masquerades as an “angel of light.” He is the counterfeiter par excellence! That means he can make an out-and-out perversion look good and a falsehood look like the truth.

So what about this holiday? If someone were to question you as to why you don’t keep it, could you give them solid, Scriptural reasons that the sinister observance is incompatible with the walk of a True Worshiper? 🦋



Unmasking Halloween

Murder and mayhem are the core themes, which prompts one to ask whether glorifying evil is wholesome and enriching to anyone, let alone innocent children. Consider the message being sent to children when society gives its sanction to the forces of darkness. And even churches are getting into it. “Trunk or Treat” celebrations are increasingly popular.

yrm.org/unmasking-halloween



Why They Call Them ‘Testaments’

The terms New Covenant and New Testament are often confused. At the core of the biblical covenant lies obedience, the first thing many want to throw out. No wonder “testament” was chosen over “covenant”!

A testament refers to a statement affirming the value of something. It is where the term “last will and testament” derives. To label the two divisions of the Bible “Old Testament” and “New Testament” is regrettable. In fact, use of the term “testament” conceals a core truth about the Scriptures that has contributed to 2,000 years of misunderstanding and serious doctrinal error.

The word “testament” comes from the Latin *testamentum*, translated from the Greek *diatheke*. The Greek means either testament or covenant. *Diatheke* is found in Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians in an account of the Last Supper. Paul recorded Yahshua’s words in 1 Corinthians 11:25:

“This cup is the new covenant [*diatheke*] in my blood.” We see how testament would not fit here because “new” is *kainos* (2537), as in freshness. *Vines Expository Dictionary* explains: “...not new in time [as if appearing for the first time] but as to form or quality, of a different nature...”

The first recorded designation of the collection of the Hebrew books was by Melito of Sardis in the late second century (recorded in Eusebius’ *Ecclesiastical History*). In his listing of the books of the Hebrew Scriptures (the first such list among the extant Christian writings), he called

the group of writings the “Old Covenant” (Greek: *palaia diatheke*).

The Greek word for “covenant” (*diatheke*) was translated by Jerome in the fifth century into the Latin Vulgate as *testamentum*. Because the Latin Vulgate was widely used throughout the Middle Ages, it greatly influenced later translations into vernacular languages. Thus, one of the first English translations of the Bible, made by John Wyclif in the fourteenth century (1382), translated *diatheke* as “testament,” following the Latin *testamentum*. William Tyndale’s sixteenth-century English translation followed suit (1524), along with the Geneva Bible (1557) and the 1611 King James Bible.

So now the two divisions of the English Bible are known as the Old and New Testaments, although in the English text *diatheke* is usually translated “covenant.” The two words are therefore regarded as basically synonymous, but this is misleading.

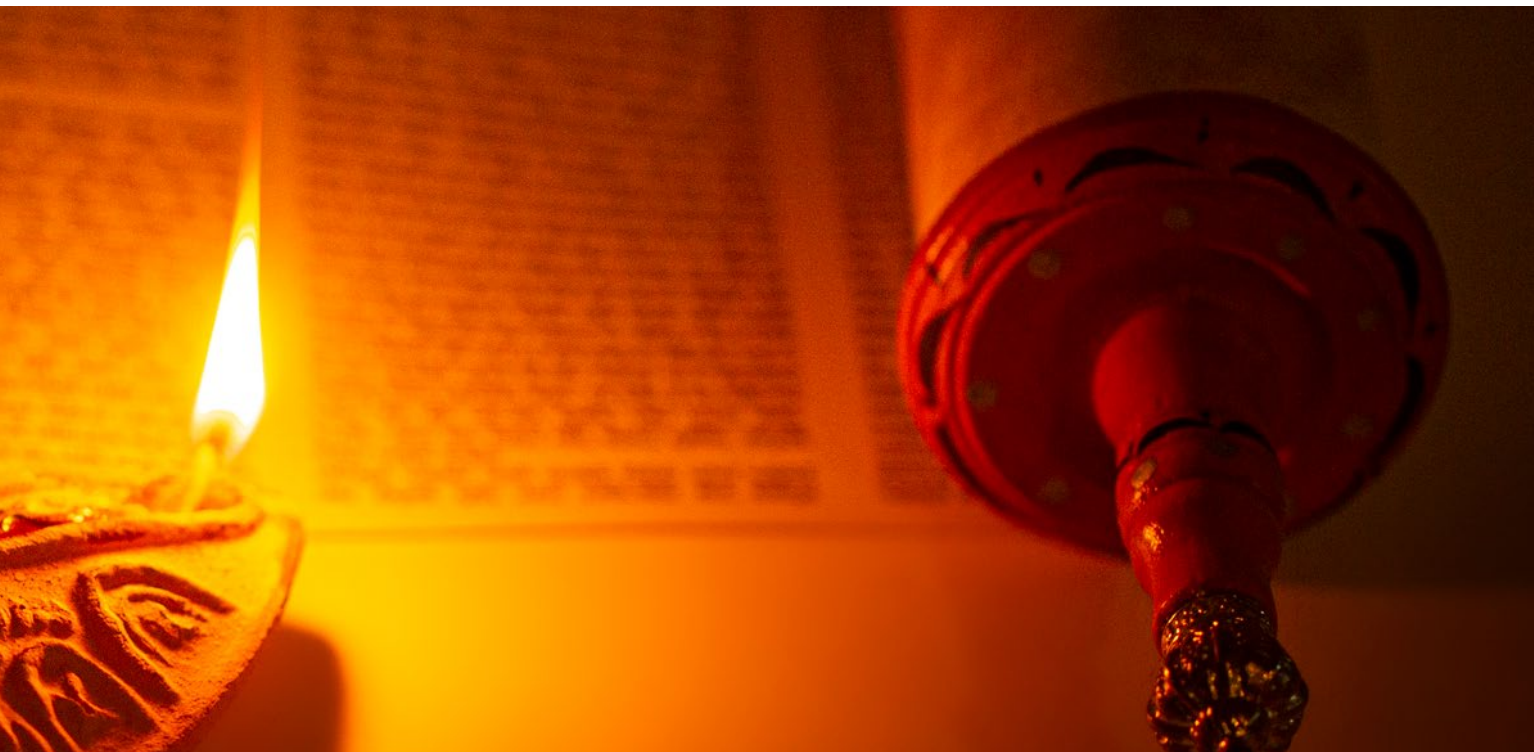
Kainos in Acts 2 is said of *Vines*, “These languages, however, were ‘new’ and ‘different,’ not in the sense that they had never been heard before, or that they were new to the hearers, for it is plain from v. 8 that this is not the case; they were new languages to the speakers, different from those in which they were accustomed to speak.” If this were glossolalia, it would be

totally new. It’s the same with the “new” covenant. When Jerome translated the Greek to Latin in the fourth century, he used *testamentum* 30 times.

The word for “covenant” (*diatheke*) is used only about 30 times in the New Testament — mostly in the letter to the



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Hebrews. In the Evangelists it is in reference to the institution of the Eucharist: for example, see Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24 and Luke 22:20 — just like Paul's account.

Contrasted with the Old "Testament" the word "covenant" appears almost 300 times.

The Old Testament was written down as a whole unit in Greek (the Septuagint) in the second century BCE. Of course, parts of it had originally been recorded in Hebrew. In Hebrew texts the word for "covenant" is *berith*, which best translates as "to bind" as in an agreement.

While the Latin *testamentum* and Hebrew *berith* all roughly translate as "covenant," there are differences. Understanding these differences makes the meaning of "Old and New Testament" more powerful.

Berith most often meant an agreement, even a treaty, between two parties. Sometimes these were sealed in blood. (*Berith* can also mean "to cut.") Yahweh made a covenant promise to make Abraham's heirs a great nation and, again, to bring the Israelites out of Egypt.

Not an Exact Translation

While New Testament writers used the Greek *diatheke* for "covenant," many

scholars note that *diatheke* is not exactly a translation of *berith*. Another word that might have been more appropriate is *syntheke*, which means "to bind together" as a law or treaty might do.

Diatheke instead refers to an agreement more like a "last will and testament." And *diatheke* was clearly the word chosen by the New Testament writers. Why?

Syntheke and *berith* usually refer to an agreement to be fulfilled in the future, like a treaty or the probate of our last wills and testaments.

Old Testament covenants can indeed be seen in that light: Yahweh promised Abraham that, in the future, he would father a great nation. Our wills are seen by our heirs as things they will get in the future. We have to die first, though.

But a Greek living in the Greek world of the New Testament would have understood *diatheke* differently. In Syro-Grecian law of the time, as noted by the early 20th century biblical theologian Geerhardus Vos, a *diatheke* disposition of property (like a bequest in a will) could be made during one's lifetime and have an immediate effect.

So if you made someone your heir, it was an immediate form of legal adoption. No waiting on the future.

So from the Old Testament covenant as

a binding agreement between two parties, sealed in blood, with a future benefit, we now find a covenant that immediately makes someone part of the family. ✓

Mystery on Your Bookself?

For many, the Bible is just a history book about ancient people and a demanding Creator. They miss the connection it has with the modern world and the many issues we deal with daily. But the Scriptures detail the secrets of creation, the great plan for man, and the glorious future for those who prove faithful.

Read the booklet, ***The Most Misunderstood Book of all Time.***





the Final Spiritual Fruit

by Randy Folliard

The last, but definitely not the least, fruit of the Spirit that we will focus on is temperance. This word in Greek is *egkrateia* and is described in **Strong's Concordance** as "self-control (especially continence)." **Thayer's Greek Lexicon** defines it as: "Self-control (the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, especially his sensual appetite)."

Based on what we see from both of these sources, the broad meaning of temperance is self-control, but **Thayer's** also adds "mastering our desires and passions."

Now think about this phrase. The first word that stands out is "mastering." This word conveys the thought of having complete control of our desires and passions. How many can say they've accomplished this?

What about the words "desires" and "passions"? Both of these speak to our flesh and carnal nature. Now it's important to understand that our desires and passions are not always evil. For example, intimacy within marriage is a blessing from Yahweh, but fornication and adultery are serious sins. So not all desires and passions would be considered negative, but with all desires and passions there is a need for temperance or self-control.

Proverbs 25:28 compares a lack

temperance with broken-down walls. "Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control." **Matthew Henry's Commentary** reads, "The bad case of a vicious man, who has not this rule over his own spirit, who, when temptations to excess in eating or drinking are before him, has no government of himself, when he is provoked breaks out into exorbitant passions, such a one is like a city that is broken down and without walls. All that is good goes out, and forsakes him; all that is evil breaks in upon him. He lies exposed to all the temptations of Satan and becomes an easy prey to that enemy; he is also liable to many troubles and vexations; it is likewise as much a reproach to him as it is to a city to have its walls ruined."

Temperance Safeguards Behavior

The notion of a city without walls implies a vulnerability to sin and to the influence of Satan. This is precisely what happens when we have no temperance or restraint; we leave ourselves open and susceptible to sin and the carnal nature of man. This is why temperance is such an important attribute.

If we're going to follow Yahweh's Word and walk in Yahshua's examples, then we must learn what it means to have temperance.

Another word for temperance is

discipline. One of the definitions for discipline in the **Merriam-Webster Dictionary** is "training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character." This is a great example of what it means to a believer in the Messiah to show temperance. Yahweh's Word is the trainer and we are to use that Word to correct, mold, and perfect our mental faculties and moral character.

It takes temperance to show patience with someone who is slow when we're in a hurry or to show forgiveness when we've been wronged. It takes self-control to show restraint when it comes to our diet or to shut off the TV or radio when we see or hear something morally offensive. It takes temperance to be a positive example that others can look to and learn from.

Spiritual Maturity

These are just a few examples. The bottom line is, as believers in the Messiah we must learn to exercise control and discipline over our thoughts and actions if we're to be found worthy of Yahweh's calling.

Paul speaks about the need for restraint in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27: "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the

mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”

Here Paul speaks of temperance as if running a race. Even though there are multiple participants, there can only be one winner, so we should run so that we can obtain. We run in part by showing temperance and self-control; our end goal is Yahweh’s Kingdom and to obtain this goal, we must master our desires and passions.

In verse 27 Paul tells us that he had to bring his body into subjection so that he would not become a castaway. The *American Standard Version* translates this verse as: “But I buffet my body, and bring it into bondage: lest by any means, after that I have preached to others, I myself should be rejected.”

The *New International Version* reads: “No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.” The *Living Bible* reads, “Like an athlete I punish my body, treating it roughly, training it to do what it should, not what it wants to. Otherwise I fear that after enlisting others for the race, I myself might be declared unfit and ordered to

stand aside.”

Sinners Unworthy of the Kingdom

From all these translations we find the message is that to be found worthy of Yahweh’s Kingdom that we must show restraint with our minds and bodies. If we don’t, we risk losing the prize of Yahweh’s Kingdom, being rejected and becoming a castaway. In some ways this is what Yahshua said in Matthew 7.

“Many will say to me in that day, Master, Master, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (vv. 22-23).

As with Paul, Yahshua’s point is that we cannot pursue sin and iniquity and still be found worthy of Yahweh’s Kingdom. Even Paul feared being rejected or becoming a castaway. If Paul, being an apostle and devout believer in Yahshua, could’ve lost his salvation, we too can suffer the same fate if we’re not careful.

It’s so important that we apply temperance to our lives. To be called and chosen we must learn to control our thoughts and behavior, which is difficult for human beings in general.

Galatians 5:16-17 addresses this very subject: “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For

the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”

Walking in the Spirit represents the Spirit and truth of Yahweh. Paul explains how our flesh and Spirit are continually at war with one another. Since we’re all human beings and susceptible to the pulls of the flesh, I know we can relate to what Paul is saying.

Most, if not all, of us desire to do the right thing when it comes to Yahweh’s Word, but we don’t always succeed. Maybe we struggle with patience or anger when it comes to our relationships; possibly we struggle with pride when it comes to admitting fault; perhaps we struggle with impure thoughts.

Whatever our struggle is, as believers we must strive not to yield to the flesh, but to the Spirit. In other words, we must learn to control our behavior and thoughts when it comes to these issues. But as we all know, doing so is much easier said than done.

We all have struggles when it comes to our flesh and overcoming those can be very hard. In many ways, temperance may be the most difficult fruit of the Spirit to master.

But even though it’s difficult, as believers we have a calling and an obligation to live by the Spirit and not the flesh, which is why Paul stated that he had to place his body into bondage lest he himself would be rejected or



become a castaway. This requires a great deal of discipline and restraint.

Bringing It All Under Control

And while I may disagree with their theology and religion, a good example of this discipline is a Buddhist monk. In fact, the discipline we find within many monastic communities is far and above anything we show as believers. By citing this source I'm not endorsing or supporting Buddhism, but simply sharing what demonstrates the extent of their discipline.

An excerpt from a Buddhist source reads: "Beneficial is control of eye, Control of ear is beneficial too, Beneficial is control of nose, Control of tongue is beneficial too, Bodily control is beneficial, Control of speech is beneficial too, Beneficial is control of mind, Everywhere restraint is beneficial."

As believers in the Messiah we should be equally disciplined when it comes to what we see, what we say, what we do, and what we think. Again, this is what Paul meant when he spoke about bringing his body into bondage.

How much discipline and restraint do we show in our lives? Are we bringing our body, including our thoughts and behavior, into bondage, or are we allowing our flesh to run amok?

Temperance for Yahshua's Coming

In Romans 13:12-14, Paul speaks about the need for restraint or temperance in regard to the coming of Yahshua. "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Master Yahshua Messiah, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."

When Paul says "the day is at hand," I believe he's referring to the Second Coming of Yahshua the Messiah. While we don't know the timing of Yahshua's coming, we can see many of the signs coming to pass.

For this reason, now is not the time to be careless or negligent with our devotion to Yahweh. We must cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, which is identical to saying that we're to live by the Spirit and not the flesh.

Paul speaks about not giving ourselves over to drunkenness, immorality, strife, and envy. The solution for all of this is temperance. For example, to stop immorality or wantonness we must exercise control of our thoughts and actions.

Remember that an action begins with a thought; if we can control our negative thoughts we can eliminate our negative actions or behavior.

Paul closes this passage by declaring that we're to put on Messiah and give no provision to the flesh. "Putting on Messiah" simply means that we're to emulate Yahshua. Does our behavior reflect Yahshua the Messiah? As His disciples, we're commanded to follow in His examples, meaning that we must do as He did.

Paul also cautions about not making provision for the flesh. This is one reason emulating Yahshua is so important. If we do as Yahshua did we won't be giving in to our flesh. We achieve this by living a life of temperance, learning to discipline our minds and bodies in a way that makes us Messiah-like.

Romans 5:2-4 shows the progression of achieving this discipline. "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of Elohim. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation works patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope."

The process begins with tribulation, which produces patience, then experience, and lastly, hope. "Tribulation" simply means some sort of hardship or trial. The word "patience" comes from the Greek *hupomone* and refers to

endurance or stamina. "Experience" is *dokime* in Greek and denotes an approved or tried character.

Finally, "hope," from the Greek word *elpis*, signifies faith or confidence. In other words, hardship produces endurance, that endurance then generates good character, and good character in turn creates faith or confidence.

When Paul mentions hope, he's most likely speaking about anticipating Yahweh's Kingdom. Thus, when we undergo tribulation, we build hope in Yahweh's Kingdom.

But how do we get from tribulation to hope? In large part through temperance or self-control. It takes discipline to continue on and not give up when facing hardship.

Therefore, temperance is not only valuable when dealing with our human nature, but also when we're facing some sort of trial or obstacle. The prize that awaits is vastly greater than anything we will ever achieve in this life. What could possibly be better than eternal life in Yahweh's Kingdom?

Overcome the World

In Romans 12:1-2, Paul exhorts us not to conform to this world. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of Elohim, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto Elohim, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of Elohim."

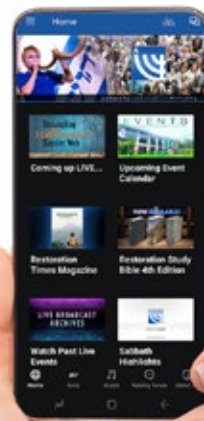
We comply with Paul's mandate by obeying Yahweh's Word and reflecting His ethics and values. This includes everything from observing the Sabbath to loving our neighbor as ourselves. Paul also speaks about not conforming to this world, which includes the sins and filth that we find around us. Rather, we're to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

"Transformed" in Greek is *metamorphoo*; Strong's defines this word as, "to transform (literally or figuratively, 'metamorphose.'" The *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines "metamorphose" as, "change or cause to change completely in form or nature."

To metamorphose is a caterpillar turning into a butterfly. The original form is so vastly different that it's no longer

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recognizable. As believers, we should have this same radical change. We should be a very different person from what we were originally.

This change can be achieved in part through temperance. You see, it takes self-control and discipline to change who we are into the one we should be. To no longer be conformed to this world and be transformed by the renewing of our minds takes a tremendous amount of change and change cannot happen without temperance. Without this trait, we simply cannot be the person Yahweh wants us to be.

A similar message is found in Titus 2:11-13. "For the grace of Elohim that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying perverseness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and

holds as true for us as it did for Paul.


Paul Prepared for the Kingdom

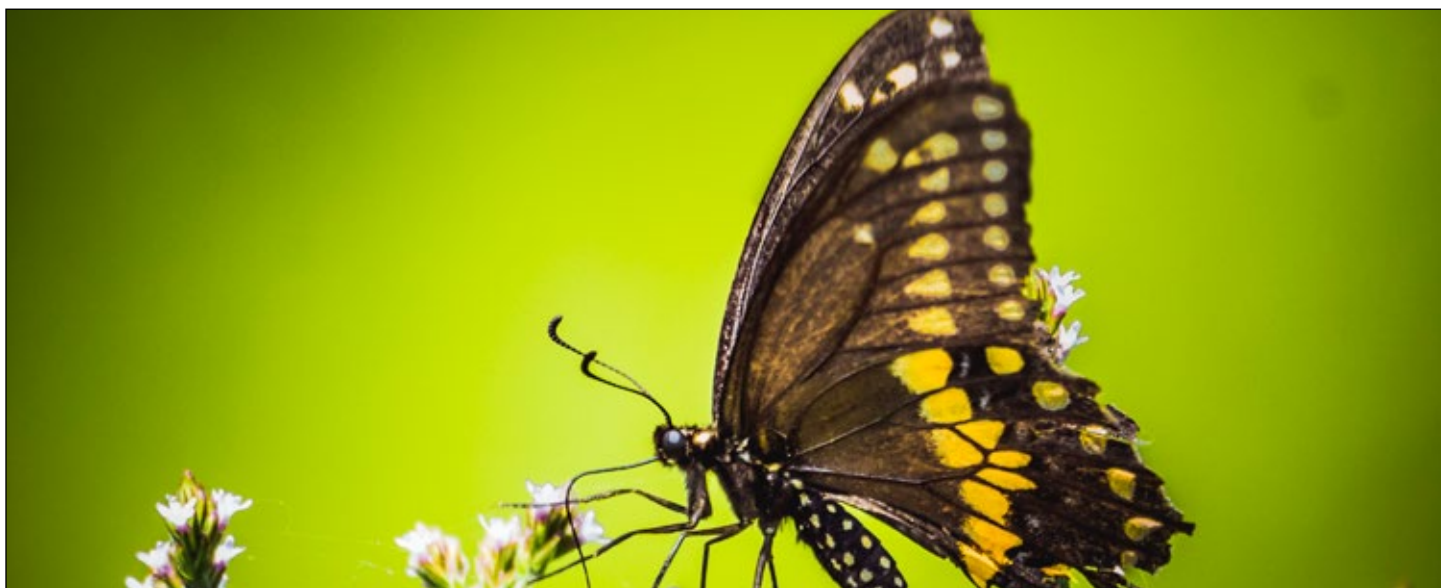
Peter also speaks about Yahweh's Kingdom in his first epistle. "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of Elohim through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Yahshua Messiah" (1Pet. 1:4-7).

Here Peter refers to the kingdom of Yahweh as an inheritance that is imperishable.

The life we have now is very short. As David proclaims in Psalm 103:15-17, "As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of Yahweh is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children."

This present life is but a vapor, a moment in time, but Yahweh's Kingdom is forever and will never vanish away.

The Apostle Paul pursued this Kingdom by placing his physical body into bondage, by showing constraint and temperance. If we desire this prize, then we must do the same. 



piously, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great Elohim and our Saviour Yahshua Messiah."

Many believe that grace is simply Yahweh's favor, but based on what we find here, it's much more; it's to teach us to deny deviancy and worldly lusts. It is Yahweh's favor that brings us to a state of repentance, a turning away from sin and living a life of righteousness, which we accomplish through temperance or self-control.

This is what Paul's referring to when he talks about bringing his body into bondage. He realized that to achieve the prize of Yahweh's Kingdom, drastic change was required. This

The word "incorruptible" is applicable to something that doesn't decay or ruin and the word "undefiled" refers to something that is pure and unpolluted. So, we find here that there's no end to Yahweh's Kingdom which is free from sin.

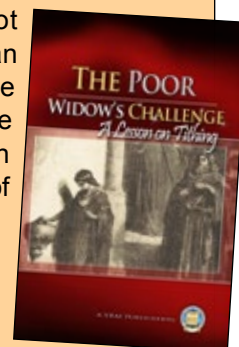
Peter goes on to say this inheritance is reserved in heaven for us. This doesn't mean that we're going to heaven; His Kingdom is reserved for us. This is the prize that awaits those called and chosen of Yahweh, those who overcome and live their lives now for Him.

For many people this life is not easy, but no matter what we go through the destination is worth the effort. Nothing is greater and holds more promise than Yahweh's 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.

The Poor Widow's Challenge
yrm.org/booklets



Q Why did Paul say to go ahead and eat whatever is put before you when he knew all about the clean food laws of Leviticus 11?

A The Scripture is 1Corinthians 10:27-31: "If any of them that believe not bid you to a feast, and you be disposed to go; whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no question for conscience sake. But if any man say unto you, This is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not for his sake that showed it, and for conscience sake: for the earth is Yahweh's, and the fulness thereof: Conscience, I say, not your own, but of the other: for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience? For if I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that for which I give thanks? Whether therefore you eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of Elohim."

These scriptures have been used to justify eating unclean meats, which are not even mentioned here. The subject is about sacrifices made to idols.

Notice the statement in verse 25 of this chapter, "Whatsoever is sold in the shambles [meat market], that eat asking no questions for conscience sake: for the earth is Yahweh's, and the fulness thereof."

In the ancient meat market it was far easier than it is today to distinguish between clean and unclean meat, because almost the whole animal was displayed and the butcher would cut your order from the carcase just as you requested it.

However, it was impossible to determine whether the animal had been sacrificed to an idol or not. Sacrifices to idols were sacrificed to devils in worship, not to Yahweh (verse 20).

Notice another previous verse, "Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?" (v.18). What was sacrificed on Israel's altar? Wasn't it only clean animals? Specifically, bulls, sheep, goats, doves and pigeons.

Our sacrifice today is the Lamb of Elohim (John 1:29, 36; 1Pet. 1:19; Rev. 5:6, etc.)? We partake of His sacrifice at the Passover Memorial once a year. This is Yahweh's clean sacrifice. All of those clean animals reatest and cleanest sacrifice of all, which was Yahweh's beloved Son (See 1Cor. 10:16-17). If we are partakers of that wondrous sacrifice, then we should not have fellowship with devils nor participate in their worship with their sacrifices (vv 20-21).

Many of the meats sold in the meat market had been sacrificed to idols, but not all. Therefore, Paul says to buy it, asking no questions. In other words, don't ask whether the meat had been sacrificed to idols because idols mean nothing to the True Worshiper. The only caveat is whether eating the meat might cause another to stumble (RSB note on 10:25).

Now notice verse 27, "If any of them that believe not bid you to a feast..." "To a feast" is an addition to the Greek. It does not appear in the autographs. This addition appears to make it acceptable to take part in a pagan festival, when such is not the case. It is simply saying, "If anyone

invites you to a meal at his house."

These Scriptures, as so many others, have been twisted to say and mean something that was not intended because of translators who had preconceived beliefs.



Clean foods for Health and Spiritual Well-being



The first sin committed by man was a violation of a food law. A lesson illustrated with food taught the Apostle Peter and Bible believers throughout history not to be prejudiced, and that led to the first Gentile convert to the faith as well.

Is what we eat still significant? Why were we given food laws in the Scriptures anyway if we can eat anything we want today and not offend Yahweh?

Yahweh made certain species to be consumed and others non-edible. Find out which and why. Request the free booklet, **Clean Foods, What the Bible Teaches.**

yrm.org/request-booklet

Q Something about the Covid-19 vaccine scares me because of all the bad side effects I keep hearing about. Should a Bible believer get the shot? What in Yahweh's Word would prohibit it?

A The SARS COV2 virus is a genetically engineered disease. This man-manipulated virus was in the planning stages for years. The virus is an infectious agent that reproduces only inside living cells, as all viruses.

More viral strains are coming out, leading some to believe that we will never be free of it, like influenza that develops variant strains each year. Doctors have reported that more than 80 new Covid vaccines are in development. Some with the ability to change your DNA by the mRNA, as is already happening with some. DNA is the genetic code found in every one of your cells, which makes you who you are. Your identity at the cellular level is most fundamental to preserve and protect.

Putting a substance in your system that can alter your DNA pollutes Yahweh's sacred design and alters who you are. First Corinthians 15:38 reads: "But Elohim giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body."

The Covid-19 shot is a new technology using mRNA, insertion of genetic material into cells to produce the spike proteins of the Corona virus to induce an antibody response. Restructuring of RNA in the body manipulates the body's immune system and fundamentally changes genetic makeup. This is against Genesis 1:11 and 1Corinthians 6:19.

Additionally, the covid vaccines all have MRC-5, which are fetal cells of aborted babies — an abomination in Yahweh's eyes on two counts. We read in 1Corinthians 3:16: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of Yahweh, and that the Spirit of Elohim dwelleth in you?" Does Yahweh look favorably on putting cells from murdered babies into our bodies?

No one knows what serious health issues from the vaccine await in the years ahead. We know a doctor personally who had natural immunity after recovering from the disease but then took the shot and suffered immediate paralysis of an arm and leg. He said permanent limb paralysis has also happened to 180,000 others who took the shot. He also now suffers an autoimmune disorder.

In light of these facts, believers should trust Yahweh at His Word in Psalm 91.

The medical community is promoting the vaccine while silencing alternative treatments like Hydroxychloroquine and Ivermectin, both potent and successful virus killers. Only the vaccines are promoted. To mandate the vaccine under Emergency Use Authorization, safety studies don't need to be performed, nor is there any liability for the manufacturers. "For thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries [Greek *pharmakeia* = pharmaceuticals] were all nations deceived" (Revelation 18:23).

Q Should I read and study the Apocrypha? I know that there are many other books that were not put in the Bible.

A The books generally recognized as constituting the Apocrypha in the Old Testament are: 1,2 Maccabees; Prayer of Manasses; 1, 2 Esdras; Tobit; Judith; Wisdom; Ecclesiasticus a.k.a. Sirach; Baruch and Epistle of Jeremy; supplements to Esther and three additions to Daniel; The Song of the Three Children, Susanna and the Elders, the Destruction of Bel and the Dragon; and the Letters of Jeremiah. The NT apocrypha include: the Gospel of Peter, Gospel of Nicodemus (also called the "Acts of Pilate"), Gospel of Bartholomew, Gospel of Marcion (mid 2nd century), Gospel of Judas (also called the "Gospel of Judas Iscariot"), Gospel of Mary (also called the "Gospel of Mary Magdalene"), Gospel of Philip, Gospel of Thomas, and acts of the various apostles.

Apocrypha means "things hidden or concealed." It is from the Greek word *apokryphos* and it concerns writings that at first were not read publicly. Later, apocrypha came to be understood as spurious and uncanonical writings. There are eight reasons the Apocrypha are not inspired Scripture:

- Unlike with the Scriptures, none of the apocryphal writers claims to be inspired.
- Unlike the Old Testament Scriptures, the Apocrypha are nowhere quoted in the New.
- The Apocrypha are tainted with errors in fact and time, exposing their uninspiration.
- The Apocrypha contain crazy statements which not only contradict the "canonical" scriptures but also themselves. For example, in the two Books of Maccabees, Antiochus Epiphanes is made to die three different deaths in three different places.
- The Apocrypha include doctrines in variance with the Bible, such as prayers for the dead, sinless perfection, and immortality of the soul.
- The apocryphal books were never acknowledged as sacred scriptures by the Jews, custodians of the Hebrew Scriptures. In fact, the Jewish people rejected and destroyed the Apocrypha after the overthrow of **Jerusalem in 70 CE**.
- Not one of the apocryphal books is written in the Hebrew language, which was used by all the inspired writers of the Old Testament. All apocryphal books are in Greek, except one which exists only in Latin. Beware of Greeks bearing **error**.
- The apocryphal books were not permitted among the sacred books during the first four centuries of the common era.

The trend toward including these works as part of the Scriptures was initiated by Augustine in 354 to 430. Augustine admitted that there was a definite difference between these "outside books" and the Inspired Word.

But it was the Jews who were entrusted with preserving the Old Testament Bible. Paul testified to that fact, "What advantage then has the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of Yahweh," Romans 3:1-2. By oracles Paul meant the actual words of Yahweh, given to Moses and the prophets, Acts 7:38.

Q I watch your Sabbath services often. I was immersed in Yahshua's name 12 years ago. A few years back I became weak and fell back to the pulls of the flesh. I'm terrified of the second death and need to get right with Yahweh. I want to be a part of His Kingdom. Can I be immersed again and with the help of the Holy Spirit and the elders get back on track?

A We understand that backsliding can happen, but the avenue for returning to Yahweh is not re-baptism. Ephesians 4:5 tells us there is only "one Master, one faith, and one baptism." Once immersion into Yahshua's Name takes place there is nothing higher and nothing greater. To submit to re-baptism is to make immersion into His Name a common thing. Imagine getting re-baptized each time one slips and sins. Ephesians 4:7 tells us that each of us is given grace by measure. When we sin we have Yahshua and His blood as our Advocate with the Father. If we sincerely repent and never repeat the sin, He promises to forgive us, Ezekiel 18:21-23. Your desire to regain His favor tells Him that you do not want to be forever lost and with sincere repentance we are assured of His forgiveness. "Repentance, which means a complete turnaround in behavior, leads to Yahweh's forgiveness and ultimately salvation," RSB note.

Q If we calculate the feast days by spotting the new moon, shouldn't we also calculate the weekly Sabbath that way? Why is the Sabbath celebrated every Saturday and not by the new moons?

A The Sabbath is a weekly event while the feast days are set as monthly observances based on the monthly crescent. We establish the Sabbath only in the way Yahweh tells us. The Fourth Commandment says the Sabbath is the seventh day of the week, i.e. from the very week of creation that began the entire cycle. From that point on, as He rested on the seventh day, we continue resting the same rotation of seven days down through history. Yahshua did so

as well and taught His followers the same. For an indepth look at this issue, see our booklet, *The Lunar Sabbath Illusion* at <https://yrm.org/lunar-sabbath-illusion/>

Q Two chapters of Acts tell the story of Paul's meeting with Yahshua on the road to Damascus but appear to be inconsistent: "And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man." (Acts 9:7, KJV) "And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me" (Acts 22:9, KJV). So which is right – did they hear the voice or not?

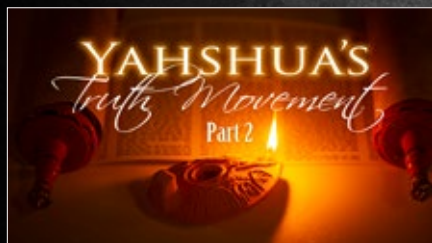
A The choice of words in the English doesn't always convey the precise meaning. In Acts 9:7, The TCNT renders it, "hearing the sound of the voice." In Acts 22:9 the ABUV says, "the voice of him who spoke to me they did not understand." The words 'hearing' and 'heard' are the Greek *akouo* and have various meanings, including "understand." They heard the sound, but did not understand the words.

Q I was told that wearing neckties is a throwback to pagan worship and that believers should find other ways to enhance their sartorial look.

A The British word for necktie is cravat. The custom of wearing them is only a few hundred years old and was brought to France by Croatian mercenaries who customarily wore linen scarves about the neck. Enthralled with the look, the French, both men and women, made scarves in linen and lace and in muslin trimmed in lace and tied them in long, flowing ends. After extensive research we find nothing pagan relating to wearing neckties.

Q I'm getting concerned about the way the world is going with so many signs pointing to a dangerous conclusion. Where is a place of safety where my family and I can go when events reach a boiling point?

Cutting-edge topics **LIVE** every Sabbath!



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A Many have been fooled to believe in a rapture during 3 1/2 or seven years of tribulation when they will be taken to heaven in safety until the conflagration is over.

We do not find that the Bible supports a “rapture” of the saints as is commonly taught. One verse specifically shows that the elect will be gathered AFTER the tribulation:

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other,” Matthew 24:29-31.

This verse also reveals that the elect will be gathered from every corner of the earth, which will take place AFTER the tribulation, not before and not during. Does this mean we should look for a place of safety if we will go through the tribulation?

If Yahweh’s elect should expect to lose their lives during the tribulation, then why is Yahshua gathering His elect from around the world after the tribulation?

If Yahweh took care of Israel in their journey to the Promised Land, then He will protect His people during the tribulation as well. The same when He protected the three thrown into a fiery furnace or those protected in a den of lions. Luke 19:13 tells us to use our gifts for Yahweh’s cause and “occupy until Yahshua comes.” If we are doing His work, He will protect us.

Q Why did Lot offer his daughters to the Sodomites in place of the angels? Did he not know of the power of Yahweh manifested by those angels?

A This offer of Lot, in his weakness, was an attempt to protect the angels. Clearly Yahweh does not compromise with sinful men. It could have been a test of Lot himself just as Abraham was tested when asked to sacrifice Isaac. Lot’s love for Yahweh transcended that of even his daughters and showed that he was willing to forsake even family for Yahshua’s sake. Yahshua looks for such willingness as He said in Luke 14:26. Lot’s offer was no justification for defiling the flesh, however.

בִּיבְלִי HEBREW WORD לֶשׁוֹן

יפה
:: T

Yapheh yaw-feh’

Composition: yod, qamets, pe, seghol, heh.

The Hebrew word **Yapheh** means handsome, fair, beautiful. It occurs 43 times in the Hebrew Bible. The feminine “ah” ending (Yaphah) is generally used when describing women.

“And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair (yapheh) countenance..”

1 Samuel 17:42

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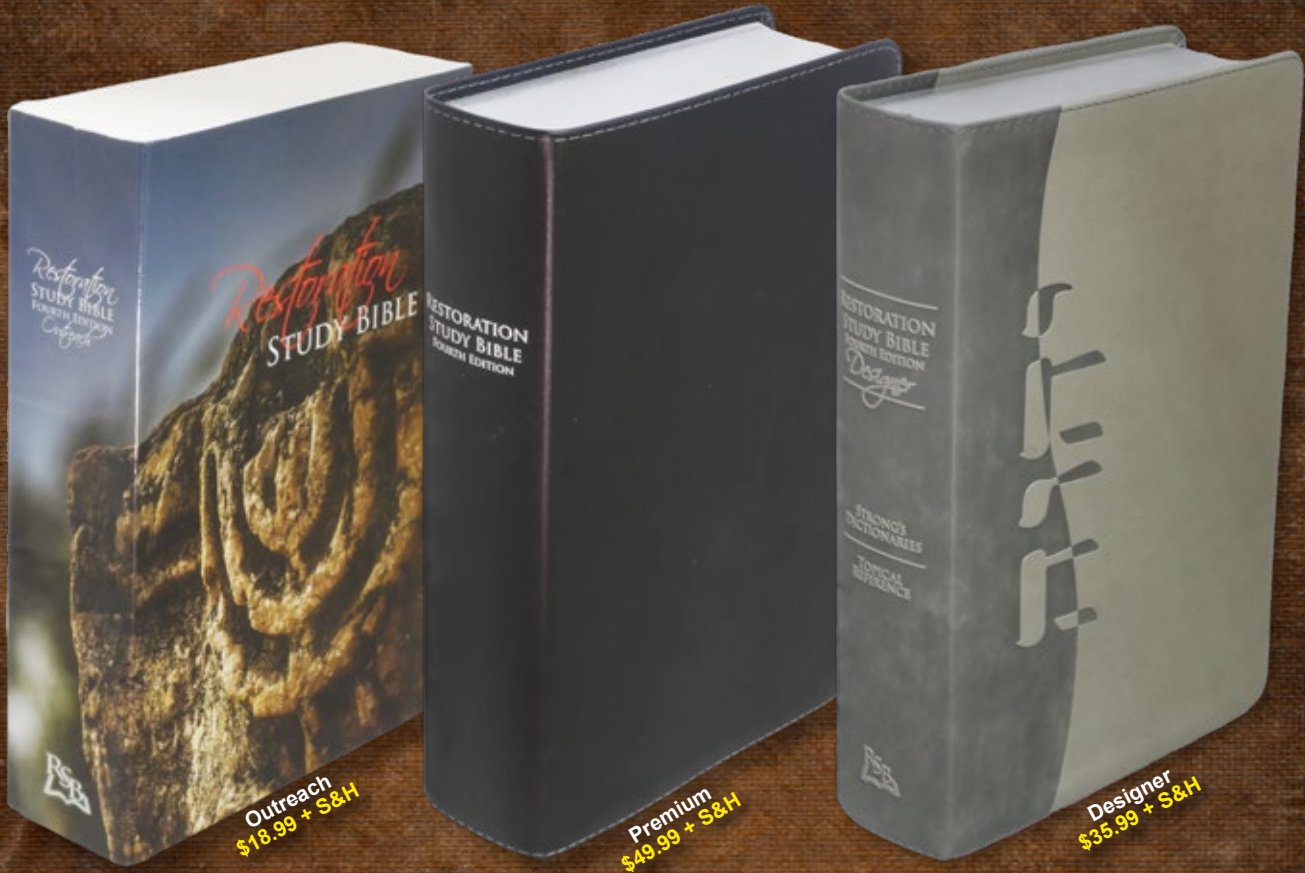
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"This ministry has opened my eyes to the true teachings of Yahshua, showing me how to really love our Father Yahweh by being obedient to His commandments and putting faith in the ransom sacrifice of His Son. So in accord with His commandments, enclosed with this letter is my tithe to Yahweh. I know that this is His ministry, so I want to support it, giving back to Yahweh what belongs to Him. May Yahweh bless you all at Yahweh's Restoration Ministry." – BJ

"I recently ordered and received my Restoration Study Bible and want to say thank you for such a wonderful Bible! It is beautifully bound, and I love the way it is numbered to **Strong's** dictionaries. I also enjoy the study notes. In the future would you consider putting out a different translation? Perhaps an NKJ or ESV? I was raised on the KJV so I can read it, but I so enjoy the ease of the NKJ and I feel that others do as well. Everything else is absolutely perfect and I will be using my Restoration Study Bible for many years to come." – KK

We are encouraged by your letter. The reason we used the King James is that it is not copyrighted in the U.S. and is royalty-free. As a word-for-word translation it lends itself to Bible study. Although the more readable versions are getting popular, the KJV is still the standard English text and, best of all, the scriptural references in Strong's Exhaustive Concordance are from the KJV. Leading word studies and lexicons are keyed to the KJV as well. For the serious Bible student who wants to dig deeply into the Word, the RSB is the volume to own. – EDITOR

"I love my new Bible, thank you so much! YOU GUYS ROCK! I also have an awesome testimony on how Yahweh healed me, but it's so lengthy and I really would love to share my testimony with everyone somehow. Well, I'm getting sleepy so I need to go. But I wanted to show off my new beautiful Bible with

my own personal name on it. I LOVE IT!" – Kat

"I have been trying to help some of my Sabbath-keeping Christian friends with understanding Yahweh's holy appointed times. One of the things I have learned is about Jeremiah 8:7-8 and the storks' migration, which is an appointed time. I have heard from people that the storks always come to Israel during the barley being in Abib. They either come in March or April and only our Heavenly Father is the one directing them. They stay exactly six months and they always leave during the seventh month whether it is September or October that year. They are leaving right now and this is the month that we are keeping Atonement."

"I Didn't Know That"

- Paul addresses both Father and Son in the salutations of his letters, but never does he address the Holy Spirit, which is strong evidence that the Holy Spirit is not a person.

- In the original Nicene Creed of 325 CE the Holy Spirit was not included as a mighty one or even part of a triumvirate with the Father and Son. That aspect was added in the revision of 381 CE.

- The early Apostles' Creed does not describe either the Son or the Holy Spirit as consubstantial with the Father.

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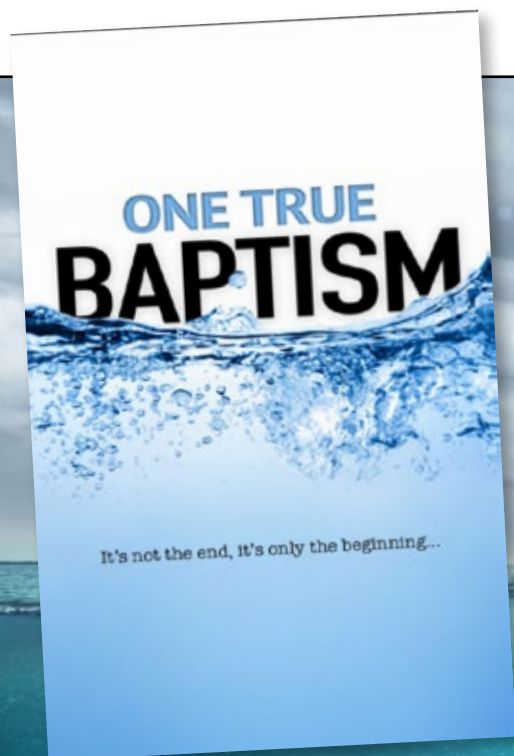
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