



Jan.—Feb. 2005

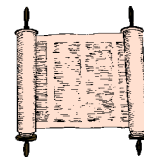
YAHSHUA'S WITNESS MAGAZINE

Declaring a new and living way. (Heb. 10:20)

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A publication of Yahweh's Evangelical Assembly



Yahshua's Witness Magazine

is dedicated to His bride. Yahshua will be returning soon to receive His own unto Himself (Jn. 14:3). His bride must make herself ready (Rev. 19:7). A person who is called out of this world by the Father, who repents of his/her sins, is baptized in the name of Yahshua the Messiah (Acts 2:38), the only name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12), and receives the Holy Spirit must come to know Him as the Scriptures declare and witness of Him (Jn. 5:39-47). Peter encouraged, "But grow in grace, and the knowledge of our Sovereign and Saviour Yahshua the Messiah," 2 Pet. 3:18. We will, with Yahweh's help and the Spirit of Truth, seek to reveal a most wondrous Savior and Redeemer, a Savior and Redeemer that much of the world has spoken of, dreamed of, hoped for, but truly never known. While much of the world looks to a savior, the savior of whom they have been taught has become corrupted. Another has been substituted in the true Savior's place. Those who are called out of this world and given to Him are likened unto virgins. But in accordance with His own parable of those virgins, only five are wise while the other five are foolish. The five wise are able to enter into the planned marriage with the Messiah, but the five foolish have the door closed to them (Mt. 25:1-13). Let's be wise, remember our betrothal to the Messiah and the virginity to which He has restored us (2 Cor. 11:1-2), resist the wiles of the devil and look to and prepare for a joyous and glorious marriage that will endure for all eternity. HalleluYah!!!!

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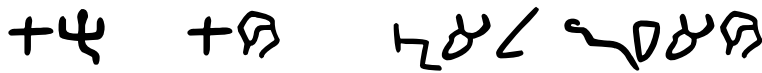
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OUR COVER: Since the death of the Savior, men have sought to depict his agony and passion. This artistic work is by . However, none have ever been able to capture the true agony, nor the literal disfigurement that Yahshua went through. He suffered at least three beatings, first by the Jews, then by Herod's soldiers and then by Pilate's. These beatings were excessively cruel, administered by men schooled in cruelty. Isaiah proclaims that his image was marred more than any man. He was scourged with a cat-nine-tails, but his stripes aren't revealed. Besides, there is a deep under-cover story about the Savior's death that has been shared by the kings, rulers, leaders and royalty of the world that has not been made known to the common man or believer. The article "Who's On The Cross?" will reveal what has transpired since the time that the world's rulers have taken over the power to dictate the faith.

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FROM THE EDITOR



This issue is our Jan.—Feb. issue. The modern-day world, of course, follows the Caesarean-Papist dictates of calendar observance. Julius and Augustus Caesar formulated the calendar that begins with the month of January adding the month of July for Julius and August for Augustus. Pope Gregory refined it in his day, which now gives it the name Gregorian Calendar. But there is no real rhyme nor reason for the year to begin in the month of January in the “dead” of winter. Originally, Rome’s calendar began in the spring, in March or April, around the equinox. Spring is when things are springing to life after the death sleep of winter. Yahweh’s sacred calendar also began in the March-April time frame.

The first month of Yahweh’s sacred calendar began with the new moon of Abib (green ears) or Nisan. And that is another misnomer (I am speaking of Caesar’s calendar). The English word “month” comes from the word “moon.” A month is supposed to be a lunation or a cycle of the moon. A lunation is the time that it takes for the moon to go through one complete cycle, from one new moon to the next new moon or a period of about 29-1/2 days. The same situation applies in Hebrew terminology. The Hebrew words for moon and month are from the same source.

But Caesar deceived the world by designating months that have no relationship to the moon at all, and great is that deception. Yahweh’s calendar is most significant and important because it determines the annual feast days or holy days. These annual feast or holy days are extremely important because they remind us of His great plan and purpose for the ushering in of His kingdom and salvation. If we fail to observe them, then we are not reminded and we forget. We get more involved with just living in this world, making a living, accumulating wealth and possessions in a life that is perishing with the using. How many people have accumulated much through their efforts only to wake up one morning and find themselves penniless and impoverished? Neither does the accumulation of wealth and possessions deliver us from death or from judgment in the life to come. While we can live well and comfortably in this life, that wealth and those possessions have nothing to do with preparing us for the real future which is beyond the grave. The observance of Yahweh’s calendar and ways does prepare us for that future, however.

Caesar’s calendar is extremely deceptive, as stated. It even begins with deception. The first month is the month of January which is named after the two-faced Roman god Janus. To be two-faced means to be deceptive. Look it up in your own dictionary. Janus was the god of doorways. He was represented with two bearded faces which were looking in opposite directions. He held a staff in one hand and keys in the other. This, of course, places him in opposition with Yahshua. Yahshua told His disciples that He was the door (Jn. 10) and he informed John and the Philadelphian Assembly that He had the key of David with which He is able to open and shut (Rev. 3).

Caesar causes the world to become steeped in the worship of his gods through the dates of his own calendar. Most people don’t realize that he was declared to be “Pontifex Maximus,” or the high priest of the Roman religion and all religions of all people that the Romans conquered. January begins the observance of “Carnival” (Mardi Gras) which leads into Lent (forty days of so-called fasting) and then Easter. During this time Valentine’s day also occurs. Valentine’s day represents the approach of males and females to each other which leads to Easter or the ancient pagan fertility rite. Nine months later (the period of gestation, of course) a child is born. This culminates with the infamous night of December 24th called holy or mother night and Christmas day. (Order our booklet entitled Holidays or Holydays for more information.) None of it has to do with the worship of the true Elohim Yahweh nor His Son, the Messiah Yahshua. Caesar’s calendar also sanctifies Sunday rather than the Sabbath even though the Sabbath is in its rightful place as the “seventh” day of the week.

Yahweh placed the sun, moon and stars in the heaven to be for signs and seasons. We, in this assembly, utilize the visible new moon crescent in order to determine the beginning of the months. There is plenty of historical data to prove this. But, interestingly, the crescent moon of the first month (Abib or Nisan) looks like a bowl sitting horizontally. In other words, a bowl or cup that has the ability to hold something. But the crescent of the new moon of the seventh month, which is the final month of Yahweh’s sacred calendar, appears vertically, like a backward “C. This makes it look like the bowl is pouring out its contents and surely and truly it is.

For Yahweh’s people who follow Him and His commanded ways, it is a bowl full of blessings at the first which is gradually tipped throughout the Spring and Summer months, in essence, pouring those blessing out upon His people. The seventh month represents the period of time when His blessings have been completely poured out on His people. But for those who don’t follow His ways, it represents wrath because His wrath will be poured out on the disbelievers and those who follow the pernicious ways of the abominable harlot that leads the world into false idolatrous worship, ergo, the inheritor of the Roman title “Pontifex Maximus” and her false, deceptive, pagan religious worship.

While we are presently bound to Caesar’s calendar concerning the civil government, historical dating, etc., we don’t have to be bound to his false, deceitful religious observances. We can turn, forsake the falsehood and deception, embrace Yahweh’s calendar, and serve and worship Him, observe His appointed days (the Sabbath, annual holy days, etc.) and learn of Him. “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Yahshua the Messiah for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit,” (Acts 2:38) urges the Apostle Peter and we at this assembly encourage the same.

JH

THE IDOL SHEPHERD

PART II

By Jerry Healan

THE THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER

Much of Zechariah chapter 11 is pinpointed to be speaking of Yahshua's day, for verses 12-13 speak of the 30 pieces (shekels) of silver of which Yahshua was estimated to be valued.

Verses 12-13 read, "And I said unto them, 'If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear.' So they weighed for **my price thirty pieces of silver**. And Yahweh said unto me, '**Cast it unto the potter**: a goodly price that I was prised at of them.' And I took the thirty pieces of silver, **and cast them to the potter in the house of Yahweh.**"

It is no coincidence that Judas Iscariot bargained for the betrayal of Yahshua and was paid thirty pieces of silver, "Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, and said unto them, 'What will ye give me, and I will deliver Him unto you?' And they covenanted with him for **thirty pieces of silver**," Mt. 26:14-15.

After the betrayal, the rest of the prophecy was fulfilled, "Then Judas, which had betrayed Him, when he saw that He was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, 'I have sinned in that I have betrayed, the innocent blood.' And they said, 'What is that to us? See thou to that.' And **he cast down the pieces of silver in the Temple**, and departed, and went and hanged himself. And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, 'It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.' **And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field**, to bury strangers in. Wherefore that field was called, 'The

field of blood', unto this day," Mt. 27:3-7.

Matthew 27:9-10 continues with the spoken, but not written words of the prophet Jeremiah, "Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, 'And they took the thirty pieces of silver, (the price of Him That was valued, Whom they of the children of Israel did value); And gave them for the potter's field, as Yahweh appointed me.'"

One of the interesting things about this estimation is that according to Yahweh's law in the book of Leviticus,

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if a female made a singular vow for or unto Yahweh the estimation for her was to be thirty shekels according to the shekel of the sanctuary (27:1-4). Israel was Yahweh's bride by the marriage covenant or vow taken at Mount Sinai (Ex. 24:3-7). The people had not been faithful to the vow or covenant made and the price had to be paid.

Once the price had been paid, the Messiah put to death, buried and resurrected, a new work was begun by the disciples of Yahshua, for the rulers of that time had not been faithful in administering Yahweh's covenant. Yahweh states that he would cut off three shepherds in one month (Zech. 11:8). But the real

meaning of this statement has been hidden. The three shepherds were the leaders of the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Scribes. The statement "in one month" is translated in the Hebrew *Interlinear Bible* as, "in month one." This should have been translated in month one having reference to the first month of the year, Abib, which is when Yahshua suffered and paid the penalty, thus qualifying to be instituted as the High Priest and King over Israel (Heb. 4:14; 5:10) and therefore cutting off the three shepherd groups, the scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees from their capacity of leadership over the people.

Zechariah 11:8 reveals the hostility that existed between Yahshua and the rulers over the people at that time, for it says, "Three shepherds also I cut off in one month (month one); and **my soul loathed them, and their soul also abhorred me**. The rulers of the people sought to attribute Yahshua's wondrous miracles to Beelzebub, the prince of devils, while Yahshua continually condemned them calling them the children of the devil.

Zechariah 11 reveals that after the cutting off of the shepherds and the paying of the estimated price of thirty pieces of silver, Yahweh would cut asunder the staff called Bands. The people of Judah were overthrown and cast out of the land by the Roman armies before many of the generation that had witnessed Yahshua's ministry had expired. Yahweh then proclaims that he would set up the foolish, idol shepherd.

ANALYZING ZECH. 11:15-17

Yahweh commanded Zechariah to **take the instruments of a foolish shepherd** (v. 15). The word foolish also means worthless, impious,

perverse. These words describe the instruments or implements of the foolish shepherd. His implements of worship are worthless. They are impious or unrighteous. They are perverse. Peter warned the people of his day to save themselves from that untoward (perverse) generation (Acts 2:40).

In verse 17, the idol shepherd was shown as **one who leaves the flock**. Who was this perverse idol shepherd? The *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Fourteenth Edition, Volume 21, pp. 776-777 has this to say about one named **Tammuz**: "Sumerian, Babylonian and Assyrian God, **who died and rose annually with dying and reviving vegetation**, originally *Dumu-zi*, 'the son who rises, goes forth (from the nether world),' but generally interpreted 'faithful son.'....In astrology Tammuz was identified with **Aries** (Note: Aries always falls in the first month of the Hebrew calendar, the month of Abib, in which Passover and the days of Unleavened Bread are observed. Easter also falls in this period of time.); **in the magic rituals** he is symbolized by a white kid, and he is also connected with the ram, which led to his astral identification. Under the title *Sibzianna*, 'faithful shepherd of heaven,' he was identified with **Orion**....He was held to be a god of healing, bestower of health, and one who, like all other deities, had power over the demons. It is obvious that a cult which is based upon the **death and resurrection of a propitiating god, and upon the love of a divine mother who wails for her son**, has direct connection with the facts and the theological views based upon them, **which gave birth to Christianity**. But the form of the cult which apparently most directly affected the origins of Christianity is that in which **Marduk** of Baylon was identified with **Tammuz**. At the Nisan of new year festival at Babylon, **Bel (Marduk)** was said to have been imprisoned in the lower world, and a priestess weeps at his sepulchre. A malefactor was slain with **Bel** and they descend together to the land of darkness. **Beltis**, his wife, descends to hell to seek him, and **Bel's** garments are given **Ishtar (mother of Tammuz)**. **Bel** was laid in a sepulchre, from which he soon comes forth. This **Marduk** transformation of

the national **Tammuz** cult is only another effort of the priesthood of the capital to enlarge the worship and importance of the local cult. It obtained nowhere else in Babylonia and Assyria, and may be regarded as a true interpretation of what transpired regularly in the **Tammuz** cult itself. **That the cult had direct influence upon the origins of Christianity cannot be denied**, and the Greek cult of **Adonis** owes its essential content to the Sumerian Tammuz....**He is described as the shepherd who left his flocks**, as the shepherds sat in the fields waiting for **Tammuz**." (Emphasis mine).

Isn't it interesting that Tammuz is considered to be the **Faithful Shepherd** on the one hand, yet **he left his flocks** on the other hand.

Yahweh appeared to the prophet Ezekiel and carried him to Jerusalem where He began to show him all the abominations being committed by the people of the land (Ez. 8:1-12).

Then Yahweh said, "Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater

The people were weeping for and worshipping Tammuz, the son of Ishtar.

abominations that they do.' Then He brought me to the door of the gate of Yahweh's house which was toward the north; and behold, there sat women **weeping for Tammuz**. Then said He unto me, 'Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these.' And He brought me into the inner court of Yahweh's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of Yahweh, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of Yahweh, and **their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east**. Then He said unto me, 'Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? For they have filled the land with violence, and have

returned to provoke Me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their (should be My) nose. Therefore will I also deal in fury: Mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in Mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them,'" Ez. 8:13-18.

The people were weeping for and worshipping Tammuz, the son of Ishtar. The word "East" in Hebrew also means "the sunrising." The people of Judah were observing Easter (Ishtar) sunrise services which is associated with the annual rising of Tammuz or Bel (a false, pagan messiah) from the underworld.

Look at the false paganistic gods associated with and equivalent to Tammuz and Ishtar as enumerated in the Britannica article: Adonis, Bel, Beltis, Marduk and Orion.

ISHTAR

Ishtar was the mother of Tammuz. Just who is Ishtar? The *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 14th Edition, Vol.12, p. 707 reveals, "**ISHTAR**, the name of the chief goddess of Babylonia and Assyria, the counterpart of the Phoenician **Astarte** (q.v.). The earliest written form of the name is *Ash-dar*, an Accadian rendering of the older Sumerian deity identified with the Sumerian **virgin mother-goddess**, who is always associated with the planet **Venus**. For this reason Ashdar, Ishtar, is undoubtedly the same deity as the south Arabian **Athtar**, god of the planet **Venus**. At all events it is now generally recognized that the name is Semitic in its origin. Where the name originated is likewise uncertain, but the indications point to ***Erech**, where we find the worship of **a great Sumerian mother-goddess** having no association with a male counterpart flourishing in the oldest period of Babylonian history. She appears under various names, among which are **Nana, Innanna, Nina** and **Anunit**. As early as the days of Khammurabi we find these various names which represented originally different goddesses, though **all manifest as the chief trait the life-giving power united in Ishtar**. Even when the older names are employed it is always **the great mother-goddess** who is meant. Ishtar is the one goddess in the pantheon who retains her independent position despite and

throughout all changes that the Babylonian-Assyrian religion undergoes."

* NOTE: Erech was built by Nimrod, the first great despot and city builder after the flood. (Gen. 10:10)

Alexander Hislop writes, "Then look at Easter. What means the term Easter itself? It is not a Christian name. **It bears its Chaldean origin on its very forehead. Easter is nothing else than Astarte**, one of the titles of **Beltis, the queen of heaven**, whose name, as pronounced by the people of Nineveh, was evidently identical with that now in common use in this country. **That name**, as found by Layard on the Assyrian monuments, is **Ishtar**. The worship of **Bel** and **Astarte** was very early introduced into Britain, along with the Druids, **'the priests of the groves,'**" *The Two Babylons*, p. 103.

Ishtar, Easter is the queen of heaven, a **virgin-mother goddess**. She was also known as the **great mother of the gods**.

What does Yahweh say about this queen of heaven? "Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to **the queen of heaven**, and to pour out drink offerings unto other elohim, that they may provoke Me to anger. Do they provoke Me to anger? saith Yahweh: do they not provoke themselves to the confusion of their own faces?" Jer. 7:17-19.

Jeremiah was furthermore inspired to warn, "The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews which dwell in the land of Egypt, which dwell at Migdol, and at Tahpanhes, and at Noph, and in the country of Pathros, saying, 'Thus saith Yahweh of hosts, the Elohim of Israel; Ye have seen all the evil that I have brought upon Jerusalem, and upon all the cities of Judah; and, behold, this day they *are* a desolation, and no man dwelleth therein, **Because of their wickedness which they have committed to provoke me to anger, in that they went to burn incense, and to serve other elohim, whom they knew not, neither they, ye, nor your fathers**. Howbeit I sent unto you all my servants the prophets, rising early and sending *them*, saying, 'Oh,

do not **this abominable thing that I hate**.' But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear to turn from their wickedness, **to burn no incense unto other elohim**. Wherefore my fury and mine anger was poured forth, and was kindled in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; and they are wasted *and* desolate, as at this day. Therefore now thus saith Yahweh, the Elohim of hosts, the Elohim of Israel; 'Wherefore commit ye *this* great evil against your souls, to cut off from you man and woman, child and suckling, out of Judah, to leave you none to remain; In that **ye provoke me unto wrath with the works of your hands, burning incense unto other elohim in the land of Egypt**, whither ye be gone to dwell, **that ye might cut yourselves off**, and that ye might be a curse and a reproach among all the nations of the earth? Have ye forgotten the wickedness of your fathers, and the wickedness of the kings of Judah, and the wickedness of their wives, and your own wickedness, and the

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wickedness of your wives, which they have committed in the land of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem? They are not humbled *even* unto this day, neither have they feared, nor walked in my law, nor in my statutes, that I set before you and before your fathers.' Therefore thus saith Yahweh of hosts, the Elohim of Israel; 'Behold, **I will set my face against you for evil**, and to cut off all Judah. And I will take the remnant of Judah, that have set their faces to go into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, and they shall all be consumed, *and* fall in the land of Egypt; they shall *even* be consumed by the sword *and* by the famine: they shall die, from the least *even* unto the greatest, by the sword and by the famine: and they shall be an execration, *and* an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach. For I will punish them that dwell in the land of Egypt, as I have punished Jerusalem,

by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: So that none of the remnant of Judah, which are gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall escape or remain, that they should return into the land of Judah, to the which they have a desire to return to dwell there: for none shall return but such as shall escape.' Then all the men which knew that their wives had burned incense unto other elohim, and all the women that stood by, a great multitude, even all the people that dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying, 'As *for* the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of Yahweh, we will not hearken unto thee. But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, **to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her**, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for *then* had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil. But since we left off **to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her**, we have wanted all *things*, and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine. And when **we burned incense to the queen of heaven, and poured out drink offerings unto her, did we make her cakes to worship her, and pour out drink offerings unto her**, without our men?' Then Jeremiah said unto all the people, to the men, and to the women, and to all the people which had given him *that* answer, saying, 'The incense that ye burned in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, ye, and your fathers, your kings, and your princes, and the people of the land, did not Yahweh remember them, and came it *not* into his mind? So that **Yahweh could no longer bear, because of the evil of your doings, and because of the abominations which ye have committed**; therefore is your land a desolation, and an astonishment, and a curse, without an inhabitant, as at this day. **Because ye have burned incense, and because ye have sinned against Yahweh**, and have not obeyed the voice of Yahweh, nor walked in his law, nor in his statutes, nor in his testimonies; therefore this

evil is happened unto you, as at this day.' Moreover Jeremiah said unto all the people, and to all the women, 'Hear the word of Yahweh, all Judah that *are* in the land of Egypt: Thus saith Yahweh of hosts, the Elohim of Israel, saying; 'Ye and your wives have both spoken with your mouths, and fulfilled with your hand, saying, 'We will surely perform our vows that we have vowed, **to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her:** ye will surely accomplish your vows, and surely perform your vows.' Therefore hear ye the word of Yahweh, all Judah that dwell in the land of Egypt; 'Behold, I have sworn by my great name, saith Yahweh, that my name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, 'Yahweh ELOHIM liveth.' Behold, I will watch over them for evil, and not for good: and all the men of Judah that *are* in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by the famine, until there be an end of them,'" Jer. 44:1-27.

The end result is that today's Christianity, even as the Jews described here, have erred concerning the faith and introduced Easter sunrise services which, in truth, is the worship of Ishtar, the queen of heaven, and her son Tammuz. These are the implements of an **idol shepherd**. They are an abomination to Yahweh and those who persist in this false abominable worship will suffer the same fate that the Jews did in Jeremiah's day.

THE TRUTH ABOUT EASTER

The *Encyclopedia Britannica* has this to say about the observance of Easter, "The annual festival observed throughout Christendom in commemoration of the resurrection of J-sus Chr-st. The name Easter, like the names of the days of the week, is **a survival from the old Teutonic mythology**. According to Bede (*De Temp. Rat.* c. XV.) it is derived from *Eostre*, or *Ostara*, the **Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring**, to whom the month answering to our April, and called *Eostur-monath*, was dedicated. This month, Bede says, was the same as the *mensis Paschalis*, 'when the old festival was observed with the gladness of a new solemnity.'

The root *pasch*, from which so many

other names for Easter are derived, is from the Hebrew *pisach* (**Passover**) from the verb form 'he passed over.'

There is no indication of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament, or in the writings of the apostolic Fathers. The sanctity of special times was an idea absent from the minds of the first Chr-stians, who continued to observe the Jewish festivals, though in a new spirit, as commemorations of events which those festivals had foreshadowed. Thus the Passover, with a new conception added to it of Chr-st as the true Paschal Lamb and the first fruits from the dead, continued to be observed, and became the Chr-stian Easter." (14th Edition, Vol. 7, pp 858-859)

The International Bible Standard Encyclopedia says, "**EASTER** (AV Acts 12:4). **An anachronistic mistranslation of the Gk. páscha** (RSV, NEB, 'Passover'), in which the AV followed such earlier versions as

**Alexander Hislop
reveals that December
25th was the day
appointed for the birth
of the son of the
Babylonian queen of
heaven.**

Tyndale and Coverdale. The Acts passage refers to the seven-day Passover festival (including the Feast of Unleavened Bread). It is reasonably certain that **the NT contains no reference to a yearly celebration of the resurrection of Chr-st.**

1. Origin of the Term.—The term Easter was derived from the Anglo-Saxon 'Eostre,' the name of the goddess of spring. In her honor sacrifices were offered at the time of the vernal equinox. **By the 8th cent. the term came to be applied to the anniversary of Chr-st's resurrection.**" (Vol. Two, p. 6)

Do the importance of these statements sink into your mind? None of the apostolic Fathers wrote about

nor did they observe Easter. The original true followers and believers of Yahshua continued to observe the festivals of Yahweh as commanded in Leviticus 23, which were foreshadows of things to come.

OTHER INSTRUMENTS OF AN IDOL SHEPHERD

I. CHRISTMAS

December 25 is an instrument of the foolish, idol shepherd. It is an easily proven fact that Yahshua, the TRUE MESSIAH, was not born anywhere near the time of December 25th. Luke says that there were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night, LK. 2:8. The winter was too severe for shepherds to tend their flocks by night. They would shut up their flocks at night in pens and corrals from October-November through April-May. The true facts prove that Yahshua was actually born between April-May through October-November, the exact opposite time of the year that is presently observed.

Anne Ross and Don Robins wrote, "Most of the great calendar feasts of the Celtic year were later placed under the protection of the church! Imbole was assigned to St. Brigit, Lughnasa became Lammas, the First Fruits festival (Pentecost); Samain was changed to All Saints Day (Halloween), and **the solstice feasts of midsummer and midwinter became St. John's Day and Christmas respectively,**" *The Life and Death of a Druid Prince*, p. 35.

Alexander Hislop reveals that December 25th was the day appointed for **the birth of the son of the Babylonian queen of heaven** (*The Two Babylons*, p. 90). He also reveals that it was observed by the Romans as *Natalis Invicti Solis*, **the birth-day of the unconquered sun.** (Ibid, p. 97)

Raymond Capt wrote, "When Christianity reached Britain, Druidism (Note: which is pagan Baal worship) merged with it." (*Stonehenge and Druidism*, p. 80)

When Christmas, December 25th, is celebrated as the birth day of Yahshua, it is a lie. A lie is opposite to the truth. December 25th falls in the opposite time of the year than when Yahshua was actually born. Yahshua said, "Elohim is Spirit: and they that

worship Him **must worship** Him in spirit and **in truth!**" Jn. 4:24). It is NOT POSSIBLE to worship Yahweh through a lie. He loves the truth. Lies deceive and kill.

II. SUNDAY

Sunday worship is another instrument of the false messiah or the idol shepherd. Sunday, or the day of the unconquered sun (*solis invicti*) was never commanded to be the day of worship by Yahweh.

Yahweh originally blessed and sanctified (set aside as holy) the seventh day (Gen. 2:1-3). Yahweh instituted the observance of the seventh day Sabbath into the 10 commandments at Sinai (Ex. 20:8-11).

An in-depth study of all Scripture, both Old and New Testaments will reveal that there is no Biblical authority to change the day of worship from the Sabbath to Sunday.

Here is what the Catholics declare concerning Sunday worship (emphasis will be ours):

- "Sunday is a Catholic institution, and its claims to observance can be defended only on Catholic principles...**From beginning to end of Scripture there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first.**" —*The Catholic Press*, Sydney, Australia, August, 1900.
- "Protestantism, in discarding the authority of the (Roman Catholic) Church, has no good reasons for its Sunday theory, and ought logically to keep Saturday as the Sabbath." —John Gilmary Shea, *American Catholic Quarterly Review*, January, 1883.
- "It is well to remind the Presbyterians, Bap**tists**, Methodist, and all other Christians, that the Bible does not support them anywhere in their observance of Sunday. **Sunday is an institution of the Roman Catholic Church, and those who observe the day observe a commandment of the Catholic Church.**" —Priest Brady, in an address, reported in Elizabeth, N.J. "News," March 18, 1903.
- "Ques. - Have you any other way of proving that the (Catholic) Church has power to institute Festivals of precept (to command holy days)?"

"Ans. - Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her: she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday the seventh day, **a change for which there is no Scriptural authority.**"

—Stephan Keenan, *A Doctrinal Catechism*, page 176.

- "Protestants...accept Sunday rather than Saturday as the day for public worship after the Catholic Church made the change...But the Protestant mind does not seem to realize that...in observing the Sunday, **they are accepting the authority of the spokesman for the church, the Pope.**" —Our Sunday Visitor, February 5, 1950.
- "If Protestants would follow the Bible, they should worship G-d on the Sabbath day. In keeping the Sunday they are following a law of the Catholic Church." —Albert Smith, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, replying for the Cardinal, in a letter, February 10,

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(Catholic) Church.**

1920.

- "It was the Catholic Church which, by the authority of J-sus Chr-st, has transferred this rest (from the Bible Sabbath) to the Sunday...Thus the observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the (Catholic) Church." —Monsignor Louis Segur, *Plain Talk about the Protestantism of Today*, page 213.
- "We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday."—Peter Geiermann, CSSR, *A Doctrinal Catechism*, 1957 edition, page 50.

Here is what the Protestants have to

say concerning Sunday worship:

- **Baptist:** "There was and is a command to keep holy the Sabbath day, but **that Sabbath day was not Sunday.** It will however be readily said, and with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day of the week, with all its duties, privileges and sanctions. Earnestly desiring information on this subject, which I have studied for many years, I ask, where can the record of such a transaction be found? Not in the New Testament—absolutely not. **There is no Scriptural evidence of the change of the Sabbath institution from the seventh to the first day of the week.**" —Dr. E. T. Hiscox, author of the *Baptist Manual*.
- **Baptist:** "The Scriptures nowhere call the first day of the week the Sabbath...There is no Scriptural authority for so doing, nor of course, any Scriptural obligation." —*The Watchman*.
- **Baptist:** "To me it seems unaccountable that J-sus, during three years' discussion with His disciples, often conversing with them upon the Sabbath question, discussing it in some of its various aspects, freeing it from its false (Jewish traditional) glosses, never alluded to any transference of the day; also, that during the forty days of His resurrection life, no such thing was intimated. Nor, so far as we know, did the Spirit, which was given to bring to their remembrance all things whatsoever that He had said unto them, deal with this question. Nor yet did the inspired apostles, in preaching the gospel, founding churches, counseling and instructing those founded, discuss or approach the subject.
"Of course I quite well know that Sunday did come into use in early Chr-stian history as a religious day, as we learn from the Christian Fathers and other sources. **But what a pity that it comes branded with the mark of Paganism, and christened with the name of the sun-god, then adopted and sanctified by the Papal apostasy, and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism.**" —Dr. E. T. Hiscox,

- **Southern Baptist:** "The sacred name of the Seventh day is Sabbath. This fact is too clear to require argument (Exodus 20:10 quoted)...On this point the plain teaching of the Word has been admitted in all ages...Not once did the disciples apply the Sabbath law to the first day of the week—that folly was left for a later age, nor did they pretend that the first day supplanted the seventh." — Joseph Judson Taylor, *The Sabbath Question*, pages 14-17, 41.
- **Congregationalist:** "It is quite clear that however rigidly or devotedly we may spend Sunday, **we are not keeping the Sabbath**...The Sabbath was founded on specific, divine command. **We can plead no such command for the observance of Sunday**...There is not a single line in the New Testament to suggest that we incur any penalty by violating the supposed sanctity of Sunday." — Dr. R. W. Dale, *The Ten Commandments*, pages 106-107.
- **Lutheran Free Church:** "For when there could not be produced one solitary place in the Holy Scriptures which testified that either the L-rd Himself or the apostles had ordered such a transfer of the Sabbath to Sunday, then it was not easy to answer the question: Who has transferred the Sabbath, and who has had the right to do it?" —George Sverdrup, *A New Day*.
- **Protestant Episcopal:** "The day is now changed from the seventh to the first day...but **as we meet with no Scriptural direction for the change**, we may conclude it was done by the authority of the church." —*Explanation of Catechism*.
- **Presbyterian:** "There is no word, no hint in the New Testament about abstaining from work on Sunday. The observance of Ash Wednesday, or Lent, stands exactly on the same footing as the observance of Sunday. **Into the rest of Sunday no Divine Law enters.**" —Canon Eyton, in *The Ten Commandments*.
- **Anglican:** "And where are we told in the Scriptures that we are to

keep the first day at all? We are commanded to keep the seventh; but **we are nowhere commanded to keep the first day.**" —Isaac Williams, *Plain Sermons on the Catechism*, pages 334, 336.

- **Disciples of Chr-st:** "There is no direct Scriptural authority for designating the first day 'the L-rd's Day.'" —Dr. D. H. Lucas, *Christian Oracle*, January, 1890.
- **Methodist:** "It is true that there is no positive command for infant baptism. **Nor is there any for keeping holy the first day of the week.** Many believe that Chr-st changed the Sabbath. But, from His own words, we see that He came for no such purpose. **Those who believe that J-sus changed the Sabbath base it only on a supposition.**" —Amos Binney, *Theological Compendium*, pages 180-181.
- **Episcopalian:** "We have made the change from the seventh day to the first day, from Saturday to Sunday, on the authority of the one holy, catholic apostolic church of Chr-st." —Bishop Symour, *Why We Keep Sunday*.



Mistletoe, a plant utilized as an instrument of the idol shepherd.

- **American Congregationalists:** "The current notion that Chr-st and His apostles authoritatively substituted the first day for the seventh, **is absolutely without any authority in the New Testament.**" —Dr. Layman Abbot, in the *Christian Union*, June 26, 1890.
- **Christian Church:** "Now there is no testimony in all the oracles of heaven that the Sabbath is changed, or that the L-rd's Day came in the room of it." —Alexander Campbell, in *The Reporter*, October 8, 1921.

The admission of so many witnesses concerning Sunday worship versus the Sabbath should be eye-opening to

any who read these testimonies. Sunday worship is an extract from paganism, idolatry, heathenism. It was never commanded to be observed by Yahweh. The seventh day Sabbath was commanded by Him. Sunday worship is an instrument of the idol shepherd.

III MISTLETOE

Another instrument through which Hesus or Yesu or Esus was worshipped was the mistletoe.

Mr. Capt writes, "Because mistletoe grew upon the oak, it became sacred to the Druids and was held symbolic of the coming Deliverer or "Branch." Mistletoe was known as the "All Heal," A title which bears a strange resemblance to the words of Malachi's concerning the "Sun" who should "rise with healing in His wings." (Mal. 4:2). This "Branch" was not only foretold by the prophets of ancient Israel but was sung also by the poets of classic antiquity. Virgil mentions "the golden branch," and Homer speaks of the "golden rod" or "branch." A parallel can be seen in the writings of three of the Old Testament prophets - Isaiah (11:1), Jeremiah (23:5; 33:15) and Zechariah (3:8; 6:12) - referring to the coming Messiah as "the Branch,"....."Hesus" or Yesu was the Supreme God whom they worshipped as the great "All-Heal" and they believed in Him as the "Saviour" of the world." (p.p. 78-79).

Alexander Hislop also has this to say about the mistletoe in his book entitled "*The Two Babylons*," "Let the reader look at the singular practice still kept up in the South on Christmaseve, of kissing under the mistletoe bough. That mistletoe bough in the Druidic superstition, which, as we have seen, was derived from Babylon, was a representation of the Messiah, "The man the branch." The mistletoe was regarded as a divine branch - a branch that came from heaven, and grew upon a tree that sprang out of the earth. Thus by the engrafting of the celestial branch into the earthly tree, heaven and earth, that sin had severed, were joined together, and thus the mistletoe bough became the token of Divine reconciliation to man, the kiss being the well-known token of pardon and reconciliation," (p.p. 98-99).

All of this sounds so right, so true

because Yahshua is "The Man the Branch." He did come down from heaven. He is the One Who heals us of all our infirmities. He is the Saviour, Deliverer, the Mediator, the One Who reconciles us to Yahweh.

The mistletoe, however, proves to be an implement, an instrument of a foolish (worthless) shepherd for it is spread by bird dung. It is a parasite. Its berries are poisonous! Yahshua is clean, holy, pure undefiled. There is nothing clean about dung. Dung symbolizes idolatry.

The mistletoe, a parasite, lives off of its host, sucking, robbing the tree of the life-giving sap that flows to its branches. It will eventually kill the natural tree branch taking its place as an unnatural branch. Yahshua does not live off of us as a parasite. We, rather, must live off of, by Him. We must eat and drink of Him if we are to live forever.

The mistletoe is poisonous. Yahshua is life-giver, not life-taker. His doctrines are for light, life, love truth, peace, joy unspeakable. The engrafting of the mistletoe kills. The engrafting of Yahshua through the Holy Spirit imparts life. An holy "kiss" from Yahshua does impart reconciliation, but a "kiss" under the mistletoe is for adultery, idolatry and death!

Mistletoe IS NOT an instrument given to Israel by Yahweh for the purpose of worship in truth. It is an idea or dream of the false prophets (Jer. 23:25-27) concocted through philosophy, vain deceit in the mind of man under Satan's sway, who hates Yahweh and stands ready to corrupt and pollute everything that is holy, precious and clean.

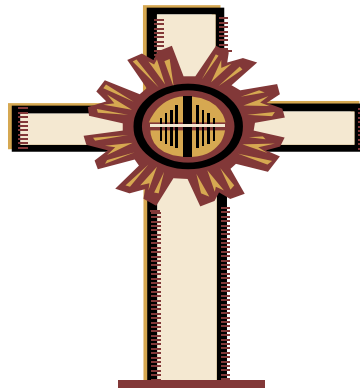
IV THE CROSS

One of the major images of Baal worship was the cross. We have read Mr. Capt's report on how the Druids would select an oak tree having two branches forming a cross. They would then consecrate the cross by cutting characters for they word "Hesus," spelled "Yesu," upon the right branch. "Taranus" was carved in the middle and "Belenus" on the left branch. Over them all was the word "Than" meaning God (p. 78).

Alexander Hislop says, "The cross was originally no Christian emblem at all, but was the mystic Tau of the

Chaldeans and Egyptians - the true original form of the letter T - the initial of Tammuz." (p. 197). Hislop also says, "But when it is considered that the Buddhist, like the Babylonian cross, was the recognized emblem of Tammuz, who was known as the mistletoe branch, or "All-Heal" then it is easy to see how the "sacred initial" should be represented as covered with leaves, and how Rome in adopting it, should call it the "Medicine which preserves the healthful, heals the sick, and does what mere human power alone could never do." (*The Two Babylons*, p. 201). The Tau was the sacred symbol of Osiris of Egypt, Budda of China, the deity of rain to the Mexican Indians, Tammuz of Babylon, etc. Tammuz was also known as Marduk and Bel to the Babylonians. Bel is the Baal of the Phoenicians or Sidonians of Canaan.

The *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 14 th



One of the major images of Baal worship was the cross.

Edition has this to say about Tammuz; He was the Sumerian, Babylonian and Assyrian deity who died and rose annually with dying and reviving vegetation, originally "Dumu-zi," "the son who rises, goes forth (from the nether world," but generally interpreted "faithful son".....The interpretation as "the son who rises," "the resurrected child,".....it is clear, that the main principle of this cult is the resurrection of the dying god."

There are many titles of the youthful god, loved by his sister, the earth and heaven goddess, Innini (Ishtar), who descends yearly into Aralu (under-world) at the time of his death to bring him back to earth in her bosom.

The liturgical wailings for Tammuz during the period of his sojourn in aralu are numerous and describe every aspect of the theological

doctrines concerning him. (article "Tammuz," Vol. 21, p.p. 776-777).

What we have just read here is the description of what is observed today as "Lent," the fasting, wailing period of 40 days culminating in Easter sunrise services in which Ishtar has descended into the dark nether world (the period before sunrise) and brings the dead deity back to life (symbolized by the sunrise itself).

Yahweh strongly condemns this worship in the book of Ezekiel, chapter 8, "Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do.' Then He brought me to the door of the gate of Yahweh's house which was toward the north; and behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz. (Lent). And He brought me into the inner court of Yahweh's house, and behold, at the door of the temple of Yahweh, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of Yahweh, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east. (Easter [Ishtar] sun-rise services). Then He said unto me, 'Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke Me to anger: and lo, they put the branch to My nose," v.v. 14-18. (Note: The KJV renders "their nose" but Bullinger states that the primitive text read "My nose.")

The cross, a branch of a tree to the Druids (Israel), represented Tammuz in Babylonian worship while to the Druids "Yesu" (Jesus) was represented. The cross representing Jesus, would symbolize him as the "BRANCH." It also must be the image of jealousy spoken of in Ez. 8:3-5.

To be continued.....

THE MESSIAH, TORAH, AND ME

PART III

By Matthew Armstrong

THE UNBEARABLE YOKE

**See related Scriptures below.*

Continuing on we come to another very controversial scripture that must be tackled, however painful it might be.

10 Now therefore why tempt ye Yahweh, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? 11 But we believe that through the grace of the Sovereign Yahshua the Messiah we shall be saved, even as they.

Now to say that the yoke that Peter was talking of was the torah sounds very harsh and almost blasphemous to those who have been taught that we are to keep and uphold torah in it's covenant sense. I understand, as I once felt the same way. So instead of making torah out to be this big bad oppressor, let me first say this:

Torah was a gift from Elohim with the pure intent of "giving life." Torah in and of itself is "holy, just, and good." Man tends to be corrupt, and fleshly, stiff-necked and disobedient. Even though Israel was set apart as Yahweh's people, they were still of "Man," of Adam ("adam" is Hebrew for "man"). So with the giving of the holy, just, and good torah, which was designed to "give life," Adam (man) was given another chance to obey YHWH's commands and live. However, just as there was a curse for breaking YHWH'S commands that were given through Moses, as Adam disobeyed in the garden, resulting in a curse, so Adamic Israel disobeyed the torah, resulting in a curse. This is the story of Israel and her relationship to torah. That which was ordained to give life, instead brought curse, exile, and death (Rom. 7:10). In fact, most Jews during the 1st Century believed they were presently under the curse of torah (Lev. 26:17), as they were still in theological exile (4 Ezra, Qumran tests) even though they had returned to the land from the Babylonian exile. Due to the fact of the Gentiles ruling over them, many felt that the exile was not over, and rightfully so. **The Hebrews, as a whole, recognized their many historical woes as resulting from their failure to "keep" torah.** Many texts from the second temple period reveal this underlying theological

understanding (you must spend time to research this yourself, don't just take my word for it). This inadequacy of "adamic man" to fully keep torah has found it's self-destructive tendencies most at home in the curse of Deut. 27:26. This is the verse that Paul quotes when he says in Galatians, "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them." Torah was given so that Israel could be an example unto the nations, Yahweh's true humanity. It was given so that, by doing Torah, man could live (Lev. 18:5, Ez. 20:11-13). This did not happen. Israel

*Man tends to be corrupt,
and fleshly, stiffnecked
and disobedient.*

never performed the role that Yah intended. Torah was never fully kept and has never given life. Is it because of torah? No. It is because of Adamic Man. And Yah knew in His Sovereignty that this would be the result. Torah was necessary for His great plan of salvation, "What torah could not do (give life), being powerless in the flesh, Yahweh has done through His Son." Praise Him!

Gal. 3:21-22, "Is the law then against the promises of Yahweh? Yahweh forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Y'shua the Messiah might be given to them that believe.

The reality is, while many modern day believers look earnestly towards the zealousness to be found in "keeping" torah, the implications of all its curses are not taken as seriously, if taken at all. It is from this angle that we are blinded from seeing how someone as Hebrew as Peter, someone who had seen first hand the (negative/good) effects of torah on man, could actually speak of necessary torah

observance as being "a yoke" while also maintaining that torah is essentially holy, just, and good.

With that said, I believe that the best way to find out what Peter is talking about when he mentions "a yoke" is to look at the text itself. What clues does he leave us with? What relationship does the question of circumcision and torah have to the yoke? What makes the best sense with what Peter has already said?

Peter does not come right out and say what the yoke he is referring to is. However, if we look closely to what he says in verse 10, I believe there are a couple of clues that speak quite clearly as to what he may mean.

10 Now therefore why tempt ye Yahweh, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

We see that the yoke in verse 10 is surrounded by two clues: 1. Why tempt ye Yahweh... 2. Neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

At the beginning of the verse he says, "... why tempt ye Yahweh." First, we must realize who he is talking to when he says "ye." It is clear that his testimony is opposing the party that caused the dispute. Now, in what way could these men be tempting Yahweh?

Let's back up a little....

8 And Yahweh, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Spirit, even as He did unto us; 9 and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. 10 Now therefore why tempt ye Yahweh, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

Remembering that the context of the controversy is found in verse 5 is crucial in understanding what Peter is considering as "a yoke." It is after Peter proclaims that Yahweh, giving gentiles the Holy Spirit, 'put no difference between us and them...', that he then asks the question, "Now therefore why tempt ye Yahweh..."

Were these Pharisees putting difference between themselves and the gentiles because they, the gentiles, were not circumcised and keeping torah? Look again at what these believing Pharisees said in

**“Yahweh hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.”
Acts 10:15, 28.**

Now looking at the last part of verse 10 we find, “..which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?” With regards to the yoke, what was it that they nor their father were able to bear? Well, it could be a lot of things if we take the question out of its context. But within what Peter has been arguing, within the question of the “apostolic council,” and within the context of the 1st century; what was it that “neither our fathers nor we” were able to bear? As I have already outlined above, I believe it is none other than “necessary covenantal torah observance.”

The significance of the newly developing “new covenant” and its meaning, with the preaching of the kingdom of Elohim, the resurrection of the Messiah, the forgiveness of sins, outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Ruach ha’Kodesh) on both Jew and uncircumcised Gentile, was just beginning to be understood and realized. This was a new thing happening in Israel. The immediate implications of which caused the

Amongst those that believe in “keeping” the law, there are generally three answers, besides the one that I am proposing, that are most common when dealing with the question: What is the yoke Peter is speaking of in Acts 15:10? One is that the yoke is keeping torah and circumcision for salvation. This idea, I think, has been shown to be flawed by the false separation between “necessary torah observance” and torah observance “for salvation,” especially within the context of 1st century Judaism. Jews of the 1st century did not believe in works of salvation, i.e. torah observance for salvation. They did however, believe that torah observance was

necessary as a response to being saved (entering covenant). Jews never believed that torah was their source of salvation. The argument and question of Acts 15 must be seen in this light. This is how both ideas are not mutually exclusive. Torah observance “for salvation,” from the hebraic perspective, is in reality the same as “necessary torah observance.” Does that make sense? I hope I made that clear enough.

The remaining two ideas about what the yoke that “neither our fathers nor we were able to bear” are both groundless. The first being adult circumcision, the second being the oral torah. Though adult circumcision would be hard to bear it makes no sense within the context of Acts 15. Not only that, circumcising grown men was totally scriptural as (Gen. 17) Abraham and all his company was circumcised as well as (Josh. 5:2-7) the children of Israel that passed over the river Jordan, both are

The last fairly popular answer to the yoke is that it is the “oral torah.” While much can be said to make this option *sound* good, the clear interpretation of Acts 15:5 is that the issue at hand is circumcision and the torah of Moses. I can not see any other way to read what the text clearly says. By specifically saying, “the law of Moses,” the interpretation is hammered down pretty tight. If these believing Pharisees would have just said, “the law” then I could see reason to question what exactly they meant by “law.” Also, note the fact that the “oral torah” is referred to elsewhere as the “tradition of the elders.”

The curse has its life in torah, though torah itself is Holy. Sin has its strength in Torah, though the law is just in showing us our sins (..the sting of death is SIN, and the strength of sin is the Law). The current oppression the Jews felt was due to torah, and their inability to keep it. It was the just judgments of the torah that brought wrath rather than blessing.

Acts 10:34-35 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that Yahweh is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

Dan. 9:10-14, "To Yahweh our Elohim
belong mercies and forgivenesses,
C o n t i n u e d o n p a g e

WHO IS ON THE CROSS?

The modern day Christian world has been led to not only revere the cross, but to make pictures, images, etc. of the Savior on the cross. But just who is really being depicted on the it?

By Jerry Healan

It is obvious according to the Scriptures that Yahshua was hung on a tree which probably was in the form of a cross. The Greek word for cross is "stauros." Stauros is defined as, from the base of 2476; **a stake** or **post** (as set upright), i.e. (specially), **a pole** or **cross** (as an instrument of capital punishment). Because of the words "stake" or "post," some have been led to deny that Yahshua was hung on a cross, since the cross was originally an Egyptian symbol for life called an "ankh." It was also a symbol utilized by the ancient worshippers of Tammuz. (See accompanying figures.)

The common teaching among the assemblies and some churches is that Yahshua was hung on an upright stake or pole with his arms stretched upward above his head, not out on a crossbar. However, we must remember that a crossbar of sorts was attached to the pole or tree by Pilate who wrote in Hebrew, Greek and Latin "Yahshua of Nazareth the King of the Jews."

Interestingly, there is a mineral that exists in nature called "starolite." The word "starolite" comes from a combination of two Greek words "**stauros**" and "lithos." It means "stone cross." (Please see the accompanying figure.) Thus, the very name attached to this mineral reveals that "stauros" does mean "cross."

Another interesting item is that Yahshua came to finish a work that was begun by Moses and the Israelites, but failed in its perfect application and completion. When Yahshua hung on the tree, just before He died, He declared, "It is finished," Jn. 19:30. Yahshua completed the work that the Father gave to Him for He prayed, "I have glorified Thee on the earth; I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do," Jn. 17:4.

When Yahshua appeared to John as written in the book of Revelation, Yahshua declared that He was the "Aleph and Tau." (Rev. 21:6). The Aleph is the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet while the Tau is the last letter. This represents Yahshua as the first and last, the beginning and ending. The "tau" in the original ancient Hebrew alphabet looked like an "X" or also a "+" (cross). Thus, Yahshua hanging on a cross (tau) would have represented the finishing of a work as well as the bringing to an end one system in order that

a new system could arise.

According to the Scriptures, it is evident that the covenant the Yahweh made with Israel through Moses had failed and was being brought to an end. Yahshua was the only man who was able to fulfill it in its entirety to Yahweh's satisfaction. Yahshua's fulfillment of the covenant caused the way to be made for a New Covenant based on better promises (Jer. 31:31-34, Heb. 8).

THE CROSS BEARER

It is also obvious from the accounts in the evangels that in Yahshua's night of agony, the whole group was very tired for Yahshua would go away to pray privately and when He did so and return, He would find the disciples asleep. He was taken into custody by the Jewish authorities who questioned, mocked and beat Him. When the morning came, they took Him to Pilate who sent Him first to Herod. Herod's soldiers mocked and beat Him and re-



*The ancient Egyptian
"Ankh" symbol of life.*

turned Him to Pilate. Pilate, seeking to please the people, committed Yahshua to his soldiers who also scourged, mocked and beat Him. He was then led out to Golgotha to His execution. Yahshua had to have been beyond the point of exhaustion.

When finished with the beatings, mockings, etc., they led Him away to crucify Him. Matthew writes, "And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear His cross," 27:32.

According to "*A History of Heresy*" by David Christie-Murray, the Gnostics taught, "...that Jesus was not crucified but that Simon of Cyrene, who was compelled to carry the cross, was transfigured into the

likeness of Christ and was crucified instead. Jesus was given the appearance of Simon and, standing by, laughed at the mistaken Romans and Jews." (p. 25)

In his book "*Realm Of The Holy Grail*" Laurence Gardner not only focuses on this same account of Simon and Jesus, but reveals that the belief among the royalty of Europe, especially those descended from the Merovingian line, was that Jesus and Mary Magdalene married and had children, and they were their descendants. Thus, the throne and the kingdom of heaven belonged to them.

Whether you want to believe this or not, the fact of the matter is that when Constantine the Great entered into the body of believers in the fourth century, he, being the emperor of the Roman Empire (the great and dreadful and terrible beast of Daniel 7), and Pontifex Maximus over all paganism, also became Pontifex Maximus over this newfound faith now called Christianity. The body of believers would now follow the dictates of the princes, rulers and leaders of this world.

Once the royalty and leaders gained control over the faith, they enforced their belief on all of their subjects. These were the actions of Constantine the Great who declared Sunday to be the day of worship rather than the Sabbath and also enforced Easter and Christmas observance rather than the annual holy day cycle instituted by Yahweh. If anyone believed or taught differently than what the emperors, kings, etc., believed and taught, they were branded an heretic and were persecuted, tortured and in many cases, put to death. Take, for instance, Roger William's (founder of Providence, Rhode Island) friend Dr. Alexander Leighton, a Puritan. Because of Dr. Leighton's Puritanical faith, King Charles I banished him to life imprisonment, imposed a heavy fine, defrocked him, had him publicly whipped, cut off his ears, split his nose on both sides and branded SS (for "Sower of Sedition") on his face. (*Libronix Digital Library System*)

Yahweh decrees, "It is better to trust in Yahweh than to put confidence in man. **It is better to trust in Yahweh than to put confidence in princes.**" Psa. 118:8-9. He also declared, "**The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against Yahweh, and against His Anointed,** saying, 'Let us break their bands

asunder, and cast away their cords from us," Psalms 2:2-3.

Remember also that it was King James who had the modern day English Bible made available to the public, but who also had the true names of the Heavenly Father Yahweh and His beloved and Anointed Son Yahshua replaced with the terms "the LORD," "God," "Jesus," etc.

Therefore, it is no small wonder that they would replace Yahshua on the cross with one Simon of Cyrene later changing his name to that of Jesus which is equivalent to the Druidic and Greek deity Hesus/Iesous.

SIMON OF CYRENE

Matthew 27:32, Mark 15:21 and Luke 23:36 are not only narratives of the physical event that took place, but they are parables, hidden mysteries for the Bible student to search out and discover. Yahshua came speaking in parables in order to keep the true meanings of things of the kingdom of heaven hidden from all but His own disciples (Matthew 13:10-17).

Also, in the book of Proverbs 25:2 we read, "It is the glory of Elohim to conceal a thing; but the honor of kings is to search out the matter."

There are things about this proverb that the eye simply doesn't pick up on when reading this verse in the English. The Hebrew language reveals things somewhat differently. For instance, the word "glory," when written in reference to Elohim is translated from the Hebrew word "kabowd." However, this same word, "kabowd" is also utilized in reference to kings, but is translated as "honor." In other words, the reading is, "It is the glory (kabowd) of Elohim to conceal a thing; but the honor (kabowd) of kings is to search out the matter." Notice that the Hebrew language would attribute the same word to Elohim or kings (kabowd/glory), but the English will give "glory" to Elohim, but only "honor" to kings.

The same situation applies to another Hebrew word utilized in this verse. The words "thing" and "matter" are both translated from the Hebrew word "dabar." To clarify, let's add the Hebrew word to the verse, "It is the glory (kabowd) of Elohim to conceal a thing (**dabar**): but the honor (kabowd) of kings is to search out the matter (**dabar**)."

Interestingly, the Hebrew word "dabar" is the very word that is utilized for the word "word." In Psalms 33:4 and 6 we read, "For the Word (**dabar**) of Yahweh is right; and all His works are done in truth....By the Word (**dabar**) of Yahweh were the heavens

made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth."

Therefore, in Proverbs 25:2 it would be correct to render it thusly, "It is the glory of Elohim to conceal *the (or His) Word*: but the glory of kings is to search out *the Word*."

In other words, Yahweh conceals things in His word. It is His glory, honor and privilege to do so. But those who will be kings should search into His word to find out those hidden things. It is to their glory and honor to do so.

But what about the kings, princes and leaders of this present world? Paul writes, "But we speak the wisdom of Yahweh in a mystery, *even the hidden wisdom*, which Yahweh ordained before the world unto our glory: which **none of the princes of this world knew**: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Sovereign of glory," 1 Corinthians 2:7-8.

Look at that verse again! Paul verifies Proverbs 25:2 by saying that Yahweh has hidden His wisdom in a mystery! We can even determine that the present day kings,



Tammuz and his cross symbols. (Taken from Hislop's "The Two Babylons.")

princes and leaders aren't even true kings, princes and leaders in Yahweh's eyes because they aren't searching Yahweh's word for the wisdom that is hidden there. Yes, they do have their own particular glory (kabowd), but it isn't the glory of Yahweh.

The true kings are those who search the word (dabar) of Yahweh. But even then there are conditions for Paul continues, "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things (words/dabarim?) of Yahweh knoweth no man, but the Spirit of Yahweh," verse 11. Wasn't it by the word (dabar) of Yahweh that the heavens were made? (Psalms 33:6). "And all the host of them by the breath (ruach/spirit) of His mouth?" (Ibid).

Therefore Paul says, "...even so the things

of Yahweh knoweth no man, but the Spirit of Yahweh. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of Yahweh; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of Yahweh. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Spirit teacheth; comparing spiritual things (dabar - im?) with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of Yahweh: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned," verses 11-14.

Now, let's look at this name Simon of Cyrene. In the Greek it is Simon **Kurenaios**. Let's compare another name found in Scripture, "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

2 (And this taxing was first made when **Cyrenius** was governor of Syria)," Luke 2:1-2.

Notice this name and the Greek definition for it in the Greek Lexicon of *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*, **Kurenios**, of Latin origin; Cyrenius (i.e. **Quirinus**), a Roman.

Cyrene, Kurenaios and Kurenios would all be derivatives of the same Latin word "Quirinus!" The Roman governor Cyrenius/Quirinus was named after a Roman deity of the name Quirinus! *The Encyclopedia Britannica*, 14th Edition, Volume 18, p. 856 has this to say about Quirinus, "Quirinus was the third (after Jupiter and Mars) of the purely Roman gods. The name Quirinus is adjectival in form, and it would seem to mean 'he of *quirium*,' a word generally taken since Niebuhr to signify a very ancient Sabine settlement which united with the Palatine community to form the original Rome; but it may well mean 'assembly', and therefore the god may be 'he of the assembly or assembled host.' The identification, in the last century of the republic, of Quirinus with the defied Romulus has greatly obscured his real nature, but we know he resembled Mars (q.v.), had a flamen, the third in rank of the greater flamines, and a college of Salii. His temple lay on the *Collis Quirinalis*, and his festival, the Quirinalia was on Feb. 17. Associated with him in cult were a goddess, Hora, and certain minor deities, the *Virites Quirini*."

The same encyclopedia identifies Romulus as the god Quirinus in an article about him (Vol. 19). He had a twin brother named Remus. They were the sons of Mars by the Vestal Rhea Silvia or Ilia, daughter of Numitor, who had been dis-

possessed of the throne of Alba by his younger brother Amulius. They were placed in a trough and cast into the Tiber by their grand-uncle. The trough grounded in the marshes where Rome afterwards stood, under the wild fig tree (*Ficus Ruminalis*), which was still holy in later days. They were suckled by a she-wolf, fed by a woodpecker, etc. They became leaders of a warlike band of shepherds. Later a quarrel broke out between them and Romulus slew Remus. (pp. 521-522)

Mars and his sacred beast, the wolf, are introduced on account of the great importance of this cult. The localities described are ancient sacred places; the **Lupercal**, near the *ficus ruminalis*, was naturally explained as the she-wolf's den. (*IBID*)

(NOTE: Valentine's day was originally the Lupercalia. It is now observed on Feb. 14th rather than the 17th.)

According to the article, the story is of Greek influence. But do you notice the similarities to Biblical passages? Moses was set adrift in an ark made by his mother in order to save his life. The twins, Romulus and Remus, were set adrift in a trough. The brothers quarreled with Romulus slaying Remus. This fits the pattern of Cain and Abel.

Romulus reigned Rome until he disappeared in a storm. He was thereafter worshipped as a god under the name Quirinus. The name Romulus (= *Romanus*, cp. The forms *Siculus* and *Sicanus*) means simply 'Roman'." (*IBID*)

The Romans were the ones who crucified Yahshua. They removed His cross from His shoulders and placed it upon Simon Kurenaios! The kings, emperors, rulers, etc. secretly taught that the Savior wasn't the one who perished on the cross, but rather Simon Kurenaios. They were in the process of casting Yahweh and His Anointed behind and replacing them with their own deities and brand of worship!

ISAIAH'S WITNESS

"Thus saith the Yahweh Elohim of hosts, Go, get thee unto this treasurer, even unto Shebna, which is over the house, and say,

16 What hast thou here? and whom hast thou here, that thou hast hewed thee out a sepulchre here, as he that heweth him out a sepulchre on high, and that graveth an habitation for himself in a rock?

17 Behold, Yahweh will carry thee away with a mighty captivity, and will surely cover thee.

18 He will surely violently turn and toss thee like a ball into a large country: there shalt thou die, and there the chariots of thy

glory shall be the shame of thy lord's house.

19 And I will drive thee from thy station, and from thy state shall he pull thee down.

20 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah:

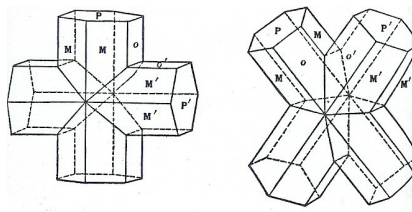
21 And I will clothe him with thy robe, and strengthen him with thy girdle, and I will commit thy government into his hand: and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah.

22 And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.

23 And I will fasten him as a nail in a sure place; and he shall be for a glorious throne to his father's house.

24 And they shall hang upon him all the glory of his father's house, the offspring and the issue, all vessels of small quantity, from the vessels of cups, even to all the vessels of flagons.

25 In that day, saith Yahweh of hosts, shall the nail that is fastened in the sure



Stauroilite, a mineral found in nature. Its name is derived from the Greek words Stauros and Lithos meaning "Stonecross." (Taken from Ency. Brit. 14th Ed., Vol. 21, p. 348.)

place be removed, and be cut down, and fall; and the burden that was upon it shall be cut off: for Yahweh hath spoken it," 22:15-25.

Now we need to analyze these verses. This Shebna is treasurer over the house. Which house? The Hebrew word for house is "bayith" which is also translated as "temple." Which temple?

"Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

3 If so be ye have tasted that Yahweh is gracious.

4 ¶ To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of Elohim, and precious,

5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to Yahweh by Yahshua the Messiah.

6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of Yahweh: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy," 1 Pet. 2:1-10.

In today's world, those who trust in, rely on, worship and serve Yahweh through Yahshua the Savior are the stones which are built into the temple. Therefore, the treasurer, the head over the house or temple is the One Who is the true Savior. Now, there are those who are built into a great house or temple of worship in today's world whose treasurer is Jesus Christ. The followers, the stones of the temple are called Christians.

Let's notice another item that is declared here. Yahweh says He is going to remove Shebna and replace him with Eliakim the son of Hilkiah. He says that the nail that is fastened in a sure place will be removed, cut down and fall and that He will fasten Eliakim as a nail in a sure place.

The Hebrew word for "nail" is "yathed" which has to do with a nail, peg or STAKE! Notice that it says this Shebna has hewn out a sepulchre as he that has hewn out a sepulchre on high (Isa. 22:16). The Hebrew word for "on high" is "marowm (מָרוֹם)!" Many times when the Hebrew letter "mem" (מ) is the first letter of the word, it carries the idea of the words "from," "of," etc. In this case the translators have utilized it to mean the word "on." However, the rest of the Hebrew word is translated as "high" but the letters are מָרוֹם (rowm or Rome)! The name of the city Rome means "high place!"

Again, it was Constantine the Great who feigned repentance, entered the corrupted remnants of New Testament believers and once received, took over declaring himself

as its Pontifex Maximus (high priest). Constantine was the head of the Roman Empire, the fourth kingdom of Daniel chapter 2 and the fourth beast of Daniel chapter 7. He was a great prince of this world, but even though he understood the mysteries of paganism, being also Pontifex Maximus over all paganism, he couldn't understand the mysteries of the true Messiah Yahshua, the mysteries of Yahweh for those mysteries are only revealed to those who have the Holy Spirit of Yahweh.

GOVERNMENTAL TRANSFER

Notice that Yahweh declares to Shebna He will place his (Shebna's) government into the hands of Eliakim. This is what the *Encyclopedia Britannica* 14th Edition declares of Constantine, "It has been said by Stanley that Constantine was entitled to be called 'Great' in virtue rather of what he did than of what he was; and it is true that neither his intellectual nor his moral qualities were such as to earn the title. His claim to greatness rests mainly on the fact that **he divined the future which lay before Christianity, and determined to enlist it in the service of his empire**, and also on his achievement in completing the work begun by Aurelian and Diocletian, by which the quasi-constitutional monarchy or 'principate' of Augustus was transformed into the naked absolutism sometimes called the 'dominate'." (Vol. 6, pp. 298-299)

John the Baptist and Yahshua began to declare the overthrow of this world's kings, leaders and governmental systems in favor of the government of the coming kingdom of heaven. After Yahshua was resurrected He commissioned His 12 disciples as apostles and sent them throughout the world to proclaim the good news of the coming kingdom of heaven. This newfound faith began to grow by leaps and bounds. But those in power hated the message and the messengers. They were first persecuted by the Jewish leaders who were jealously guarding their own power and control over their own people. The Pharisees and Sadducees (especially the Pharisees) were exalted to Moses' seat (Mt. 23). John and Yahshua prophesied of their demise. They lashed out in bitterness and hatred against them and their followers. They are the ones who instigated Yahshua's death and the subsequent persecutions against the apostles and followers of Yahshua.

The Roman leaders and emperors looked upon the upheaval taking place in Judaism with amusement and as only being

a Jewish problem until many of their own soldiers and followers began to convert to this newfound way of life and faith in the mighty Elohim of the Hebrews, His Son and their governmental power and control. Now their power and influence was being threatened. They began to wage war against Yahshua's saints.

This author has identified Augustus Caesar as the little horn of Daniel chapter seven. He began a dynasty that held sway and power over the Roman Empire. The power of the Caesars included both civil and ecclesiastical control. Those of his dynasty made war against the saints and prevailed against them. The Romans battled the saints with swords and spears. The saints battled with the power and words of the Spirit. In the physical world, the Romans prevailed against the saints, but in the spiritual realm the saints were winning the battle because the more severe the persecutions, the greater the numbers grew.

Then came Constantine. This author has identified him as the little horn of Daniel chapter eight. Constantine, according to man's history, repented and embraced the new faith. It looked like the saints had gained the victory, but the enemy had the mind of the ancient Greeks who battled against the city of Troy and couldn't overcome them until they feigned defeat and left a horse dedicated to the Trojan's vic-

Caesar and all of the subsequent kings of the earth dictated what the believers would believe and do.

tory filled with Greek soldiers. The Trojans had a huge drinking orgy, which while they were sleeping it off, the Greeks descended from the belly of the horse, opened the gates of the city to the rest of the Greek army and Troy ceased to exist.

Constantine understood the history of the wars and persecutions against the faith. He appeared to have conceded victory to them, feigned repentance, entered into their midst and then took control over them. The results on the New Testament Assembly were just as disastrous as the results against Troy.

Constantine enlisted this newfound faith in the service of his empire. His empire was the great and dreadful fourth beast of Daniel chapter seven, the Roman Empire. He flattered the Christian leaders by exempting them from taxes and service in the army. He placed them in governmental

offices. The Roman beast had become the kingdom of heaven on earth. Christ was the KING and is still proclaimed as the KING. But the real king was hidden behind all of the religious pomp. The real king was Caesar. Caesar and all of the subsequent kings of the earth dictated what the believers would believe and do. The European Christian kings sent their armies throughout the world to subdue it and bring it under their power.

The kings, rulers and leaders of the world have taken the true Savior down from the cross and replaced Him with a Greek, Latin, Druidic savior. This current savior that the world depicts on the cross, stake, nail, peg is identified as Shebna in Isaiah. He is currently served under the name Jesus Christ. He will soon be taken down from that stake and the true Savior will be restored to His glory and honor. The government will be taken from Shebna (Jesus Christ) and transferred to the One to Whom it belongs, Yahshua the Messiah, the true Son of Elohim. May Yahweh speed that day!

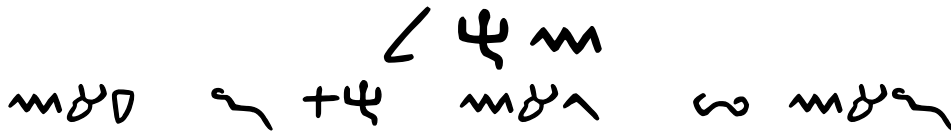


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In this study we will explore a reason for Yahshua's sojourn on this earth that has been mainly overlooked but is crucial to our full understanding of our Messiah and His great act of agape love on our behalf. To begin we will cover some scriptures that are very familiar to most of us but necessary to lead us to this understanding.

By Elder Dave Ganton

Genesis 1:26-27 Tells us that we are made in the image of our creator. All bible students know this scripture but most don't understand it fully. This is because they believe the fallacy of the term g-d. This denotes "one." Elohim denotes plurality. Without this plurality we cannot get the true picture of who our creator is. (There is a singular of the word Elohim. It is Eloah. Yahweh did not inspire Moses to use this word. He inspired the plural, Elohim.) There is a good reason for this.

Our true creator is identified in the evangel of John which cannot be properly grasped as it appears in our modern translations with the singular term G-D. We will turn there and read it, as it would appear with the original Hebrew terms that John would have used. **John 1:1-3** In the beginning was the Dabar, and the Dabar was with Elohim, and the Dabar was Elohim. 2 He was in the beginning with Elohim; 3 **all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.**

(Dabar is the Hebrew equivalent to the Greek, Logos. Both translate to English as "Word". They are both nouns and can also be understood as "Spokesman")

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. **Hebrews 1:2** but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. (RSV)

Micah 5:2 "But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days". All of these scriptures tell us that our great Messiah pre-existed with the Father and was the agent of creation. Understanding this concept of the pre-existence of Yahshua is crucial. He was a glorified, all-powerful being subject only to the Father. **John 17:5** These few brief scriptures will set the stage for this study.

MAIN PURPOSE OF YAHSHUA COMING TO EARTH

It is generally understood that Yahshua came to this earth as a human being to offer Himself as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Most will agree that He also came to reveal the Father, whom mankind had never seen or known. **Luke 10:22** "All things have been delivered to me by my Father; and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and any one to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." **John 6:46** Not that any one has seen the Father except him who is from Elohim; he has seen the Father. **John 1:18** No one has ever seen Elohim; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known. **John 5:37** And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness to me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen;

ELOHIM MADE IN MAN'S IMAGE

The purpose of this study is to show that we have given up nothing in comparison to what Yahshua gave up for us.

There is another reason that He came to this earth that is not generally recognized but it is crucial to the complete understanding of our Messiah, and the great sacrifice He made on our behalf. As an aside here I will relate a story about a gentleman who was converted to this way of life some years ago. Whenever we got together he would make it a point to tell us that he had given up a hundred thousand dollar a year job to keep the Sabbath and live this way of life. It was a point of pride with him that he had given up so much for Yahweh. He never came to realize that he gave up nothing compared to what Yahshua gave up for us. He never stopped counting the cost to himself. Within a short time he decided that the cost was too high and has since returned to his hundred thousand dollar a year job and

the way of life he lived before.

The purpose of this study is to show that we have given up nothing in comparison to what Yahshua gave up for us. Any price we may be required to pay for the pearl of great price is minuscule compared to the price that Yahshua paid on our behalf.

Remember **Genesis 1: 26-27** man was made in the image of Elohim. In four BCE in the beautiful fall season, **Elohim was made in the image of man.** Some believe that Yahshua had only the form of a man but was completely divine with all of the eternal attributes of Elohim. They picture Him as a very handsome, tall Grecian looking man with perfect features. Scripture tells us that this is not true. **Isaiah 53:2** For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; **he had no form or comeliness that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.** Yahshua was a Hebrew from the tribe of Judah. He looked like any other Jew of His day. There was nothing physically outstanding about Him as He could easily disappear in a crowd of His fellow Hebrews. **Luke 4: 29** And they rose up and put him out of the city, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw him down headlong. 30 But passing through the midst of them he went away.

John 10:39 Again they tried to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.

If He was truly divine He was not really human as we are at all but only appeared that way. If this is true, He cannot accurately represent us to the Father and He doesn't truly comprehend the things that we as humans go through. His sojourn on this earth was only special effects and not real. They also believe that He could not have failed in His mission. We will come back to this.

FINAL JUDGEMENT NOT CARRIED OUT

Have you ever wondered why the final judgement of eternal death for sinning mankind was never carried out? Sure, people

have been dying since the time of Adam but the final judgement was never carried out. The answer is the subject of this study. Yahweh is fair, honest, and just. It is because of these qualities that He could not carry out the final judgement. This will become clear as we go through this study.

NO NEED TO COME TO THIS EARTH

To see our reactions during temptation, stress, fear, anger, and all the other things that we as temporal flesh and blood human beings experience, Elohim did not have to come to this earth at all. He could see all of that from Heaven. However, in order to understand the reactions to all of these things, one must experience them. Otherwise, one can only try to imagine what it is like to feel them. If Yahshua was actually divine and not a one hundred percent, temporal, perishable human being just as we are, then His sacrifice was not really a sacrifice at all but was only special effects and window dressing. This would make Yahweh and His Son deceptive. If this is true we have no Savior because He never truly died, (Divine Spirit cannot die) and there is no assurance of a resurrection, so eat and drink for tomorrow we die. **I Corinthians 15:32** What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." However, we are told that He was the firstborn from the dead. **Revelation 1:5** and from Yahshua Messiah the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.

YAHSHUA THE JUDGE

Yahshua has been given the task of being the judge of all humanity. **John 5:22** The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son. Have you ever reflected on why the Father, who is the supreme ruler of the universe, is not the judge of mankind but has given over all judgement into the hands of His Son Yahshua? Without diminishing the Father's power of perception, His righteousness, and all of His attributes of perfection and holiness, there is a very good reason why He did not qualify to judge until the Son came to this earth. Consider this; Could a being that is all powerful, eternal, who has never been tempted, never been afraid, never been hungry, tired, ill, stressed,

that death cannot touch, fully understand those that are subject to all of these things? It is not blasphemy (as I have been accused of) to say that the eternal, all-powerful Elohim did not understand us fully, it is actually understanding more deeply the great love and compassion and justice of our awesome Heavenly Father.

YAHSHUA TRULY TEMPORAL

This is why we must fully realize why Yahshua, while he was on earth, was temporal flesh and blood, subject to the very same things that we are. Not divine spirit in human form only but completely flesh and blood man. The following scripture has deep meaning when properly understood. **John 5: 26** For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself, **27** and has given him authority to execute judgment, **because he is the Son of man.** Yahshua, returned now to His pre-existent state, (**John 17:5**) having been granted once again, eternal life in Himself is now qualified to judge mankind since He was a true son of man while He was on this earth. He can now understand us completely. The following scripture assures us that we will surely be judged with fairness by our eternal Messiah who was a temporal

If Yahshua did not die a complete, real death then He was a con artist.

human just as we are. **Acts 17:30-31** "The times of ignorance Elohim overlooked, but now he commands all men everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all men by raising him from the dead." Yes, Elohim, in the form of Yahshua can truly be a righteous and fair judge. (There is an old saying that goes something like this; don't judge me until you have walked a mile in my shoes. Yahshua truly walked in our shoes so is qualified to judge.)

Yahweh does not inspire lies. The following scripture tells us that Yahshua was not divine but was completely man, temporal and subject to death. It also tells us something else about our loving creator. The Word, Dabar, who was at the very throne of Yahweh, having eternal life, gave this up to

become as we are. **He gave up His eternal life for us!!** Don't be shocked. Don't stop reading; there is awesomely joyous news to be revealed in the rest of this study. Read the following from Yahweh's own word. **Philippians 2:5** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in our Master Yahshua, **6** who, though he was in the form of Elohim, did not count equality with Elohim a thing to be grasped, (Held onto at all cost) **7** but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness (or image) of men. **8** And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a stake.

A divine being such as Elohim is not subject to death. If Yahshua did not die a complete, real death then He was a con artist. It was only window dressing if He did not share in the very same death that is appointed to all mankind, a complete cessation of life. **Hebrews 9:27** And just as it is appointed for men to die once, and after that comes judgment, **28** so Messiah, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. **Romans 5:6** While we were still weak, at the right time Messiah died for the unrighteous. **Romans 5:8** But Elohim shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Messiah died for us. Notice that He emptied Himself of all that He was. He gave up His eternal glory. We can get the full picture from His prayer to the Father in; **John 17:5** "and now, Father, glorify thou me in thy own presence with the glory which I had with thee before the world was made." He left this glory He had with the Father from eternity to become exactly as we are. In order for this all powerful being to fully understand us, this was absolutely necessary.

Think of this; From the time that Yahweh calls us **John 6:44**, **John 6:65**, and we accept the terms of the covenant He has made with us and confirm our commitment to Him by immersion into the name of Yahshua, **Acts 2:38**, we must battle the pulls of this world, our human nature, and the power of Satan as he tries to draw us away from Yahweh. Yahweh has planted the seed of eternal life in us through the Holy Spirit but we are still temporal flesh and blood and it is a daily war with the things mentioned above. **Ephesians 6:12** For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly

places.

Yahshua, as a human on this earth, knew the reality of this terrible struggle we face and the consequences of failure. **Luke 13:24** "Strive to enter by the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able." As a complete flesh and blood human being He could understand our trials. As an all powerful, eternal Spirit, He could only imagine what it would be like. That is why He had to become like us in every way. **Hebrews 2:14** Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage.

Hebrews 2:18 For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted. **Hebrews 4:15** For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

We will go on to see that Yahshua was affected by all the same things that affect us as flesh and blood, temporal human beings subject to death, and attack by our arch enemy, Satan the deceiver.

HUNGER

Matthew 4:2 And he fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was hungry. He was so weak with hunger that the angels had to come and minister to Him **Verse 11**.

Matthew 21:17 And leaving them, he went out of the city to Bethany and lodged there. 18 In the morning, as he was returning to the city, he was hungry. A divine being, only human in appearance, would not require food. He would not become weak without it as Yahshua did.

WEARINESS **John 4:6** Jacob's well was there, and so Yahshua, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

Unless He was totally human He would have felt neither of these things. As we do, He needed food and rest to rejuvenate Him. The evangels tell of all the things that He felt as a human.

YAHSHUA FELT FEAR **Mark 14:33** And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. **Luke 22:42** Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. 43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. 44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly:

and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Hebrews 5:7 In the days of his flesh, Yahshua offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his righteous fear. Imagine yourself in Yahshua's position, facing arrest and an agonizing death on the notorious torture stake. You have just imagined it, you have not experienced it in reality so you can't identify one hundred percent with what Yahshua experienced. This was the case with Yahshua in His pre-existent, glorified form. He could not in this state, fully understand what we go through.

PAIN AND ANGUISH **Matthew 27:46** And about the ninth hour Yahshua cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My Elohim, my Elohim, why hast thou forsaken me?" **Psalms 22:1** My Elohim, my Elohim, why hast thou forsaken me? Why art thou so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? **Mark 15:37** And Yahshua uttered a loud cry, and breathed his last. **Isaiah 52:14** As many were astonished at him—his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the sons of men. **Isaiah 53:3** He was despised and

*If we do not persevere to
the end, either of our lives
or to the return of Yahshua,
we have failed.*

rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by Elohim, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed. **Psalms 22: 14** I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax, it is melted within my breast; 15 my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaves to my jaws; thou dost lay me in the dust of death. 16 Yea, dogs are round about me; a company of evildoers encircle me; they have pierced my hands and feet—17 I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me; 18 they divide my garments among them, and

for my raiment they cast lots.

We can only imagine what Yahshua was feeling in the scriptures above since we have never experienced it. Thanks be to Yahweh, Yahshua suffered the death and anguish in our place on that stake. Praise and honour to Yahshua throughout eternity. HalleluYah!!

FAILURE POSSIBLE

Yahshua was completely human, with all of the human emotions that we are subject to. He did not just breeze through this human life without all of the things mentioned above. **At this time I must bring to your attention that Yahshua could have failed.** Yes He could have failed to achieve what He came to this earth for. Consider this; we are all faced with the possibility that we could fail in this way of life leading to the kingdom. Those believing the "once saved always saved" doctrine of the religions of this world will disagree with the above. Paul, was struck down and called personally by Yahshua **Acts 9:1-16** yet he knew there was a possibility that he could fail.

I Corinthians 9:24-27 (Note especially verse 27 but I pommel my body and subdue it, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.)

If we do not persevere to the end, either of our lives or to the return of Yahshua, we have failed. This possibility is continuously confronting us. If this same thing did not face Yahshua, He does not know how we feel every day of our lives. He cannot correctly represent us to the Father because He does not fully understand what it is like to be us. Make no mistake, Yahshua faced exactly what we face every day.

Being fully human as He assuredly was, did He have some kind of advantage that we don't have that enabled Him to live in perfect accordance to Yahweh's word? Before we answer this let us look at some scriptures to see how He was able to remain perfect for all of His sojourn on this earth. John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit from the womb. **Luke 1:15** for he will be great before Yahweh, and he shall drink no wine nor strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. Scripture tells us that Yahshua had the Holy Spirit without measure. We can be sure that this Spirit without measure was in Yahshua from conception. **John 3:34** For he whom Elohim has sent (Yahshua) utters the words of Elohim, for it is not by measure that he gives the Spirit;

NO SPECIAL ADVANTAGE

We can be sure that Yahshua had the Holy Spirit without measure for all of His time in the womb and until his death on the stake. Could this be an unfair advantage that we don't have? No!!! This was no unfair advantage. Think of this; The salvation of the whole of mankind depended on Him and Him alone. Satan would attack him relentlessly from every angle. We are told that not many should desire to be teachers as we are judged much more strictly. **James 3: 1** Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, for you know that we who teach shall be judged with greater strictness.

This is because what teachers say and do affect so many people. However we teachers in our lifetime reach only a miniscule amount of people in this world that numbers in the billions. Imagine how stringently Yahshua, upon whom the whole world, all of the billions, depended for instruction and example, would be judged. He would need the full measure of the Holy Spirit of Yahweh just to persevere. He had no advantage that He did not need as the Savior of the world. If you think about it, because of Yahshua we have a very real advantage that he did not. As a temporal human being Yahshua had to defeat satan face to face personally. He did this by the power of His Father's Spirit within Him. We will never have to defeat satan in this way. Yahshua will, if we stay grounded in Him, defeat satan for us and send him away. Meditate on this scripture. **James 4:7** Submit yourselves therefore to Elohim. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Remember, Yahshua is Elohim too. How does this resistance come? Through that same powerful Spirit that Yahshua had plus the mind of Yahshua in us as well to guide our every thought and action. Note the following scriptures; **Romans 8:11** If the Spirit of him who raised Yahshua from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Messiah Yahshua from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you. **1 Corinthians 2:16** "For who has known the mind of the master so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Messiah.

Satan tried at the time of Esther to destroy the line of Judah that He would come from. **Esther 3:6** He tried this kind of preventative measure many times in the history of Judah. Immediately after the birth of Yahshua he tried to destroy Him. **Matthew**

2:3-18 When Yahshua was in the wilderness fasting for forty days, satan came to him at his weakest point physically. **Matthew 4:1-11** What he did not understand was that as Yahshua was weakened in the flesh, He was being strengthened in the Spirit and was at His strongest point spiritually when satan came to Him. He used Yahweh's strength and His word to defeat satan. He did not rely on himself. Yahshua understood a principle that Paul mentioned but satan did not understand. **2 Corinthians 12:10** For the sake of Messiah, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for **when I am weak, then I am strong.**

What exactly did Paul mean? When everything is going well, good health, lots of money, many luxuries, and physical possessions we may not be quite as close to and dependant on Yahweh. We are pretty well self-sufficient. Take some of these things away so that we are no longer self-sufficient and we will need to pray more for sustenance. As we pray we come closer and closer to Yahweh and His Son. As our physical becomes weaker we become stronger spiritually because of our closeness to and dependency on Yahweh. This is why it's difficult for a rich man to enter the kingdom of Yah-

*As a temporal human being
Yahshua had to defeat Satan
face to face personally.*

weh. **Matthew 19:23** And Yahshua said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. This is because they are self-sufficient and can buy whatever they need, food, clothes, medicine and health care etc. They do not need to be as Yahweh dependant as a poor man would. This could make them spiritually weak.

Yahshua did something that we need to do. He was in constant contact with His Father in Heaven. **Luke 5:16** But he withdrew to the wilderness and prayed. **Luke 6:12** In these days he went out to the mountain to pray; and all night he continued in prayer to Elohim. **Matthew 14:23** And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, **Mark 1:35** And in the morning, a great while before day, he rose and went out to a lonely place, and there he prayed. **Mark**

6:46 And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray.

Yahshua knew that as a temporal flesh and blood human, He could not succeed on His strength alone. Just as we must do, He drew strength and courage from continual contact with the Father through prayer. Often we feel frustration and discouragement as this world and human nature pulls at us. It is during these times that we must lean on Yahweh's strength and wisdom to see us through. He will not only stand with us, but if we are too weak to stand, He will stand for us. Yahshua felt all of these same things and turned to Yahweh as His lifeline. This is why He did not fail.

SOME PROPHECIES IN PAST TENSE

A statement that has been made to me trying to refute the belief that Yahshua could have failed, is that the prophecies concerning this salvation plan were all made in the positive. Some were made in the past tense as if already fulfilled. We don't have space to go into all of these scriptures in this study. But we can understand why they would be stated in this way by turning to one scripture referring to the first fruits harvest in this age. **Romans 8:29** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

This is in the past tense. It says that those He justified He also glorified. I am not yet glorified. You are not yet glorified. Why would this be said in this way as if it has already taken place? It is to instill a mindset. It is the mindset that Yahshua had. It is the mindset that Yahweh has. Throughout the scriptures Yahweh talks about faith. During His sojourn on this earth Yahshua tried to instill in His hearers the necessity of faith in Yahweh. Yahshua had absolute faith in the Father. In the story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead there is a great lesson for us. Yahshua said a prayer to the Father and it's words reveal the absolute faith of Yahshua. **John 11:41** So they took away the stone. And Yahshua lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. 42 I knew that thou hearest me always, but I have said this on account of the people standing by, that they may believe that thou didst send me."

Yahshua knew that the Father always heard

His prayers and would always answer. This was because Yahshua always prayed according to Yahweh's will. **Luke 22:42** "Father, if thou art willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." It was from this attitude of humility that Yahshua always prayed. This mindset comes from faith. Often our prayers are not answered because we don't have the right attitude. Yahshua told the people that He healed that it would be done according to their faith. **Matthew 9:29, Mark 10:52, Matthew 8:13, Matthew 15:28.**

James covers this topic as well. **James 1: 5** If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask Elohim, who gives to all men generously and without reproaching, and it will be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that person must not suppose that a double minded man, unstable in all his ways, will receive anything from Yahweh. **James 4:3** You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. Yahshua had absolute faith in the Father's word. He also knew Yahweh's will, which is revealed to us in the scriptures, and prayed accordingly.

This is the reason that the prophecies concerning many of the things in reference to Yahshua could be stated in the present or past tense, the faith that the Father has in the son and the faith the son has in the Father. Yahshua had a mindset that we must develop if we are to succeed in this way of life. I have talked with people who would make statements such as, "If I get into the kingdom", or "If I qualify for the kingdom". This is a negative mindset and comes close to insulting our Savior. It leaves room for failure. It is a foothold for Satan.

Yahweh invited us to the marriage supper of the Lamb, His Son Yahshua. **Revelation 19:9** And the messenger said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are true words of Elohim." Yahshua provided the wedding garments we would need by paying the penalty for our sins in His blood. These garments are His righteousness within us. **1 Corinthians 6:11** And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Sovereign Yahshua Messiah and in the Spirit of our Elohim.

Yahweh accepted the atoning sacrifice of Yahshua as payment for the sins (filthy garments) that would keep us out and qualified

us to be there **Colossians 1:12** giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 13 He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He has invited us to share the kingdom with Him and His Son. **John 6:44.** Now it is up to us to be there at all cost. If we share the mindset of Yahshua, and we do have His mind, if we allow it to work within us, (**1 Corinthians 2:16**) we will be there. Don't give Satan a foothold. Plan to be in the kingdom, follow through till the end and be there. Yahweh and Yahshua are expecting you and everything is prepared.

To give another example of a negative mindset; I have heard converted people say many times, "we will never be perfect in this age." This is a copout. If one thinks in this way they are setting their goal on imperfection. Our goal should be perfection. **Matthew 5:48** "You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." This has to be our goal. Perfection. If we set our goal on imperfection, that is just what we will achieve. If we do as Yahshua said and strive for the perfection of our heavenly Father we will, at the return of Messiah Yahshua,

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half years.*

achieve exactly that. Perfection. This striving for perfection comes through the power of Yahweh given us in the Holy Spirit. This must be our mindset.

Yahshua had this mindset and that is why He did not fail. He was totally dependant on Yahweh for His strength. Now in a position in which all power has been given to Him, **Matthew 28:18** And Yahshua came and spake unto them, saying, "All power is given unto me in Heaven and in earth". Yahshua is our strength through this same Spirit. If we rely on this all-powerful being and not on ourselves, we will achieve our goal as He did. The following is excellent advice given by the one who is expecting you to share eternity with Him and His Father. Let's not disappoint them.

John 15:4 "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless

you abide in me. **5** I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing". This is something that must be indelibly imprinted in our minds. It is through our connection to Yahshua that will gain us entry to the kingdom. Paul also knew this concept. **2 Corinthians 3:5** Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from Elohim.

This is why Yahshua succeeded. **Isaiah 41:10** fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your Elohim; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. He knew that it was His heavenly Father's strength that would see Him through to the finish. It is that strength that will see us through as well.

Since Yahshua has faced all of the things that we will face as we follow this way of life He can fully understand us and is qualified to be the judge. **Hebrews 4:15** For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. **John 5: 22** The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, 23 that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes him who sent me, has eternal life; he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. That is also why He can accurately represent us to the Heavenly Father. He knows what is like to be a temporal human being. **Philippians 2: 9** Therefore Elohim has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, (With these things in mind we must willingly do the following.) 10 that at the name of Yahshua every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Yahshua Messiah is Sovereign, to the glory of Yahweh the Father. When we go to the Father in prayer let us not forget our awesomely loving Savior sitting at His right hand. **Mark 16:19** So then the Sovereign Yahshua, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of Elohim.

Be assured, Yahshua was truly temporal flesh and blood for thirty-three and a half years. His death was true cessation of life for three days and three nights. Death, not just window dressing. Yahshua lived His life in true human form and assuredly died in

COMMENTS FROM OUR READERS

MAGAZINE:

Thank you! Thank you so much for your new publication! There are many of us out here who will greatly benefit from all the information your are providing. In Yahshua,
GG/TX

The new magazine is wonderful. Keep up the good work for Yahweh and His wondrous Son, Yahshua HaMachiach. HalleluYah!
AJ/NM

Shalom Alechem in the precious name of Yahshua Ha Machiach. Todah Rabah for your continuing faithfulness of Yahweh's publications. I have just received a wonderful publication entitled "*Yahshua's Witness Magazine*." I am very impressed at how this publication is laid out with a beautiful rising of the sun which pictures Yahshua as the rising of light for Yahudah and the Gentiles like me.
DC/TX

The Sept.-Oct. 2004 magazine is great. The definition of scriptural names only proves how awesome Yahweh is.
AL/TX

I am writing this letter to let you know that I am very thankful for your efforts to share the truth. I enjoyed the Sept.-Oct. 04 magazine. It allows me to use it as a witness to the guys around me that want to hear or want to know why I read the Hebrew *TaNak*.
JB/TX

I just wanted to write and give my gratitude for your new published magazine. It is very informative as is all the material I've read from you, and as the Spirit of truth leads you, continue to follow without question. Some may not agree with the need, but we, the small groups of brothers inside these prisons thank Yahweh continuously for you. I have other publications I receive, but for some reason, I'm moved and motivated more by what I receive from you...and I thank you.
BM/AL

I enjoyed the new magazine. I hope you can keep them in print. You have a way of bringing enlightening issues up that get

me to do serious thinking and Scriptural studies.
NB/VA

Yahshua's Witness Magazine is very outstanding. I really enjoy reading it over & over!
WB/TX

I've been enjoying the new magazine. May Yahweh give you strength to continue His work.
RH/TX

I just finished reading one of your magazines titled "*Yahshua's Witness Magazine*," and I'm writing you asking if you please put me on your mailing list for this magazine, and also for your Bible Correspondence Course. I am interested in what you teach about the Word of Yahweh and His teachings.
CC/NM

I am an inmate in the TDCJ-ID. I am a Sabbath keeper and have started a group on this unit. Please consider this my humble request for your help. I ran across a copy of your magazine "*Yahshua's Witness Magazine*" and really enjoyed the messages. I was hoping you would place me on your mailing list so I could use your material as an aid for study within our group!?! Any other literature you may find in your heart to offer would be considered as a blessing because we have about 30 men all hungry for the truth in the Word.
NA/TX

I received the latest issue of *Yahshua's Witness Magazine* and again I am very impressed with what you have accomplished with so little resources. Yahweh is certainly blessing your hand. I am intrigued by Matthew Armstrong's article and am on pins and needles waiting for the conclusion. He is a very deep thinker and organizes his thoughts very methodically. Your article, The Idol Shepherd is excellent as was Aaron's Rod. I truly enjoy your writings because I always learn things from them that I didn't know, and the things I do know I see from a different angle. I love the way your mind works. Great job!!
DG/CAN

I am a most happy man. I got a copy of *Yahshua's Witness Magazine* right here in Kenya. Please have me on the mailing list. If Yahweh grants you the love send me any literature. It gives me pleasure to read such well researched articles concerning my creator and saviour. I and the people I fellowship with are considering ourselves part and parcel of the Yahweh's Evangelical Assembly.
Yahweh Bless you as you continue to journey with him.
PN/Kenya

GENERAL:

I pray that this letter finds you in the best of health and spirits. You and the assembly are my blessing from Yahweh. I am enclosing our tithe for the month. This tithe includes funds from C----- H-----. He is a new brother in the faith. Yahweh's Evangelical Assembly is listed as our religious faith on both of our travel cards. Christians try to tell me that inmates shouldn't tithe because we have no income. I tell them that a true relationship with Yahweh starts with obedience and submission to Him and His word. We receive blessings from Him through our friends, churches, family, etc. Why wouldn't we "jump" at the opportunity to give Him such a small portion. There are times when I feel like I am cheating Him. Does that make any sense?
AL/TX

Thanks so much for all you're doing to help Yahweh's scattered people and especially those in prison. Enclosed is a small offering. May Yahweh continue to bless all there.
ET/KY

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE:

I love you people. These are "THE MOST POWERFUL" Bible studies you could possibly get. If someone doesn't get the truth out of these you can believe Yahweh's got them blind through disobedience! These are soooooo awesome... how on earth did you manage to put these together? Whose responsible?? I live in Arlington, TX. Can you tell me how many miles that is away from Atlanta, TX?? I'd love to come get to know some "TRUE WORSHIPPERS!"

C o n t i n u e d o n n e x t

page.....Continued from page
22.....BB/TX

This lesson (one) has opened my eyes to

the true meaning of the name of our God
"Yahweh." I would like to continue these
lessons for I have learned so much of
what I thought I had already known.

Thanks and may Yahweh bless you.
JH/TX

C o n t i n u e d o n p a g e
23.....Continued from page
21..... the same human fashion.
He was resurrected with the same resurrec-
tion that we will experience at His coming.
Romans 6:5 For if we have been united with
him in a death like his, we shall certainly be
united with him in a resurrection like his.
Colossians 1:18 He is the head of the body,
the assembly; he is the beginning, the first
born from the dead, that in everything he
might be pre-eminent. **Revelation 1:5** and
from Yahshua Our Master the faithful wit-
ness, the first born of the dead, and the ruler
of kings on earth. To him who loves us and
has freed us from our sins by his blood.
Romans 8:29 For those whom he foreknew
he also predestined to be conformed to the
image of his Son, in order that he might be

the first born among many brethren. **Colos-
sians 1:15** He is the image of the invisible
Elohim, the first born of all creation;

Have no doubt, Yahshua gave up all that
He was to become exactly as we are. **John**
17:5 He lived a perfect human life to give us
hope. **Romans 5:2** Through him we have
obtained access to this grace in which we
stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing
the glory of Elohim.

He died a terrible human death to give us
courage. **Luke 12:32** "Fear not, little flock,
for it is your Father's good pleasure to give
you the kingdom.

He was resurrected an immortal Spirit
being to give us faith. **I Corinthians 15:45**
Thus it is written, "The first man Adam
became a living being"; the last Adam be-
came a life-giving spirit.

He ascended to the Father in Heaven
where He was glorified and coronated King
of Kings to give us assurance of the hope
within us. **I Timothy 6: 14** I charge you to
keep the commandment unstained and free
from reproach until the appearing of our
Sovereign Yahshua Messiah; 15 and this
will be made manifest at the proper time by
the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of
kings and Sovereign of sovereigns.

All He has done from the time of creation
was for us. As He did not fail, we can be
assured that we will not fail either if we have
this mindset, as Yahshua did. **Philippians**
4:13 I can do all things in him who
strengthens me. **Ephesians 6:10** Finally, be
strong in Yahweh and in the strength of his
might. HalleluYah, may Yahweh bless your
studies.

23.....Continued from page
12.....though we have rebelled
against him;

10 Neither have we obeyed the voice of
the Yahweh our Elohim, to walk in his
laws, which he set before us by his ser-
vants the prophets.

11 Yea, **all Israel have transgressed thy
law**, even by departing, that they might
not obey thy voice; **therefore the curse is
poured upon us**, and the oath that is writ-
ten in the law of Moses the servant of
Elohim, because we have sinned against
him.

12 And he hath confirmed his words,
which he spake against us, and against our
judges that judged us, by bringing upon us
a great evil: for under the whole heaven
hath not been done as hath been done
upon Jerusalem.

13 As it is written in the law of Moses,
all this evil is come upon us: yet made we
not our prayer before Yahweh our Elo-
him, that we might turn from our iniqui-
ties, and understand thy truth.

14 Therefore hath Yahweh watched upon
the evil, and brought it upon us: for the
Yahweh our Elohim is righteous in all his
works which he doeth: for we obeyed not
his voice."

Deut 29:25-27, "Then men shall say, Be-
cause **they have forsaken the covenant**
of Yahweh Elohim of their fathers, which
he made with them when he brought them
forth out of the land of Egypt:

26 For they went and served other gods,
and worshipped them, gods whom they
knew not, and whom he had not given
unto them:

27 And the anger of Yahweh was kindled
against this land, to bring upon it all the
curses that are written in this book:"

2 Kings 22:11-13, "And it came to pass,
**when the king had heard the words of
the book of the law**, that he rent his
clothes.

12 And the king commanded Hilkiah the
priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan,
and Achbor the son of Michaiah, and
Shaphan the scribe, and Asahiah a servant
of the king's, saying,

13 Go ye, enquire of Yahweh for me, and
for the people, and for all Judah, concern-
ing the words of this book that is found:
**for great is the wrath of Yahweh that is
kindled against us, because our fathers
have not hearkened unto the words of
this book**, to do according unto all that

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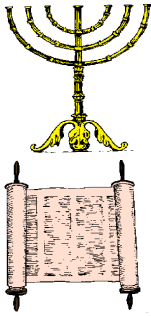
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Who is The Idol Shepherd? Part III (Conclusion)

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Who Is EliYah The Prophet?