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SHA'ALU SHALOM YERUSHALAYIM

PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM

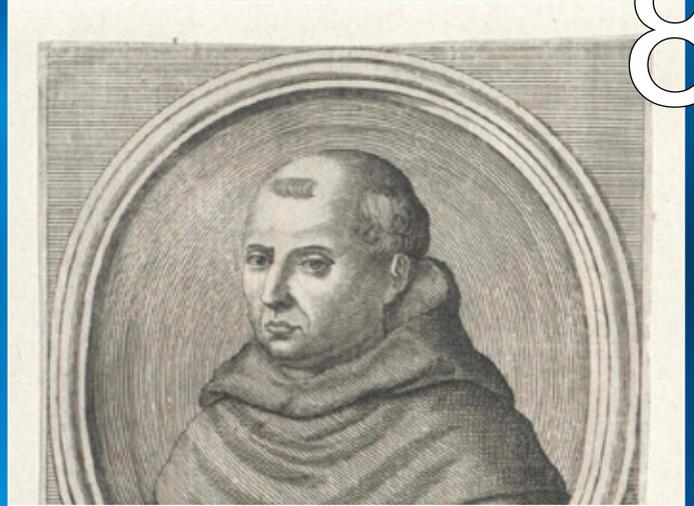


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Restoration Times expounds the close ties between the Old and New Testaments. We teach the continuity and harmony that extend from Yahweh's actions anciently down through His present activity in Yahshua the Messiah. This was also the conviction of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

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COVER:

David's royal city, Jerusalem. The city of peace and destruction. Scripture tells us to pray for its peace, Psalm 122:6

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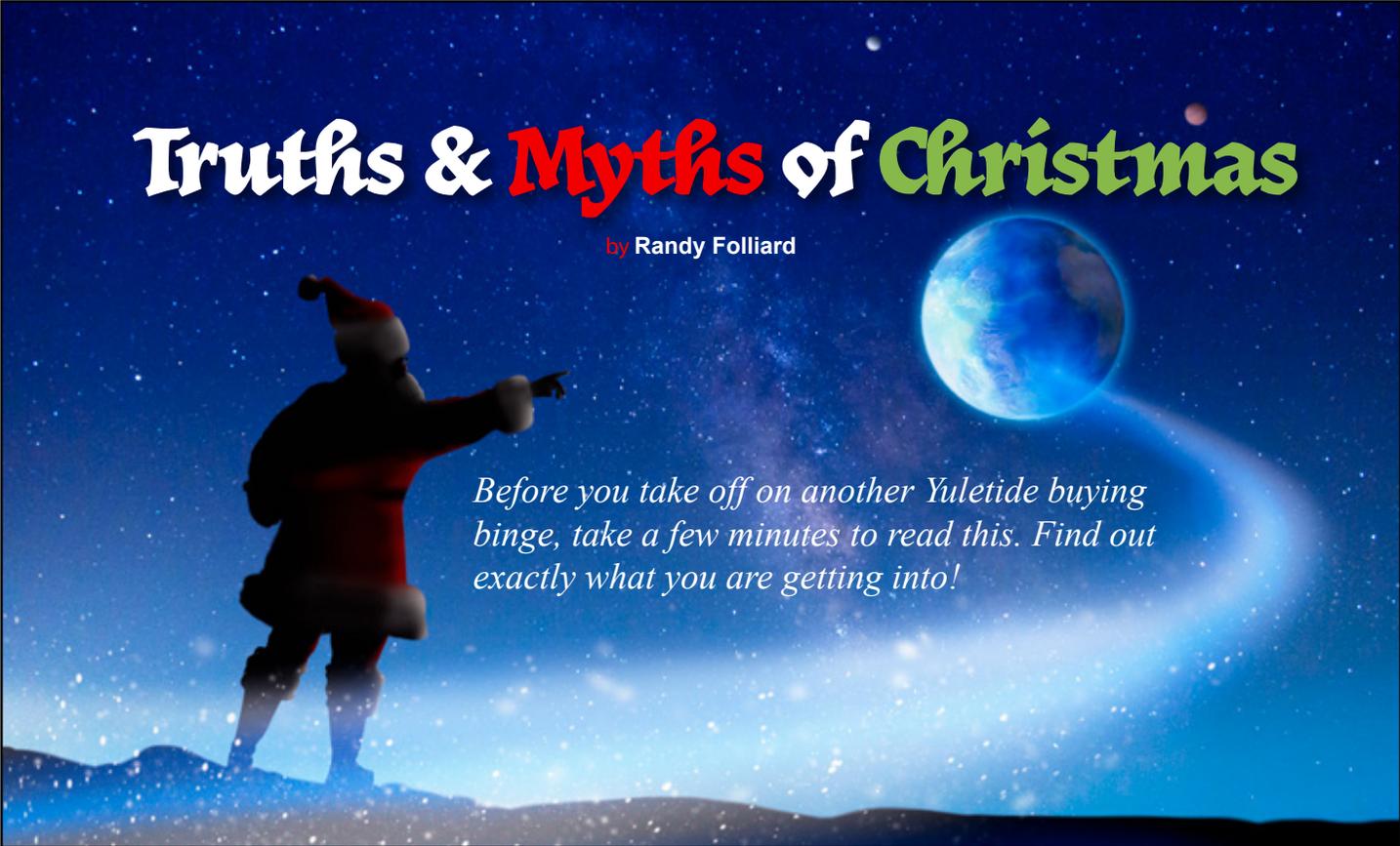


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Truths & Myths of Christmas

by Randy Folliard



Before you take off on another Yuletide buying binge, take a few minutes to read this. Find out exactly what you are getting into!

What do a tinsel-laden pine tree, a jolly ol' elf, and gift exchanging have in common with the birth of the Savior at Bethlehem? Clearly, nothing.

Today's Christmas customs do not exist in Scripture but derive from man-made traditions thousands of years old. Come take a journey with me through history and Scripture to understand the truth about this extravaganza of holidays.

Christmas Built on a False Premise

First, we consider the premise of Christmas. Do we have evidence that December 25th is the Messiah's birthday? According to history and scholarship, there's no evidence that Yahshua was born on this day or anywhere close to it.

The *New Catholic Encyclopedia* states: "Inexplicable though it seems, the date of Christ's birth is not known. The Gospels indicate neither the day nor the month" (1967, "Christmas").

The Roman Catholic Church chose December 25 as the date of the Messiah's birth. No other evidence exists establishing that date. So we find that the very source responsible for the establishment of December 25 as the birth date for the Savior

admits that the actual date is unknown!

Many other sources confirm its absence. For instance, the *Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature* says, "The fathers of the first three centuries do not speak of any special observance of the nativity. No corresponding festival was presented by the Old Testament...the day and month of the birth of Christ are nowhere stated in the Gospel history, and cannot be certainly determined..." (1981, Christmas).

This admission is staggering. The church fathers of the first three centuries spoke nothing about the celebration of the Nativity. Clearly, the observance of the Messiah's birth was unknown to the men who governed the church for the first 300 years.

Any reasonable person would think that such an important, historic event would have been understood by these stewards. The fact that the church fathers were oblivious to this observance shows that it has no early ties to Christianity. So if the day of the Messiah's birth is not known even in the earliest years of the church, why did the church later select December 25th? What was so special about this day?

Worship of Saturn

This day has another past more sinister than many realize. December 25th was chosen because of its connection with pagan worship, specifically with sun worship, a religion going all the way back to ancient Babylon.

In Roman culture there were three observances that contributed to the timing and customs of Christmas. Possibly the greatest and most popular celebration was in honor of Saturn, the Roman god of agriculture, hence Saturnalia, at the winter solstice. According to most historians, this festival resembled Mardi Gras and New Year's: it was a time of decadence and confusion.

The *Standard American Encyclopedia* explains, "...the feast in honor of Saturn, celebrated by the Romans in December and regarded as a time of unrestrained license and merriment for all classes, even for the slaves..." (1940, "Saturnalia").

According to the *Encyclopedia Americana*, "It [Saturnalia] probably originated as a harvest celebration. Under the Caesars it was celebrated from the 17th to the 23rd of December, during which period public business was closed, masters and

slaves changed places, and feasting, giving of gifts, and general license prevailed” (1956, Saturnalia).

It is no coincidence that the dates of Saturnalia closely correspond to Christmas. This Roman festival was one of the happiest times of the pagan year. It included the giving of gifts, the suspension of work, and easements in cultural norms and ethics. Slaves were given temporary freedom and certain cases of immorality were overlooked.

The Counterfeit Messiah

Another belief influencing Christmas was Mithraism. This was a cult in the Roman culture that was reserved for men only and was especially popular among soldiers.

Again the *Catholic Encyclopedia* says, “The origin of the cult of Mithra dates from the time that the Hindus and Persians still formed one people, for the god Mithra occurs in the religion and the sacred books of both races, i.e. in the Vedas and in the Avesta. In Vedic hymns he is frequently mentioned and is nearly always coupled with Varuna, but beyond the bare occurrence of his name, little is known of him (Rigveda, III, 59). It is conjectured (Oldenberg, *Die Religion des Veda*, Berlin, 1894) that Mithra was the rising sun, Varuna the setting sun; or, Mithra, the sky at daytime, Varuna, the sky at night; or, the one the sun, the other the moon. In any case Mithra is a light or solar deity of some sort; but in vedic times the vague and general mention of him seems to indicate that his name was little more than a memory.... Mithraism was emphatically a soldier religion: Mithra, its hero, was especially a divinity of fidelity, manliness, and bravery; the stress it laid on good fellowship and brotherliness, its exclusion of women, and the secret bond amongst its members have suggested the idea that Mithraism was Masonry amongst the Roman soldiery” (see *newadvent.org*, “Mithraism”).

As we see from this reference, not much is known about this cult. It goes back to when the Hindus and Persians were one people, but how and in what form this deity was worshiped is unknown. As this deity evolved over time and cultures, it found a home in Rome; it especially gained popularity among the Roman military. At this point, Mithra had been reinterpreted as a deity of war and as a result, Mithraism again took root within the Roman culture.

The connection between Mithraism and Christmas is described in the book, *Mystery*

Religions in the Ancient World. “Mithra was the creator and orderer of the universe, hence a manifestation of the creative Logos or Word. Seeing mankind afflicted by Ahriman, the cosmic power of darkness, he incarnated on earth. His birth on 25 December was witnessed by shepherds. After many deeds he held a last supper with his disciples and returned to heaven. At the end of the world he will come again to judge resurrected mankind and after the last battle, victorious over evil, he will lead the chosen ones through a river of fire to a blessed immortality,” p. 99.

The resemblance of Mithra and the Messiah is striking. Scripture states that the Messiah is the creative Word or Logos, John 1:1-3. We also know that His birth was witnessed by shepherds and that He shared a last supper with His disciples and was afterward murdered and resurrected to heaven.

The Bible also prophesies of His return, when He will remove evil and conquer all those who oppose Him. Because of these similarities, some scholars believe that Mithraism was a major force in Christianity and a serious threat to the Church. According to Ernest Renan, a French historian and expert in ancient cultures, “...if the growth of Christianity had been arrested by some mortal malady, the world would have been Mithraic...”

Mithra was born on December 25. There’s little doubt that the date of Mithra worship played a role in the establishment of December 25th as the Messiah’s birth.

Unconquered Sun Worship

In addition to Saturnalia and Mithraism, there was another celebration called the Feast of Sol Invictus that helped solidify December 25 as the date for the Nativity. The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* openly states that the Church adopted this day for Christmas:

“During the later periods of Roman history, sun worship gained in importance and ultimately led to what has been called a ‘solar monotheism.’ Nearly all the gods of the period were possessed of Solar qualities, and both Christ and Mithra acquired the traits of solar deities. The feast of Sol Invictus (unconquered Sun) on December 25th was celebrated with great joy, and eventually this date was taken over by the Christians as Christmas, the birthday of Christ” (2000, vol. 11, p. 390).

There should be no doubt that Christmas is an amalgamation of ancient pagan practices

later adopted by the Roman church.

This ancient celebration was nothing more than sun worship or “solar monotheism.” The term “solar” refers to the sun, while “monotheism” refers to the worship of one deity. Most ancient religions were polytheistic, meaning they worshiped many gods. To find a point in history where sun worship was a monotheistic religion is noteworthy.

On a side note, vestiges of sun worship can be seen in other areas of the Church. For example, the day that nominal worship has chosen as a day of worship comes from the Latin *dies solis*, meaning, “day of the sun.” According to historians, it was Emperor Constantine who officially changed Sabbath worship to Sunday; prior to his conversion this man was a sun worshiper.

Authors Anthony F. Buzzard and Charles F. Hunting in their book, *The Doctrine of the Trinity*, state, “Constantine appears to have been a sun-worshiper, one of a number of late pagan cults which had observances in common with Christians. Worship of such gods was not a novel idea. Every Greek or Roman expected that political success followed from religious adherence.

“Although Constantine claimed that he was the thirteenth Apostle, his was no sudden Damascus conversion. Indeed it is highly doubtful that he ever truly abandoned sun-worship. After his professed acceptance of Christianity, he built a triumphal arch to the sun god and in Constantinople set up a statue of the same sun god bearing his own features. He was finally deified after his death by official edict in the Empire, as were many Roman rulers.”

We also find evidence for the role that sun worship played in Christmas from the *New International Dictionary of the Christian Church*.

“December 25 was the date of the Roman pagan festival inaugurated in 274 as the birthday of the unconquered sun which, at the winter solstice, begins again to show an increase in light. Sometime before 336 the Church in Rome, unable to stamp out this pagan festival, spiritualized it as the Feast of the Nativity of the Sun of Righteousness,” p. 223.

According to this source, December 25th was marked as the birthday of the sun in 274 CE and about 60 years later the Church adopted this day as the birthday of the Messiah because of its inability to stamp out this pagan observance. By not doing so,

history was changed forever!

A Holiday Outlawed by Puritans

Because of its paganism and the fact that Christmas resembled more of a Mardi Gras during the time of early America, many Christians rejected Christmas and its customs.

Robert J. Myers in his book, *Celebrations*, writes, “In England, for example, the Puritans could not tolerate this celebrating for which there was no biblical sanction. Consequently, the Roundhead Parliament of 1643 outlawed the feasts of Christmas, Easter, Whitsuntide, along with the saints’ days,” p. 312.

As noted on the *History Channel*, this refusal was shared by the pilgrims and other early Americans: “In the early 17th century, a wave of religious reform changed the way Christmas was celebrated in Europe. When Oliver Cromwell and his Puritan forces took over England in 1645, they vowed to rid England of decadence and as part of their effort cancelled Christmas. By popular demand, Charles II was restored to the throne and with him came the return of the popular holiday.

“The pilgrims, English separatists that came to America in 1620, were even more orthodox in their Puritan beliefs than Cromwell. As a result, Christmas was not a holiday in early America. From 1659 to 1681, the celebration of Christmas was outlawed in Boston. Anyone exhibiting the Christmas spirit was fined five shillings” (*history.com*, Christmas).

What would happen if believers took such a stand today? Much of today’s error and subsequent problems would be removed and a time of unparalleled truth would result. We need only to ask, is it sanctioned by Almighty Yahweh and His Word?

Tree Worship and a Claus for Error

Christmas is riddled with non-biblical traditions.

The evergreen tree has been an object of veneration for millennia. Scripture provides many examples of tree worship, but none clearer than Jeremiah 10.

“Hear ye the word which Yahweh speaketh unto you. O house of Israel: Thus saith Yahweh. Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of the heaven: for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.

They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them: for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good,” vv 1-5.

Does this description sound familiar? Take a closer look; 1) one cuts a tree out of the forest; 2) they deck it with silver and gold; 3) they fasten it with nails and with hammers; and 4) they stand it upright. You’re probably thinking, Christmas tree. Truth be told, this is not referring specifically to a Christmas tree, which is nonetheless a form of tree worship.



**From 1659 to 1681,
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Read what Jeremiah said in verse 2: “Learn not the way of the heathen.” Does this warning also apply to Christmas? We can answer that by simply asking: Is Christmas found in the Bible or in traditions of pagans? We can safely say this warning includes Christmas. When Yahweh said through Jeremiah, learn not the way of the heathen, He meant any pagan worship, including Christmas and Easter.

In addition to the biblical record, scholarship also confirms that tree worship was common. For example, *The Golden Bough* states, “...Tree worship is well attested for all the great European families of the Aryan stock. Amongst the Celts the oak-worship of the Druids is familiar to everyone. Sacred groves were common among the ancient Germans, and tree-worship is hardly extinct among their descendants at the present day,” p. 58.

We have the tradition of Saint Nick.

According to the book, *Santa Claus, Last of the Wild Men*, the traditional Santa Claus may have roots to Odin, a major deity in Norse mythology: “... children would place their boots filled with sugar, carrots or straw, near the chimney for Odin’s flying horse, Sleipnir, to eat. Odin would then reward those children for their kindness by replacing Sleipnir’s food with gifts or candy. This practice survived in Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands after the adoption of Christianity and became associated with Saint Nicholas as a result of the process of Christianization and can be still seen in the modern practice of the hanging of stockings at the chimney in some homes” (pp. 171-173).

While many believe that Santa Claus traces back to Saint Nicholas, bishop of Myra, who lived during the 4th century, the truth is very different. The etymological roots of this figure harken back to German and Dutch folklore, but not to Scripture.

The True Birthday of Yahshua

Let’s now transition from the historical roots of Christmas to the scriptural facts about our Savior’s birth. From Scripture we find that He was likely born in the fall.

We find evidence in Luke 1:5, “There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.”

Zacharias, John the Baptist’s father, served at the temple and his course of duty was of the course of Abia. What’s the significance about this? Before we answer that, we need to understand these courses a bit better.

In the Old Testament there were 24 courses or service schedules in the temple. The cycle of courses began at Abib (the first biblical month) in the springtime and was from Sabbath to Sabbath. Each priest was required to serve twice a year. Abia was the eighth course, which would have fallen around the beginning of June.

Based on the temple duty roster, we can pinpoint that John the Baptist was conceived around early June. Scripture states that Mary conceived Yahshua six months after Elisabeth conceived John the Baptist, Luke 1:26. From this we can determine the approximate date of the Messiah’s conception and birth. If John the Baptist was conceived in early June and if Yahshua was conceived six months

later, then Yahshua was likely conceived in early December, placing His birth nine months away or sometime in September and possibly during the Feast of Tabernacles.

Snowmen and Frosty Shepherds?

What about the shepherds? The traditional Christmas story says that shepherds received a miraculous message about the infant Yahshua while in the fields on December 25th. The traditional story is based on Luke 2:13-18:

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising Elohim, and saying, Glory to Elohim in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass which Yahweh hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.”

The question is, were shepherds out tending flocks the end of December? This is highly unlikely.

According to *Adam Clarke's Commentary*,

“It was a custom among the Jews to send out their sheep to the deserts, about the Passover, and bring them home at the commencement of the first rain: during the time they were out, the shepherds watched them night and day. As the Passover occurred in the spring, and the first rain began early in the month of Marchesvan, which answers to part of our October and November, we find that the sheep were kept out in the open country during summer. And as these shepherds had not yet brought home their flocks, it is a presumptive argument that October had not yet commenced, and that, consequently, our [Master] was not born on the 25th of December, when no flocks were out in the fields; nor could he have been born later than September, as the flocks were still in the fields by night. On this very ground the nativity in December should be given up. The feeding of the flocks by night in the fields is a chronological fact, which casts considerable light upon this disputed point.”

The *Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown*

Commentary agrees. “From this most critics, since Lightfoot conclude that the time which, since the fourth century, has been ecclesiastically fixed upon for the celebration of Christ’s birth – the 25th of December, or the midst of the rain season – cannot be the true time, as the shepherds drove their flocks about the spring or Passover time out to the fields, and remained out with them all summer, under cover of huts or tents, returning with them late in the autumn. ...The nature of the seasons in Palestine could hardly have been unknown to those who fixed upon the present Christmas-period: the difficulty, therefore, is perhaps more imaginary than real.”

Three Men and a Baby’s Birthday?

Let’s consider one more piece of the puzzle – the wise men. This story is based on the second



chapter of Matthew. It reads, “Now when Yahshua was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him...”

“When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Miriam his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh,” vv 1-2, 10-11.

Tradition says that three wise men visited the infant Yahshua in a manger to honor His birth. Do we find evidence of that here? First, Scripture says nothing about three wise men, only that three gifts were given. Second, they did not visit the infant Messiah at the manger, but the boy Messiah at His house, verse 11. And third, the wise men were not there to celebrate the birth of the Messiah, but to worship the King of the Jews, verse 2.

Other than the wise men visiting the Messiah, the traditional account is almost completely lacking in Scripture. Again, there is no mention of the number of wise men, there is no mention of a manger, and there is no mention of the Messiah’s birth.

We find from verse 16 that Yahshua was around the age of two. It reads, “Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he diligently enquired of the wise men.”

Scripture verifies here that Herod murdered all male children two years and under. Why did he start with the age of two? It’s likely that Yahshua was near this age when the wise men came to visit. Again we find that the traditional story of the Messiah’s birth has little basis in Scripture. The story of Christmas is not in the Bible but it was through pagan Roman tradition that the Church adopted the rituals of Christmas.

Come Out, Be Separate, Touch Not

What does our Father Yahweh say about such compromise? We are commanded in Jeremiah 10 to abstain from learning the ways of the heathen.

Paul in 2Corinthians 6:14 also warns about compromise and accepting false worship. “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Messiah with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of Elohim with idols? for ye are the temple of the living Elohim; as Elohim hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith Yahweh, and touch not the unclean thing: and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith Yahweh Almighty.”

Here in each question Paul shows the distinction between right and wrong, and between worship that is honoring and worship that is not.

Based on the facts that Christmas contains no scriptural foundation and was borrowed from pagan worship, it is clearly to be avoided by anyone who wants to honor the true Messiah. 

CASTING LIGHT ON *HANUKKAH*



Christmas is not the only popular observance falling in December. The Feast of Dedication, or Hanukkah, is an eight-day nationalistic observance of the Jews that begins on the 25th of Kislev (December). It celebrates the rededication of Solomon's temple that had been desecrated by Antiochus Epiphanes, king of Syria, in 165 BCE. Tradition says the observance was instituted by Judah Maccabee and his followers.

Hanukkah and its main features are found in the apocryphal books of first and second Maccabees. The eight days were celebrated with gladness like the Feast of Tabernacles. It is even referred to as Tabernacles (2Maccabees 1:9) or Tabernacles and Fire (1:18) (*Encyclopaedia Judaica*, Hanukkah. p. 1283).

The *Judaica* surmises that Tabernacles was not celebrated at the proper time because the Temple had not been cleansed, and therefore "a second Tabernacles (analogous to the Second Passover) was held."

Unlike Yahweh's appointed Feast days, Hanukkah with its Christmas-like customs was a work in progress. Its rites evolved over time. The 25th date corresponds to the third anniversary of the proclamation of the edict of Antiochus to offer idolatrous sacrifices on the Temple altar. The date and month trace to the ancient day of sun worship at the winter solstice, and to the related feasts of the Greek god Dionysius.

Historical sources differ in the details of Hanukkah. Various traditions (*baraita*) in the Jewish oral law, which were not

incorporated in the Mishnah, provide differing legends. The most prominent tradition details the rededication of the Temple when a single cruse of oil, enough to light the Temple candelabrum for a day, miraculously provided light for eight days – thus making Hanukkah an eight-day celebration called "Lights." The historian and priest Josephus, who made no mention of Hanukkah, paired the name Lights with the fire that descended from heaven to the altar not only in the time of Moses, Nehemiah, and Solomon's Temple, but also in the days of Judah Maccabee (1:18-36: 2:8-12, 14) (*Judaica*, p. 1283).

As with most extrabiblical observances, the Talmudic tradition of Hanukkah comes with a checkered past. The *Judaica* notes,

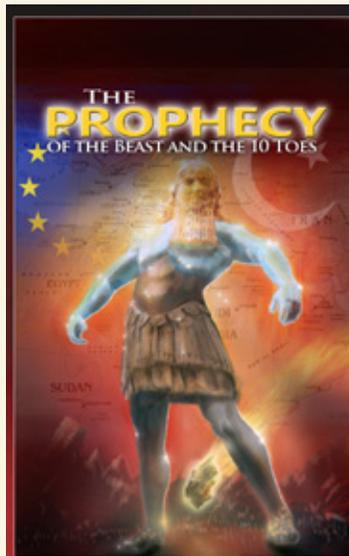
"Certain critics conjectured that the origin of Hanukkah was either a festival of the Hellenized Jews or even an idolatrous festival that had occurred on the 25th of Kislev. Antiochus had, therefore, chosen the day to commence the idolatrous worship in the Temple" (*ibid*).

The parallels with the Christmas celebration are obvious. The Hanukkah bush smacks of the Christmas tree, the greeting cards, gift exchanging, bulbs and lights strung at this time also are clearly a replication of Christmas customs.

Some contend that Yahshua was keeping Hanukkah in John 10:22. The passage says it was during the feast of the dedication when Yahshua is seen walking on Solomon's porch at the Temple. It does not say He went into the Temple and was sitting in on a Hanukkah service. He typically went wherever crowds gathered. He discussed Scripture with some Jews there who then wanted to stone Him.

Hanukkah celebrates the rededication of a temple that no longer exists. Being that Hanukkah is a man-made tradition with problematic customs and no biblical affirmation, should we not instead focus energy on Feasts that are repeatedly commanded by Yahweh, kept by Yahshua and the apostles, and will be part of the constitutional law governing the Kingdom coming to earth? Man's traditions don't set the course for the True Worshiper. Yahweh's commands do.

Yahweh's seven annual Feasts are part of the covenant He makes with believers today. These are the observances that have biblical authority. The true worshiper must make them a part of his life now. 



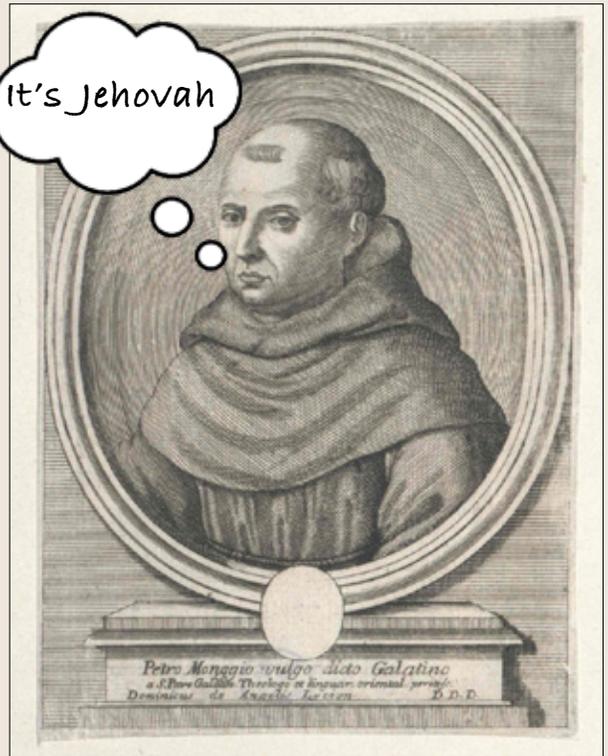
Who Is the Beast?

According to Daniel's prophecy, the Antimesiah will arise from the territory ruled by Alexander the Great and passed on to his Seleucid generals. Many claim that the Antimesiah is the papacy. While there is more than one problem with this view, the greatest difficulty is found here. For *The Prophecy of the Beast and the Ten Toes*, see online or ordering information on the back cover.

The Man-made Name

Yehovah

A recent claim is that the full vowels for Yehovah have been found in ancient Hebrew manuscripts, thereby challenging the Name Yahweh. The following is an extract from our website (yrm.org) in response to this claim. (Original Q&A by Ryan Mansager)



We hear it often: “the full vowels for the creator’s name have now been found.” Sadly, many people have been sold a bill of goods based on a false premise. And that false premise is perpetuated from a lack of understanding of *Ketiv/Qere* in Hebrew. *Ketiv* and *Qere* are orthographic devices that were used by the Masoretes (Jewish scribes) in the 6th to the 10th centuries. *Ketiv* means, “what is written.” *Qere* means, “what is read.” In other words, the sacred Name was written one way, but it was to be read another way.

Basically, the scribes would insert the vowels from two other words – Adonai and Elohim – into the Tetragrammaton, יהוה, so when the reader saw these vowels he would read the title Adonai or Elohim, completely avoiding the sacred Name, which Judaism believes is too holy to pronounce. This practice is done every Sabbath as the torah scroll is read out loud. (Professor William Barrick explains the practice in the link at the end of this article.)

Some who promote Yehovah over Yahweh point to a Karaite Jew’s claim that he discovered the “full” vowels in the Tetragrammaton from a medieval manuscript, indicating the name Yehovah. However, another name would be just a legitimate as Yehovah, based on the same principles and logic used to support it and that name is Yehovih.

The vowels for Adonai in the Tetragrammaton read Yehovah while the vowels for Elohim in the tetragrammaton read Yehovih. One is no more legitimate than the other. Both have the same “full vowels,” as well as missing *holems*, vowel deductions, etc. I would like to go through some of these examples in the Leningrad Codex.

The practice of such vowel substitution existed in Masoretic manuscripts dating to the 9th and 10th centuries, CE. There are several forms of *Ketiv/Qere*, including: ordinary, vowel, omitted, added, euphemistic, split, and *qere perpetuum*. If you do not have a basic concept of biblical Hebrew this may seem a bit complex.

יהוה

1 Kings 2:26 we see the full vowels for Elohim in the text using the *shewa*, *holem*, and *hireq*. In this instance the *hateph seghol* reverts to a simple *shewa* under the *yod* exactly as it does with the combination for Yehovah. This *hateph* vowel reverted to a simple *shewa* because the compound *shewa* was not needed under the *yod* as it is under the guttural *aleph*. This is a rule of Hebrew grammar. “Gutturals cannot take vocal *shewa*, but do take reduced (*hateph*) vowels” (*Basics of Biblical Hebrew*, Chapter 2L – “Hebrew Vowels”). This is a rare occurrence, just as is the rare occurrence of the full vowels of Adonai with the vocal *shewa* under the *yod* that we see in Genesis 3:14. (Pronunciation: Yehovih with the full vowels for Elohim with the initial vocal *shewa* under the *yod*) (biblehub.com/interlinear/1_kings/2-26.htm)

יהוה

In Judges 16:28 we see the full vowels for Elohim but in this case the *hateph seghol* does not revert to a simple *shewa* under the *yod*. This may be because the title Adonai precedes the Tetragrammaton and could lead to the reader saying Adonai twice (if the vowels for Elohim were not added), however we do see exceptions. (Pronunciation: Yehovih, with the full vowels for Elohim retaining the *hateph seghol* under the *yod*) (biblehub.com/interlinear/judges/16-28.htm)

יהוה

In Ezekiel 24:24 the Tetragrammaton loses the *holem* and reverts to the *shewa* just as we see many times with the pointing for Adonai. (Pronunciation: Yehvih with the vowels for Elohim minus the *holem* above the first *heh*, biblehub.com/interlinear/ezekiel/24-24.htm)

יהוה

In Genesis 15:2 the *holem* has been removed and the *yod* retains the *hateph seghol*. (Pronunciation: Yehvih) (biblehub.com/interlinear/genesis/15-2.htm)

These examples show vowel point combinations for Elohim in every aspect the same as we see with the vowel point combinations for Adonai (Yehovah). There is nothing special about the full vowels

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים | אֶל־הַנָּחָשׁ כִּי עָשִׂיתָ זֹאת אֲרֹר אֶתְּךָ מִכָּל־הַבְּהֵמָה וּמִכָּל־
 חַיַּת הַשָּׂדֶה עַל־גֻּחְנֶךָ תֵּלֵךְ וְעִפְרָר תֹּאכַל כָּל־יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ:

Excerpt from the Leningrad Codex, the oldest complete Hebrew manuscript in existence. Passage from Genesis 3:14 with the full vowels of Adonai (shewa, holem qamets). "Wayyomer Yahweh Elohim el hannakhash" translated: So said Yahweh Elohim to the serpent..."

or partial vowels written as Jehovah any more than you could say the full vowels or partial vowels written as Yehovih are also indications of the name. One could use the same arguments and contend that the name Yehovih is just as valid.

Here's the thing, the scribe's intent was never to put the proper pronunciation of the name in the text, but simply to use these vowel points as code to signal the reader to use either Elohim or Adonai rather than Yahweh. About 500 years ago this ignorance of *Ketiv Qere* gave us the name Jehovah. Petrus Galatinus (1460-1540), Pope Lex X's confessor, thought these added vowels were a legitimate part of the Tetragrammaton so he rendered the Name Jehovah. "A mispronunciation (introduced by Christian theologians, but almost entirely disregarded by the Jews) of the Hebrew 'Yhwh,' the (ineffable) name of God (the Tetragrammaton or 'Shem ha-Meforash')... This pronunciation is grammatically impossible; it arose through pronouncing the vowels of the 'kere' (marginal reading of the Masorites: = 'Adonay') with the consonants of the 'ketib' (text-reading: = 'Yhwh')— 'Adonay'" *Jehovah, Jewish Encyclopedia* 'Jehovah' is generally held to have been the invention of Pope Leo X.'s confessor, Peter Galatin," *ibid*.

One thing is for sure, we don't see the vowel combination for Yahweh ever used in the text. This is perfectly understandable as the scribes were purposely hiding the Name. By simple deduction we can prove the name Yahweh by what is not in the text, as no vowel combination exists for the "ah" and "eh" sounds in the Masoretic vowel points in any part of the Tetragrammaton, just like we should expect from someone hiding the name.

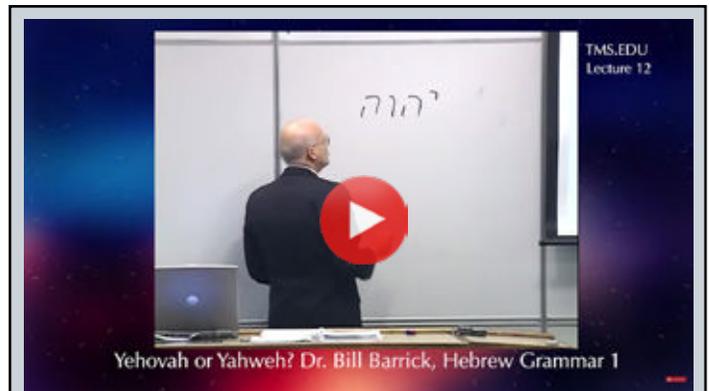
Conclusion: Jehovah has all but died out as a legitimate form in the scholarly world. Even the Jehovah's Witnesses realize it's not authentic. It wasn't until recently that history repeated itself. The name Jehovah (Jehovah with a Y) was popularized in the Messianic Movement by a recent narrative that a certain Karaite Jew found the full vowels of Jehovah as he was in the bowels of the Hebrew University, reading the Aleppo Codex on 9-11, at the exact moment the planes were hitting the World Trade Center. It should be noted this Karaite has a history of hyperbole. Apparently this sensationalistic story is supposed to dazzle the believer into thinking there was a miracle in the making. The proper name has "now" been found by a supernatural event, he excitedly proclaimed. Now that yarn has been expanded from one obscure, "amazing" find to literally thousands of occurrences. But wait, how can that be? How can the narrative change so drastically and no one question it?

Sadly, many do not see the elephant in this room. Why the change? As shown, we can find these "full vowels" not just in

יהוה! the Aleppo Codex but also the Leningrad codex in Genesis 3:14, the very codex that the majority of our Bibles translate from (see above). They have been there for hundreds of years, read by thousands of people, yet somehow only on 9-11 were the full vowels supposedly found in the Aleppo Codex, a 10th century CE manuscript only 78 years older than the Leningrad codex. Think about it!

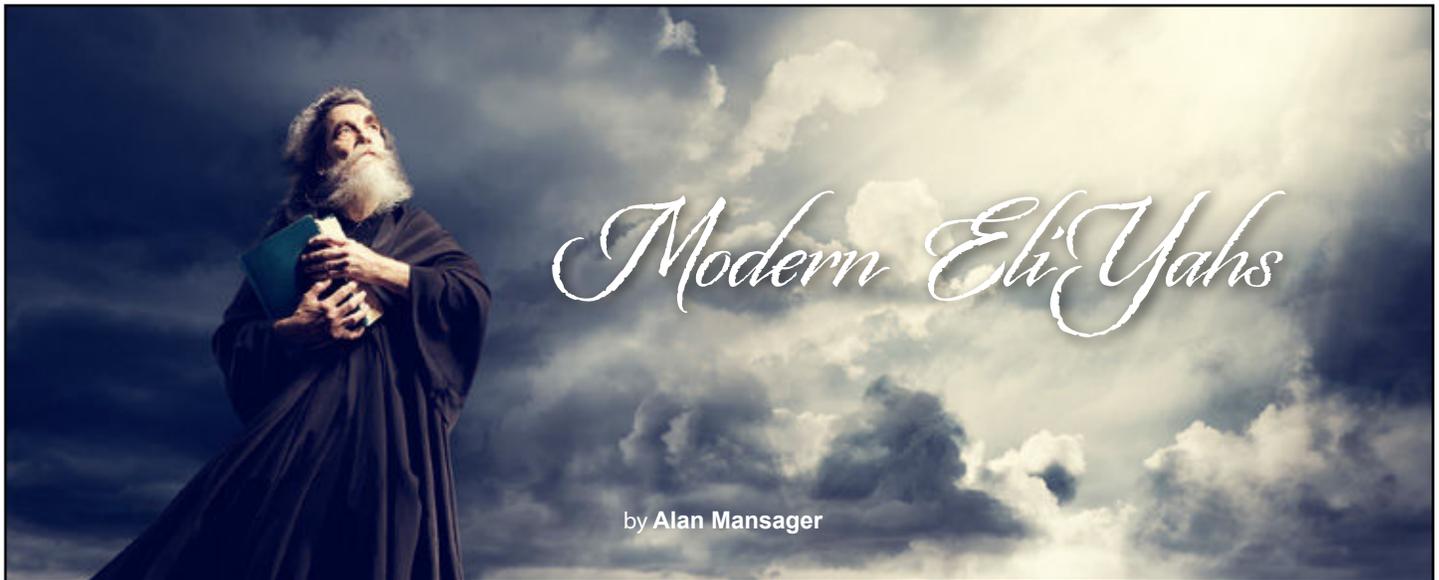
One full vowel combination became two, then three, then thousands over night. You can't have it both ways, it can't be an obscure scribal error found on 911 and yet be everywhere at the same time. It can't be an accident and yet on purpose thousands of times. Beware when you see a square peg in a round *holem*.

Note: The above article uses the "v" for the 6th letter only to show those who use Jehovah the similarities with other name combinations using the vowels for Elohim. The 6th letter has a "w" anciently as taught by every accredited biblical Hebrew class and the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Jehovah is impossible on many levels. See: yrm.org/the-sixth-letter-waw-or-vav



Biblical Hebrew Scholar Dr. Bill Barrick of the Masters Seminary refutes the erroneous name Yehovah (Jehovah) through Hebrew grammar. He explains how heretical Alexandrian Jews (the very ones that translated the Septuagint) removed the name Yahweh for Kyrios (the lord) around 250 BCE out of a misguided understanding of the 3rd commandment. This has influenced not just Judaism, but also Christianity; as a result the title "lord" made it in your Bible, replacing Yahweh.

[WATCH NOW yrm.org/barick-yehovah](http://yrm.org/barick-yehovah)



Modern EliYahs

by Alan Mansager

Using a metaphor involving a rock, Yahshua promised that there would always be faithful believers who follow and proclaim His ways and teachings. He said in Matthew 16:18: “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my assembly; and the gates of the grave shall not prevail against it.” The “rock” was Peter’s confession that Yahshua is the Messiah.

There has never been a time when Yahweh did not have His covenant people worshipping Him somewhere on earth.

Yahshua’s assembly didn’t die with those True Believers in Yahshua’s day. The true Body lived on through history, and notably to our day, to us modern EliYahs. Amazingly, what happened in both testaments is still alive and active 2,000 years later. Yahweh never deviates from His salvational plan.

Even during the Great Tribulation when the assembly is taken into wilderness protection for 3½ years, there will still be two witnesses given great, supernatural powers standing on the streets of Jerusalem proclaiming Yahweh’s Name and Truth, Revelation 11.

Just as He had Moses and Aaron and many prophets standing firm against the opposing tide, Yahweh’s representatives will stand against Satan and the Man of Sin.

Being that Yahweh has always had His people somewhere on earth throughout history means no one can use the excuse that the Truth wasn’t here. Ours is to find it and follow it. “Seek first the Kingdom of Yahweh, and His righteousness,” Yahshua said in Matthew 6:33.

The Bible student is aware of the many references to Yahshua’s Second Coming in the New Testament. To be exact, 318 New Testament prophecies relate to the Messiah’s return. In His Olivet prophecy of Matthew 24, Yahshua says in the last days wars will increase as well as famines, diseases, massive earthquakes, and possibly meteor strikes. These events will prove the veracity of the Bible.

He then zeroes in on the character and temperament of modern people, which is the most revealing sign of the end. The moral underpinnings that make a safe and flourishing society are disappearing. Natural restraints that hold back bad behavior are also fading so that we are becoming a culture of unchecked anger, open hostility, and spiritual decay. What we witness now is prophesied in the Word. Christianity is also in a freefall and unable to turn society back to the Scriptures.

It’s All About Self Today

The Apostle Paul warned in 2Timothy 3:2: “This know also, that in the last days perilous [distressing] times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves [“fond of self” in the Greek], covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection [inhuman behavior], trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of Elohim.”

People are turning inward; satisfying self is top priority today. In politics they look only for the candidate who says he will give

them what they want – gain with no pain.

Sin is at the root of every evil, every crime, all that is immoral, all heartache and suffering, all maliciousness, every hateful attitude, self-obsessions, and all that destroys lives. What we suffer today stems from sin in the human heart. If this doesn’t validate the prophecies of the Bible, what does?

We believers find ourselves standing in the gap, holding to the Scriptures and its fundamental morality that our world needs like oxygen. It is no accident that our message dovetails with end-time prophecy. Yahshua said in Matthew 24:14:

“And this good news of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” That the truth of the sacred Name has come to the forefront in the last 40 years also verifies that we are in the last days.

In 2008 the pope banned Catholics from using Yahweh’s Name in liturgy, songs, and prayers. That’s ironic because Yahweh’s Name appears abundantly in the Roman Catholic *Jerusalem Bible*! No doubt the growing popularity of the Name taught and expounded by True Believers instigated the pope’s censorship action.

Of the many who contact YRM, few question the veracity of Yahweh’s Name. That wasn’t the case only a few decades ago when Yahweh’s Name wasn’t so well known. The outreach of the Sacred Name groups had a big part in taking the Name truth worldwide.

Our nationwide outreach through *Discover the Truth* TV program in conjunction with one of the largest religious

websites on the Internet, in addition to videos exceeding 2 million views worldwide – all have made a significant impact. Also influential are many believers proclaiming the EliYah message “my El is Yah” on social media. We must never give up preaching and teaching the Word, both when convenient and when not, 2Timothy 4:2.

It is not only the holy Names that set us apart from nominal teachings, but also the many truths we follow in the Word.

Jude 1:3 encourages the believer. “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

Why would Jude bring it up if churchianity were faithfully teaching New Covenant truths? He continues in v. 5, telling how Israel apostatized; how even some angels apostatized, and how Sodom and Gomorrah went off the rails morally. Why would he tell us to go back to the original teachings once delivered if those doctrines were faithfully being carried forward?

Jude says that salvation hinges on the original truths, the faith once delivered. And that is what Yahweh’s people must stand on and proclaim.

Lawbreaking Produces Sin

A key that unlocks what we are about and the message we teach is found in the prophet named EliYah through what he represented and what his mission was. Our ministry today directly mirrors his mission.

Today’s nominal teachings have missed the simplest of truths.

To prove this, ask the person on the street what sin is, according to the Scriptures. What you’ll get are such bromides as sin is:

- not living right
- wrongdoing
- unbelief
- darkness not light
- a falling away

Such generalities don’t help anyone to identify and overcome sin. They are just platitudes and clichés that nibble around the edges, but don’t get to the core of what sin actually is. For most, sin is whatever they decide it is. As a wise general once said, “If you don’t know your enemy you can’t defeat him.”

Yahweh made sure that the enemy sin is very simple to recognize and understand so that we will know exactly how to overcome

and avoid it. His straightforward description is found in 1John 3:4: “Whosoever committeth sin transgresses also the law: for *sin is the transgression of the law.*” Only seven words are needed to tell us plainly that sin is lawbreaking. Romans 3:23 and 5:12 say everyone has sinned by lawbreaking.

But the law was abolished at the cross, many say. Here’s the paradox: how can every person be a sinner if the standard that defines sin doesn’t exist? If there are no traffic laws I can drive any way I want and not be arrested.

In the Bible’s definition of sin we find truth. We learn how to come to salvation. It tells us to walk in Yahshua’s footsteps and follow His example. It all hinges on our obedience to the Word.

We find in 1John 3:5 that Yahshua had no sin. That means He was a perfect lawkeeper. “But my minister tells me He nailed the law to the cross,” they will say. That is another contradiction as Matthew 5:17 quotes Yahshua saying emphatically: “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.”

Fulfill does not mean to abolish. Why? Read the next sentence: “For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”

Talk about hyperbolic proof. So long as heaven and earth exist, even the most minute



The EliYah message to be proclaimed at the end of the age is, “Yahweh” is the Mighty One of this universe. Repent, because Yahshua the Messiah is soon returning to set up His Kingdom.

part of the law will still be in full force. What bigger proof can there be?

What is misinterpreted is Colossians 2:14, which says it was the handwriting of ordinances that was nailed to the stake. “Handwriting” of ordinances refers to the statutes written by man; it is from the Greek *dogma*. It is not describing any commandment of Yahweh.

The Most Violated Commandment

The commandment broken far more often than any other is the very first one: “Thou shalt have no other mighty ones before me.”

“What do you mean?” you ask. “I don’t worship idols.” You don’t have to bow to Buddah, visit Vishnu, or cash in for Kris Kringle – any time you put ANYTHING before Yahweh, you idolize a priority. That includes your job, family, finances, a hobby, entertainment, or an obsession. Any of these can take precedence over living for Yahweh in your life.

Most anything can be an idol. The commandment says not to serve these things. Serve is *abad*, and as a verb can mean to enslave. We are not to be enslaved by anything that takes us away from serving Yahweh. By anything that robs our time in worshipping Him.

In so many different ways the first commandment is broken every day and many times a day. Every other commandment you violate also breaks the first one. When you break one you really break two because every sin you commit takes you away from Yahweh and puts something in place of your obedience to Him.

EliYah Preparing the Way Today

Let’s return to the prophet and his message. EliYah was the first major prophet to the northern Kingdom of Israel. Those 10 tribes were constantly going off the rails. Every king they had was bad. EliYah (incorrectly, Elijah) is a Hebrew name that means, “my El is Yah.” His name embodies the first commandment and so did his most memorable action.

The EliYah message to be proclaimed at the end of the age is, “Yahweh” is the Mighty One of this universe. He has a personal Name packed full of salvational meaning. He doesn’t have “many names.”

Another crystal clear statement just like the scriptural definition of sin, is in Isaiah 42:8: “I am Yahweh: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another,

neither my praise to graven images.” You cannot mistake that simple declaration; you cannot shoe-horn another name or title into Yahweh’s plain, simple, clear, declarative statement: I am Yahweh, that is my Name.

Yahweh’s Restoration Ministry has dozens of scholarly reference books in our library that verify His Name Yahweh. In my research I have never come across a variant like Yah-havah, Yahovah, Yehovah, Yahoveh, or any other proxy some use for His Name.

To know exactly how YRM fits into the EliYah message, let’s look at the focus of EliYah’s mission. In 1Kings 18:21 the prophet engages false worship at Mt. Carmel.

Israel was playing both sides. Our prophet asks Israel: “How long are you going to vascillate? If Yahweh is Elohim, follow Him, but if Baal, then follow him.” Find out the true One and stick with Him.

We see a direct parallel today with those who mix Yahweh’s Name with common titles.

EliYah cries to them as well: stop straddling the fence. If you claim to worship Yahweh, the Mighty One of the universe, then worship Him, all the way. Don’t equivocate. You don’t honor Him by heathen titles.

When you mix in a title as if it’s His Name, you demean Him. You degrade the holiest Name in the universe. When you use another name or title in worship, you invoke a different worship that identifies with that name. I am Yahweh, He thunders, and I will not honor any other name.

Those who are enlightened swim

against the current. That’s to be expected. So did Yahshua. Always remember that salvation is what we are living for and not the approval of the unenlightened majority.

G-O-D represents a category, a class, a molten image, according to the *Oxford English Dictionary*. Paul said in 1Cor. 8:5: “For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many)...” but he adds in verse 6: “But to us there is but one Elohim, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Master, Yahshua, by whom are all things, and we by him.”

Our Savior Yahshua promised that just as John the Baptist came in the power and strength of EliYah, another would come much like John before the Savior’s return to this earth. His message will be the same: Yahweh is the true Mighty One. Call on Him; Be called by Him. And then follow Him. We have no other choice if salvation is our goal.

The EliYah message is summed up in the meaning of the name EliYah: “my Mighty One is Yah.” His message comprises the fact that His people are called by His Name Yahweh.

“If My people which are called by My name shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land,” 2Chronicles 7:14.

Being called by His Name we turn from sin and obey Him. How many deeply honor His Name, use it, and don’t deny its importance no matter what the circumstances? How many take it to the

next level and submit in everything to Him in preparation for rulership in the coming millennial Kingdom? Sadly, most are stuck at step one.

A Coming Restoration of all Things

Yahshua told the multitude in Matthew 11:14 that if they would just accept John the Baptist, he would be the EliYah prophesied to come. Later, in Matthew 14:3-10, we read that Herod had John beheaded.

The people did not repent at the preaching of John the Baptist but rejected him as well as his message of repentance and obedience. Yahshua said in Matthew 3:3: “For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, the voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of Yahweh, make his paths straight.” John was “crying out” because few were listening.

Yahshua said that John came just as EliYah did, preaching repentance, meaning turn your life around and obey the true Mighty One.

But they failed. He said in Matthew 11:18 that John the Baptist didn’t come eating or drinking, i.e. fellowshiping with others, so they concluded that he must have a demon. The Son of man comes eating and drinking and their accusation was he’s a glutton and a drunk.

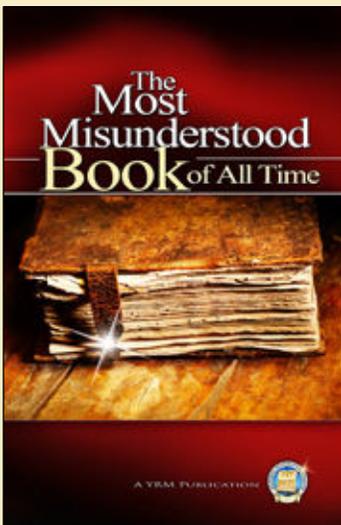
Most don’t understand our message either. But Yahshua concluded that the results will ultimately decide: “wisdom is justified of her children.” Wisdom will be justified by its deeds.

After John’s death, Yahshua explained to the gathered disciples, “EliYah is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them,” Mathew 17:12.

Problem no. 2 is that they rejected Yahshua as the Messiah. But wait. There will yet come another EliYah at the end of the age, our age. Note what Yahshua further said in verse 11 about the important mission of this coming prophet revisited, “EliYah truly shall first come, and restore all things.” This was after the death of John the Baptist.

The only possible explanation is that there will be a third EliYah like John the Baptist, preparing the way for Yahshua’s Second Coming, as John did for Yahshua’s first appearance.

Now let’s connect some dots by going to Malachi 4:4-6, a key passage that speaks of us, you and me, as we bring truth to the



**Law keeping in the
NEW Testament?**

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

world in these latter days. First note the context in verse 4:

“Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.”

Just as Elijah cried out to repent and turn to the true Father in heaven, and as John the Baptist preached repentance, which means to turn from sin and obey the statutes of Yahweh, the prophet Malachi again, at the end time, reminds us of Yahweh’s statutes and judgments handed down at Sinai.

With this in mind, note how Malachi then follows up his warning to obey: “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of Yahweh.” Yahshua agrees with Malachi. Another EliYah is clearly defined by both. And what is the mission of this latter-day EliYah?

“And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”

Here comes a third EliYah, preparing the way of Yahshua the second time, just as John the Baptist, a prototype of EliYah, prepared the people for Yahshua’s first coming by preaching repentance and obedience. Same message we have.

The whole context of this 4th chapter of Malachi is about turning back the people in obedience at the end of the age. The prophet begins in verse 1 of this chapter by telling the people to honor the law, the statutes, and judgments given at Sinai. That is pivotal, not only because it is central to the two EliYah messages, but also because obedience to Yahweh’s statutes is the springboard from which he introduces this new EliYah in the latter days.

A key to putting all this together is in the transfiguration of Matt. 17:2, where Yahshua takes Peter, James, and John into a high mountain. There they see a vision (v. 9) of both Moses and Elijah talking with Yahshua about His coming death. But according to Luke 9:31, Peter, James, and John were so tired that they fell asleep.

When Peter wakes up and sees the vision of Yahshua with Moses and Elijah, and not knowing what had occurred while he was sleeping, he in typical Peter-esque fashion spouts off the first thing that comes to mind, “It was sure good to have been here, let’s make three tabernacles for Yahshua, Moses, and EliYah.”

This vision with the three individuals validates the unity between Yahshua’s New Testament message with the Law and prophets of the Old Testament.

Yahshua said that there would be an EliYah in these last days preaching and teaching a return to the laws and statutes once delivered to the saints at Sinai, as we read in Jude 1:3.

Malachi 3:1 says this messenger, this EliYah, will prepare the way for the Messiah.

Going Back to the Fathers

So this end-time EliYah, which is clearly those who bring the message of repentance and obedience, will change hearts by returning to the precepts of the fathers, the Old Testament patriarchs, that the children will also honor as their example is given to the descendants by this EliYah.

If this does not happen, the earth itself will be cursed with total destruction.

Obedience is the only path to salvation, and disobedience is the sure route to destruction. Yahshua said if it weren’t for the elect, the world would be toast. Yahweh is giving us a chance to finish the work we must do as His covenant people—to teach the world the Truth first given to the patriarchs. Forget Roman traditions. Turn to the truth first presented by the patriarchs of old. And when things get hot, we can trust Yahweh to step in and save His elect.

The last book of the Old Testament emphasizes that EliYah (and specifically the message of honoring and calling on the true Yahweh) would precede the Second Coming.

We at YRM are fulfilling the EliYah mission. We are the third EliYah that Yahshua spoke of in Matthew 17:11. “And Yahshua answered and said unto them, Elijah truly shall first come, and restore all things.” This third EliYah will bring back the truth of the Covenant that all must become a part of with all its stipulations. They will accept Yahshua and teach the laws He lived and taught, Revelation 12:17, 14:12, and 22:14: “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” (Rev 22:14).

The EliYah at the end of the age and those with him who resist the Beast and his system will also face persecution, as did the first EliYah with Ahab and Jezebel. And as did John the Baptist, the second EliYah, murdered by Herod. Yahshua said that His

saints would “be hated of all men for My name’s sake; but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved,” Mark 13:13, Luke 21:17.

In these last days there must be bold teachings of Yahweh’s laws and His weekly and annual Sabbaths—His way of Life. If not, the rocks would cry out, Luke 19:40. Proclaiming the truth of Yahweh’s Word before the Messiah returns will turn those who are called by Yahweh to seek His ways and completely submit to Him.

The final chapters of the Bible, Revelation 12:17, 14:12, and 22:14, say we must have both Yahshua and obey Yahweh for salvation. They come as a package. Faith and obedience are not mutually exclusive. We will go nowhere without obedience. Yahshua obeyed, and He is our example. He is the key. We do what He did, taught, and lived. Revelation tells us that Yahweh’s people will be sealed with His Name and given protection once they have accepted His sovereignty and taken hold of His Covenant.

Traits of the Modern EliYahs

How does the true worshiper fit the role of the EliYah who is to come?

- Nearly unknown by the world, EliYah suddenly emerged almost covertly as a prophet to steer Israel from the brink of disaster. The believer is relatively unknown to the vast world of Bible believers.
- This man of Yahweh stood alone against 450 prophets of Baal. True teachings stand against many Bible-challenged church traditions.
- The altar that EliYah used had been broken down and abandoned and had to be rebuilt, symbolizing the abandonment of truth and the task the faithful have of re-teaching the faith once delivered.
- EliYah’s challenge to the worshipers of Baal: How long limp you between two different worship practices? 1Kings 18:21. Modern EliYahs ask, how long will compromise with the world be acceptable?
- The transfiguration represented unity among Yahshua, the law, and the Old Testament prophecy (Matt. 17:2). Moses typifies the law and EliYah represents the prophets. We see unity with Yahshua, the law, and the Old Testament, and not His abolishment of it.

Be a rock. Don’t let trials small or great pull you away from Yahweh. He will never leave or forsake His faithful. 



Stained-glass Filters

Church. For most it means stained-glass windows and ministers preaching in monotone. It means sitting for 20 minutes in uncomfortable pews listening to platitudes while dreaming of doing something else.

Too often, passing through church doors automatically trips the mind into neutral where all critical thinking stops.

Is this how it was when the Messiah taught His disciples on the shores of the Galilee 2,000 years ago? Where was the liturgy and the doxology then? Where was the neat packaging of ritual and repetition? How could the Bible be taught in such an unfettered atmosphere?

Two thousand years of syncretizing with foreign mystery religion has today's churchgoers looking at the truth with apprehension. Keeping the Sabbath, feast days, and the other laws is anything but conventional today. Never mind that the Savior observed and taught them, and His Assemblies in Acts faithfully followed them. Isn't it strange how tradition blinds us to

other possibilities?

This brings to mind the woman who went back to her corner church because the new spinoff group met in a motel and it "just didn't feel like church there."

No doubt meeting by the seashore or on the hills of Galilee would not "feel like church" to most churchgoers. And neither does hearing such words as "law" and "obedience." But unless we can let the truth of Scripture stand on its own in open sunshine, without centuries of mind-numbing dogma to twist and swallow it up, then our faith is disingenuous.

Yahshua said that until heaven and earth pass away, not even the least letter of the alphabet nor its embellishment would be dropped from the law. Deuteronomy 7:9 says Almighty Yahweh is faithful to keep His covenant with those who keep His commandments "to a thousand generations." Taken literally, we still have 16,000 more years to keep the law!

A popular magazine claimed that to get gentiles to become Christians,

avoiding circumcision and other Jewish laws, Paul had to bring in a new doctrine: salvation outside of the Mosaic law. Obviously this magazine writer had himself been blinded by too much stained glass. Had he only turned to 1Corinthians 7:19, he would have discovered that Paul minimizes physical circumcision in favor of the law!

Imagine how different society could be if even half the churches taught obedience to the moral law. But it is not human nature to want to submit to any authority, and so the "faith alone" bandwagon is packed full.

In a stunningly graphic prophecy, Isaiah describes the nominal world of religion in 2022: "This is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of Yahweh: which say to the seers, 'See not;' and to the prophets, 'Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits,'" 30:9-10.

What about you? Do you see the Scriptures in the pure, white light of truth, or in light filtered through colored glass? 



Q If the Apostle Paul went to Gentile nations in four missionary journeys, do you think he would use Hebrew Names for the Father and Son when these nations spoke either Greek or Latin?

A There is a lot of lexicological, syntactical, and grammatical evidence that Paul spoke and wrote in Hebrew and possibly its sister language, Aramaic. See Acts 21:40; 22:2; 26:14. Being a Hebrew himself, he wrote to and visited numerous assemblies with Jewish foundations, which spoke Hebrew. Even if some communications were in Greek, names don't change from language to language. You would still be John Jones whether you went to France, China, or Zimbabwe. Translators, however, may misguidedly change names when translating Scripture and this is what happened.

Q A friend told me that if I keep the Sabbath then I must also keep all 613 laws of the Old Testament. Is this true? I didn't know there were that many.

A The Talmud lists the number of laws at 613, although that total is disputed. The laws of the Old Testament were the constitution of Israel as a theocracy, a nation under a religious government headed by Yahweh. However, we today are under a secular system and therefore many of the Old Testament governmental laws are impossible for us to keep today. Imagine if we went around knocking down pagan statuary and edifices in government buildings and museums. Many laws also regulate worship in the Temple, which doesn't exist today and therefore we are unable to perform them. But the majority of those "613" laws are moral/spiritual in nature and are incumbent on us, such as: not to bear a grudge (Lev. 19:18); not to wrong any one in speech (Lev. 25:17); not to curse a father or mother (Ex. 21:17); and to keep our word (Deut. 23:23). And of course there are the Ten Commandments. These kinds of ordinances apply to personal behavior and are meant to mold us into the image of Yahshua the Messiah (Deut. 28:9).

Many laws were given to Israel specific to their particular place and time but which have been assumed by the governments in power today. These include: to appoint judges and officers in every community (of Israel, Deut. 16:18); not to execute one guilty of a capital offense before he has stood trial (Num. 35:12); not to sell a field in the land of Israel in perpetuity (Lev. 25:23); never to settle in the land of Egypt (Deut. 17:16); not to allow a witch to live, Exodus 22:18. These kinds of laws are governmental or judicial and are out of the scope of today's believer to control.

Then there are laws specific to the temple priesthood and temple worship, which are impossible to observe today or that were changed with Yahshua's sacrifice and role as our High Priest. Such laws include: not to tear the High Priest's robe

(Ex. 28:32); a person with a physical blemish shall not serve in the Sanctuary (Lev. 21:23); to carry out the ordinance of the red heifer so that its ashes will always be available (Num. 19:9); and all the laws regulating animal sacrifice.

Certain laws are for health and cleanliness, such as: the leper shall shave all his hair (Lev. 14:9); a woman's running issue of blood defiles (Lev. 15:25-27); to have a place outside the camp for sanitary purposes (Deut. 23:13).

Other laws are for safety and are specific to a historical time, like making a parapet (safety fence) around your roof because a person's flat roof was his living space in Israel (Deut. 22:8). A general guideline is, if the laws deal with our worship as defined in the New Testament, and if they are moral/spiritual laws of behavior and decency, they must be observed just as Yahshua and His followers observed them in the New Covenant. The apostle also tells us to obey every ordinance of man...for it is the will of Elohim, 1Peter 2:13-15.



Q You pronounce the Name as Yahweh, we pronounce it as YAHWAH for a couple of reasons. (1) From the Hebrew Concordance No. 1961 and No. 1933 are the 2 root words for יהוה. Hayah for No. 1961, and Hawah for No. 1933, thus we conclude the phonetic sounding of YAHWAH. (2) We say hallelu yah, not hallelu yeh, if the first ה is pronounced ah thus the yah sound, then the second ה is pronounced ah (not an eh sound) thus the wah sound. Isn't this correct?

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YRM is growing and we have reached a point where future growth demands we enlarge our facility. As those who come for Feasts know, we are experiencing a shrinking meeting hall.

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The estimate to relocate the lines is \$15,000. We appreciate anything you can give toward this fund. May Yahweh bless you richly!

yrm.org/electric-line-relocation-fund

A The mistake in establishing a pronunciation of Yahwah by using **Strong's Concordance** No. 1933 as well as 1961 is that although 1933 is related in meaning (existence) it is a different word. The Hebrew of 1961, hay-yod-hay, is not the same as the 1933 cognate, hay-wa-hay. The first is pronounced hayah, the second hawah. The error is in fusing these two different words to make Yahwah without any linguistic basis or evidence to do so. Another argument for the "ah" ending is that if the sound of the first hay is "ah," the second hay must be the same sound. The same letter often takes on a different sound when appearing twice in the same word. For example, the "a" in always is not the same sound at the beginning of the word as it is toward the end. Just because words are related in their roots is no justification for manufacturing a word or name by combining variations. The Greek shows that the last syllable is pronounced with a short "e" sound: ee-ah-oo-eh. The Samaritans, who speak biblical Hebrew, agree to Yahweh as the proper Name.

Q Revelation 20:3 says Satan will be cast down and bound at Messiah's second advent. But it says in 2Peter 2:4 and Jude 6 that this has already happened, and Messiah said that He saw this happen before his first coming, Luke 10:18. Can you explain?

A You are confusing two different events. Revelation 20:1-3 reads, "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season." As you noted, this happens at the Second Coming of Yahshua when He sets up His millennial rule.

We read in 2Peter 2:4: "For if Elohim spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to Tartaros, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment." This occurred to the third of the angels who rebelled with Satan, which is backed up by Jude 6. As for Satan, Luke 10:18 reads, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from

heaven." Satan's fall from heaven was when he was originally cast out down to earth after rebelling against Yahweh. This is different from Revelation 20, where an angel binds Satan with chains and throws him into the bottomless pit for a thousand years.

Q I'm not trying to start an argument, in fact I probably believe about 100 percent of what YRM puts out. I'm just wondering if the following is a contradiction. Talking about the parable of the rich man and Lazarus you said, "The additional meaning of the parable is that repentance is impossible once we die. Death ends all possibilities to change our lives." And in the **Restoration Times** magazine it says, "These previously unsaved people who had never been given the opportunity to learn the true Good News and to keep the renewed Covenant originally made with Israel, will now have their chance. They will be taught and judged by Yahshua, helped by the saints who came up in the first resurrection."

A We find no contradiction in your observation. The difference between the two accounts is that the rich man is a believer (whose money gets the best of him). As a believer he knows about Abraham and asks for Abraham's help. Further, he asks for Abraham to testify to his brothers so that they would repent, Luke 16. The rich man is in dire straits because there is a "great gulf fixed" so that no one (like himself) can pass over, meaning into the Kingdom. Obviously it was his behavior that was his downfall and that caused him to be shut him out of the Kingdom, because as a believer he understood what repentance was.

Yahweh doesn't condemn the ignorant, whose sin isn't charged against them because they don't know, John 9:41 and 15:25; Acts 17:30; Luke 12:48. Once they understand and are convicted they become accountable. The ignorant still have a chance while a believer who leaves the faith does not, Hebrews 6:6; 2Peter 2:21.

Q I read your belief statement and you'll make mention that the Holy Spirit is received at baptism. This is not what I read in the Holy Bible, although I do believe in baptism in the name of Yahshua. I have seen this because

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Adonai revealed it to me. I have also received the Holy Spirit according to the biblical experience of speaking in another language. The Almighty did it to me the same as he did to the believers at the beginning. Why is it that you teach that it's received at the same time of baptism, which is not impossible but what your statement indicates is not synonymous to the experience to the house of Cornelius that received the Holy Spirit first and then got baptized in the Book of Acts ch.10. In other words a person should be able to receive the Holy Spirit before, during, or after baptism, not just at baptism only.

A You sell us short. We do not deny that the Holy Spirit is a manifestation of Yahweh's power that is used in a number of ways at different times, including at Creation (Gen. 1:2). It was given to a variety of men in the Old Testament, typically for a special purpose, and then was removed when that purpose was met. Those we know of who had the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament were: Bazaeeel (Ex. 31:1-6); the 70 elders (Num. 11:25-29); Joseph (Gen. 41:38); Balaam (Num. 24:2); David (Ps. 51, 2Samuel 23:2, Acts 1:16); Othniel (Jud. 3:10); the prophets (2Pet. 1:21); Azariah, Medad and Eldad (Num. 11:26, 2Chron. 15:1).

However, Peter's account in Acts 2 gives the gold standard and blueprint for receiving the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Yahshua Messiah for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Why wasn't the Spirit granted to at least some of the 3,000 there before having to get immersed? Clearly, baptism is the favored way Yahweh grants His Spirit, and it occurs after **repentance** and after **baptism** through the laying on of hands of the ministry, 1Timothy 4:14. In two of the New Testament instances of immersion it was only after they were baptized that the Holy Spirit was given, and then through the laying on of hands, see Acts 8:16-17; 19:5-6. The most important example was Yahshua's own baptism, immediately after which Yahweh imparted the Spirit on Him, Luke 3:22.

There are exceptions in the Bible to many things. The giving of the Spirit to Cornelius and those with him before baptism is a very rare exception. But it had a significant purpose, to demonstrate to Peter that Yahweh is no respecter of persons and that Gentiles can now join the covenant with Israel and also be "granted repentance unto life." Why would a prejudiced Peter baptize Cornelius without that sign being shown to him first? If we wish to ensure that the Spirit is indwelling us we will want to follow the dictates of the Word and adhere to the major practices commanded therein.

Em
phonetic: "ame"

Composition: aleph, tsere,
final mem.

The Hebrew word em (H517) is a
feminine noun and means mother.

"Adam named his wife Eve, because
she would become the **mother** of
all the living." Genesis 3:20

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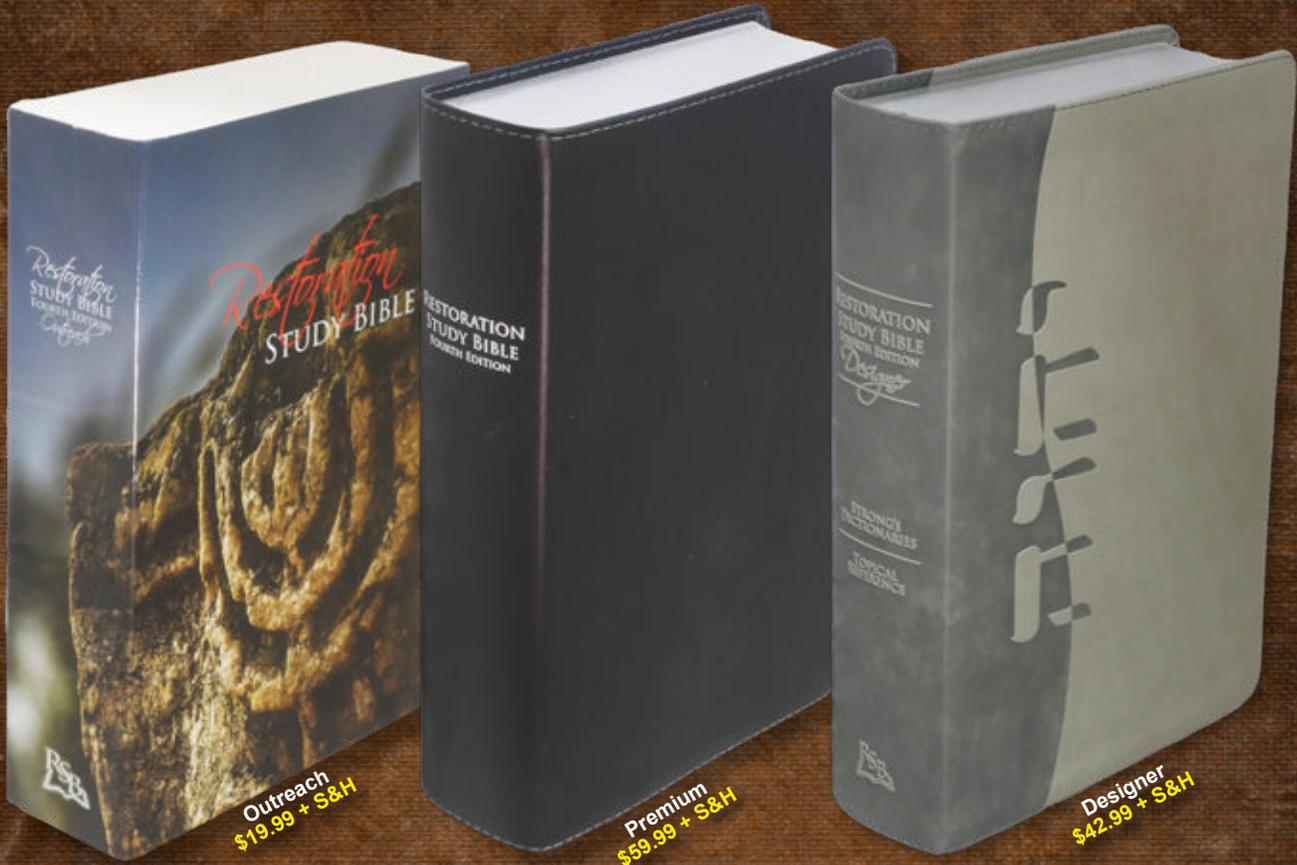
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