

THE
SACRED NAME
BROADCASTER

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CONTENTS

1



1 The Tallith, Tefillin, and Yarmulke

The Assemblies of Yahweh teaches the pure Israelite Faith of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and Yahshua Messiah. Does this Faith, however, require us to dress up in a specific special religious garb? We believe that the mission of Yahshua the Messiah was to restore the authority of the written Torah (Law) rather than following the Talmud. This month we examine this timely subject and how a True Worshiper of today should spiritually apply Yahweh's Word.

7 The Law Before Sinai

The Bible contains many examples of where Yahweh's Law was in existence centuries before Sinai. Beginning in the Garden of Eden, Yahweh gave mankind specific instructions on how we shall conduct ourselves. The observance of the seventh-day Sabbath and the dietary laws was in force before Sinai. Even murder and sexual immorality were sins punishable by death before Moses received the Law at Sinai. Beginning on page 8, this examination will prove from the Scriptures that Yahweh does not change.

10 Prophetic Trends: Troublous Times Ahead

Do you recognize the clear signs regarding the end of the age of man now appearing all around us? Yahshua the Messiah predicted these end-time developments in His Olivet prophecy (Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21) and in other passages containing prophecies of the last days. Don't miss any of these prophetic analyses!

17 Radio Message: Who Are the Assemblies of Yahweh? People Who Are Living By His Word

The members of the Assemblies of Yahweh seek to be modern-day Bereans, following the example of Acts 17:11. The diligent Bible student will prove all things and hold fast to that which is good—constantly researching the Word of Yahweh to prove the veracity of its contents. Through living by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh, we can become a people of the Book.

21 Program Log

Be certain to listen regularly as Yahweh's Word is strongly preached in your locality over one of the many television stations that air the Sacred Name Telecast and over radio stations that carry the Sacred Name Broadcast.



10

17



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Founder and Author: Elder Jacob O. Meyer

Our Cover:



SNB photo

A lonely acacia tree in the vicinity of the Dead Sea, brings forth a ponderable wonder of how a tree can survive in arid, barren soil. The extensive root system of the acacia tree allows it to find sufficient moisture in desert areas.

Known in Hebrew as *shittim*, this extremely hard and durable wood, similar to the desert briar, was the wood which was used in the Tabernacle construction. Much of the wood was then covered with gold, except for the altar which was covered with bronze. To begin the construction of the Tabernacle, a freewill offering was brought to Yahweh by willing-hearted men and women who desired to be part of this momentous project.

Is your heart stirred up to assist in the end-time project to complete the Great Commission? We hope that you will labor with us to reach this goal.

The Tallith, Tefillin, and Yarmulke

The Prayer Shawl, Phylacteries, and Headcovering Of Judaism

The picture that appears at the beginning of this article was taken from an old textbook. The educators who wrote this volume of social studies used a photograph

by
Elder Jacob O. Meyer
that has appeared in various publications upwards of a cen-

tury ago. The portrayal is that of a Jewish rabbi who is decked in full religious regalia. He wears the *tallith* (prayer shawl), the *tefillin* (phylacteries, which are the

leather boxes wherein is placed a copy of the *shema'* (Deuteronomy 6:4-6) and a *yarmulke* (the distinctive headcovering worn by male, orthodox, observant Jews).

People coming into the Assemblies of Yahweh frequently ask the author why he does not dress up in this type of special religious garb, since the author is teaching a doctrine that recognizes Judaism as being the authentic, prominent religion during the time of Yahshua the Messiah's life here on earth. People customarily assume that the Assemblies of Yahweh follows all of the teachings of Judaism precisely. However, we believe and teach the pure Israelite Faith, the Faith of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and Yahshua the Messiah.

The Assemblies of Yahweh does, indeed, recognize Judaism as the religion of Jerusalem and the synagogue during the time when Yahshua the Messiah was here, but we believe that the mission of Yahshua the Messiah was to draw Judaism back to following the written Torah (Law) rather than following the oral Torah (the Talmud), which was taught by the rabbis.

Yahshua the Messiah made a quite enlightening statement in Matthew 23:1-3. ***"Then spoke Yahshua to the multitudes and to his disciples, saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat: all things therefore whatever they bid you, these do and observe: but do not after their works; for they say, and do not."***

How shall we view this Scripture? The term **Moses' seat** obviously refers back to the incident recorded in Exodus 18:13. ***"And it came to pass on the next day, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood around Moses from the morning to the evening."*** Moses sat to judge the Israelites, since his position of leadership in Israel was that of teacher and chief judge. This concept is reiterated in verse 16. ***"When they have a***

matter, they come to me; and I judge between a man and his neighbor; and I make them know the statutes of Elohim, and his laws."

Consequently, Yahshua the Mes-

We believe and teach the pure Israelite Faith, the Faith of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and Yahshua the Messiah.

siah wishes us to understand that there indeed is some value in studying Rabbinic writings (the writings of the scribes and Pharisees) and that the rabbis were to serve as the judges of the congregations. He anticipates that they will teach the Torah to the people, but they, themselves, will not follow their own rulings.

However, Yahshua indicates that the Pharisees and scribes should not be the originators of new teaching, as he explains in Mark 7:5-13. ***"And the Pharisees and the scribes ask him, Why walk not your disciples according to THE TRADITION OF THE ELDERS, but eat their bread with defiled hands? And he said to them, Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,***

"This people honors me with their lips, But their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, TEACHING AS THEIR DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.

"You LEAVE THE COMMANDMENT OF ELOHIM, AND HOLD FAST THE TRADITION OF MEN. AND HE SAID TO THEM, FULL WELL DO YOU

REJECT THE COMMANDMENT OF ELOHIM, THAT YOU MAY KEEP YOUR TRADITION. For Moses said, Honor your father and your mother; and, he that speaks evil of father or mother, let him die the death: but you say, If a man shall say to his father or his mother, That with which you might have been profited by me is Corban, that is to say, Given to Elohim; you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother; making void the word of Elohim by your tradition, which you have delivered: and many such like things you do."

You can see here that, in some instances, the scribes and Pharisees have voided the commandment of Yahweh to hold fast to the traditions of men. Yahshua specifically refers to the question of what is called *corban*. *Corban* means a gift or something consecrated to Elohim. This concept is discussed in the Mishnah and the Talmud (the post biblical writings of the Jews).

Some time ago, a Jewish acquaintance asked the author why he does not wear the *tallith* (prayer shawl), the *tefillin* (the phylacteries), or the *kippah* (*yarmulke*). First of all, the *tefillin*, or the phylacteries, were never described in the Old Testament Scriptures, the Hebrew Bible. It simply tells us to bind the words of Yahweh to our right hand and on our foreheads. (Please notice Exodus 13:9 and Deuteronomy 6:8 and 11:18.) The Rabbinical authorities have made an interpretation which shows that the writings are simply the *shema'* (Deuteronomy 6:4-6) placed in leather boxes with straps that are required to be wrapped on the arm and around the head in a certain prescribed manner. This is an "interpretation" of Deuteronomy 6:6. Again, we repeat that there is no actual description of how to make phylacteries to be found anywhere in the Bible.

The author answered his acquaintance with this explanation,

but being a Jew, he insisted on following the Rabbinic interpretation. The author responded that he believes that the so-called text, which the Jews use to support the *tefillin*, simply means something spiritual—allow Yahweh’s Law to be in charge and to direct all of your actions—including how you earn your livelihood. Allowing Yahweh’s Law to direct your mind so that you will sincerely obey His Law, is the intention. The object is not to make leather boxes to tie on the arm and head. Therefore, the author strongly made the point that the instructions are SPIRITUAL, meaning to bind a spiritual entity—Yahweh’s law (not a literal object)—in a directing position in your life. “Of course, it is spiritual,” responded this acquaintance, “I believe it is a spiritual thing too that is manifested by the physical act of putting on the phylacteries.”

What does Yahshua say about the phylacteries? **“But all their works they do to be seen of men: for they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments.”** (Matthew 23:5). Yahshua the Messiah tells His readers that ALL THEIR WORKS THEY DO TO BE SEEN OF MEN. When the author prays, he believes that he will be heard on High, because he is a keeper of Yahweh’s commandments. Notice the word of caution we encounter in Proverbs 28:9. **“He that turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.”**

The Jews interpret the phylacteries as follows: “Of all the commentators upon the Bible only the 12th-century commentator Samuel b. Meir takes this command as a figurative one. In his commentary on Exodus 13:9 he says: ‘according to the essence of its literal meaning it means “it shall ever be a memorial as though it were written upon thy hand,” as in the verse: “Set me as a seal upon thy heart as a seal upon thy

arm”’ (Song 8:6; Abraham ibn Ezra suggests the same explanation, but rejects it). Apart from this, it was accepted that the verse had to be taken literally and that the words of the Scripture had to be bound on the hand and placed (on the forehead) between the eyes. The portions selected for the fulfillment of this commandment were the four above-mentioned passages which constitute the *tefillin*.

“The rabbis were aware of the fact that apart from these verses there is no explicit reference to this ceremony, or the manner in which it was to be fulfilled, in the Bible, and they regarded it as the classic example of a biblical law whose details are wholly ‘of the Scribes’ and immutable (Sanh. 88b); it is, indeed, a perfect example of an injunction the method of whose performance is the result of the Oral Law. The Samaritans did not wear them (Min. 42b).” (Encyclopedia Judaica, “Tefillin.”).

The Tallith

The *tallith* is a rectangular garment that looks like a blanket and was apparently worn by men in ancient times. The word appears to mean *gown* or *cloak*. The four corners of the *tallith* had tassels attached in fulfillment of the biblical commandment to wear *zizit*. **“Speak to the children of Israel, and tell them that they shall make fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put on the fringe of each border a cord of blue: and it shall be to you for a fringe, that you may look upon it, and REMEMBER all the commandments of Yahweh, and DO THEM; and that you follow not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which you used to play the harlot; that you may remember and do all my commandments, and be holy to your Elohim. I am Yahweh your Elohim, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your Elohim: I am Yahweh your Elohim.”** (Numbers 15:38-41).

The *tallith*, say the historians, most likely resembled the *abayah*

Sanhedrin 88b

(from the Soncino Edition of the **Babylonian Talmud**)

“MISHNAH. THERE IS GREATER STRINGENCY IN RESPECT TO THE TEACHINGS OF THE SCRIBES THAN IN RESPECT TO THE TORAH. [THUS,] IF ONE [A REBELLIOUS ELDER] SAYS, THERE IS NO PRECEPT OF TEFILLIN, SO THAT A BIBLICAL LAW MAY BE TRANSGRESSED, HE IS EXEMPT.¹⁴ [BUT IF HE RULES THAT THE TEFILLIN MUST CONTAIN] FIVE COMPARTMENTS, THUS ADDING TO THE WORDS OF THE SCRIBES,¹⁵ HE IS LIABLE.

GEMARA. R. Eleazar said in R. Oshaia’s name: He is liable only for a matter of which the fundamental law is Biblical, whilst its interpretation is of the Scribes, and in which there is room for addition, which addition, however, is the equivalent of subtraction. Now, the only precept [fulfilling these conditions] is that of tefillin.”

(blanket), which is still worn by Bedouins for protection against the weather. It is usually made of wool, or linen. The *tallith* came to



be worn mostly by the wealthy, or by distinguished rabbis and scholars. The Jews, following the Dispersion, adopted the fashions of their Gentile neighbors, and the *tallith* was discarded as daily wear and was relegated to the position of a religious garment for prayer.

Since the outer main *tallith* is only donned during daily prayers, a smaller *tallith* called *tallith katon* (small *tallith*), or *arba kenfot* (four corners), is worn under the shirt by Orthodox Jewish men. A rectangular garment of white cotton, linen, or wool with the *zizioth* attached to its four corners, the *tallith katon* is sometimes worn in a way that it

may be constantly seen, but if not, the *zizioth* hang free outside of the garment and are constantly visible. Yahshua the Messiah apparently did wear the fringes on his garment (Matthew 9:20).

However, we must ask whether there is a requirement in the Bible for the True Worshiper to wear a *tallith*. The Jews believe that they are following an injunction found in Deuteronomy 22:12. ***“You shall make for yourself fringes upon the four borders of your garment, with which you cover yourself.”***

This passage indicates that the fringes shall be put on the four borders of the garments with which an individual will cover himself, and the rabbis have **DESIGNATED** the garment of covering as the *tallith*, a rectangular shawl with four corners. However, this is simply an interpretation which the rabbis of Judaism have attached to this Scripture. The fringes can be attached to any garment, actually.

The purpose of the fringes was to remind Israel to keep Yahweh’s commandments, as we have seen from Numbers 15:39. ***“And it shall be to you for a fringe, that you may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of Yahweh, and do them; and that you follow not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which you used to play the harlot.”***

But, if we put on these fringes, are we not then questioning the action of Yahweh’s Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is to be the spirit,

or agent, of remembrance. ***“These things have I spoken to you, while yet remaining with you. But the Comforter, even the Holy Spirit, which the Father will send in my name, it shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”*** (John 14:25-26).

The Holy Spirit is a powerful force, that is Yahweh’s Word, which impels the True Worshiper to remember the Word of Yahweh (John 6:63). Therefore, we believe that when one fulfills the requirements (baptism and the laying of hands), he receives the Holy Spirit, which helps him to REMEMBER Yahweh’s Word. Consequently, after someone has received the Holy Spirit, he will not need to wear the fringes. Some people will point out that the literal fringes are commanded. The author responds that, if you need a visible aid to remember to keep the commandments of Yahweh, then wear the fringes. **But do not allow them on the outside of your garments. They must be for you alone to see.**

The Yarmulke

It becomes quite plain when you read the New Testament that a man dishonors his head when he covers it for worship (1 Corinthians 11, etc). Therefore, we have strongly been teaching that a man’s head must be uncovered for worship, but a woman’s head must be covered. When a man covers his head for worship he dishonors his head—Yahshua the Messiah. (We have published an article entitled **Headship**, which clearly explains the necessity of uncovered heads for men in worship, while the women’s heads shall be covered for worship. Why not write in for this free article? Write to Assemblies of Yahweh, P.O. Box C, Bethel, PA 19507.)

The Jews teach that a religious man must wear an article of separation between his head and Almighty Yahweh, Who is his head. They

acknowledge that there is no commandment for a male worshiper to cover his head, except for the commandment for the high priest to wear a turban.

Of course, Yahshua the Messiah is our High Priest. **“For such a high priest became us, holy, guileless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; who needs not daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins, and then for the people: for this he did once and for all, when he offered up himself. For the law appoints men high priests, having infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was after the law, appoints a Son, perfected forevermore.”** (Hebrews 7:26-28).

“The Jews today demand that when a man worships he must cover his head. Some of the more orthodox groups even demand that a man keep something on his head at all times. They declare that the custom is derived from the practice of eastern peoples who covered their faces before a monarch. Some sources trace the practice of covered heads to throwing

the tallith or prayer shawl over the head while in prayer. Jewish commentators readily declare this quote from the **Encyclopedia Judaica**, Volume 8, in the article “Head, Covering of the.” ‘Jewish tradition

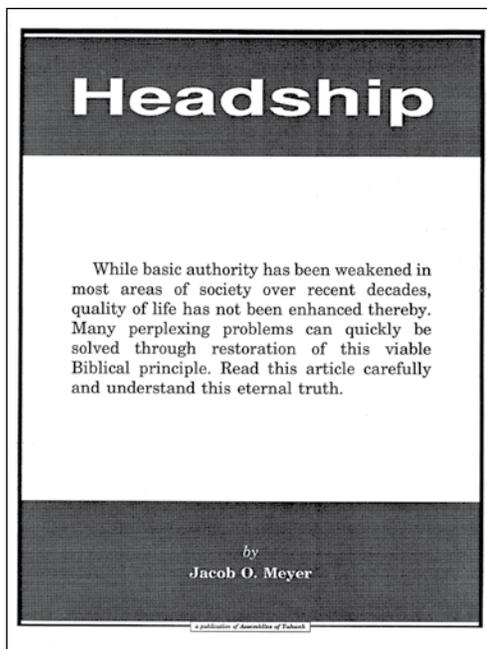
There is no commandment for a male worshiper to cover his head, except for the commandment for the high priest to wear a turban.

requires men to cover the head as a sign of modesty before [Elohim], and women, as evidence of modesty before men, although the Bible does not explicitly command either men or women to cover the head.’

“Here then is a research work that acknowledges that no commandment

exists that men should cover their head, except as we shall show, the high priest and his sons and women.

“Another enlightening quote later in the article is as follows: “According to the Talmud, it was optional and a matter of custom for men to cover their heads. Palestinian custom moreover, did not insist that the head be covered during the priestly benediction. French and Spanish rabbinical authorities during the Middle Ages followed this ruling, and regarded the covering of the head during prayer and the study of the Torah merely as a custom. Some of them prayed with a bare head themselves. Tractate Soferim (14-15), however, rules that a person who is improperly dressed and has no head gear may not act as the Chazzan or as the reader of the Torah in the synagogue, and may not invoke the priestly benediction upon the congregation. Moreover, the covering of the head, as an expression of the ‘fear of [Elohim],’ as a continuation of the practice of the Babylonian scholars, was gradually endorsed by the Ashkenazi rabbis. Even they



- **What does the term “headship mean?”**
- **Should a woman wear a head covering at all times?**
- **How about a man—should his head be covered while he worships the Almighty?**
- **Is Paul referring to a woman’s hair as a covering in 1 Corinthians 11?**
- **What importance does the teaching of headship have in contemporary worship?**

If these and other similar questions regarding 1 Corinthians 11 have puzzled you, be sure to read this article carefully for the answers taken directly from the pages of the inspired Scriptures.

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stated, however, that it was merely a worthy custom, and that there was no injunction against praying without a head cover.' If some one appeals to the Jewish tradition on headcoverings for men he finds very little on which to base his contention.

"The Orthodox Jews today will not go into a house of worship or pray without wearing a little headcovering which they call a yarmulke. Some of them will contend that this is a commandment. However, we have just seen that it is not commanded in the Bible.

"History shows where the custom originated and it was not Semitic! During the time of the Maccabees,

True Worship was beset by pagan influence. Antiochus Epiphanes sought to establish an amalgamated religion in his realm which included Palestine. Although this tyrant used cruel measures to force the Jews into Greek religious customs which he deemed to be more cultural than the Semitic religion, they resisted his efforts. Many of them suffered martyrdom to maintain their faith. Antiochus installed an apostate high priest whose name was Jason.

"The following is a quote from the book of 2 Maccabees as translated in the **Smith and Goodspeed** American translation. 'When the king had consented, and he had taken office, he immediately brought his countrymen

over to the Greek way of living. He set aside the royal ordinances especially favoring the Jews, secured through John, the father of Eupolemus, who went on the mission of the Romans to establish friendly relations and an alliance with them, and abrogating the lawful ways of living he introduced new customs contrary to the Law. For he willingly established a gymnasium right under the citadel, and he made the finest of the young men wear the Greek hat. And to such a pitch did the cultivation of Greek fashions and the coming-in of foreign customs rise, because of the excessive wickedness of the [lawless] Jason, who was no high priest at all . . . ' (2 Maccabees 4:10-13).

"Today the Jews are building gymnasiums next to their houses to worship and they call their places of worship by a Greek name, synagogue. They wear the Greek sign of an educated man on their heads for worship. Consequently, the custom is easily traceable to a Gentile source, the philosophers of ancient Greece,

ASSEMBLIES OF YAHWEH Statement of Doctrine

Spiritual Life in the Assemblies of Yahweh

"We find that the Scriptures teach a doctrine of headship in regard to our positions of authority in the assembly and in the home, 1 Cor. 11:1-16; 1 Tim. 2:2-15; 1 Peter 3:1-7. Relative to this teaching of headship, we find that a woman is obligated to have her head covered for worship and while witnessing. Men's heads shall be uncovered."



who wore the yarmulke, or hat of Hermes, and who insisted that all their students wear this cap. Today it is still visible under the mortarboard worn by those graduating from an education institution.

“Incidentally the date of the Maccabean era is about 175 B.C.E. Interestingly, one of the required courses in theological seminaries is Hermeneutics, derived from the Greek messenger of the mythological mighty ones, Hermes. Evidently both synagogue and ch-rch have retained pagan Greek names and customs.

“Apparently then, Paul was seeking to restore the proper manner of symbolizing headship when he wrote to the Corinthian brethren. Perhaps some of the new brethren (both Jews and Greeks) had begun to copy the customs of the synagogue. Since some branches of Judaism, especially those which were of the Babylonian school, had continued the practice of wearing the Greek hat after the days of the Maccabees, it may have been a natural tendency to copy the Jewish brethren who had received the Messiah. One must remember that the good news of salvation in the Messiah was to be preached **to the Jews first** (Romans 1:16). To the Jews were committed the oracles of Yahweh (Romans 3:2). The tendency then is to look to Judaism as a model of the true faith.

“However, **all doctrines must stand the test of the Scriptures. The BIBLE is the final authority.** It is the standard by which the Assemblies of Yahweh members prove a doctrine either true or false. Doctrines of Judaism must also be scrutinized against the teaching of the Bible, and the Scriptures will prove a number of them to be in error. Demanding that the men cover their heads for worship is not sound doctrine and the practice is of recent date. . . .

“[1 Corinthians 11] Verse 10 has been such an exegetical problem. In the **King James Version** the verse reads, ‘For this cause ought the woman to have power on her

head because of the angels.’ This is a thought difficult to explain in this form. However, in the Aramaic version the verse reads, ‘For this reason the woman ought to be modest and cover her head as a mark of respect

Yahshua the Messiah came to restore the authority of the written Torah. We, today, follow this restored pure Israelite Faith, as it was practiced by the Messiah Himself, His Apostles, and the Apostolic Assembly.

to the angels.’ Here then is a much more correct reading. The Hebrew term *radid* (which comes from the root word *radad* meaning to have power) signifies a veil. The Greek word *exousia* also means veil as may be seen from the **Arndt and Gingrich Greek Lexicon**. So the meaning is twofold! A woman is to have a covering on her head when she sits and listens to the messengers of Yahweh preaching. The word *angels* means messengers, it can signify the ministers of Yahweh who preach His Word. As a sign of respect for Yahweh’s ministers, a woman should have a veil on her head. This shows her respect for them and also subjection to her husband. In Semitic cultures women veiled themselves as a token of their being under the authority or power of their husbands. Consequently, ‘power’ seems to have been a name for the Middle Eastern headdress.” (This quote was taken from an article by Elder Jacob O.

Meyer, titled **Headship**. Please write in for this free reprint article.)

“Although the *Miharshal (Responsa 72)* says that there is no *issur* to go without a hat, he still cautions a *Talmid Chacham* to wear a hat lest others follow his example. The *Vilna Gaon (Shulchan Aruch, Orech Chaim 8:2)* declares that there is no prohibition in going with an uncovered head and the *Rama (Tur Orech Chaim, Darkai Moshe 2)* quotes the *Calbo* as saying that we are permitted to go with heads uncovered in the street, and we are also permitted to swear in court with an uncovered head. Still it is a custom at present for the observant Jew to wear a hat. *Minhag Mivatel Din*, a custom is greater than a law.” (The Jewish Press).

Conclusion

The Assemblies of Yahweh continue to teach strongly the ways of the Most High. We follow the sacred Scriptures exclusively. Therefore, we are different than other religious organizations. Although we respect the Jews and would never offend or insult them, we must follow the sacred Scriptures in every doctrine we believe and practice.

Yahshua the Messiah came to restore the pure Israelite Faith. During His lifetime, the Jews had gone toward following Rabbinic interpretation, rather than the written Torah. Yahshua the Messiah came to restore the authority of the written Torah. We, today, follow this restored pure Israelite Faith, as it was practiced by the Messiah Himself, His Apostles, and the Apostolic Assembly. We find no commandments in the Bible regarding how to make and wear this religious attire, rather the keeping of the commandments of Yahweh is a spiritual direction tied to our lives that will guide us to the Kingdom of Yahweh. **SNB**



The Law Before Sinai

Nominal Christians today are very inflexible believers in the theory that the Ten Commandments and the moral law were received for the first time by mankind at Mt. Sinai. They believe that Yahweh took the children of Israel out of Egypt and, thereupon, taught them a restrictive, burdensome set of Laws which were finally annulled when Yahshua the Messiah was impaled upon the tree. Beginning in the New Testament era, they contend, began a time of freedom, or release, from obedience to the Law.

by
Elder Jonathan S. Meyer

Can this commonly held belief be supported by the sacred Scriptures? We shall present evidence from both Old and New Testaments to determine whether Yahweh's Word is consistent from eternity to eternity, between the bounds of eternity. In Revelation 22:13, Yahshua the Messiah makes the firm statement, "***I am the Aleph and the Tau, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.***" He, as the Word of

Yahweh made flesh, has beforehand existed in eternity and shall continue on into eternity, following time, when the imposition of Yahweh's eternal Kingdom for all ages is made complete.

The Bible substantiates that the Law was surely in existence and observed by the patriarchs and, indeed, dates from the time of Creation. We shall learn whether a new Law was imposed at Sinai, or whether the Law which Yahweh gave to Moses at Sinai was simply a restatement of His perfect Law, which had been forgotten by mankind. Was this

Law merely a unique, national Law given to Israel in preparation for their entry into the Covenant and Promised Land of Almighty Yahweh, or was it known and observed by the first humans of the Adamic family?

Purpose of the Law

A car rounds the bend, out of control, at a high rate of speed. The driver passes over the median strip into the opposing lane of traffic, where another car is approaching in the opposite direction. They collide head on, and all the occupants of both vehicles are instantly killed. **A law has been broken which RESULTED in the PENALTY of DEATH.** The broken law is simply stated thus: “No two objects can occupy the same space at the same time.” This scientific principle actually rests upon a physical law, even though unwritten, which we must all observe, even today, if we wish to preserve our lives.

Laws were given to man for a number of reasons. First, rules must be obeyed for people to live at peace with one another. It is necessary for man to have a system of laws to control man’s conduct toward each other. These laws establish neutral boundaries and simultaneously make individuals aware of what is expected of them, and the limits to which they can go, before they must pay for overstepping their boundaries. Yahshua the Messiah states this as “trespass,” Matthew 6:15.

Laws exist, whether they are the laws of our secular government, or of the government of Yahweh, not only for the punishment of the guilty, but, in addition, *for the protection of the innocent.* Laws give human beings a set of boundaries, allowing them freedom to operate within a given territory, just as sheep in a pasture are freely allowed to move about within the bounds of the fence. The fences surrounding that pasture prevent the sheep from running into the road, saving them from death. The fence preserves their lives. The

pasture is spacious and large, and the sheep have abundant room to roam as they please. However, they are protected from a neighbor’s property by the fence. They live in a controlled environment, regulated

The Covenant that Yahweh made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel) is freely offered to the children, or descendants, of Israel, as well as those people of the nations who will learn the ways of Israel.

by a firm set of boundaries. If they break through the fence, they will trespass on another’s property, or rights. The writer of Psalm 119:96 conveys the same message in regard to Yahweh’s Law: ***“I have seen an end of all perfection; But your commandment is very broad.”***

The Laws of the Bible (in many ways similar to the laws of our land) have been given to man by Yahweh to make man complete. This completeness is a quality that Almighty Yahweh portrays. Almighty Yahweh and His Son, Yahshua the Messiah, keep the Laws we have been given to observe Themselves, since They are our ultimate examples. Sin separates us from the presence of our Heavenly Father. If this were not the case, we today could stand before Almighty Yahweh and His throne, and He Himself could be on this earth right now instead of waiting (as His Word tells us) until the earth has been cleansed of sin.

We are human, carnal by na-

ture, sinful, constantly falling short of the goal Yahweh has established—which is perfection. His Son, Yahshua the Messiah, proved by His perfect, sinless life on this earth that we can indeed overcome this carnal, rebellious, human nature, and reach the level of perfection. However, as we frequently fall short and lose sight of our goal, we can only attain that perfection through the shed blood of Yahshua’s sacrifice if we adhere obediently to the Law of Yahweh, just as the Messiah did. We must obey it completely.

Since the creation of Adam, Yahweh has extended His Covenant to all those people who diligently observe His Law. The Covenant that Yahweh made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel) is freely offered to the children, or descendants, of Israel, as well as those people of the nations who will learn the ways of Israel (Jeremiah 12:16).

This Covenant Law is vitally important to the salvation of mankind, for it is by this Law that each person’s life will be judged (Revelation 20:12). Therefore, we must recognize the importance of keeping this Covenant Law. If each person is to be judged according to this Law regarding his personal actions (works), Yahweh would have ***had*** to convey a knowledge of this Law to Adam. He, in turn, was required to teach it to his descendants. Even if by negligence, or ignorance, a person does not know or comprehend the full extent of the Law, Yahweh has still placed inherently within him a conscience, the necessity of choosing right when confronted with a decision between right and wrong-

Yahweh is quick to forgive if we sin in ignorance against Him and His perfect Law. ***“The times of ignorance therefore Elohim overlooked; but now he commands men that they should all***

Continued on page 14.

PROPHETIC TRENDS

today's news in prophecy



TROUBLOUS TIMES AHEAD

Yahweh, through His chosen Prophet Moses, set before Israel a simple choice. Yahweh gave them the choice between life and good and death and evil. Yahweh commanded the children of Israel—and by extension each one of us—to “. . . **love Yahweh your Elohim, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his ordinances, that you may live and multiply, and that Yahweh your Elohim may bless you . . .**” (Deuteronomy 30:16b). Israel was given the opportunity to choose life and good by obeying Yahweh’s commandments; or death and evil for disobedience. Yahweh called heaven and earth to witness that He set before Israel and their descendents “. . . **life and death, the blessing and the curse: therefore choose life, that you may live, you and your seed; to love Yahweh your Elohim, to obey his voice, and to hold fast to him; for he is your life, and the length of your days; that you may dwell in the land which Yahweh swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.**” (Deuteronomy 30:19b-20). This generation, however, has chosen to violate Yahweh’s Covenant Law and has turned away from the observance of His commandments.

Rather than choose the narrow way of commandment keeping which leads to life everlasting, the world today has chosen the pathway that leads to death and evil by obstinately refusing to keep Yahweh’s perfect Law. Moses prophesied that he knew “. . . **that after my death you will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will happen to you in the latter days; because you will do that**

which is evil in the sight of Yahweh, to provoke him to anger through the work of your hands.” (Deuteronomy 31:29). Yahweh has promised evil upon this latter-day generation because of Torah violations, but who will take heed to this warning? Have we seen enough instances in the world today which indicate that Yahweh’s judgments are beginning to fall upon us?

As people become more obstinate to the observance of Yahweh’s Laws, Yahweh will intensify His punishments upon the human race. Take a few minutes and read Leviticus 26:3-13, as well as Deuteronomy 28:1-14, which indicate blessings for obedience to Yahweh’s Law. Now read Leviticus 26:14-39 and Deuteronomy 28:15-68 which contrasts the curses for disobedience to Yahweh’s Law. Moses further prophesied that the descendents of Israel will corrupt themselves by transgressing the Covenant and Yahweh will scatter these offspring of Israel among the nations. **“But from there you shall seek Yahweh your Elohim, and you shall find him, when you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in tribulation, and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days you shall return to Yahweh your Elohim, and listen to his voice: for Yahweh your Elohim is a merciful El; he will not fail you, neither destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which he swore to them.”**(Deuteronomy 4: 29-31).

Evil Generation Identified

“There is a generation that curses their father, And bless not

their mother. There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, And yet are not washed from their filthiness. There is a generation, oh how lofty are their eyes! And their eyelids are lifted up. There is a generation whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, To devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.” (Proverbs 30:11-14).

In a clear violation of Yahweh’s Law, school children in central New York were recorded saying the most vile and evil things to a 68 year old woman who had been hired to ride along as a bus monitor. **“You shall rise up before the gray head, and honor the face of the old man, and you shall fear your Elohim: I am Yahweh.”** (Leviticus 19:32). An outcry ensued by many because of the mistreatment of this elderly woman. Bullying has become commonplace among students, especially on the social media sites; however, this was the most egregious abuse of an individual that should have been held in respect. Rather than needling and belittling her, perhaps they should have been quizzing her about the way things used to be and how this generation has forgotten these old paths. Mockery of the elderly brings to mind 2 Kings 2:23-25 where a group of taunting youth mocked Elisha the prophet, and Yahweh punished them severely.

“. . . a nation of fierce appearance, that shall not regard the person of the old, nor show favor to the young” (Deuteronomy 28:50).

“And in that day did the sovereign, Yahweh of hosts, call to weeping, and to mourning, and

to baldness, and to girding with sackcloth; and behold, joy and gladness, slaying oxen and killing sheep, eating flesh and drinking wine: let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we shall die. And Yahweh of hosts revealed himself in my ears, Surely this iniquity shall not be forgiven you till you die, says the sovereign, Yahweh of hosts.” (Isaiah 22:12-14).

More Cannibalism!

“But if you will not listen to me, and will not do all these commandments; and if you shall reject my statutes, and if your soul abhors my ordinances, so that you will not do all my commandments, but break my covenant; I also will do this to you: I will appoint terror over you, even consumption and fever, that shall consume the eyes, and consume the soul; and you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. And I will set my face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies: they that hate you shall rule over you; and you shall flee when none pursues you. And if you will not yet for these things listen to me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. And I will break the pride of your power: and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as bronze; and your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruit.

“And if you walk contrary to me, and will not listen to me, I will bring seven times more plagues on you according to your sins. And I will send the beast of the field among you, which shall rob you of your children, and destroy your cattle, and make you few in number; and your ways shall become desolate.

“And if by these things you will not be reformed to me, but will walk contrary to me; then I will

also walk contrary to you; and I will afflict you, even I, seven times for your sins. And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall execute the vengeance of the covenant; and you shall be gathered together within your cities; and I will send the pestilence among you; and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy. When I break your staff of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall deliver your bread again by weight: and you shall eat, and not be satisfied.” (Leviticus 26:14-26).

As the world around us rushes pell-mell toward destruction down a slippery-slope highway, those who seek the Way of Yahweh are heeding the call to separate from this mad dash. Daily news reports indicate an exponential increase in horrific actions of evil. Reports of drug-induced cannibalism have given rise to fear mongering of a coming “zombie apocalypse.” Cannibal was a term used by Columbus (who was a Jew) to describe the savages he had encountered. Elder Jacob O. Meyer believed that the word cannibal came from the Hebrew and that it referred to a priest (kohen) of Baal (bel), since the priests would eat a portion of the sacrifice.

“... In this manner says Yahweh of hosts, the Elohim of Israel, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, which whoever hears, his ears shall tingle. Because they have forsaken me, and have estranged this place, and have burned incense in it to other elohim, that they knew not, they and their fathers and the kings of Judah; and have filled this place with the blood of innocents, and have built the high places of Baal, to burn their sons in the fire for burnt-offerings to Baal; which I commanded not, nor spoke it, neither came it into my mind: therefore, behold, the days come, says Yahweh, that this place shall no more be called Topheth, nor The valley of the son of Hinnom, but The valley of Slaughter. And I will make void the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place; and I will cause them to fall by the

sword before their enemies, and by the hand of them that seek their life: and their dead bodies will I give to be food for the birds of the heavens, and for the beasts of the earth. And I will make this city an astonishment, and a hissing; every one that passes by it shall be astonished and hiss because of all the plagues of it. And I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters; and they shall eat every one the flesh of his friend, in the siege and in the distress, with which their enemies, and they that seek their life, shall distress them.” (Jeremiah 19:3b-9).

Following the news reports from Miami of a flesh-eating madman, news reports have come forward from other regions worldwide as well. A multinational manhunt was launched after a severed hand and foot were mailed to the offices of two political parties in Canada, and a headless torso was discovered in Montréal, Québec. During the crime spree, the murderer filmed the horrendous act of cannibalism. Authorities in Thailand found six roasted human fetuses packed in a British citizen’s luggage in Bangkok. These fetuses, between the ages of two months and seven months, were apparently aborted fetuses. Another incident from Baltimore, Maryland, reported that one man killed another and then ate his heart.

We are, without a doubt, in the end of the age! Grievous times lay ahead for the wicked of this present world. Which description is fitting for this evil practice of cannibalism? Is it because men today are self lovers? Could we not say that they are without natural affection? Doesn’t it indicate that the people of this generation have certainly become fierce? Cannibalism is a curse for violation of Yahweh’s Law, as Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 portray. Cannibalism is practiced by those who have turned away from Yahweh and His righteous Laws, and have turned to savagery. Yahweh’s Law offers blessings for obedience and curses for transgression of the Law.

“And if you will not for all this

listen to me, but walk contrary to me; then I will walk contrary to you in wrath; and I also will punish you seven times for your sins. And you shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters shall you eat. And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your sun-images, and cast your dead bodies on the bodies of your idols; and my soul shall abhor you. And I will make your cities a waste, and will bring your sanctuaries to desolation, and I will not smell the savor of your sweet odors. And I will bring the land into desolation; and your enemies that dwell in it shall be astonished at it. And I will scatter you among the nations, and I will draw out the sword after you: and your land shall be a desolation, and your cities shall be a waste.” (Leviticus 26:27-33).

“And I said, Hear, I pray you, you heads of Jacob, and rulers of the house of Israel: is it not for you to know justice? You who hate the good, and love the evil; who pluck off their skin from off them, and their flesh from off their bones; who also eat the flesh of my people, and flay their skin from off them, and break their bones, and chop them in pieces, as for the pot, and as flesh within the caldron. Then shall they cry to Yahweh, but he will not answer them; yes, he will hide his face from them at that time, according as they have worked evil in their doings.” (Micah 3:1-4).

Shedding Innocent Blood

A controversy erupted recently here in the United States when an undercover video was released by an antiabortion group showing Planned Parenthood coaching a woman on how to have a gender-selection abortion. This caused quite a stir within the American media, since

this is not practiced in the United States. Or so we had thought. This practice, however, seems to be commonplace around the world. According to a report on LifeNews.com, “In a rare move, China has apologized to a woman who was forced to undergo an abortion at seven months of pregnancy and has suspended three family planning officials after gruesome photos of the mother and her dead unborn baby went viral on the Internet. Chinese and American human rights groups exposed how the woman, Feng Jen-mai, was beaten and dragged into a vehicle by a group of family planning officials while her husband, Deng Jiyuan, was out working.” The reason for the heavy-handed cruelty to the mother and the murder of her baby? Feng’s husband “said his wife was forced to have the abortion after the family failed to raise the cash to pay a 40,000 yuan fine for having a second child.”

“In a news story that sounds like it is more out of a bad science fiction movie than reality, a newspaper in India reports doctors in one city are so desperate to hide evidence that they are doing sex-selection abortions, that they are feeding the remains of the aborted girl babies to dogs. Some physicians in the city of Beed, India, are engaging in the practice, according to India Today. . . .” “The newspaper indicates Beed has one of the worst male-female gender ratios in India — 801 girls being born per 1000 boys, according to the 2011 Census — and the numbers are attributed to female infanticide and sex-selection abortions.” This was also a report from LifeNews.com.

“A taxpayer-funded pilot program in California is training people who are not physicians to do first-trimester vacuum aspiration surgical abortions—with as little as two days instruction—and a judge is protecting the names of everyone involved. In his May 17 decision, Judge Evilio Grillo denied the Life Legal Defense Foundation’s petition for a writ of

mandate to require release of the names of physicians, clinicians, and stakeholders who participated in the pilot project conducted by the University of California San Francisco/Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health.” “The pilot project is estimated to have affected at least 8000 patients. It was used to justify Senate Bill 1338. . . .” “The bill would allow people who are not physicians—nurse practitioners, physician’s assistants, and certified nurse midwives—to perform abortions after 2 to 5 days of training provided through the project,” wrote Chelsea Schilling in a WND exclusive.

Same-Sex Debacle

A ruling from Judge Tim L. Garcia in the New Mexico Court of Appeals says that states can **require** Christians to violate their faith in order to do business, affirming a penalty of nearly \$7,000 for a photographer who refused to take pictures at a lesbian “commitment” ceremony in the state where the same-sex “marriage” was illegal. The ruling said that Christians were compelled to photograph the ceremony because of the state’s interest in preventing discrimination based on sexual orientation. The judges suggested that the photographer should accept the job and vocally condemn the women while taking pictures. One wonders, however, if this expression of the freedom of speech might also come under scrutiny and be deemed illegal.

Eight months after a repeal of the military’s “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy, the U.S. Air Force Academy recently graduated its first group of openly gay cadets. Reports also surfaced that Naval Academy cadets have now been allowed to take same-sex partners to their Ring Dance, an upperclassman gala. The Israeli Defense Force (IDF) sparked a controversy in Israel after

a picture of two men holding hands was posted on its international Facebook page. The controversy not only stirred anger by those opposed to homosexuality, but also that the photograph was “misleading,” since the two soldiers were not a couple as the picture would indicate. *“The newly hip, multimedia-savvy IDF Spokesman’s Office posted Monday on his Facebook page a photo of two ostensibly gay soldiers . . .”* according to the Times of Israel. *“Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall; at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, says Yahweh.”* (Jeremiah 6:15).

“For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah has fallen; because their tongue and their doings are against Yahweh, to provoke the eyes of his glory. The show of their countenance does witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe to their soul! For they have done evil to themselves.” (Isaiah 3:8-9).

“Drag queens, dancers, and shirtless men are partying through central Tel Aviv as thousands packed the streets for the city’s annual Gay Pride Parade. Israel’s homosexual community celebrated the city’s 14th annual parade Friday. Colorful floats with scantily dressed revelers rode through the streets as thousands cheered, waved flags, and gyrating to loud music. . . . Tel Aviv is one of the few places in the Middle East where gays feel free to walk hand-in-hand and kiss in public. Gays serve openly in Israel’s military. The parliament and Supreme Court has granted gays a variety of family rights, such as inheritance and survivor benefits. Earlier this year, Tel Aviv was picked by readers of the travel website Gaycities as the top gay destination, ahead of Amsterdam and San Francisco,” according to a report posted on YNetNews. This is

also a fulfillment of prophecy, since our Savior, Yahshua the Messiah, referred to Jerusalem as *“ . . . the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their master was impaled.”* (Revelation 11:8b).

“And Judah did that which was evil in the sight of Yahweh, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they committed, above all that their fathers had done. For they also built for themselves high places, and pillars, and Asherim, on every high hill, and under every green tree; and there were also sodomites in the land: they did according to all the abominations of the nations which Yahweh drove out before the children of Israel.” (1 Kings 14:22-24).

While rereading Isaiah 59, we are reminded that *“Yahweh’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy that it cannot hear: but your iniquities are separated between you and your looking, and your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.”* Through all of these examples of the moral decline of mankind, we are reminded that Yahweh is calling upon the human race to repent. We cannot forget that Yahweh has sent an intercessor for us. Salvation is offered in His righteousness through Yahshua the Messiah. Yahweh sees all of these things, and He is displeased—even, perhaps at times, angered—**yet He is calling on everyone to repent.** Even as Yahweh begins to judge mankind for their sins, He still wishes that all would repent. Who will heed this warning and **repent?**

“Therefore as the tongue of fire devours the stubble, and as the dry grass sinks down in the flame, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust; because they have rejected the law of Yahweh of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. Therefore is the anger of Yahweh kindled

against his people, and he has stretched forth his hand against them, and has struck them; and the mountains tremble, and their dead bodies are as refuse in the middle of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.” (Isaiah 5:24-25).

Call to Repentance

Repentance in the Bible symbolizes genuine sorrow for sin. If you are hoping to please Yahweh, to be one of His people, your life must be brought into conformity with His Laws. True conversion means to be changed from an attitude of rebellion and opposition to Yahweh and His supreme Laws to an attitude of humble submission to Yahweh’s authority. Are you learning the requirements set forth in the sacred Scriptures to live by every Word that has proceeded out of the mouth of Yahweh? Let us rejoice that the Kingdom of Yahweh is soon to appear on this earth! When Yahshua the Messiah returns to establish the Kingdom of Yahweh, the world will be returned back to its Edenic state. Will you begin to serve Him today?

With world trouble today seemingly mounting out of control so that no one can reverse it, there is no other answer to mankind except to serve Almighty Yahweh. We must turn to the unshakable, the unyielding fortress, which alone offers protection. This salvation cannot be found in earthly resources, but we must turn for eternal salvation and protection to our Heavenly Father Yahweh. Will you be faithful as was Abraham, who believed Yahweh and it was likened to him for righteousness? Why not choose the correct pathway while there is still time?

SNB

Continued from page 9.

everywhere repent: because he has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he has ordained; of which he has given assurance to all men, in that he has raised him from the dead.” Acts 17:30-31.

Mankind needs to live by Yahweh’s Law to fully achieve personal peace and, above all, salvation. While Christians attempt to limit this Law, or its importance to mankind, they cannot prove their contention from the Bible. Men everywhere need this Law, and they cannot be complete, or whole, without it. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 supports this assertion. **“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter. all has been heard fear Elohim, and keep his commandments, for this is the whole of man. For Elohim will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it is good, or whether**

it is evil.”

The commandments of Yahweh are of great importance, and neither are they grievous. **“For this is the love of Yahweh, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous,”** 1 John 5:3. Nor are they impossible to keep, as the nominal religious world today would have you believe. We must also realize that obedience to the commandments of Almighty Yahweh makes us free from sin. **“And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; For I have hoped in your ordinances. So shall I observe your law continually For ever and ever. And I shall walk at liberty; For I have sought your precepts.”** Psalm 119:43-45. Sin is the transgression of Yahweh’s Laws, 1 John 3:4.

The Commandments Before Sinai

When Elohim created the earth and the creatures in it, He created man to be its caretaker. After Adam’s creation, Yahweh immediately began

to give instructions for him to follow, Genesis 1:29. **“And Elohim said, Behold, I have given you every herb yielding [Hebrew—seeding] seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for food.”**

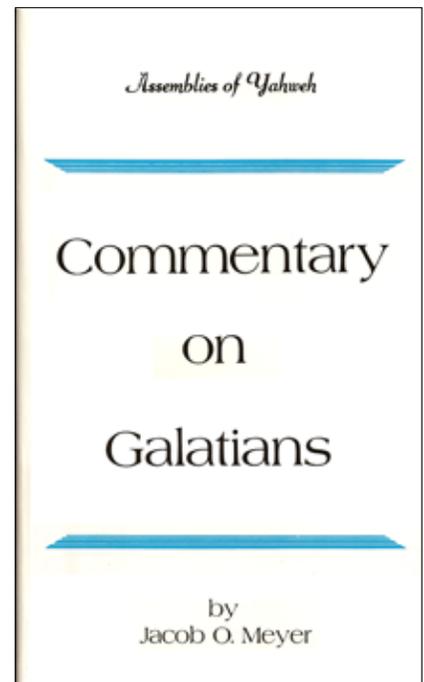
Yahweh gave this commandment to Adam to instruct him regarding what humans could eat if they wished to stay healthy. It was a commandment he had to remember and observe every day. It is a good commandment that must be observed today. Yahweh wants us to eat green herbs that reproduce by bearing seeds. Many people lose sight of the fact that Yahweh gave us these Laws for our good. He is our Creator and Sustainer. He knows best what will make our bodies function correctly. Why, then, does mankind generally insist upon rebelling against the simple and plain instructions which their Heavenly Father has given them so that they might obtain eternal life? He is our Creator and Maker. He knows what

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In Genesis 2:16-17, Yahweh lays upon Adam another commandment. ***“And Yahweh Elohim commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of knowing the good and [knowing the] evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”***

Do we see how simple Yahweh made His commandment to Adam? Yahweh was not trying to deceive Adam. But, rather, He straightforwardly and decisively made His point. Adam kept this Law faithfully until his wife Eve, the weaker sex, was tempted into disobedience. Laws are indeed important to mankind, as we can see. Yahweh wasted no time, but immediately instructed both Adam and Eve in what was right and good for them.

In Genesis 4, we find that Cain and Abel offered of their increase. Cain brought of the fruit of the ground, while Abel brought the firstlings of his flocks (the fattest and best). Adam and Eve had taught their sons the Law of Yahweh from birth. However, Cain, when his offerings were not acceptable in the sight of His Heavenly Father Yahweh, fell into a bad attitude. He would not correct the problem, which he could easily have rectified. Yahweh admonished him strongly to change and warned him **not to sin** in verses 6 and 7. ***“And Yahweh said unto Cain, Why are you angry? and why is your face fallen? If you do well, shall it not be lifted up? and if you do not well, sin crouches at the door. And to you shall be his desire, but you should rule over him.”***

Yahweh was instructing Cain that, if he would **obey**, Yahweh would accept him. However, Yahweh warned that if he refused to obey and willfully transgressed Yahweh's Law (if he sinned), then he would be serving himself and not Yahweh. Which law will you serve today—the Law of Yahweh, or the law of self

(sin)? The choice is quite clear-cut. Every human being upon the face of this earth must make that decision before the Second Coming of Yahshua the Messiah.

Do we now plainly see how much

How could Noah be called a righteous man if he had not been keeping all the commandments of Elohim as perfectly as possible?

emphasis Yahweh places upon obedience and obeying His perfect Law? Not too many people truly comprehend, realize, understand, and have internalized how much Yahweh wants every human being to overcome. To overcome self, sin, the world, and the devil, can only be accomplished through faithfully obeying Yahweh and His Laws.

Man's Morals Constantly Deteriorate

If Yahweh had not taught Adam and Eve and their children the commandment, “You shall not commit murder,” why then was Cain CURSED by Yahweh after he murdered Abel? Yahweh would have been arbitrarily putting an unjustified curse upon Cain. Cain would have had no way of understanding why Yahweh had pronounced a curse upon him! Is Yahweh an unfair, cruel, mean, and arbitrary, and unscriptural Heavenly Father? The answer can only be **NO!** He even sent His Son into the world to give His life to cover over the sins of contrite men who will accept His sacrifice. Yahweh has expressed His love to mankind by giving us His

commandments. We must reciprocate that love through obedience to His Laws.

When the Scriptures are harmonized, we can understand that Yahweh always detested sin (transgression of the Law, 1 John 3:4). Cain had committed sin, because he knew what was right and good in Yahweh's eyes and should have been following it, rather than rejecting Yahweh's counsel and Law. In love, Yahweh even warned him to resist sin. But Cain did not control his carnal nature. He even went one step further and killed his brother, Abel. It was for this reason that Cain was exiled from the area where his parents lived and went to live by himself. Yahweh had made him a fugitive and a wanderer, because he had to be separated from those who conducted themselves in harmony with Yahweh's Laws.

An interesting thought emerges in Genesis chapter 6. Yahweh was grieved with mankind, because the **wickedness** of man was so monstrous and pervasive in all the earth. Every *imagination* of the **thoughts** of their **HEART** was continually concentrating upon ways to do evil. However, in verse 8, we are told that Noah found favor in the eyes of Yahweh. ***“But Noah found favor in the eyes of Yahweh. . . . Noah was a righteous man, and perfect in his generations: Noah walked with Elohim.”*** Just as did Seth and Enoch, his forefathers, who were righteous men walking with Elohim, so Noah also took the righteous pathway to salvation.

How could Noah be called a **righteous** man if he had not been keeping all the commandments of Elohim as perfectly as possible? Because of his faithfulness in serving Yahweh and doing His will, even in opposition to sinners around him, Yahweh offered to enter into the Covenant with Noah and save him from the universal destruction of the flood.

In chapter 7, we note that Noah knew and kept the clean food (di-



A depiction of the Ark of Noah from 1846.

etary) Laws. **“Of every clean beast you shall take to you seven and seven, the male and his female”** Genesis 7:2. Noah also kept the feasts of Yahweh. Genesis 7:11 proves that Noah knew and reckoned time by Yahweh’s calendar. **“In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.”** In order for Noah to understand when the flood began and how time was reckoned, he had to be observing the biblical, visible new moons. We also are told to watch for the new moon of green ears—and this shall be the beginning of months to you, Deuteronomy 16:1.

The above passage occurred three days after the second Passover, which is the fourteenth day of the second month. It would appear that Yahweh patiently gave that wicked, pagan, heathenized civilization yet one additional chance to repent at the last moment and take part in that second Passover, so He would pass over them in judgment. However, when they rejected Yahweh, He rejected them.

Another instance of the keeping of the feasts of Yahweh can be found in

Genesis 19 verse 3, when Lot fed the angels unleavened bread with their meal. This must have occurred during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Previously, in chapter 18, Abraham directed Sarah, his wife, to quickly make bread for the visiting heavenly messengers. It had to be unleavened bread, because leavened bread takes the better part of the day to prepare.

When Joseph was sold into Egypt by his brethren and was sold into the service of Potiphar, the captain of Pharaoh’s guard (Hebrew—chief executioner), Joseph was blessed by Yahweh. Many times later on, Yahweh also blessed Joseph until he was advanced to a responsible position in the Egyptian government. Joseph was made overseer of Potiphar’s whole household. When Potiphar’s wife tempted him, Joseph refused to sin, Genesis 39:8-9. **“. . . Behold, my master knows not what is with me in the house, and he has put all that he has into my hand; He is not greater in this house than I; neither has he kept back any thing from me but you, because**

you are his wife: How then can I do this great WICKEDNESS, and sin against Elohim?”

1 John 3:4 unequivocally states that sin is the transgression of the Law of Almighty Yahweh. We cannot assume Joseph would use the word *sin* loosely. **He had been educated by his father Jacob** (Israel) from a child and was faithfully taught the Law of Yahweh.

Some might argue that the commandment against adultery was derived from the law of the land and adopted by the Hebrews. Perhaps they will maintain that Joseph was just following the moral code of the Egyptian nation. Or some will assert that the Hebrews derived their moral code from the Babylonian Hammurabi.

We must not be blind to the fact that **Yahweh gave His Law to Adam**. Adam’s descendants drifted away from True Worship, but their roots were still in the original pattern for a peaceful society given to Adam and Eve. SNB



Which came first: Yahweh’s Law or Hammurabi’s?



THE SACRED NAME BROADCAST



RADIO MESSAGE

WHO ARE THE ASSEMBLIES OF YAHWEH?

PEOPLE WHO ARE LIVING BY HIS WORD

In the continuation of this series on the Assemblies of Yahweh, explaining who we are and what is our mission, we wish to discuss the subject, "People Who are Living by His Word."

In the previous segment, we found that the Bible tells us that the Assemblies of Yahweh are a people who are called by the Name of our Father in heaven. We found that the word *ch-rch* is a term borrowed from Greek paganism and that a better word to translate the Greek term *ekklesia* would be *assembly*.

Also, since we are to be people of the Sacred Name, we should use the True Name of the Father in referring to the congregation of the True Called-Out Believers. We should, above all things, wish to be called by the True Name of our spiritual Heavenly Father, just as we proudly bear the name of our human father. **"For this cause I bow my knees**

by
Elder Jacob O. Meyer

to the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named." (Ephesians 3:14-15).

When we assert that the Assemblies of Yahweh are people who are living by His Word, we mean the Word of Yahweh, the sacred Scriptures. When He was tempted by Satan the devil in Matthew 4:4, Yahshua the Messiah, our Savior, replied, ". . . ***It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh.***" This passage means that there are things of more value in life than that of merely earning a livelihood, or obtaining the material things that characterize the average person's daily life.

If we do not feed our minds and

hearts with sound, spiritual food daily, we run the risk of starving to death, spiritually speaking. So often a person will accept the way of salvation, keeping Yahweh's Covenant Law and accepting the precious shed blood of Yahshua the Messiah shed on the tree of Calvary, and then fail to nurture that small seed of holy life adequately that has been planted within him by the Holy Spirit. Consequently, this Holy Spirit-generated life will finally die out, and the person turns away from his salvation and reverts to worldly pursuits.

Also, this searching of the Scriptures daily to determine whether these doctrines are accurate, as did the noble Bereans in the time of the Apostles in Acts 17:11, will lead the True Worshipers to watch the world for signs of the approaching return of our Savior, Yahshua the

Messiah, to rule the world. When He returns, He will subdue the earthly nations and governments, setting up the righteous rule of the Kingdom of the heavens. When we of the Assemblies of Yahweh observe events occurring in the world—such as wars in various places, the rise of Chinese Communist influence in world affairs, the rise of the European Common Market, the collapse of the Soviet Union, the upset weather patterns for which the meteorologists can find no explanation, earthquakes that are causing so much concern among geologists, and various other startling events—we comprehend just where they fit into Bible prophecy and the overall plan of Almighty Yahweh.

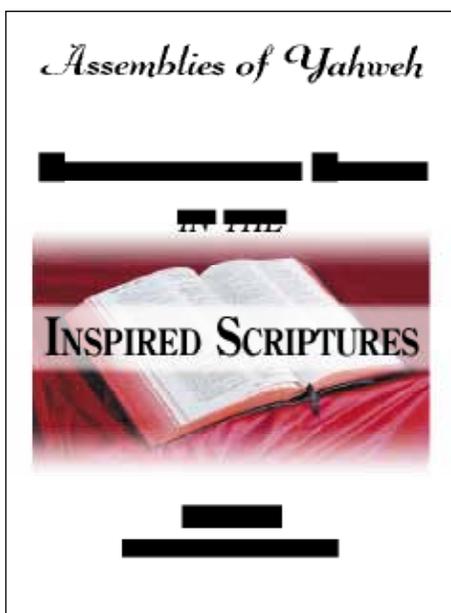
Searching the Scriptures requires time and a lot of effort and, sometimes, a quantity of our money. Some

time ago, the author purchased various aids to Bible study, three books which were rather expensive; however, I knew that they would be invaluable to my family and me in our research of the sacred Scriptures. A relative of mine, on hearing this, said to me, “That is a lot of money to pay for just three books.” I responded, “The salvation of my soul is at stake in this journey through life. Can I set a dollar and cents value on my eternal life?” He did not seem to realize that, while he was paying thousands of dollars for equipment to work his farm, he was putting a far greater value on material things that will perish than on spiritual things that will endure forever.

Many times, the searching of the Scriptures will send the True Believer into side channels in order

to find out why the people of the world do things as they are doing them today. Thoughts in the Scriptures have sometimes taken me into a study of international finance, atomic energy, the historical structure of the world’s governments, and the reasons for our present-day international diplomacy. However, when we study the methods of the worldly institutions through the light of the sacred Scriptures, we can soon perceive where the mistakes are made and what should be done to correct them.

Early in life, the author determined to follow the admonition of the Apostle Paul in everything I believe. This is found in 1 Thesalonians 5:21: **“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”** No longer when I sit down to read my paper, when I pick up a national



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news magazine, or when I hear a newscast on the radio, or watch a television newscast, do I believe everything at face value. I seek to prove all things and hold fast that which is good, and this practice will set apart the True Worshiper from the people of this worldly system who merely follow the traditions handed to them.

Proving all things has led the people of Yahweh to not even take the **King James Bible** for granted. Just because we were born and raised with a certain version does not mean that we must accept it without proving it to ourselves beyond the shadow of a doubt.

We should also prove the veracity of His Word. Almighty Yahweh, in Malachi 3:10, explains that we are to prove Him through tithing. He calls upon His people to reason with Him in Isaiah 1:18. He is the last One that would want His True Believers to walk into anything blindfolded and on another person's insistence. Yahweh is real; He exists, and you can prove it! ***“And without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing; for he that comes to Yahweh must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that seek after him.”*** (Hebrews 11:6).

Years ago when I was teaching Sunday school, the material that came through the church publishing house for teachers appeared to contain the old line that is currently set forth by the colleges and universities as a general philosophy of the day. It is the old rationalist approach: *“That which is truth today may not be truth tomorrow.”* Then I found the Scripture in John 17:17 which reads, ***“Sanctify them in the truth: your word is truth.”*** This Scripture has had a very profound influence in my life. Truth will never change! Many times, the scholars of the day will recognize only a tiny bit of truth at one time. Truth is all enduring and will never turn into an untruth. Yahweh thunders to the people of the world

today, who have followed after their own concepts and followed the evil one, Satan the devil—***“THE SCRIPTURE CANNOT BE BROKEN.”*** (John 10:35). In trying to break the Scriptures, people have

Man must make the choice of obedience, or disobedience—learning character, or satisfying his own sensual cravings and carnal hungers.

gone to fantastic extremes rather than obey the inspired Scriptures that would give them great happiness and peace. We, the people of Yahweh, have found in our constant search of the sacred Scriptures that we can rely upon the Word of Yahweh for authenticity and Truth.

The people of the world today should take the Scriptures seriously and follow the admonition made by the Apostle Paul to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:15. ***“Give diligence to present yourself approved to Yahweh, a workman that needs not be ashamed, HANDLING PROPERLY THE WORD OF TRUTH.”*** By our constant researching of the Word of Yahweh, we will be able to withstand the purposes of the person who is trying to overthrow the veracity of the sacred Scriptures, and we will be able to determine what is the right division of its contents.

Only through living by every word that proceeds out of the

mouth of Yahweh will we be adequately able to perceive what Almighty Yahweh is like and how He thinks. Yahshua the Messiah, our Savior, while speaking to the people of His day, said in John 6:63: ***“It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh profits nothing: the words that I have spoken to you are spirit, and are life.”*** It is Yahweh who places the Holy Spirit seed within us at the time of our repentance, but we are personally responsible to obtain more of the Holy Spirit daily, and this can only be done by a constant reading of the sacred Scriptures and then living by all its teachings. Living by the Word of Yahweh has made the (special) people of Yahweh a peculiar people, because they are set apart by the message of the sacred Scriptures, and, therefore, they live a different life from that of their neighbors.

Yahweh has put man upon this earth to gain for himself a resurrection from the dead and eternal life for obedient living. Man must make the choice of obedience, or disobedience—learning character, or satisfying his own sensual cravings and carnal hungers. Man is given the choice between eternal life on the one hand and eternal death on the other. ***“See, I have set before you this day life and good, and death and evil; in that I command you this day to love Yahweh your Elohim, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his ordinances, that you may live and multiply, and that Yahweh your Elohim may bless you in the land which you go in to possess.”*** (Deuteronomy 30:15-16).

In Philippians 2:12, the Apostle Paul speaks to all of us who are the True Believers, and he instructs us to work out our own salvation in fear and trembling. Living the life of True Spiritual Israelites, the True Overcomers of the New Testament Scriptures, requires hard

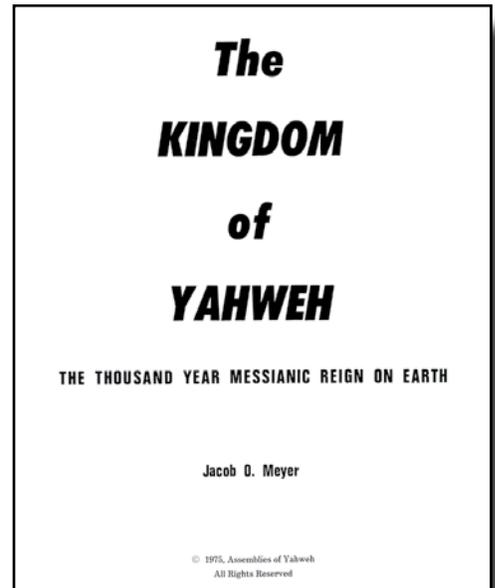
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work and sincere determination. Sometimes we stumble, but, by the grace of Yahweh, we rise again. ***“For a righteous man falls seven times, and rises up again; But the wicked are overthrown by calamity.”*** (Proverbs 24:16). This learning from experience builds the spiritual character that Yahweh the Almighty desires to see within all of us if we are to become His true sons and daughters, bearing the heavenly character at the resurrection from the dead.

Living by the Word of Yahweh will produce the perfection that Yahweh desires of His people. ***“You therefore shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”*** (Matthew 5:48). Striving to reach perfection should be the objective, the true destiny and the utmost motivation, of all people in the world, and the people of Yahweh have made it their singular goal in life. Each one who desires to achieve eternal life in the Kingdom of Yahweh must orient his priorities correctly.

Let us never forget that the

Word of Yahweh, which we are to live by, is the foundational text, the Old Testament Scriptures. Yahshua the Messiah made reference to the Scriptures in Matthew 4:4, ***“ . . . It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh.”*** He was quoting from Deuteronomy 8:3. In Yahshua’s time in history, the New Testament Scriptures were not, as yet, written. It was only then being lived. Also, in Isaiah 8:20 we read, ***“To the law and to the testimony! If they speak not according to this word, surely there is no morning [or light] for them.”*** Therefore, the so-called old and new Scriptures may not contradict each other, or there is no light in them. They are in agreement; they harmonize!

I leave you now with the thought found in the passage of Hebrews 4:12, ***“For the word of Yahweh is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of***

both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart.” We should all search the Scriptures to learn the Will of our Heavenly Father and then live our lives in accordance with His wishes, His own inspired Word.

His Word will be a lamp to our feet and a light to our pathway (Psalm 119:105). The reason why so much sorrow has entered this world is that the people would rather work out their own philosophy of life apart from the Word of Yahweh than to follow the straight and narrow pathway to eternal life which is lighted by the Law (the directions) of the One who is responsible for it all, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, Yahweh Almighty. Please see Proverbs 6:23. ***“For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; And reproofs of instruction are the way of life.”*** Now is the time for all of us to resolve to believe Him and live by His every Word. SNB

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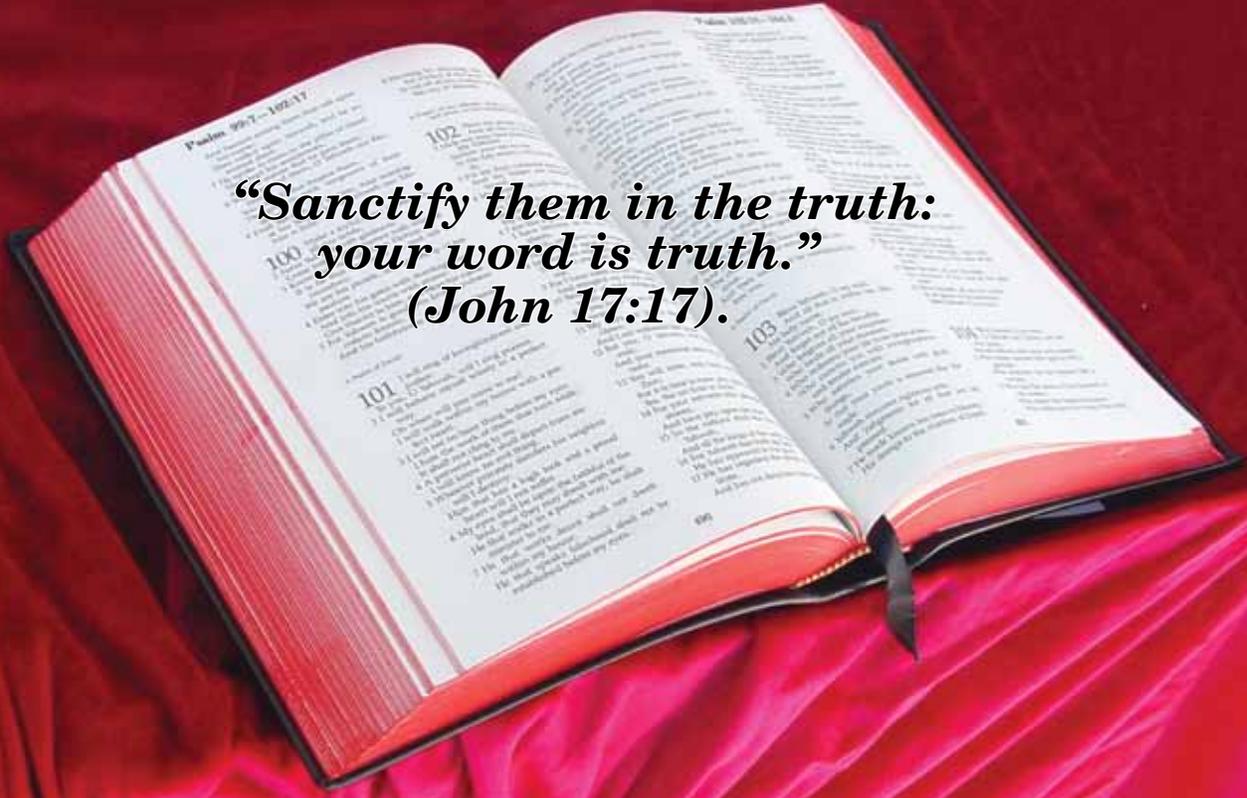
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