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# RESTORATION TIMES

*When Do Biblical Days Begin?*

There's a **BIG** Problem  
with the Rapture Belief

*Eldertorial*

Are You Stuck in Generic Worship?

*Psalms 113-118*

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A Legacy of Compromise in Worship

Salvation's Great Rewards

Meeting Hall  
**UPDATE**

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

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

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**COVER- Tel Dan**  
On this stone base stood a chair where city leaders sat, following the custom at city gates. "Then went Boaz up to the gate, and sat him down there... And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, Sit ye down here. And they sat down." – Ruth 4:1-2

EDITOR Alan Mansager  
COPY EDITOR Debra Wirr  
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



# TEL DAN

## A Legacy of Compromise in Worship

by Randy Folliard

**N**estled in the hills of northern Israel lies Tel Dan, a key archaeological site rich in history and spiritual significance. This location once marked the northern boundary of the Kingdom of Israel—a place where the faith of the people and their loyalty to Yahweh were tested in profound ways.

Yet beneath its storied ruins, Tel Dan silently tells a cautionary tale—one of compromise in worship and the consequences that follow.

Throughout the Bible, Tel Dan is tied to a time when the people of Israel struggled to remain faithful amidst political upheaval and shifting loyalties. It was an era when fear, ambition, and self-preservation led many to alter or dilute the worship of Yahweh, introducing idols and unauthorized practices that undermined the pure devotion He required.

### Jeroboam's Idols

We begin our journey with the story of Jeroboam's golden calves, as seen in 1 Kings 12:

“Then Jeroboam built Shechem in

mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and went out from thence, and built Peniel. And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David: If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of Yahweh at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their sovereign, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah,” verses 25–27.

What was the motivation behind Jeroboam's compromise? Simply put, he was afraid—afraid of losing the people, his position, and ultimately, his life.

Let me provide some background as to what led up to this point. Solomon allowed his many wives to turn his heart away from Yahweh, as we'll read later. Because of this, Yahweh rent the kingdom after Solomon's death, giving Judah and Benjamin to Rehoboam, Solomon's son, and the ten northern tribes to Jeroboam.

After becoming leader of the northern kingdom of Israel, Jeroboam soon realized that if the people returned

to Jerusalem to worship Yahweh, they would likely return to Rehoboam. This wasn't something Jeroboam could allow. So how did he prevent it?

We find the answer beginning in verse 28: “Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy mighty ones, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan. And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan. And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi,” verses 28–31.

Jeroboam did the unthinkable: he made two golden calf idols and placed one in Bethel and the other in Dan. To prevent the people from returning to Rehoboam, Jeroboam compromised Yahweh's worship through idol worship.

Remarkably, we still find this being done today. For 2,000 years the church has compromised worship for

self-preservation, numbers, and self-serving interests. As with Israel of old, it's proven difficult for today's church to overcome self-serving and simply follow Yahweh as He commands.

### **Unqualified Priests, Leadership**

Beyond the idols, we find that he also made priests from among the lowest of the people.

Regarding the qualifications of ministers, what do we find in the Word? They must meet a high standard. In fact, the Apostle Paul says that a bishop or elder must be blameless, as outlined in 1Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

Those who minister before Yahweh and the assembly should exemplify the highest moral and spiritual integrity. One of the worst mistakes an assembly can make is to compromise leadership, as Jeroboam did. This compromise negatively impacts the entire body of believers. As goes the leader, so goes the assembly.

For this reason, we must ensure that our worship and those who minister before us meet the standards required in our Father's Word.

### **Changing Yahweh's Appointed Times**

In verse 32, we find that Jeroboam made one more fatal mistake:

“And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made. So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense,” verses 32–33.

In addition to setting up idols and appointing unqualified priests, Jeroboam also changed Yahweh's appointed times. Instead of observing the Feast of Tabernacles in the seventh

month, he moved it to the eighth. What was the result? The people worshiped at a time Yahweh never appointed.

We find the same today. For instance, Sunday worship is nowhere found in the Bible. Christmas, Easter, and many other observances are also absent from Scripture.

Like Jeroboam, the church has compromised and deviated from Yahweh's Word. This is why at YRM we aim to strip away tradition and simply worship Yahweh as He commands in His Word. The bottom line is this: we can do what Jeroboam did and suffer the consequences or we can worship Yahweh as He commands and reap the blessings. The choice is ours.

### **Solomon's Downfall**

I mentioned earlier that Jeroboam's compromise stemmed from Solomon's negligence. Let's read about this in 1Kings 11:

“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. And Yahweh was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from Yahweh Elohim of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice,” verses 4–9.

When Solomon took the throne, he was humble and sincerely desired to follow Yahweh. In his initial prayer for wisdom he asked Yahweh for understanding so he

could correctly lead the nation of Israel. Because his motives were noble, Yahweh blessed him with extraordinary wisdom.

The Bible states that Solomon was the wisest man on earth, exceeding even those in the East and in Egypt.

Now even though Solomon possessed great wisdom, in the end he still forsook Yahweh. When he was old, his wives turned his heart away to other mighty ones, and his heart was no longer perfect with Yahweh.

Scripture says he allowed and promoted the worship of Ashtoreth, Milcom, Chemosh, Molech, and others. The lesson here is that wisdom alone is not enough—we must also have a heart of obedience. As believers, we must recognize that we, too, are susceptible to this type of influence and deception.

### **National Judgment**

What was the result of Solomon's apostasy? We read in 1Kings 11:10–13:

“And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other mighty ones: but he kept not that which Yahweh commanded. Wherefore Yahweh said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son. Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.”

As a result of Solomon's sin, Yahweh declared that the kingdom would be divided during the reign of his son Rehoboam. Yet, out of His enduring love for David, Yahweh permitted Solomon's lineage to retain one tribe. Following the division, the tribes of Judah and Benjamin remained under Rehoboam's rule. This account underscores a vital truth: straying



from Yahweh's Word carries serious consequences. In Solomon's case, his disobedience brought repercussions not only upon himself but upon the entire nation.

Similar outcomes face today's assemblies. When leaders ignore Yahweh's moral standards, the results are devastating. That's why ministers must uphold the standards found in the Word. Nothing causes more harm than intentionally lowering the bar for leadership. This also applies to fathers and mothers—if parents lack virtue and character, they harm the family.

Because of Solomon's and Jeroboam's negligence, the entire nation suffered. This is why the Torah commanded that every king write a personal copy of the Law. We've all heard the phrase "no one is above the law"—this was certainly true for the kings of Israel.

Whether in civil or religious positions, leaders must uphold the Word of Almighty Yahweh and demonstrate character and integrity. This is why James writes that ministers will receive a stricter judgment. Simply put: when more is given, more is expected.

Believers must also be active, not passive, in their faith. For example, if we know about the Sabbath and Feast days and choose to ignore them, we are compromising Yahweh's worship.

### **Avoid the Pitfalls**

Tel Dan serves as a powerful reminder of the dangers of compromising True Worship. Through the stories of Jeroboam and Solomon, we see how fear, ambition, and disobedience led to idolatry, unqualified leadership, and changes to Yahweh's appointed times—actions that brought judgment and division.

These lessons emphasize the importance of adhering strictly to Yahweh's commands in worship and leadership. True faithfulness requires obedience, sacrifice, and accountability. It's a warning to all believers today not to fall into the same trap of compromise. ✓



## *Abraham's Gate*

Abraham's Gate is a Bronze-Age mud-brick gate located at the Tel Dan archaeological site, at the foot of Mount Hermon. Also known as Bab Ibrahim, it is believed to have served as the main entrance to the ancient Canaanite city of Laish, which was later renamed Dan after the Israelite conquest.

The gate is considered the oldest surviving archway in the world, dating back to the Middle Bronze Age. It is remarkable that a structure from the time of Abraham still stands today. Imagine that Abraham himself may have passed through this very area while rescuing his nephew Lot.

# 2025 Biblical Feasts

Join us at Holts Summit!

#### **Passover Memorial:**

April 12 (evening)

#### **Feast of Unleavened Bread:**

April 14 - 20

#### **Feast of Weeks (Pentecost):**

June 8

#### **Feast of Trumpets:**

September 24

#### **Day of Atonement:**

October 3

#### **Feast of Tabernacles:**

October 8 - 14

#### **Last Great Day:**

October 15



# Salvation's Great Rewards

by Alan Mansager

**F**or the man or woman who desires to worship and follow Almighty Yahweh forever, this life is only the beginning.

Human beings are a very special, unique creation of Yahweh Almighty. We are meant to honor and serve our Creator, not just now but forever. He has an incredible future in eternity awaiting those who worship Him.

Yahweh so loved His human creation that He placed them in a paradise in Eden to live there potentially forever. But the first man and woman were dissatisfied with their Edenic bliss. They wanted wisdom and power on par with Yahweh Himself. The same thing HaSatan wanted: "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High," he said, Isaiah 14:14.

Eve was mesmerized by the lies of the evil one who aspired to turn Adam and her away from their Creator through a defiant act of sin. Eve fell for it. So did Adam. Both he and she believed the deceits of Satan and coveted what was far beyond the scope of Yahweh's intent.

Yahweh placed man on this planet to have dominion over it and this is where He intended all mankind to stay. The human desire for what is off-limits did not stop with our original parents. In tune with Satan's lies, beliefs about an eternal reward in heaven immediately following death have been deceiving millions for millennia.

## **The Heavens Declare**

Although Yahweh does not give many details about what rewards await the faithful beyond this life, He gave us enough to show a magnificent plan.

Even outer space silently witnesses to an incredible design if we look behind the curtain. Powerful and sophisticated telescopes show that virtually every star (sun) we see at night has its own planetary system. And at least one in six suns in our Milky Way hosts a planet the size of Earth, meaning that there are at least 17 billion Earth-like worlds in our Milky Way Galaxy that can potentially sustain future life!

The big question is, why were these planets created? Luke 1:33 says there is no end to Yahweh's kingdom. Nothing

He made was without purpose, Isaiah 45:18: "For thus saith Yahweh that created the heavens; Elohim himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited."

Yahweh's creation testifies to one miracle after another. Consider: You are made in His image. Each one of the hundred trillion cells in your body carries a complete DNA code with all the information packed into one tiny unseen cell to make another one of you. The 46 segments of DNA (e.g. mother, 23 chromosomes; father, 23 chromosomes) complete the code that determines what you look like, as well as some of your personality, and tells how every cell in your body is to function throughout your life.

If all the DNA in your body—the double helix strands in the DNA molecule – were placed end to end, it would stretch from here to the moon a mind-boggling 500,000 times.

If the DNA from just one cell from every one of the 117 billion people who ever lived, were put in a pile, it would weigh less than an aspirin.

No wonder Psalm 139:14 says we are fearfully and wonderfully made. We can't wrap our minds around Yahweh's magnificence. And yet man thinks he understands and is qualified to enter heaven at death, all for doing nothing.

### **Abrahamic Promise a Key**

Yahweh made a covenant promise with Abraham that included not only blessings for him and his family then, but also a pledge for a much greater life to come (Heb. 11:10). But it would not have happened without Abraham's total commitment to His Father. "...In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws," Genesis 26:4-5.

Salvation was also pledged to various patriarchs and others based on THEIR faithfulness as well, just as we find the same terms of obedience in the New Testament.

The believer does not yet have his reward secured for following Yahweh. He or she is but an heir to a promise of everlasting life through the Abrahamic covenant. As we read, Abraham fulfilled the covenant by obeying Yahweh's laws.

Yahshua echoed it in Matthew 24:13: "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." Salvation is not bestowed until after judgment and after each person is found worthy at the trumpet call of Yahshua.

Now we have the key to what our salvation consists of in Yahweh's promise to Abraham. The patriarch was pledged all the countries of the earth in Genesis 26. This promise of an earthly reward foreshadows the same thing the obedient today are also promised.

A fascinating fact of the Scriptures is that what is found in the Old Testament inevitably carries through in a same or similar way in the New Testament. Solomon attested to this fact: "The thing that hath been, it is

that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun," Ecclesiastes 1:9.

In chapter 3 verse 15 he says, "That which hath been is now; and that which is to be has already been; and Elohim requires that which is past."

### **Meet the Clueless**

Most churchgoers have no concept of how the faithful will serve Yahweh in the afterlife. The masses instead have comic notions of wafting up from the grave, fluttering around heaven comparing wings, rolling around on clouds, and plucking harps.

Someone asked a blog, What will the saints be doing in paradise? The response was a lot of commentary on the nature, beauty, and ecstasy of heaven but no biblical answer to the question was forthcoming.

Very few ministers will admit to what the Bible teaches the redeemed will be doing for eternity. And they don't know how to get there, either. The answer is clearly given in the Word but silly notions about heaven persist.

Paul reveals that a mind-boggling promise awaits those who prove worthy in this life, a destiny so wonderful that the natural mind cannot fathom it.

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which Elohim hath prepared for them that love him. But Elohim hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of Elohim," 1Corinthians 2:9-10.

To grasp what Yahweh has planned for the believer who is proven worthy of salvation, we go back to Abraham to look again at what Yahweh first promised the patriarch and his offspring. Genesis 12:7 says, "And Yahweh appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land."

In Romans 4:13 we learn that

Abraham, and his offspring as well, were promised the entire earth as theirs. Specifically it says he is "heir of the world."

The promise to Abraham and his heirs of earthly territory translates to the promise of an earthly inheritance for the redeemed as his spiritual offspring as well. Yahshua the Messiah also provided a clear and plain statement about what happens after death. He said in His Beatitudes, "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth," Matthew 5:5.

### **Trying to Get to Heaven**

The meek have not yet inherited anything, Hebrews 11, and therefore He was speaking about a future time, a life after this one, when the earth will be inherited by the saints.

Satan has coveted the heavenly realm ever since his power grab failed and he was thrown down to earth. Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14:12 tell us that he originally was put in charge of the earth, but that didn't satisfy him. He wanted to be like Yahweh Himself. He wanted his own throne in heaven. Having been defeated in his evil aspirations, he then tempted our original parents by inciting in them the same covetous desire that he has.

And ever since, man has been reaching for heaven and believing that heaven will be his automatic inheritance after this life. Yahweh never intended heaven to be our reward. He never promised heaven. No reference about our going to heaven is found in the Scriptures, neither in the Old or New Testament

Yahshua the Messiah said in John 3:13 that no man has ascended

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to heaven. Not Abraham, not Noah, not David. Hebrews 11:39 tells us that none of the patriarchs has yet realized the salvation promise: “And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise.” Yahshua added that He would be glorified, return to heaven, and “Whither [or where] I go, ye cannot come” in John 13:33.

### Rewards on Reserve

Some may be asking, then why in Matthew 5:12 does Yahshua say, “Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven”? And why was the Apostle Peter inspired to write that Yahweh the Father has given the believer “an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that

for you.” “Mansions” is translated from a Greek root that means “to stay in a given place, state, relation or expectancy.” More than just an abiding place, it can mean an office or position one is in. (How do you get a mansion in a house, anyway, let alone MANY mansions?) It could better have been rendered, “In my Father’s house are many positions.”

Notice first that He had to prepare a place for the righteous. If the righteous go to heaven at death, souls of people who had been dying all during the previous 4,000 years would already be there. It would be far too late to prepare something for them if they were already there having received it!

In fact, Scripture clearly says that the righteous dead are in their graves

Because He is going to set up His kingdom rule right here on earth, and that is where His resurrected people will also be. Psalm 115:16 states: “The heaven, even the heavens, are Yahweh’s: but the earth hath he given to the children of men.” Isaiah wrote in chapter 2 verse 3, “...for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem. ... And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people.”

Simply put, Earth is the reward of the chosen. The prophet Daniel wrote, “And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve



fade not away, reserved in heaven for you”? 1Peter 1:4.

Look closely. The reward of the believer is RESERVED in heaven. That is where it is kept at this time. The saved will not go there to get it, however. Yahshua said in Revelation 22:12: “And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his **work** shall be.”

When the Savior returns to earth from heaven He will bring the rewards of the faithfully obedient with Him to this earth. If many have already gone to heaven, as popular doctrine claims, isn’t the Messiah a bit confused?

He spoke of mansions in John 14:2: “In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place

awaiting the call at the resurrection. In fact, ALL people who have died are still asleep in death.

Also, He said that at His second coming he would return to gather His people to Himself, which, again, would make no sense at all if they were already in heaven. Read verse 3: “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

### Where Will Yahshua Be?

The question now is, if Yahshua gathers His saints to be with Him forever, where will He Himself be? His Olivet prophecy says that on the day of His return to earth, His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives.

Why doesn’t He stay in heaven?

and obey him” (Dan. 7:27).

Note that this kingdom, which will be given to the saints, will be “UNDER the whole heaven,” not IN heaven.

Neither did Yahshua say the faithful will inherit their reward in heaven. Rather, the reward – meaning offices of priestly power in the Kingdom – is being temporarily reserved in heaven now because that is where Yahshua the coming King is. But it won’t stay there. Our Savior will bring this reward of official office with Him to earth when He gives His saints rulership over the earth.

### Rulership on Earth

The faithful believer, as a priestly king, will rule under Yahshua the Messiah in His Kingdom soon coming to earth. Revelation 3:21 has this promise to

those who prove worthy now: “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”

Yahshua right now is in His Father Yahweh’s throne in heaven. The proven and chosen believer will be with Yahshua’s throne here on earth. Revelation 5:10 adds, “And hast made us unto our Elohim kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”

As spirit beings, today’s faithful followers of Yahweh will one day guide those living on earth at the time of the Millennium into the same righteous life that Yahshua taught while He walked this earth 2,000 years ago. This will take place during a thousand-year Kingdom rulership here on earth with His headquarters at Jerusalem.

Revelation 2:26-27 gives us more detail, “And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.”

Yahshua Himself promised in Matthew 19:28: “And Yahshua said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

The resurrected saints are not going to be in heaven, but right here on earth, teaching and guiding mortal human beings.

The prophet Isaiah even gives us some revealing insight into how the faithful follower of Yahweh today will carry out his or her teaching of the uninformed in that earthly kingdom.

The ignorant and rebellious alike will have no choice but to learn Yahweh’s precepts in the way of truth:

“And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right

hand, and when ye turn to the left,” Isaiah 30:21.

Being of spirit essence at that time, the saints of today will be able to teach with perfect knowledge, having been given that understanding by the Holy Spirit.

### **To Prepare Earth for Yahweh**

The training and teaching in the millennial Kingdom will be for a specific and glorious purpose: to prepare this earth for the time when Yahweh Himself will come down to establish His own throne in a New Jerusalem. This is detailed in Revelation chapters 21-22. Father Yahweh Himself will set up His throne on earth after the Millennium.

But it cannot happen immediately. The earth itself must be prepared for Yahweh. The earth will be a mess. After all the wars, plagues, earthquakes, general destruction and sin, the planet will need to be cleaned up and revitalized. It will be a thousand-year process of renewal and re-education to get this world back to its former paradise state found in Genesis.

Isaiah 61:4 provides some specific information about activities during the coming thousand-year reign of Yahshua on earth with His saints. “And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.” Then in verses 5 and 6 He addresses the saints.

“And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. But ye shall be named the Priests of Yahweh: men shall call you the Ministers of our Elohim: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.”

Amos 9:14 talks about the earth at that time returning to an agricultural economy of planting, growing, harvesting, and eating from gardens, just as man once did back in the Garden called Eden.

# Biblical Observances at a Glance

**The Weekly Sabbath** Falling on the seventh day of the week, it commemorates both creation and redemption. We observe this day by rest from secular work, worship and study of the Word.

- **Passover** Observed on the 14th of the scriptural first month. It looks back at Israel’s deliverance from the death angel and Yahshua’s shed blood for human sin.

- **Feast of Unleavened Bread** Beginning on the 15th of the first month, no leaven is eaten, signifying riddance of error and sin.

- **Pentecost** Also known as the Feast of Weeks, it falls 50 days from the waving of the barley sheaf during Unleavened Bread. Traditionally a time when the law was given and the Holy Spirit was sent.

- **Day of Trumpets** First day of the seventh month, it has yet to be fulfilled. Trumpets herald important heavenly events. Yahshua is to return at the last trumpet sound.

- **Day of Atonement** Falling on the 10th day of the seventh month, and regarded as the holiest day of the year, it is marked by fasting. Signifying a covering of our sins, it awaits a final fulfillment.

- **Feast of Tabernacles (and Last Great Day)** Beginning on the 15th of the seventh scriptural month, it depicts the Kingdom coming to earth under Yahweh and His laws. Yahweh’s people observe it for eight days by coming to where Yahweh places His Name and staying in temporary dwellings, as Israel did in the wilderness.

The prophet Micah in 4:4 continues this prophecy: “But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of Yahweh of hosts hath spoken it. For all people will walk everyone in the name of his Elohim, and we will walk in the name of Yahweh our Elohim for ever and ever.”

No more will man suffer from evil, harm, and destruction on this earth because of sin. Isaiah 11:9 tells us, “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: [mountain means government in Scripture] for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Yahweh, as the waters cover the sea.”

### One Huge, Final War

But before that happens, there will be some extreme times this earth will go through because of man’s sin and rebellion. There will be a final rebellion of the planet.

The time immediately ahead of us will be a culmination of tribulation such as this world has never seen or ever will see again. Prophecies in Isaiah 6, Amos 5 and Ezekiel 5 indicate that only 10 percent of the world’s population will survive the coming catastrophes from man’s wars and Yahweh’s wrath.

In His Olivet prophecy of Matthew 24, Yahshua said that nation would rise against nation, meaning ethnic conflicts will abound. Kingdom will fight kingdom, as we already have seen in the ongoing conflicts of the Mideast the past 25 years. But the coming wars will be far more mammoth and devastating and will make the world wars of the last century look like little league.

Nations of the world will ultimately march on Jerusalem, the future capital of the world. Just before they can destroy this favored of all cities, Yahshua will return and obliterate their armies.

### Yahweh’s People Protected

Some will ask, is there a way of escape? Scripture says some will give up their

lives as a witness to the true Mighty One of the universe. Others who are seeking to serve Him in Truth will find refuge when Yahweh takes them out into the wilderness for protection. He describes it as taken on wings of a great eagle.

Revelation 12:14 tells us, “And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.”

This woman in Scripture represents a group of people. Here, it means the body of Messiah, the true people of Yahweh. We confirm this in verse 17, describing this woman as those “which



keep the commandments of Yahweh, and have the testimony of Yahshua Messiah.”

Contrary to popular dogma, the faithful are defined as those who adhere to the law and who also accept the ministry of Yahshua the Messiah. His law and His teachings are mutually inclusive. In fact, our Savior taught His Father’s law as the conduct and code of ethics that He and His Father live by themselves.

These true worshipers will be protected on earth for three and a half years. We know this is not a rapture in heaven because they will be the target of a failed attempt by Satan to drown them in a flood. But Yahweh protects them and opens the earth to swallow the flood water.

Our only hope when this earth rocks from tribulation never seen before

or will see again, will be in our Savior.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Philippi, “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,” Philippians 2:12.

The coming trials will test this world’s populations to the limit. It will demand faith as never before, and a determination to stay true to the end despite what happens.

The fact that believers will NOT escape all of this through a rapture has not only been proven already in the passages we have given, but the notion of a rapture also flies in the face of the Bible’s ongoing message of perseverance and faith.

Salvation is not a passive act. It involves the total mind and heart. Yahweh wants only the completely sincere and tested person to rule with His Son in His Kingdom.

He wants the “cream of the crop” for His Kingdom. He wants those who take salvation seriously—those who desire in their deepest being to serve Him in His rule of this earth, and who prove it by their sincerity in obeying Him now.

Hebrews 5:9 tells us that Yahshua became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him.

Consider this: if the role of the faithful will be to rule in the kingdom by administering Yahweh’s will, does it make any sense that He would select those who have no desire to obey Him now? If the chosen will teach His laws, why would He accept those who have no use for them?

Why would he take to heaven those who have a deep disdain of His commandments, statutes, and judgments, when these will be the constitution in His government?

This world is a training ground for a future kingdom that will never end. May He find us worthy to serve as priests in His Kingdom government one day coming to earth. 🙏

# There's a Big Problem with the Rapture Belief

by Alan Mansager

When Yahshua returns the final trumpet will sound and He will gather His elect. “And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other,” Matthew 24:30-33.

When will this gathering of His elect take place? The prior verse (29) says it will occur **after** the tribulation, which means His elect will go through the tribulation.

End-time events will be just like those in Noah's day. “But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be,” Matthew 24:37-39. Were righteous Noah and his family raptured from the planet to be saved from the devastating floodwaters? No. Instead, Yahweh had guided Noah to prepare a place of earthly protection — a huge ark of safety from destructive

flood waters.

As for the wicked, we read that Yahweh “took them all away,” v. 39. They were destroyed in the waters and only Noah and his family remained because they were protected in the ark.

## Wicked Gathered First

Yahshua said it will be the same situation at the end of the age: “Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.” In the same manner at Yahshua's coming the wicked will be removed and the righteous will remain.

The timeline for this blows away the rapture teaching. In Matthew 13:24-30 Yahshua's parable explains:

“The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, did not

you sow good seed in your field? from whence then has it tares? He said unto them, An enemy has done this. The servants said unto him, Will you then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while you gather up the tares, you root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather together **first the tares**, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn” (Matt. 13:24-30).

This parable of Yahshua's return is clear that the wicked (tares) will be taken first for judgment.

## Translation Clarifications

A parallel parable of the Second Coming is in Luke 17:35-37, where Yahshua said, “Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. And they answered, Where, Master? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.”

What did He mean by “body” and

“eagles”? This verse is a mistranslation in the KJV which, when clarified, makes understanding crystal clear. Let’s go back to Matthew 24 for the same subject found in Luke 17:35-37.

In verses 27-28 of Matthew 24 we find: “For as the lightning comes out of the east, and shines even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.”

Here the translators used the more correct “carcass” in translating the word *ptoma*, which in Greek means “ruin, lifeless body, corpse.” The word “eagles” should be vultures.

*Vincent’s Word Studies in the New Testament* says about the word eagles in this passage, “Eagles. Rev. puts vultures in margin. The griffon vulture is meant, which surpasses the eagle in size and power.” Millions will die when the angel comes to separate and destroy the wicked first.

The *New English Bible* translates Matthew 24:28: “Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.” *Goodspeed* reads, “Wherever there is a dead body, the vultures will flock.” The *New International Version* reads, “Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.”

Does this sound like a glorious place of safety to which the saints will be taken in a rapture? On the contrary, Yahshua told His disciples that those taken first, meaning the wicked, will be taken and destroyed just as they were in the flood. The righteous Noah and

family remained; the wicked drowned into the depths of the waters.

With the wicked gone and the chosen remaining, the earth can be remade into the paradise it was meant to be in Yahshua’s millennial kingdom.

### Protection on Earth, Not Heaven

Just as Noah was protected on earth during the catastrophic flood, and Israel was protected in Egypt during the passing over of the death angel, Yahweh promises the same kind of earthly protection for His people during the tribulation preceding Yahshua’s coming.

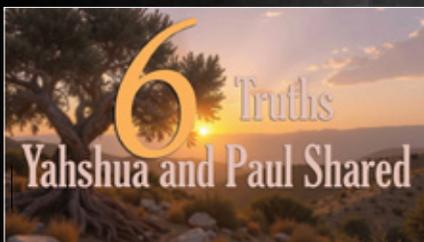
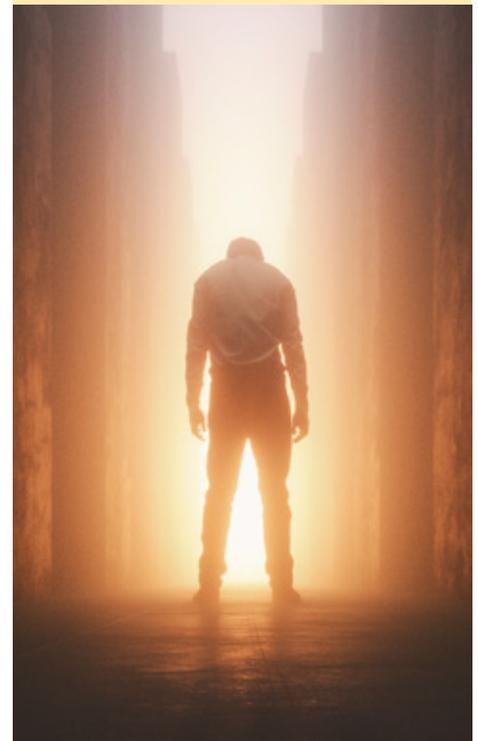
“And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth” (Rev. 12:-16).

If we remain faithful we have assurance from Yahshua for His protection here on earth when tribulation encompasses the earth. In Luke 21:36 Yahshua says, “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”

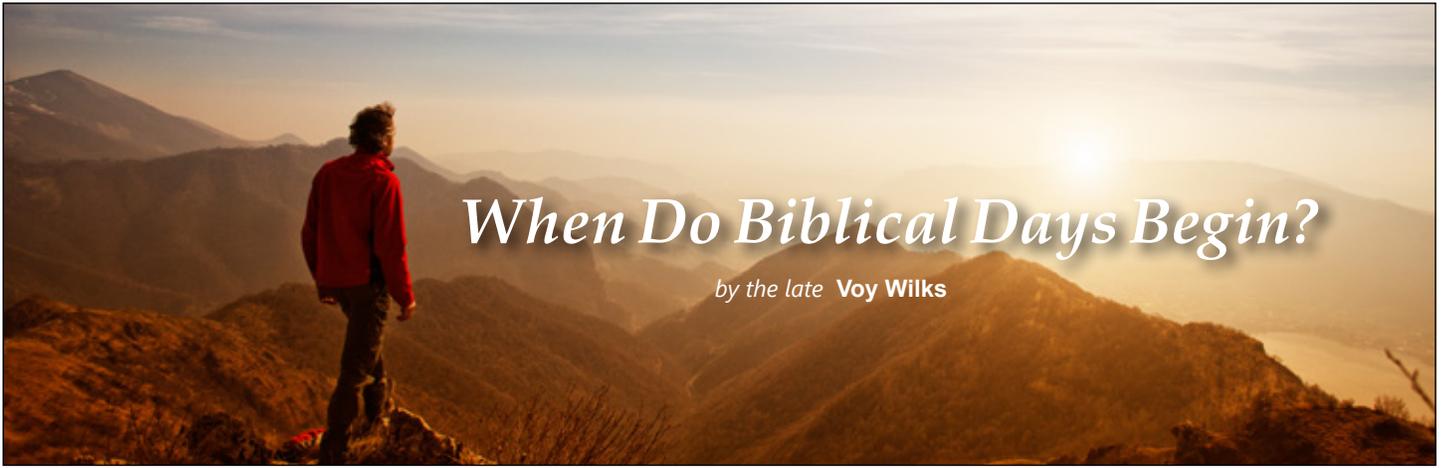
What was the case for Yahweh’s people in the past will be the same today and in the future. 

## INTERESTING BIBLE FACT "ANGELS"

Angels are portrayed in the Bible as radiant beings of light, often appearing in the form of men dressed in dazzling garments. Their presence is so awe-inspiring that many who encounter them are struck with fear. This is why the Archangel Gabriel reassured both Zechariah and Mary with the comforting words, “Do not be afraid.”



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[yrm.org/live archives](http://yrm.org/live/archives)



# When Do Biblical Days Begin?

by the late **Voy Wilks**

**T**he Sabbath of Yahweh begins at sunset and ends 24 hours later at sunset. Remember the days as revealed in Genesis chapter one? Every 24-hour day started with evening: “And the evening and the morning were the first day” (Gen. 1:5, 8,13, etc.).

In the Book of Leviticus we learn that the unclean were to bathe themselves in water and be unclean until evening, that is, sunset (Deut. 23:11; Lev. 22:6-7). Ahab died in the evening, at sunset (1 Kings 22:35, 36; 2 Chron. 18:34).

At a later time, Scriptures indicate the same time of day (sunset) as the end of one day and, therefore, the beginning of another day. Yahshua the Messiah went into the city of Capernaum and taught on the Sabbath day (Mark 1:21, 22). After leaving the synagogue, He entered the house of Simon Peter and healed Peter’s mother-in-law. It was proper to heal on the Sabbath, but Jewish authorities did not accept this view, so most people did not bring their sick to be healed until after the Sabbath was past, indicated by the following:

“That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ... And he healed many ...” (Mark 1:32-34, **RSV**).

On another occasion Yahshua worshiped on the Sabbath, as was His custom (Luke 4:16). “Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed

them” (Luke 4:40, **RSV**). The setting sun ended the Sabbath. Afterward the people felt free to ask Yahshua to heal their sick.

The Messiah died about the ninth hour of the day or 3 p.m. (Matt. 27:46). This was the preparation day for the High Annual Sabbath (Abib 15), therefore the Jews did not want Yahshua’s body to remain on the tree on the Sabbath day (John 19:31).

Joseph and his friend took Yahshua down from the tree and dressed Him for burial between 3 p.m. and sunset (John 19:38-41). “So because of the Jewish day of Preparation [for the High Annual Sabbath], as the tomb was close at hand, they laid Yahshua there” (John 19:42, **RSV**).

“And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on” (Luke 23:54 **KJV**).

All these Scriptures combined make it abundantly clear that the Savior was buried (hurriedly) late on the preparation day, just minutes before the Sabbath began. Sunset was the dividing line between the preparation day and the Sabbath day. Since a new day begins at the instant the old day ends, the above considerations locate accurately the boundary of each Sabbath, therefore the beginning and ending of every day. This is clearly shown in other Scriptures as well.

“It [the Day of Atonement] shall be a sabbath of entire rest for you, and you must abstain and fast: from sunset

on the ninth day to sunset on the tenth day you shall hold your sabbath” (Lev. 23:32, **Moffatt Version**).

“And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death ... and you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but you shall bury him the SAME DAY...” (Deut. 21:22-23, **RSV**).

“... Joshua, who hung him on a tree till evening; at sunset Joshua ordered his body to be taken down from the tree...” (Josh. 8:29, **Moffatt Version**).

“Then Joshua ... hung them on five trees, and on the trees they remained hanging till evening. At SUNSET Joshua ordered the bodies to be taken down from the trees ...” (Josh. 10:26-27, **Moffatt Version**).

These Scriptures clearly indicate that the 24-hour day begins at sunset scripturally. If the ordinary day does so, then the Sabbath also begins at sunset. In the Book of Genesis it is recorded that the Sabbath began after the sixth day had ended.

“And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day Elohim finished his work which he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done. So Elohim blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it Elohim rested from all his work which he had done in creation” (Gen. 1:31-2:3, **RSV**).

**Q** *I can't find believers of like faith where I live. Should I attend a local fellowship that has some but not all the truth? One nearby keeps the Sabbath but they worship in the common titles and don't keep the Feast days.*

**A** Fellowship is important. However, Yahshua expects worship to be done in truth as well. "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him," John 4:23.

The Bible is clear that we cannot forfeit the Word we know for the sake of fellowship that compromises the Bible's commands, 2Timothy 3:5: "Having a form of holiness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." Most who profess truth mix it with error.

We advise worshiping with YRM rather than join in worship that does not align with key commands of Scripture. We offer live Sabbath broadcasts each week from our Website. You can conveniently tune in each week to YRM's service when you are unable to join us at Holts Summit. We broadcast on YRM Mobile, Facebook Live, yrm.org/live and Youtube.

**Q** *My church doesn't observe the annual Feasts. When I asked the minister why, he said the Feasts are Old Testament and just for Jews. But I see the annual holy days kept in the New Testament also. What am I missing?*

**A** Most will gloss over the key point you just made. Believers in Yahshua need to follow all He taught and observed. Being without sin our Savior never neglected any of His Father's statutes and laws. Therefore, we must make every effort to keep the Feasts with a group that is scripturally grounded.

If Paul eliminated the law, as some say, then why are he and his disciples still keeping Pentecost (1Cor. 16:8) (Acts 2); the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Acts 20:6, 1Cor. 5:8); and was resolved "to keep this Feast" in Acts 18:21?

We also find Yahshua our Savior keeping a Feast in John 4:45. Again we see the 12-year-old Yahshua at Jerusalem to observe a Feast, Luke 2:42. He and His disciples kept the Passover in Luke 2:11. The Feast of Tabernacles says to stay in booths (temporary dwellings) for a week. To help meet the finances necessary to observe the festivals, Yahweh established the second tithe to be used for the Feasts, Deuteronomy 14:22-27. In the millennial Kingdom all nations will be required to attend Feasts on the pain of plague, Zechariah 14:16.

**Q** *I know that Yahshua replaced the old sacrifices with His death sacrifice for our sins, but how do I show others that the laws of the sacrifice were done away without doing away with the rest of Yahweh's laws?*

**A** The sacrificial law is distinct from the other laws in that it was added because of transgressions. In other words, the law, proper, was already in effect BEFORE the sacrifices were added. This is clear from Jeremiah 7:22-23. Note that Yahweh commanded Israel to obey Him even before the sacrifices were given. Paul explains in Hebrews 10 that sacrifices were fulfilled by Yahshua and His once-for-all sacrifice. Hebrews 10:16 says that He will put His laws in our hearts and minds, which means to obey them, Deuteronomy 30:14. We see that sacrifices were not part of the original law but were added. The original law is mandated and kept by Yahshua, Paul, and the rest of the Apostles.

**Q** *Why do you use the Hebrew "Yahweh" and "Yahshua" in the New Testament when it was translated from the Greek?*

**A** In the early copies of the Septuagint, which is the Old Testament in the Greek language translated from the Hebrew, the Sacred Name appears in the form of the Hebrew Tetragrammaton – and not just in common Hebrew letters either but in the ancient or paleo Hebrew. This was done to preserve the proper name and esteem the true Name Yahweh in the text. This was also the practice in the Hebrew Dead Sea Scrolls. It is one example showing that names are not language dependent. There is no Greek form of Yahweh's Name.

Titles like "God" and "Lord" are substitutions, not translations. And neither are they Greek. "God" is from the German *gott*. "Lord" is Old English from the word *hlafward*, meaning, "bread warden" or "loaf keeper," the person in charge of the feudal estate under the king. Yahweh is supreme King and Creator, and to address Him by a common, diminutive title is a dishonor. Because names are not translated, Yahweh's Name would be the same no matter in which language it appears.

**Q** *Who can legitimately baptize? So long as one is baptized into Yahweh's Name does it matter who officiates the immersion?*

**A** Only those ordained in the Faith, and who meet the qualifications of 1Timothy 3 and Titus 1, are eligible to baptize. Furthermore, Scripture indicates that while deacons can baptize, only elders are able to lay on hands for the Holy Spirit following the immersion. Acts 8:12-17 states,

"But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of Yahweh, and the name of Yahshua Messiah, they were baptized, both men and women. Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of Elohim, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they [who] were baptized in the name of the Master Yahshua.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit."

Every immersion in the New Testament was done in the singular Name of Yahshua.

While Deacon Philip was authorized to baptize, it took Peter and John to come and lay on hands. Baptism has two parts — the actual baptism (preceded by repentance from sins) followed with the laying on of hands by the elders for receiving the Holy Spirit, 1Timothy 4:4. This same pattern is found throughout the New Testament. For this reason, baptism should not be done by a layperson, even if he claims to have the Holy Spirit.

We also find evidence for this in the Old Testament. In Deuteronomy 34:9 Joshua was anointed by Moses. As we note in the *Restoration Study Bible*, "Joshua received the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands by Moses. Only those directly or indirectly ordained from Yahweh can impart the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands. This also applies to the ordination of ministers in the Old and New Testaments (1Tim. 4:14)." Yahshua Himself went only to John the Baptist for baptism, not even to His own disciples.



**Q** Please explain Psalm 116:15: “Precious in the sight of Yahweh is the death of his saints.”

**A** The meaning is not that Yahweh looks at death as precious. The word precious here is from the Hebrew *yaqar* and means “valuable, prized, rare.” His people are special to Him and the death of one of His own does not get by Him unnoticed, as they are called out of this world to be priests one day in His Kingdom. Jeremiah 20:5 confirms that the word means precious things. This passage could apply to martyrdom as well. Those who give up their lives for the sake of the Truth are promised salvation, Matthew 10:39; John 12:25; Romans 6:8.

**Q** What difference does it make whether I worship on Saturday or Sunday?

**A** Our Father in heaven established the Sabbath on the seventh-day of the week at creation, when he rested the seventh day as an example for us. As Yahshua said, the Sabbath was made for man. This was Saturday, not Sunday. Furthermore, the Sabbath was only changed through man-made law and church dogma, neither of which had the authority to make any change in worship or in the day that we worship on.

In his famous edict of 321 CE, Roman Emperor Constantine declared, “On the Venerable Day of the Sun let the magistrates and people residing in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed. In the country, however, persons engaged in agriculture may freely and lawfully continue their pursuits; because it often happens that another day is not so suitable for grain-sowing or for vine-planting; lest by neglecting the proper moment for such operations the bounty of heaven should be lost.”

Think about this – a sun worshiper changed the day that our Father in heaven established for rest and worship in favor of a day pagans observed in honor of the sun. This edict undeniably verifies the paganism of Sunday worship. There is not a single verse in the New Testament confirming that the day of worship changed from the seventh to the first-day of the week.

**Q** Why in your writings don't you use “God” and instead hyphenate the word, i.e. “G-d”?

**A** We make a distinction when we must use it for understanding. As we state in the **RSB** on Genesis 1:1: “... Today, Elohim has been wrongly replaced with the generic title ‘God,’ which is neither correct, based on the Hebrew, nor honoring to Yahweh, based on its etymological roots.” It has been suggested that the word means a “molten image” from the sense of to “pour” (**Encyclopaedia Britannica**, vol. 12, 1911 ed.). Also **Oxford English Dictionary**. Paul says there are gods many and lords many. G-o-d is made into a catch-all name for all kinds of deities, and Exodus 23:13 tells us not to mention the name of other gods.



**Q** If Satan is a spirit and Yahshua said that angels are spirits that don't die, how is it that Satan will be destroyed in the lake of fire?

**A** Luke 20:36 states of those resurrected, “Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of Elohim, being the children of the resurrection.” Resurrected believers will no longer be mortal, and can live forever if Yahweh allows it (**NEB**). To state that our Father Yahweh is unable to destroy His saints, angels, or Satan because they are spirit beings is to say that He is less powerful than His own creation. Our Creator has total sovereignty over what He makes.

In Romans 16:20 Paul verifies that Yahshua will destroy Satan: “And Elohim, the giver of peace, will before long crush Satan under your feet,” **Twentieth Century New Testament**. The **Restoration Study Bible** says, “The word ‘bruise’ [in the **KJV**] derives from the Greek *suntribo* meaning, ‘to crush completely, i.e. to shatter,’ **Strong's Concordance** Greek Dictionary. This word means the complete destruction of Satan the devil by Yahshua the Messiah.”

Isaiah 14 also provides evidence for Satan's destruction. “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of El: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to the grave, to the sides of the pit,” (vv. 12-15). The “grave” and “pit” here represent a place of death.

Finally, Ezekiel 28:17-18 confirms that Satan will be reduced to ashes, “Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.”

The fact that Ezekiel prophesied that Satan will be reduced to ashes confirms he will be utterly destroyed. As we find in Revelation, this will occur at the end of the Millennium, the 1,000-year reign of the Messiah, Revelation 20:7-10. The phrase “... shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever” in Revelation 20:10 is a euphemism for the totality of Yahweh's destruction. As Sodom and Gomorrah were wholly destroyed through “eternal punishment” (Jude 7), Satan will suffer the same fate.

**Q** Should we use the Gregorian calendar, Hebrew calendar, or Jewish calendar to determine the Feasts? Which one is correct and is most appropriate for a Gentile and why?

**A** The Hebrew or biblical calendar is the calendar that our Father in heaven established in the beginning and the calendar that Yahshua observed in the New Testament. Today's Jewish calendar is largely the work of Hillel II in the fourth century CE. Whether we're Jew or Gentile, we all honor the same commandments, Matthew 5:17-20.

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# Meeting Hall Construction Update

We have recently completed building and installing the ceiling clouds in the new meeting hall and are now almost done with much of the edging and painting in this room. The stage floor is being installed and we have carpet installers coming soon to finish the carpet planks. We have also hung the ceiling array speakers which will be a huge upgrade to our sound system. We have a lot of finishing touches to do before this room is ready before Tabernacles. Of course we still have the basement and several other rooms to complete after this. If you would like to donate and help us over the finish line, see: [www.yrm.org/buildingfund](http://www.yrm.org/buildingfund)



Main stage area with some wall sound panels installed



Drum room awaiting glass



Ceiling cloud lighting finished



LVP flooring on stage



# Biblical Hebrew Word Lesson

מצוה  
T : .

## Mitsvah mits-wah

Composition: mem, hireq, tzadi, shewa, waw, qamets, heh

The Hebrew word **Mitsvah** (H4687) is a feminine noun that means: command, commandments, commands

“But showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my **commandments.**”

Exodus 20:6  
(Part of the 2nd Commandment)

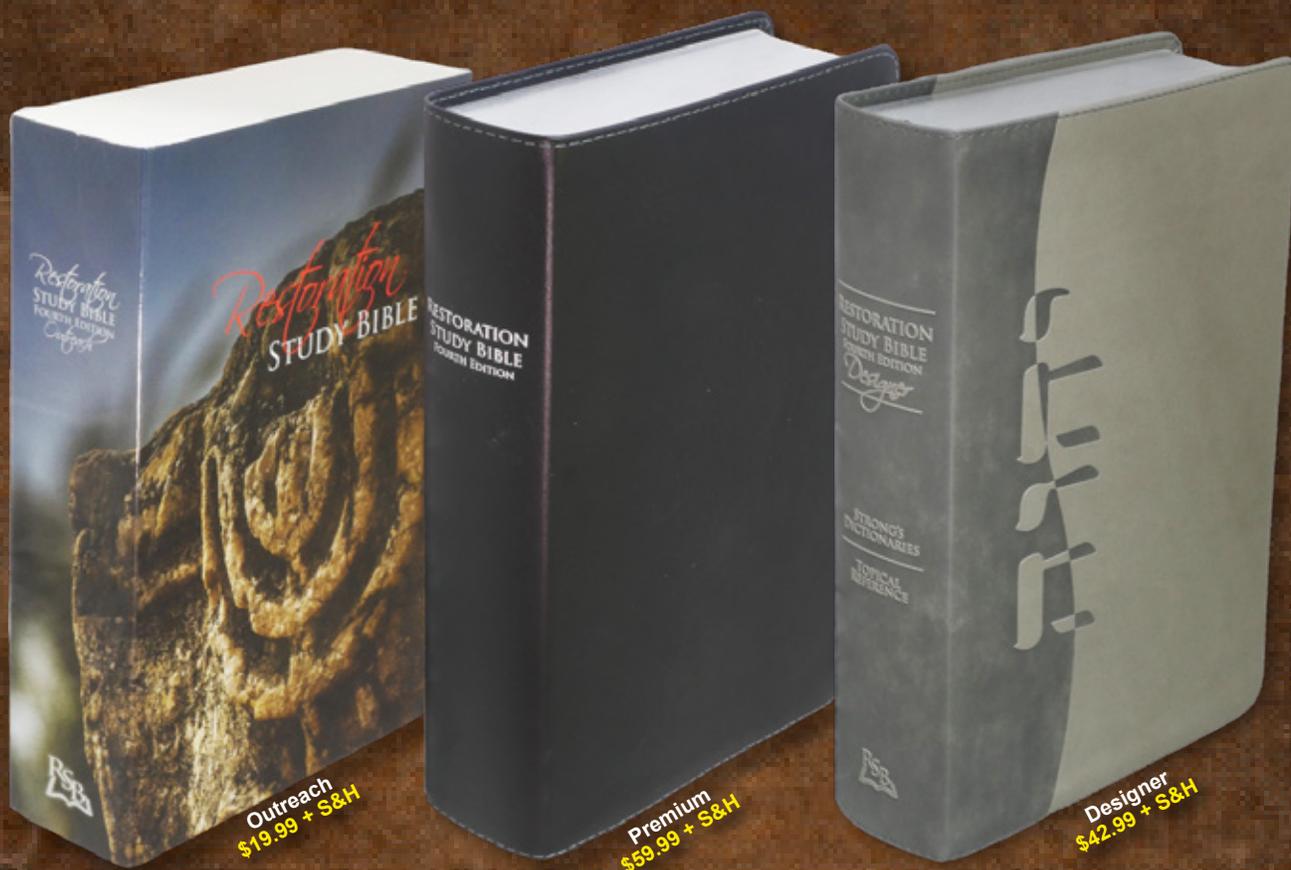
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## ELDERTORIAL

### *Are You Stuck in Generic Worship?*

Ours is a generic culture. You can buy generic food, drugs, clothing, electronics, tools—almost anything that lacks a recognized brand name.

Generics are typically cheaper and sometimes inferior. Come to think of it, the same somewhat applies to a generic deity. Most prefer a nameless being who appeals to the masses. It is simpler and much easier if the one you honor expects no more involvement or effort than the bare minimum that most give to him.

The point is, Yahweh's Name is His identity; it defines Him, which in turn reveals certain expectations about his worship. Replacing His Name with a label makes Him anonymous. It also puts any devotion He might expect into the realm of ambiguity. Unspecific and general.

An unstructured, all-is-acceptable approach to worship appeals to most people because of its ease and lack of demands. They would rather not get too close to Him by honoring His personal Name because it could require changes in their lives. Instead they are perfectly happy with a generic title that reflects their noncommittal way of worship.

Strangely, few have problems using a name for the Savior (Latinized-Greek though it is). Why isn't the Son known exclusively by a title in the same way that "god" has replaced the Name of His Father? At least that would make everything consistent.

Calling a stranger "mister" or "sir" or even "hey you" expresses anonymity. It reveals unfamiliarity with the one addressed. Continued use of these nameless terms when the name is

known subtly communicates little interest in a personal bond. On the other hand, using a person's name automatically puts you on a closer level. You have stepped out from the anonymous crowd and made a personal connection. You build value with that person when you make the effort to use his or her name. You notice that the response you get is visibly warmer and more immediate.

Can it be any different with our Creator? He said 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." He can't be any clearer about the necessity of His people calling on His true Name and not on titles of heathen deities (2Chronicles 7:14).

Titles are casual contact. But closeness comes from calling on and using a personal name. Yahweh demands an intimate relationship with His people that doesn't come from common terms. Paul wrote, "There be gods many and lords many, but to us there is but one Elohim the Father," 1Corinthians 8:5.

Making the effort to know and call on His Name Yahweh instantly draws you into His sphere. When He made the personal covenant with His people Israel in Exodus 23:13, Yahweh commanded the Israelites from that point on to "make no mention of other mighty ones, neither let it be heard out of your mouth." He knew the conflicting nature of using other names and titles.

Yahweh has a unique identity expressed in His exclusive Name. He requires exclusive worship apart from the common fare. A special bond comes with obediently honoring His personal Name. 

"First, I want to let you know that I received my Bible in the mail yesterday. It is beautiful! I can't wait to really get into it. Looking through it, I see you did a beautiful job creating it.

"Today after watching your video on YouTube called 'Born Again,' a question popped up in my head. What about all the people in the Old Testament that were not baptized, like Noah, Isaiah, etc.? Just a question I hope you can answer for me."

*The common act of immersion in water for sin was initiated by John the Baptist. Before that there was the ritual cleansing known as the mikvah. Such ritual cleansing of the priest is found in Leviticus 16:4 and 23-24.*

*Baptism for remission of sins was confirmed when Yahshua gave us the model to follow. If you are wondering about the fate of the Old Testament patriarchs who did not undergo the rite of baptism, they couldn't be held to an action they were not aware of and did not exist in their day. They did all they knew. Hebrews 11 says the faithful patriarchs will have salvation. -ED*

#### **Did You Know?**

There have been more than 25,000 archaeological discoveries relating to places, people, and events mentioned in the Bible. Amazingly, not one of them has contradicted the Bible's historical accuracy.

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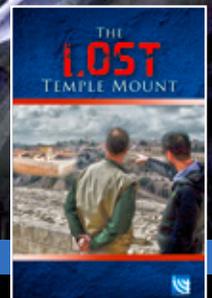
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