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**Hebrew**  
THE ORIGINAL  
*Language*

# RESTORATION TIMES

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Restoration Times expounds the close ties between the Old and New Testaments.

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

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

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**COVER:**  
Magnified Hebrew text with decorative flourishes called tittles, Matthew 5:18.

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# Where Have all the Fathers Gone?

by Alan Mansager

*In a time when many men shun the responsibilities of fatherhood, the question is, how necessary is the father in today's family? One researcher was very surprised to find out. Fathers, front and center!*

A university professor set out to write a book showing that single-parent families, meaning those headed by the mother only, do just as well as two-parent families in rearing children.

She was surprised to find that girls living without fathers at home were twice as likely to drop out of school, were doubly prone to emotional problems, and twice as likely to become pregnant as those families with fathers in the home.

Boys with absentee fathers had a two times greater chance of getting into trouble, especially with the law. In fact, statistics reveal that seven out of ten men in prison today grew up without the regular guidance of their fathers.

## 'Father Forgive Them'

Beginning in the 1970s when the feminist movement gained popularity, the male in the family and society was increasingly attacked, belittled, and deprecated. Situation comedies would portray the typical father as

a passive, dimwitted dolt who was always being manipulated and outsmarted by his far more clever wife and children. And if he showed some assertiveness, he came across as Archie Bunker-like in his bias and bigotry.

Traditionally the father has been the one to bear the burden of providing stability and corrective training to his children. Yet in recent years fatherhood has been undermined, along with other institutions that for centuries have given moral steadiness to our culture.

In the last 50 years certain forces have tried every conceivable way to dispense with principled and ethical guidelines and Bible-based absolutes. The rallying cry of the 1960s was, "question authority."

Today we are reaping the results of this relentless attack on traditional beliefs, and particularly on fatherhood as the primary authority in the family.

Increasing numbers of citizens carry weapons for protection because they fear being assaulted by young males who grew up without responsible fathers. We can't build prisons fast or large enough. Child crime is a growing problem for law enforcement today, along with illegal drugs.

Life is becoming less valued today, and the natural fear of taking another life is waning. How much worse can it get

when seven-year-olds are murdering their playmates? Yahshua prophesied in Matthew 24:12 that because iniquity (sin) would abound the love of many would grow cold.

## Roots of the Problem

We human beings cannot exist without firm standards of righteousness to guide us. Absolutes are critical, as given by Yahweh in His laws. That in a nutshell is the antidote to the sins and ills of society.

Back at creation in Genesis 2:16-17, Yahweh gave to Adam mankind's first moral instructions. "And Yahweh Elohim commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden you may freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die."

In a subsequent conversation with Eve, notice how the Adversary responded: "And the serpent said unto the woman, You shall not surely die: For Elohim knows that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as mighty ones, knowing good and evil." In other words Eve, you must question His authority! Who is He to tell you about right and wrong? It's a ploy to keep you from becoming wise and powerful like Himself.

The Evil One knew the principle clearly:

take away authority and respect for it and you initiate the destruction of the human race. Yahweh knew it too, and had to deal with their sin quickly and forcefully by shutting them out of the garden and rendering swift punishment.

A deliberate defying of Yahweh and His established limits of behavior was what caused the first man and woman such misery. And it's the same curse that is destroying us today. Biblical law is ignored by the masses. Morality has suffered as the milk of human kindness has been spoiled. The destructive results are all around us.

As the Bible and laws of morality lose their impact on a culture, the evils and the tribulations of mankind increase proportionately. It is a truth demonstrated repeatedly in declining civilizations throughout history.

But the greater problems of our society are just an extension of serious distresses that have developed in deteriorating families. After all, nations are but a collection of individual families. As families go, so goes the country.

### Seat of Authority

From the time of Eve's sin, Yahweh spelled out how headship would function in the family relationship. Notice:

"Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in sorrow you shall bring forth children; and your desire shall be to your husband, and he shall rule over you," Genesis 3:16.

Paul confirmed this sacred order in his first letter to the Corinthians:

"But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Messiah; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Messiah is Elohim," 1Corinthians 11:3.

The significance of the father in the family reaches beyond the fleshly into the spiritual realm. Before the advent of the Levitical priesthood, the father represented the family in worship. He acted as its priest (see Gen. 12:8 and Job 1:5).

Being head of the household, the father had full control over his unmarried children. His word was law. He was the judge. He arranged for their marriages. He could even sell his daughters into slavery if he was in dire financial straits.

Yahweh intended that the last word in the family rests with the husband and father.

### Makings of a Good Dad

For whatever the reason, many children today are struggling without fathers and the guidance that a righteous father brings to a family. Good fathers are instrumental in instilling in their children clear limits, discipline, and respect for authority in their lives. These are basic to a successful life. Paul writes, "And, you fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of Yahweh," Ephesians 6:4.

A lack of a moral foundation typically leads a youth into run-ins with the law and other serious behavior problems such as are plaguing us today.

From the beginning of their lives, children



need to know their boundaries—and they will constantly test a parent to see just where those limits are.

Parenting is not a part-time job. With only one parent active in the family, the task is doubly difficult.

It is crucial for parents to be well-versed in biblical principles and to practice the principles themselves. In so doing they will not only train their children for success in this world, but more importantly will also prepare them to be worthy of the coming Kingdom.

Children learn best by observing. The hand is a much more effective teacher than the mouth. How often have you heard a misbehaving youngster justify himself with, "But my dad does it!" Never mind that dad has TOLD him differently.

A principle every father and mother must grasp, therefore, is that to teach a child properly they must first set a good example in their own lives. Parents can give their children the best lectures in the world but without practicing what they preach, they are

just working against the teaching. A child may know what is right, but he'll likely DO just what he sees his parents do. As one saying goes, "The believer must teach the scriptures every day, and sometimes even use words."

### Good, Constant Rapport

The evils of this world present some of the most difficult challenges ever faced in the successful upbringing of young people. With the entertainment industry obsessed with glorifying all the sinful and vile sides of life, it's no wonder that society suffers so many evils.

The internet is today's teacher and the secular world is the classroom where wayward youths learn to lie, steal, cheat, and solve their problems by pulling a trigger.

For True Believers, the knee-jerk reaction is to remove ourselves from the sources of corruption. But that is only a stop-gap solution. The only way to be totally free of permanent, harmful influences is to live on another planet. Barring that, what can a father do to help ensure that his children mature in the ways and love of Yahweh?

### The Biblical Solution

Yahweh gave Israel the formula for successful child-rearing:

"And these words [His laws], which I command you this day, shall be in your heart: And you shall teach them diligently unto your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up" (Deut. 6:6-7).

The most effective approach to neutralizing the harmful influences of society on a son or daughter is to be proactive. Anticipate what reactions might be. Counter damaging behavior before it can take hold. Explain good and bad, right and wrong before, not after the deed is done. This is accomplished best in Bible studies and discussions.

As Yahweh directs, a father must take a personal, loving interest in what is happening in the lives of his children. Be genuine. Children can readily sense the difference between sincerity and phoniness.

Talk with your children constantly. Learn what their issues are and give proper solutions. Especially at the dinner table. Explain why certain behavior is wrong.

Rearing a child is a day-in, day-out effort.

It takes unrelenting work and sacrifice. It is not a job for the weak, or the teenage mother who hasn't grown up herself. Neither is it a once-in-a-while stint whenever the mood hits or a few moments allow. Sacrifice some of your own wants for the sake of your children. Look how Yahshua sacrificed for us.

Absentee parenting will never do the job.

### Be Positive and Nurturing

Many fathers think discipline entails just a lot of don'ts. Don't do this. Don't say that. Don't go there. Stop that. Don't give me that attitude.

Positive training, however, provides the opportunity for real spiritual growth. Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 2:11, "As you know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father does his children."

Paul uses the way a righteous father trains his children as an example for all brethren. Exhortation means to advise. A father can help guide a son and daughter in the right direction by virtue of his lifelong experience. When they stumble, he offers comfort and encourages them to keep trying.

Charge means to give responsibility to. A father gives his children the freedom to learn and grow. And just as important, he is there when they make mistakes.

### Correct Immediately

One key to effective parenting for both father and mother is to be ready always to provide good counsel. Take time to answer their questions. Only by communicating and daily interaction can you discover and rectify your child's wrong ideas and harmful direction early. Point out the proper ways that will eventually become second nature to the child.

Proverbs 22:6 admonishes, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Behavioral scientists have found that a child's fundamental values are solidified by age 10. So spiritual training needs to be started early.

Once a child understands right and wrong, reinforcement is a necessity. This is where father and mother must work together to be most effective, each backing up the other and presenting a united front. Never should a child be allowed to play one parent off against the other. If a disagreement should arise between

a husband and wife, the wife scripturally will defer to her husband.

### Our Father in Heaven

Many children for various reasons are being raised in mother-only families. In the absence of a father, the Bible serves well. A loving and morally authoritative Father in heaven can be an effective substitute for an absentee father. In fact, nothing is better than to look to Yahweh as the Heavenly Father over all humanity, and who guides our lives each day as we walk with Him.

Mothers and fathers who use the Bible as the instruction book for life will find that their prospects for successful child rearing will be greatly enhanced. Furthermore, they have the unique opportunity to implant a love

of Yahweh that won't be forgotten. They can give no greater gift.

Consider. We have our children for only about 18 years and then they are gone. That gives us a relatively short time to inspire in them a love for Yahweh. Once past, that opportunity may never come again. How many parents in the faith have wished that they had instilled a love for Yahweh in their children before it became too late! Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it."

A father and mother with a love for Yahweh will do everything possible to pass on their faith to their offspring. The sooner they get started, the more effective and long-lasting will be the results. 🙏

## BULL ELEPHANTS

### The Biggest Big Brothers

**I**n one part of Africa biologists started finding unusual numbers of dead rhinoceroses. Something was killing the rhinos that had never killed them before. After careful watching, they observed a young bull elephant sparring with a rhino.

Young elephants turned out to be the rhino killers. Elephants don't kill rhinoceroses, but these young elephants were doing it.

Because of a scientific transplant of mature bull elephants away from the area, the young bulls in the area had no fathers to show them how to be elephants. When the hormones in the young bull elephants increased, it made them look for something to do battle with and killing the rhinos became their game.

The biologists solved the problem by reintroducing large, mature bull elephants back into the herd. The larger and stronger bull elephants immediately started teaching the young bull elephants proper elephant behavior. This biggest Big Brother program solved the problem.

The same happens to teenage boys who don't have fathers to raise them or strong male figures to teach them how to be men. Many end up in gangs and ultimately in prison.





# HEBREW

## The Original Language

by the late Donald R. Mansager

One of the most eye-opening prophetic passages is Zephaniah 3:9. It speaks of a future time when this world will go back to the way it was before the Tower of Babel, when everyone on earth spoke the same language:

“For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of Yahweh, to serve him with one consent.” The KJV does not bring out the essence of the Hebrew.

Turn is the Hebrew *haphak* (*Strong’s* 2015) and means return back to, which is one principal meaning. “Restore speech of a pure kind” reads *Brown-Driver-Briggs*.

With this language, the prophecy says, everyone can call on Yahweh’s Name.

The question has been raised thousands of times by thousands of Bible students who have read Zephaniah 3:9 and wondered, just what is that pure language that will be spoken in the coming Kingdom?

We find more about it in Isaiah 19:18, “In that day shall five cities in the land of Egypt speak the language of Canaan, and swear to Yahweh of hosts; one shall be called, The city of destruction.”

This was written in the 8th century BCE and the language in Canaan at that time was Hebrew because of the Israelites

living there. In fact, the *Living Bible*, among others, confirms that the language of Canaan is Hebrew. The *Companion Bible* note supports this, as do other versions.

The Jerusalem Bible says, “That day, in the land of Egypt there will be five towns speaking the language of Canaan and swearing oaths in the name of Yahweh Sabaoth.” Would they be making oaths in Yahweh’s specific name if it were Greek they were speaking? Or Russian or Chinese? Swearing oaths in Yahweh’s Name is not a problem when it is in common use by virtue of the fact that they will be speaking Hebrew!

The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* reads, “The language of the Canaanites may perhaps be best described as an archaic form of Hebrew, standing in much the same relationship to the Hebrew of the Old Testament as does the language of Chaucer to modern English.” (Don’t count Egypt out. Read the rest of Isaiah 19:19-25.)

Acts 3:21—If most things will be restored (which speaks volumes for the importance of the Old Testament), then wouldn’t it make sense to return to the language spoken before sin caused the creation of alternative languages? Which other language was pure?

### The Edenic Tongue

To answer that, we need to go back to the language that was spoken by Yahweh to Adam and Eve in the garden. Would Yahweh speak an impure language to our first parents? Obviously not. So whatever that language was, it was undefiled. It would be the only language to fit that definition because it originated with Yahweh Himself.

Notice the reason for the pure language –so they can call on the Name of Yahweh with one consent. In other words, with everyone like-minded as to the proper name! What language has the sacred Name Yahweh been transmitted in? The Hebrew language, of course! Zechariah 8:20-23 with 14:9 says all nations will come to Jerusalem and His Name will be one –not a different name in different languages because the universal language will be Hebrew.

Then Zechariah 14:9 says, “And Yahweh shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Yahweh, and his name one.”

Hebrew was the language Yahweh communicated to Adam in. Why is it that whenever celestial beings spoke to mankind, it was to those who understood Hebrew? Angels never spoke in Greek,

Latin, or Arabic, but in Hebrew to those who knew and spoke Hebrew.

Let's see what language Yahshua used in communicating with Paul from the heavens in Acts 26:14 after the apostle was knocked down on the Road to Damascus. "And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks."

If Paul were the founder of the Christian-Greek faith, and if the Greek language had become the dominant one by Paul's time, as some say, why didn't the risen Messiah speak to him in Greek?

What has proved quite fascinating is the fact that scholarship has demonstrated that Hebrew is the mother tongue of all languages. Noah Webster, from whom we get Webster's Dictionary, traced numerous English words back to the Hebrew language. His etymologies were full of English words traced to "Shemite" (Hebrew) sources. Noah Webster was America's greatest lexicographer. He mastered 20 languages, including Chaldean, Syriac, Hebrew, Arabic, Ethiopic, and Persian.

We've lost touch with the significance of Hebrew in our world because society is fast losing touch with the Scriptures themselves. But it wasn't always this way.

The American colonists saw themselves as the new Israelites in a Promised Land. And so at the time of the American Revolution, interest in Hebrew was so widespread that certain members of Congress proposed that the use of English be formally prohibited in the United States, and Hebrew substituted for it. The story goes that Hebrew missed becoming our native tongue by a single vote in Congress.

In colonial America numerous colleges and universities were established under the auspices of various Protestant sects, like Harvard, Yale, William and Mary, and Rutgers.

One function of many of these institutions was to graduate ministers and pastors to teach the Bible to the Native Americans and convert them. Thus the Bible played a central role in the curriculum of institutions of higher learning in America, with both Hebrew and biblical studies being required courses.

## Hebrew a Course Requirement

The curriculum of Harvard was full of Hebrew, and an early graduate thesis at Harvard concerned Hebrew as the mother tongue. All Harvard undergraduates, except freshmen, were required to study Hebrew. Harvard University assumed that no one could be considered truly educated unless one could read the Bible in its original tongue.

Some colleges adopted some Hebrew word or phrase as part of their official emblem or seal. The official coat of arms of Yale includes the words, in Hebrew letters, Urim and Thummim—"light and truth." So popular was the Hebrew language in the 18th century that several students at Yale delivered their commencement orations in Hebrew.

Let's go back and see some evidence that Hebrew was the original tongue.

*Girdlestone's Old Testament Synonyms* says, "The Hebrew language, though poor in some respects, e.g. in tenses, is rich in others; and probably no better language could have been selected for the purpose of preparing the way of Messiah."

He points out the variety and richness of the Hebrew language and gives examples, such as seven Hebrew words rendered black in the King James Version: there are eight words translated axe; 12 words for beauty; 12 for body; 14 for dark; 18 are rendered fear; 22 for branch; 26 for cover; 42 for cut; 60 for break; 66 for bring; 74 are rendered take.

Sadly, in reading our English translation of the Bible we are missing much of the exactness and often the correctness of the original language. Something is always lost in translation. The precise nuance of meaning is lost when 74 different words in Hebrew appear in English as the single word "take"! That is why we sometimes find misrepresentations with our English versions when the translators were not careful to transmit fine distinctions.

For example, take the Third Commandment: "Thou shalt not take the name of Yahweh your Elohim in vain..." It does not mean cursing on the golf course after missing a putt.

"Vain" is the Hebrew *shaw*, from a root *show*. It has the basic meaning of deception or lying, which ultimately results

in making something desolate and useless. *The New Strong's Expanded Concordance* says it figuratively reveals idolatry. Doesn't substituting His name with a heathen title amount to a form of idolatry, a deception that causes His true Name to become desolate and useless through replacement?

Where has His name been for the last 2,000 or more years? Virtually unknown and untaught until the 20th century. Desolate. Almost nonexistent.

Yahweh is known as the Mighty One of Israel in the Old Testament. In the New Testament the saints are known as the "Israel of Yahweh," Galatians 6:16. His Name has profound and deep meaning in Hebrew, which distinguishes True Worship from idolatry.

The first spoken command given to mankind appears in Genesis 1:28, to be fruitful and multiply. Then Yahweh warned Adam and Eve not to eat of the forbidden fruit (2:16-17). He again spoke to them in chapter 3, and they understood and answered.

What language was being employed here? The oldest manuscripts of the Scriptures are in Hebrew. Moses, who wrote the Torah, was a Hebrew. He wrote it in Hebrew.

## Abrahamic Family Spoke Hebrew

So can we make a language connection back to Adam? Let's reverse the historical record and go back even further in history. Genesis 14:13 identifies Abraham as a Hebrew. The Hebrews spoke Hebrew.

Many scholars attribute the word Hebrew etymologically to Eber. Eber was the great-great-great-great-grandfather of Abraham and astoundingly, outlived him by four years. If the language of Eber was Hebrew, as evident by its etymology, and Abraham is specifically called a Hebrew, a relative to Eber, then it is accurate to conclude that Abram would speak the Hebrew language of his family. Eber was a Hebrew who spoke Hebrew. So did his great-grandfather Shem.

Parents always pass down their native language to their children, and so on. Shem would speak the same language that his great-grandfather Methuselah spoke, with whom he shared 98 years of his life in the homeland. Methuselah would speak the

Hebrew language that Adam spoke, with whom he shared 243 years of his life.

But can we now draw any connections to Adam's language and therefore to the heavenly language Yahweh taught him in Eden? Yes we can.

Noah's grandfather, Methuselah, the world's oldest man, offers us an important link in this language chain. Methuselah's life overlapped that of Adam the first man on earth, by 243 years, and that of his great-grandson Shem by 98 years. It is very reasonable to say that Shem would speak the same language as Adam because of family descendants and ancestors who lived at the same time as both!

Realize that people at this time didn't travel beyond the Middle East. They lived in the same general area. Now, Shem is where the term Semite or Semitic derives. Shem was the father of the Israelites. And we KNOW which language they spoke.

Since the knowledge of Yahweh was given exclusively in Hebrew, it stands to reason that those who know Hebrew, know Yahweh better than those who do not speak Hebrew. Now, because the wicked of Babel were conspiring against Yahweh, Yahweh took away their Hebrew—He removed the very link that bound them close to Him, and removed the very language from them by which He transmitted His Name.

Yahweh communicated with Adam and Eve in Hebrew, which would logically be the original human language. How can we know? Because no other tongue but Hebrew is mentioned in Scripture as being spoken from on high. It is the earliest of biblical communication. It is the language of the oldest manuscripts and is the language specifically mentioned when people were spoken to from the heavens.

The conciseness, simplicity, and energy of the Hebrew can be seen by examining the names of the individuals appearing in the early chapters of Genesis. All are Hebrew! Adam means "red" or "ruddy." Eve (Heb. *Chavah*) means "life," or "lifespring." Look at the names of other Old Testament personalities and you will see that they all have Hebrew meanings.

### **Not Everyone Built the Tower**

But weren't all languages confused at Babel, you ask? Abram was 48 years old at the time

of the Tower of Babel; and since Abram was not living there on the plains of Shinar and of course would not participate in the sin of Babel, we can conclude that Abram's language was not confused. It remained pure and unchanged.

Therefore, the language of Eden had been passed down to Abram and his family and remained unchanged. Abram consciously chose not to participate in Nimrod's endeavor at Babel. And as a reward, when the other clans were given their own languages, causing them to disperse and become separate nations, Abram was not so punished, and so he still spoke and thought in Hebrew.

The language spoken by Adam obviously was spoken later by his descendants, as "The whole earth was of one language and one speech," Genesis 11:1. This was after the flood of Noah's time, and the population had increased considerably. It was the time of the people's journeying east into the land of Shinar or Babylonia, where they decided to build a tower for a name unto themselves.

The present world population is descended from the three sons of Noah – Shem, Ham, and Japheth. All previous lines of humanity were destroyed in the flood. The families of Ham and Japheth settled in the plains and seacoasts. The descendants of Shem, like Eber, however, did not go to the plains of Shinar, but settled toward the mountains in the hill country of Mesha: "And their dwelling was from Mesha, as you go unto Sephar a mount of the east." (Gen. 10:30).

So the Shemites stayed in the high country, as did Abraham, Genesis 13:6-12. They were not anywhere near the area of the Tower of Babel.

The lineage of Shem is the key showing that Hebrew is the heavenly language. Shem means, "name" in Hebrew, and it was the Shemites (Semites) who continued with Hebrew as their language.

We find this confirming statement in *The New Bible Dictionary*, "Hebrew belongs to the western group of Semitic languages (the word Semitic is formed from the name of Shem, Noah's eldest son)," p. 710.

In his blessing on Shem, Noah called Yahweh the "Elohim of Shem," and said Yahweh would "dwell in the tents of Shem,"

Genesis 9:26-27.

Shem, whose native tongue was Hebrew, shared 98 years of life with his great-grandfather Methuselah. Remember, the earth was one language at this time.

Shem had nearly 100 years to carry on a discourse with, and receive instruction from his great-grandfather. Methuselah lived and shared a 243-year span with Adam, and another 600 years with Noah. Noah lived 350 years after the flood, and died only two years before the birth of Abraham. Noah's son Shem lived until Abraham was 150 years old, and Isaac was 50 years of age.

Here is a FAMILY of which the progenitor, Adam, spoke the same language his offspring spoke. Parents teach their children their natural, native language, and there is no reason to assume that Adam's language was anything but Hebrew – by virtue of his descendants and the Hebrew language they all spoke.

In Genesis 14:12-13 we learn that Abraham is referred to as a Hebrew. One has but to study the names of people and places in the Book of Genesis to acknowledge they are all definitely Hebrew and have names with Hebrew meaning.

### **Heavenly Voices Speaking Hebrew**

In examining the New Testament, we find again that when one was spoken to from the heavens, it was always in the Hebrew tongue. In chapter 1 of Luke we read that the priest Zechariah was performing his duties in the temple. The angel of Yahweh appeared to him and related how Elizabeth was soon to have a son who would be called John. Certainly a priest of the course Abia would be addressed in his native Hebrew tongue, the language of Temple worship!

Later we learn that the virgin Miriam was also visited by Gabriel who proclaimed the soon-coming birth of Yahshua the Messiah, Luke chapter 1. Both Miriam and Joseph were descended from the lineage of King David, the ruler of Israel, of the tribe of Judah.

In chapter 2 of Luke we read of Judean shepherds watching their flocks by night when the celestial being came to them announcing the birth of the Redeemer of Israel. The language used in the Galilee area was Hebrew.

In Matthew 3:17 and Luke 3:22 is the

account of the baptism of the Messiah. A voice came from heaven declaring that this was the beloved Son in Whom He was well pleased – obviously in the Hebrew tongue which our Hebrew Savior spoke. In both Luke chapter 4 and Matthew 4 is the account of Satan, the fallen angel, speaking with the Hebrew Yahshua, obviously in the same Hebrew tongue.

This fallen angel was the “anointed cherub that covers” who was in the presence of Yahweh until iniquity was found in him, Ezekiel 28:14. In Job chapters 1 and 2 we learn that Satan carried on a conversation with Yahweh, which would again have been in Hebrew, the heavenly language, because of the connections we have shown.

Acts 9 tells of the Apostle Paul being struck down on the Damascus road. Recounting this experience to King Agrippa (Acts 26:12-14), Paul says of the heavenly voice of Yahshua:

“And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks” (Acts 26:14). Paul then inquired of the speaker. “And I said, Who are you, Master? And he said, I am Yahshua whom you persecute.” (Acts 26:15) This was after Yahshua’s death and resurrection, and He was speaking Hebrew!

Hebrew is the only ancient language in history to be brought back from virtual obscurity to become the official language of a modern nation.

When Yahshua returns, He will return to the Mount of Olives to deliver a nation that is already speaking Hebrew. He will come again to His own, and this time they will receive Him.

He will pour upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem the spirit of grace and supplication and “they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him as one mourns for His only Son,” Zechariah 12:10. He will return to His people and save “the tents of Judah first,” verse 7. And the law will go forth from Zion.

It should be understood that today we can pray to Yahweh in any language, any tongue,

because He is not limited to audible speech as humans are. He can read our very thoughts, “I am He which searches the reins and hearts,” (Rev. 2:23). But we must call upon His true Name which He has revealed to us.

### Hebrew Everywhere and Full of Energy

Clearly, the language spoken in Eden by Yahweh was Hebrew. The angelic beings continued to communicate with those who understood Hebrew. Yahweh spoke to people through prophets who understood Hebrew. The Old Testament was without question written in Hebrew. In the New Testament, the angelic messengers spoke to Hebrew-speaking people. Yahshua spoke and read Hebrew in the synagogue. He spoke to Saul in the Hebrew tongue.

Isaac Mozeson, in his book, *The Word*,



Steel engraving of Jerusalem seen from Mount of Olives, 1885

offers numerous examples of Hebrew as the mother of English and all languages.

The Hebrews were largely an energetic, robust, and, at times, even turbulent people. They were primarily outdoor folk: farmers, fishermen, tradesmen—who lived life to the full. For them, truth was not so much an idea to be contemplated as an experience to be lived, a deed to be done. Even their prayers are engaged with the whole body in motion as we witness prayers at the Wailing Wall.

The biblical writers often use vocabulary which is highly colorful, dynamic, and action-centered.

A careful study of the Hebrew Bible will reveal what even Martin Luther called a “special energy” in its vocabulary. The Hebrews were mainly a doing and feeling people. Thus their language has few abstract terms. Rather, “Hebrew may be called

primarily a language of the senses. The words originally expressed concrete or material things and movements or actions which struck the senses or started the emotions. Only secondarily and in metaphor could they be used to denote abstract or metaphysical ideas.”

To the Hebrews, Yahweh is living and active. People today worship him passively—and that’s not the lesson of the language He gave to man.

The Torah gives direction to Israel and us on how to relate to the Creator, His people, and His world. For the Hebrews, personal or individual relationship has always been far more expressive of the heart of religious faith than mere intellectual assent to abstract statements or religious ideas.

The Semites of Bible times did not simply think truth, they experienced truth.

To the Hebrew the deed was always more important than the creed. “Walking in the truth” (2John 4) and “living the truth” (1John 1:6) were a higher priority than rationally analyzing the truth.

The Hebrews were hardly half-hearted or reserved in their approach to life. Yahweh’s holy days emphasize a release of emotion, especially joy. The weekly Sabbath is a time of rejoicing as Yahweh is celebrated as Creator (Isaiah 58:13-14; cf. Exodus 20:8-11).

Yahweh is not understood philosophically, but functionally. He acts. He works. Yahshua said I work and my Father works. The Hebrews primarily thought of him in terms of personality and activity. To express the divine attribute of love, the Hebrews would normally think in terms of a “loving Elohim” (i.e., an Elohim who loves), rather than “Yahweh is love.”

Reflecting his strong Hebrew background (see Philippians 3:4-6), Paul writes, “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of Yahweh,” 1Corinthians 10:31.

Do we see this in nominal worship today? Shouldn’t we?

If we are to be His sons and daughters in the Kingdom, and be called by His Name, 2Chronicles 7:14, then how can we shy from the Name Yahweh now, the greatest Name in the universe? 



# Taking Another Look at How the Bible Defines Leavening

by Randy Folliard

In this article we will examine the meaning of leavening. For the last 20 years, this ministry has viewed leavening as an item that simply contained a leavening agent, e.g., yeast or baking soda. However, after a recent in-depth study, we have discovered that the concept of leavening is more complex.

The catalyst that motivated this study was Leviticus 23:13. “And the meat offering thereof shall be two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto Yahweh for a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof shall be of wine, the fourth part of an hin.”

We see here a reference to the firstfruits offerings during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. One item that is prohibited during this Feast is leavening.

Historically we’ve defined leavening as an item that simply contained a leavening agent. From this passage, though, we find a problem with this definition: the mention of wine. As most may know, wine is produced with yeast, a leavening agent. And for this reason it’s also been our position that wine and other alcohol must be removed during Unleavened Bread. But as we see in this passage, wine was used in an offering *during* the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Some may wonder, is the wine mentioned here really alcohol? Maybe it’s something closer to grape juice. The word wine comes from the Hebrew *yayin*, which Strong’s defines as, “wine (as fermented); by implication, intoxication.” The *Brown Driver Briggs Hebrew Lexicon* also defines

this word as, “wine.” Based on *Strong’s* and *BDB*, we know that this word refers to fermented wine.

So how do we reconcile what we’ve always believed with what we find here? The answer is we can’t. We can’t reconcile our previous definition of leavening with the fact that wine was the drink offering commanded during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is why we took the time to re-evaluate this belief.

Going back to the Hebrew, we reviewed every instance of where leavening is used in Scripture. This involved every instance of the Hebrew words *seor* and *chamets*, the words used for leavening in the Tanakh or the Old Testament. To understand leavening, we MUST understand the meaning of these Hebrew words.

We find our first example in Exodus 12:15: “Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel.”

This passage refers to the Feast of Unleavened Bread during which time we’re to put away the leaven or *seor* from our homes and abstain from eating leavened bread or *chamets*. I want to point out that it explicitly mentions eating; nothing is said about drinking. As we’ll see from other instances, *chamets* is always connected to eating. Interestingly, this time is called the Feast of Unleavened Bread, not the Feast of Unleavened Drink.

## Meaning of Seor

Let’s focus now on the meaning of *seor*. According to *Strong’s*, *seor* is defined as, “barm or yeast-cake (as swelling by fermentation).” According to the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, barm is defined as “yeast formed on fermenting malt liquors.” The yeast cake mentioned here is a reference to a sourdough starter, which is how Israel would leaven their dough to make leavened bread or *chamets*.

Continuing to look at the meaning of *seor*, we discover that the *Fausset’s Bible Dictionary* defines this word as, “A lump of old dough in high fermentation. Because making it, and leavening bread with it, took time, unleavened bread was used in sudden emergencies (Gen 18:6; 19:3). It was forbidden in all offerings to [Yahweh] by fire (Lev 2:11; 7:12).”

We see here that *seor* refers to an old piece of dough that is highly fermented, which is what we call a sourdough or a starter dough. It’s a piece of dough that is allowed to ferment to the point of becoming sour or acidic and then used to leaven another piece of dough. This dough contains both grain and a leavening agent. For Israel, the leavening agent would have been wild yeast. Therefore, *seor* must include grain plus a leavening agent and not a leavening agent alone.

When speaking of yeast and starter dough, a few facts to consider are:

1) wild yeast is all around us and even within us; 2) a starter is formed when the yeast breaks down the starch in the flour into

sugar, producing carbon dioxide; and, 3) it's the carbon dioxide that causes the bread to puff up or to rise. The rising was the focus of *seor* and *chamets*.

In fact, the word "leaven" comes from the Latin verb *levare*, meaning, "to raise." Again, what allows for this to happen is the starter dough, i.e., the dough that is in high fermentation or that contains a high concentration of yeast. Therefore, when we speak about *seor*, especially from a biblical standpoint, we are speaking about a sourdough starter, which is how Israel leavened their dough.

**The New Unger's Bible Dictionary** refers to *seor* as a small portion of dough that is highly fermented and turning acidic or sour. This was used to leaven and produce leavened bread or *chamets*. "The Heb. term *se'or* occurs only five times in Scripture, in four of which (Ex 12:15, 19; 13:7; Lev 2:1-11) it is translated 'leaven' and in the fifth (Deut 16:3) 'leavened bread.'

The NIV translates 'yeast' in each of these references. This probably denotes the small portion of dough left from the preceding baking that had fermented and turned acidic. Its distinctive meaning is fermented or leavened mass."

Another source, **Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary**, gives the following definition: "A substance used to produce fermentation in dough and make it rise (Ex 12:15, 19-20). In Bible times leaven was usually a piece of fermented dough retained from a previous baking that was placed in the new dough to cause it to rise."

From here we see that *seor* refers to a piece of old dough in high fermentation that would then be used to leaven new dough, which is what we would call a sourdough starter.

A similar explanation is found in the **International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia**: "In bread baking.-The form of leaven used in bread-making and the method of using it were simple and definite. The 'leaven' consisted always, so far as the evidence goes, of a piece of fermented dough kept over from a former baking. There is no trace of the use of other sorts of leaven, such as the lees of wine or those mentioned by Pliny (NH, wviii.26). The lump of dough thus preserved was either dissolved in water in the kneading-trough before the flour was

added, or was 'hid' in the flour (the King James Version 'meal') and kneaded along with it, as was the case mentioned in the parable (Matt 13:33). The bread thus made was known as 'leavened,' as distinguished from 'unleavened' bread (Ex 12:15, etc.)"

Again we see that leavening or *seor* refers to a piece of leavened dough from a previous baking, which would then be used to leaven a new loaf.

According to this source, this could have been done in two different ways. The first process would be to dissolve the starter within the kneading-trough before the flour was added. The other method was simply to take the starter and place or hide it within a new dough. Either of these two methods would leaven a new piece of dough, causing it to rise. This was done using the starter or this highly fermented, acidic piece of dough.

For good measure, let's consider one more reference, from the **Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature**. "'*Seir*' occurs only five times in the Scriptures, in four of which (Ex 12:15, 19; Ex 13:7; Le 2:11) it is rendered 'leaven,' and in the fifth (De 16:4) 'leavened bread.' It seems to have denoted originally the remnant of dough left on the preceding baking which had fermented and turned acid."

This source once more confirms the meaning of *seor*; a portion of leavened dough from a previous baking that has turned acidic or sour.

In summation, we learn that *seor* is a piece of dough that contains flour and yeast, is highly acidic, and is used as a sourdough starter. Also, by the existence of wine during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, we see that a leavening agent alone, e.g., yeast or baking soda, would NOT be considered *seor*.

### What is Chamets?

Let's now review the meaning of *chamets*. **Strong's** states, "ferment, (figuratively) extortion: -leaven, leavened (bread)." The **Brown Driver & Briggs Hebrew Lexicon** explains it as: "...that which is leavened... forbidden at Passover Exodus...in all sacrifices...exceptions are of peace-offering and the wave loaves.

Biblically, we see that *chamets* refers to leavened bread. We also know that it's forbidden during the Passover or the Feast of

Unleavened Bread, along with all sacrifices, except for the peace offering and the wave loaves offered during the Feast of Weeks or Shavuot.

Here's how the **Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature** defines leavening: "'*chamets*' ought not to be rendered 'leaven,' but leavened bread... In Ex 13:7, both *seor*' and *chamets*' occur together, and are evidently distinct: 'Unleavened bread (*matstzah*') shall be eaten during the seven days, and there shall not be seen with thee the fermented bread (*chamets*'), and there shall not be seen with thee leavened bread (*seor*') in all thy borders."

We see that *chamets* is not simply leavening but is leavened bread. In other words, it is the leavened product produced from the *seor*. Again, the primary example of *chamets* from the Bible is leavened bread. There are no other examples for *chamets*, but for leavened bread, whether eaten or used in sacrifice. When we think of *seor*, we should think of a sourdough starter, and when we think of *chamets*, we should think of a leavened product produced by a sourdough starter or an alternative leavening agent.

### The Jewish Perspective

Let's consider now how the Jews understand leavening.

According to oukosher.org, "If one of the five grains – wheat, barley, rye, oats and spelt – sits in water for more than 18 minutes it becomes *chametz*, and one may not eat, derive benefit from or own it on Pesach."

Kashrut Division of the London Beth Din, kosher.org.uk, states, "*Chametz* is formed when dough made from wheat, barley, rye, oats or spelt is allowed to ferment (or rise). The time in which fermentation takes place is deemed to be 18 minutes."

As the last example, chabad.org verifies that "*chametz* (also spelled '*hametz*' or '*chometz*') is any food product made from wheat, barley, rye, oats or spelt that has come into contact with water and been allowed to ferment and 'rise.'"

We see that *chamets* is any food product that is produced from grain that has come in contact with water and allowed to ferment or rise. So based on the Jewish understanding of leavening, we find that four things are needed for something to be considered

chamets:

- 1) It needs to contain grain, e.g., wheat, barley, rye, oats or spelt;
- 2) It needs water;
- 3) It needs access to a leavening agent, which is around us in the form of wild yeast; and,
- 4) It needs time to leaven or to rise.

According to many Jews, the time it takes for a piece of dough to become leavened is 18 minutes. With this in mind, if we took flour, added water, and then allowed that dough to ferment with the natural yeast within the air for 18 minutes. According to many Jews, we would have *chamets*.

Because *chamets* requires all these items, a leavening agent alone is not considered *chamets* or *seor*. For those who were part of the initial study, this was the bombshell that changed the trajectory of what we would come to understand about leavening. Again, it was always our belief that a leavening agent alone was considered *seor* or *chamets*, but when we understand these words from a biblical standpoint, there's more to it. In this case, we know that yeast or a chemical leavening agent alone is not considered *chamets*.

Wikipedia concurs: "*Chametz* is a product that is both made from one of five types of grain and has been combined with water and left to stand raw for longer than eighteen minutes (according to most opinions) and becomes leavened ... Leavening agents, such as yeast or baking soda, are not themselves *chametz*. Rather, it is the fermented grains. Thus yeast may be used in making wine."

From this source, we again see that *chamets* is when grain is combined with water and allowed to become leavened. Remember, from a biblical standpoint, *seor* is a sourdough starter, and *chamets* is a leavening product made from *seor*.

### Examples of *Seor* and *Chamets*

Let's now review where *seor* and *chamets* are used within Scripture. From the Torah we find the following passages containing the word *seor*.

Exodus 12:19 – "Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the

congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land." All *seor* must be removed from our homes during the seven days of Unleavened Bread.

Exodus 13:7 – "Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters." All *seor* must be removed from our quarters, Heb. *gebul*, referring to a person's boundary or territory.

Leviticus 2:11 – "No meat offering, which ye shall bring unto Yahweh, shall be made with leaven: for ye shall burn no leaven, nor any honey, in any offering of Yahweh made by fire." No meat or grain offering was to be made with *seor* or a sourdough starter. THIS IS IMPORTANT – it shows that *seor* was the initial starter that was used to leaven *chamets*.

Deuteronomy 16:4 – "And there shall be no leavened bread seen with thee in all thy coast seven days; neither shall there any thing of the flesh, which thou sacrificedst the first day at even, remain all night until the morning." No *seor* was to be seen within a person's coast, Heb. *gebul*, referring to a person's boundary or territory.

Let's now look at the examples for *chamets*, which is found 13 times in the Old Testament, 12 within the Torah and once within the Nevi'im, e.g., prophets.

Exodus 12:19 – "Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land." The command is not to eat *chamets* during the seven days of Unleavened Bread. The penalty for ignoring this command was to be cut off from the congregation. It's crucial that we do our very best to abstain from eating leavened products or *chamets* during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Before moving on, I want to emphasize that the command here is eating and not drinking. And the reason for this is simple – *chamets* is leavened bread, not leavened drink.

Exodus 12:20 – "Ye shall eat nothing leavened; in all your habitations shall ye eat unleavened bread." As we saw in verse 19 we see here, that we're to abstain from

eating *chamets* or anything leavened during this Feast. And again, I point out that the command is of eating, nothing is said about drinking. For those wondering, there is a Hebrew word for drinking, it is *shathah*, but we don't find that word in relation to *seor* or *chamets*.

Exodus 13:3 – "And Moses said unto the people, remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand Yahweh brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten." As we've seen previously, Yahweh commands us here not to eat *chamets* or leavened bread during this Feast.

Exodus 13:7 – "Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters." There are several items to consider here: we're to eat unleavened bread, i.e., *matzah*, for all seven days of this Feast. So, in contrast of removing and abstaining from leavening, we find that we're to eat unleavened bread for all seven days of this Feast.

As we know from the New Testament, unleavened bread symbolizes sincerity and truth. Understand that there's a spiritual lesson to be learned throughout this Feast. This passage also relates that no *chamets* or *seor* should be seen within our quarters or boundaries.

Exodus 23:18 – "Thou shalt not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leavened bread; neither shall the fat of my sacrifice remain until the morning." As we saw from the **BDB**, we also find here that no leavened bread or *chamets* was to be included within the offerings. The only exception was the peace, or fellowship offering along with the two loaves offered during the Feast of Weeks.

Exodus 23:25 – "And ye shall serve Yahweh your Elohim, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee."

Leviticus 2:11 – "No meat offering, which ye shall bring unto Yahweh, shall be made with leaven: for ye shall burn no leaven, nor any honey, in any offering of Yahweh made by fire." A better name for the meat offerings is a grain offering and as

before, leavening, whether *chamets* or *seor*, was not allowed within this offering. We also see the mention of honey and because of this, some ask if we should be removing honey during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. While honey can be used to speed up the leavening process, honey of its own is NOT considered *seor* or *chamets*. For this reason, there's no need to remove honey during this Feast.

Leviticus 6:17 – “It shall not be baked with leaven. I have given it unto them for their portion of my offerings made by fire; it is most holy, as is the sin offering, and as the trespass offering.” Two specific offerings are mentioned here – the sin offering for unintentional sins and the trespass offering, which was for intentional sins. Notice that if a person brought a cake or grain offering, it had to be without leavening or *chamets*. This offering was a food product that was baked.

Leviticus 7:13 – “Besides the cakes, he shall offer for his offering leavened bread with the sacrifice of thanksgiving of his peace offerings.” Unlike the sin and trespass offerings, we find that leavening was to be used during the fellowship or peace offering. The peace offering was a show of desire to fellowship with Yahweh and for this reason, it was treated differently.

Leviticus 23:17 – “Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; they are the firstfruits unto Yahweh.” Again, we see that leavening or *chamets* was to be used within the wave loaves offered during the Feast of Weeks or Shavuot. As was seen here and in the previous example, leavening or *chamets* is not always negative. We know this because it was commanded to be used in the peace offering and the wave loaves offering to Yahweh.

Deuteronomy 16:3 – “Thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it; seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, even the bread of affliction; for thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt in haste: that

thou mayest remember the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life.” This passage is referring to the Feast of Unleavened Bread. As we've already seen from many other examples, during these seven days we're to abstain from eating leavened bread or *chamets*.

Amos 4:5 – “And offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving with leaven, and proclaim and publish the free offerings: for this liketh you, O ye children of Israel, saith my Sovereign Yahweh.” We find here another reference to the fellowship or peace offering in which leavening or *chamets* was to be used.

Let's review what we've learned thus far about *seor* and *chamets*:

- In the Old Testament, the word *seor* is found five times and the word *chamets* is seen 13 times, referring to the sourdough



starter and leavened bread, respectively.

- During the Feast of Unleavened Bread, we're commanded to remove all *seor* and *chamets* from our homes and boundaries.

- During this Feast, we're commanded to eat unleavened bread and abstain from eating leavening or leavened bread in the form of *seor* or *chamets*, emphasizing the focus is on eating and not drinking.

- Except for the peace offering and the two wave loaves offered during Shavuot, no *seor* or *chamets* was to be used in a sacrifice or offering.

### Defining *Seor* and *Chamets*

What do you suppose ancient Israelites would show us if we asked for examples

of *seor* and *chamets*? More than likely they would bring us a sourdough starter for *seor* and a loaf of leavened bread for *chamets*. Based on this, we offer the following definitions for *seor* and *chamets*:

*Seor*: A piece of highly fermented or acidic dough or any other grain-derived leavening product that might be used to leaven dough, much like our own sourdough starter.

*Chamets*: Any grain derived food product that has been leavened by *seor*, i.e., a leavening agent, whether that be natural or chemical. The primary example would be leavened bread, but it would also include items that may not resemble bread but contain both grain and a leavening agent.

So again, any food product containing grain, wheat, barley, spelt, rye or oats, along with a leavening agent, would be considered *chamets*. This is why we must take stock of the food items we have within our homes before the Feast of Unleavened Bread and remove anything that would be considered *seor* or *chamets*.

We have only referenced leavening agents until now, but have not provided a list of such agents. Below is a list of leavening agents we have identified over the years.

- Yeast
- Baker's yeast
- Active dried yeast
- Baking powder
- Baking soda
- Cream of tartar (potassium bitartrate)
- Ammonium carbonate
- Ammonium bicarbonate
- Potassium carbonate
- Potassium bicarbonate
- Dipotassium carbonate

Remember that these leavening agents alone are NOT considered *seor* or *chamets*. For this reason, there's no need to remove these leavening agents from our homes during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

However, there is one caveat. Based on our research, some yeast packets would be considered *seor* due to the way they are manufactured. Some companies will produce a yeast cake with grain and then

disaggregate that yeast cake into the yeast we find within many yeast packets.

This seems to be especially common with organic yeast packets. Because of this, we encourage you to remove your yeast packets during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

But for the other items in the above list, there's no need to remove them unless you are convicted of doing so, which is certainly acceptable.

### What May Remain?

Beyond defining leavening, we must address those items that may remain during the Feast of Unleavened Bread that we previously disallowed. Since leavening agents alone are not considered *seor* or *chamets*, there is no need to remove leavening agents that cannot be used as a starter in their current form, e.g., baking soda and baking powder.

In addition to leavening agents, there is also no need to remove alcohol unless there's evidence that it can be used as a starter. The following alcohols contain no yeast in their final form and therefore would not be considered *seor*: vodka, gin, tequila, Irish whiskey, bourbon, schnapps, most wine, and many commercial beers.

Even though many alcoholic beverages contain grain and a leavening agent, e.g., yeast, in their original form, the leavening agent is purged or made inert in its final form. For this reason, they are unable to be used as *seor* or a starter.

In our research we contacted several brewers and verified that most commercial beers either remove or kill any excess yeast; some exceptions, though, include Pale Ale, Porter, and Stout. Therefore, if you choose to keep commercial beers, we suggest that you confirm with the manufacturer that the yeast has been removed or made inert.

In our investigation, we sent the following question to several breweries: "Can you verify if any of your beers contain live or active yeast that could be used as a starter to make bread without the assistance of any additional leavening agents?"

We received the following replies:

"I can tell you that almost all beer, except for draught beer, is pasteurized. This process enables the brewer to kill traces of live yeast or other organisms which helps the beer stay fresh longer," Anheuser-Busch.

"Almost all of the yeast used in the brewing process is filtered out of the beer prior to packaging,"

Molson Coors Beverage Company. "The yeast used to make our beers is filtered out before bottling. If you would like yeast for bread or other means, we recommend buying yeast itself," Samuel Adams.

"Our bottle-conditioned beers will have live yeast sitting at the bottom of the bottle. Bottle-conditioned beers include: Pale Ale, Porter, Stout, Celebration, and Bigfoot. There are about a couple thousand cells at the bottom of a can or bottle and will need to be propagated to be used for making bread. Yeast for bread and our ale yeast are a little



different. You may have to use a bit more ale yeast than the recipe calls for or use additional leavening agents," Sierra Nevada Brewing Company.

Also, as we see from Scripture, *chamets* is a food item. Therefore, by definition, alcohol would not be considered *chamets* and since most beer cannot be used as a starter, it would not be considered *seor*.

In addition to alcohol, since the Feast of Unleavened Bread focuses on food items we consume, there is no reason to remove non-food items with a leavening agent, e.g., baking soda toothpaste.

### What About Grain Substitutes?

The last issue to address is grain substitutes. Examples of this includes quinoa, rice, almonds (and other nuts), coconut, tapioca, or sorghum. Many Jews use grain substitutes with a leavening agent to make cakes and other items during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Even though grain substitutes are technically not grain, we believe that using such products combined with a leavening agent to make bread or pastries violates the command of abstaining from leavened bread during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The main point of this Feast is to remove and abstain from leavened bread or that which puffs up.

### In Summary

Let's now summarize what we have learned:

- Wine was used during the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the form of an offering. This shows that a leavening agent on its own is NOT biblically considered leavening.
- The two words for leavening or leavened bread within Hebrew are *seor* and *chamets*.
- From a biblical standpoint, *seor* refers to a piece of highly fermented or acidic dough or any other grain-derived leavened product that might be used to leaven dough, much like our own sourdough starter.

- *Chamets* would be any grain-derived food product that has been leavened by *seor* or a leavening agent, whether natural or chemical.
- Except for yeast packets, a leavening agent alone is NOT considered *seor* or *chamets*.
- Since most alcohol does not contain active yeast and cannot be used as a sourdough starter, i.e., *seor*, and would not meet the definition of *chamets*, it can remain during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

I hope that this information has helped you better understand the biblical definition of leavening. We encourage you to prove all things from Yahweh's Word as we are all obligated to do. 





Modern Hebrew uses a “vav” (v) for the sixth letter of its alphabet but anciently this wasn’t the case. Originally it had a “w” (double “u”) sound. This is a big deal when determining the proper pronunciation of the Tetragrammaton. The only “v” sound in classical or biblical Hebrew is made from the second letter, the “bet” (for you Hebrew students this is the Hebrew letter “bet” without the dot called the dagesh lene, which indicates the harder pronunciation “b”).

It is known from antiquity the Tetragrammaton letters yod, heh, and waw are vowels. Vowels are spoken with the open mouth. The “v” is a consonant, not a vowel, and is spoken with the upper teeth and lower lip together. The historian Josephus (37 CE) said of the high priest, “A mitre also of fine linen encompassed his head, which was tied by a blue ribbon, about which there was another golden crown, in which was engraven the sacred name [of the Almighty]: it consists of four vowels.” (*War of the Jews*, Book 5. 5. 7.)

Consisting of four vowels, the name Yahweh is pronounced with the open mouth, i.e., ee - ah- oo - eh. You cannot have or inject a consonant v as in Yahveh or Jehovah i.e., ee – ah – vv – eh. The two-syllable name Yahweh can be breathed when you deeply inhale and exhale.

Qamets He 'a'	Tsere Yod 'e'	Seghol Yod 'e'	Hireq Yod 'i'	Holem Waw 'o'	Shureq 'u'
like father UNCHANGABLE	like they UNCHANGABLE	like better UNCHANGABLE	like machine UNCHANGABLE	like role UNCHANGABLE	like ruler UNCHANGABLE

The Masoretic vowel pointing backs up Josephus’ claims about the yod, heh and waw. In biblical Hebrew there are six unchangeable vowels (see chart above).

In his biblical Hebrew lecture series, Dr. Bill Barrick makes this interesting observation: “Sometimes actually in the transcription of ancient Hebrew such as the Dead Sea Scrolls, a ‘waw’ is sometimes given as a vowel letter for the *qibbuts*, which really represents a *shureq* and that also indicates the sounds of them were very, very close, even in ancient times.” (*Biblical Hebrew Grammar I*, Lesson 12). [youtu.be/qb6DzN875y4?t=386](https://youtu.be/qb6DzN875y4?t=386) The qibbuts is a short vowel and has a “u” sound like in the word “ruler,” which equates to the “w” or double u. (See *Basics of Biblical Hebrew* Chapter 2.4)

J.D. Wijnkoop, literary candidate at the University of Leyden and rabbi of the Jewish Congregation in Amsterdam, states in his book, *Manual of Hebrew Grammar*, “Waw is a softly, scarcely audible pronounced w, which is produced by a quick opening of the lips.” (*Forgotten Books*, Classic Reprint Series, 2015, p. 3, original publication 1898).

Dr. Steven E. Fassberg, who received his Ph.D. from Harvard and teaches at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem as a professor in the Hebrew language department and who headed the University’s Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls, and has contributed to numerous works such as *The Encyclopedia Judaica*, stated: “There is no doubt that the original sound was w and not v. Sometime during the history of the Hebrew language there was a shift from w > v in pronunciation, probably already during the Mishnaic Period [70 CE-200 CE]” (email correspondence).

The Aramaic language became the common language throughout the Middle East, eventually displacing Assyrian cuneiform as the predominant writing system. Aramaic is still spoken today in parts of Turkey, Iraq and Iran. “An Aramaic institute was established in 2007 by Damascus University that teaches courses to keep the language alive. The institute’s activities were suspended in 2010 amidst fears that the square Aramaic alphabet used in the program too closely resembled the square script of the Hebrew alphabet and all the signs with the square Aramaic script were taken down.” *Wikipedia* “The Persians adopted Aramaic. The Babylonians adopted it and so did the Jews. It then prevailed as the language of the Middle East until 700 AD.” (*Easter Sunday: A Syrian bid to resurrect Aramaic, the language of Jesus Christ*)

The Hebrew square script derived its letters from Aramaic around the time of the Babylonian exile. Being the language the Messiah spoke as well as the biblical patriarch Jacob, it uses a “w” for the sixth letter. We read in Deuteronomy 26:5, “My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous.”

Ugaritic and later Semitic languages like Arabic, Maltese, and Ge’ez, all use a double “u” comparatively for the letter. This fact dynamites any possibility that the sixth letter had the sound of a “v” anciently as these languages all derive from older Semitic languages through Aramaic and as far back as Phoenician, i.e. ancient Hebrew.

Another substantiation is the linguistic study of the Yemenite Jews of Arabia. These Jews were never displaced from the region. Edward Horowitz writes: “The sound of waw a long time ago wasn’t ‘vav’ at all but ‘w’ and ‘w’ is weak. The Yemenite Jews of Arabia who retain an ancient, correct, and pure pronunciation of Hebrew still pronounce the waw as ‘w,’ as does Arabic, the close sister language of Hebrew,” *How the Hebrew Language Grew*, pp. 29-30.

From this and other incontrovertible evidence, we see that any name for Yahweh like Yehovah, Yahvah, Yahveh, etc., has no basis in historical and linguistic fact.

**Q** I watched your video on determining the first month of the biblical calendar. I have been trying to keep these dates to the best of my ability but I have a couple of questions.

- How much of the crescent must be visible? I looked up a phases of the moon site and they show the crescent beginning anywhere from 1% to 6% or so “visibility.” So just how much can a person see on a clear night and be able to call it a new moon? Are there any online sites that give regular reports on these sightings?
- I note in some calendars that Abib can begin in March or even in April. If one year it is declared to be in April, Passover would be in the mid or even latter part of April so is the grain still in the “green ear” stage or is that necessary at Passover as long as it is in that stage on the first day of the month?

**A** The Bible does not define a new moon by crescent width. The biblical new moon is the very first thin, visible crescent of the moon that starts a month (biblical new moon). It could be 1% or up to 5% of full. After that the moon waxes larger with each passing night until it reaches 100% full and then it begins to shrink or wane until it becomes invisible to create an astronomical new moon (wall-calendar, black spot “new moon”). We can’t confirm what isn’t seen and so Yahweh gives us a precise starting point for each month by a visible demarcation first seen.

Abib is established by a stage of maturing barley grain at the time of the new moon. It typically is in our month of March or April. Abib is defined as young ears of grain, which are in the soft dough stage. They are green in that stage as well.

As we note in our *Biblical Calendar* booklet, “...the calendar is confirmed only by observation of the barley and the new moons...we are to establish His appointed times (*moed*) by the monthly lunar cycle and to start at that particular time of year when the sun causes barley to mature...”

**Q** I’m not clear about how to count to Pentecost. Some show that it falls a week after your calendar shows. Why the difference?

**A** In Leviticus 23:15-16 we are given instructions in how to count to Pentecost or Feast of Weeks. “And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto Yahweh.”

We must count the seven weeks to Pentecost from the day of the wave sheaf offering. The wave sheaf is a firstfruits offering and was offered on the day after the Sabbath, Leviticus 23:23:11. It was presented to Yahweh on Sunday at the start of the Feast of Firstfruits. The *Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature* notes: “Deputies from the Sanhedrin went out on the eve of the festival and tied the growing stalks in bunches. In the evening of the festival day the sheaf was cut...and carried to the Temple...the priest (then) waved the offering in all directions.” This shows that the wave sheaf offering was performed at the start of the Feast and not afterward.

The Sadducee priests were in charge of temple worship. Records during the second Temple say that the Sadducees offered the wave sheaf on the Sunday during the Feast of Firstfruits (*Harper Collins, NRSV* note).

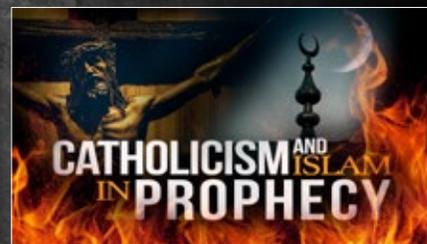
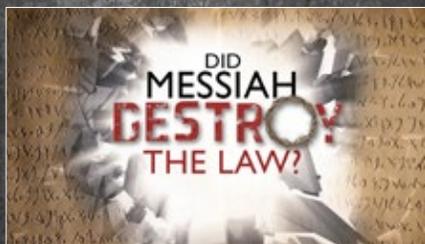
If the priest waved the sheaf on the Sunday after the Feast was over (“morrow after the Sabbath”) as some propose this year, it wouldn’t be the Feast of Firstfruits.

We see consistency in the way the firstfruits wave loaves of Pentecost were offered on Pentecost, not afterward, Leviticus 23:20-21.

**Q** Paul seems to contradict himself when it comes to obedience. In Romans 3:28 he writes that man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. But in



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Romans 2:13 he writes that not hearers of the law are just before Yahweh but the doers of the law shall be justified.

**A** These two verses blend harmoniously when you understand the faith-works issue. Keeping Yahweh's laws gives life to one's faith. But lawkeeping strictly on its own will not make one justified in Yahweh's sight. Justification means just as if one has not sinned. But a faith in Yahweh leads to repentance and repentance leads to obedience to His laws. In short, faith justifies the man and works justify faith.

**Q** Do you consider the New Testament Scripture? Or equivalent with the Old? Do you believe the New Covenant has been fully activated? Did Yahshua complete the Passover or did He open the door to the Passover?

**A** The New Testament is as legitimate as the Old. The Old testifies to the inspiration of the New just as the New does the Old. Paul joins the two in Ephesians 2:20: "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Yahshua Messiah himself being the chief corner stone." Yahshua is the "glue" binding the New to the Old. Prophecies of Yahshua in the Old Testament are fulfilled in the New (Isa. 53; John 5:39). In Acts 28:23 Paul uses the law of Moses as well as the prophets to confirm and explain Yahshua. Paul himself, who wrote the majority of the New Testament, was personally chosen by Yahshua to teach the Messiah to the Gentiles, Acts 9:15. To further confirm its legitimacy and inspiration, 263 direct quotations from the Old Testament are in the New.

According to Hebrews 8, we are in the New Covenant today. Yet, the full manifestation of that new or "renewed" covenant (Jer. 33) awaits a time when "all shall know Me, from the least to the greatest" (v. 12). This is explained in verse 13: "In that he saith a new covenant, He hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away." As the *Restoration Study Bible* note on Hebrews 8:13 says, the covenant is not the law but is an agreement to follow the law. But man broke the covenant agreement repeatedly. In the New Covenant the law is now in our hearts and minds, so that we obey spontaneously each day. This is how it was always intended to be, Deuteronomy 30:11-14.

Yahshua became the Passover with a better sacrifice that didn't just cover sins as animal blood did, but He paid the penalty of our sins with His atoning blood. That is why He has a better sacrifice, Hebrews 9:13-15. When we observe the Passover, we don't need to come with an animal sacrifice today.

# BIBLICAL HEBREW WORD LESSON

חֹדֶשׁ

## Chodesh Kho'desh

Composition: Het, Holem,  
Dalet, Seghol, Shin.

The Hebrew word **Chodesh** (H2320) is a masculine noun and means new moon or a month. From chadash to be new; causatively, to rebuild, renew, repair, as opposed to Kese H3677 - full moon.

"Sound the ram's horn at the New Moon, and when the moon is full, on the day of our festival!"

Psalms 81:3

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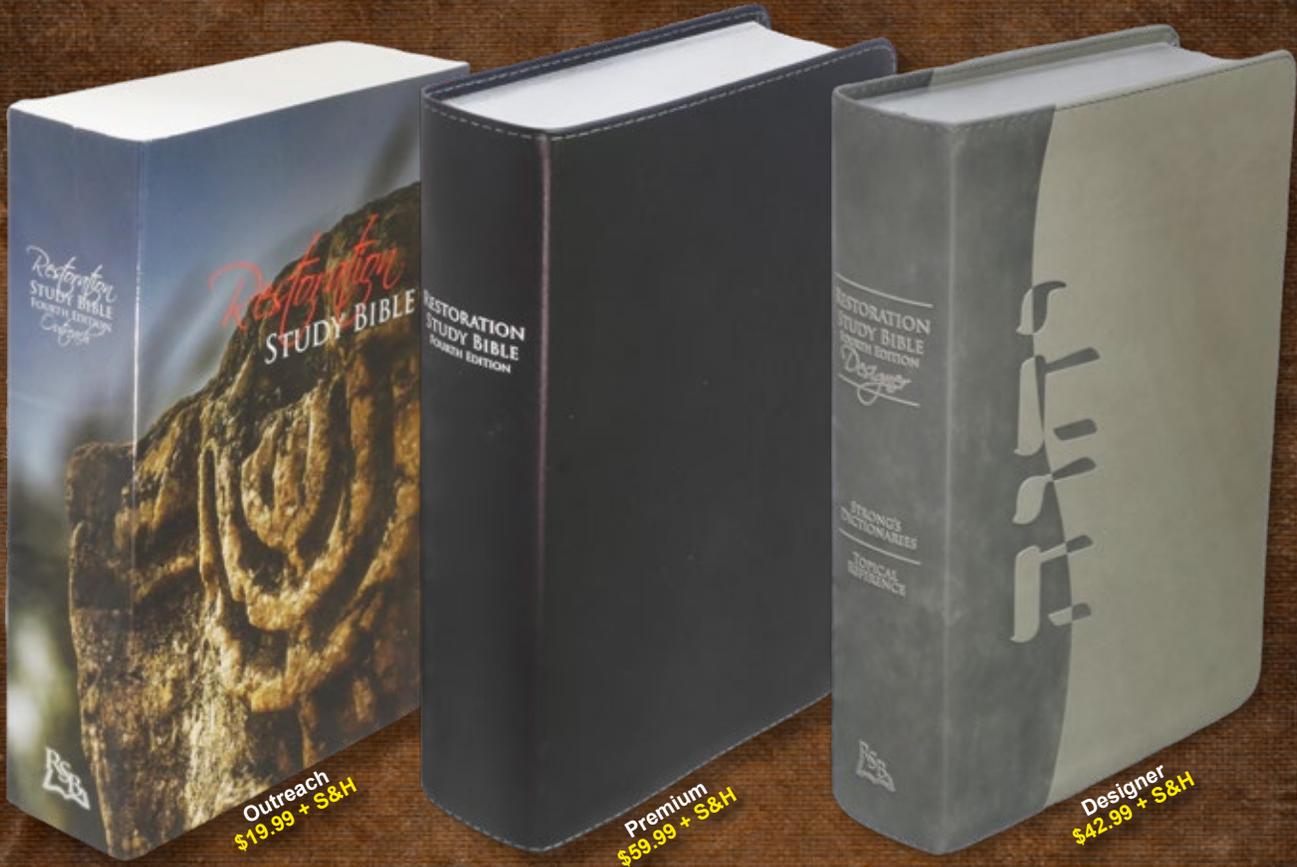
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of \$70, which includes shipping. – ED.

"It was a great blessing to be able to meet, study, and worship with you all, and to be baptized into the Name of our Savior, Yahshua the Messiah. The fact that there are seekers and followers of truth (Yahshua), and that they would go to the great lengths you go to in which to get the Truth out and to live the Truth, is very encouraging. (I was beginning to think I was the only one.) So be encouraged Brothers and Sisters. You are reaching many that you will not know about until we get to the other side. There, we will enjoy life eternal, inexpressible, no more curse, and we shall be healed." – A and HH

"This very morning I was pondering, 'Our Father who art in heaven hallowed by thy name' and I was thinking we don't say honor your father's name or honor your husband's name but honor your father or husband, so why, 'hallowed be Yahweh's name' and not Yahweh Himself. I may have found the answer when I read, **Your Father's Name** booklet. I am very excited and can't wait to read all your online booklets. I have already learned that Christmas and Easter are not biblical so this is not a shock but a comfort that you teach this and the shocking truth about the obelisks. Thank you. Yahweh is so good to bring me to your site." – SC

*In Scripture, an individual's name embodies the character of the individual in every aspect. - ED*

### Meaning of Numbers in Scripture

- One – Unity and Commencement
- Two – Difference
- Three – Completeness
- Four – Creative Works
- Five – Divine Grace
- Six – Number of Man
- Seven – Completeness, Spiritual Perfection
- Eight - New Birth, New Creation, New Beginning
- Nine - Fruit of Spirit, Completeness from YHWH
- Ten – Testimony, Ordinal Perfection
- Eleven - Judgment and Disorder
- Twelve - Governmental Perfection
- Thirteen - Depravity and Rebellion
- Fourteen - Deliverance or Salvation
- Fifteen - Rest
- Sixteen - Love
- Seventeen – Spirit and Order
- Eighteen - Bondage
- Nineteen - Faith
- Twenty - Redemption
- Twenty-One-Exceeding Sinfulness of Sin
- Twenty-Two - Light
- Twenty-three - Death
- Twenty-Four - The Priesthood
- Twenty-Five - The Forgiveness of Sin
- Twenty-Six - The Evangel of Messiah
- Twenty-Seven – Divinity Intensified
- Twenty-Eight - Eternal Life
- Twenty-Nine – Divine Judgment
- Thirty-The Blood of Messiah, Dedications
- Thirty-One - Offspring
- Thirty-Two - Covenant
- Thirty-Three - Promise
- Thirty-Four - Naming of a Son
- Thirty-Five - Hope
- Thirty-Six - Enemy
- Thirty-Seven - The Word of Yahweh
- Thirty-Eight - Slavery
- Thirty-Nine - Disease
- Forty - Trials. Probation and Testings
- Forty-Two - Israel's Oppression, Yahshua's Advent
- Forty-Five - Preservation
- Fifty - Holy Spirit
- Sixty - Pride
- Sixty-Six - Idol Worship
- Seventy - Universality, Israel and Her Restoration
- One Hundred - Yahweh's Election of Grace, Children of Promise
- One Hundred Twenty - Divine Period or Probation
- One Hundred Forty-Four - The Spirit-Guided Life
- One Hundred Fifty-Three - Fruit-Bearing
- Two Hundred - Insufficiency
- Six Hundred - Warfare
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- Eight Hundred Eighty-Eight - First Resurrection
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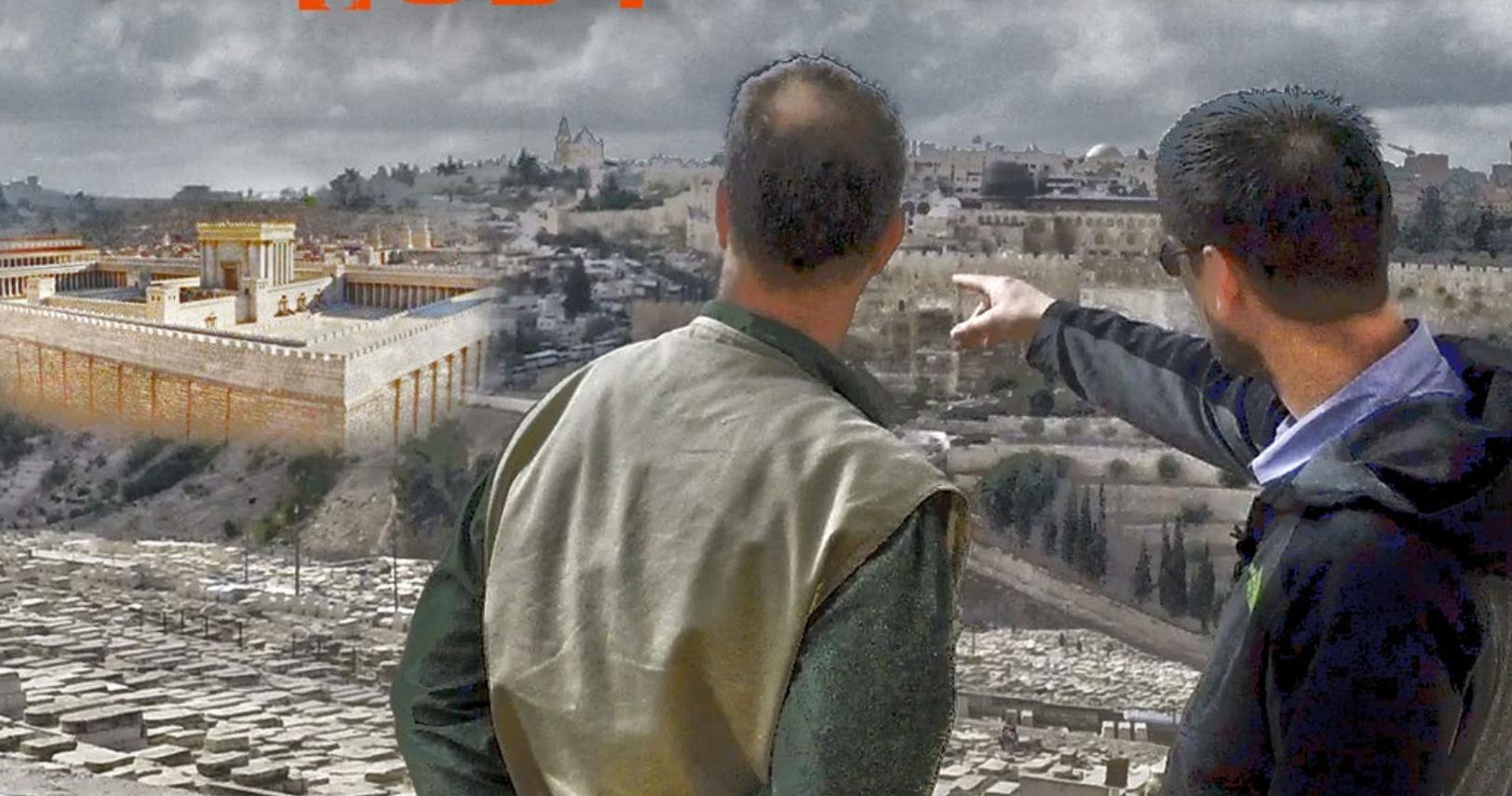


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