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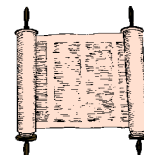
# *YAHSHUA'S WITNESS MAGAZINE*

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

*Ye Are The Salt p. 4*

*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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**OUR COVER:** Salt is such an amazing and important ingredient for the whole creation. We have chosen this picture of salt and a salt shaker in order to highlight our article entitled "Ye Are The Salt." You will learn of the importance of salt in our everyday life, but you will also learn of important spiritual lessons that salt conveys. We hope and pray that this amazing compound depicts the character that you and all of us are striving to bring forth in our lives. It is for the good of the whole world.

For comments or inquiries please write to YEA, P. O. Box 31, Atlanta, TX 75551.

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Or [members.cox.net/thomasahobbs/yea\\_0.htm](http://members.cox.net/thomasahobbs/yea_0.htm)

## FROM THE EDITOR

A new children's movie was released on December 7th entitled "The Golden Compass." It is the brainchild of atheist Phillip Pullman. It is taken from his first book in a trilogy entitled "His Dark Materials." The second book in the series is entitled "The Subtle Knife," and the third is "The Amber Spyglass." The movie, of course, is a watered down version of the book. The release was of perfect timing for children to be able to view the movie and then encourage parents to purchase the book for Christmas. If they purchase and read the first book, they will desire to purchase the other two in the series and this could be disastrous as Pullman has revealed that he wants to destroy "God" from the minds of children.

"The Golden Compass" recounts the adventures of Lyra Belacqua, a 12-year-old streetwise girl in an alternate universe that resembles our own. With the assistance of several other characters, she sets out to overthrow the Authority. The novels depict "the Authority" as a weak, false god. An angel informs one of the main characters that "God, the Creator, the Lord, **Yahweh**, El, Adonai, the King, the Father, the Almighty" are really all just names the first angel gave himself in an attempt to set himself up as a divine being. Hmmmm...., isn't it interesting that an atheist, who doesn't even believe in Elohim, utilizes angels and even a weak Elohim? Very hypocritical, don't you think? But it gets even better.

*The Golden Compass* is set in an alternative world where people's souls manifest themselves in animal forms called daemons, talking bears fight wars, and **Gyptians** and witches co-exist. These daemons are as close to the person as their own hearts. An eight year old boy wrote in asking, "Dear Mr. Pullman, My class is reading "The Golden Compass" and we were wondering how did you come up with the concept of daemons? What inspired you?" He answered, The idea of daemons came to me very suddenly and from nowhere that I can be sure of. I wrote the first chapter of "The Golden Compass" several times before I got it right, and **at first it wasn't going well at all. I didn't know why until I realized that Lyra had to have a companion to speak to and share things with, and suddenly this daemon idea just came into my mind. It was an exciting moment, and it made the whole story come into focus for me. I'm still discovering new things to do with the idea, and I'm writing about them in a book that will be called "The Book of Dust."** But I'm a long way from finishing that yet."

Herein we have the crux of the matter. We have an atheist who denies that Elohim, and the spirit world exists, but with only the mind of man and without spiritual guidance, things just don't go too well. It is obvious which spirit is influencing Mr. Pullman.

Clearly, Pullman's main objective is to bash believers and promote atheism. Pullman left little doubt about his intentions when he said in a 2003 interview that "My books are about killing God." He has even stated that he wants to "kill God in the minds of children." It has been said of Pullman that he is "the writer the atheists would be praying for, if atheists prayed." One of the story's favorite characters is an ex-nun who declares that Christianity is a very powerful and convincing mistake. In the final book, characters representing Adam and Eve eventually kill God, who at times is called YAHWEH. Each book in the trilogy gets progressively worse regarding Pullman's hatred of the Messiah. "In his worlds, the church is wicked, cruel and child-hating; priests are sinister, murderous or drunk," Hitchens wrote for the *Daily Mail* newspaper in January 2002. "Political correctness creeps in leadenly. There is a brave African king and a pair of apparently homosexual angels. The one religious character who turns out to be benevolent is that liberal favorite, an ex-nun who has renounced her vows and lost her faith.

Yes, we admit that some of the most atrocious and abominable practices have been perpetrated in the name of God and religion. But even more atrocious and abominable practices have also been perpetrated by non-believing atheists. Take Lenin, Stalin, Mao and others, for example. They seem to get a pass, of course.

Interestingly, "The Golden Compass" is an "alethiometer." What does this mean? A quick look into the Greek text of Scripture reveals that the Greek word for "truth" is *alethia*! The alethiometer would simply be an instrument utilized to detect truth vs. lies.

Let's utilize our own "truth detector" or "alethiometer" concerning this man's works. The name of the 12 year old girl is Lyra Belacqua. Belacqua is an interesting combination because we already know who Bel is, but what about "acqua" It's a word for water (aqua), which is equivalent to spirit in Jn. 7:37-39. Thus Belacqua is nothing more than the "spirit of Bel" (Babylon's chief deity). While Lyra is a name given to a heavenly constellation as well as the lyre, a musical instrument, in this instance, knowing the spirit from whom this inspiration came, let's see if we can figure out the meaning of this name. Lyra can be rearranged into Lyar or Liar! (Substituting the "i" for "y" as the English language does from time to time.) We now discover the true spirit behind Mr. Pullman and his trilogy. (We already knew didn't we.) It is revealed in Jn. 8:44, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

Mr. Pullman is being influenced by the god of this world, the spirit that works in the children of disobedience to not only seek to destroy his Creator, but mankind in general. Things are getting more and more deadly in this evil world. Are you ready? Will you allow your family and children be influenced by these evils?

JH

# YE ARE THE SALT

*Salt is an amazing compound. Without it we will die. Too much of it can result in health problems and even death. It is utilized in far more ways than we can begin to realize. Yahshua told His disciples, "Ye are the salt..." Let's look at the parallels to see what we must measure up to.*

*By Jerry Healan*

## HISTORY OF SALT

*(Compiled from various on-line services)*

Most people probably think of salt as simply that white granular food seasoning found in a salt shaker on virtually every dining table. Salt was much more valuable in the past than it is now. Before refrigeration, salt was the main ingredient used to preserve food. The preserving action of salt is based on the fact that it draws water out of bacteria, causing it to shrivel and die. The vast majority of meat, and fish was salted as the final step in processing before being packed and shipped to its ultimate destination. Even butter was heavily salted. Our diet today is much lower in salt than it was in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but still North American per capita salt consumption is high, since a considerable amount of convenience food contains a lot of sodium chloride (the chemical name for salt).

"The word for 'salt' apparently originates from the name of the town Es-Salt, once the capital of the east bank of the Jordan, and probably older than Jericho itself, and close to the Dead Sea." Salt has become an inexpensive and readily available commodity that is taken for granted by most people. But in older times, wars were fought over salt, and huge taxes were also levied on it. In some places, **salt was in such high demand that it was minted into coins that were as valuable as gold** and functioned as the basic currency for ancient civilizations.

Where salt was scarce it was traded ounce for ounce with gold—for as the Roman statesman Cassiodorus observed, "Some seek not gold, but there

lives not a man who does not need salt." Salt was in general use long before history, as we know it, began to be recorded.

Some 2,700 years B.C.-about 4,700 years ago-there was published in China the *Peng-Tzao-Kan-Mu*, probably the earliest known treatise on pharmacology. A major portion of this writing was devoted to a **discussion of more than 40 kinds of salt**, including descriptions of two methods of extracting salt and putting it in usable form that are amazingly similar to processes used today. Chinese folklore recounts the discovery of salt. Salt production has been important in China for two millennia or more. And the Chinese, like many other govern-

***Salt was much more valuable in the past than it is now.***

ments over time, realizing that everyone needed to consume salt, made salt taxes a major revenue source. **Salt may have been a large factor in determining the success of various societies and even the amount of freedom its citizens had. Where salt was scarce, strong, controlling rule prevailed to ensure the availability of salt to all, but where salt was plentiful the need for strong government was not as great, and citizens had more freedom.**

Salt was of crucial importance economically. A far-flung trade in ancient Greece involving exchange of salt for slaves gave rise to the expression, "not worth his salt." Special salt rations given early Roman soldiers were known as "*salarium argentum*," the

forerunner of the English word "salary." Salt was an important trading commodity carried by explorers. Altogether it's believed there are more than 14,000 uses of salt, and our grandmothers were probably familiar with most of them. Many of these uses were for simple things around the home before the advent of modern chemicals and cleaners. However, many uses are still valid today and a lot cheaper than using more sophisticated products. As a chemical salt is used in making glass, pottery, textile dyes, and soap. Sodium chloride has literally thousands of uses! One of those uses is to serve as a source of chlorine for chemical manufacturing. Why, you may ask? Here's why: chlorine is known as a "workhorse chemical." It plays a key role in the manufacture of thousands of products we depend on every day, including volleyballs, computers, cars, pool chemicals, medicines and cosmetics.

Salt has played a vital role in religious ritual in many cultures, symbolizing immutable, incorruptible purity. There are more than 30 references to salt in the Bible. And there are many other literary and religious references to salt, including use of salt on altars representing purity, and use of "holy salt" by the Unification Church.

Medieval European records document salt making concessions. On the Continent, Venice rose to economic greatness through its salt monopoly. Salt also had military significance. For instance, it is recorded that thousands of Napoleon's troops died during his retreat from Moscow because their wounds would not heal as a result of a lack of salt. In 1777, the British Lord Howe was jubilant when he succeeded in capturing General Wash-

ington's salt supply.

Only 6% of the salt used in the U.S. is used in food; another 17% is used for de-icing streets and highways in the winter months.

Pure salt consists of the elements sodium and chlorine. Its chemical name is sodium chloride and its formula is NaCl. Its mineral name is halite.

**Table salt is a chemically simple combination of two components, sodium and chlorine. The basic components of salt are, by themselves, potentially dangerous. Sodium will ignite immediately if it comes into contact with water, and chlorine is poisonous if ingested. In combination, though, the two elements form sodium chloride, commonly known as salt. Salt is essential for life. Each of us contain from four to eight ounces of salt. In the body, salt is as important to humans as water or air. It helps maintain the normal volume of blood in the body and also helps keep the correct balance of water in and around the cells and tissues. Salt plays an important part in the digestion of food and is essential in making the heart beat correctly. It is also necessary for the formation and proper function of nerve fibers, which carry impulses to and from the brain. Sodium, together with calcium, magnesium and potassium, helps regulate the body's metabolism. The sodium in salt is an essential nutrient. In combination with potassium, it regulates the acid-alkaline balance in our blood and is also necessary for proper muscle functioning. When we don't get enough sodium chloride, we experience muscle cramps, dizziness, exhaustion and, in extreme cases, convulsions and death. Salt is essential to our well being.**

For years, many researchers have claimed that salt threatens public health, mostly by contributing to high blood pressure. Recently, though, other researchers have begun to change salt's reputation. A recent review of salt studies conducted over

the past two decades concluded that there's no reason for doctors to recommend reducing sodium intake for people with normal blood pressure. It may be that most of us are protected from excessive salt by our kidneys, which regulate the body's sodium level and eliminate any excess.

Salt cures aren't new. In the early 19th Century, sick people traveled to rudimentary spas such as French Lick Springs in Indiana and Big Bone Lick, Kentucky, to soak in salt springs. Today's more luxurious spas offer salt baths, glows, rubs and polishes to exfoliate dead skin, stimulate circulation and relieve stress.

### VALUE OF SALT

Even in today's world, salt is an extremely valuable and necessary commodity. Due to its natural abundance and its ease in mining, it is not an expensive item. However, in times past, it was valued on a par with gold. Due to its necessity for life itself, if salt became scarce, its value would once again be pushed to the limits with gold.

*Even in today's world, salt is an extremely valuable and necessary commodity.*

As we learned from its history, the slave trade in Greece brought about the term "not worth his salt." We also discovered that the word "salary" comes from the Latin word "*salarium argentum*" or salt rations paid to Roman soldiers.

Yahshua told His disciples, "Ye are the salt of the earth..." Mat. 5:13, let's do some comparisons with salt to see if we measure up to its importance.

Since the word "salary" comes from the Latin word *salarium*, let's take a look at its definition. The etymology of the word salary goes thusly, [ME. *salarie* < L. *salarium*, orig., money for salt (as part of a Roman soldier's

pay) < *sal*, SALT]. It is defined as, a fixed payment at regular intervals for services, esp. when clerical or professional – **SYN.** see WAGE.

Now let's look at the etymology and definition for "wage", **vt.** [ME. *wagen* < ONormFr. *wagier* (OFr. *gagier*) < *wage* (OFr. *gage*), a stake, pledge < Frank. \**wadi*, akin to Goth. *wadi*, a pledge: for IE. base see WED] **1.** to engage in or carry on (a war, struggle, campaign, etc.) **2.** [Chiefly Brit. Dial.] to hire **3.** (Obs.) to *a*) pledge *b*) to wager; bet *c*) to pay —**vi.** [Obs.] to struggle or contend —**n.** **1.** [often *pl.*] money paid to an employee for work done, and usually figured on an hourly, daily, or piecework basis **2.** [usually *pl.*] what is given in return; recompense; requital: formerly the plural form was often construed as singular ["The wages of sin is death"] **3.** [*pl.*] *Econ.* The share of the total product of industry that goes to labor, as distinguished from the share taken by capital. (*Webster's New World Dictionary*)

We find that salary and wage are synonyms. Interestingly, under the noun portion of wage (-s), they utilized the Biblical verse from Romans 6:23, "The wages of sin is death..."

This chapter of the book of Romans is extremely important for us to search out at this juncture. In Romans chapter five, Paul reveals that sin entered into the world and death by sin through one man, the first man, the father of all mankind, Adam. Not only did sin and death by sin enter through him, but we all follow in his footsteps of sin, earning the death penalty. We reap what we sow, therefore if we sow sin and death then that is what we will reap. Our wages, our payment is death.

Paul reveals that while we can earn the wages of sin (death), there is no way that we can earn grace, pardon. That is a free gift that comes through the sacrifice of Yahshua the Messiah. Moreover, he reveals that the law contained in commandments (especially the Ten Commandments) entered making the offence and sentence of death to abound even more. He writes,



“Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: that as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Yahshua the Messiah our Sovereign,” Ro. 5:21.

Then he asks the question, What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? Yahweh forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” Ro. 6:1-2.

I have heard many powerful Christian sermons against sin. But I have never heard the ministers give the definition of sin. Few if any have ever gone to 1 Jn. 3:4 to define sin, “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for **sin is the transgression of the law.**”

So when Paul asks the question, “Shall we continue in sin (transgression of the law), that grace may abound?” He answers his own question, “Yahweh forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”

## NOT WORTH HIS SALT

Paul continues in Romans chapter six, “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Yahshua the Messiah were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as the Messiah was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin (the body that transgresses the law) might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin (transgression of the law). For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with the Messiah, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that the Messiah being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over

him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto Elohim. Likewise **reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin**, but alive unto Yahweh through Yahshua the Messiah our Sovereign. **Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.** Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto Yahweh, as those that are alive from the dead, and **your members as instruments of righteousness** unto Yahweh. For **sin shall not have dominion over you:** for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? **shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? Yahweh forbid.** Know ye not, that to **whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?** But Yahweh be thanked, that **ye were the servants of sin**, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. **Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of right-**

***We must, with Yahshua in us,  
establish the law!***

**eousness.** I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now **yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.** For when **ye were the servants of sin**, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to Yahweh, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life,” vv. 3-22.

Again, let’s let the Scriptures define what righteousness is, “My tongue shall speak of thy word: for **all thy**

**commandments are righteousness,”** Psa. 119:172.

Do this; read Romans chapter six again and wherever the word “sin” appears, substitute “transgression of the law.” Also, wherever “righteousness” appears, substitute “the commandments.” This will give you an altogether new perspective concerning what Paul is saying.

Now go to Romans 3:23, “Do we then make void the law through faith? Yahweh forbid: yea, we establish the law.” If we establish the law, then how can we say that it is done away?

If after we have been baptized in Yahshua, we continue sinning (transgressing the law or commandments), then we are simply trampling upon the Son of Elohim. We are warned, “For if we sin (transgress the law) wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of Elohim, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?” Heb. 10:26-29.

The fact of the matter is that yes, we are under grace, but we must maintain His grace by no longer sinning (transgressing the commandments). We must, with Yahshua in us, establish the law!

We are either the servants (slaves) to sin, or we are servants (slaves) to righteousness. If we sin, we earn the wages, the salary, the salt of death. Those who continue sinning, transgressing the law, are not worth the salt of the New Covenant; however, if we walk in newness of life, walking in the Spirit of grace, fulfilling righteousness, the commandments (something that we never did before); we can’t earn grace because it is a free gift; but we can earn the fruits of

righteousness.

Grace is pardon, forgiveness. If a person goes to prison for a certain crime, or crimes, and by changing his life, spirit and attitude, receives a reprieve, a pardon from the governor being released back into the general population, he is certainly expected to never commit that crime or those crimes again. If he returns back to his wicked, lawless ways, then he will be incarcerated again and the key will be thrown away.

We must understand that we were conceived in sin and shaped in iniquity (Psa. 51:5). If we were conceived in sin, then we were born in sin and our actions reveal that we lived in sin. But when "GRACE" comes, which is simply pardon, reprieve, then we must live under that grace. We will always be living under grace, under pardon. But now, with the help of the Holy Spirit placed in us, we can learn to live by Yahweh's righteous commands. His commandments are not grievous, they are good for us. The world has been tricked and deceived to think that His commandments are evil. Not so. They describe what sin, evil, wickedness is. They warn us so that we don't walk contrary to them again.

## THE PRESERVATIVE

Salt is a preservative. It has been utilized for millennia as a preservative to keep fish, meats, and other foods from spoilage. It was also utilized with religious sacrifices, especially the sacrificial system employed by the Israelites.

Yahweh commanded Moses, Aaron and Israel, "And every oblation of thy meat offering shalt thou season with salt; neither shalt thou suffer the salt of the covenant of thy Elohim to be lacking from thy meat offering: with all thine offerings thou shalt offer salt," Lev. 2:13.

Leviticus chapter two has to do with the grain and flour offerings. All were to be salted. None that had a portion to be burnt on the altar were allowed to have leaven among their ingredi-

ents. Leaven sours, putrefies, puffs up, and corrupts. Salt seasons and preserves. It is a symbol of incorruption. The covenant of Yahweh was to be preserved.

When the moisture of oil or water is added to the flour, the salt dissolves and becomes a part of the cake or loaf. It blends in with the mixture so that it can never be removed, at least, not by man.

Yahshua is our sacrifice, our Passover. But more than that, the grain/flour offerings were a type of Him in his capacity as the True Bread from Heaven. When the people told Yahshua that their fathers ate manna in the wilderness, saying, "...as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat,'" Jn. 6:31. Yahshua responded, "...Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but My Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of Elohim is He Which cometh down from heaven and giveth life unto the world," vv. 32-33.

Yahshua is the meat, bread, grain, flour offering. We are the salt that is to be added to that offering as Paul

*The covenant of Yahweh was  
to be preserved.*

wrote, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Yahshua the Messiah were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as the Messiah was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection: knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin," Ro. 6:3-7.

Paul wrote that he "...died daily..." 1 Cor. 15:31. Again, he wrote, "For

thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter," Ro. 8:36. "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; **Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Sovereign Yahshua**, that the life also of Yahshua might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Yahshua's sake, that the life also of Yahshua might be made manifest in our mortal flesh," 2 Cor. 4:8-11.

How do we do this? "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do **mortify the deeds of the body**, ye shall live," Ro. 8:13. "**Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth**; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry," Col. 3:5.

The purpose is once again explained in Romans 6, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto Yahweh, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto Yahweh," vv. 12-13.

If we do these things, then we are the salt added to the sacrifice of Yahshua so that the covenant that Yahweh is making with us, the New Covenant in Yahshua is preserved.

## PURITY

Yahshua told His disciples, "Ye are the salt of the earth," Mt. 5:13." But He followed this statement with a warning, "...but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men."

The whiteness of salt is a symbol of its purity. The color white has to do with cleanness. The Hebrew word for cleanness and purity is *qodesh*. This Hebrew word *qodesh* is generally translated into the English language as

“holy,” but it also is translated as hal-low, sanctify, consecrate, and even saint, etc.

The book of Luke presents the above statement a little differently, “Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear,” 14:34-35.

How can we lose our purity? We have already touched on these elements in the above headings. One way, of course, is just to turn back to the things of the flesh, leaving the wondrous things of Yahweh behind.

The parable of the sower is an excellent example in this case. Yahshua spoke the parable about the sower who sowed seeds, some of which fell by the wayside, some in stony places, others in thorns and others on the good ground. The seeds are the word of truth, which is the Word of Yahweh, especially concerning how it relates to Yahshua.

The seeds that fall by the wayside don’t even have a basic knowledge of the Scriptures or the way. Therefore, when they hear the word of truth, which has been sown in their heart or mind, they can’t understand it, nor do they care for it. They are taken up in the practices of wickedness. The wicked one comes and takes it from them so that they continue in their wicked ways.

The ones that fall in stony places are also those who receive the word of truth with gladness at first, but when troubles, tribulation, differences, etc., come, they don’t have the depth of heart, or earth, to be able to receive the seed’s roots. These eventually wither and die or fall away from the truth.

Then there are those who fall among thorns, which are likened to the cares of this world and this life. Because of the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches, their attention becomes focused on things other than the Word of Truth and they fall away.

We are warned to have our affections set primarily on Yahshua and the

kingdom of heaven. Yahshua cautioned that He would be rejected by the generation that He came to and would suffer many things, “But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation. And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. Remember Lot’s wife. Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it,” Lk. 17:25-33.

***We put salt in and on our food in order to make it more palatable.***

In the days of Noah, the heart and spirit of man had become so hardened that it was only set on evil continually and violence was the order of the day. These things are coming upon our own generation, which is serving to embitter and harden the heart so that violence, wickedness, evil, sin, iniquity, etc. becomes more and more acceptable.

Our world is also turning to the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah. The iniquity of Sodom was pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness. She didn’t strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. They were haughty and committed abomination. (Ez. 16:49-50) We know that the abomination spoken of here is that of idolatry and espe-

cially homosexuality due to the account of Lot in Genesis 19.

When they were being delivered from Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot and his family were warned to not look back, but Lot’s wife did look back and she became a pillar of salt. The term “looked back” is translated from the Hebrew word *nabat*, which is defined as; look intently at; by implication, to regard with pleasure, favor or care. In other words, she looked back longingly, desiring to return. Yahshua cautions us that we are not to return to recover our status and things of this world and life. If we do so, we are seeking to preserve our place and status in this world. There are too many things available to us in this world, which serve to take our attention off of the kingdom of heaven and to focus on this life.

If we are to be the salt of the earth, then our hearts must be set upon the purity and promises of the kingdom of heaven. Salt also has to do with preservation. The salt that we need to be is that which preserves the purity of Yahshua and His kingdom. The salt of Lot’s wife is the salt of destruction that is to be cast out. There is the perpetual covenant of righteousness and life through Yahshua, or perpetual destruction because of unrighteousness and wickedness. Which perpetual covenant do we desire to be a part of?

## SEASONING

Salt is a seasoning. We put salt in and on our food in order to make it more palatable. We, as the salt of the earth should be the seasoning that makes the earth more palatable to Yahweh. When Yahweh revealed to Abraham that He was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham began to entreat Yahweh on behalf of the righteous, “And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the



righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? And Yahweh said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes. And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto Yahweh, which am but dust and ashes: Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it. And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty's sake. And he said unto him, Oh let not Yahweh be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there. And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto Yahweh: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for twenty's sake. And he said, Oh let not Yahweh be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake. And Yahweh went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place," Gen. 18:23-33.

If there had been only ten righteous people in Sodom and Gomorrah, Yahweh would not have destroyed them. But the angels of Yahweh only found one righteous man to deliver and that man was Lot. The question to ask is, How many righteous people will Yahshua find on the earth when He returns? Will He find enough salt of the earth to refrain from destroying it?

The Apostle Paul writes, "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man," Col. 4:5-6.

Notice the reference to wisdom. How do we get wisdom? "The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is un-

derstanding. For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased," Prov. 9:10-11. We receive wisdom through the fear of Yahweh! We are supposed to tremble at His word, "Thus saith Yahweh, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith Yahweh: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word," Isa. 66:2.

By wisdom we can not only prolong our own lives, but we can utilize that wisdom for the good of others so that they also may be able to seek wisdom and prolong theirs. If we season our speech with the salt of the fear and wisdom of Yahweh, we will not only be blessed, but we will be a blessing to others.

Don't get me wrong concerning this. It isn't our purpose to preserve this world in its evil, but it's our purpose to utilize the wisdom of Yahweh, seasoning our speech with salt, to turn others to Yahweh, Yahshua, the word

*We, as salt, should be  
nullifying the works of the  
harmful spirits of the world.*

of truth, the kingdom, etc. Remember that salt preserves by removing the water from harmful bacteria, thus rendering the harmful bacteria powerless. Water is likened to spirit in the Scriptures. We, as salt, should be nullifying the works of the harmful spirits of the world.

## SCATTERING SALT

The Hebrew for salt is *melach* (מלח). There are two other Hebrew words, which are quite similar to this Hebrew word for salt. While they may consist of at least one letter that is different, they also describe the status of Yahshua's disciples both now and in

the future. Those words are angel/messenger *mal'ak* (מלאך) and king *melek* (מלך).

Salt must be added to food in minute amounts in order to produce the right effects; too much salt renders food inedible; too little produces a rather bland taste in so many cases. Even though many foods include salt in their recipes, once prepared, many add salt to it. This is done by sprinkling or scattering the salt onto the food for further taste enhancement.

Yahshua's people are scattered over the earth. Just as too much salt in one place renders food inedible, even so, too many of Yahshua's people in one place will not produce the desired effect. Yahshua commanded His disciples to proclaim His message to all nations, "And Yahshua came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen," Mt. 28:18-20. "Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the evangel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned," Mk. 16:14-16. "The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Yahshua began both to do and teach, until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Spirit had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of Elohim: And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the

promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Master, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth," Acts 1:1-8.

His disciples and apostles were commanded to go throughout the earth, in effect being scattered far and wide with the good news of the coming kingdom of heaven. They, as the salt of the earth, were to be scattered far and wide with the good news of salvation, which would bring hope to the ends of the earth. This scattering was to accomplish several things. So much of mankind was, is and has been trapped in a fairly miserable existence. So much of the earth has been in bondage, slavery. The existence was and is extremely difficult. But the publishing of the good news of the coming kingdom was for the purpose of giving hope to the masses. A promise of a much better future based upon better promises. The message was of a freedom and life that has never truly been experienced. This gave hope, the hope of a kingdom and government of righteousness with happiness, joy and plenty for all.

This message was and is for the purpose of not only bringing hope, liberty and freedom of the spirit for the earth's inhabitants, but it was, is, and will be for the purpose of glorifying the Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son Yahshua the Messiah. Thus the apostles and disciples, as the salt of the earth, were to bring forth a savory taste and flavor for both Elohim and men. The apostles and disciples were to be salt (*melach*/מֶלַח) and were to be messengers (*mal'ak*/מַלְאָךְ). Their

reward, as well as the reward of Yahshua's people in today's world, was to be elevated as kings (*melek*/מֶלֶךְ) in the coming kingdom of Elohim, "Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Yahshua said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life," Mat. 19:27-29.

### THE SCIENCE OF SALT

As stated above in the History of Salt, the chemical composition of salt is one atom of sodium and one atom of chlorine. Its chemical formula is NaCl. Both components, when by themselves, are potentially dangerous. Sodium, by itself, is volatile when it

*This scattering was to accomplish several things.*

comes in contact with water; it ignites and burns. This would be a type of Yahweh, who is a consuming fire (Dt. 4:24, 9:3; Heb. 12:29), coming in contact with the waters of humanity, without the mediation of Yahshua between them. No man can look upon Yahweh's face and live. Yahweh's anger and wrath would break out upon them (us) to destruction.

The chlorine, by itself, is poisonous. This is a type of mankind, the sons of Adam, in whose flesh is the law of sin and death (Ro. 7). In the analogy above, we spoke of mankind being a type of water. Water is primarily a type of the Holy Spirit (Jn. 7:37-39). Water can also be utilized to typify the spirit in man. The waters of the

Holy Spirit are pure, while the waters of the spirit in man are corrupt.

The Spirit of Yahweh imparts the wisdom of Yahweh. The spirit of man imparts the wisdom of man. Paul writes, "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of Yahweh knoweth no man, but the Spirit of Yahweh...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," 1 Cor. 2:11, 14.

Yahweh has made the wisdom of man to be foolishness, "Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not Yahweh made foolish the wisdom of this world?" 1 Cor. 2:20. So there is the wisdom and spirit of man which is foolishness to Yahweh, and the wisdom and Spirit of Yahweh, which is foolishness to man.

When Yahweh begins to call a person, and opens his minds to the truth, causing him to repent of his sins, which changes his life, then a process of enlightenment and renewal begins. Once the sinner repents and is baptized in Yahshua's name, then he/she is given an earnest of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:10-14).

In the chemical world of sodium (Na) and chlorine (Cl) an amazing phenomenon occurs. The Sodium atom contains eleven electrons and the chlorine atom contains seventeen. Both sodium and chlorine have an equal number of ions. The ions of sodium are positively charged while the ions of chlorine are negatively charged. Remember that in the electrical world a positive charge (+) and negative charge (-) are attracted to each other. The sodium and chlorine are able to unite through the process of electrolysis. The sodium atom donates its extra electron to the chlorine atom and they are combined to form salt.

In the spirit realm, Yahweh would have the positive charge while man is the negative. But man is deficient and dangerous much as is the chlorine.

When Yahweh gives us the earnest of the Spirit through Yahshua the Messiah, then we become a new creature. (Eph. 1:1-14)

In the chemical world, when sodium and chlorine unite to form salt, that which had been deadly and dangerous undergoes a miraculous change. Salt becomes as important and essential to life as water and air! A person, once converted, is essential to the life and preservation of others, believe it or not. Remember that sodium is volatile when it comes in contact with water. This is a type of Yahweh being unable to mix with, live with the waters of mankind. Chlorine is poisonous. But when the sodium is combined with the chlorine to form salt, then when added to the water, the sodium dissolves becoming a life preserving solution! Remember, however, that everything must be in moderation. Too much salt is not good either. That is why it must be sprinkled or scattered.

### LOOSING ONE'S SALTNESS

Yahshua warned, “Ye are the salt of the earth: but **if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.** Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid,” Mt. 5:13-14. “For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt. Salt is good: but **if the salt have lost his saltiness, wherewith will ye season it?** Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another,” Mk. 9:49-50. “So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. Salt is good: but **if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out.** He that hath ears to hear, let him hear,” Lk. 14:33-35.

From these three excerpts of Scripture, we learn that we can lose our saltiness. How? In Matthew chapter 5, Yahshua says that we are to be a light. In other Scriptures He revealed that

man has no light in himself, but that Yahshua is the light of the world. He said that as long as we follow Him, we will have light (Jn. 8:12). He said that if we believe in Him, we will not dwell in darkness (Jn. 12:46). If He is our light, then we must let His light shine forth to all mankind, not trusting in our own so-called light (righteousness) which is truly darkness. In other words, we must speak of Him and His righteousness, not trusting in our own righteousness as did the Pharisees.

In Mark He reveals that we, as salt, must salt His sacrifice. We have already touched base with the salt of the sacrifices. But Yahshua's sacrifice is also for a peace offering. How can we proclaim to be His disciples and hate one another and not have peace within and among ourselves? If we can have peace between ourselves, then we can see how to bring about peace between Yahweh and men in proclaiming Yahshua's sacrifice and understanding it more readily. But if we continue to separate ourselves from one another, then we have no peace and we are in danger of losing our saltiness.

*The word “salary,” which is synonymous with “wages,” comes from the word salt.*

In Luke we learn that we must forsake all that we have. This not only has to do with our physical possessions, but also our own honor and integrity. If we trust in ourselves, then we have greatly deceived ourselves. Our trust is in Yahweh, Yahshua and their word of truth, their promises. They are faithful, man is not. Too many are seeking to exalt themselves above others. The disciples did this very thing and Yahshua instituted the ceremony of footwashing in order to set the example of humility. To exalt oneself above others is not the Spirit of Yahweh, but the spirit of the adversary.

If we lose our saltiness, our savor, our

ability to season, then we aren't even good enough for the dunghill. This is a stern warning to us that we had better make amends, or do what we can to make amends with others who may be our adversaries, not only without, but within the body of the Messiah.

While we may have differences with others because of a different understanding, as long as the differences don't corrupt the truth about Yahshua, Yahweh and their word, then we should be able to have peace among ourselves. We know that we have differences with the world, but it is our place to publish the truth, to let Yahshua's light shine in hope that a ray of light will be able to penetrate the darkness, thereby many others will be able to see and have their lives preserved through the power of faith in Yahshua the Messiah, the Savior of the whole world!

### CONCLUSION

While there are volumes upon volumes that could be written concerning these things, there comes a time when enough has been said or written for one message or treatise.

Yahshua said to His disciples, “Ye are the salt of the earth.” If we are His disciples, then we are that salt. Salt is so important and vital to life that it is on a level with water and air. Salt is so valuable that if it weren't available in such vast quantities, its value would be on a par with gold, or even greater. We can't eat gold, but salt is essential in our diet.

The word “salary,” which is synonymous with “wages,” comes from the word salt. We earn the wages, the salary of death when we sin (Ro. 6:23). Yahweh gives us the gift of grace, but we must maintain the condition of grace for the rest of our lives, otherwise we won't be worth our salt.

Salt is a preservative. We as the salt of the earth are to preserve the covenant that Yahweh is making with us through Yahshua the Messiah.

Salt is for purity. We must keep ourselves unspotted and unstained from

*(Continued on page 23)*



# SHOULD WE FOLLOW THE RABBIS?

*This article has appeared in at least two publications lately. They are "A Remnant Walk" and "Search the Scriptures." We have decided to leave Brother Frank Brown's opening comments intact for further explanation.*

*(This was originally published in a recent issue of "The Remnant's Walk," a quarterly newsmagazine published by Congregation of YHWH Jerusalem. US Address at end of article. I find it worthy of publication, because, while we are aware of many of the errors rampant in Christianity, I have found that many new "converts" are turning to Judaism. Truth is, there are as many or maybe more errors and false doctrines in Rabbinic Judaism as there are in nominal Christianity. We are neither Christian nor Jew, but rely on Scripture only as our authority and this means BOTH the OLD Covenant and NEW Covenant writings. Is there a conflict between the two? No, not when they are properly understood. Some additions and deletions made here and there, and some mistranslations from the original Hebrew/Aramaic into Greek and ultimately into many languages, has made understanding of certain books or passages more difficult to understand, but Truth is there for the careful reader to discern. Notable among these misunderstood writings are those of the apostle Paul. Now to the article by Bro. Don Esposito):*

Yahshua clearly taught his disciples that they should not take the title of Rabbi: Matt. 23:8 ***But do not you be called rabbi, for one is your master, the messiah, and you are all brothers.***

Now we can understand why Judaism would not follow this command of Yahshua since they deny his messiahship, but why would messianic leaders today also deny Yahshua's command and take the title of rabbi? The first thing you must understand is why Yahshua gave this command to his disciples, as it went much further than just forbidding his followers from taking a specific title.

It actually goes to the very heart of the problem with some believers today following the oral law of modern Rabbinic Judaism. In the oral law it states that every disciple must have a rabbi to teach him. Now this may not sound so devious by itself, but it goes much further than this. Once you give your allegiance to your rabbi, he in turn has become not only your spiritual mentor but literally your master.

The Jewish oral law called the Talmud and also a book called the Mishnah states that, "if the rabbi says right is left and left is right then so it is." It also states "to break the torah is a small offence but to disagree with a rabbi is punishable by losing your eternal life." Both of these statements are blasphemous and idolatrous ac-

cording to the first commandment.

This is the reason that Yahshua said "Call no man rabbi, as you have one master the Messiah." When you would give your allegiance to your rabbi, basically you gave him your undying loyalty to follow anything he tells you even if you know that it is wrong, or even sin.

There is one story in the Talmud (*rosh hash* 25a) that shows Rabbi

that "Yahweh is only one of 70 rabbis and must submit to the authority of the other rabbis."

Yahweh must submit to the rabbis? How perverted has modern Judaism gotten and who are these rabbis and where did their authority come from? Did you know that the word Rabbi is not found even once in the TaNaK (old testament)? So where did these rabbis come from?

## RISE OF THE MACABEES

The answer goes back to the Hasmonian Dynasty and the times of the Macabees. The Macabees were a family of Jewish men who lived in the second century BCE. After Alexander the Great conquered the world in 334 BCE, he died mysteriously soon after that, at only 32 years old. His kingdom was divided by his four generals. The two predominant ones were the Ptolemy's to the south who overtook Egypt, and the Seleucids to the north who oversaw Syria. These two kingdoms fought each other for control and whoever was in charge at the time controlled the land of Israel. In 167 BCE a leader from the Seleucids named Antiochus Epiphanes who hated the Jewish people, made laws to make it illegal for Jews to circumcise their children. He then went on to sacrifice a pig in the Temple (the abomination of desolation) and tried to convert all Jews to Greek Hellenization. (NOTE: He also glorified his Greek

***"Yahweh is only one of 70 rabbis and must submit to the authority of the other rabbis."***

Eleazar upset because he stated that the New Month had started and he knew that he was wrong and that in reality it did not start yet. Then another rabbi tells him not to worry because since anything a rabbi says is infallible, that the new month has started even though in reality it didn't, simply because he said it did. This gave Eleazar comfort. Again this is blasphemous and sounds very much like Roman Catholicism and the pope.

In modern Judaism the rabbis cannot be wrong and you must have a personal rabbi to give your allegiance to. Also in modern Judaism the rabbis have no accountability to anyone, not even to Yahweh. The Talmud states

god Zeus by placing his statue in the Holy of holies in the temple, a far worse desecration than offering swine on the altar. *JH*)

At this time Mathias Macabees with his four sons rebelled to save the Jewish nation. His oldest son Judas was most famous for the story of Hanukkah and the rededication of the temple to Yahweh. These Macabees were the beginning of the Hasmonian dynasty. After Judas died, his brother Simon took over for him, etc. But by the time of the late first century BCE, descendants of Simon such as Jason were made high priest and were not Levites but were from the tribe of Judah.

During the times of the Macabees the Jewish leaders made covenant pacts with Egypt and Rome and were looking for outside protection since they were not a very large military might in this time period. Then in 63 BCE Rome conquered the land of Israel and set up a very wealthy Edomite spice trader as governor of Judea named Herod the Great. Herod converted to Judaism to try to win the confidence of the Jewish people, but they saw right through his trickery.

At this time many non-Levites and even worse, non-Jews who were Edomite converts such as Herod were buying into the sacred priesthood. The Jewish court called the Sanhedrin set up in 196 BCE held most of the reigning power. They were made up of Sadducees and Pharisees. The Pharisees were not priests but common people, who were against scripture, performing certain Levitical duties, when scripture is very clear that **only Levites should perform sacrifices.**

### AKIVA AND THE RABBIS

The party of the Pharisees were also called Rabbis. Again you do not even once see this term in the whole of Torah. Then in the second half of the first century CE after the destruction of the Temple, many Jewish people were seeing the fulfillment of Yahshua as the substitute of the sacrificial system and were questioning the

authority of the false Rabbinic system that had been set up.

This is when a man called Akiva (or Akiba) came on the scene and set up what is today modern Rabbinic Judaism. In modern Judaism the oral writings of the rabbis are much more important than even the torah and most of these writings come from Akiva. The Talmud is filled with stories of how great Akiva was. There are stories of every great man of the bible praising Akiva, even such great men as Abraham and Moses and even Adam in the garden of Eden talked about how great Akiva was. Clearly these are fairy tales and made up by Akiva himself.

Akiva made the rabbis into gods and gave all authority not only in earth but heaven also to the rabbis. Akiva was also the one who wrote that Yahweh is merely one of 70 rabbis and must submit to the will of the rabbis.

Akiva was also the one who named Simon Bar Kochba as the Messiah in 132 CE. Akiva saw that many Jews were accepting Yahshua as the prom-

***But the rabbis also claimed  
that all authority in heaven  
and earth was given to them.***

ised Messiah and knew he had to do something to stop the movement, so he named Bar Kochba as the messiah, well knowing that believers of Yahshua could not fight in a holy war for a false messiah. The punishment for not fighting against the Romans was imprisonment, confiscation of property and also death.

Akiva set up a 4-man tribunal against believers with himself at the head, and sentenced many of our Jewish brothers and sisters to death. This is why by the second half of the second century CE, there were very few Jewish believers left in society. Akiva also wrote evil lies about Yahshua and called him everything from a warlock

to a bastard, to a liar. All this is written in the Talmud.

In modern Judaism, Akiva is acclaimed as the greatest rabbi of all time and is worshipped by his rabbinic followers. No wonder there is so much hatred for Yahshua among orthodox followers today. I am sorry to say that modern rabbinic Judaism is a false second century religion made up by an evil man named Akiva. There are many books such as Dan Gruber's *Rabbi Akiva's Messiah* that can easily confirm these facts as accurate, but the best source to verify these things is to go to the Talmud and the Mishnah themselves and see the evil lies that are said about our King Messiah Yahshua the Son of Yahweh.

### DISCIPLESHIP

This article is not to attack rabbinic Judaism but to show that the origins of it are not scriptural. Certainly when you read the oral law a child can see that it does not go back to Moses but is filled with inaccuracies and fairy tales. In a time when many believers are coming out of paganized Christianity and are naively thinking that rabbinic Judaism is the ancient religion of the bible, the truth must come out.

Even worse, we know of some that are even converting to rabbinic Judaism to be able to stay in the land of Israel. The whole problem of why Yahshua had so many problems with the Pharisees was that of authority. Yahshua claimed full authority from heaven: ***“Mat. 28:18 And coming up Yahshua talked with them, saying, All authority in heaven and on earth was given to me.”***

But the rabbis also claimed that all authority in heaven and earth was given to them. The Talmud says that Yahweh gave ultimate authority over heaven and earth to Moses and in turn Moses has handed this authority over to the rabbis and since Yahweh said they could have it, he can't take it back no matter how evil they are.

*(Continued on page 23)*

# BEWARE OF THE LEAVEN OF THE PHARISEES

*When we become aware of the Hebrew roots of our faith and realize the law is still in effect, how often do we run to Brother Judah for instruction on how to properly observe Torah? We desire to learn everything we can about how to worship the Heavenly Father as the children of Israel once did. We reason that since the Jews have been entrusted with the oracles of Yahweh, we should go to them to learn how to properly walk out our newly found faith. But, is this a wise path to choose? Should we look to blind guides to lead us in a way that is pleasing to the Almighty? What did our savior say about it?*

*By Brick Parrish*

**Mat 16:5** And when his disciples were come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread.

**Mat 16:6** Then Yahshua said unto them, Take heed and **beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.**

**Mat 16:7** And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have taken no bread.

The disciples were a little slow to figure out what Yahshua meant when he said beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. So, he told them plainly that the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees was their doctrine.

**Mat 16:11** How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?

**Mat 16:12** Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, **but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.**

So just what was this doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees that Yahshua warned them to avoid?

The disciples remembered that earlier, the scribes and Pharisees had questioned Yahshua as to why his disciples did not wash their hands before eating.

**Mat 15:1** Then came to Yahshua scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,

**Mat 15:2** Why do thy disciples transgress **the tradition of the elders?** for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

**Mat 15:3** But he answered and said unto them, **Why do ye also transgress the commandment of Elohim by your tra-**

## **dition?**

It was their oral traditions that they had placed above the written Torah of Yahweh. The Jews of that time considered the traditions of the elders to be more authoritative than the written word of Yahweh. But Yahshua countered and told them **they were transgressing the commandment of Yahweh by their traditions.**

**Mat 15:4** For Elohim commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.

**Mat 15:5** But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;

***It was their oral traditions that they had placed above the written Torah of Yahweh.***

**Mat 15:6** And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. **Thus have ye made the commandment of Elohim of none effect by your tradition.**

Their oral tradition had made the commandment of Yahweh void. The real intent of their oral traditions was to circumvent the commandments of Yahweh.

**Mat 15:7** Ye hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying,

**Mat 15:8** This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

**Mat 15:9** **But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.**

Did you catch what he said? Yahshua plainly stated that the Scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees **worshipped him in vain**. If they were worshipping him in vain, that means **he does not accept their worship.**

Yahshua called them hypocrites, role players, who went through the motions of honoring Yahweh, but their hearts were not in it and their doctrine was after their own man made traditions. He was quoting what Yahweh had told Isaiah.

**Isa 29:13** Wherefore YHWH said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, **but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:**

Here Yahweh was speaking to the Jews in Jerusalem whose hearts were far from him, having substituted the traditions of men for the written word of Yahweh. They were men of no understanding. They paid lip service to him by their rituals, but their hearts were far away from him. If this was the condition of the Jews in Jerusalem at the time of Isaiah, and they were the same in the days of Yahshua, **why would we think they have changed in the last 2,000 years?** No, they are the same today as they were in the times of Isaiah and Yahshua. They place their oral traditions above the written word of Yahweh to this very day.

**Mar 7:1** Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem.

**Mar 7:2** And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, **they found fault.**

**Mar 7:3** For the Pharisees, and all



the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, **holding the tradition of the elders.**

They couldn't understand why Yahshua didn't also hold to the traditions of the elders. **This WAS their oral law!** They had placed their oral law above the commandments of Yahweh.

Another account of the same event related in the gospel of Mark fills in some more of the conversation with the Scribes and Pharisees as Yahshua quotes the same scripture in Isaiah that we just read.

**Mar 7:5** Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples **according to the tradition of the elders,** but eat bread with unwashen hands?

**Mar 7:6** He answered and said unto them, Well hath Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

**Mar 7:7** **Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.**

**Mar 7:8** **For laying aside the commandment of Elohim, ye hold the tradition of men,** as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

**Mar 7:9** And he said unto them, **Full well ye reject the commandment of Elohim, that ye may keep your own tradition.**

They rejected the commandment of Yahweh in order to keep their own tradition.

This is typical of Judaism in the first century A.D. Their oral traditions had taken precedence over the written word of Yahweh and Yahshua says they worship Him in vain. By laying aside the commandment of Yahweh in favor of their tradition, their attempt to worship Yahweh was meaningless and in vain.

The Sadducees, who did not believe in the resurrection, came to him with a trick question about a woman, the wife of seven different men, whose she would be in the resurrection. They

were doing the same thing as the Pharisees. Pretending to be righteous, they did not really want an answer to the question, but were trying to trap Yahshua in his answers to their questions. This is why he called them hypocrites.

**Mat 22:23** The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him,

**Mat 22:24** Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.

**Mat 22:25** Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother:

**Mat 22:26** Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh.

**Mat 22:27** And last of all the woman died also.

**Mat 22:28** Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her.

**Mat 22:29** Yahshua answered and said unto them, **Ye do err, not**

## **Do the Rabbinic Jews believe the truth of Yahweh today?**

**knowing the scriptures, nor the power of Elohim.**

They did not know the scriptures. These men were blinded. Yahshua referred to them as blind guides.

**Mat 15:12** Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?

**Mat 15:13** But he answered and said, **Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.**

**Mat 15:14** **Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.**

This is a double indictment against these scribes and Pharisees. They were not planted by the heavenly Father and will be rooted up. If they were not planted by the heavenly Father, then who planted them? There are only two crops sown spiritually, the wheat and the tares. **Let them alone.** They will be separated in the harvest at the end of the age.

**Mat 13:30** **Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.**

And Yahshua also said they were the blind leading the blind.

Do the Rabbinic Jews believe the truth of Yahweh today? They think they do, but scripture says otherwise. They are no different than the Catholic or Protestant religions, which are also blinded by claiming the law is no longer in effect. So why would we want to look to blind guides to teach us Torah?

**Luk 11:52** Woe unto you, lawyers! **for ye have taken away the key of knowledge:** ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.

**Luk 11:53** And as he said these things unto them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to urge him vehemently, and to provoke him to speak of many things:

**Luk 11:54** **Laying wait for him, and seeking to catch something out of his mouth, that they might accuse him.**

Lawyer simply means "Torah expert". They had taken away the key of knowledge, which is the Torah and had replaced it with their tradition. And as mentioned earlier, they didn't really want a truthful answer to their questions, but were trying to trick Yahshua into making a mistake so they could accuse him.

The leaven of the Pharisees is also hypocrisy.

**Luk 12:1** In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, **Be-**

**ware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.**

The Pharisees were pretenders of righteousness. They acted piously in actions that were to be seen as acts of righteousness to all those around them, but in reality, they were as whited sepulchres full of dead men's bones. They looked righteous on the outside, but were dead within.

**1Co 2:6** *Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:*

**1Co 2:7** *But we speak the wisdom of Elohim in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which Elohim ordained before the world unto our glory:*

**1Co 2:8** *Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Master of glory.*

If the Jews had truly understood the Torah, they would have recognized their Messiah and would not have crucified him. Speaking to Pilate,

**Joh 19:7** *The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of Elohim.*

There is no such law in the Torah. There is a law against blasphemy of the name of Yahweh, which is punishable by death, but not for claiming to be the son of Elohim. This is just another example of how their oral tradition had replaced the Torah.

*"The oral tradition of the Jews is written in volumes called the Talmud which means "study" or "Learning". It is a set of books consisting of the Mishna and the Gemara. The Mishna is a collection of originally oral laws supplementing scriptural laws. The Gemara is a set of commentaries and*

*elaborations of the Mishna.*

*According to the rabbis who created the Talmud, it originated at Mt Sinai as part of the divine revelation to Moses along with material recorded in the Torah. The oral tradition interpreted the written Torah and adapted its precepts to ever-changing political and social circumstances."(Ency. Britannica 15<sup>th</sup> ed.)*

The present day Talmud is as long as a set of encyclopedias which was condensed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D. under the supervision of Judah ha-Nasi, (The Rabbi), from an even larger volume of chaotic writings containing many contradictions and errors. The contradictions were simply explained away through reinterpretation.

These oral traditions of the Jews caused a dispute between the Pharisees and Sadducees. Seeing that both were blinded and couldn't agree among themselves, why would we look to either for the truth?

The oral law also places a lot of emphasis on rituals and ceremonies which cannot be found in the Torah. If Yahshua didn't impose any of these rituals and ceremonies on his disciples, why should we feel obligated to do them today? Many of these ritualistic ceremonies today can be traced to paganism. Oral traditions, such as the catechism of the Catholic Church and those of apostate Judaism are very much alike.

We know that the oracles of Yahweh were entrusted to the Jews to preserve them. This they did, but this does not mean they necessarily understood them. The fact is, they didn't. They did not then and do not now properly interpret the written word of Yahweh. So why should we look to them to teach us Torah?

The whole point of this article is to question why some think that the Rabbinic Jews, who scripture plainly tells us are blinded, can rightly teach us Torah? The very foundation of

present day Judaism is the Talmud. Do we want to be drawn away from Torah to fables, liturgy, and oral traditions that Yahshua told us to avoid?

I admit that I too was also carried away by Jewish tradition when I first became aware of the Hebrew roots of my faith. It was hard to separate fact from fiction. If the Jews practiced it, it must be right. Wrong!

For awhile we had a little towel in our bathroom with an inscription which read " *Blessed are you Yahweh, our king of the universe who has sanctified us by your commandments and has commanded us concerning the washing of hands*". Sounds good, doesn't it? But, there is no such commandment. Washing your hands is a good thing, but you are not sinning if you don't do it. It is the same thing that the Pharisees accused of Yahshua of violating... their oral law, the tradition of the elders.

In conclusion, why should we look to the Rabbinic Judaism for truth when they are blinded? They still are blinded today as they still do not recognize Yahshua, their Messiah. They do not properly divide the word of truth, so why would we want to mimic them? I love the Jewish people today, but do not love the ways of Rabbinic Judaism. Not everything they do is wrong, but it is sometimes hard for us initially to separate which is Torah and which is tradition. The need is great for Messianic leaders who can teach us the difference. This is not an indictment of the Jewish people, but of Rabbinic Judaism. This is not about race, but a religion.

Yahshua rightly said "Beware of the Leaven of the Pharisees", where they rejected the truth of Torah in favor of their own traditions.

Shouldn't we just obey Yahshua today and also beware of this leaven of the Pharisees he warned us about?

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*(Continued from page 23)*

foreordained to the condemnation of denying or contradicting Yahweh and Yahshua. They resisted John's witness, Yahshua's witness and Paul's witness.

Modern day Rabbinic Judaism is

nothing more than ancient Pharisaism under a different name. Those who have been persuaded to walk in the ways of Rabbinic Judaism must repent of the error of their ways, embrace the witness of John, Yahshua and Paul and build their lives up on

the most solid of all foundations, Yahweh's word, which is Yahshua the Messiah.

May Yahweh give you eyes to see and understand.

# THE WITNESS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

*Recently, we heard a message from a man who focused on Luke 7:36-50 concerning the invitation of the Pharisee to come to his house to dine. The message left one with the impression that those who focus on Scriptural obedience are blinded while the sinners will recognize Yahshua. This study proves that we must beware of making one Scripture of private interpretation.*

John the Baptist had heard of the things that Yahshua was doing among the people, therefore he sent two of his disciples to ask Yahshua if He was the one that they were looking for (Lk. 7:18-19). His disciples came to Yahshua inquiring, "Art thou he that should come? or look we for another? And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight. Then Yahshua answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me," Lk. 7:20-23.

When his disciples left to return to John, Yahshua said, "What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind? But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they which are gorgeously apparelled, and live delicately, are in kings' courts. But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and much more than a prophet. This is he, of whom it is written, **Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee,**" vv. 24-27.

This quote is taken directly from the book of Malachi, chapter 3:1, "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me."

What does all of this mean? The book of Malachi is given its distinctive name because of the name of the one to whom it was given. Malachi is, of course, an Hebrew name, which means "My messenger." The Hebrew word is "malak" and is generally

translated as "angel," but in other places it is also translated as "messenger." Angels are messengers whether they are spirit or human.

The Levitical priests were messengers/angels of Yahweh (*malak-im*[the *im* added to a Hebrew word denotes plurality]), "For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger (*malak*) of Yahweh of hosts," Mal. 2:7.

## WHO WAS JOHN THE BAPTIST?

In the book of Luke, chapter 1, we learn that there is a priest of the course of Abia, who served in the temple, "There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course

*He (John) was to go forth  
before Yahweh in accordance  
with Mal. 3:1.*

of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth," v. 5. Notice this verse. Zechariah was a priest of Yahweh, which made him a descendant of Aaron the Levite, brother of Moses. Elizabeth was also a daughter, or descendant of Aaron.

While he was performing the duties of his office an angel (messenger/*malak*) of Yahweh appeared to him, "And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before Yahweh in the order of his course, according to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of Yahweh. And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the

time of incense. And there appeared unto him an angel of Yahweh standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For **he shall be great in the sight of Yahweh, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.** And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to Yahweh their Elohim. **And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias (EliYah), to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for Yahweh,**" Lk. 1:9-17.

Luke 1:17 is a direct quote from Malachi 4:5-6, "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of Yahweh: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

John's purpose, when he came of age, was to go forth as Yahweh's messenger in the spirit and power of EliYah (Elijah) to turn the heart of the fathers (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) to the children (Judah and Israel) and the hearts of the children to the fathers. If he failed, Yahweh proclaimed that He would smite the earth with a curse or destruction. He was to go forth before Yahweh in accordance with Mal. 3:1. He was to prepare the way for the Messenger of the Covenant.

A most important point concerning



John is that he was a descendant of Aaron the high priest of Israel. John's father, Zechariah, was a priest of the course of Abia. John's rightful inheritance would have been that of the priesthood, possibly even the high priest. He was born into a family of the priestly line, which made him a true messenger/angel/*malak* of Yahweh.

## JOHN'S BIRTH

John's father, Zechariah, was so shocked with this information that he questioned, "Whereby shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years," Lk. 1:18. Because of his incredulous attitude, the angel smote him with dumbness so that he wouldn't be able to speak until John was born. (v. 20).

Elizabeth conceived in accordance with the Angel Gabriel's message and brought forth a son, "Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son. And her neighbours and her cousins heard how Yahweh had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her. And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father. And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John. And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name. And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called. And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all," Lk. 1:57-63.

While this astounded the people, what happened next really caused an uproar throughout all of the hill country of Judaea, "And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised Elohim. And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea. And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of

Yahweh was with him. And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying, Blessed be Yahweh Elohim of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; The oath which he sware to our father Abraham, That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life. **And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of Yahweh to prepare his ways;** To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins, Through the tender mercy of our Elohim; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the

*Herod was made tetrarch or king over the Jewish people by command of Augustus Caesar.*

shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace," Lk. 1:64-79.

Yahshua witnessed who John was. The Angel Gabriel witnessed who John was. John's own father witnessed who John was. John was conceived by his father Zechariah, but he was given the Holy Spirit from Yahweh even while he was in his mother's womb. This made John great in the sight of Yahweh and the greatest among men. This is why Yahshua proclaimed, "For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women **there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist:** but he that is least in the kingdom of Elohim is greater than he," Lk. 7:28.

## THE CONDITION OF THE PRIESTHOOD

While the Scriptures report the blamelessness of Zechariah and Elizabeth, the fact of the matter is that the temple had fallen into disrepair. Herod, called the Great, had expended massive funds in order to restore the temple, but this restoration came at a price. It has been reported by Josephus and others that Herod instituted the high priest of his own choosing. If there was a priest with whom he disagreed or disliked, he would simply have the man defiled in some way, usually by inflicting wounds which would produce scars and blemishes, therefore disqualifying him.

Herod was made tetrarch or king over the Jewish people by command of Augustus Caesar. His lineage was from Edom (father) and Ishmael (mother). He was supposedly a convert to the Jewish religion, but he built a city north of Jerusalem and named it Caesarea in honor of Caesar, wherein was a temple dedicated to him, honoring him (Caesar) as a god. It is important to note that when Yahshua was presented to the people as the King of the Jews, that they responded, "We have no king but Caesar," Jn. 19:15.

The Prophet Malachi was inspired to warn the Levitical Priesthood, "And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you. If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith Yahweh of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart. Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces, even the dung of your solemn feasts; and one shall take you away with it. And ye shall know that I have sent this commandment unto you, that my covenant might be with Levi, saith Yahweh of hosts. My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him for the fear wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name. The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity

was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity. For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of Yahweh of hosts. But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith Yahweh of hosts. Therefore have I also made you contemptible and base before all the people, according as ye have not kept my ways, but have been partial in the law. Have we not all one father? Hath not one Elohim created us? Why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers? Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of Yahweh which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange Elohim. Yahweh will cut off the man that doeth this, the master and the scholar, out of the tabernacles of Jacob, and him that offereth an offering unto Yahweh of hosts," Mal. 2:1-12.

## THE PHARISEES

The Pharisees were a political and religious party who came to power in 139-105 BCE. They rejected the Hasmonean Sadducean priesthood and kings as legitimate rulers of the Temple and state. It was, however, only after a long and protracted struggle with the Sadducees that they won their lasting triumph in the interpretation and execution of the Law. The Sadducees, jealously guarded the privileges and prerogatives established since the days of Solomon, when Zadok, their ancestor, officiated as priest, insisted upon the literal observance of the Law; the Pharisees, on the other hand, claimed prophetic or Mosaic authority for their interpretation at the same time asserting the principles of religious democracy and progress. With reference to Ex. xix. 6, they maintained that "God gave all the people the heritage, the kingdom, the

priesthood, and the holiness."

The Pharisees formed a league or brotherhood of their own ("ḥaburah"), admitting only those who, in the presence of three members, pledged themselves to the strict observance of Levitical purity, to the avoidance of closer association with the 'Am ha-Arez (the ignorant and careless boor), to the scrupulous payment of tithes and other imposts due to the priest, the Levite, and the poor, and to a conscientious regard for vows and for other people's property (Dem. ii. 3; Tosef., Dem. ii. 1). They called their members "ḥaberim" (brothers), while they passed under the name of "Perishaya," or "Perushim."

Pharisaic declaration of the principle that the Torah is "the inheritance of the congregation of Jacob" (Deut. xxxiii. 3, Hebr.). In establishing schools and synagogues everywhere and enjoining each father to see that his son was instructed in the Law (Yer. Ket. vii. 32c; Kid. 29a; Sifre, Deut. 46), the Pharisees made the Torah a power for the education of the Jewish people all over the world, a

***The Pharisees were a political and religious party who came to power in 139-105 BCE.***

power whose influence, in fact, was felt even outside of the Jewish race (see R.Meir in Sifra, Aḥare Mot, 13; Matt. xxiii. 15; comp. Gen. R. xxviii.; Jellinek, "B. H." vi., p. xlvi.). The same sanctity that the priests in the Temple claimed for their meals, at which they gathered with the recitation of benedictions (I Sam. ix. 13) and after ablutions, the Pharisees established for their meals, which were partaken of in holy assemblies after purifications and amidst benedictions (Geiger, "Urschrift," pp. 121-124). Especially were the Sabbath and holy days made the means of sanctification, and, as at the sacrifices, wine was used in honor of the day. A true Pharisee observed the same degree of

purity in his daily meals as did the priest in the Temple (Tosef., Dem. ii. 2; so did Abraham, according to B. M. 87a), **wherefore it was necessary that he should avoid contact with the 'am ha-arez** (the ignorant and careless boor).

Amidst the bitter struggle which ensued (between the Pharisees and Sadducees), the Pharisees appeared before Pompey asking him to interfere and restore the old priesthood while abolishing the royalty of the Hasmoneans altogether ("Ant." xiv. 3, § 2). The defilement of the Temple by Pompey was regarded by the Pharisees as a divine punishment of Sadducean misrule (Psalms of Solomon, i., ii., viii. 12-19). After the national independence had been lost, the Pharisees gained in influence while the star of the Sadducees waned. Herod found his chief opponents among the latter, and so he put the leaders of the Sanhedrin to death while endeavoring by a milder treatment to win the favor of the leaders of the Pharisees, who, though they refused to take the oath of allegiance, were otherwise friendly to him ("Ant." xiv. 9, § 4; xv. 1, § 1; 10, § 4; 11, §§ 5-6). (*Jewish Encyclopedia Online*)

The Pharisees were, depending on the time, a political party, a social movement, and a school of thought among Jews that flourished during the [Second Temple Era \(536 BCE–70 CE\)](#). After the destruction of the Second Temple, the Pharisaic sect was re-established as [Rabbinic Judaism](#) — which ultimately produced normative, traditional Judaism, the basis for all contemporary forms of Judaism, with the possible exception of the [Karaites](#). (*Wikipedia*)

## THE REBELLION

Herein is the problem. The Pharisees rejected the Aaronic/Levitical priesthood, establishing themselves as priests and kings. While this movement looked good on the surface, the problem is that Yahweh, Himself distinguished between the Aaronic priesthood compared to the rest of

Israel, including the other families of Levites. This is revealed in the instance with the rebellion of Korah and his followers.

Korah was a son of Kohath, a Levite. He, along with Dathan and Abiram, sons of Reuben, questioned the authority of Moses and Aaron accusing them of taking them out of a land of milk and honey and delivering them into the barren wilderness in order to become a king and priest over the people. (Num. 16) The spirit of the Pharisees, in questioning the Aaronic priesthood, and corrupting the books of Moses to satisfy their own rebellion, are a repeat of the rebellion of Korah. That rebellion continues to this very day.

The Pharisees knew John the Baptist. They knew of the circumstances of his birth. They knew that he was an Aaronic priest by inheritance. But they were in the process of denying the authority of the priesthood and even the Temple. They had wrested control over the people and the priesthood. The Pharisees were in contention with the Sadducees as to how things should be done in the office of the priesthood and imposed their own will upon them.

Furthermore, as stated in the *Jewish Encyclopedia*, and other works, the Pharisees were in the process of removing the authority of the priesthood and temple through the establishment of the synagogues and Rabbinic authority. Both John and Yahshua warned them of their errors. When the Pharisees and Sadducees came to his baptism he warned, "But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that Elohim is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into

the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire," Mt. 3:7-12.

Yahshua also warned, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: That

***The Pharisees knew John the Baptist. They knew of the circumstances of his birth.***

upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation," Mt. 23:29-36.

The Pharisaic traditions are admittedly extant in today's world in the guise of Rabbinic Judaism! How can one go to Rabbinic Judaism in order to learn the truth of the Scriptures? They deny the very One of Whom the Scriptures testify, Yahshua the Messiah! They have even forbidden the knowledge of the true names of the Father and the Son, Yahweh and

Yahshua. The name Yahweh is, to them, an abomination to speak. Yahweh, in accordance with the Scriptures, has taken His name out of their mouths (Jer. 44:26).

## **JOHN'S MINISTRY**

John was sent to prepare the way for Yahshua the Messiah as has already been addressed. Yahshua said of John, "And when the messengers of John were departed, he began to speak unto the people concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind? But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they which are gorgeously apparelled, and live delicately, are in kings' courts. But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and much more than a prophet. This is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of Elohim is greater than he. And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified Elohim, being baptized with the baptism of John. **But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of Yahweh against themselves, being not baptized of him,**" Lk. 7:24-30.

Nicodemus was a member of the Sanhedrin. He admitted to Yahshua, "There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Yahshua by night, and said unto him, **Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from Elohim: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except Elohim be with him,**" Jn. 3:1-2.

They knew that John was a messenger sent by Yahweh. They also knew, through John's ministry that the Messiah, the Messenger of the covenant was soon to appear. Yet, the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of Yahweh against themselves, just as Korah and his followers rejected the



counsel of Yahweh through Moses and Aaron.

Yes, the priesthood had become corrupted. But the people knew that John, who was of the priestly lineage, was a special messenger because of his birth, not only the physical miracle of that birth, because his parents were past the age of bearing children, but because of his lineage from Aaron. His parents were blameless in the law and so was he. But John was sent to testify that a greater than himself, a greater priesthood was on the way. He was sent to testify that a change was coming. He was to prepare the people's hearts for that change. The publicans and sinners recognized John's ministry and baptism, but the very people who studied the Scriptures intensely, being men of letters, thought too highly of themselves and trusted in their own authority, knowledge and righteousness than to submit to John and Yahshua.

### THE PHARISEE'S INVITATION

With this in mind, let's take a look at an instance that occurred during Yahshua's ministry, "And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Yahshua sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner," Lk. 7:36-39.

In accordance with the dictates of the Pharisees, they were to avoid contact with the Am ha-Arez or the common people of the land, including especially the Gentiles. Anyone who was not a Pharisee was not considered to

be a brother, or a member of their brotherhood, and therefore, was common, ignorant and unclean. Since the Pharisee rejected the counsel of John, he didn't understand who Yahshua was. Notice that he says, "This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that touches him: for she is a sinner."

Yahshua, being Who He was, knew what the Pharisee was thinking, "And Yahshua answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on. There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged. And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with

*John was sent to testify that a greater than himself, a greater priesthood was on the way.*

the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little," vv. 40-17.

Notice the difference between the way that Yahshua was received by the Pharisee compared to the sinful woman. While the Pharisee saw that Yahshua was a Master or Teacher, he didn't even receive Yahshua in accordance with the truth as to Who He was. The tradition of the day was that

when a person entered into a household, a servant would wash the sand off of his feet with a pan of water. The Pharisee didn't even have this service performed for Yahshua. Guests would be received with a kiss. He gave Yahshua no kiss. He also gave Yahshua no ointment for His head, in other words, he wasn't willing to even allow Yahshua to refresh Himself before they ate the meal. Another point of this instance is that the woman, even though a sinner, DID NOT reject the counsels of Yahweh through John. She obviously was one of those who came to John's baptism of repentance and had the way prepared in her heart to receive the Messenger of the Covenant, Yahshua the Messiah.

In the parable presented by Yahshua, both people, the Pharisee and the woman are debtors to Yahweh. In other words, both are sinners. While the Pharisee was seeking to fulfill the righteousness of the law, the fact of the matter is that no matter how perfectly we can do so, "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of Yahweh." The Pharisees were so careful to fulfill the law that they placed many, many grievous burdens on the people. They were so smug and complacent in their own ability to fulfill righteousness that they lost sight of the fact that "all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags," Isa. 64:6. Also, James writes, "If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. For **whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.** For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty," Jas. 2:8-12.

"And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, **Who is this that forgiveth sins also?** And he said to the woman,

Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace,” Lk. 7:48-50.

Notice once again that those at the table with the Pharisee really couldn’t understand that Yahshua had the power to forgive sins. Why? Because they rejected John the Baptist and the counsel of Yahweh.

Only Yahweh can forgive sins. John’s ministry prepared people in their hearts to be able to receive Yahshua as to Who He really was. Malachi witnesses that Yahshua is Yahweh and that He is the Messenger of the Covenant that the people were waiting for.

### JUDE’S WARNING

Jude was inspired to warn, “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. **For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, unrighteous men, turning (perverting) the grace of our Elohim into lasciviousness,** and denying (contradicting) the only Sovereign Yahweh, and our Sovereign Yahshua the Messiah,” vv. 3-4.

Who were these men? He gives us another inkling in verse 11, “Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.”

Korah (Core) is mentioned here. We have already found out that the Pharisees had usurped the Levitical priesthood, declaring themselves to be priests. Furthermore, Yahshua addressed their wickedness in the instance found in Matthew 15 and Mark 7 concerning their questions about the washing of hands, “Then came to Yahshua scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. But he answered and said unto them, Why do

ye also transgress the commandment of Yahweh by your tradition? For Yahweh commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of Yahweh of none effect by your tradition. Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand: Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man. Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch,” Mt. 15:1-14.

What were the Pharisees doing? They were negating the commandments of Yahweh through their own traditions so that they might personally profit even at the expense of their own fathers and mothers. This is the gainsaying of Balaam.

They had gone the way of Cain because he murdered his own brother Abel who was more righteous than himself. They murdered Yahshua, Who was the Righteous and Just One, the Holy One of Israel!

### PAUL’S WITNESS

The Apostle Paul was a Pharisee. What did Paul proclaim concerning his Pharisaic background? “Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Sovereign. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it

is safe. Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision. For we are the circumcision, **which worship Yahweh in the spirit**, and rejoice in the Messiah Yahshua, and have no confidence in the flesh. Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; **as touching the law, a Pharisee**; Concerning zeal, persecuting the assembly; **touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless**. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for the Messiah. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of the Messiah Yahshua my Sovereign: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win the Messiah, **And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of the Messiah, the righteousness which is of Yahweh by faith**: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of the Messiah Yahshua. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of Yahweh in the Messiah Yahshua,” Phil. 3:1-14.

What did he say? What did he mean, “...beware of the concision?” He explained it in the next verse! “For we are the circumcision, which worship Yahweh in the spirit, and rejoice in the Messiah Yahshua, and have no confidence in the flesh.” He was warning to beware of those who

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the world, remaining in the purity that Yahweh has called us to.

Salt is a seasoning. We, as salt, are to season an unpalatable world or it will result in complete destruction.

Salt is sprinkled or scattered. We must remain in our scattered state, seeking to proclaim the good news of the coming kingdom of heaven to the

various parts of the earth.

Salt is a combination of two volatile and dangerous substances, which when combined, are changed to become necessary and essential for life itself.

We must fear the possibility of losing our saltiness, for then we stand in danger of being cast out and trodden under the feet of men.

We must maintain our saltiness by following Yahshua's example, proclaiming His sacrifice and taking part in it, presenting our own bodies as a living sacrifice for the greater glory and honor of Yahweh's glorious kingdom.

May Yahweh bless you to be savory salt.

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So the believer in Yahshua must make a decision. Yahshua clearly stated in Luke 14:33 ***So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsakes not all that he has, he cannot be my disciple.***

In order to be a disciple of Yahshua we must forsake all and give our total allegiance to him or else he states we are not worthy to be his disciple. The rabbis claim this same authority. When you are a convert to rabbinic Judaism you are required to give the allegiance that belongs to Yahshua alone to another rabbi. Clearly we can see why calling someone rabbi has a much deeper meaning than just another title; it has to do with who is our master and who we worship. As believers in Yahshua we should not recognize another rabbi or master than Yahshua and certainly leaders in the body of Messiah should

not be taking the title of rabbi to themselves, as it is left for Yahshua alone.

***Matt. 23:8 But do not you be called rabbi, for one is your master, the messiah, and you are all brothers***

Names such as teacher and pastor are job descriptions and should not be used as titles. As this Scripture states, we are all **BROTHERS**. I may be an ordained Elder and pastor but that is my job not my title. To the brethren I am simply brother Don just as any other brother. When one takes titles to himself such as rabbi so and so or pastor so and so, this is simply a device to separate and lift himself up from the rest of the brethren, and this lifting up is against scripture.

***Mat. 18:4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (Children don't***

***need titles).***

***Matt. 20:27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your servant.***

We are all equally important in the eyes of Yahweh and although we should give respect to elders and pastors who are working among us, we should not take any title to ourselves, as only the Eternal Creator Himself, Yahweh, deserves and has set apart titles for his own glory. Most of all neither should we call ourselves rabbi or neither should we give allegiance to rabbis that do not have that authority from scripture but from an unrighteous murderer named Akiva who is the father and founder of modern Judaism in the second century CE. Let us give our undying allegiance to Yahweh and His son, the King of Kings, Yahshua Ha Mashiach! ~ By Bro. Don Esposito. Contact him at his US address, Congregation of YHWH, PO Box 832, Carteret, NJ 07008.

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would come seeking to circumcise the flesh by the hands of man. The way of righteousness is no longer by one's own efforts. That was of the covenant of Moses. Israel had promised that they would be obedient to the law, the commandments of Yahweh and Yahweh had promised them that He would bless them for their obedience. But the culmination of the righteousness of Israel, which was found in the Pharisees, was found to be so lacking.

Paul had that righteousness, his own righteousness of the law, as a Pharisee, but he willingly cast it all aside and counted it to be dung so that he could win the Messiah and the power of the Spirit that is made available

through Him.

## CONCLUSION

John the Baptist was of the Aaronic Priesthood. The priests were established by Yahweh to be His messengers to the people. John's birth was miraculously brought about by Yahweh in order to prepare the way in the hearts of the people for the wondrous appearance of Yahshua the Messiah.

The Pharisees were in the process of overthrowing the importance of the established priesthood and temple by declaring themselves to be the priests in the rebellion and spirit of Korah, Dathan and Abiram. They rejected the counsel of John and therefore, were

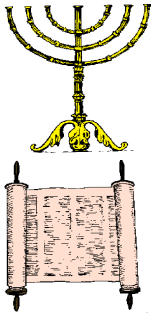
blinded as to who Yahshua truly was. They rejected Yahshua as the Messiah.

When the Pharisee invited Yahshua to dine with him and his company, he neglected to treat Yahshua with the proper respect shown to others, but the sinful woman recognized who Yahshua was and revealed a repentant heart by washing his feet in her tears and wiping them with her hair, kissing His feet and anointing them with oil.

Paul, a Pharisee who was blameless in the law, regarded all that he had gained in that capacity as dung so that he might gain Yahshua the Messiah. Jude declares that unrighteous men had crept into the assembly who were

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