1 The Second Commandment
Idolatry: Placing Anything Ahead of Yahweh
The second commandment precludes us from making any physical representations of the Almighty. Covetousness, however, is idolatry, which is hidden secretly in the heart.

8 Misconceptions About Giving, Clarified by the Word
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10 Prophetic Trends: Believing A Lie
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21 Program Log
Be sure to listen to the Sacred Name Broadcast and watch the Sacred Name Telecast. Tell your friends! Also, streaming at your convenience at www.WMLK.net.
A scriptural passage appears in 2 Chronicles 33 dealing with many sorts of idolatry, some of which are perhaps familiar to various readers. The reader might wonder, “Why discuss a Scripture like this?”

Should we not think of other religious concepts that may enjoy more popularity? Today, we tend to think of idols and idolatry in overt terms, such as 2 Chronicles 33:1-9. Here is contained the record of the gross deterioration of spiritual viability during the time of Manasseh, the king of Judah, the son of Hezekiah, who voluntarily turned aside from the commandments of Yahweh to go into idolatry.

Yet, when one studies the history of the House of Judah and the House of Israel and knows the common spirit of that time, one wonders exactly how widespread were the practices concerning which the prophets sternly objected. This certainly cannot diminish from the error of idolatry.

But, when we think of idolatry, we tend to think of somebody setting up a statue in the corner of a little shrine and then getting down on his knees and praying before it or to it, which is what Manasseh did. In 2 Chronicles 33:7, we find, “And he set the carved image of the idol, which he had made, in the house of Elohim, of which Elohim said to David and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my name forever....”

Manasseh set up carved idols. These were literal images. But we often mistakenly think of idolatry as consisting only in terms of a purely physical act. We neglect to realize that something prompted this man...
to make a carved image. Where is the source of disobedience to the second commandment? What was it?

Idolatry, first of all, must originate in the heart. Manasseh had a change of heart for some reason. His father, Hezekiah, had inaugurated policies to restore the pure worship of Yahweh, even to the point of centralizing that worship, (2 Chronicles 32:12). In the second commandment, we may fail to notice and understand a most significant and compelling importance intended by its instruction.

In Exodus 20:3, we find the commandment, “You shall have no other elohim before me.” If we do not have any other mighty ones before Yahweh, we will manufacture no graven images, there will be no substitute for the Most High, Heavenly Father Yahweh. This author believes that verse 3 could well be attached to the second commandment rather than the first, although verses 2 through 6 appear to be related.

The Israelites were released from Egyptian slavery during the Exodus. When they cried out to Yahweh in their oppression, He heard them and led them to the Promised Land. Spiritually speaking, we, too, are no longer slaves to sin and an Egyptian type of life, but we are Yahweh’s obedient children. Because we are His children, we should love and respect Yahweh and hate the evil He specifies.

We continue reading verses 4-6 of Exodus 20: “You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: you shall not bow down to them, or serve them; for I Yahweh your Elohim am a jealous El, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and the fourth generation of those that hate me, and showing mercy to thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.”

If any one of us were to make a graven image, a statue, or an idol, and set it in the corner of a little shrine and bow down to it, we would certainly be limiting Yahweh. We notice in Psalm 78:41, “And they turned again and tempted El, and provoked the Holy One of Israel.”

Here, we can clearly perceive the true meaning intrinsic within the second commandment. But how can it apply to nominal religion? Some people in ch-rchianity might contend that they don’t worship idols when they place images in the sanctuary. They may believe in their position fervently. Others, at one time or another, may have found religious pictures in our Bibles. One Bible I saw even had included an idolatrous picture of the old idol Zeus. But most people don’t have idols in their homes, do they? Yet, if we look closely we can perceive that the world is oriented toward the widespread practice of idolatry. The world elevates many things to a position above and ahead of Yahweh.

But most people don’t have idols in their homes, do they? Yet, if we look closely we can perceive that the world is oriented toward the widespread practice of idolatry. The world elevates many things to a position above and ahead of Yahweh.

Let’s turn to Leviticus 26:1. We should consider this passage to constitute a clear explanation of the second commandment. “You shall make no idols, neither shall you rear up a graven image, or a pillar; neither shall you place any figured stone in your land, to bow down to it: for I am Yahweh your Elohim.”

Let us look carefully at each word as it appears in the Hebrew text. The word translated idols is ellilim in Hebrew, (Strong’s Concordance 457). The term means good for nothing, by anal. vain or vanity; spec. an idol. It means clay or terra cotta mighty ones according to the Companion Bible. The word occurs only in one other passage in the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible), that being in Leviticus 19:4, “Turn not to idols, nor make to yourselves molten elohim: I am Yahweh your Elohim.”

An idol is a certain object that one can create from almost any material—clay, or earth—and then set up the object to bow down to it and worship it. Those who have read the book The Source by James Michener (a historical novel excellently researched) will recall that the Canaanite characters in the book made little idols out of clay to charm the natural earthly forces.

Idols like these have been discovered in various Middle Eastern excavations by the archaeologists. The idols represent little Astartes and little Baals made out of clay. This is one meaning Yahweh intended by the prohibition against idols. We are told not to make charms, such as little representations of the idol Astarte to hang around our necks, or little Baal charms to set up on a boulder at the corner of our fields, so that Baal will bless with a good crop. Yahweh has prohibited us from duplicating the abominable practices of the ethnic peoples around us who do not worship the True Most High.
The word graven image in Leviticus 26:1, is translated from the Hebrew term Pesel, #6459 in Strong's Concordance. It means an idol or carved statue of wood, or stone. There were plenty of these idols evident around the area of the Middle East, especially in the land of Canaan. These little peselim (carved statues) were customarily designated for worship in little shrines. The elilim were more usually household mighty ones.

The term standing image appears in the Hebrew text as Matstsevah, Strong's Lexicon #4676 (a feminine word), and it means something stationed i.e. a column or (memorial stone); by analogy an idol, or a sacred pillar. This is not the depiction of a human being or an animal, but a stone column standing upright. It is always rendered pillar by the translators of the Pentateuch in the King James Version. These were the so-called sacred pillars that were frequently set up alongside the idol altars. See Deuteronomy 12:3. As an example, Jacob set up his pillow stone and anointed it in dedication to Yahweh, Genesis 28:18-19. When Israel crossed the Jordan, they did the same, Yahshua (their king, to be exact) was the one who instigated the erection of the calves and for establishing the accompanying apostate worship. His policy decision was meant to draw the Israelites of the northern nation away from the worship of Yahweh and to give his own reign legitimacy. You will recall that in 1 Kings chapters 16-18 these same Israelites were led astray into the pagan worship of Baal, because their hearts were not devoted to Yahweh.

In Deuteronomy 12:1-4 we read, “These are the statutes and the ordinances which you shall observe to do in the land which Yahweh, the Elohim of your fathers, has given you to possess, all the days that you live upon the earth. You shall surely destroy all the places in which the nations that you shall dispossess served their elohim, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree: and you shall break down their altars, and dash in pieces their pillars, and burn their altars, and such like.”

Let us concentrate for a moment upon the word idolatry. Paul was writing to the Messianic Assemblies of Galatia, located in Asia Minor. These were Assemblies that had an ethnic Celtic influence. You may have read in earlier editions of The Sacred Name Broadcaster that the lost tribes of Israel had later become the Anglo-Saxons, Celts, and kindred peoples. The Galatians, undoubtedly, had a great deal of the dispersed 10-tribed Israel heritage. These Galatian people were largely of the 10 northern Israelite tribes that had apostatized and gone into idolatry. How had they apostatized from the True Worship of Yahweh? Was it the consequence of merely depicting a calf, a heifer with a large bowl of water on her back, as probably happened? Solomon had recently constructed the Temple in Jerusalem. He had directed that 12 oxen be cast from bronze to form the support base under the molten sea. Why wasn’t Solomon condemned for his conduct? He wasn’t condemned in the Scriptures, because the constituted priesthood of Yahweh had determined that this structure would not constitute idolatry. It was when the Israelites were diverted from the True Worship of Yahweh, characterized by the idolatry in the northern 10 tribes that apostatized under King Jereboam, that the golden calves were set up.

The golden calves, one of which was set up in Bethel and the other in Dan, only brought to the surface an aberration that was covert in the hearts of the individuals comprising the 10 northern tribes. Jereboam (their king, to be exact) was the one who instigated the erection of the calves and for establishing the accompanying apostate worship. His policy decision was meant to draw the Israelites of the northern nation away from the worship of Yahweh and to give his own reign legitimacy. You will recall that in 1 Kings chapters 16-18 these same Israelites were led astray into the pagan worship of Baal, because their hearts were not devoted to Yahweh.

Standing images, sacred pillars, images of stone or reliefs depicting some mighty one are certainly included under the second word. No one shall make a temonah (Strong's Concordance #8544) something portioned (i.e., fashioned) out as a shape. This term is usually translated likeness. Verse 5 reads, “You shall not bow down to them, or serve them.”

Let us notice how the New Testament applies this commandment. In Galatians 5:19-21, we read, “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousies, wraths, factions, divisions, parties, envyings, drunkenness, revelings, and such like.”

In Deuteronomy 12:1-4 we read, “These are the statutes and the ordinances which you shall observe to do in the land which Yahweh, the Elohim of your fathers, has given you to possess, all the days that you live upon the earth. You shall surely destroy all the places in which the nations that you shall dispossess served their elohim, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree: and you shall break down their altars, and dash in pieces their pillars, and burn their Asherim with fire; and you shall hew down the carved images of their elohim; and you shall destroy their name out of that place. You shall not do so to Yahweh your Elohim.”

The destruction of heathen idolatry during the conquest was what Yahweh wants the reader to conclude from this passage. Apparently the people of the 10 northern tribes did not heed Yahweh’s injunction. The second chapter of Judges makes that quite clear.

Let us turn to the book of Acts where we can note that the penetration of the Word of Yahweh through Paul’s preaching was quite deeply convincing the people of Ephesus.
Acts 19:17-20 is most enlightening:

“And this became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, that lived at Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Sovereign Yahshua was magnified. Many also of them that had believed came, confessing, and declaring their deeds. And not a few of them that practiced magical arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all; and they counted the price of them, and found it to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of Yahweh grew mightily and prevailed.”

From verse 18, you can see that the people exhibited the fruits of true repentance. “Many also of them that had believed came, confessing, and declaring their deeds.” Some of these people were using various kinds of idolatrous books or scrolls. But they eagerly burned them to rid themselves of idolatry. What a magnificent example.

In Deuteronomy 29:14-18, we find another familiar, but important, passage. “Neither with you only do I make this covenant and this oath, but with him that stands here with us this day before Yahweh our Elohim, and also with him that is not here with us this day; (for you know how we dwelt in the land of Egypt, and how we came through the nations through which you passed; and you have seen their abominations, and their idols, wood and stone, silver and gold, which were among them:) lest there should be among you a root that bears gall and wormwood….” Here Yahweh cautions us to constantly be on guard and not to backslide into paganism.

Verse 16 contains the word nations. Let us understand that term through interpretation in these modern days as religious organizations. Some people journey through many different organizations in their search for the pure Truth of Bible teaching. They were living in sin until they were called by Yahweh. Then, they began to search for the True Worship.

We, today, in the Assemblies of Yahweh, have placed ourselves under the government of Yahweh through keeping the terms of His Covenant. Therefore, we strive to be a kingdom of priests as the Apostle Peter explains in 1 Peter 2:8-10. Yahweh is our Ruler, and we constitute His righteous nation obedient to His Laws.

The Apostles considered the Messianic Assembly to be the Israel of Yahweh.

Today, we can perceive idolatry practiced right here in the United States. Paul was vexed by the idolatry described in Acts 17 in Athens, a chief city of Greece and the center of culture at that time. In the United States, people are very involved with astrology. They wear “good luck” charms. They believe in many types of superstitions. But the most prominent form of idolatry today in our country is materialism.

Many times in the course of this ministry, we are asked the question, “Is it wrong to have pictures?” Sometimes the question takes the form: “Why do you publish a picture on the front cover of The Sacred Name Broadcaster, isn’t that wrong? Should we have photographs, or allow ourselves to be photographed?”

Three times in the King James Version Bible the word pictures is used. In Numbers 33:51-53 of this version, we find, “Speak unto the children of Israel and say unto them, “When ye are passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places: And ye shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land, and dwell therein.””

The word pictures here is the same word translated figured stone in Leviticus 26:1 of The Sacred Scriptures, Bethel Edition. In the Hebrew texts, the word is Maskeeth, and it means a figure carved into
stone as a relief. It traces to a root word meaning to surmount, to carve into a wall, Strong's Concordance #7906.

If we carefully scrutinize Numbers 33:51-53, we will find that the implication is to worship. The bas-reliefs spoken of were etched on the walls of temples, idol temples. The term does not refer to a photograph, but rather a carving which depicts religious worship or idolatry.

This is what Yahweh wishes us to understand. But, when we turn to Proverbs 25:11, we find a different meaning: “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in network of silver.” You will note that the King James Version employs the term pictures as a translation rather than network in the Sacred Scriptures, Bethel Edition. If it is wrong to have any pictures (network), why was it not condemned here in Proverbs 25:11? A word fitly spoken is like beautiful carvings, carved or sculptured work, but which is not in any way associated with idolatry. It evidently depicts something from nature.

Photographs are not physical representations that are produced by human beings to serve as their impressions of the Almighty. Photographs are instantaneous still snaps of actual things that the human eye sees. Therefore, we can say that photographs cannot be prohibited because they are not meant to represent the Almighty. One does not customarily snap photographs with the intent to set them up as a Mighty One in order to bow down to them. A photograph can become a worshipful entity to a few people. But one takes pictures with a camera for the purpose of preserving things that the eye has actually seen. Those who oppose pictures are probably overly cautious, but one cannot anticipate evil in advance. Anything can become an idol; therefore, each person must guard his own actions. Therefore, we cannot condemn photographs, because the views are what the eye actually sees (the principle of the camera), and the intention is not to worship such pictures.

Solomon had made 12 oxen and installed them in Yahweh’s temple. But he didn’t make these 12 oxen as a base to support the Temple laver in order to draw people away from the worship of Yahweh. Jereboam made two golden calves; he planned in his heart to entice people away from the True Worship of Yahweh in Jerusalem. Furthermore, the oxen in Solomon’s temple were not worshiped, but it would appear as though that was the case with Jereboam’s calves. See 2 Chronicles 13:8-12. Perhaps Solomon intended that the people who saw the laver would be reminded of the greater efficacy of sacrificial blood (today our sacrificial blood is from Yahshua the Messiah).

In Isaiah 2:16, we find another place where the term pictures is found in the King James Version text. “... and upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant imagery.” Here, the word denotes pictures of desire, as we translate directly out of the Hebrew text. But look back at verses 7-9: “And their land is full of silver and gold, neither is there any end of their treasures; their land also is full of horses, neither is there any end of their chariots. Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made. And the mean man is bowed down, and the great man is brought low: therefore forgive them not.”

Here we find a description of idolatry. These people were bowing down to idols. Paul says, we know that an idol is nothing. In Ezekiel, chapter 8, we extrapolate that the overt action when one makes an idol image is merely symptomatic of a deeper character fault. When someone makes an idol out of any possession, and places it above, before, or even after Yahweh, to represent the Most High to them as an object of worship, it is the result of some problem in his character, much deeper in the heart.

In Ezekiel 8:8-12, we read a description of a form of idolatry other than merely an image. “Then said he to me, Son of man, dig now in the wall; and when I had dug in the wall, behold, a door. And he said to me, Go in, and see the wicked abominations that they do here. So I went in and saw, and behold, every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed upon the wall all around. And there stood before them seventy men of the elders of the house of Israel; and in the middle of them stood Joazaziah the son of Shaphan, every man with his censer in his hand; and the odor of the cloud of incense went up. Then he said to me, Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in his chambers of imagery? For they say, Yahweh sees us not; Yahweh has forsaken the land.”

These leaders of Israel had fallen away from the pure Faith of Yahweh. They had erroneously concluded that Yahweh had forsaken the earth and that possibly the Bible was a myth. In their hearts (in the chambers of their imagination) they believed that they were a law unto themselves.

Now, turn to Ezekiel 14, beginning with verse 2, where we notice that Yahweh broadens the issue of the correct definition of idolatry. In verse 1, certain elders, the Sanhedrin perhaps, or the leading men of Israel in any event, had come before the prophet Ezekiel. “And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying, Son of man, these men have taken their idols into their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be inquired of at all by them? Therefore speak to them, and say to them, In this manner says the Sovereign Yahweh: Every man of the house of Israel that takes his idols into his heart, and puts the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and
comes to the prophet; I Yahweh will answer him in it according to the multitude of his idols; that I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols. Therefore say to the house of Israel, In this manner says the Sovereign Yahweh: Return and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations. For every one of the house of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn in Israel, that separates himself from me, and takes his idols into his heart, and puts the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and comes to the prophet to inquire for himself of me; I Yahweh will answer him by myself....” (Ezekiel 14:2-7).

Yahweh knows the deepest secrets of the heart of man, and, eventually, whatever is in the heart will emerge for all to see. If an idol is hidden there, Yahweh will ultimately discover it. To bring this scriptural passage which we have just read into focus more sharply, turn to Psalm 97:7, where we read, “Let all them be put to shame that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols: Worship him, all you elohim.” Again, in Psalm 96:5: “For all the elohim of the peoples are idols; but Yahweh made the heavens.” Probably the most penetrating passage is found in Psalm 135:15-18. “The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands. They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not; they have ears, but they hear not; neither is there any breath in their mouths. They that make them shall be like to them; yes, every one that trusts in them.”

Those people who wish to reject the authority of Yahweh’s Laws usually point us to Acts 15. But in this passage we find that the Gentiles, the ethnic peoples (the

Various depictions of idol images in ancient paganism are shown here. Some of these are reflected in modern Christian iconology.
worldly nations), were instructed on the subject of idols. In Acts 15:20, we read, “...but that we write to them, that they abstain from the pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from what is strangled, and from blood.” This instruction in no way abrogates the force of all Yahweh’s commandments, but the restrictions to the Gentiles concentrate upon what is known in Judaism as the Noachide Law.

Now what does it mean, “abstain from the pollutions of idols”? Does this expression mean merely to abstain from going into an idol’s temple? Certainly, we shouldn’t urge anyone to go into an idol temple, because the Scriptures tells us not to do so. But is that all that is included in Acts 15:20? The answer is found in 1 Corinthians 8.

Beginning with verse 9 of 1 Corinthians 8, we read a statement by the Apostle Paul. “But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to the weak. For if a man see you who has knowledge sitting at meat in an idol’s temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be emboldened to eat things sacrificed to idols?” Paul continues to emphasize the policy created by Jacob (James), that one should guard himself from all forms of agreement with idolatry.

Paul shows us in 1 Corinthians 10:11-14 how Israel went backward and not forward because of unbelief. “Now these things happened to them by way of example; and they were written for our warning, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him that thinks he stands watch out, lest he fall. There has no temptation taken you but such as man can bear: but Yahweh is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted above what you are able; but will with the temptation make also the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.” When Yahweh brings a test upon us, it is to try our hearts. We cannot assimilate any practices from the religion of the nations of the world.

In the 10th chapter of 1 Corinthians, in verses 19 through 21, we are told: “What say I then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, and not to Yahweh: and I do not wish that you should have communion with demons. You cannot drink the cup of Yahshua, and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of Yahshua, and of the table of demons.”

You might ask, “Are people worshiping demons in the world today?” Turn to Revelation chapter 9 verses 20 and 21: “And the rest of mankind, who were not killed with these plagues, repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and the idols of gold, and of silver, and of brass, and of stone, and of wood; which can neither see, nor hear, nor walk: and they repented not of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.”

In Colossians 3:5, we can conclude that, yes, indeed, people will be worshiping idols, and also demons, because that’s where idolatry leads. “Put to death therefore your members which are upon the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry....”

Covetousness—which is idolatry—leads us back to the last commandment of Yahweh’s Law. When we covet, idolatry, therefore, begins with a wrong condition in the heart. If we covet anything so badly that we just cannot do without it, then we begin to make an idol out of it for ourselves, and that idolatry will ultimately lead us away from Yahweh, and eventually we will have limited the Mighty One of Israel, and we will be destroying our faith. See Ephesians 5:5.

Idolatry, therefore, begins in the heart, and it is upon our heart that we must concentrate to eliminate what is not pleasing to Yahweh.

The second commandment, therefore, includes the making of physical representations of the Almighty, but it also refers to concentrating our primary love upon anything that might stand between the Heavenly Father and the True Worshiper.

We cannot break Yahweh’s commandments, but we must keep His Covenant Law faithfully. The True Worshiper cannot expect eternal life if he sins (transgresses the Law).
The Sacred Name Broadcaster magazine has been published regularly since June 1968. For the first four-and-a-half years, the magazine was published bimonthly. This means that we published 28 magazines between June 1968 and February 1973. Thereafter, The Sacred Name Broadcaster publication went on a monthly schedule (missing only one month). Consequently, 504 monthly issues of The Sacred Name Broadcaster have been sent out to interested people. This means that the Assemblies of Yahweh has now published a total of 534 magazines since the inauguration of the ministry.

People tend to think of a magazine as a “throw-away” item. Very few people save any of the publications they receive. Nevertheless, those 534 issues of The Sacred Name Broadcaster magazine contain a vast amount of solid scriptural Truth, more deep Bible research, and sound doctrine, than has been published by any other group—a noteworthy feat for an organization of our current size.

Publishing The Sacred Name Broadcaster magazine, producing The Sacred Name Broadcast radio and TV programs, communicating regularly with those who correspond with the Home Offices at Bethel, counseling by telephone, preaching the Word of Almighty Yahweh in a sermon each week before the congregation at Bethel, traveling to many distant places to teach the Word of Yahweh to interested people in Bible studies and Obadiah School of the Bible, sending forth the Word of Truth in the CD ministry, and baptizing those who are sincerely repentant, has been the source of great satisfaction to the author.

This continuing labor of love, in which my colleagues and I here at the Headquarters of the Assemblies of Yahweh, Bethel, Pennsylvania, engage, is intended to assist those who love the Truth of the Sacred Scriptures, a mission to bring lost souls to the Truth. Sincere people will have a desire to learn the Truth of the sacred Scriptures; consequently, many long, hard hours are devoted to this noble endeavor to fulfill the Great Commission. We sense the urgency of the times, as few people or organizations do, because we see numerous trends revealing that the Second Coming of the Messiah is approaching rapidly.

The Great Commission of Matthew 28:19–20 should be at the forefront of our minds at all times. “Go you therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, immersing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them to observe all things whatever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Some misguided people may believe that the Apostles living in the time of the book of Acts fulfilled this directive spoken by Yahshua the Messiah. However, the Age of Man did not end in Apostolic times. When the world refused to repent at the preaching of the Apostles of Yahshua, it sank into a millennium of spiritual darkness known as the Dark Ages, or medieval times. With the coming of the Renaissance and Reformation, the people of the world again sought spiritual enlightenment, and knowledge was again increased. Yahshua encouraged His True Body against which Hades (the grave could not prevail, “...and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”)

Daniel, the prophet, predicted the increase of knowledge (Daniel 12:4) that has been fulfilled over the past several hundred years. It seems, however, that Bible research and study have been neglected. Tools have been available since the late nineteenth century that allow average individuals to study the Bible deeply, even for the uneducated to break the language barrier (to some extent).

The Assemblies of Yahweh is striving to become the reconstituted Apostolic Assembly, Yahweh’s remnant Body in these last days. Therefore, it is the Assemblies of Yahweh that is today fulfilling the Great Commission and teaching the very same, identical, message taught by Yahshua the Messiah and His Apostles. You can prove this fact to yourself by obtaining a copy of our...
paperback book, *Commentary on Galatians*, for example. Write to the Assemblies of Yahweh, PO Box C, Bethel, PA 19507, for further information on how you can purchase a copy of this enlightening book. You need to understand the truth of what the Apostle Paul was writing in this epistle.

To maintain a growing organization like the Assemblies of Yahweh requires contributions from those who benefit from what this organization produces. But that is a sensitive issue, is it not? When a minister tells his congregation of certain needs, some of the people naturally (or habitually) resent hearing such an appeal. “Why does he want our money?” they question. “Doesn’t a minister have an easy job? Why, there are even groups in ch-rchianity who are known to spend 50 percent of their income (or more) on their pastor. Perhaps he wants to spend the money on himself?”

The Assemblies of Yahweh is a different kind of religious organization than found in ch-rchianity. We seek to follow the sacred Scriptures in all we do and live according to every Word of Yahweh. If you have been reading our literature for any length of time, you should be able to concur.

### The Meaning of Stewardship

One Sabbath, some time ago, a prominent individual from our local community attended services with the Bethel Assembly. As the sermon progressed, I noticed him begin to open his Bible and follow closely in the Scriptures. After the services ended and I met him emerging from the meeting hall, he came directly to me and remarked, “You aren’t a cult at all, are you? You preach directly from the Word. Everything you said today CAME DIRECTLY OUT OF THE BIBLE! You are not preaching your own words, but DIRECTLY OUT OF THE SCRIPTURES.” To this comment I heartily agreed. I wish more people would come to that realization, and then act on it.

The ministers of the Assemblies of Yahweh are not like the ministers in ch-rchianity. WE NEVER GET PAID FOR PREACHING. Our wages are based upon the amount of time we spend working at our various administrative tasks in the offices and printing department of the Assemblies of Yahweh Headquarters. Nor does any instructor ever receive any pay for teaching classes in Obadiah School of the Bible—the higher educational institution of the Assemblies of Yahweh. We do not receive extra pay for trips or travel, near or far, except the expenses which we directly incur. The ordained elders of the Assemblies of Yahweh are NOT materialistic. We are paid a living wage according to need and nothing exorbitant. All of us have access to a little land on which we have gardens, and we try to raise a portion of our own food so that we will not have to burden the Assemblies of Yahweh organization. We like to spend our spare time doing something constructive rather than wasting time. These are sacrifices that we gladly make so that the income of the organization will stretch further, and more people can be reached with the glad tidings of the Kingdom of Yahweh in these last days. In our mission to herald the coming Kingdom of Yahweh to the ends of the earth, we try to be good stewards in every facet of our lives.

Habitually among the members of ch-rchianity, you will find the attitude—“If we give a dollar or two in the collection on a Sunday morning, that should suffice. I work hard for my money!” I recall hearing about my great-grandmother once giving a generous offering. She was the wife of a preacher (my great-grandfather was a minister of the Ch-rch of the Brethren). For some reason, she felt impelled to give $20 in the offering because she believed in a worthy project that was then underway. This was in the time before inflation, when $20 would have amounted to something substantial. Yet some people called her a spendthrift!

If we indeed call ourselves Bible students, we must arrive at the conviction that the minister does not want your money—Almighty Yahweh does, because HE HAS COMMANDED IT. The ministers of the Assemblies of Yahweh teach the same as did Paul in Acts 20:33–35. “I coveted no man’s silver, or gold, or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to them that were with me. In all things I gave you an example, that so laboring you ought to help the weak, and to remember the words of the Master Yahshua, that he himself said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

We do not want your money, but, just like Paul said, we desire to see fruit added to your account. “And you yourselves also know, you Philippians, that in the beginning of the good tidings, when I departed from Macedonia, no assembly had fellowship with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you only; for even in Thessalonica you sent once and again to my need. Not that I seek for the gift; but I seek for the fruit that increases to your account.” (Philippians 4:15-17).

Today, the Assemblies of Yahweh leaders follow the same example set forth by the Apostle Paul. We delight to labor constantly with our hands, trying to provide some of our necessities so that the Assemblies of Yahweh will not be burdened. Nor do we suggest (or imply), as do some religious organizations, that you should contribute 25 percent of your income to the Assemblies of Yahweh.

In the Assemblies of Yahweh, NONE of the elders ever directly receives the tithes of the people. ALMIGHTY YAHWEH RECEIVES THE TITHES just as He commanded in Leviticus 27:30-33. “And all the tithe of the land whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is Yahweh’s: it

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“Moreover the word of Yahweh came to me, saying, And you, son of man, will you judge, will you judge the bloody city? THEN CAUSE HER TO KNOW ALL HER ABOMINATIONS. And you shall say, In this manner says the Sovereign Yahweh: A city that sheds blood in the middle of her; that her time may come, and that makes idols against herself to defile her! You have become guilty in your blood that you have shed, and are defiled in your idols which you have made; and you have caused your days to draw near, and have come even to your years: therefore have I made you A REPROACH TO THE NATIONS, and A MOCKING to all the countries. Those that are near, and those that are far from you, shall mock you, you infamous one and full of tumult. Behold, the princes of Israel, every one according to his power, have been in you to shed blood. In you have they set light by father and mother; in the middle of you have they dealt by oppression with the sojourner; in you have they wronged the fatherless and the widow. You have despised my holy things, and have profaned my sabbaths. Slanderous men have been in you to shed blood; and in you they have eaten upon the mountains: in the middle of you they have committed lewdness. In you have they uncovered their fathers’ nakedness; in you have they humbled her that was unclean in her impurity. And one has committed abomination with his neighbor’s wife; and another has lewdly defiled his daughter-in-law; and another in you has humbled his sister, his father’s daughter. In you have they taken bribes to shed blood; you have taken interest and increase, and you have greedily gained of your neighbors by oppression, AND HAVE FORGOTTEN ME, says the Sovereign Yahweh. Behold, therefore, I have struck my hand at your dishonest gain which you have made, and at your blood which has been in the middle of you. Can your heart endure, or can your hands be strong, in the days that I shall deal with you? Can your heart endure, or can your hands be strong, in the days that I shall deal with you? I, Yahweh, have spoken it, and will do it. And I will scatter you among the nations, and disperse you through the countries; and I will consume your filthiness out of you. And you shall be profaned in yourself, in the sight of the nations; and you shall know that I am Yahweh. And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying, Son of man, the house of Israel has become dross to me: all of them are bronze and tin and iron and lead, in the middle of the furnace; they are the dross of silver. Therefore thus says the Sovereign Yahweh: Because you have all become dross, therefore, behold, I will gather you into the middle of Jerusalem. As they gather silver and bronze and iron and lead and tin into the middle of the furnace, to blow the fire upon it, to melt it; so will I gather you in my anger and in my wrath, and I will lay you there, and melt you. Yes, I will gather you, and blow upon you with the fire of my wrath, and you shall be melted in the middle of it. As silver is melted in the middle of the furnace, so shall you be melted in the middle of it; and you shall know that I, Yahweh, have poured out my wrath upon you.” (Ezekiel 22:1-22).

This nation (and the whole world, for that matter) has turned away from commandment keeping. Yahweh has launched a severe indictment against the people of our day. He is explaining to the people how they are not keeping His commandments by spurning the counsel of their father and mother. He has shown how people are committing lewdness and gross immorality. He has accused the people in this world of violence and bloodshed. Her priests, He explains,
have done violence to His Law and have profaned His holy things by failing to make a distinction between the holy and the common, the unclean and the clean. They also profane His sabbaths.

Writing in the book of Proverbs, King Solomon made the following explicit pronouncement. “Righteousness exalts a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people.” (Proverbs 14:34).

There was a time when the United States of America was indeed exalted as a nation. We recognize that worldly people have always been somewhat sinful, but the preponderance of the people still recognized the authority of the Bible and, in many ways, sought to live by it. The United States became exalted as a nation after winning World War II, because we relied upon the powers of heaven to save us during that time.

During the past 70 years, however, this nation has substantially declined until, today, our country has become overwhelmingly sinful! Perhaps we can trace the decline to the point 50 years ago, when religion, prayer, and the Bible were removed from the schools. Many parents today have not fulfilled their responsibility of teaching religion to their children at home, and generations of children have grown up without hearing even one single word of Scripture. Too few people stand in the gap and declare to the people of this generation that evil is the result of turning our back on Almighty Yahweh. “And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying, Son of man, say to her, You are a land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation. There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the middle of it, like a roaring lion ravening the prey: they have devoured souls; they take treasure and precious things; they have made her widows many in the middle of it. Her priests have done violence to my law, and have profaned my holy things: they have made no distinction between the holy and the common, neither have they caused men TO DISCERN BETWEEN THE UNCLEAN AND THE CLEAN, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them. Her princes in the middle of it are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, that they may get dishonest gain. And her prophets have daubed for them with untempered mortar, seeing false visions, and divining lies to them, saying, In this manner says the Sovereign Yahweh, when Yahweh has not spoken. The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery; yes, they have vexed the poor and needy, and have oppressed the sojourner wrongfully. And I sought for a man among them, that should build up the wall, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found none. Therefore have I poured out my indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I brought upon their heads, says the Sovereign Yahweh.” (Ezekiel 22:23-31).

It used to be, generations ago, that evil was rebuked in society; however, now very few cry out against the gross wickedness of this age. We are enjoined with making a distinction between good and evil, clean and unclean, and not to follow the customs of the nations. Instead, we are following the practices of civilizations past, that were guilty of countless vile sins. “Therefore you shall keep my charge, that you practice not any of these abominable customs, which were practiced before you, and that you defile not yourselves in it: I am Yahweh your Elohim.” (Leviticus 18:30).

It appears as though worldly people are totally absorbed in many different activities that almost entirely occupy their time. Very few people today pay any attention to the sacred Scriptures, nor do they read the Bible regularly. Perhaps the message of the Scriptures would condemn them, and they do not wish to take correction from Yahweh’s Word. Therefore, they simply turn their attention elsewhere—to materialism and the fulfillment of fleshly, carnal desires. We are living in dangerous times. Most people in the world today believe that the world will continue indefinitely as we know it. Nothing could be further from the truth! “Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and prolongs his days, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear Elohim, that fear before him: but it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he fears not before Elohim.” (Ecclesiastes 8:11-13).

Lawlessness is rampant in the world today, the result of generations being taught that Yahweh’s Law has been done away with. Yahshua the Messiah warned that lawlessness would be rampant in the end of the age. A result of this rampant lawlessness will be a chilling coldness in society. “And because lawlessness shall be multiplied, the love of the many shall grow cold.” (Matthew 24:12).

“The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to Yahweh; but the prayer of the upright is his delight. The way of the wicked is an abomination to Yahweh; but he loves him that follows after righteousness.” (Proverbs 15:8-9).

“He that turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.” (Proverbs 28:9).

Abomination to Yahweh

What does the phrase abomination to Yahweh mean? The word abomination is used 19 times the book of Proverbs alone, especially listing the seven things that Yahweh hates (Proverbs 6:16-19). In the Strong’s Concordance, it is #8441, and it...
means properly something disgusting (morally). It is the feminine active participle of #8581 which means to loathe i.e. (morally) detest. Yahweh detests sins that are an abomination to Him. How can we declare that what has been listed as morally disgusting to Yahweh in His Word is now acceptable to Him? “He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the righteous, both of them alike are an abomination to Yahweh.” (Proverbs 17:15). It is also an abomination to Yahweh to justify the wicked in his wickedness (which is a violation, or transgression, of Yahweh’s Law), as well as to condemn the righteous who are obedient to His Law.

“When I preach, I frequently like to insert definitions where theology has corrupted the meanings of the words. Please notice these verses carefully. In Deuteronomy 6:25 we read, ‘And it shall be righteousness to us, if we observe to do all this commandment before Yahweh our Elohim, as he has commanded us.’ Psalm 119:172 reminds us: ‘Let my tongue sing of your word; For all your commandments are righteousness.’ In this same Psalm we read in verse 142, ‘Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And your law is truth.’ We must conclude from these Scriptures that when we define righteousness, it must mean obedience to the Law of Yahweh, and would, therefore, be synonymous with law keeping.

“It is imperative that we always interpret Scripture with Scripture rather than to insert our own opinions and say, ‘I believe thus or so.’ Now, I am going to read this same passage from 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 and insert definitions for the words which are used in the Scriptures. Please notice this carefully and how the message is clarified. You can then observe a very enlightening picture emerging of the conditions of this world today and how they are leading us directly down the road to Armageddon and the climax of this age. If possible, please follow me in your own Bible.

“Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceit of lawlessness in them that perish, because they received not the love of the Word of Yahweh and the keeping of His commandments that they might be saved. And for this cause Yahweh shall send them a strong delusion or the working of error, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be judged who believed not the Word of Yahweh to keep His commandments, but had pleasure in law breaking.”

“Several days ago, we saw reported in the news media an item about a minister who suggested that a way be found to bless the relationship between homosexuals and how denominations should take them into the religious community. Here is yet another prime example of the decay of modern theology! Almighty Yahweh in His Word in Leviticus 18:22 clearly states, ‘You shall not lie with mankind, as with womankind: IT IS ABOMINATION.’ Then in verses 29 and 30 we read, ‘For whoever shall do any of these abominations, even the souls that do them shall be cut off from among their people. Therefore you shall keep my charge, that you practice not any of these abominable customs, which were practiced before you, and that you defile not yourselves in it: I am Yahweh your Elohim.’

“Now you explain to me please, how a man who has been ordained to proclaim the sacred Word can come forth brazenly and declare that the Almighty looks with favor upon human beings who commit acts of homosexuality. The Bible does not declare that these people are sick emotionally, nor are they maladjusted as psychiatry might insist. It does not suggest that some difference in their physical composition could be responsible. It declares that those who commit acts such as this should be cut off from among their people. In Bible times this meant death. In this era of grace it means that they must be kept out of the congregation of True Worshipers.

“Because the mind of mortal man is carnal, meaning fleshly, and the flesh has certain desires and cravings, Satan the devil finds it easy to play cleverly upon those desires and to stimulate them. If a man allows these desires for gratification of the flesh to take possession of his being and rule over him until he becomes ensnared and held in this trap of Satan, he will deteriorate mentally, physically, and spiritually, until finally his death occurs.

“The Law of Yahweh has proclaimed to the world the correct way to live! Satan’s destructive powers are not so much leveled against the individual merely to exclude a certain person from salvation as to prove that Satan is more powerful than Yahweh in the manipulation of the human mind. All around us in the creation of Yahweh we can observe that it takes real character to live in accordance with the Laws of Yahweh, while it takes no intestinal fortitude at all to submit to the cravings of the flesh. To concede the battle before it has really begun, as organized religion has done today, is to capitulate before the forces of Satan and his demon hosts.” Elder Jacob O. Meyer, Commentary on the Book of Revelation. Mark of the Beast, Pages 76-77.

Adam and “Steve”?

When Yahshua the Messiah answered a question regarding divorce, He did so by quoting from Genesis 2:24. “And there came to him Pharisees, trying him, and saying, Is it lawful for a man to put
away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said, Have you not read, that he who made them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, and said, For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall adhere to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh? So that they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore Yahweh has joined together, let not man put asunder.” (Matthew 19:3-6).

It should be clear, then, that from the beginning is a reference to the book of Genesis. When Yahweh brought our foremother, Eve, to Adam, this was the first marriage, and it was between ONE MAN and ONE WOMAN. The summation that Yahshua the Messiah gives regarding this volatile subject is “What therefore Yahweh has joined together, let not man put asunder.” We may extrapolate, then, from His explanation that what therefore Yahweh has put asunder (not joined together in marriage) LET NOT MAN JOIN TOGETHER IN MARRIAGE!

How can we then declare that Yahweh looks with favor upon those who practice homosexuality? Yet, this is exactly what religious denominations have done in recent years. Yet now the debate has become that of marriage, just as Yahshua the Messiah warned would be occurring in the end times. “For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and they knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall be the coming of the Son of man.” (Matthew 24:38-39).

But giving them the right to marry will NEVER bless a homosexual or lesbian union in the eyes of Almighty Yahweh. It is still abomination to Him. “For I, Yahweh, change not...” (Malachi 3:6a).

“Yet you say, Why? Because Yahweh has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion, and THE WIFE OF YOUR COVENANT. And did he not make one, although he had the residue of the Spirit? And why one? HE SOUGHT A RIGHTEOUS SEED. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. For I hate putting away, says Yahweh, the Elohim of Israel, and him that covers his garment with violence, says Yahweh of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that you deal not treacherously.” (Malachi 2:14-16).

The marriage union—which is a covenant between one man and one woman—will result, with the blessings of Yahweh, with offspring, who will be trained in the ways of righteousness. A same-sex marriage cannot EVER produce a righteous seed. “Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of Yahweh? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with men, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the Kingdom of Yahweh. AND SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU: BUT YOU WERE WASHED, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Sovereign Yahshua the Messiah, and in the Spirit of our Elohim.” (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

**Call to Repentance**

Bible prophecy indicates that Almighty Yahweh will judge the wicked people of this world at the End of the Age. This judgment will finally lead to the battle of Armageddon, which will be the victorious conflict wherein Yahweh is the victor. Yahshua the Messiah will return and judge the wicked people of this world, and, then, He will establish a righteous Kingdom on this earth. He will reign over the earth for 1,000 years.

Will you have a part in this Kingdom? In order to be there and to avoid Yahweh’s judgment, you must repent of your sins and inaugurate Yahweh’s rule in your personal life right now. Yahweh has promised to preserve and to protect those who make this step, in obeying Him. “Because you did keep the word of my patience, I will also keep you from the hour of trial, that hour which is to come upon the whole world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.” (Revelation 3:10).

The Great Commission is being fulfilled in these end times. “And these good tidings of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a testimony to all the nations; and then shall the end come.” (Matthew 24:14). These good tidings are a message of hope and salvation. We can free ourselves from the crushing burden of sin by repenting of our sins and having them washed away in the waters of baptism. “...And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name to all the nations....”(Luke 24:47a). Will you be a wise virgin who has made preparation for the return of our Savior?
is holy to Yahweh. And if a man will redeem any of his tithe, he shall add to it the fifth part of it. And all the tithe of the herd or the flock whatever passes under the rod, the tenth shall be holy to Yahweh. He shall not search whether it is good or bad, neither shall he change it: and that for which it is changed shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.”

Have you heeded this command from the lips of Almighty Yahweh? All of the tithe is reserved to Yahweh. This is what the Word says. How good a steward are you? Do you obey?

The word tithe means 10 percent of the increase you receive from working in a certain field. The field of the ministers of the Assemblies of Yahweh, like the priests of ancient Israel, is to serve Him as preachers and teachers of the Word of Yahweh. From this bank account all the bills are paid. From this bank account all the contri- butions that are received by the Assemblies of Yahweh go directly into a bank account with the NAME OF YAHWEH on it—Assemblies of Yahweh. Out of that bank account are paid all of the expenses of this ministry, because it is the general fund of the organization. No individual receives for his own personal use the tithe from anyone who contributes. If brethren or people of good will hand tithes to an elder of the Assemblies of Yahweh while they conduct meetings (and that happens sometimes), those funds are returned to Bethel and deposited in the Assemblies of Yahweh bank account. From this bank account all the bills are paid.

The Tithe

There are some religious people today who reject the doctrine of tithing. They do this in ignorance of what the Bible teaches, without consideration of the many scriptural passages that Almighty Yahweh has included in His holy Word.

First of all, those who believe in keeping the commandments of Yahweh and know that it is a sin to violate His righteous Covenant commandments (1 John 3:4) will immediately obey the commandment of tithing. We have plainly read in Leviticus 27:30 that Yahweh, the Almighty Creator, directs us to return 10 percent of our income to Him. That is enough authority for those who love Yahweh. “For this is the love of Yahweh, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.” (1 John 5:3).

However, today, some people as-sert that since neither the Temple nor Levitical priesthood exists they are no longer required to tithe. Such is a very distorted view of the Bible and does not take into consideration the clear directions of the sacred Scriptures.

That Yahshua the Messiah taught the doctrine of tithing is crystal clear (Matthew 23:23 and Luke 11:42). He plainly instructed His disciples that they should tithe, but not to be like the Pharisees of His time, who tithed very strictly of all their income, but failed to allow the Holy Spirit to change their atti-tudes and, consequently, did not bear good fruits.

A very important fact about the Bible reveals that it is filled with types and anti-types (a type is the pattern; anti-type, the fulfillment). Such is the obvious relationship between the book of Leviticus (as a type) and the book of Hebrews (as the anti-type, fulfillment).

The book of Leviticus describes the basic principles of the worship of Almighty Yahweh in ceremonial form. The book of Hebrews explains the relationship of Yahshua the Messiah to the sacrificial Law, while reconfirming all those Laws which are not part of the animal sacrifice system and ceremonial Law. “Which is a figure for the time present; according to which are offered both gifts and sacri- fices that cannot, as touching the conscience, make the wor- shiper perfect, being only (with meats and drinks and diverse washings) carnal ordinances, imposed until a time of reformation.” (Hebrews 9:9-10). Yahshua the Messiah fulfilled the sacrificial Law and ceremonial practices, but the remainder of the Law is still very much in effect.

It is obvious that Hebrews chapter 7 was written to demonstrate that Yahshua is the anti-type of the great Melchizedek of Genesis 14. The writer points out that Abra- ham tithed to Melchizedek. Even Levi tithed to Melchizedek, because Levi and all his descendants (the Levitical priesthood) were still in the loins of Abraham at that time, not yet born. Today, the members of the Assemblies of Yahweh must tithe to that great Melchizedek, who is the actual Head of the end-time restoration of the Apostolic
Assembly. Since He is the Head of the Body, Yahshua maintains control of the funds that are contributed to the Assemblies of Yahweh. Through His Holy Spirit He directs in how these tithes are used.

However, there are some people who may try to use the excuse—“I can’t tithe. I’m too deeply in debt.” Let us take a careful look at such a statement, because the author wants to prove to you that indeed you can tithe even while you are still in debt.

First of all, most worldly people think in terms of materialism and satisfying some temporal craving. Many times these people WASTE lots of money, and, at the end of the month, have absolutely none left after their bills are paid. “Now therefore thus says Yahweh of hosts: Consider your ways. You have sown much, and bring in little; you eat, but you have not enough; you drink, but you are not filled with drink; you clothe, but there is no one warm; and he that earns wages earns wages to put it into a bag with holes.” (Haggai 1:5-6) Consequently, they will ASSUME that they just cannot take 10 percent out of their paycheck and contribute it to Yahweh’s true organization on this earth. We must consider our ways and take control of our lives.

We are told in Proverbs 3:9-10 that we must honor Yahweh with our first-fruits, and He will bless us. But do we really trust Him to do so? Most people do not, but the members of the Assemblies of Yahweh who have faithfully committed themselves to fulfilling His Covenant have experienced blessings many, many times.

The object each one of us must personally acknowledge is to honor Yahweh FIRST. That means that we must reorient our priorities and take out of our paycheck each week the 10 percent (tithe) FIRST OF ALL and give it to Yahweh. Then, determine to live on the remainder of your paycheck. This will necessitate that you prepare a budget and stick closely with that budget. You must not allow yourself to weaken at any time and splurge as some people sometimes do. You may also find that you will perhaps have to eat hamburger rather than steak, or drink milk because it has food value rather than splurge on soda. You will find ways to cut corners and save if you know you must, because you want to obey Almighty Yahweh since you love His commandments. Remember, you must obey to show your love to Him (1 John 5:3).

The author of this article was once in the same situation you may now find yourself. He had debts that required making regular, monthly payments. However, one month I firmly determined to begin tithing immediately. I accumulated my money in the bank and took careful account that I did not waste any. Then, at the end of the month, I made out my tithe check first and paid my remaining bills. I discovered that I actually had some money left over in the bank! I also noted that our family had not suffered at all where our quality of living was concerned. Consequently, for over 40 years, the Meyer family has consistently tithed—and we have been greatly blessed!

When you come to obey Yahweh, you also learn to trust Him completely. He will not disappoint you! There are times when you will have a need such as the purchase of new shoes or clothing. If you obey Him FIRST and RETURN to HIM the TITHE that is RIGHTFULLY HIS for the rental of the earth, you will discover that Almighty Yahweh frequently leads you to a sale where great savings can be realized on the item you need. These are miraculous blessings that Yahweh pours out upon His people. Recognize them as miracles, and praise Him for these blessings.

Consequently, you will soon learn that you can indeed tithe obediently, even while you are still in debt, but that it will require close management and good stewardship of your finances. Remember, the future does not depend on your material possessions, but in living by faith in Almighty Yahweh and obedience to His Word. Do you demonstrate that faith by obedience?

For years, a humorous idea has been clinging to the mind of the author regarding a Scripture on tithing. We read in Malachi 3:8-12 that Almighty Yahweh demands that we bring all our tithes into the central storehouse. “Will a man rob Elohim? Yet you rob me. But you say, In what have we robbed you? In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with the curse; for you rob me, even this whole nation. Bring the whole tithe into the store-house, that there may be food in my house, and prove me now with this, says Yahweh of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast its fruit before the time in the field, says Yahweh of hosts. And all nations shall call you happy; for you shall be a delightful land, says Yahweh of hosts.”

All of us realize that we must fear Almighty Yahweh. Yet, He pointedly tells His readers that SOME PEOPLE ARE ACTUALLY ROBBING HIM. Can you imagine this great majestic Being, fearful and awe-inspiring in His appearance, with eyes like flaming fire, hair like white wool, feet as though they burned in a furnace, a voice like thunder, riding upon powerful cherubim which can take Him anywhere? And yet here is puny, mortal, physical man who would take a gun in his hand, and say to this mighty Being, “Stick ‘em up; give me all your money?” How can anybody for one minute believe that he could ever get away with such an irrational act? Obviously, those who would rob Yahweh of His rightful tithe do not believe He exists!

Because Almighty Yahweh is not
visible, human beings tend not to fear Him as they should. But He nevertheless, is indeed real and exists with all eternal authority and power at His command. He declares that He will render judgment to all those who sin and break His commandments.

We must thoroughly realize that Almighty Yahweh Himself has spoken. He has commanded those who would obey Him to tithe and to give those tithes to the organization He has personally established on this earth, the one bearing His revealed, personal, holy Name. He wants those tithes and offerings to be used so that all this earth may hear of the glory of Almighty Yahweh and His Son, Yahshua the Messiah, the glory of His Name, the glory of His Being, His coming glorious Kingdom of peace which will rule this earth in righteousness.

In the sacred Scriptures, we also find stated that we must bring an offering when we come before Him at His holy days. This offering cannot be the tithe. It must be something over and above the tithe. It should be an offering of thanksgiving for what Yahweh has done for us. We must realize that we have not brought an offering until we have paid our regular rental for using Yahweh’s creation that we constantly enjoy. What would we really have in life if we remove all that He has so bountifully given us? The answer is that we owe all to Him!

A frustrating misconception about biblical giving has been set forth by the no-law element of ch-rchianity. This false doctrine stipulates that the Law of Yahweh has been done away with, and, therefore, tithing is no longer mandatory. Such a doctrine, of course, can be refuted from 1 John 5:3; Matthew 5:17-19, 19:16-18, 23:23; and Luke 11:42.

Their fallacious theory is that tithing was done away with, but our Heavenly Father now demands 100 percent from us! Such a clever assertion is hilarious, because very few people would be willing to part with a full 100 percent of their wages. Actually, He has only requested you to return 10 percent of what you receive for using this earthly creation—not 100 percent. You may keep 90 percent for yourself.

Almighty Yahweh in His Word has clearly specified through His Laws the portion of our possession that He has reserved as His. He has told us that He has reserved for Himself 10 percent of all our increase. We may have the other 90 percent to do with as we please. He has reserved one-seventh of our time for Himself so we may bring our worship to Him. We may use the remaining six-sevenths of the time. Consequently, we must realize that Almighty Yahweh is reasonable in His expectations. He does not expect something from us that we could not fulfill.

Performing the Mission

Perhaps it would be interesting for you to get a glimpse of the procedures of the Assemblies of Yahweh and how your contributions are used. If you were here at Bethel, you would note that when the mail is received, it is taken to the Mail Reading desk. The mail reader will then read each item of mail, noting literature requests, requests for visits, etc., and the receipt of tithes and offerings. Each one of the contributions of tithes and offerings is carefully recorded.

Here is a list of just some of the current outreach programs that we are using.

- The Sacred Name Broadcast radio broadcast
- The Sacred Name Telecast
- The Sacred Name Broadcaster magazine
- The Narrow Way magazine and The Narrow Way Newsletter (for the members and co-workers)
- Sabbatical Year Newsletter
- Worship services audio and video tapes
- The Sacred Scriptures, Bethel Edition
- Operation of a 50,000 watt shortwave radio station
- Commentary on Galatians
- Other books
- CD ministry of weekly Sabbath sermons
- Letter-answering department for questions received
- Publication of articles
- Obadiah School of the Bible
- Dalet School (grades K through 12)
- Maintaining the various buildings in which the work is done
- Foreign ministry
- Missionaries in foreign lands
- Regular Sabbath services and Bible studies in various outlying areas
- Annual holy days
- Maintaining transportation vehicles for the trips
- Purchasing and maintaining equipment to do the work of the ministry
- Purchases of paper, ink, and other supplies needed for the publications
- Counseling and answering questions by telephone

16

The Sacred Name Broadcaster, 6/2015
Have you ever pondered the use of the term “L-rd” in reference to our Heavenly Father’s Name while you were reading your Bible? When I was a small boy, I went to ch-rch with my grandfather, who was one of the officials in the local congregation. On occasion, we would sing the song, “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jeh-vah.” As the song would swell around us, I would just thrill with the understanding that I was singing praise to my Heavenly Father in His Name. It was many years later that I learned that His Name has great meaning for us in our search for salvation, and I learned that it is correctly transliterated from the Hebrew to the English as YAHWEH, rather than Jeh-vah.

On this broadcast, as I begin a series on the subject of the Sacred Name, I would like to give you my personal account of how all this happened. You might be interested to know just why you are hearing my voice over the air each week and what it means to know the revealed, personal Name of our Heavenly Father.

I was born and raised in a rather conservative home in eastern Pennsylvania, and I attended the congregation into which I was born. In fact, my family was quite prominent in this denomination from the days of its founding and were in the forefront of its development here in the United States.

I first learned the Sacred Name of our Heavenly Father while taking a course in Bible to better prepare myself for a Sunday School teaching position to which I had been called. As a matter of fact, the minister who was teaching the class belonged to one of the larger and more prominent denominations in the community.

If you are interested in spiritual things, why not go to an encyclopedia you might own, right there in your own home, and peruse the article under the heading “G-d?” Perhaps you have even seen the Name YAHWEH in some religious literature you may have received, just as I did. After I learned that it is correct to use this revealed, personal Name of our Heavenly Father instead of the common term “The L-rd,” which is usually used for the Almighty in the King James Bible, I found mention of the Sacred Name in many places. During the intervening years, I happened to encounter this Sacred Name on numerous occasions in my Bible studies.

Soon after learning about the Name Yahweh, I even used it in prayer on several occasions. I have never failed to receive a great blessing from using the Sacred Name and knowing that I have a closer,
personal relationship with the One who bears this Sacred Name.

It was about two years after I had learned that the Sacred Name of our Father in Heaven is Yahweh, that some friends of mine came to my home and asked me if we could have a Bible study. To open the discussion, they asked me if I knew the True Name of the Almighty. “Yes,” I replied, “It’s Yahweh.”

They appeared to be stunned that I would know this truth. Their next statement shocked me as they asked, “If you know it, why don’t you use it?” Suddenly, I could see a panorama of the cancerous disease which had somehow seized nominal, contemporary Christianity. If we know something to be a fact and can absolutely prove it, why do we persist in continuing with our own erroneous ideas? Surely, if we know the True Name of our Heavenly Father, we must use it, or we will not receive the blessings which He has reserved for those who trust in Him and ask for them in His Name.

“Whoever loves correction loves knowledge; but he that hates reproof is brutish.” Proverbs 12:1.

Because I could see immediately that this revelation was of paramount importance, I began to search for the correct English spelling and pronunciation of this Sacred Name. If you, as a layman, wish to prove the veracity of this Sacred Name doctrine to yourself, you can do so by taking a concordance and checking all the places where the term The L-rd appears in small capital letters in the King James Version text.

You will find that it appears 6,823 times in the Hebrew text. You will learn by your research in word dictionaries, Bible dictionaries, Bible commentaries, both Bible and secular encyclopedias, that the Sacred Name appears almost universally in good study material. I have found it in many unexpected places, including, of all places, some literature which my children brought home when they attended the public schools! Every edition of a college dictionary which I use contains reference to the Name YAHWEH, as does every encyclopedia that I have checked.

The prefaces of many Bibles also contain reference to the Name YAHWEH. To name a few just a few of the versions in which you will find it: Moffatt and An American Translation (Smith-Goodspeed). Currently, there are four Bible translations which the Name of Yahweh appears in the text consistently. They are the Jerusalem Bible, which is currently very popular; the Anchor Bible, which is a Catholic-Protestant translation; the Rotherham Bible, which has been available for many years and has been republished over the years by Kregel’s Publishing Co.; and the The Sacred Scriptures, Bethel Edition, of the Assemblies of Yahweh. This last translation, The Sacred Scriptures, Bethel Edition, contains the correct Name for our Savior also. This is the very Name which He was given by the angelic message and which was YAHSHUA, a Hebrew Name for a Jewish baby, and not a Greek substitute which chruchianity has persistently. They are the popular; the Bible, and has been available for many years and has been republished over most of the United States and in many foreign countries. Hundreds of people have begun to study their Bibles anew and are experiencing great blessings from knowing and using the revealed, personal Name of the Heavenly Father Yahweh. We hope you also will see the importance of coming into close communion with Almighty Yahweh and His Son, Yahshua the Messiah, through fulfilling Isaiah 42:8. “I am Yahweh, that is my name; and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to carved images.”

On this broadcast, to drive home the importance of this message, I would like to compare religion today with the identity of the next-to-last congregation of believers which our Savior instructs at the beginning of His revelation. This Assembly, Philadelphia, receives commendation. The last one, Laodicea, receives condemnation. Compare the Assembly of Philadelphia to the religious organization to which you belong right now. We may then clearly observe and perceive if we should merit praise from our Savior, or criticism.

After coming to understand the importance of the Name of our Heavenly Father, this great Truth, which had been hidden from the world for so many years because it had not been taught by a clergy who seemingly desired to keep their congregations in ignorance, the door was opened before me to proclaim this monumental Truth to the world. It was almost 50 years ago (the original radio sermon was produced in 1966) that the opportunity presented itself to proclaim this Truth of the Sacred Name over the air. Since that time, The Sacred Name Broadcast has been heard over most of the United States and in many foreign countries. Hundreds of people have begun to study their Bibles anew and are experiencing great blessings from knowing and using the revealed, personal Name of the Heavenly Father Yahweh.

We hope you also will see the importance of coming into close communion with Almighty Yahweh and His Son, Yahshua the Messiah, through fulfilling Isaiah 42:8. “I am Yahweh, that is my name; and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to carved images.”
In Revelation chapter 3, beginning with verse 7, we find the letter, or mini-epistle, to the Assembly at Philadelphia. The name Philadelphia means fraternal, fond of the brethren, or brotherly love. Does your religious organization correspond favorably to this description? In our day, when people have become cold in their relationship toward each other, the True Body of the Messiah will exhibit a sincere love and fraternalism which can only result from a close association with the Holy Spirit of our Heavenly Father and our Savior. The first fruit which must be evident in the True Worshippers’ lives when the Holy Spirit enters is love, as described in Galatians 5:22. The Holy Spirit of Yahweh will continue to abide only where the love of the Truth is evident, and love of the brethren results from this and manifests itself.

In verses 7 and 8 of the 3rd chapter of Revelation we read, “And to the angel of the assembly in Philadelphia write: These things says he that is holy, he that is true, he that has the key of David, he that opens and no one shall shut, and that shuts, and none opens: I know your works (behold, I have set before you an open door; which none can shut), that you have a little power, and did keep my word, and did not deny my name.”

These characteristics could not describe most of the denominations in Christianity today. Here we find a small group of sincere people who desire to follow so closely by the side of our Savior, rejecting even the most minute error in doctrinal teaching, that they find themselves quite separated and isolated from nominal religion. However, Yahshua the Messiah predicts that it will be only a relatively few individuals who will find the narrow gate and narrow pathway which leads to life eternal, (Matthew 7:14). These sincere few people are following the One who is called “Holy” (sanctified one) and “True” (the one who will never dwell where there is falsehood of any kind).

Perhaps the most notable characteristic of the Body of the Messiah is the members’ respect for the Savior’s Name. While many religious organizations know and occasionally use the Name of our Heavenly Father, ONLY ONE ORGANIZATION—the ASSEMBLIES OF YAHWEH—teaches the Savior’s Name and His Truth throughout the world.

The body of the Messiah is prophesied to become His bride and marry the Savior when He returns. One would certainly believe that a woman who is going to marry a man will know and use the name of her betrothed. Our Savior was born of a Jewish mother and would certainly have had a Hebrew Name, not the Greek or Latin substitute commonly used in nominal churches.

Now notice carefully the next verse, verse 9. “Behold, I give of the synagogue of Satan, of them that say they are Jews, and they are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.” This verse has caused many invalid opinions to be ventured as an explanation. In the Hebrew language, this word which is translated Jew would be Yahudim, meaning “those who praise Yah.” If these people present themselves as those praising Yah, but are not in fact doing this, then they must be doing something contrary to the wishes of our Savior for Him to call them such a derogatory term as the Synagogue of Satan. Did you know that at several places in the Scriptures we find that when someone leaves the worship of Yahweh, the Word of our Father in Heaven states that they are worshiping demons? Even in the New Testament, Paul quotes one of these passages in 1 Corinthians 10:20-22, where he says, “But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, and not to Yahweh: and I do not wish that you should have communion with demons. You cannot drink the cup of Yahshua, and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of Yahshua, and of the table of demons. Or do we provoke Yahshua to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?” From the way some ministers are speaking today, it would appear that they think they are indeed stronger than Almighty Yahweh and that He will do their bidding!

The next verse is also most applicable for the people of our day. Verse 10 reads, “Because you did keep the word of my patience, I will also keep you from the hour of trial, that hour which is to come upon the whole world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.”

Really, this description is speaking about the great tribulation in the end of the age! If you keep, or obey, the words of our Heavenly Father and His Messiah, you will be kept from the great tribulation which is surely coming upon this earth to test the people and separate the tares from the wheat. This is the promise of Yahshua the Messiah, and you can depend on it!

Are you a member of the true assembly? Most people want to be a part of True Worship. Will you have protection in the tribulation just as our Savior promised? Are you sure? Do you know that our Heavenly Father has a seal which He places on His people? It is described in Revelation 14:1.

Here is the Benjamin Wilson translation of this verse. “And I saw, and behold the lamb standing on the Mount Zion and with Him 144,000 persons, having HIS NAME written on their foreheads.”

Did you grasp the importance of this verse? It is the Name of our Heavenly Father and His Messiah which is the seal of protection. When we worship Him and live for Him, He will place His seal upon us, making us one of His jewels. How about you? Have you comprehended this great Truth? Are you prepared for the end-time tribulation? A way of escape has been promised and prepared for you, but you must be humble enough to accept it!"
Yahshua says, “Yes: did you never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings you have perfected praise?” (Matthew 21:16b). Certainly, that letter should strike a responsive chord in the heart of everyone who reads it. Did it not touch your heart, just as it did mine? It certainly tugged heavily on the heart strings of the author.

The Apostle Paul quotes the words of Yahshua the Messiah when he said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35b).

The world today is very materialistic—but you cannot take your wealth or possessions with you to the grave when you die. By giving, we actually receive rewards from Yahweh for obedience. What is the most important thing in your life? Is it not to obtain eternal salvation? “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust does consume, and where thieves do not break through not steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21).

In order to be saved, we must be obedient so that we may receive the Holy Spirit of Almighty Yahweh (Acts 5:32). Obedience will produce a giving attitude in the hearts of all those who faithfully commit themselves to keeping Yahweh’s Covenant. “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. You cannot serve Yahweh and mammon.” (Matthew 6:24).

Almighty Yahweh gave so much—He gave His only begotten Son to die for the sins of the world. We give so little in return to Him that others might hear of His glory. However, all who have given little so far can change that immediately by taking stock and correcting their course in life.

Let us be more dedicated, sincere, and faithful in serving Almighty Yahweh and in honoring our commitment to His Covenant.
Television

These television stations air the Sacred Name Telecast. Check the program time and frequency of the station in your area.

**Cable and Satellite**

**Chicago and Upper Midwest**
Comcast Cable Channel 138-TLN
Streaming @ www.tln.com
Tuesday 10:30 - 11:00 p.m. CT
Thursday 11:00-11:30 a.m. CT

**KTLN-San Francisco**
Channel 47
Tuesday 8:30 - 9:00 p.m. PT
Thursday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. PT

**Prayer Network on DishTV**
Channel 256 Sunday 12:30 p.m. ET

**Dish Network**
Channel 221
Sunday 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. ET

**Uplift TV**

**DirecTV**
Channel 379
Sunday 9:00-9:30 a.m. ET

**WTVE**
Channel 51, Reading, PA
Sunday 7:00-7:30 a.m.

**WFLI**
Chattanooga, TN
Monday - Friday, 7:00 a.m.

**WSEE & CBS Satellite**
Channel 16, Erie, PA.
Sunday 7:30-8:00 a.m.

**WTTA**
Channel 32, Tampa, FL.
Sunday 8:00-8:30 a.m. ET

**WUPP**
Nashville, TN
Sunday 6:00-6:30 a.m. CT

**Canada**

**CTV-CIVT**
Channel 32, and cable 8 and 9 Vancouver, British Colombia
Sunday 5:00-5:30 a.m.

**CTV Nationwide on Satellite**
Bell ExpressVu 250,
Shaw Direct (Star Choice) 321
Rogers Cable 112

**Caribbean Region**

**HTS**
Channel 4, St. Lucia
Sunday 10:30-11:00 a.m.

**Cable TV**
Channel 15, St. Maarten
Sunday 3:30-4:00 p.m.

**MSR Cable TV**
Channel 6, St. Martin
Sunday 10:00-10:30 a.m., 7:00-7:30 p.m.

**WSEE & CBS Satellite**
Sunday 7:30-8:00 a.m. EST

**Public Access Cable Channels**
Hartford, CT
Rochester, MN
Richmond, VA
Wisconsin Rapids, WI
Check local listings

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THE SACRED NAME PROGRAMS

Radio

These radio stations air the Sacred Name Broadcast. Check the radio time and frequency of the station in your area.

**Atlantic**

**West Indies**

**Radio Anguilla** 1530
Saturday 6:45-7:15 a.m.

**DBS Radio (Dominica)** 88.1 FM
Saturday 9:00-9:30 a.m.

**Radio Dominica** 595
Sunday 10:00-10:30 a.m.

**Radio GBN (Grenada)** 535
Sunday 6:45-7:15 p.m.

**Guyana Radio Roraima** 760
Sunday 6:00-6:15 a.m.

**Radio St. Lucia** 660
Sunday 6:00-6:30 a.m.

**Radio PJD2 (St. Maarten)** 1300
Sunday 7:30-8:00 a.m.

**Trinidad Radio Power** 102.5
Sunday 6:45-7:00 a.m.

**Central**

**Iowa**

*KXEL 1540, Waterloo
Sunday 7:30-8:00 a.m.

**Tennessee**

*WSM Nashville
Sunday 5:30-6:00 a.m.

**Philippines**

**DWNW**
756, Bicol Region
Sunday 6:00-6:15 a.m.

**DXCC**
828, Cagayan de Oro City
Sunday 6:30-6:45 a.m.

**DXWG**
855, Iligan City
Sunday 6:00-6:15 p.m.

*Indicates powerful station heard over wide areas

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**WMLK Radio**
Assemblies of Yahweh Shortwave

(Note: There are times that WMLK is not broadcasting because of maintenance or repairs.)

On the air six days each week: Sunday–Friday

**wmlkradio.net**

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The Sacred Scriptures, Bethel Edition

“Sanctify them in the truth: your word is truth.”
(John 17:17).

Yahweh’s pure Word of Truth has the power to cut through distortions and put things into their proper perspective. The Sacred Scriptures, Bethel Edition, is available in leather bound, vinyl, and hardcover editions.

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