

# RESTORATION TIMES

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to its setting, the name of  
Yahweh is to be praised!

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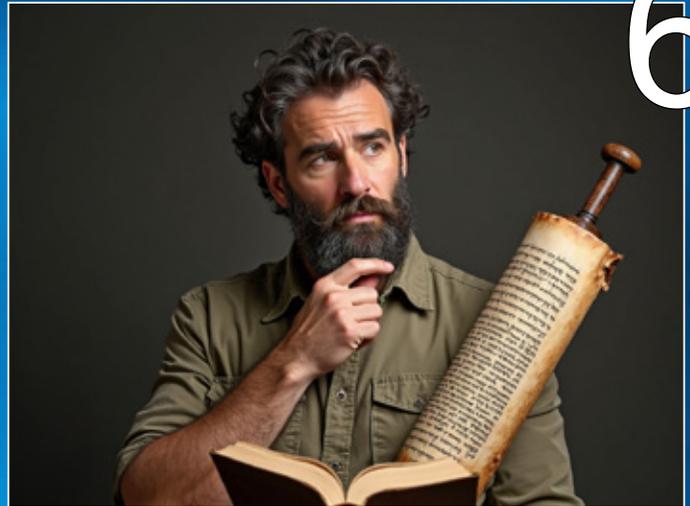
# RESTORATION TIMES

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

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# The Power of Pentecost

by the late Donald R. Mansager



*Although it ignores the six other annual observances of Scripture, churchianity recognizes Pentecost or the harvest Feast of Weeks. The Holy Spirit was sent at Pentecost and the law was given to Israel at that time. Understand the significance of this key Feast day.*

For almost three days the disciples had been devastated. The One they had accepted as the Messiah had been put to death. Their own dreams and expectations that He would restore to Israel the splendor of the Kingdom as it was under the days of Solomon had been shattered.

How joyful they were that first day of the week when they learned that the report of the women was true—this same Yahshua of Nazareth had risen from the dead! He was alive! They had seen Him and touched Him. He had been with them and eaten a meal with them, Acts 1:4. He told them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to await the Father’s promise.

The disciples understood that they were to be immersed in the Holy Spirit, and that they would receive power to reign and rule. He said they would be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and around the world, Acts 1:8.

Now they were together in Jerusalem awaiting the Feast of First-fruits (Feast of Weeks or Pentecost). The harvest of the barley was now almost ended, and the ripening wheat was ready for threshing. It

was in early June, and they were joyfully awaiting the second of the annual special holy times all the saints had observed since the law was given by Moses.

Apparently they thought this power to be given them from on high meant that they were to be given rulership positions either in Jerusalem or perhaps in Judea. Maybe even some place like Rome. Possibly they could get rid of those detestable Roman soldiers!

Although the disciples were a bit presumptuous in thinking the Kingdom of Yahweh would immediately appear where they might be sitting as rulers, the promise of Yahshua is still Kingdom rulership, Matthew 19:28.

## They Came for Pentecost

Acts chapter 2 records the Holy Spirit’s coming to this earth and the big change it made upon the disciples and those who followed the teachings of the Messiah.

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place,” Acts 2:1. The Feast of Weeks or Pentecost was in play. The disciples were obeying the command

found in Leviticus 23:21, “And you shall proclaim on the selfsame day that it may be a holy convocation unto you: you shall do no servile work therein: it shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.” This holy day was in effect even after the Savior’s death, as are all of Yahweh’s holy times.

The Holy Spirit came upon the 120 and empowered them to speak in other languages on this day of Pentecost. They came to observe the Feast, not because they were seeking the Holy Spirit. The Bible calls to our attention that there were devout Jews from around the world who were in Jerusalem observing the Feast of Weeks as well, Acts 2:5.

These Jews were astounded that the ignorant Galileans were speaking in languages native to the countries in which they themselves were born—some 16 nations in all, verses 9-11. They understood what the disciples were saying as they heard in their own tongue the great things of Elohim. Apparently even Peter and John were considered ignorant and uneducated men, Acts 4:13. Acts 2:16-21 reveals that this was a

partial fulfillment of Joel 2:28-31. The disciples were given supernatural power when the Holy Spirit came to earth to stay on this Pentecost day in 32 CE.

This power was needed to get the early Assembly off the ground. The miracles the disciples were able to perform caused a sensation not only among the assembled Jews, but later among other residents of Jerusalem.

Before the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, the Spirit was given to men for a special task and then removed. When Yahshua's innocent blood was spilled on this earth, atonement was made and Yahweh's Spirit could then remain here on earth, indwelling the hearts of His people.

### The Spirit Is Here and Active Now

Now His Spirit is around about the believer, protecting and guiding those who seek to walk in the footsteps of Yahshua. We no longer pray for Yahweh to send us His Spirit. It is already here with those who obey Him, Acts 5:32.

It should be noted that had the Jews at that time accepted the message of the disciples, the Millennial Kingdom could have been set up immediately. However, the religionists of that day rejected both them and later Paul, just as they had in general rejected the Messiahship of the Savior Yahshua. And many clerics even today reject the simple message of the coming Kingdom of Yahweh as is shown in His Feast days.

This is important because Joel said, "in the last days" Yahweh would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh "a portion of His Spirit on all mankind" (*New English Bible*). He has not done that yet.

The Pentecostal movement tries to emulate this occasion, but forgets that it took place at Pentecost, a very special day that Yahweh has ordained that we should remember and observe! We cannot "call down another Pentecost" for Holy Spirit power whenever we want to, as it comes at a special time each year, Acts 2:1.

Pentecost is observed on the morrow "after your weeks be out," Numbers 28:26. The Feast of Weeks is counted "from the morrow after the (weekly) Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be

complete: even unto the morrow after the seventh (weekly) Sabbath shall you number fifty days," Leviticus 23:15-16 (see also Deut. 16:9).

### Expect More Miracles on the Horizon

What happened during the time of the Apostles on the day of Pentecost could take place again with even greater significance. It is obvious that not all the prophecies of Joel were completed then. A little reflection on Joel 2:28-32 shows that there will yet come another pouring

There will be a people who will also perform miracles again, much as the early disciples in Acts 2. They will be given the same supernatural power as was given to the early disciples to get the Assembly off to a flying start.

Many shall learn of Yahweh's Name. We read in Joel 2:32, "Whoever makes his prayer to the name of [Yahweh] will be kept safe," *Basic English Bible*. Or as the *New English Bible* renders this verse, "Then everyone who invokes [Yahweh] by name shall be saved."



out of Yahweh's Spirit before the Savior returns.

We are told that sons and daughters shall prophesy ("tell forth the divine counsels," *Amplified*). There will also be marvels in the sky above and the earth below, blood, and fire, mist of smoke, and the sun will change into darkness and the moon to blood. All of this before the great and resplendent day of Yahweh arrives.

It must be understood that when the Bible speaks of "calling upon the name of Yahweh," it means to call upon Him in all His power and splendor, exemplified by His Name "Yahweh."

His Name means that He will be whatever His people need of Him at the time. He will be their Protector, Deliverer, Provider, Strengthener, Healer, Guide, whatever His people require of Him is what He will be to them. "Yah" means "I will become," or "I will be," as it is



the Hebrew verb of existence.

We simply cannot expect the same promise and results by calling on “G-d,” as it has no such meaning or power. It was Paul who said there be “Gods many, and Lords many,” 1Corinthians 8:5.

We cannot prove that the future fulfillment of Joel 2:28-32 will take place at Pentecost as before. However, His promise is sure and we must be prepared for that time so that we will not be caught unawares. Acts 3:19-21 certainly shows that the Savior must remain in the heavens until there is a universal restoration (Greek *apokatastasis*, re-establishment from a state of ruin) of Yahweh’s truth on earth.

### A Harvest Feast of Rest

Not only was the Assembly started at Pentecost in the year 31 CE, but the Apostle Paul also continued to keep the day long afterwards. Acts 20:16 says he wanted to be in Jerusalem by Pentecost. In 1Corinthians 16:8 we learn that he would stay at Ephesus until Pentecost, as a great door was opened to him, verse 9.

The Feast of Weeks is one of two harvest feasts. In Exodus 23:16 and 34:22 we learn that it is the firstfruits of the wheat harvest; the Feast of Tabernacles is the ingathering at the year’s end (margin: revolution of the year). It was the time to bring the offering of firstfruits to the house of Yahweh, Exodus 23:19 and 34:26.

The Feast of Weeks is a time when no work is to be done. “Also, in the day of firstfruits, when you bring a new meal offering unto Yahweh, after your weeks be out, you shall have an holy convocation; you shall do no servile work.” Note that Pentecost is observed when the “weeks are out.” A week is over on the Sabbath, the seventh day. Because it falls on the “morrow after the [weekly] Sabbath,” Pentecost is always on Sunday.

Some say this holy day could never fall on the “venerable day of the sun” (Sunday). But there is little difference between the day of the sun and the day of the moon (Monday). Or “Woden’s day” (Wednesday). We cannot be bothered by what pagan titles man calls the days of the week, as even the Sabbath is called

“Saturn’s day,” but we do not worship the Roman deity Saturn on that day.

### Firstfruits of a Special Harvest

The Feast of Weeks is a special time for offering up the firstfruits, as we have seen. Ezekiel 48:14 reveals that they are holy to Yahweh. Firstfruits will again be offered in the Kingdom, Ezekiel 20:40, “. . .there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things.”

Jeremiah 2:3 refers to Israel as Yahweh’s firstfruits. They did not, however, measure up to His high calling. New converts to the body of Messiah, the assembly, are referred to as firstfruits, Romans 16:5; 1Cor. 16:15.

James said believers “should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures,” 1:18. Yahshua is referred to as the Firstfruits from the dead, 1Corinthians 15:20. Note especially verses 22-23: “In Messiah shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order. Messiah the firstfruits: afterward they that are the Messiah’s at His coming.”

It should be noted that the Jewish calendar does not show Passover at the proper time. They continue to keep Passover a day late by observing it at the end of the 14th of Abib instead of at the beginning of the 14th as the 13th ends, as they did at the time of the Messiah, John 18:28.

Thus, they do not grasp the significance of Yahshua’s sacrifice and do not understand that He is the Lamb that takes away the sins of the world.

Neither do they observe Pentecost on the correct day, but allow it to float

through the week instead of observing it “on the morrow after the Sabbath,” which is Sunday. It is also the time when “the weeks are out.” This year it falls on June 8.

It is important that we understand that the Holy Spirit monitors the believer today. Now it is possible to obey Yahweh in fullness as His Spirit power is with us day by day to guide and keep us in the narrow way. Through observing His Feast Days we obtain a fuller understanding of His plan of redemption for mankind.

Many significant events took place on the Feast days. Yahshua died on Passover. Yahweh’s law was given on Pentecost and the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost so we could keep His law.

But a greater fulfillment awaits mankind. The last four Feast days in the seventh month have not been fulfilled. Trumpets, Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles are ahead of us. The last Feast is a special time when we shall “see His face” and Yahshua who was the Immanuel (El with us) will be joined by the Father Yahweh Himself, as we see in Revelation 21-22.

Are you missing out in your spiritual walk by not observing these days kept by Yahshua and the early Assembly under the direction of the Apostles? Will you be able to teach others how to keep these appointed times in the Kingdom? (see Zechariah 14:16-18 and Ezekiel 45:21 to the end of the chapter).

Now is the accepted time. Now is the day of salvation. Forsake the holidays of the world and show your love to your Creator by keeping the days He commanded. ✓

# 2025

## Biblical Feasts

Join us at Holts Summit!

<b>Passover Memorial:</b> April 12 (evening)	<b>Passover Memorial:</b> April 12 (evening)
<b>Feast of Unleavened Bread:</b> April 14 - 20	<b>Feast of Unleavened Bread:</b> April 14 - 20
<b>Feast of Weeks (Pentecost):</b> June 8	<b>Feast of Weeks (Pentecost):</b> June 8
<b>Feast of Trumpets:</b> September 24	<b>Feast of Trumpets:</b> September 24
<b>Day of Atonement:</b> October 3	<b>Day of Atonement:</b> October 3
<b>Feast of Tabernacles:</b> October 8 - 14	<b>Feast of Tabernacles:</b> October 8 - 14
<b>Last Great Day:</b> October 15	<b>Last Great Day:</b> October 15



# Have the Mind of *Messiah*

by Alan Mansager

**Y**ahshua is an equal opportunity Savior. He wants all to come to the knowledge of the Truth for salvation. But His prerequisites are night-and-day different from what the Bible-professing world believes when it comes to redemption.

Most think that when their life is over they will pass on automatically to their heavenly reward. They haven't a clue when it comes to the whole purpose of life – being salvation and how it works.

Thousands of years of misinformation and deception have led to ignorance, apathy, fear, and for most, an overwhelming lack of interest in doing anything about their salvation because they have never been shown the necessity. In fact the converse is true. They have been taught that all you need is a simple confession of faith and an eternity of bliss awaits you.

Years ago I talked with a man who was somewhat interested in our message but was hampered by traditional error. During the conversation I explained that there are qualifications that must be met for everlasting life, meaning that salvation doesn't come spontaneously.

That threw him like a bucking bronco. He came back with, "You can't earn salvation." "Correct," I said, "There

is nothing we can do to guarantee eternal life because our innate sin inhibits us. Our sin first must be dealt with through Yahshua's blood."

He still did not grasp the fact that the kingdom has eligibility requirements. He clearly did not know the Scriptures.

Competitive racing and other contests often hold qualifying trials. Hopeful competitors in those trials must meet a standard in order to be granted approval to compete in the contest.

The incorrigibles of this world have already disqualified themselves access to the Kingdom. Yahshua said the Pharisees had disqualified themselves. So had Judas Iscariot.

## **Playing the Grace Card**

Instead of meeting the biblical standard, most just claim faith.

Therein lies a big disconnect that speaks to the entire point and purpose of Yahweh's laws. It's fundamental that the Kingdom does not include unrepentant sinners, 1Corinthians 6:9:

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of Yahweh? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards,

nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of Yahweh. And such were some of you: but ye are now washed, you are justified and sanctified in the name of the Master Yahshua, and by the Spirit of our Elohim."

There are requirements for Kingdom membership that must be met first.

Today's "do nothing" teachings from Plexiglas preachers with their portable pulpits and gospel-lite sermons is a relatively recent phenomenon. Past believers like parents and grandparents read the Word and saw in it a clear mandate to live by it. The Word is clear-cut in its commands, its lessons, and its examples throughout the Old and New testaments. Who would question its call for obedience just 50 years ago?

Conformity to a standard called law is mandated. You have to be totally ignorant of the Word or wearing blinders not to see it.

Here is an excerpt from the *Didache*, a manual for Christians compiled before 300 CE.

The full title is "*The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles*." The following section about preparing your life shows the New Testament mandates that are still relevant for today.

"Be careful how you live. Do not let

your lamps be quenched, nor your loins ungirdled, but be ready, for you do not know the hour our Master will come.

“Meet together frequently, pursuing what is good for your souls, for your whole time as a believer will come to nothing if you are found to be imperfect at the end time. In the last days the false prophets and corrupters shall multiply, and the sheep will be turned into wolves, and love will be turned into hate. As lawlessness increases, they will persecute and betray and hate one another.

“And then the deceiver of the world will appear as a Son of Yahweh, performing signs and wonders, and the earth will be delivered into his hands. He will do things more unholy than any since the beginning of the world.

“All of humanity shall come to the fire of testing, and many will fall and perish. But all who endure in their faith shall be saved from the Curse.”

This cautioning is obviously derived from the prophetic words of Yahshua about our day.

### **Strive to Be Worthy of Salvation**

We live in a culture of declining standards. Instead of preaching against obedience to the Word, clerics need to be strongly advocating compliance, or else they are just enabling the decay of the culture. Many believe they can live totally unrestrained because the Savior's death “did it all for me.” They think they have nothing of merit to do beyond merely confessing with their mouths in order to find salvation.

This thinking has devolved so far that for many even attempting to live the biblical standard of obedience is wrong. It's an attractive notion for the carnal mind to ignore standards. But in reality it comes right from the pit of Satan.

The biblical mandate is the complete converse. It says there is a way that must be walked. The final judgment belongs to Yahweh. Deuteronomy 28:15 warns: “But it shall come to pass, if you will not hearken unto the voice of Yahweh thy Elohim, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and

overtake thee.”

To avoid any misunderstanding, when I engage others about salvation, I use the scripturally specific term of being “worthy” to be chosen. It teaches that I must do something to be acceptable.

Notice what Yahshua said in Luke 20:35: “But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage.”

If you find the word qualify bothersome then substitute the word worthy, for salvation. It means the same thing.



*The Word is clear-cut in its commands, its lessons, and its examples throughout the Old and New testaments. Who would question its call for obedience just 50 years ago?*

Read Colossians 1:10: “That ye might walk worthy of the Master unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of Elohim.”

Also, 1Thessalonians 2:12: “That ye would walk worthy of Elohim, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.” And 2Thessalonians 1:5 reads: “Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of Elohim, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of Elohim, for which ye also suffer.” Also, in 2Thessalonians 1:11 Paul wrote, “Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our Elohim would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power.”

Worthy applies not only to redemption. Some are worthy of punishment. A synonym for worthy is

the word deserving – worthy of either life or death. If you don't like “deserving” try suitable, or fit for, they all connote the same thing – you must meet Yahweh's standard for life everlasting.

### **Think, Act, and Be Like Yahshua**

Salvation begins with having the same mind and attitude as Yahshua had. Paul wrote in 1Corinthians 2:16: “For who hath known the mind of Yahweh, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Messiah.”

Having the mind of Messiah means thinking and acting like Yahshua. He is not only our example for behavior, but also our coming Judge.

All believers must strive for His high level as they grow in the spirit. It is a lifelong quest and is not an instantaneous thing. And it is not “once and done.”

Neither does it come naturally. We need help to humble ourselves in order to develop the mind of Yahshua. That support comes through the endowment of the Holy Spirit. As the Spirit grows within us we become more like Yahshua in thought and action.

If you have ever had an epiphany you will sense the power of the Spirit working.

Paul wrote in 1Corinthians 2:10, “But Elohim hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of Elohim. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of Elohim knoweth no man, but the Spirit of Elohim. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of Elohim; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of Elohim. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Spirit teaches; comparing spiritual

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things with spiritual.”

The closest I have found for an epiphany of the spiritual is Luke 24:30: “And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?”

Paul explains that we are elevated into the spiritual sphere once we have the spirit working within. From that higher spiritual vantage point we can see the futility of purely human desires and goals.

We gain a perspective that shows how futile and even ridiculous it is to be driven by natural pulls for achievements that are guaranteed to fade away.

### Three Main Ambitions of Humanity

The natural man chases three goals in life: possessions, pleasure, and power. These three aspirations drive most natural wants:

Note what the Adversary tempted Yahshua with:

- Possessions – See all these kingdoms, they can be yours if you just worship me and avoid all the pain and suffering you will soon go through doing it Yahweh’s way.
- Pleasure – You’ve fasted for 40 days. Make these stones succulent bread and satisfy your famishment.
- Power – Demonstrate your super powers for all to see by throwing yourself down from this precipice and watch the angels catch you up.

Yahshua’s answer to Satan’s temptations was Scripture. “Man shall not live by bread alone; don’t tempt Yahweh; worship and serve only Yahweh” and not materialism.

It’s amazing that haSatan would even try tempting Yahshua. But hey, he got a third of the angels to go along with his schemes, why not Yahshua, too? This incident teaches us some key truths.

The Evil one never misses an opportunity. If he’ll tempt Yahshua, we can be sure he’ll do the same with us. He

is relentless – he never gives up. He’ll use every opportunity, every angle, he’ll play on our weakness. He knows our desires.

He perverted Yahshua’s goal to be Sovereign over the earth (fall down before me and you can have all these kingdoms you see). He hits us at the most vulnerable. Yahshua was close to total starvation. After an amazing 40 days with no nourishment maybe His mind was not so sharp.

If he could win over Yahshua it would be the conquest of the ages. The coup of all coups.



*For even hereunto were ye called: because Messiah also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow his steps.*

Each craving for possession, pleasure, and power is like an addict’s drug buzz: the more you get the more you want. If these are your goals in life you will never have enough. You will die unfulfilled.

### Fruits of the Spirit and Yahshua

It is sad to see the world on that pointless treadmill, working so hard to go nowhere. With Yahshua, the natural pulls we are all born with give way to a higher understanding and discernment. What once seemed so important no longer has the same urgency. Many problems are seen for what they are: vain and temporary and of little consequence in light of the big picture.

The tuned-in believers know what really matters. Look at the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22:

“... love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” What a different life we live when

filled with these virtues. It’s the very mind and attributes of Yahshua.

Now read verse 24: “And they that are Messiah’s have impaled the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory (power and prestige), provoking one another, envying one another.”

Ironically, just as we can see the futility of worldly aspirations, the world sees spiritual aspirations the same way. Paul wrote in 1Corinthians 2:14: “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of Elohim: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of Yahweh, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Messiah.”

Having the mind of Messiah means the ability to see this life for what it is. We understand the big picture and Yahweh’s plan for the world. He will restore creation to its original splendor, and provide salvation for repentant sinners.

It means we share in Yahshua’s humility and obedience (Philippians 2:5-8): “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Messiah Yahshua: Who, being in the form of Elohim, thought it not robbery to be equal with Elohim: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the stake.”

### The Contrasts Are Striking

Paul reveals some of Yahshua’s key traits.

First, the mind of Messiah stands in sharp contrast to the wisdom of man. We read in 1Corinthians 2:5-7: “That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of Elohim. Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of Elohim in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which Elohim ordained

before the world unto our glory.”

This explains why some don't understand the faith of the Believer. If you have ever felt as if you were talking to someone from another planet when it came to the Truth of the Word, this is one reason.

The mind of Messiah cannot be understood by those without the Spirit, 1Corinthians 2:13.

To have the mind of the culture is to think and act as the world does. We see the natural man in all his selfish pride every day, driven by greed and trivial pursuits.

Yahshua's perspective on life was what? To do and teach the will of His Father. That's where His mind was. You want His mind, then go there too.

Yahshua knew the plan. Now His purpose was to get mankind in line with it. Luke 19:10, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

And so He spent about three years on this planet showing us how to live and respond to all kinds of situations, trials, temptations, ignorance of men, and the unending rash of problems we all face daily.

His ministry was hands-on training with the ultimate goal of teaching us about being in His Kingdom and serving Him for an eternity. If we don't teach this essential part of the New Testament then we eviscerate Yahshua's biggest reason for coming.

Peter understood it; read 1Peter 2:21: "For even here unto were ye called: because Messiah also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judges righteously."

The mind of Messiah begins with humility. Paul understood that. He wrote in Philippians 2:5-8,

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Messiah Yahshua: Who, being in the form of Elohim, thought it not robbery to be equal with Elohim. But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being

found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the stake."

Along with humility is a compassionate heart. Matthew 9:36 shows Yahshua's compassion for the lost, "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd."

Before he raised Lazarus He wept with Mary and Martha. He showed compassion for the ignorant, too.

### **Prayer Is Communing with Yahweh**

We show the mind of Yahshua when we engage in copious amounts of prayer. Often He would withdraw to commune with His Father. Prayer isn't a "gimmee" session. First and foremost it is fellowship with Yahweh. Prayer is communication.

In order to have the mind of Messiah, we must first have the Holy Spirit. That comes with saving faith in Messiah. Romans 8:9 says,

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of Elohim dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Messiah, he is none of his. And if Messiah be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Yahshua from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Messiah from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

Is this world easy to live in? Not for anybody. It has the wrong priorities, the wrong goals. That puts it in diametric opposition to the goals and aspiration of the Believer. We must live in it, but we don't need to be part of it, John 17:15-16.

But with the mind of Yahshua, the whole purpose for our existence is reoriented. All of life's challenges become secondary compared to the ultimate goal of finding salvation in the Kingdom.

Paul sums it up in Romans 12:2: "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable and perfect will of Elohim." 

# Biblical Observances at a Glance

**Weekly Sabbath** Falling on the seventh day of the week, it commemorates 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.



# Become a Transformational Leader

by Randy Folliard

**W**hat if leadership could do more than manage—it could inspire, uplift, and reshape entire communities? That’s the promise of transformational leadership, a concept I’ve spent decades exploring through roles in state government and my time in ministry.

In this article, I’ll unpack seven practical skillsets that have guided me as a leader. These skillsets include:

- Never compromise the Word.
- Show fairness without partiality.
- Balance conservative principles with compassion.
- Strive to set an example and avoid hypocrisy.
- Be careful who you appoint to leadership.
- Accept and learn from your mistakes.
- Be patient.

Each of these skillsets is essential for strong leaders, especially for those wanting to pursue the ministry, but I also believe all of us, no matter what responsibility we may have, can benefit from these values.

## **Skillset 1: Never Compromise the Word**

Let’s begin with never compromising the Word and explain why this first principle is so vital. We find a warning

about compromise in Deuteronomy 4:1-2: “Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which Yahweh Elohim of your fathers giveth you. Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of Yahweh your Elohim which I command you.”

As believers, obeying Yahweh’s commandments is not an option but a responsibility that we all share. So why are we to obey the commandments? First, Yahweh commands us to obey. And second, His commandments are for our benefit.

Many Bible believers miss this concept today—they view the commandments as something negative. The fact is, Yahweh’s Word offers a blueprint for right living and how to achieve success and happiness in this life and the next!

Recently I’ve been studying stoicism and Greek philosophy. I’ve discovered two major takeaway points—first, Greek philosophy, including stoicism, is an attempt to provide a path for right living. And second, there are many parallels between stoicism and the Bible—they both emphasize virtue, character, and moral discipline as essential to a

meaningful life.

Obviously, there are many differences as well, including a belief in paganism. For me, the main lesson is this—while stoicism and similar philosophies try to provide ethics and value for right living, Yahweh has already provided this through His Word and all we must do is follow it. And when we do, we’re better for it. As an example, when we follow the Ten Commandments, we’re better human beings, including at home and work. From a professional standpoint, a person of ethics, including hard work and honesty, will often go further and be more successful than someone without these same ethics. Again, Yahweh’s Word makes us a better human being!

## **Skillset 2: Fairness Without Partiality**

We should all understand the word fairness, but what about partiality? This word refers to bias or favoritism.

In James 2:1-4 we find the importance of avoiding favoritism: “My fellow believers, do not practice your faith in our glorious Master Yahshua Messiah with an attitude of partiality... For if a man comes into your meeting place wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in dirty clothes also comes in, and you pay special attention to the

one who wears the fine clothes, and say to him, ‘You sit here in this good seat,’ and you tell the poor man, ‘You stand over there, or sit down [on the floor] by my footstool,’ have you not discriminated among yourselves, and become judges with wrong motives?’” (*Amplified Bible*).

James here uses the example of a rich and poor man to illustrate his point that we’re not to show favoritism or partiality because of someone’s wealth or status.

As human beings we all are susceptible to this behavior—if not then there would be no reason for James to share it. We avoid showing partiality because this is not how Yahweh measures a man’s worth. Additionally favoritism can often lead to unfair treatment and compromising of our values.

This is true at home, in our careers, and in the assembly. As we see from the Bible we should never give special treatment to someone simply because of their wealth or social status.

This concept is even more important for leaders, whether in the world or in ministry. For example, when a manager evaluates employees for pay increases, his decisions should be based solely on the merit of the employee and not on personal feelings or relationships with them.

The same applies to a minister. If you’re re-evaluating a belief because a generous giver may disagree with or oppose it, you must not allow that person’s contributions to cloud or sway your judgment.

I’ve seen all these examples and many more. And while avoiding partiality or favoritism may be challenging in the short term, in the long term you’re better off. Yahweh’s not going to bless a person who shows partiality. Besides, showing favoritism is unjust. For this reason the best thing we can do is to be fair and unbiased in our decisions, especially when they affect others.

### **Skillset 3: Principles and Compassion**

Let’s now discuss the art of balancing conservative principles with compassion. Over the years, I’ve described this ministry as compassionate conservative. I believe that our Heavenly Father and

Savior are both inherently conservative. I also believe that they are both inherently compassionate.

You may be asking, how is it possible to be both? It’s simple, it’s about having rules, but also mercy. Just because you’re conservative does not mean you’re without compassion. And the key is the wisdom and leadership of knowing when and how to apply conservative values with compassion.

We find a great truth of this in Isaiah 1:16-20: “Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together, saith Yahweh: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of Yahweh hath spoken it.”

We see here Isaiah prophesying to Judah and illustrating the balance of conservative values with compassion. On one hand, you have Yahweh, perfect in every way, and on the other you have Judah, a nation that was in complete rebellion.

Judah was guilty of such egregious sin that verse 10 describes Judah as rulers of Sodom and people of Gomorrah. They were guilty of the worst forms of sin and depravity. But even with this, Yahweh was willing to show forgiveness.

In fact, it’s always been my impression that Yahweh is almost begging Judah to repent. First, it’s quite humbling that Yahweh was even willing to reason with Judah. And second, even though they were guilty of egregious sin, He was still willing to show forgiveness. That said, we also see that if they refused to repent, judgment from the Almighty was promised.

This is one of the greatest illustrations of what it means to balance conservative values with compassion. In the end Yahweh would not and could not compromise His values. However, He gave Judah every opportunity to repent

and turn back to Him.

The same is true today. In 2Peter 3:9 Peter writes, “Yahweh is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

For me there’s no greater testimony showing what not to do than the actions of the scribes and Pharisees.

Yahshua speaks about this in Matthew 23:23-24: “Then spake Yahshua to the multitude, and to his disciples, saying the scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.”

### **Skillset 4: Examples Without Hypocrisy**

Yahshua is reprimanding the scribes and Pharisees for their hypocrisy. In this passage, Yahshua also speaks of a seat of Moses as an actual stone chair where Jewish men would read from the law of Moses or Torah. This is why Yahshua could say, “...therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do.”

During our 2014 and 2016 pilgrimages to Israel, we saw a replica of a seat of Moses in the synagogue at Korazim. We also saw the original seat of Moses at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. This particular seat was discovered in 1926 during excavations.

We find here that the scribes and Pharisees would say and do not but insist on laying heavy burdens on the people that they themselves were unwilling to move. Great leaders don’t just give orders—they lead by example, inspiring others through actions.

In contrast to the scribes and Pharisees, here are a few examples of transformational leaders we find from Scripture:

Moses didn’t just tell the Israelites what to do; he interceded for them before Yahweh and endured hardships alongside of them.

Joseph, despite being second-in-command in Egypt, did not use his power for selfish gain. He forgave his brothers and provided for them, demonstrating grace and responsibility.

When rebuilding Jerusalem's walls, Nehemiah didn't just order people around—he worked alongside them. He also refused the governor's luxuries to set an example of sacrifice.

Before becoming king, David didn't just demand loyalty, he earned it by fighting alongside his men. Even when Saul pursued him unjustly, David showed restraint and integrity.

Paul tirelessly spread the good news, often enduring persecution, imprisonment, and hardship. He also worked as a tentmaker to avoid burdening others financially, showing that leaders should serve, not exploit.

Finally, Yahshua didn't just teach about humility, He demonstrated it by washing His disciples' feet. He also sacrificed His life for others, showing that true leadership is about serving and not being served. These are all examples of transformational leadership, leading by example without hypocrisy or self-service.

### **Skillset 5: Be Wise About Appointees**

This next leadership skillset is essential—being careful to vet a potential leader. As with the other skillsets, this one applies to leadership positions in both a career and in the assembly.

I've been a manager for the state of Missouri for several years and learned from experience that appointing the wrong person to a position can be very problematic. A bad apple can negatively impact a good and productive team.

Nothing can destroy a team like a bad manager.

These concepts also hold true for those in the ministry. Here's what Paul says about this in 1 Timothy 5:22: "Do not hurry to lay hands on anyone [ordaining and approving someone for ministry]..." (*Amplified Bible*).

Let's talk first about the person who does not qualify. The Bible provides specific requirements for those in the ministry as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:

"This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the assembly of Yahweh?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil," verses 1-7.

There are many requirements that a minister must meet and there's a reason why. Nothing impacts an assembly more than its leadership. If you have good leadership, the assembly is going to prosper and do well. If not, the assembly will suffer.

When selecting a person for ordination, we must first review this list and make sure they qualify.

What does it mean to be a good fit? If we're talking about a project manager position, I will consider things like their personality, their organizational skills, their problem-solving and conflict management skills, their initiative and drive, and team culture.

What about a potential minister? In some ways it's the same as any other position, but in addition to these skills, I would also look for things like: Does the person have the strength to stand firm without compromise and does he show good judgment and discretion? Does he have good people skills? Is he approachable and relatable? Is he empathetic and patient, humble and teachable? How motivated is he and self-disciplined? Does he understand the needs of an assembly? Is he committed to unity and peacemaking? Is he a good communicator? Does he show integrity and accountability?

There are other attributes I could list, but for me these are the vital skills. So again, when we're evaluating those for positions, it's important that we consider

1) do they qualify and 2) would they be a good fit.

### **Skillset 6: Learn from Mistakes**

If you're human, you're going to make mistakes. I'm no different. This includes management errors at all levels and those in the ministry.

What's important about mistakes is learning and growing from the experience.

Some of the most valuable lessons we learn in life are from mistakes. After a project is done and often throughout the project, the project team will do what's called a retrospective or lessons learned. During these meetings the team will review successes, areas of improvement, and future recommendations.

In some ways, this same exercise would benefit believers. We can do our own personal retrospective. We can ask, where am I succeeding, where do I need improvement, and based on that, what recommendations do I have for myself. Henry Ford once said, "The only real mistake is the one from which we learn nothing." Here's what it says in Proverbs 24:16: "For though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes" (*NIV*).

There are some who are afraid of making even the most basic decision in fear of making a mistake. As a leader, one of the worst things you can do is to defer a decision because of fear. As a manager and minister there are decisions made that may not be the best, but you do the best you can with the information you have.

What are some of the impacts of an indecisive leader? When decisions are delayed, work slows down, and employees may become disengaged or unmotivated. A lack of clear direction can create confusion and stress among employees or assembly. People look to leaders for guidance; if they hesitate, it can cause frustration and lower morale. Without decisive leadership, teams may become stuck and unable to move forward.

A leader who consistently avoids making decisions risks being perceived

as weak or ineffective. And finally, small issues that could have been resolved quickly may escalate into larger problems due to inaction.

Again to our main point, as believers, it's important to learn and grow from our mistakes. Some of the best lessons we learn in life are through our mistakes. And when we make mistakes, it's important to get back up and move

indecisiveness and being patient? For me, the difference is that sometimes being decisive requires being patient.

At work, I help oversee multi-million-dollar contracts. In some cases, my only option is to strategize and then to be patient. In some cases, being impatient or rash can lead to decisions that may be a detriment to you or the organization.

tempered displays folly" (*NIV*). We find a similar message in Psalm 37:7: "Be still before [Yahweh] and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes" (*NIV*).

What do we learn from these passages? In Proverbs, we see a connection between patience and understanding. And in Psalms we find a word of encouragement to be patient and to wait for Yahweh and not to be envious of those who succeed in this world.

As believers, patience is an essential skillset. As we find in Ecclesiastes, there's a time for every season. In life, there's a time for action and there's also a time for patience.

So how do we discern between the two? I believe this comes through Yahweh's wisdom, which we gain through obedience, prayer, and the power of the Holy Spirit. Again, sometimes being decisive is being patient. There are situations I face at work and at the ministry where all I can do is to review the options, strategize on the best approach, and then to be patient.

In closing, I believe that these seven transformational leadership skillsets can help us grow to be better believers, especially for those pursuing leadership within the ministry. But the fact is, we are all pursuing to be potential leaders in Yahweh's Kingdom. As we see in the Word, those who are found worthy will serve as a kingdom of priests with Yahshua in the Millennium.

May we all strive to be transformational leaders for Yahweh's future kingdom! 🙏



forward, as the righteous who fell seven times only to rise again.

Finally, no matter what mistakes we've made, we should always remember that Yahweh loves us and wants us to succeed. So as believers, let us learn and grow from our mistakes.

### Skillset 7: Virtue of Patience

The final skillset to review is being patient. What's the difference between

The same is also true for a believer. We need to be patient with Yahshua's coming. We need to be patient with those in the assembly. We need to be patient with those in the world, and sometimes, we need to be patient with ourselves.

I want to share with you two Scriptures from Proverbs and Psalms that speak to this topic. Proverbs 14:29 states, "Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick-



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

**Q** “Can people who have never been baptized into Yahshua’s death to receive the Holy Spirit, though they know what they must do to be saved (obey Yahweh’s commandments, laws, and statutes), ever be considered backsliders?”

**A** Backsliding applies specifically to one who has entered the covenant through baptism into Yahshua’s Name and received the Holy Spirit, who then turns away from the Truth he once accepted. Hebrews 10:38 warns about backsliding and the consequences: “...if any man draw back my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.”

**Q** As a doctrine, is fasting really worth the importance it is given?

**A** Fasting is one of the most neglected acts in worship today. Each year an entire Feast, the commanded Day of Atonement, is observed as a Sabbath with a 24-hour fast. Not only did Yahshua instruct His followers to fast (Matt. 6:16, 17:21) but He also fasted himself for 40 days and nights following His baptism, Matthew 4:2. The Apostle Paul advocated fasting in addition to prayer, 1Corinthians 7:5. King David knew the humbling effects of fasting, Psalm 35:13; 69:10. The prophet Joel called for the nation to sanctify a fast and solemn assembly, 1:14; 2:12.

The Scriptures give many instances of fasting for a variety of reasons. Note the following fasts (from **Nave’s Topical Bible**):

- Of the Israelites, in the conflict between the other tribes with the tribe of Benjamin, on account of the wrong suffered by a Levite’s concubine, Judg. 20:26; when they went to Mizpeh for the ark, 1Sam. 7:6.
- Of David, at the death of Saul, 2Sam. 1:12; during the sickness of the child born to him by Bathsheba, 2 Sam. 12:16-22; while interceding in prayer for his friends, Ps. 35: 13; in his zeal for Zion, Ps. 69:10; in prayer for himself and his adversaries, Ps. 109:4, 24.
- Of Jehoshaphat, at the time of the invasion of the confederated armies of the Canaanites and Syrians, 2Chr. 20:3.
- Of Ezra, on account of the idolatrous marriages of the Jews, Ezra 10:6.
- Of Nehemiah, on account of the desolation of Jerusalem and the temple, Neh. 1:4.
- Of the Jews, when Jeremiah prophesied against Judea and Jerusalem, Jer. 36:9; in Babylon, with prayer for divine deliverance and guidance, Ezra 8:21, 23.
- Of Daniel, on account of the captivity of the people, with prayer for their deliverance, Dan. 9:3; at the time of his vision, Dan. 10-1-3.
- Ninevites, when Jonah preached to them, Jonah 3:5-10.



- Of Paul, at the time of his conversion, Acts 9:9.
- Of the disciples, at the time of the consecration of Barnabas and Saul, Acts 13:2, 3.
- Of the consecration of the elders, Acts 14:23.

**Q** What is the proper response based on Scripture that serves as a rebuttal (or clarification) to Christians who say you must take communion regularly because it’s in the the New Testament?

**A** The communion (and Eucharist) that Protestants observe is not in the Bible. It is a church-designed replacement for the Passover memorial, as is the Catholic mass in some respects. The Passover is a standing command of Yahweh and is observed in both Old and New testaments. Paul said in 1Corinthians 11:25-26 that as often as you take the bread and drink the cup you do it in remembrance of Yahshua. This does not mean to do it often, as is the case with communion or mass taken daily, weekly or monthly. He is saying that whenever you observe it, remember why you are doing it. Yahshua should be at the center and what He did to pay the penalty for our sins must be the paramount reason for doing so. You must take Passover annually as commanded in the Bible.

**Q** I am seeing an increasing use of crosses worn as necklaces and in tattoos, including by celebrities and other notable people. I heard that the cross may not have been the instrument of Yahshua’s death. Can you illuminate?

**A** History shows that the sign of the cross was adopted from infamous sources long before Yahshua’s death. According to the **Companion Bible** note, in the Greek of the New Testament two words are used for “the cross” on which the [Savior] was put to death.

- The word *stauros*; which denotes an upright pale or stake, to which the criminals were nailed for execution.
  - The word *xulon*, which generally denotes a piece of a dead log of wood, or timber, for fuel or for any other purpose.
- “As this latter word *xulon* is used for the former *stauros*, it shows us that the meaning of each is exactly the same. The verb *stauros* means to drive stakes.

“Our English word ‘cross’ is the translation of the Latin *crux*; but the Greek *stauros* no more means a *crux* than the word ‘stick’ means a ‘crutch’.

“*Stauros* never means two pieces of timber placed across one another at any angle, but always of one piece alone. Hence the use of the word *xulon* in connection with the manner of our [Master’s] death, and rendered ‘tree’ (see Acts 5:30,10:39; 13:29; Gal. 3:13; 1Pet. 2:24). This is preserved in our old English name rood, or rod. See the **Encycl. Brit.**, 11th (Camb.) ed., vol. 7, p. 505 d.

“There is nothing in the Greek of the N.T. even to imply two pieces of timber...”

*“The use of the cross as a religious symbol in pre-Christian times, and among non-Christian peoples, may probably be regarded as almost universal, and in very many cases it was connected with some form of nature worship.”*

*-Encyclopaedia Britannica*

“These crosses were used as symbols of the Babylonian sun-god, and are first seen on a coin of Julius Caesar, 100-44 BCE and then on a coin struck by Caesar’s heir (Augustus), 20 BCE.

“The Catacombs in Rome bear the same testimony: ‘Christ’ is never represented there as ‘hanging on a cross.’ In the Egyptian churches the cross was a pagan symbol of life, borrowed by the Christians, and interpreted in the pagan manner.

“The ‘invention’ of the cross in pre-Christian times, and the ‘invention’ of its use in later times, are truths of which we need to be reminded in the present day. The evidence is thus complete, [Yahshua] was put to death upon an upright stake, and not on two pieces of timber placed at any angle.”

The Eleventh Edition of the **Encyclopaedia Britannica** says about the cross:

“From its simplicity of form, the cross has been used both as a religious symbol and as an ornament, from the dawn of man’s civilization. Various objects, dating from periods long anterior to the Christian era, have been found, marked with crosses of different designs, in almost every part of the old world. India, Syria, Persia and Egypt have all yielded numberless examples, while numerous instances, dating from the later Stone Age to Christian times, have been found in nearly every part of Europe.

The use of the cross as a religious symbol in pre-Christian times, and among non-Christian peoples, may probably be regarded as almost universal, and in very many cases it was connected with some form of nature worship. Two of the forms of the pre-Christian cross which are perhaps most frequently met with are the tau cross, so named from its resemblance to the Greek capital letter T and the swastika...”

**Q** I have read your lengthy compositions. As a Jehovah’s Witness I see a great deal of similarity. Briefly, what are your ideas when compared to JW?

**A** Although we agree with the Jehovah’s Witnesses on not observing pagan holidays, there are other important, biblical doctrines they don’t accept, including: the true names of the Father and Son, Yahweh and Yahshua; the biblical seventh-day Sabbath; the seven annual Feasts, and clean food laws of Leviticus 11. These are all part of the covenant that Yahweh made with Israel and now makes with us in the New Testament, Romans 9 and 11.

**Q** What happens after the thousand-year Millennium?

**A** Revelation chapters 21-22 discuss various aspects of the New Jerusalem. Verse 21:3 says that Yahweh Himself will come to earth and be with His people, the faithful.

Here are some details:

- There will be no more sorrow (21:4).
- All things will be made new (21:5).
- Overcomers will inherit all things (21:7).
- The wicked will be destroyed in the lake of fire (21:8).

(The 21st chapter should begin in verse 9, with the above verses being a continuation of chapter 20. The Greek text did not have chapter divisions. The modern chapter divisions were developed by Stephen Langton, an Archbishop of Canterbury about 1227 CE. The **Wycliffe English Bible** of 1382 was the first Bible to employ them.)

- Revelation 21:9-22:7 describes the New Jerusalem with Yahweh dwelling on earth. It goes into great detail about the city’s measurements and beauty of its construction. The Tree of Life shown in Genesis reappears, bearing fruit each month and producing leaves that will heal (22:2). (Most pharmaceuticals today are plant-based.)
- Only those who keep Yahweh’s laws will have right to the Tree of Life and will be able to enter the holy city through one of the gates of the 12 tribes of Israel (22:14).
- Yahweh’s Name will be in the foreheads of the people who have proved faithful by keeping His Word and Name. Verse 21:27 says only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life will find salvation in New Jerusalem.



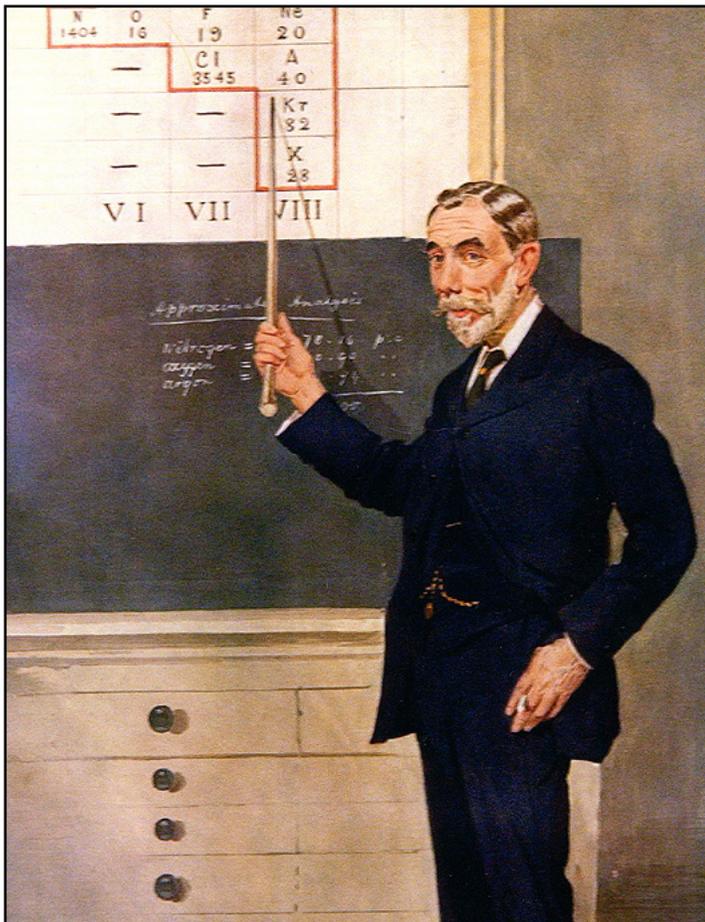
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# Meeting Hall Construction Update

We are now in the final stage of construction of our new meeting hall. The drywall is completed and the HVAC units have been installed on the main level. Carpet planks have been ordered and in a few weeks we plan to install them. We are still on track to have the meeting hall operational by the Feast of Tabernacles. Ryan Mansager is making over seventy acoustic sound treatment panels, saving us over 20k, and the YRM crew has been working on painting. We will be ordering doors soon, which will be a hefty bill. We should complete this project within the estimated total cost of \$350,000. For a three-level, 10,000 square-foot structure that's almost unheard of, and we are only \$81,000 away from that goal. Because we did most of the work ourselves, this project is well under half the cost of hiring a contractor. If it is in your heart to help us finish, you can send your tax-deductible offerings to: YRM, PO Box 463, Holts Summit, MO 65043, or you can donate online at: [yrm.org/buildingfund](http://yrm.org/buildingfund). May Yahweh bless you!





## INTERESTING HISTORY

Sir William Ramsay was a Scottish chemist and archaeologist who questioned the historical accuracy of the Bible. In his quest to point out inconsistencies of scripture through archaeology, he discovered evidence to support the Bible's truths. He said, "Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy...[he] should be placed along with the greatest of historians."

# Biblical Hebrew Word Lesson

זָקֵן

**Zaqen**  
zah-kane

Composition: Zayin, qamets, qof, tseret, final nun

The Hebrew word **Zaqen** (H2205) is an adjective that means: aged, ancient man, elder

Moses and the **elders** of Israel commanded the people: "Keep all these commands that I give you today."

Deuteronomy 27:1

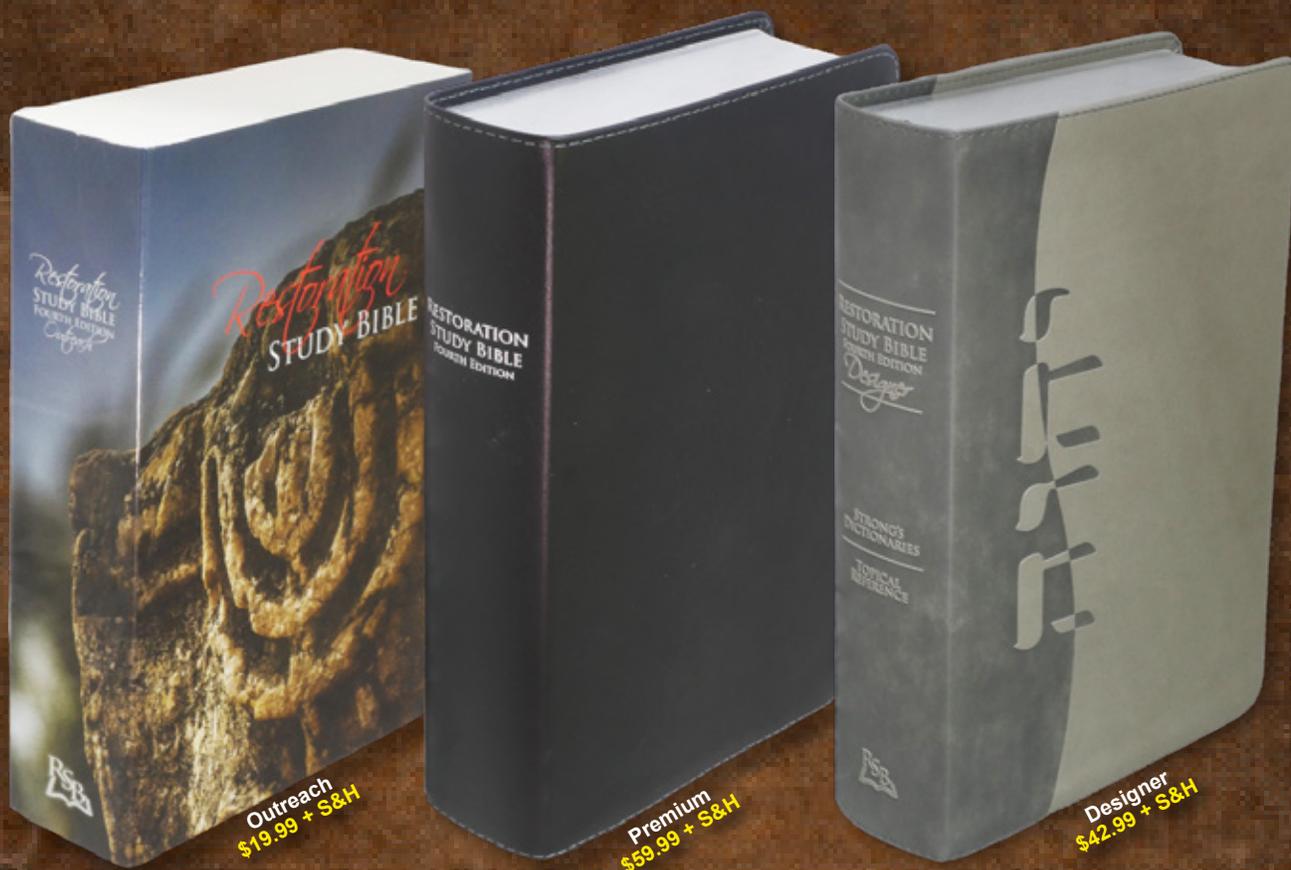
## Outreach Program's Current Partners

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!

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## ELDERTORIAL

### Called Out for a Special Purpose

What we believe becomes our spiritual and moral equilibrium. Most take it personally when someone upsets their understanding with truth they never considered. An individual can be totally wrong but will defend his views to the end, without ever fact-checking what he believes with Scripture.

Only when we are willing to take an objective look do we have a chance at uncovering error and changing convictions. Deception is insidious. Those in the wrong may have no evil intent. They can be friends. But they are still deceived.

Pilate asked Yahshua, "What is Truth?" Yahshua had said the Word is Truth. It sanctifies His people. "Sanctify" means to set apart. The more you believe and follow the Scriptures, the more you find yourself being "set apart" from nominal beliefs and often from the world, and even from family and friends. That's because what the Bible teaches and what most believe and teach about the Bible are two different things.

When you are different because you live the Word and not just profess it, you often become a target.

Yahshua the Messiah said it would be that way. The disciples found out He was right. They were detested and history says were murdered as He was for teaching the Truth He taught.

Can it be any different for us? If you are not being persecuted for your beliefs, take Paul's advice: examine yourselves, whether you be in the faith. And examine your faith as well.

Yahshua said, "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the FALSE prophets," Luke 6:26. He goes on to say love your enemies and do good to them who hate you, proving again that the true faith would not be popular. It is not easy having to stand against popular error. Yahshua had to do it.

In fact, we are told to rejoice when oppressed. Yahshua said, "Blessed are you, when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My Name's sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven," Matthew 5:11-12.

Truth-seekers don't live for this world, but for a world that's coming. He and she are storing up heavenly riches and nothing is more important. 

## AMAZING BIBLE FACTS

### THE MOABITE STONE



The Moabite Stone bears what is generally thought to be the earliest extra-biblical Semitic reference to the name Yahweh. Lines 17-18 read, "I took the vessels of Yahweh and I dragged them before Kemosh..." French scholar Andre Lemaire reconstructed a portion of line 31 that mentions "House of David."

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