

WWW.RESTORATIONTIMES.ORG

July-August 2024

RESTORATION TIMES



RESTORATION TIMES

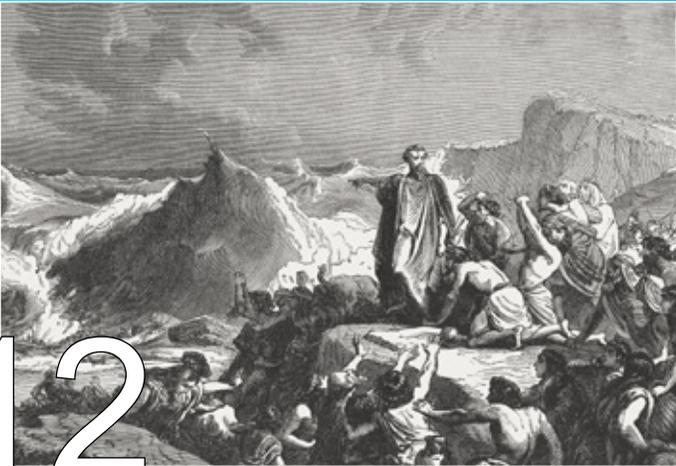
VOL. 14 | No. 4 | July-August 2024

3

8



A R T I C L E S



12

16

3 | You and the Spirit World
by the late Donald R. Mansager

8 | Crossroads of Faith
by Randy Folliard

12 | Grace Invokes Obedience
by Alan Mansager

14 | Q & A

16 | Building Expansion Progress

19 | Feedback

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 made possible through the tithes and offerings of those who desire to see the truth of Scripture restored in our day.

© 2024 Yahweh's Restoration Ministry



COVER:

City of Haifa in Israel. The Port of Haifa is the largest of Israel's seaports.

iStock

EDITOR Alan Mansager
COPY EDITOR Debra Wir
GRAPHICS / LAYOUT Ryan Mansager
CONTRIBUTING WRITER Randy Folliard
DIGITAL PUBLISHING Lucas Cecil



Yahweh's Restoration Ministry
PO Box 463
Holts Summit, MO 65043

Telephone: 573-896-1000
Office hours M-F 8am-4pm
www.yrm.org info@yrm.org



YOU AND THE SPIRIT WORLD

by the late **Donald R. Mansager**

The Bible has much to say about the spirit realm because our Heavenly Father Yahweh dwells there and has not left that invisible world. And the saints will also one day with spirit bodies join Him in the spirit realm.

His only Son “which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen, which our hands have handled, the Word of life” (1John 1:1) has come down to the physical, material world and manifested Himself to mankind.

Fear of the spirit world exists because we have been conditioned to think primarily of demonic or satanic activities of evil associated with spirits. In fact, the Adversary is an evil spirit and captain of the fallen angels who also rebelled, Jude 6.

Peter warns us to be alert and aware of the Adversary’s intentions: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1Pet. 5:8).

Being ignorant of Satan’s devices can work great harm to the believer who is striving to withstand his temptations. We can be more vulnerable to his schemes if we are unaware of how he operates. We should have a healthy regard for the power and influence that Satan and his demons wield.

Sensing Spiritual Influence

Some, like the Sadducees of old, do not believe in the existence of the spirit world. But we can have an inkling of the spirit realm by a simple experiment that was shown by a college physics professor. He prompted his class to select at a distance someone in a large audience and focus their attention on this person.

Concentrate on that person, saying his name to yourself. Within a short time the targeted person may wriggle in his seat and begin to look around as if someone is calling him, he said. He may even look your way. Just staring at that someone and concentrating on him can bring similar results.

Somehow our thoughts can transverse distance and be picked up by another individual. (How else can Yahweh read our minds or hear our unspoken prayers?)

We have learned of incidents where a loved one was in a desperate situation halfway across the world, and the one at home was awakened out of a sound sleep and was aware that something was amiss. Later, the urgent incident was confirmed.

The danger here is that Satan will use the power of spiritual things to deceive and convince people to dabble in spiritism for unholy purposes.

Yahweh dwells in heaven, which the Bible refers to as the “third heaven.” The first heaven is where the birds fly, where the clouds form. The second heaven is where the sun, moon, and planets are. The third heaven is the realm of energy that permeates the universe and where Yahweh exists (Rev. 9:1; 2Cor. 12:2).

The third heaven could exist right here on earth, but in a higher plane or

different dimension invisible to humans. The spirit realm is unaffected by substance or distance because it is like sheer energy, force, and power.

Spirit Is Like Energy

There are a number of energy forms we cannot see, yet we are aware that they exist. Anciently, the invisible wind was thought to be related to the spirit realm. Today we are aware of other forms of invisible power. We cannot see electricity, but we know it exists. Even though we cannot see what scientists refer to as “the flow of electrons,” still man has harnessed electricity and made it work for mankind.

We cannot see magnetism, but as youngsters our experience with magnets and iron filings taught us the drawing power of magnetism. We cannot see gravity, but know that it is a force that pulls matter to the center of the earth. While we cannot see these forms of energy, we see results of what they can do.

It is only since Einstein’s day that scientists have come to understand the power that

is packed in each atom. This awesome power is unleashed in the splitting of the atom, creating the atomic bomb.

Einstein showed that time exists only where there is matter, and that time and space are interrelated.

Matter can be converted to energy, and energy to matter. The existence of matter is not static. Therefore, matter had to have a beginning. Genesis 1:1 reads, “In the beginning Elohim created the heavens and the earth...”

Our Bible tells us that the One Who created everything was Yahshua the Messiah, Ephesians 3:9. He created the micro-world of neutrons, protons, and electrons, and put them in their place. By His power these all stay in their fixed places.

He also created the solar systems

and constellations. He fashioned the moon to revolve around the earth; the earth and other planets to go around the sun. “And He is before all things and by Him all things consist” (Greek = all things hold together), Colossians 1:17.

The reason that our microcosm does not fly apart and disintegrate or that the planets and suns don’t go flying off in different directions is that Yahshua is holding them all in place by His power, according to this verse in Colossians.

Not only is the third heaven where Yahweh dwells, but it is also the abode of spirit beings, both good and evil.



Spirit beings can be all around us, but we would not be aware of it. Angelic beings have at times manifested themselves to mankind as did the three celestial beings who appeared unto Abraham on the plains of Mamre, Genesis 18. Two of them continued on to Sodom to destroy that city, chapter 19.

Upon His resurrection our Savior was restored to His former glory, again becoming spirit. He could appear and disappear at will. He appeared before the disciples as they sat in locked rooms, John 20:19, and then He would vanish out of their sight (Luke 24:31).

Just because we cannot see the spirit realm does not mean that it does not exist (also

Connect - Learn - Support...
Over 36,000 downloads and counting
YRM Mobile on the App Store & Google Play

verses 36-37).

Yahweh Is Our Protection

Paul warned the assembly at Corinth to be aware of the tactics of the Tempter: “Lest satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices” (2Cor. 2:11). Peter wrote that the obedient are under the watchful care of our Heavenly Father: “For the eyes of Yahweh are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers; but the face of Yahweh is against them that do evil” (1Pet. 3:12).

If we fear Yahweh, we need not fear the spirit world. Even though we are not able to see the invisible realm about us, Yahweh and His angelic host also dwell in that world, and His power is many times greater than the Adversary’s.

Furthermore, Yahweh has put limits on the sphere of Satan’s activities, and has put a hedge or barrier about His people.

Yahweh upheld the integrity and character of Job and challenged Satan to consider his reputation. The devil’s sneering retort was,

“...does Job fear Elohim for nought? Have not you made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he has on every side? you have blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land” (Job 1:9-10).

Chapters 1 and 2 show that the devil did much harm, but was limited in how far he could go. He could not take Job’s life, but he did make his life almost unbearable. After proving that he would not be shaken in his principles, patient Job was rewarded with double that which Satan had taken from him, Job 42:10.

Demonic Activities

When counseling those sincerely interested in the Bible, we have at times been called upon to unravel



problems people had before conversion. These include obsessions with astrology, horoscopes, illegal drugs, sexual perversion, habitual rebellion and negativism. All of these are samples of demonic influences around us today.

Even Mary Magdalene had seven demons cast out (Mark 16:9) before she was converted to the Savior, and became one of Yahshua's most trusted and dedicated followers to the very end. Our interests and activities determine whether we are dabbling in the realm of the demonic spirits abounding around us, or whether we are seeking those things above where we pursue the Spirit of Yahweh and overcome the forces of evil.

Satan continually strives to convince us that his ways are easier and more enjoyable; that we should do ourselves a favor and accept his way. However, he cannot tempt us beyond the limits Yahweh has set:

"There has no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but Elohim is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape that you may be able to bear it" (1Cor. 10:13).

The Bible says humans have body, soul, and spirit (1Thes. 5:23). We are familiar with our fleshly, material bodies of bone, flesh, and blood. The soul can be thought of as being life, the essence of being alive or living.

Our spirit is our mind, our attitude, our thinking. Nowhere in the Bible does the word spirit (*ruach* - Hebrew or *pneuma* -Greek) refer to the departed dead. Spirit beings are either the angelic beings of Yahweh or the minions of Satan.

We are offered the opportunity to become spirit beings in contrast to human, fleshly beings. It is only then that we will no longer be corruptible, but incorruptible; we will no longer be mortal, but immortal, spirit beings:

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling

of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory" (1Cor. 15:51-54).

Possessed or Deceived?

We are surrounded by spirit attitudes of evil on the one hand and the spirit of good on the other. The spirit of man is our mind, our thinking, our disposition and attitude. We do not act by instinct as do animals and birds.

Man exercises free will and generally acts according to his decisions and habits. Man's spirit can be influenced by either the good or the evil of the present visible world or even by the invisible spirit world.

There is an important difference between demon possession or demon influence and being manipulated or deceived by Satan. Demon possession means Satan has complete control over an individual, even in determining his behavior. The possessed individual is not acting according to his own spirit, his own mind. He is controlled by the satanic spirit.

Deception is built upon untruth. To deceive is to influence one to believe error or do something contrary to fact, to act in a certain way because one's thinking is muddled.

One can be misled to believe error, consequently acting contrary to the facts. This comes from the adversary and his demonic cohorts: "Satan is a liar and the father of it," said our Savior (John 8:44).

Evil Influence Always Present

The Adversary is able to instill thoughts and desires into our minds by his powerful influence and tireless efforts. He is able to override common sense and implant his deceptive schemes

into our minds by playing upon carnal desires and passions, if we are not alert and watchful.

We are not always aware that Satan is a master of influencing us through his subtlety. Drawing closer to Yahweh alerts us to his schemes for we can see the evil it brings:

"Wherein in time past you walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience" (Eph.2:2).

Paul warned that Satan was dominating some of mankind to the point they were bent upon seeking and fulfilling the carnal desires of the flesh and mind. They were filled with vanity, lust, and pride. Through their egotism they concentrated on those things that called attention to themselves, either exalting themselves in their minds or having worldly or sensual pleasures of the flesh.

Peter was once influenced by the Adversary, and said to Yahshua that He would not have to undergo any problems with the religionists of His day. Yahshua recognized that Satan was putting arrogant thoughts into Peter's mind. He therefore rebuked him severely:

"But He turned and said unto Peter, Get behind me Satan, you are an offence unto me, for you savor not the things that be of Elohim, but those that be of men" (Mat. 16:23). Apparently Satan took advantage of Peter's vanity, prompting him to speak in a boastful manner, contradicting Yahshua's deeper knowledge and understanding.

Satan seeks opportunities to bolster human ego. As he did with Peter so had he influenced David to take a census of Israel, "And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel" (1Chron. 21:1).

We also have the example of Ananias and Sapphira who hoped to deceive others into believing that they were really sacrificing to help the assembly get off the ground, but had secretly retained a portion of the sale of their property they had dedicated to

Yahweh, Acts 5:1-11.

Peter discerned that Satan had filled their hearts with greed, verse 3.

Demon Possession

Surprisingly, demons can act religiously and appear to be righteous, but have ulterior motives. Paul became weary of the damsel who annoyed the True Believers by following them. Empowered by Satan, she was a prophetess and therefore was financially valuable to her masters. Paul soon demanded that she leave, however, even though she apparently spoke the truth:

“And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high Elohim which show unto us the way of salvation” (Acts 16:16-17).

Mark 5:1-15 tells of a classic case of a man having an unclean spirit who abode among the tombs. He continued to cry and cut himself with stones. When he saw Yahshua, he ran and worshiped Him. He begged Yahshua not to torture him, feigning to be victimized by Yahshua. When the unclean spirits were driven out of the man, he was found clothed and in his right mind.

Demonic spirits possess a human by influencing the mind and desires of the individual. By instilling thoughts and concepts that are irrational into the thoughts of their victims, the evil spirits deceive these poor people who then cannot discern truth from error.

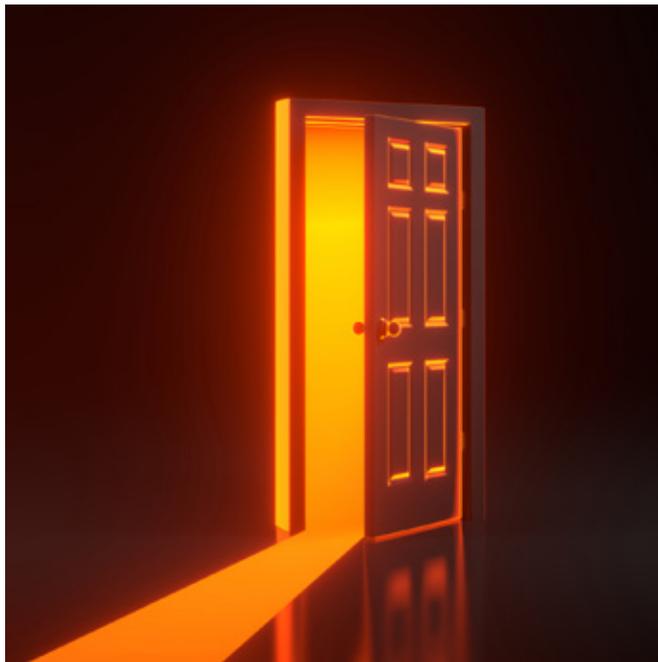
Theirs is another world unrelated

to reality. They hear voices and acquire an entirely different personality. With their mind and will weakened, they are often unstable and difficult to convince of truth. They seem to be increasingly negative in their thinking.

There are those who are not totally under the full influence of demonic spirits, but in their weakened physical or spiritual condition are susceptible to the whims of unclean spirits. Often it is through selfishness, worldly desire, coveting, lust, resentment, envy, and growing hatred that the demons entice the weakened ones.

Guard Your Mind

Be aware that just because someone is knowledgeable in the Bible does not guarantee that he or she is honest or truthful with Yahweh’s Word. Satan can quote the Scripture with the very best. His ploy is to use Scripture to twist the truth by misapplying its true intent.



Some of his tricks are to omit from or add to the Word.

Toying with the tools of the devil is a sure way to be trapped by his superior knowledge and cunning. Dabbling in hypnotism, psychic or horror movies, horoscopes, Ouija boards, television

psychics, and New Age phenomena takes us further from Yahweh.

So-called deeper or new truths are often nothing more than an attempt by Satan to undermine our thinking and assassinate our spiritual integrity. Being separated from the truth of Yahweh’s Word gets us off track and awash in a spiritual quagmire.

Avoid putting yourself in a situation that invites demonic involvement. Channeling, heavy rock music, pornography, violence in movies, videos, and reading material are tempting opportunities for the evil spirit world to move in on an unsuspecting person who might just be seeking thrills out of the ordinary.

Trying to dash through a cesspool of demonic “joys” even for fun will certainly contaminate our thinking and will eventually overwhelm and trap us in Satan’s grip. If you have doubts about whether you should participate in a questionable activity or even be in a certain place, ask yourself whether you would feel comfortable in that situation if Yahshua were at your side.

Opening the Door to Satan

One of the most obvious and enticing opportunities for demonic activity is in the use of cocaine, marijuana, heroin, and mind-altering drugs. The drug lords are out to sell their wares to whomever they can entice.

The misuse of alcohol opens our minds to unholy influences. Drug abuse allows Satan to gain access to our thinking and actions, and can lead to serious crimes like robbery, muggings, and even murder.

“A sound mind in a sound body” is a slogan credited to physicians of long ago; it is still sage advice. If we are tired and run down, we become susceptible to whatever illness is making the rounds such as colds, influenza, and other infections. In addition, our thinking is not as clear as it should be. This is a special time to be on guard against being involved in situations requiring

clear thinking.

Endless grieving over a personal loss, deep depression, the feeling of rejection, and emotional problems like continual negativism or moodiness can be harmful. When we feel defeated, or succumb to a sinking feeling of regret and hopelessness, we are more open to the forces of darkness.

We should always keep our emotions under control and not give way to the forces of spiritual darkness. Instead of scowling and being moody, we should go to Yahweh seeking a change in attitude.

Being positive in outlook is good for our spirit and health. Continued anger, bitterness, frustration, and rage can lead to physical problems.

If this is a problem with you, you can overcome it. First, take it to Yahweh in prayer. At such times, read your Bible, especially the Psalms. Physical exercise can help as well. Take a walk. Get out of your rut. Do something different. Talk to a friend.

Don't allow the forces of spiritual darkness to gain access to your mind and heart.

One of the most cherished of our memories is attending the Feasts and helping brethren with personal problems. Oftentimes others have faced the same dilemma. Solutions they have found shed new light on our own difficulties.

The right, scriptural attitude of His people is beneficial for His Spirit to accomplish all His will. Notice the following example where the Savior Himself felt that the Holy Spirit was stifled:

“And He [Yahshua] could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And He marvelled because of their unbelief. And He went round about the villages, teaching” (Mark 6:5-6).

Yahweh's Spirit can accomplish more among people whose minds and

hearts are right. If we are striving to do His will, our attitudes bring about a conducive situation where each believing person contributes toward the goal. A prayer given among faithful brethren on the Sabbath is of inestimable value. Paul speaks of this and joins them in spirit with the same petition:

“In the name of our Sovereign Yahshua Messiah, when you are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Sovereign Yahshua Messiah” (1Cor. 5:4).

Apparently the power of the prayer is multiplied by the faith of the dedicated brethren who are joined “in spirit.” Yahweh's Spirit can work more effectively when an air



of righteousness prevails. The Bible teaches us not to be self-serving, seeking what we can gain for ourselves, but to be unselfish and helpful to all, especially those in need: “Pure religion and undefiled before Yahweh the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, [and] to keep himself unspotted from the world” (James 1:27).

Stand Up for Yahweh's Truth

Paul warns that our real battle here on earth is spiritual. The evil one tries to impact our mind, our demeanor, our beliefs, and worship. We not only should live a clean life, eating proper and clean foods for physical health,

and keeping the Sabbaths and Holy Days for spiritual health, but also be alert to other influences that affect our emotions and attitudes, our minds and our thinking. Satan tries through all available avenues to control Yahweh's people.

Make no mistake, Satan and his agents attempt to take advantage of everyone. Through avenues like advertising, which is a form of mind control, he creates a desire for the pleasures of this world.

The demonic forces are also trying to sell their wares of pleasure, excitement, thrills, ego-building — whatever it takes to “sign you up” as one of their initiates. Twisting your mind to accept what they have to offer is the name of their game.

Our unseen enemies are the invisible, satanic influences. These tempt us with what appears to be an attractive life-style, but in reality lead to a depraved way of life.

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Eph. 6:12).

We are promised that if Yahweh's Spirit abides in us, we have nothing to fear from the spirit world, for: “Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world” John 4:4.

Draw near to Yahweh in prayer, doing what you can to reach out to others where you live and seek to aid those proclaiming His Name and the coming government of the Kingdom. By adding to the number who praise Him by His Name, Yahweh will give more glory to His Name and Truth.

“Submit yourselves therefore to Yahweh. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

We fight a spiritual battle in this life. We need all the defenses Yahweh provides for the faithful who seek to serve only Him, including regular prayer. 🙏



by Randy Folliard

Throughout life we come to crossroads requiring choices. There are no greater decisions than those made concerning our faith and living for Yahweh. While choosing Yahweh doesn't mean a life free from challenges, it does mean that we're going to be blessed and escape from many of the problems others face.

As a minister, I've heard many horror stories from people coming into the Faith. Examples include sexual immorality, relationship issues, chronic depression, and drug abuse. Without Yahweh and His Word, issues like these are easy to fall into. Without our Father in heaven, we have no moral compass.

There is nothing more important than living for Yahweh; this one decision will impact our lives more than any other!

Topics we will cover in this article are:

- Importance of life decisions
- Choosing a path with purpose
- Seeking guidance through prayer
- Embracing faith in decision-making
- Surrendering personal desires

Important Life Decisions

In Proverbs 3:5-6, we read, "Trust in Yahweh with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."

Three important lessons are found in the above passage: 1) trusting Yahweh; 2) not relying on our understanding; and 3) acknowledging Yahweh. When we live by these principles, Yahweh will direct our paths. We are going to have a better and more fulfilled life if Yahweh is directing our paths.

Addressing each point separately, let's first ask what it means to trust Yahweh. This word comes from the Hebrew *batach*, which, in addition to trust, conveys the thought of confidence or boldness.

As believers, our confidence should be in the One we worship. At the end of the day, if we trust in our Father in heaven, nothing is going to shake or move us.

Let's now consider what it means not to rely on our understanding. For me, this is a big hurdle to overcome, as I tend to do this when faced with

a challenge or problem. Instead of always going to Yahweh first, I look for a solution from my perspective. But as believers we should always first seek to understand what Yahweh's Word says and then pursue that path. His way is not always the easy way but it's always the right way.

When we go astray down a path that doesn't align with Yahweh's, usually bad things happen and we will not be blessed. In many cases we would be cursed and would have to deal with the consequences.

The third lesson to consider is to acknowledge Yahweh. In short, this simply means doing and following Yahweh's Word. It's amazing how much better life is when we conform our lives to His Word – and this includes even the small things. The Bible is Yahweh's handbook of life and when followed we are blessed, but when ignored we are cursed.

Choosing a Path with Purpose

When we choose Yahweh's path with purpose, He will prosper our ways, as

found in Jeremiah 29:11. “For I know the plans I have for you, declares [Yahweh], plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (NIV).

His plan includes doing us no harm and giving hope for the future. So many want to live life as they choose and as long as they’re not looking for Yahweh’s blessings, that’s one thing. But if we want the blessings of our Father in heaven, then we must choose to live His way.

Understand that this includes every aspect of our lives, including our careers, our friends, and even our spouses. As an example, the Bible says to marry only in the Messiah, meaning the faith. This is important because no one is more influential than our spouse, who often can either strengthen or destroy our faith.

Usually our biggest enemy is ourselves – if we go astray from Yahweh’s Word, it’s normally because of a decision we made.

We read about an important decision Israel was to make in Joshua 24:15: “And if it seem evil unto you to serve Yahweh, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the mighty ones which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the mighty ones of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve Yahweh.”

Here Joshua is speaking to the people of Israel and reminding them about the importance of Yahweh. After pointing out how their forefathers served the mighty ones of the nations, he then advises, “...choose you this day whom ye will serve.”

Nothing is more crucial than what we find here. As believers, how do we respond to this? Are we living like the world around us or are we living for our Father in heaven? James in his epistle says, “Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with Elohim? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of Elohim.”

Let’s pause for a moment and ask ourselves, are we following the ways of this world or the ways of Yahweh? I hope the answer is Yahweh.

Joshua closes the passage by saying, “...but as for me and my house, we will serve Yahweh.” What we learn here is this: no matter what others are doing, we can choose who we are going to serve.

The only person who can determine your life course is YOU. At the end of the day, you and you alone will determine whether you’re going to be blessed or whether you’re going to be cursed. The Apostle Paul said that we are to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.

Seeking Guidance Through Prayer

Prayer is conversing with Yahweh. Even though we may never hear a voice back, it’s important to remember that He’s always listening.

Paul speaks about the power of prayer in Philippians 4:6-7. “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto Elohim. And the peace of Yahweh, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Messiah Yahshua.”

This life is not easy, and everyone eventually comes to a situation that seems insurmountable. In these times, we must rely on our Father in heaven and one of the best ways of doing this is through prayer. Just as when we go to a friend in times of hardship, we should be doing the same with Yahweh. He hears and responds in His way.

Nobody can provide more con-

solation or comfort than Yahweh. Through prayer, He can provide a peace that passes all understanding. For me, this means that we find the greatest sense of peace through Yahweh.

The *Pulpit Commentary* views this as, “Surpassing every device or counsel of man.” In other words, there is no greater source of peace than what we find through our Creator.

Should we pray only when we are in our depths of trials or tribulation? The answer is No. As believers we should pray daily, even multiple times a day, making sure that Yahweh is the center and focus of our lives. Prayer is not for informing Yahweh about your life; prayer is including Yahweh in your life.

The Scripture says that every good gift in this life is from Yahweh and I believe it all begins with prayer. If you currently don’t have an active prayer life, I would encourage you to begin one. It’s not hard – it’s simply taking the time to do it.

Embracing Faith in Decision-making

One of the biggest mistakes people make is when they make plans without involving Yahweh and when things don’t work out, they ask why. Proverbs 16:3 tells us, “Commit to [Yahweh] whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.” (NIV)

No matter what decision we are making in life, Yahweh should always be at the forefront. For example, when it comes to dating or marriage, we should only look within the Faith. We find these words in 1 Corinthians 7:39,

“The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; ONLY in the Master.”

Why is this important? First, it allows us to share the Faith with our spouse and in many cases, save ourselves many years of frustration. Second, if we marry outside the Faith, our hearts can often be pulled away

Read past issues of
Restoration Times magazine at:
yrm.org/restoration-times-archive

Watch years of past
Discover the Truth episodes at:
yrm.org/dtt

from Yahweh.

A key example is King Solomon who had 700 wives and 300 concubines. His unbelieving wives pulled his heart away from Yahweh and he participated in their pagan worship practices.

We read in 1Kings 11:4-8, “For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other mighty ones: and his heart was not perfect with Yahweh his Elohim, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the elohim of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. And Solomon did evil in the sight of Yahweh, and went not fully after Yahweh, as did David his father. Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their mighty ones.”

Another case in point for why it’s important to acknowledge Yahweh in our life decisions is when we’re searching for a career. We must remember the Sabbath.

When I was in my early 20s I was thinking about a different career than the one I’m in now, but I realized that the Sabbath would be an issue and after realizing this, I changed directions. I believe this is one of the reasons I’ve been blessed in my career.

When we put Yahweh in the forefront of our plans, He’s going to bless us in a great way – whether that’s in marriage, our career, or in some other way.

Surrendering Personal Desires

In 1Corinthians 6:17-20, we read: “But he that is joined unto the Master is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the

Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of Elohim, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify Elohim in your body, and in your spirit, which are Yahweh’s.”

Paul explains that we are joined to the Messiah and because of this, we’re to flee physical fornication or sexual immorality. The reason for this is that those who have received the Holy Spirit through baptism into Yahshua’s name have made their bodies the temple of the Holy Spirit.

While Paul only mentions the sin of fornication, realize that any sin we deliberately commit separates us from Yahweh. This is why it’s so important as believers that we do our very best to avoid sin and to surrender our lives to Him.

Paul closes here by saying, “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify Elohim in your body, and in your spirit, which are Yahweh’s.” This means that we don’t belong to ourselves, but to the One who bought us. Our bodies and our spirit belong to Yahweh and for this reason, we MUST surrender to Him.

The fact is, when we surrender our lives to Him, we are going to have a better life now; even greater, we are going to have a better promise in the life to come. This means living according to His Word and His Word alone.

A similar passage is found in Colossians 3:23-24. “And whatsoever you do, do it heartily, as to Yahweh, and not unto men.” The message here is simply this – we must always put Yahweh above man. This includes our family and friends. Sometimes the greatest struggle is with those we care most about.

I’ve seen many instances of this over the years, especially when it comes to worship. I’ve seen unbelieving spouses make it almost impossible for a believer to observe the Sabbath, which is why we should marry only within the faith.

I’ve also seen unbelieving friends

pull believers away from the faith, often through neglect of the Sabbath. Maybe they want to go to a concert on the Sabbath and pressure their believing friend to go with them.

Small compromises will lead to big compromises and this is why as believers we should never compromise with Yahweh’s Word, even with the small things. Again, the lesson here is really simple – always put Yahweh first and never compromise His Word for others, whether it be for family or friends.

We MUST Forsake All

Abraham, the father of the faithful, had deep faith. We read in Genesis 12:1-4, “Now Yahweh had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will show thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. So Abram departed, as Yahweh had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.”

Here we see Abraham being commanded by Yahweh to leave his home and family. Think about what this meant. He was leaving behind everything and everyone he knew behind to travel to a country he knew nothing about. This required a tremendous amount of faith and dedication.

For a moment, let’s apply this story to us. I believe we all have a story like Abraham to tell and here’s the reason: As believers, following Yahweh means that we must often separate ourselves from people we know. In many cases, travel is often involved.

The reason I moved halfway across the country was because of the faith – I wanted to be near an assembly that followed Truth. This decision changed

the entire course of my life. If I had never decided to visit the assembly and move, my wife and I may have never met, and my children would never have been born.

Like Abraham, we must always put Yahweh first and make whatever sacrifices we must to follow Him. While some of these sacrifices can be hard, they are worthwhile and will lead to greater blessings.

Here's an example of a hard decision Abraham had to make that led to even greater blessings. In Genesis 22 Abraham was told by Yahweh to sacrifice his son, Isaac.

As we know from the story, Abraham placed Isaac on the altar and was ready to slay his son as a burnt offering as a sign of his devotion. However, before he could follow through, Yahweh stopped him and provided a ram as a substitute for Isaac. Yahweh also blessed him with this promise,

“That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.”

This account offers many lessons and observations, the most critical being: how far are we willing to go to obey the One we worship? Are we willing to make the necessary changes in our lives to follow Yahweh? This includes separating ourselves from family or

friends that may be a bad influence.

When it comes to our devotion to Yahweh, we must be willing to give all – Yahweh does not accept second place.

In the New Testament Yahshua said that we could NOT serve both mammon and Yahweh – He stated that we had to choose. We also know that Yahshua chastised the Laodicean assembly for being lukewarm. He told them to be either hot or cold, but not lukewarm. Those who remain lukewarm Yahshua says He would spew from His mouth.



These words are just as relevant for us today.

How Far Are You Willing to Go?

So where is our heart's devotion today? Are we following the example of Abraham – willing to give and sacrifice all for Yahweh? If we are, praise Yahweh, but if not I encourage you to

consider how you might do better.

Nothing in this life is greater and more important than our relationship with Yahweh. We can live for Him and be blessed in this life and the life to come, or we can live for this world and die in our sins for eternity. The choice is ours and ours alone. I pray that we always choose Yahweh.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Messiah; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

Over the years, I have spoken to a lot of people who suffer from many regrets in life. And here's the thing about life and bad choices: while we can be forgiven, the results of those mistakes may follow us until we die. King David is a great example of this – after he committed adultery with Bathsheba and murdered her husband, his life was never the same. He suffered the consequences the rest of his life.

The very best thing we can do in life is to follow Yahweh. When we follow Him, we will be blessed and experience blessings that others won't.

Even more importantly, when we follow Him, we have the promise of everlasting life in His kingdom. Think about that, think about the blessing of living forever with Yahweh and Yahshua the Messiah, the Creators of the universe! And here's more good news: this promise is available to all who simply follow and devote their lives to Him. 🙏



Watch on YRM Mobile, Facebook Live, yrm.org/live, or Youtube.
[yrm.org/live archives](http://yrm.org/live/archives)

Grace Invokes Obedience

by Alan Mansager

The natural caring and concern for others is growing cold in our day, mainly because of the sin of our times.

In Matthew 24:12 Yahshua prophesied that this would happen: “And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.”

Romans 3:23-24 is often used to excuse sinful conduct. “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of Elohim; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Messiah Yahshua.”

“See, we’ve all sinned (meaning the law is in effect!) and Yahshua’s blood covers sin,” they reason. But notice the next verse: “Whom Yahweh has set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the

forbearance of Yahweh.”

Sin committed ignorantly is one thing. But once understood, acknowledgement and repentance of sin will accompany a true changeover to obedience. From that point on deliberate lawbreaking will exact serious consequences.

Baptism – a Pledge and Covenant

Your past sins are forgiven and washed away at baptism through the power and saving Name of Yahshua, Acts 2:38. Through the act of baptism into Yahshua’s Name you openly acknowledge your sinful past and recognize the grace that Yahweh has extended to you for your past behavior.

Led by the Holy Spirit, you acknowledge your sinfulness, repent of your transgressions, and exercise faith in Yahshua as your Captain, substitute, and example. This faith comes through

the power of the Word and is also a gift of Yahweh’s grace. Through the Messiah you are justified, adopted as Yahweh’s son or daughter, and delivered from the bondage of sin.

Through the miracle of baptism you are begotten of His Spirit and set apart from the world. The Spirit renews your mind, writes Yahweh’s law of love and obedience on your heart, and provides the ability to live a life set apart from the world.

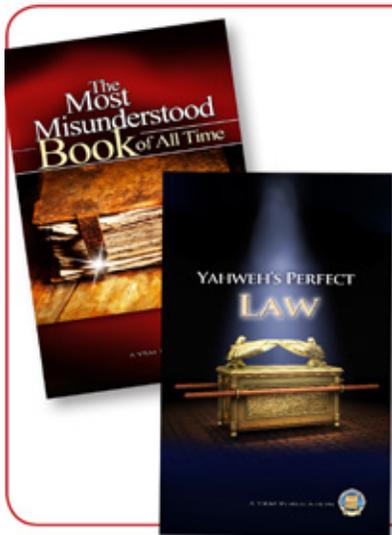
With a new life developing in you, you change to conform to Yahshua’s example. Worldly lusts don’t control you as you grow more and more in the Holy Spirit. You develop a peaceable, patient, more gentle and caring spirit.

Then another important change occurs. Yahweh now views your deliberate sins committed after your baptism more critically. Paul asked, “How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer in it?” Romans 6:2. He was responding to his own question, “Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?”

Grace Teaches a Turnabout from Sin

Far from giving license to sin, grace requires spiritual change. Grace goes hand-in-hand with obedience. Here’s how it happens.

“For the grace of Yahweh that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying unrighteousness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and goodly, in this present world,” Titus 2:11. Imagine that! Grace



Lawkeeping in the New Testament

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

teaches us to get in line with the Word – rejecting worldly pulls.

Continuing to verse 14 we find that Yahweh gave us Yahshua to purify a “peculiar people” who are zealous of good works. Far from glossing over sin, grace anticipates our turn from sin.

Just as today, there were men in the early assembly who seized upon the grace Yahweh offered through Yahshua and used it to excuse deliberate sin:

“For there were certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, unrighteous men, turning the grace of our Elohim into lasciviousness,” Jude 4. Lasciviousness means loose, sexually immoral living.

These men entered deceptively. No one had known their hearts, and they polluted the assembly.

Now look what Jude says in the next verse about Yahweh’s grace in action: “I will therefore put you in remembrance, though you once knew this, how that Yahweh, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not,” Jude 5.

Realize what he is saying. Yahweh’s grace rescued Israel from their otherwise terminal existence in Egypt, symbolic of sin. But then He had to wipe out many of them when through their rebellious living they proved unfit to receive any more grace!

Paul told Timothy that his former life of sin had been forgiven because, “I did it ignorantly in unbelief,” 1 Timothy 1:13-14.

Grace is our relief valve when we sin out of ignorance. But there is a world of difference between sinning because we don’t know any better and sinning when we do.

Paul put it this way, “For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sin, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment, and

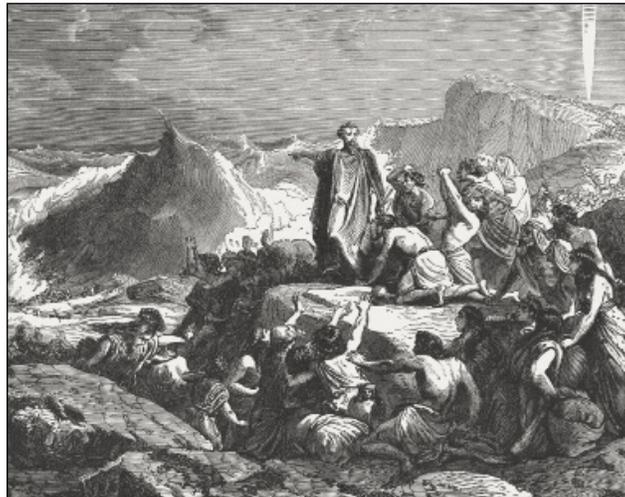
fiery indignation which shall devour the adversaries,” Hebrews 10:26.

Once you know what is right but don’t do it, you sin, James 4:17 says. You face the possibility of no forgiveness if you continue. These Scriptures fly in the face of the eternal security teaching of once saved, always saved.

Many believe that when they made a commitment to follow the Heavenly Father that they were home free. Their ticket to salvation was bought with no possibility of recall or cancellation. Is that what Yahshua Himself taught?

The Nourished Branch

The answer to one of the greatest truths of how we carnal human beings can find everlasting life is found in John 15. Here is the analogy of a vine, being Yahshua,



and His people as branches growing on that vine.

This parable beautifully demonstrates the only way we can enter the future Kingdom. Yahweh is described as the husbandman who nurtures the vine as it grows:

“Every branch in Me that bears not fruit, He takes away: and every branch that bears fruit, He purges, that it may bring forth more fruit,” verse 2.

Have you ever seen a stick lying on the ground bearing apples or oranges? Of course not. That stick or branch must be attached to a living tree in order to produce fruit. The same with us.

Disconnected from Yahshua, we bear no fruit and we die. He said as much in verse 6, “If a man abide not in Me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”

Continued life means continual abiding in Yahshua. To abide in Him is to follow His example by the way you live. If a True Worshiper does not live the righteous life that Yahshua lived, he will wither and die on the vine.

Our commitment to Yahweh is not static, based on a one-time profession of faith. It is an ongoing, growing process – a sharing of life through obedience. He is the only way to salvation.

Unrepented Sin Results in Death

What really happens when we knowingly and willfully sin by breaking Yahweh’s laws?

The prophet Ezekiel tells us that our actions will determine our fate. A man can live a whole life of righteousness and sacrifice, but if he ultimately turns away and does evil, He will receive the ultimate fate.

“When the righteous turns from his righteousness, and commits iniquity, he shall even die thereby. But if the wicked turn from his wickedness, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall live thereby,” Ezekiel 33:18-19.

The key lies in maintaining a faithful, obedient relationship, doing as Yahshua commanded and living as He did. “And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that says, ‘I know Him,’ and keeps not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keeps His word, in him verily is the love of Yahweh perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him,” 1 John 2:3-5.

We cannot earn salvation. It is a gift, given by Yahshua who paid the ultimate price for it by His death on the tree. Salvation, then, comes only through Him.

(please turn to p. 17)

Q Is it sinful to get ink injections to make a permanent tattoo? What does the Bible say?

A Not long ago tattoos carried a strong stigma. When American culture was mostly Judeo-Christian, getting tattoos was considered rebellious. Servicemen in the Navy often got tattoos after a night of drinking. Interestingly, the word tattoo includes a practice of shutting off the spigot of alcohol at midnight. The word tattoo came into English only in the late 1700s.

Today one in five U.S. adults has at least one tattoo. Entertainers, sports figures, and even a 2009 version of Barbie have multiple tattoos. A May 2024 Swedish study of 12,000 tattooed individuals showed a 21 percent increase in the risk of lymphoma. The ink attacks the immune system.

Leviticus 19:28 tells us, "Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am Yahweh" (KJV). Another version reads, "And you shall not make any incisions in your flesh for the dead, neither engrave any mark upon you" (***A Translation of the Old Testament Scriptures from the Original Hebrew***).

Some later English translations use the word tattoo in this verse, including ***The New International Version***, which reads, "Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves. I am Yahweh." ***The New Revised Standard Version*** says, "You shall not make any gashes in your flesh for the dead or tattoo any marks upon you." Moffatt's ***A New Translation of the Bible*** renders the clause this way, "...nor shall you tattoo your skin."

Pagans would slash marks on their bodies in calling out to their deities (1Kings 18:28), to mourn their dead, or to ensure fertility in childbirth.

Who do we honor when we cover our bodies with tattoos? As in other physical characteristics, we must realize that our bodies are Yahweh's temple and we are not our own, "therefore glorify Elohim in your body" (1Cor. 6:19-20). We are made in Yahweh's image and should not disfigure His handiwork.

Modesty is a principle of the Word for the believer. Our goal is to turn attention away from ourselves in dress, in actions, and attitudes. Tattoos send messages that focus on self, conveying what one values. Many have "tattoo regret" as they mature spiritually and no longer have the same impulses they once had. It's another lesson in overcoming.

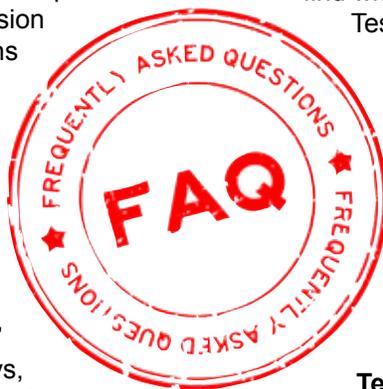
Consider these things; think before you ink.

Q Do former members of the Worldwide Church of God need to be rebaptized? They don't believe in the Trinity but they baptize "in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

A Only one name under heaven gives salvation. Proper biblical baptism is only into the singular Name Yahshua.

Q I have been saying to my fellow church members that Yahweh's law is still in effect and they say I am wrong. They say Hebrews 7:12 shows that there has been a change when it comes to the law. What do you say and where can I show them their error?

A Note that there was a change in the law, not the elimination of it. The change in law as spoken of in Hebrews 7:12 is a change in the priesthood. The ninth chapter of Hebrews says that the changes are connected with the temple and sacrificial worship. Nowhere, however, does the Bible nullify the Sabbath, Feasts, clean foods, and other laws we find in the Old Testament. In fact, we find these laws being observed by the Messiah and the Apostles (See Luke 23:56; Acts 13:14; 16:13; 17:2; Matthew 27; Mark 15:33; John 19; Acts 2:1-4; 20:6; 16; John 7). We also find widespread support for law-keeping in the New Testament (Matt. 5:17-20; 19:17; 22:37-40; Mark 10:19; John 14:15; Romans 3:31; 7:1, 12; 13:8-10; 1Corinthians 7:19; 1John 2:3; 3:4; 5:3; Revelation 12:17; 14:12; 22:14).



Q I've always been told to tithe 10 percent of all my increase. I'm trying to teach that to others but can't find in the New Testament saying that we are to tithe 10 percent of our money today. All I can find is in the Old Testament, that Israel was supposed to tithe from their first fruits, new wine, and oil. Where does it say tithing is for us today, how much we are to tithe, and what we are to do with our tithes?

A The 10 percent tithe is derived from the Hebrew word for tithe, *maaser*, and means, "a tenth; especially a tithe" (***Strong's***). The reason the majority of references in the Old Testament equate the tithe to produce or livestock is that this was Israel's economic system, Leviticus 27:30-33. While it's true that they also had gold and silver, they were an agricultural society and farm products were income.

We also find examples in which the tithe was based on something other than agriculture. In Genesis 14:20 Abraham tithed to Melchizedek of war plunder. Also, in Genesis 28:22 Jacob promised to tithe of all his possessions.

In the New Testament tithing is mentioned in Matthew 23:23 and Hebrews 7:1-6 and referenced in 1Corinthians 9:11. Malachi 3:8 says we rob Yahweh if we don't tithe and give offerings, and we put ourselves under a curse, v. 9. The tithe represents the firstfruits offering to Yahweh, as the firstfruits of the land and the firstborn of the womb were consecrated to Him. When the tithe is neglected, His work stops, Nehemiah 13:10-12.

The tithe should be used in official ministry work and is to go to the "storehouse," Malachi 3:10. To use your tithe to feed the hungry or help a believer with his bills is not how the tithe was intended. The ten percent is holy to Yahweh and is used to advance Him and His Truth.

Q Do you have any idea why some Sabbath and Feast-keeping groups don't call on the true names of the Father and Son? Having come so far in truth, they stop!

A Some will say it's because these names do not appear in New Testament English. However, there is substantial evidence that the New Testament was originally written in Hebrew or Aramaic. That evidence includes Hebraic grammar, idioms, and the many Hebrew words that were left untranslated. The fact that the writers were Hebrews themselves is testimony to the Hebrew language they used.

In addition, the Greek texts have abbreviations called *Nomina Sacra* that indicate that the original text had the Sacred Names. The **Restoration Study Bible** note at Matthew 1:22 explains, "*Nomina Sacra* meaning 'sacred names' in Latin, was a literary device used to abbreviate several words in early Greek NT manuscripts. Bruce Metzger's book, **Manuscripts of the Greek Bible**, lists 15 examples of these abbreviations from Greek papyri: God, Lord, Jesus, Christ, Son, Spirit, David, cross, Mother, Father, Israel, Savior, Man, Jerusalem, and Heaven (examples appear as found in KJV). Except for 'mother,' which is not found until the 4th century CE, all other *Nomina Sacra* have been found in Greek manuscripts from the first through third centuries CE. While scholars are still debating the purpose, some propose that this shortening of key words may have been used to replace the Tetragrammaton (see Ex. 3:15) with the common title *Kurios* (typically abbreviated 'KS' with a line above), in Greek Christian manuscripts, as found within this passage. This offers a possible explanation as to why Yahweh's Name is missing from the Greek NT. In fact, in those places where the Tetragrammaton should appear, the definite article is missing in front of the *Nomina Sacra*. This conclusion is supported also by German scholar David Trobisch's work, **The First Edition of The New Testament**. ...This may also explain why the Greek title *theos*, typically (abbreviated 'THS' with a line above), appears in place of the Hebrew Elohim."

In addition to pointing to the New Testament Greek as a reason for avoiding the Hebrew names, they will also point to Exodus 6:3: "And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of El Shaddai, but by my name Yahweh was I not known to them." Many claim that this passage confirms that Yahweh's Name being unknown, was not important. But Scripture verifies that the patriarchs did know and call upon Yahweh's Name. For example, Genesis 12:8 states that Abraham "builded an altar unto Yahweh, and called upon the name of Yahweh." See also Genesis 13:4 and 21:33.

The Hebrew of Exodus 6:3 is an idiom that means they did not perceive or understand His Name because they had not witnessed what He would accomplish through the power of His Name.

Scripture says the use of Yahweh's Name is very important. Joel 2:32 prophesied, "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of Yahweh shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as Yahweh hath said, and in the remnant whom Yahweh shall call." See Acts 2:21 and Romans 10:13.

Q Should I read and study the apocrypha? I have a friend who likes to refer to them even when they don't match the Scriptures.

A The term Apocrypha means "things hidden or concealed." It is from the Greek word *apokryphos* and it concerns writings that at first were not read publicly. Later, Apocrypha came to be understood as spurious and uncanonical writings. The Old Testament writings generally recognized as constituting the Apocrypha are: 1, 2 Maccabees; Prayer of Manasses; 1, 2 Esdras; Tobit; Judith; Wisdom; Ecclesiasticus (a.k.a. Sirach); Baruch and Epistle of Jeremy; supplements to Esther and three additions to Daniel, including: The Song of the Three Children, Susanna and the Elders, and the Destruction of Bel and the Dragon.

The New Testament apocrypha include: Gospel of Peter, Gospel of Nicodemus (also called the "Acts of Pilate"), Gospel of Bartholomew, Gospel of Marcion (mid 2nd century), Gospel of Judas (also called the "Gospel of Judas Iscariot"), Gospel of Mary (also called the "Gospel of Mary Magdalene"), Gospel of Philip, Gospel of Thomas, and acts of the various apostles....

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

Following are reasons that the Apocrypha are not inspired Scripture:

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

Apocrypha means "things hidden or concealed." It is from the Greek word *apokryphos* and refers to writings that at first were not read publicly. No wonder. 

Meeting Hall Expansion Progress (Phase 2)

Progress on the meeting hall expansion has gone much quicker than we imagined. At times it seemed as if we were not even in control. Lucas has already addressed some amazing occurrences that happened during construction in past Sabbath announcements. One Mennonite crew foreman said, "From some of the things I've seen, there is no question [Yahweh] is with you on this project." We have done our best at being good stewards of the donations to this point. To finish Phase Two, the ministry has used money it has been saving on top of donations received. But we have also had to use some funds from other accounts. We do not make bank loans and will only build with the finances available. We have done most of the framing ourselves, hiring out only the parts we are not equipped to do safely. We have also done all our own contracting and design. We plan to stop for a while to recoup our finances before Phase Three. As we receive donations for the project, we will continue working accordingly. It takes a lot to keep the lights on while pursuing a large project like this. A special thanks for all who have donated their free time and finances, and for those who have prayed for this project. Yahweh has opened doors so far and we have faith He will continue to do so.

www.yrm.org/buildingfund or mail a tax deductible gift to YRM, PO Box 463, Holts Summit, MO 65043



(continued from p. 13)

Paul says the wages of sin is death, Romans 6:23, “but the gift of Yahweh is eternal life through Yahshua the Messiah.” We become betrothed to Yahshua when we accept that gift and vow to be obedient. But that gift can be taken away if we don’t remain true to Him.

Willful sin shatters the spiritual bond by which everlasting life is obtained. Through their actions the sinful become servants of, or married to, another – Satan the devil. Yahshua said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, whosoever commits sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abides not in the house forever,” John 8:34-35. (“He that commits sin is of the devil,” 1John 3:8.)

We cannot earn salvation by commandment-keeping, but we can forfeit it by deliberately living contrary to the law.

Your Salvation Depends on Your Walk

The Bible is replete with a promise of everlasting life. But it carries a big IF. It is not awarded automatically just because one repents. A life of obedience and overcoming must from that point on be maintained and increased in righteousness.

Paul likened it to a race and a fight. Rewards are presented only to those with a favorable showing at the outcome.

Yahweh set the terms of salvation throughout the Bible. We must adhere to those terms. Here are a few contingency Scriptures for salvation in the New Testament:

- “IF a man keep My saying, he shall never see death,” John 8:51;
- “You are my friends, IF you do whatsoever I command you,” John 15:14;
- “IF you live after the flesh you shall die,” Romans 8:13;
- “For we are made partakers of Messiah, IF we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end,” Hebrews 3:14;
- “IF any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him,” Hebrews 10:38;
- “IF we suffer, we shall also reign with Him: IF we deny Him, He will also deny us,” 2Timothy 2:12.

Clearly, salvation is conditional. It is there if we want it, but it depends on whether we love Yahweh enough to obey Him and keep obeying Him until the end.

Yahweh set the bar of obedience high, but His rewards are equally high for those who are faithful till death. 

biblical hebrew word lesson

פנים
• T

Panim paw-neem’

Composition: pe, qamets, nun,
hireq, mem.

The Hebrew word **Panim** (H6440)
is a masculine noun and means
“faces.” Paneh is the singular and
means face.

Then Elohim said, “I give you every
seed-bearing plant on the **face** of the
whole earth and every tree that has
fruit with seed in it.”

Genesis 1:29

Outreach Program’s Current Partners

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

David Nesta
James Williams
Steve Twillegar
Antonio Kimble
Judy Stern

Sarah Hostkoetter
Robert Kountz
Barbara Creel
David Lynch



4th Edition



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

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

Ten-point main text size (as in standard newspapers and magazines) is easy to read; footnotes are slightly smaller.

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

* Ribbons for place-holding

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



Feedback

From Mail | Emails | Social Media



Send us your comments
Visit: yrm.org/feedback



“As a regular viewer and donor to your ministry I have come to value your insight and teachings. I have two questions that I think would also be good for a future Sabbath sermon. The first question relates to Luke 3:3 and Mark 1:4 where John baptized repentance for the remission of sins. If in fact his baptism remitted sins, then why did Yahshua have to die for sins? My second question is about the Passover. Yahshua was our Passover, which meant He had to die during the same timeframe as the lamb would have been slain. How could He have eaten the Passover the evening before with His disciples? Thank you and may Yahweh continue to prosper your ministry.” – RN

Peter told a crowd of 3,000 to repent and be baptized in the Name of Yahshua the Messiah for the remission of sins and to receive the Holy Spirit, Acts 2:38. It is entirely of Yahshua and not John the Baptist to pay sin's penalty by His death. Sins are then remitted by Yahshua once baptism is done in His Name. It is His death that remits sin when we repent of our sins and are immersed into His Name. Baptism in the burial waters typifies His death and we join Him in His covenant. Paul wrote in Galatians 3:27 that those who are baptized in Messiah have put on Messiah. Yahshua is the only avenue to salvation, Acts 4:12. In Acts 19:4 we read, “Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people,

that they should believe on Him which should come after Him, that is, on Messiah Yahshua.”

Repentance must come before sins can be forgiven, which is what is being shown in Luke 3:3 and Mark 1:4. John's baptism was of repentance of sin. Remission of sin is one reason that those who received John's baptism were rebaptized into Yahshua's Name, Acts 19:4-5. The other reason was to receive the Holy Spirit, verse 6.

Yahshua was sinless, and therefore He kept the law perfectly, including the command to observe the Passover, with His disciples, at sunset on the 14th of Abib as the law prescribed. He became the Passover lamb on the 14th when He died later that same day, thus inaugurating a new emblem in the Passover with Himself as the Lamb that takes away sin. The “timeframe” was the 14th day of Abib when the New Testament Passover was observed by Yahshua and His followers, and now with new emphasis. The only way He could keep both the Passover and become the Passover Lamb was in the way it is shown in the Word when He died later that day.

“I just want to know whether Satan in the Book of Job (Job 1:6-7) is the same Satan in the Book of Revelation (Rev. 12:7-10)? How could Satan go up to heaven and go down to earth freely, when he was already thrown down to earth after losing the battle with Michael the Archangel?” – NP

From Job 1:6-7 many assume Satan's challenge to Yahweh occurred in heaven. When the sons of Elohim (True Worshipers) gathered before Yahweh it was likely to keep a Feast of Leviticus 23. Then Satan showed up to cause trouble. When Satan and his angels were cast out of heaven and thrown to earth in Revelation 12, verse 8 says neither was their place found anymore in heaven. At His expulsion, verse 9, Satan lost free access to heaven and therefore his challenge to Yahweh had to be on earth and likely at one of the seven annual Feasts.

“I studied theology for four years, that is what made me realize that Christian doctrine alone, I mean the church I was in for years, made no sense. I have always been fearful of Yahweh and careful to learn the truth from Him but I didn't know anything else until I came to you and then I saw how everything I had read in the Scriptures made sense.” - LM

Upcoming Feasts of the Seventh Biblical Month

Feast of Trumpets - September 5
Day of Atonement - September 14
Feast of Tabernacles - September
19-25
Last Great Day - September 26

Simplify Your Hectic Life

You can conveniently donate to Yahweh's Restoration Ministry automatically using our mobile app. Simply download the app and connect a debit card with the “Give” function. Never forget your tithes and offerings again! Help even more by choosing to cover the processing fee (optional).

Download the YRM app to your phone by scanning the QR code at right with your smartphone camera and click the link, or visit our website: <https://yrm.org/new-yrm-app>. (For assistance call 573-896-1000.)





YAHWEH'S
RESTORATION
Ministry

PO Box 463
Holts Summit, MO 65043
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Holts Summit, MO
Permit No. 463

The Sabbaths

For mental clarity, physical health, and spiritual renewal!

Read online: yrm.org/7cycle or request



Here's how to request free literature offered in this magazine:

Online: www.yrm.org

E-mail: request@yrm.org

Phone: 1-573-896-1000

Read back issues online: yrm.org/restoration-times-archive

Mail: Yahweh's Restoration Ministry

PO Box 463

Holt's Summit, MO 65043