

THE
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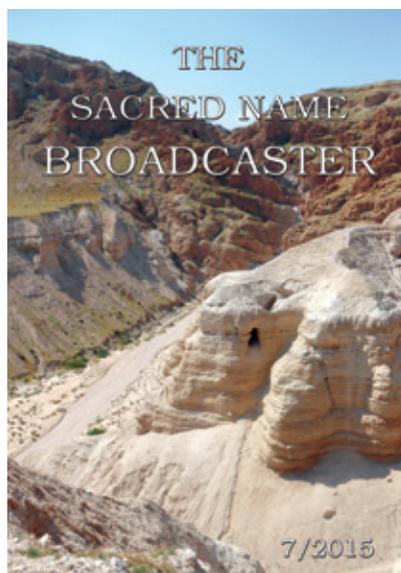
Is it possible that Baal and Asherah worship is still practiced today? Look around at every Christian church and see all of the obelisks and phallic symbols that are displayed there.

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Founder and Author: Elder Jacob O. Meyer



Our Cover:

Our cover this month shows a picture of Qumran, a desert community near Jericho and the shores of the Dead Sea.

When this community was active, they would channel the rainwater that fell into huge cisterns to be used during the dry season. Notice how the rocks are stained by the water runoff.

The wicked, according to Jeremiah 17:5-8, depart from Yahweh and are cursed with an arid existence. Those who trust in Yahweh, however, will have a blessed, productive existence.

“And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also does not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.” (Psalm 1:3).

Many Coming



to

Deceive Many

Yahshua the Messiah warned that in the last days many people claiming to represent the Messiah would preach a conglomeration of erroneous doctrines, (Matthew 24:5). These false teachers would thereby lead many astray. (Notice that it is many, not few, who will be led astray by widely circulated false doctrine.)

“And many false prophets shall arise, and shall lead many astray. And because lawlessness shall be multiplied, the love of the many shall grow cold. But he that endures to the end, the same shall be saved. And these

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

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 24:11-14). Yahshua the Messiah warned us to watch for many false prophets (preachers) that will lead many astray just before Yahshua’s Second Coming. Simultaneously, however, the glad tidings of Yahweh’s Kingdom (the true glad tidings of the Kingdom) will be preached to all of the world for

a witness by the True Worshipers.

The Assemblies of Yahweh clearly bears the imprint of the prophetic group of people who will fulfill Yahshua’s mission in the last days. ***“And the dragon became exceedingly angry with the woman, and went away to make war with the remnant of her seed, that keep the commandments of Yahweh, and hold the testimony of Yahshua.”*** (Revelation 12:17). ***“Here is the patience of the saints; They that keep the commandments of Yahweh, and the faith of Yahshua.”*** (Revelation

14:12).

Many additional prophecies of the Bible relate to the Assemblies of Yahweh, who, in the last days, will be heralding the good news of the coming Kingdom of Yahshua the Messiah and the sound doctrines of the sacred Scriptures to the entire world. You should prove these facts to yourself so that you will not be led astray by false preachers.

At the present time, it is relatively easy to publish religious material. It seems like almost anyone who has a doctrinal axe to grind will sharpen his pencil, or turn to his typewriter, or computer, and cobble together a seemingly plausible graphic support for what he believes.

But look carefully at, and closely scrutinize, various religious material if some happens to fall into your hands. Always remember to compare it to what the Bible teaches. Then you will be able to sift the Truth from the error and discern which is published by Yahshua's True Body in these last days and what comes from the false prophets that will deceive and lead many astray. Let us look at an example of how one cannot rely upon literature, but we must stand upon the sacred Scriptures.

A booklet of 74 pages, purporting to present the True biblical calendar and the True Sabbath of this New Testament era, came to my desk recently. This booklet illustrates very well how one must beware of literature that seems to present some enlightened research. People have been known to read too much literature and not enough Bible. I was quickly able to refute the assertions of this publication.

Sacred Name Broadcaster readers sometimes send in literature or books and ask for our comment on the content. To reply adequately might take volumes and would be beyond our capability to fulfill if we are to dispatch our other duties faithfully. It has been our practice to read any literature published by other organizations until we encounter false doctrine and then discard, or file, the publication. Our

attitude is that we cannot abide false doctrine; therefore, we do not usually read the entire publication since our time is limited. Why should we pollute our minds with false doctrine? We dismiss it rapidly from our thoughts and strive to maintain only the sound doctrines of Yahweh's Truth.

To demolish every point of false doctrine in a booklet as large as 74 pages would require much time, but it seems as though its author has obliged us by providing a conclusion that summarizes the false doctrine contained in the booklet. Therefore, the author will confine himself to a consideration of points in the conclusion. The entire booklet is based upon false doctrine, however, and the points in the conclusion will provide sufficient evidence to refute that false doctrine.

The first sentence in the conclusion should already alert us to serious problems. *"I have now established the points I set out to establish."* This assertion sounds as though the author had committed himself to proof-texting his beliefs. Those who teach false doctrine frequently take the deductive route to proving the doctrines from the Bible rather than adhering strictly to the inductive method. They approach the Bible with presuppositions and attempt to search out texts to support their views. As Dr. Bernard Ramm, a noted theologian, clearly stated in his book, **Protestant Biblical Interpretation**, *"We must discover the meaning of a passage, not attribute a meaning a priori (beforehand)."* Furthermore, he said, *"Interpret the Bible harmonistically."* In other words, we must approach the biblical message without a preconceived idea, and, then, allow the facts that we unearth in the Scriptures to lead us in a certain direction. Harmonizing the Bible from Genesis to Revelation is critical to achieving a correct understanding of the sacred Scriptures.

Point one, the author of the booklet under scrutiny says, *"...that [the Almighty] told Israel He was*

going to abolish their Sabbath." On page 34, he quotes Hosea 2:11, ***"I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feasts, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn assemblies."*** In addition, he quotes Isaiah 1:13.

Neither of these verses can be applied to prove that the Sabbaths of Almighty Yahweh were done away with, or annulled, at Calvary. By turning to Exodus 31:12-18, we discover that the Sabbath shall be kept perpetually; it is a special sign between Yahweh and His people, and it will endure forever. The Sabbath is an important and most significant part of the Covenant. (Isaiah 56:4-5). The Sabbath is the SEVENTH DAY of the week, Genesis 2:1-3. (Don't let anyone tell you that the word *Sabbath* is not used there, because in Hebrew the word translated *he rested* is the verbal root for *Sabbath*, from which the noun is derived.)

The answer to point one, then, is that in Hosea 2:11 the accent is on the pronoun *her* [Israel's] Sabbaths. These are the pagan holy days Israel keeps that Almighty Yahweh has not commanded to be observed. They are the days observed in common worship, which are not the days He commanded. Notice the antithesis in Leviticus 23:2-3. ***"Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them, The set feasts of Yahweh, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my set feasts. Six days shall work be done: but on the seventh day is a sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation; you shall do no manner of work: it is a sabbath to Yahweh in all your dwellings."***

The same is also true in Isaiah 1:13-18. We shall quote here the corrected translation, which maintains complete agreement with the Hebrew text. ***"Bring no more vain ablations; incense is an abomination to me; new moon and sabbath, the calling of assemblies, I cannot endure iniquity along with the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your ap-***

The **Saint Joseph Baltimore Catechism**,
official revised edition 2, explained by Reverend Bennett Kelley C.P.
is issued in some Roman Catholic schools. Lesson 18 is on the
third commandment.

234. **What is the third commandment of G-d?** The third commandment of G-d is: Remember thou keep holy the L--d's day.

235. **Why does the Church command us to keep Sunday as the L-rd's day?** The Church commands us to keep Sunday as the L--d's day because on Sunday Chr-st rose from the dead, and on Sunday the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles. For these reasons the Church changed the L--d's day from Saturday to Sunday.

pointed feasts my soul hates; they are a trouble to me; I am weary of bearing them. And when you spread forth your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; yes, when you make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; put away the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do well; seek justice, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together, says Yahweh: though your sins are as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Point two: "[The Almighty] did abolish Israel's sabbath when [the Savior] rose from the dead." Here is a prime example of outrageous presupposition. This writer, as misguided theologians usually will do, quotes Revelation 1:10, asserting that this was on a Sunday, using it as an example of John's keeping Sunday. In other words, the L-rd's Day has come to represent "Sunday," and so it must mean the First Day of the week to him. But sound doctrine does not get the cart before the horse. What did the original say?

When, however, we understand that the book of Revelation bears an unmistakable imprint of having been written in Hebrew, and we restore the True, revealed Name of the Almighty to the text, we find that John was in the Spirit on Yahweh's

day. In other words, John foresaw the prophetic day of Yahweh, the end of the age, the day of Yahweh's judgment. This term as it appears in the **KJV** does not refer at all to the first day of the week, which the writers like to term "the L-rd's day." Actually, most reputable commentators will support this fact.

Point three: "*The New Testament shows that there remains 'a keeping of a Sabbath to the people of [the Almighty], not withstanding the abrogation of Israel's Sabbath at the end of the resurrection, and the Sabbath that remains is the first day of the week, the first of the Sabbaths, the L-rd's day, the day of the sun of righteousness.'"*

Quite a broad statement, isn't it? No proof is presented, simply dogma you are asked to believe. How many false doctrines does the author think he can sneak by in one sentence?

Hebrews 4:9 shows that the keeping of the Sabbath remains to the people of Yahweh. The writer of Hebrews would not abrogate the keeping of the Sabbath. He was a Jew trying to present the Messiah to the Jewish people. Rather, the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews showed that the seventh day of the week is typology, representing the Kingdom of Yahweh, the Millennium, the thousand-year reign of the Messiah on this earth. Therefore, the ultimate interpretation of Hebrews 4:9 means that those who keep the Sabbaths will have an opportunity to live with Yahshua the Messiah in

the Millennium. If Almighty Yahweh were to abrogate the keeping of the Sabbath, would not Yahshua the Messiah have clearly expressed that? Why then did He indicate that, just before His return, His people would be keeping the Sabbath? Please see Matthew 24:20. Nowhere in the Bible will you ever find that the first day of the week is designated to be kept as the Sabbath. The first of the Sabbaths (Acts 20:7) actually points to the day on which we must start counting toward Pentecost. Notice how Yahshua placed a stamp of durability on the Law of Yahweh. (Matthew 5:17-20). The keeping of the Sabbath was never abrogated, changed, or annulled.

The author heavily emphasizes the term *the sun of righteousness*, found in Malachi 4:2, as meaning *Sunday*. That *sun of righteousness* has nothing whatsoever to do with the weekly Sunday. Rather, it is an idiom and merely means a day (or time) of righteousness. Such a figure of speech represents the 1,000-year day (or era) of righteousness—the Millennium. You can prove this from 2 Peter 3:8-13. Notice that in the new heavens and the new earth, righteousness dwells. The Sabbaths and new moons will still be kept in the new heavens and the new earth, Isaiah 66:23. The Day of Yahweh will succeed the day of His judgment. It will be a thousand-year period of righteousness—the seventh, not the first day.

Point four: "*The early Christians,*

from the time of the resurrection on, observed the first day of the week as their Sabbath as shown by the New Testament.”

From our previous writings on the biblical Sabbath, we have already answered any objections against the keeping of the seventh-day Sabbath by those who would say that the disciples kept the first day of the week after the resurrection. If you would like some of that material, it will be sent to you free of charge.

Nevertheless, the Nazarenes, who constituted the remnants of the Apostolic Assembly and fled from the Holy Land to Transjordan prior to 70 C.E., continued keeping the commandments of Yahweh, including the biblical seventh-day Sabbath. They were known to keep the seventh-day Sabbath and the commandments of Yahweh as late as 375 Common Era (C.E.). All of the True Worshipers, including the members of the Assemblies of Yahweh, will do the same. (Revelation 12:17 and 14:12). See also Isaiah 8:16-20.

Point five: *“The writings of the early church fathers from the time of the Apostles on corroborate the fact that Christians kept Sunday as their Sabbath.”*

We shall counter this with the enclosed quote from Gibbon’s History of Christianity. “The enfranchisement of the Church from the bonds of the synagogue, was a work however of some time and of some difficulty. The Jewish converts, who acknowledged [Yahshua] in the character of the Messiah, foretold by their ancient oracles, respected him as a prophetic teacher of virtue and religion; but they obstinately adhered to the ceremonies of their ancestors, and were desirous of imposing them on the Gentiles, who continually augmented the number of believers. These Judaizing Christians seem to have argued with some degree of plausibility from the divine origin of the Mosaic law, and from the immutable perfections of its great Author. They affirmed that if the Being, who is the same through all

eternity, had designed to abolish those sacred rites which had served to distinguish His chosen people, the repeal of them would have been no less clear and solemn than their first promulgation; that, instead of those frequent declarations which either suppose or assert the perpetuity of the Mosaic religion, it would have been represented as a provisional scheme to last only till the coming of the Messiah, who should instruct mankind in a more perfect mode of faith and of worship, that the Messiah himself, and his disciples who concorsed with him on earth, instead of authorizing by their example the most minute observances of the Mosaic law, would have published to the world the abolition of those useless and obsolete ceremonies, without suffering Christianity to remain during so many years obscurely confounded among the sects of the Jewish church. Arguments like these appear to have been used in the defence of the expiring Mosaic law; but the industry of our learned divines has abundantly explained the ambiguous language of the Old Testament, and the ambiguous conduct of the apostolic teachers. It was proper gradually to unfold the system of the [evangel], and to pronounce, with the utmost caution and tenderness, a sentence of condemnation so repugnant to the inclination and prejudices of the believing Jews.

The history of the church of Jerusalem affords a lively proof of the necessity of those precautions, and of the deep impression which the Jewish religion had made on the minds of its sectaries. The first fifteen bishops of Jerusalem were all circumcised Jews; and the congregation over which they presided UNITED THE LAW OF MOSES WITH THE DOCTRINE OF [THE MESSIAH]. It was natural that the primitive tradition of a church which was founded only forty years after the death of [the Messiah], and was governed almost as many years

under the immediate inspection of his apostle, should be received as the standard of orthodoxy. The distant churches very frequently appealed to the authority of their venerable parent, and relieved her distresses by a liberal contribution of alms. But when numerous and opulent societies were established in the great cities of the empire, in Antioch, Alexandria, Ephesus, Corinth, and Rome, the reverence which Jerusalem had inspired in all the Christian colonies insensibly diminished. The Jewish converts, or, as they were afterwards called, the Nazarenes, who had laid the foundation of the church, soon found themselves overwhelmed by the increasing multitudes that from all the various religions of polytheism enlisted under the banner of [the Messiah]; and the Gentiles, who, with the approbation of their peculiar apostle, had rejected the weight of the Mosaic ceremonies, at length refused to their more scrupulous brethren the same toleration which at first they had humbly solicited for their own practice. The ruin of the temple, of the city, and of the public religion of the Jews, was severely felt by the Nazarenes; as in their manners, though not in their faith, they maintained so intimate a connection with their impious countrymen, whose misfortunes were attributed by the Pagans to the contempt, and more justly ascribed by the Christians to the wrath, of the Supreme Deity. The Nazarenes retired from the ruins of Jerusalem to the little town of Pella beyond the Jordan, where that ancient church languished above sixty years in solitude and obscurity. They still enjoyed the comfort of making frequent and devout visits to the Holy City, and the hope of being one day restored to those seats which both nature and religion taught them to love as well as to revere. But at length, under the reign of Hadrian, the desperate fanaticism of the Jews filled up the measure of their calamities; and

the Romans, exasperated by their repeated rebellions, exercised the rights of victory with unusual rigor. The emperor founded, under the name of Aetia Capitolina, a new city on Mount Sion, to which he gave the privileges of a colony; and denouncing the severest penalties against any of the Jewish people who should dare to approach its precincts, he fixed a vigilant garrison of a Roman cohort to enforce the execution of his orders. The Nazarenes had only one way left to escape the common proscription, and the force of truth was on this occasion assisted by the influence of temporal advantages. They elected Marcus for their bishop, a prelate of the race of the Gentiles, and most probably a native either of Italy or of some of the Latin provinces. At his persuasion the most considerable part of the congregation renounced the Mosaic law, in the practice of which they had preserved above a century. By this sacrifice of their habits and prejudices they purchased a free admission into the colony of Hadrian, and more firmly cemented their union with the Catholic church.

When the name and honors of the church of Jerusalem had been restored to Mount Sion, the crimes of heresy and schism were imputed to the obscure remnant of the Nazarenes which refused to accompany their Latin bishop. They still preserved their former habitation of Pella, spread themselves into the villages adjacent to Damascus, and formed an inconsiderable church in the city of Beroea, or, as it is now called, of Aleppo, in Syria. The name of Nazarenes was deemed too honorable for those Christian Jews, and they soon received, from the supposed poverty of their understanding, as well as of their condition, the contemptuous epithet of Ebionites. In a few years after the return of the church of Jerusalem, it became a matter of doubt and controversy, whether a man who sincerely acknowledged

A Catholic Confession

HOW THE SABBATH BECAME SUNDAY

Father S. Now, let us take up the third commandment: "Remember thou keep holy the Sabbath Day."

Mr. J. You stated once before that if we followed the Bible only, we would keep holy the Saturday. Isn't the "Sabbath" Sunday?

Father S. No, the word "Sabbath" means "rest," the seventh day of the week, or Saturday.

Mr. J. Well, did [Messiah] change the day?

Father S. We have no record that He did, but we have evidence that the Church did shortly after [Messiah] returned to Heaven. [Acts XX, 7; 1 Corinth. XVI, 1-2).

Mr. J. It isn't plain to me that the Church is empowered to change a law of [Yahweh].

Father S. The law of [Yahweh] was not changed. The substance of the law remained the same, namely, that man must cease from servile work and give [Yahweh] public worship once a week, every seventh day. The Church only transferred the obligation from Saturday to Sunday. As far as the law of Yahweh designated a certain day, it was ceremonial; and all the ceremonial laws of the Jews ended with the coming of [Messiah]; the moral laws, besides being positively given by the Almighty, were also founded on the natural law; these the Church could not change.

Mr. J. Would you kindly tell me, Father, why the Church changed the day of worship?

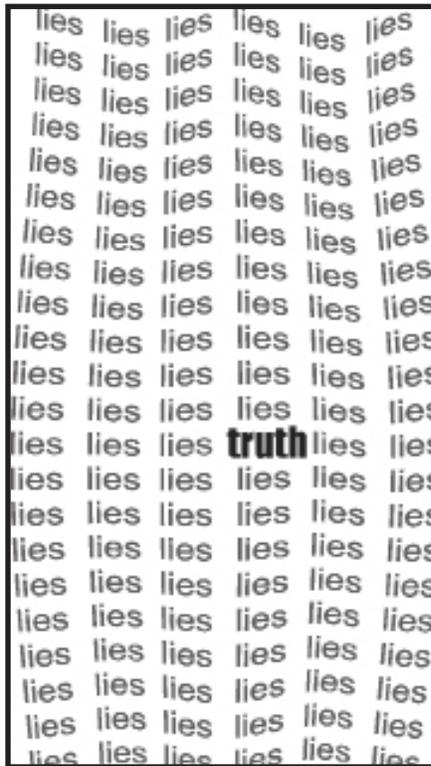
Father S. Certainly. The first reason was, that even after they became converts to the Church, many Jews thought they had still to keep the ceremonial law of Moses, such as circumcision, abstinence from certain meats, the scrupulous observance of Jewish sacrifice on the Sabbath, etc. To remove such impressions was difficult, because their ancestors for 2,000 years had thus acted. Hence the Apostles deemed it advisable to abolish Saturday public service altogether, and have the converted Jews conform to the requirements of the Christian Church. The day was changed from Saturday to Sunday. It was by far the best method of convincing the Jews that the Old Dispensation was at an end and a new era, a more perfect religion, substituted.

[Lester J. Fallon and John Francis Noll, **Father Smith Instructs Jackson**, (Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor Press. 1956) pp 91-92].

[Yahshua] as the Messiah, but who still continued to observe the law of Moses, could possibly hope for salvation. The humane temper of Justin Martyr inclined him to answer this question in the affirmative; and though he expressed himself with the most guarded diffidence, he ventured to determine in favor of such an imperfect Christian, if he were content to practice the Mosaic ceremonies, without pretending to assert their general use of necessity. But when Justin was pressed to declare the sentiment of the church, he confessed that there were very many among the orthodox Christians, who not only excluded their Judaizing brethren from the hope of salvation, but who declined any intercourse with them in the common offices of friendship, hospitality, and social life. The more rigorous opinion prevailed, as it was natural to expect, over the milder; and an eternal bar of separation was fixed between the disciples of Moses and those of [the Messiah]. The unfortunate Ebionites, rejected from one religion as apostates, and from the other as heretics, found themselves compelled to assume a more decided character; and although some traces of that obsolete sect may be discovered as late as the fourth century, they insensibly melted away, either into the church or the synagogue."

Point six: "The claims of the Saturdarions that the Roman Catholic Church changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday are false claims." To refute this accusation, we include several quotes from Catholic works. You make up your own mind.

Point seven: "The edicts of Constantine did not change the Sabbath, but merely gave official sanction and recognition to the day which Christians had already been observing as their Sabbath for almost three centuries." YOU must draw your own conclusion from the edict of Constantine, on the next page.



Be careful to let the Bible be your final guide to sound doctrine.

The false doctrines that are projected today by seemingly enlightened people cannot refute what the Bible plainly teaches. Those who will be saved are those who keep the commandments of Yahweh. (Revelation 12:17 and 14:12). This identity relates back to the commandments of the Old Testament Scriptures. (Genesis 26:5).

Time and time again, we emphasize how Yahshua the Messiah clearly said that until heaven and earth pass away not one *yothe* (the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet), or one *tittle* (the smallest of the textual decorations), would pass from the Law until all be fulfilled. Read again Matthew 5:17-20.

"...A rule of faith, or a competent guide to heaven, must be able to instruct in all truths necessary for salvation. Now the Scriptures alone do not contain all the truths

which a Christian is bound to believe, nor do they explicitly enjoin all the duties which he is obliged to practice. Not to mention other examples, is not every Christian obliged to sanctify Sunday and to abstain from unnecessary servile work? Is not the observance of this law among the most prominent of our sacred duties? But you may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify.

"The Catholic Church correctly teaches that our Lord and His Apostles inculcated certain important duties of religions which are not recorded by the inspired writers. For instance, most Christians pray to the Holy Ghost, a practice which is nowhere found in the Bible.

"We must, therefore, conclude that the Scriptures alone cannot be a sufficient guide and rule of faith because they cannot, at any time, be within the reach of every inquirer; because they are not of themselves clear and intelligible even in matters of the highest importance, and because they do not contain all the truths necessary for salvation." —Cardinal Gibbons

People cling tenaciously to the assertion that the writings of Paul have annulled the Law of Yahweh. Did he do so? Notice carefully the following quote: "**And account that the long-suffering of our Master is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote to you; as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to be understood, which the ignorant and unlearned wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, to their own destruction.**" (2 Peter 3:15-16). How many people have been misled down through the ages by false claims that Paul's writings do away with

Yahweh's Law? ***“Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing; but the keeping of the commandments of Yahweh.”*** (1 Corinthians 7:19). Does that sound like the Paul you saw in the teachings of Christianity? But he wrote this and Romans 3:31 also. ***“Do we then make the Law of no effect through faith? By no means: No, we establish the Law.”***

Those who wrest (twist) the Scriptures will be falling into the acceptance of the mark of the beast. Let us never forget that Almighty Yahweh has given them strong delusion that they should believe a lie, because they receive not the love of the Truth (the keeping of Yahweh's Commandments, Psalm 119:142).

Be careful to let the Bible be your final guide to sound doctrine. Read its entire message with an eye toward consistency. If you do that, the false teachers who selectively use Scriptures to deceive will be proven for what they really are.

“For we are not as the many, corrupting the word of Yahweh: but as of sincerity, but as of Yahweh, in the sight of Elohim, speak we in the Messiah.” (2 Corinthians 2:17).

“Therefore seeing we have this ministry, even as we obtained mercy, we faint not: but we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of Yahweh deceitfully; but by the manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of Yahweh. And even if our message of good tidings is veiled, it is veiled in them that perish: in whom the mighty one of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that the light of the good tidings of the glory of the Messiah, who is the image of Elohim, should not dawn upon them. For we preach not ourselves, but the Messiah Yahshua as Sovereign, and ourselves as your servants for Yahshua's sake.” (2 Corinthians 4:1-5). ^{SNB}

MAN: THE LAWGIVER

**— SUNDAY —
a king's edict**

“On the venerable day of the Sun let the magistrates and people residing in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed. In the country, however, persons engaged in the work of cultivation may freely and lawfully continue their pursuits; because it often happens that another day is not so suitable for grain sowing, or for vine planting; lest by neglecting the proper moment for such operations the bounty of heaven should be lost.” [Trevelyan, W.B., **Sunday Observance**, (London, New York, Bombay: Longmans, Green, & Co., 1902) p. 29. (Edict of Constantine. 321 C.E.)].

**— SABBATH —
a council's decision**

“Council of Laodicea (C.E. 363) lays down that Christians are not to Judaize, and rest on the Sabbath, but to work on that day; while, because of the peculiar honour due to the Lord's Day, they are then, if they are able, to rest, as Christians.” [Ibid. p. 46, (Canon 29, Council of Laodicea, Theodoret)].

— The pagan influence —

“In the decision to celebrate the weekly festive day of rest on the Lord's Day (Sunday), it may even be that pagan Roman usages played as large a part as in the fixing of the Christmas festival. Celebration of the Resurrection itself was not on a Sunday in the more primitive and oriental areas of Christianity but on Passover full moon day itself.” [Article, “Sabbath” **New Catholic Encyclopedia**].

Stewardship

At this time of year, people of the world customarily take vacations, and they celebrate the summer holidays, but they frequently forget Yahweh and His ministry that heralds the Kingdom of Yahweh.

Most worldly, unconverted people resent giving contributions to religious organizations. They assert that the only thing the organization wants is to get their money. By such conclusions, they justify their selfishness and unjustly accuse others. Some believe that by giving a dollar or two here and there, they have adequately fulfilled their obligations to the Almighty. People with an unconverted attitude don't seem to value the knowledge they receive, nor do they view it as the means whereby they may receive eternal life.

The Apostle Paul encountered a similar, stingy attitude in the Corinthian Assembly. The members seemed to feel that they should not financially support Paul's missionary endeavors. In 1 Corinthians 9, he had to point out strongly to them that one does not labor without hope of some return. He quotes Deuteronomy 25:4 which says, **"You shall not muzzle the ox when he treads out the grain."** Paul emphasizes, **"If we sowed to you spiritual things, is it a great matter if we shall reap your carnal things?"** (1 Corinthians 9:11).

We must recall from Acts 20:33-35 how Paul described his own attitude regarding the contributions he received. He was willing to give—even more than give—to sacrifice his entire life unselfishly for the benefit of those who have an interest in spiritual things and to provide an opportunity for them to hear the Word of Yahweh.

"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." (Acts 20:33-35).

What is your personal attitude toward giving? Yahshua said it is more blessed to give than to receive. But most people would much rather receive than give! They expect people to give to them constantly. Their motto is, "What's yours is mine if I can get it; what's mine is mine if I can keep it." The attitude of most Americans is to get something for nothing, or to take something from someone else—obviously an unconverted concept.

Yahshua gave Himself totally to the people of the world while He was here on this earth. He said, **"...give, and it shall be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, shall they give into your bosom. For with what measure you measure it shall be measured to you again."** (Luke 6:38). Yahshua personified complete giving by offering His life for the sins of the world.

The attitude of a truly converted person is to give generously to Almighty Yahweh. You will notice from Leviticus 27:30-33 that Almighty Yahweh has reserved the first tenth of the produce of our fields for Himself. This does not necessarily refer exclusively to agriculture, as some would have you believe. People work in many types of fields, don't they? Some people are in the field of teaching. Another's field is manufacturing, or business management,

Do You Honor the Giver With a Gift Acceptable to Him?

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

construction, or sales. Each person has chosen a field of personal occupation in which he labors to produce his daily livelihood. Therefore, all of us are obligated to return to our Heavenly Father a tenth of everything we produce because Yahweh has reserved a rental fee for using this earth, which He actually owns (Leviticus 25:23).

Almighty Yahweh Himself receives all the tithes and offerings contributed to the Assemblies of Yahweh. How is this possible? Every contribution is placed in a bank account bearing the Name of Almighty Yahweh. From this bank account, Yahweh's stewards pay the expenses of this ministry.

Radio and television time is quite costly to purchase on commercial stations which air the **Sacred Name Broadcast**. Publishing the **Sacred Name Broadcaster** monthly and the numerous other items of literature we have available is also quite costly. Paying the telephone and electric bills and other utilities necessary to keep the ministry functioning becomes more costly with each passing day. And, yet,

frequently we use the telephone for counseling or advising people. Others telephone the Assemblies of Yahweh to order literature, preferring to do this rather than write.

Many different services that are offered free by the Assemblies of Yahweh are in fact not free, although they are freely offered. *Someone has to pay for them.* Even you benefit in that you read in this publication the strong doctrines taught by the Bible. Do you ever think about offering some financial support to Yahweh's ministry? Perhaps you fail to express your appreciation to Yahweh—as did the lepers who failed to thank Yahshua after He healed them, Luke 17:12-19.

Almighty Yahweh has laid down a practical plan to finance His ministry. It is financed through the freely-given tithes and offerings of all those who appreciate and believe the Truth of Yahweh. He has reserved the tithe of all the increase of the earth to proclaim His message of salvation. If we refuse to obey this commandment, we are sinning.

At the Assemblies of Yahweh Headquarters here at Bethel, Pennsylvania, you will find food to richly nourish your spiritual life. You have probably on frequent occasions learned new Truth, or have been encouraged along the difficult sections of the pathway of your life by the things you have read in our publications, or have heard on the **Sacred Name Broadcast** and on the **Telecast**. It is our pleasure to serve the brethren. All of us here at the Home Offices of the Assemblies of Yahweh sincerely believe in sacrificing. Freely, we give because Almighty Yahweh has generously bestowed upon us His Truth. There is food in the house of Elohim (Beth-el), because someone gives to make that spiritual nourishment available.

“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

***If all those who
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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.” (Malachi 8:8-12).

We must be careful not to rob Yahweh of His rightful possessions. If all those who love Yahweh's Truth give generously, abundant spiritual food will always be available in the house of Elohim (Beth-el). If we do not give, the world will starve spiritually, because we have closed our hand when it was in our power to do good.

Ancient Israel experienced a similar situation. When no central storehouse was in effect, the priesthood (ministry) suffered. But a righteous king came to the rescue.

“Moreover he commanded the people that dwelt in Jerusalem to give the portion of the priests and the Levites, that they might give themselves to the law of Yahweh. And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the

children of Israel gave in abundance the first-fruits of grain, new wine, and oil and honey, and of all the increase of the field; and the tithe of all things they brought in abundantly. And the children of Israel and Judah, that dwelt in the cities of Judah, they also brought in the tithe of oxen and sheep, and the tithe of dedicated things which were consecrated to Yahweh their Elohim, and laid them by heaps. In the third month they began to lay the foundation of the heaps, and finished them in the seventh month. And when Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed Yahweh, and his people Israel. Then Hezekiah questioned the priests and the Levites concerning the heaps. And Azariah the chief priest, of the house of Zadok, answered him and said, Since the people began to bring the ablations into the house of Yahweh, we have eaten and had enough, and have left plenty: for Yahweh has blessed his people; and that which is left is this great store. Then Hezekiah commanded to prepare chambers in the house of Yahweh; and they prepared them. And they brought in the ablations and the tithes and the dedicated things faithfully; and over them Conaniah the Levite was ruler; and Shimei his brother was second.” (2 Chronicles 8:14-12).

The ministry of Yahweh's Word in the Temple of ancient Israel was well supplied after Hezekiah created a central storehouse to collect all the tithes and offerings in one place. The ministry had plenty of resources to do Yahweh's Work, and He blessed Israel. Today, the central storehouse for collecting Yahweh's tithes and offerings is functioning at Bethel.

A very moving incident occurred when Israel came out of Egypt and Almighty Yahweh instructed them to build His Tabernacle of witness in the wilderness. When Moses came down from the mountain with the

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PROPHETIC TRENDS



BE NOT DECEIVED!

“Now we entreat you, brethren, touching the coming of our Savior Yahshua the Messiah, and our gathering together to him; to the end that you be not quickly shaken from your mind, nor yet be troubled, either by spirit, or by word, or by letter as from us, as that the day of Yahweh is just at hand; let no man beguile you in any wise: for, except the falling away come first, and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition, he that opposes and exalts himself against all that is called Elohim or that is worshiped; so that he sits in the temple of Elohim, setting himself forth as Elohim. Don't you remember, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now you know that which restrains, to the end that he may be revealed in his own season. for the mystery of lawlessness already works: only there is one that restrains now, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall be revealed the lawless one, whom the Sovereign Yahshua shall consume with the breath of his mouth, and annihilate by the manifestation of his coming; even he, whose coming is according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and wonders of falsehood, and with all deceit of unrighteousness for them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause Yahweh sends

them a working of error, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be judged who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12).

“Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which Yahweh Elohim had made. And he said unto the woman, Has Elohim said, You shall not eat of any tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the Serpent, Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, Elohim said, You shall not eat it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die. And the serpent said unto the woman, You shall not surely die: for Elohim knows that in the day you eat of it, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as Elohim, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:1-5).

Ever since Satan the Adversary beguiled our foremother Eve in the Garden of Eden with the original lie that, “... **You shall not surely die...**,” mankind has been deceived with this falsehood. When Yahweh commanded Adam concerning the tree of knowing the good and [knowing the] evil, He stated “... **you shall surely die.**” Satan's deception has continued even until this day—that mankind can commit all sorts of sins and still live forever. We know that this is not true, however, since Yahweh's Word clearly states that “...**the soul that sins it shall die.**”

Furthermore, Moses set before us two pathways: one which leads to life and good, and one leads to death and evil.

The way to life is found in loving Yahweh Our Elohim, walking in His Ways and keeping His commandments, His statutes, and His ordinances. If we choose the wrong pathway, Yahweh has promised that we shall surely perish and not prolong our days.

“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. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but shall be drawn away, and worship other elohim, and serve them; I declare to you this day, that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land, which you pass over the Jordan to go in to possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you 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 30:15-20).

The choice is ours, whether we will obey our Heavenly Father Yahweh, or whether we will reject His Way and choose the way of Satan the Adversary. This is the choice that was presented to Cain before he killed his brother Abel. Yahweh counseled Cain to obey Him, rather than to transgress His commandments. We must submit ourselves to the commandments of Almighty Yahweh and not transgress His Law, therefore, ruling over our carnal nature.

“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.” (Genesis 4:6-7).

We must follow Yahweh’s commandments and rule over our fleshly desire, freeing ourselves, and be in subjection to Yahweh’s rule. This is the message that the Apostle Paul brought to the Roman Assembly of Yahweh. Paul counseled that we must not allow sin to reign in our mortal body, nor obey the lusts of it. Through sin, Satan has dominion over mankind, when Yahweh is to be our Elohim. Yahweh explains this in the 10 Commandments, when He will visit ***“... the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third of the fourth generation of those that hate me, and showing mercy to thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.”***

In Romans chapter 6, Paul reminded us that the wages of sin is death. ***“For the wages of sin is death; but the free gift of Yahweh is eternal life in the Messiah Yahshua our Master.”*** (Romans 6:23) The falsehood taught by Satan—that we can commit all manner of evil, and Yahweh will forgive us and grant us eternal life—is promulgated by so many in

Christianity today. Yet the Scriptures teach that sinners shall not enter the Kingdom of Yahweh. And Paul even warned us not to be deceived with this false doctrine.

“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).

Today, we see many who believe that they can commit all manner of evil without the judgment of Almighty Yahweh falling upon them. Religious denominations have now blessed same-sex marriages and have assured their congregants that homosexuality would be accepted by Almighty Yahweh. Yahweh, however, has declared that this sin is an abomination to Him. Though religion today is turned against the keeping of Yahweh’s commandments, we must not be swept away with this flood of propaganda against the keeping of Yahweh’s Law. We must be faithful at this time when people are turning against the Law of Yahweh.

“And many false prophets shall arise, and shall lead many astray. And because lawlessness shall be multiplied, the love of the many shall grow cold.” (Matthew 24:11-12).

Apostasy

Will we fall away from then—in the keeping of Yahweh’s Law—during this time when good is bad and bad is good? Just like the Newspeak of the George Orwell book **1984**, good is now become evil and evil is a laudable thing. It is hip, or cool,

today, to be a sinner, or to promote sinful actions, and ideas.

“King Solomon, the writer of Proverbs, desires us to understand what the path of the righteous is like when we start out at dawn and it is difficult to see around us, since there is only a little bit of light. There were times when we would have a lot of things to do on the farm, so we would set the alarm to awaken us very early. We would prepare our equipment by lamplight early in the morning. Sometimes we would even have to wait a short while for the sunrise to appear before we could head out on the road to go to the fields. Nevertheless, in a short while, the sun came up and it shone more and more brightly to the perfect light of day. That is similar to what the keeping of Yahweh’s Law does. We emerge from the darkness of sin into the dawn of a new day of obedience that grows brighter as we make more of an application of Yahweh’s Laws.

“The way of the wicked is the opposite to the path of the righteous. It appears as darkness. “The way of the wicked is as darkness: They know not at what they stumble.” (Proverbs 4:19). ***They stumble because they have rejected Yahweh’s royal Law. The wicked do not know why they are having problems, why there are wars and rumors of wars and crimes in the streets. The righteous hold to the light of Yahweh’s Torah to recognize the reasons why the world experiences these troubles. The more we obey Yahweh’s Torah Law, the more clearly we perceive the justice intrinsic within it.***

“I heard recently that the city of Philadelphia proposed to appoint a committee to investigate why there are currently so many murders. There were 250 murders in Philadelphia in 2000, and, the following year, the statistics indicated that they would far outstrip that number. The number may rise as high as 400 murders (or more) in a city of less than 2 million people. I can tell them what to do to straighten that problem out. TELL THE CHR-STIAN PREACHERS TO

STOP PROCLAIMING THAT THE LAW OF YAHWEH HAS BEEN DONE AWAY. These people do not know why they are stumbling, why there are so many murders and so much crime. **THE APPROACH SHOULD BE TO PREACH THE LAW OF YAHWEH STRONGLY,** then the lawless people will begin saying, "Yes, if we are forced to obey the Law, then circumstances are going to change." **Commentary on Revelation, 7 Lamps of Yahweh,** page 241-242.

Now is the time for everyone to come out of Babylon, and reject the no-law teachings of Christianity. We cannot be swept away with the apostasy, or falling away from the Truth, but rather be recommitting ourselves to commandment keeping. The elected Assembly at the end of the age will be keeping the commandments of Yahweh and the faith of Yahshua the Messiah.

*"How can you differentiate between the True Worshipers in our day and those who will follow the 'man of sin?' This man of sin will be coming with a display of supernatural wonders, of miracles and signs, which has never seen parallel before in history, since he will be deriving his power from Satan the devil, himself. Satan is the mighty one of this world today. He will use his power to deceive the nations. **'And the great dragon was cast down, the old serpent, he that is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world; he was cast down to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him. And I heard a great voice in heaven, saying,***

'Now is come the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our Elohim, and the authority of his Messiah: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, who accuses them before our Elohim day and night.' (Revelation 12:9-10).

"These signs and lying wonders will be advocating disobedience to Yahweh's Law. Of course, you are

*aware of the scriptural definition of sin which is found in 1 John 3:4, **'Everyone that commits sin also transgresses the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.'**" Some translations render this passage as "sin is lawlessness." To gain the full impact of the term sin when reading the text, use the definition of 1 John 3:4.*

*"The True Worshipers will be standing for the exact, diametrical opposite message! They will be proclaiming obedience to the commandments of Yahweh. We read this in Deuteronomy 8:3, **'And he humbled you, and suffered you to hunger, and fed you with manna, which you knew not, neither did your fathers know; that he might make you know that man does not live by bread only, but by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh does man live.'**" This verse was quoted by our Savior, Yahshua the Messiah, in Matthew 4:4 and Luke 4:4 when He resisted Satan the devil.*

*"The only avenue of escape, if you hope to be numbered with the elect of Yahweh, is for you to live closely by the instructions of His Word. Matthew 24:24 states that, if it were possible, even the very elect should be deceived, but it is impossible for Yahweh's people to be deceived, since they are living in humble obedience to His Truth. We trust that you will give all diligence to make your calling and election sure so that you may be accorded an entrance into the Kingdom of Yahweh. You may receive protection in these last days if you fulfill Revelation 3:10. **'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.'**"*

*"Don't delay! Begin your journey down the narrow pathway leading to salvation right now!" **Commentary on the Book of Revelation, Mark of the Beast,** page 72-73. SNB*

Stewardship

Continued from page 9.

blueprint for constructing the Tabernacle, he announced the need to accomplish this construction project. He called upon Israel to give generously so that the building of the Temple could be well supplied with money and material.

'And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses. And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and brought Yahweh's offering, for the work of the tent of meeting, and for all the service of it, and for the holy garments. And they came, both men and women, as many as were willing-hearted, and brought brooches, and ear-rings, and signet-rings, and armlets, all jewels of gold; even every one that offered a wave offering of gold to Yahweh. And every man, with whom was found blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, and rams' skins dyed red, and tahash skins, brought them. Every one that offered an offering of silver and bronze brought Yahweh's offering; and every man, with whom was found acacia wood for any work of the service, brought it. And all the women that were wise-hearted spun with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, the blue, and the purple, the scarlet, and the fine linen. And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun the goats' hair. And the rulers brought the onyx stones, and the stones to be set, for the ephod, and for the breast-plate; and the spice, and the oil: for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense. The children of Israel brought a freewill offering to Yahweh; every man and woman, whose

heart made them willing to bring for all the work, which Yahweh had commanded to be made by Moses.” (Exodus 35:20-29).

You'll notice that Moses forthrightly laid the needs of the Tabernacle building material and furniture before the people. Without hesitation, all of them departed to their homes and began immediately to collect the necessary items. Some brought abundantly of their material possessions, others freely gave of their time and efforts for this project. The needs of Yahweh's ministry deeply stirred their hearts, and all who volunteered gave generously until the needs were abundantly supplied.

Would you believe that Moses had to tell Israel to stop giving?! Let us read from Exodus 36:3-7.

“And they received of Moses all the offering which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of the sanctuary, with which to make it. And they brought yet to him free-will offerings every morning. And all the wise men, that wrought all the work of the sanctuary, came from the work which they wrought; and they spoke to Moses, saying, The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work which Yahweh commanded to make. And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing. For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much.”

Israel had recently been released from Egyptian slavery. They were grateful in heart for their newfound liberty. Similarly, today, those people who read the **Sacred Name Broadcaster** and benefit so abundantly from the services offered by the Assemblies of Yahweh, should consider this message we preach to constitute a release from the abject bondage of false doctrine. Each one should thankfully give to Almighty

Yahweh so that others also might hear.

The Assemblies of Yahweh ministry does not request gifts. We lay the needs of the organization before the brotherhood. Those with sincere hearts will respond.

Rewards in life do not come from getting—but GIVING.



We do not desire to build up the income of the organization to increase our personal wages. Paul said to the Philippian brethren: ***“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. But I have all things, and abound: I am filled, having received from Epaphroditus the things that came from you, an odor of a sweet smell, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to Yahweh. And my Elohim shall supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in the Messiah Yahshua.”*** (Philippians 4:15-19).

Do you understand what Paul describes in this moving passage? He praises Almighty Yahweh for the dedication of the Philippian brethren. When he laid his need before them, they realized that Paul did not want their contributions for himself, but that they were giving him sacrificial assistance to use in his effort of teaching interested people the way of life everlasting.

Their gift to Paul produced fruit (other converted people). Just as then in Paul's time, we do not twist the arms of cold-hearted people to contribute when they don't want to do so.

The Assemblies of Yahweh has a similar attitude like Paul had. We don't want your money! But what we want is to see that you will be blessed by Almighty Yahweh for your dedication. Those contributions which you send to the Assemblies of Yahweh of Bethel, Pennsylvania, will be placed in Yahweh's bank account. A lasting record of your gift will be kept in the heavens.

Your contributions will be exclusively used so that others may hear the glorious Truth that Almighty Yahweh has revealed in these last days. That fruit will be credited to your account upon Yahweh's records. Your money will not go to individuals of the Assemblies of Yahweh, but it will be used by Almighty Yahweh to proclaim His Truth to all in the world who voluntarily will receive it.

Most people today give if they have anything left over after satisfying their desires and wishes. Almighty Yahweh reserves the firstfruits for Himself.

“Trust in Yahweh with all your heart, and lean not upon your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; Fear Yahweh, and depart from evil: It will be health to your navel, and marrow to your bones. Honor Yahweh with your substance, and with the first-fruits of all your increase: So shall your barns be filled with plenty, and your vats shall overflow with new wine.” (Proverbs 8:5-10).

We must remember that we serve the great King who governs this entire universe. Too lightly do we appreciate the blessing that He has called us into His Truth. If we were to visit the President of the United States or the Queen of England, we would take with us the most beautiful gift we could afford. Why do we think we can give Almighty

Yahweh second best? Do we assume that Almighty Yahweh doesn't care if we rob Him of what He has reserved for Himself?

Let us consider that those who do not faithfully return to Almighty Yahweh of the blessings He has given to us—and do it first before we spend anything on ourselves—might just insult Almighty Yahweh. Thereby, such insult will be directed toward the Holy Spirit of grace until we have committed the unpardonable sin.

There are many people who buy things for their own pleasure and even squander their money lavishly—before they give a token offering to Yahweh. It is the practice of a converted person to satisfy the claims of the actual owner of our possessions—Yahweh—before we accommodate ourselves.

How about you? Do you take your paycheck each week, look at your gross pay, and then pay a tithe and give just a small offering to Almighty Yahweh? When you are obedient to His commandments, you will certainly glorify Him.

Some people say they are so deep in debt they couldn't possibly tithe and give offerings to Almighty Yahweh. But nothing could be further from the truth. Proven time and time again is the fact that when someone makes the irreversible decision to tithe first, he will begin to pay closer attention to his budget. That person will discover that he has actually earned wages only to put them in a bag with holes (Haggai 1:6). When we carefully budget our earnings and determine not to squander any of our money, we will soon find that we are able to pay our tithes and give our freewill offerings to Almighty Yahweh without diminishing our living standard.

The Assemblies of Yahweh does not take weekly collections in our worship services. We expect each member and faithful co-worker to contribute of his own free will, without any coercion.

The Assemblies of Yahweh Elders do not apologize for teaching tithing. It is the biblical way of financing Yahweh's ministry. We teach this principle strongly. If you need ad-

ditional information on proving this point, write to Assemblies of Yahweh, PO Box C, Bethel, PA, 19507, and request it.

Frequently, we wonder why more people do not assist us in this ministry by holding up our hands with their regular and generous giving. Perhaps they don't really appreciate this Bible Truth they have so freely received. Or they may lack the faith to be obedient in all things, our

The blessings of life come from giving to others...

material possessions becoming one of our prime interests. Only those who have developed a living faith in Yahweh will obey Him. But, in the end, it is only the obedient ones who will enter the Kingdom of Yahweh.

Perhaps they are unconcerned about the salvation of others, or they simply forget to acknowledge the priceless gift of knowledge they have freely received. Whatever the case, this ministry frequently exists on very little—even on the crumbs that many other organizations might discard or waste. How faithful have you personally been? If Yahshua asked you to give an accounting of your stewardship, how would you measure up?

The blessings of life come from giving to others; but, to experience these blessings you must learn to give with no expectations of return—as Yahshua did. Rewards in life do not come from getting—but GIVING. Yahweh can easily measure your faithfulness by how faithfully you obey His commandment to return His tithe to Him for using His created earth. When Almighty Yahweh completely controls your purse strings and bank account, He will know for certain that He has your absolute loyalty. Even with a faithful tithe, very few people will give until it hurts. With the affluence of today, giving is easy.

How well I recall visiting an elderly couple early in my ministry.

They lived in a small mountain cabin and their only income was a small pension. Their furniture was old and well worn. They had propped a board against the oven door of the stove in their kitchen to keep it closed. Nevertheless, each month their tithe check routinely and faithfully arrived. They could have kept that money and bought a new stove—but they thought more of obeying Yahweh than in making their personal lives comfortable. Thoughts of dedicated people like these have always been with me as I wrote out the checks to pay the bills of this ministry. This incident has been multiplied many times over by the widow's mites we received during the years we have been sending forth Yahweh's Truth.

How about you? Have you robbed Yahweh? Do you follow the principle of Matthew 23:23 and Luke 11:42? ***“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and anise and cummin, and have left undone the weightier matters of the law, justice, and mercy, and faith: but these you ought to have done, and not to have left the other undone.”*** (Matthew 23:23).

“But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and pass over justice and the love of Yahweh: but these ought you to have done, and not to leave the other undone.” (Luke 11:42).

Are you as dedicated to your Heavenly Father as you should be? Or do you prefer to be a freeloader?

Some day soon, all of us will have to stand before the judgment seat and look into the face of the One who gave all to us. What will He do with us at that time? If we are faithful, He will receive us. Yahweh has faithfully promised, and He cannot lie. Otherwise, if we have been unfaithful to Yahweh's commandments, we will probably be in danger of taking a final, terminal swim in the lake of fire. Let's be faithful out of love for Him rather than out of fear of what He can do to us. Let us all give faithfully as He has given to us freely the promise of salvation. SNB

Baal & Asherah Worship

Mythology to Be Avoided

The Israelite nation, in biblical history, time and time again apostatized into idolatry. Yahweh constantly referred to them in such terms as the *backsliding heifer* and as *playing the harlot—whoring after idols*. The judges and prophets constantly preached against these evil practices, and Yahweh punished them for this wickedness.

The object of this study is to discover more about the two main aspects of Israelite idolatry (Baal and Ashtoreth, or Asherah), how they were worshiped, and what made them so enticing for the Israelites that they would break Yahweh's Covenant so readily to follow such idols.

Pagan Canaanite worship very much resembled the worship of the ancient civilizations around them: Egypt, Greece, Rome, and Babylon. The people, being superstitious, seemed to worship everything in creation, claiming that when tragedy struck, an angry mighty one needed to be appeased.

The Canaanites had a Pantheon of mighty ones, much like the Greeks and Romans. The family consisted of El, the father of all mighty ones, and with his consort, Asherah, they procreated a multitude of mighty ones. Two of these were Baal and Ashtoreth, or Astarte, Baal's sister and consort.

by Teaching Elder Jonathan S. Meyer

Baal

"Baal is a primitive title of [mighty ones] which is found in all branches of the semitic race." (**Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics**, Hastings; Vol. 2; p. 283]. Its meaning denotes ownership, proprietorship, or a master. Its general meaning is *L-rd* or *master*, and its relationship to *the L-rd* (the substitution of Yahweh's Name) in the **King James Version** is not coincidental.

Baal is not a name at all, but merely a title used in relation to each place, aspect, or thing that was worshiped.

An example would be *Baal-Shamayim*, or the *L-rd of Heaven*, which actually related to sun worship. It was also used in relation to heathen places of worship such as *Baal-Zephon, L-rd of the North*, or *Baal-Peor, L-rd of the opening*. The title was also used to designate things: Baal of the Storm, Baal of Vats, Baal of Jugs, Baal of Springs, etc.

The worship of Baal was quite popular with ancient society, and he was worshiped on many *Bamoth* (high places) across Canaan and the Middle East, on every high hill,

under every green tree (2 Kings 14:23), even on rooftops of houses as found in Jeremiah 32:29. *"...And the Chaldeans, that fight against this city, shall come and set this city on fire, and burn it, with the houses, upon whose roofs they have offered incense to Baal, and poured out drink-offerings to other elohim, to provoke me to anger."* The number of baals worshiped amounted to an almost innumerable figure, considering the variety, as well as the number of high places, found in the land of Canaan.

"These local Baals were believed to control fertility in agriculture, beasts and mankind." **Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia**, Vol. 1, p. 432). This even included rainfall. In Baal worship, the drying and harvesting of crops signified that Baal had died, slain by Mot (death). Anath would search for the body, and, with many sacrifices of animals, Baal was restored to life and reigned over Mot, assuring life and fertility for another year. This occurred at the time of the Canaanite New Year, known as the enthronement of Baal for one more year. This festival was in direct competition with the Feast of Tabernacles, the harvest feast of Yahweh. The present Jewish New Year occurs at this time, undoubtedly relating back to this practice.

This annual feast of Baal culminated with horrible debauchery in which grossly sensuous, sexual rites were performed which included ritual prostitution of both sexes.

The altars of Baal, located on the bamoth (high places), contained a slender stone representing the upright male sex organ. This idolatrous representation was surrounded by a circle of upright posts known as "Asherah poles" representing the "opening," or female sex organ. The word translated *grove* in the **King James Version** refers to the Asherah poles and possibly also the grove of living trees which many times was located near the altar of Baal. Some of these living trees were topped and the bottoms carved with sexually explicit idolatry.

The priests of Baal were called *Chemarim* from the root *kamar—to be black*, probably because they were dressed in black robes, much like the Roman Catholic priests and nuns of present times. This practice was much unlike the priests of Yahweh, who wore modest white and blue robes.

The priests of Baal in 1 Kings 18 are represented as being emotional—almost to the point of being fanatical—much like the Pentecostal displays which are put on during the present times. Such frenzy characterized the worship of Cybelle (the female Baal), as her priests sometimes emasculated themselves in the heat of their emotion. For this reason, the word *kamer* was also understood to mean *the hot or exciting man*.

One extremely horrible aspect of Baal worship was the worship of Baal-Molech, in which firstborn children were murdered for the sake of fertility, or as an offering to appease the idol. Leviticus 18:21 speaks very strongly against human sacrifice. ***“And you shall not give any of your seed to make them pass through the fire to Molech; neither shall you profane the name of your Elohim: I am Yahweh.”*** Yahweh abhors such an abominable, obnoxious practice.

Sending your children off to war has been thought to have a similar modern connotation as passing through the fire to Molech. Archaeology has unearthed thousands of containers (urns) filled with the bones and ashes of young children sacrificed in such heathen practices, especially in ancient Carthage.

Representations of Baal show him as a man with the horns of an ox, or as an ox itself. Many idol images, as well as drawings, were used in worship to represent this pagan mighty one. Since Baal was a representation of the sun deity, he has been seen depicted on altars and other objects of worship as a man with the rays of the sun emanating from around his head.

The closer we scrutinize Baal worship, the more we perceive how much of a drastic contrast there is to Yahweh's True Worship. A good example could be the demeanor of the priests. Yahweh's priests, as they worked in His Temple, were very sober and took their jobs very seriously, making certain that the sacrifices were cut and arranged on the altar in the prescribed manner. Imagine how Aaron felt on the Day of Atonement as he sprinkled the blood on the mercy seat, remembering his own sons, Nadab and Abihu, who had offered strange fire before Yahweh, and were killed by not following closely what Yahweh had ordered.

The priests of Baal (L-rd) and the whole of worship were more the "do as you please" type. The people were not required to follow such a strict code of regulations as were the Israelites. Therefore, they did not keep themselves in proper decorum. A perfect example is found in 1 Kings 18 of how the priests of Baal cried out, "O, Baal, hear us," and began leaping over the top of the altar in a charismatic type of display. As the day drew on, they began to cut themselves (emasculatation? self-flagellation?) after their manner until the blood simply gushed out, verse 28.

EliYah (his name means *my*

phallic symbol:

Any object resembling the [male organ], such as a tower, church spire, obelisk... it is often used as a symbol in a dream or in the thought processes of psychotic or psychoneurotic persons.

Mighty One is Yahweh),

in contrast, repaired the altar or worship of Yahweh, dug the trench, and arranged the wood and the sacrifice. Three times they poured out four barrels of water upon the altar until the entire sacrifice was soaked and the trench filled. EliYah came near and calmly prayed to Yahweh that He would answer, that the Israelites would know for certain that Yahweh was the true Elohim of Israel. All the pentecostal-type display put on by the priests of Baal did NOT draw even one spark of fire from heaven. It fell on deaf ears, since no response resulted.

However, a short, sincere prayer offered by Yahweh's anointed prophet brought instantaneous response. Yahweh is aware of those who keep His commandments, and He will answer them in time of need. He will show that indeed He is El Shaddai and will uphold those who serve Him.

In that day of victory, EliYah killed 850 priests of Baal and Asherah at the brook Kishon. Such great numbers prove that Israel had assimilated the worship of the Canaanites.

It is not coincidental that Baal worship practices have found their way into Christianity. Even at that time, it was a counterfeit of True Worship, having classes of priests, prophets, and servants much like the Levites. It literally represented

The Layman's Guide to Psychiatry,
Barnes and Noble Books,
New York, 1967

Eight ancient Egyptian obelisks, that stood at pagan Egyptian temples, were moved to Rome. Some were capped with crosses, thus uniting ancient pagan worship with modern pagan worship.



Above: Crosses and sun symbols atop Roman obelisks, some of which came from ancient Egypt.
 Below: **Why bring ancient pagan obelisks to America and Europe?**



Above right, Cleopatra's Needle in Paris; above left, in London; and left, in Central Park, New York City, New York.

a corrupted True Worship, a worship of the sun which also embraced sex worship.

Notice some of the similarities between Baal worship and Christianity. Today in modern Christianity, churches are frequently found on high places. The spire located on the roof of the church has been traced back to this ancient pagan practice of raising up an obelisk, or Baal pillar. The shape of the doors and windows resemble an upright phallus and the “opening.” The “church on a hill,” or “the church in the wildwood,” in a group of trees is considered in modern eyes to be the ideal church. But where did it originate? Incidentally, Cleopatra’s Needle, the obelisk from Egypt now located in New York, served as a model for the Washington Monument. Additionally, do you know the origin of the obelisk in St. Peter’s square in Rome?

Astarte

The worship of sex is a perverse abomination before Yahweh. Never did Yahweh sanction such obnoxious practices. In pagan worship, male idols were usually paired with a female idol. This is a horrible corruption.

Mankind, the animals of the field, the vegetation, and the whole earth, were created by Yahweh. The present day world did not simply evolve. Neither did Yahweh, in some human sexual way, originate the creation, because He has no female counterpart, as some misguided mythologists have ventured. Spirit beings neither marry, or are given in marriage (Matthew 22:29-30). They cannot procreate new spirit beings in the manner of humans. Pagan religion believes in mighty ones having the same desires as man and even their having the need to cohabit with women. This is a preposterous belief, because it pulls Yahweh down to a level equal with man.

One of the mythological consorts of Baal was Asherah, representing the wife and mother, the female head



Cathedrals such as St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, are replete with pagan fertility symbols. Notice the obelisk in a circle, the columns, the arches, domes, and also the crosses and circles from sun worship.



Bottom photo: Notice the X-mas tree (Asherah) placed next to the obelisk (Baal pillar) along with a nativity scene (Trinity) during Christmas at St. Peter’s Basilica.

of the family. The sweetheart and mistress is represented by Ashtoreth (Astarte or Ishtar). Anath was represented as a beautiful young virgin, full of the vigor of youth. These three idols, representing the feminine part of sex worship, were somehow connected with Baal worship and were usually worshiped together. Ashtoreth, more commonly worshiped with Baal, probably referred

to “the queen of heaven” (Jeremiah 7:18; 44:17). As Baal was commonly connected with sun worship—hence “the king of heaven”—so his consort would be queen of heaven, depicted by the moon.

Judges 2:12-13 mentions Baal and Ashtoreth. **“And they forsook Yahweh, the Elohim of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed**

other elohim, of the elohim of the people that were around them, and bowed themselves down to them: and they provoked Yahweh to anger. And they forsook Yahweh, and served Baal and the Ashtaroth."

The worship of Ashtoreth also included worshiping the moon and stars of heaven (astrology), 2 Kings 23:4. *"It is evident that the moon alone can be properly called the queen of heaven; as also that the dependent relation of the moon to the sun makes it a more appropriate symbol of that sex, whose function as female and mother, throughout the whole extent of animated nature, were embodied in Ashtoreth."* (**Encyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature**, McClintock & Strong: Vol. 1: p. 465). When one remembers that Baal was the representation of the sun, we can readily recognize why the sun and moon (Baal and Ashtoreth) were worshiped together.

The practices of Astarte worship included sacrifices of male animals, mostly kids. Possibly, this is why Judah promised to give Tamar the kid (Genesis 38:17), thinking she was a religious harlot in the service of Ashtoreth. However, *"The most prominent part of her worship consisted of those libidinous orgies which Augustine, who was an eye-witness of their horrors in Carthage, describes with indignation."* (**Encyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature**, McClintock & Strong; Vol. 1; p. 465).

Her priests were said to be eunuchs in women's attire known as *kadeshim*, and her priestesses were known as *kadeshoth*. Both the priests and priestesses in this idolatrous worship were prostitutes, and the fornication in which they indulged was to assure germination of seed, growth of crops, as well as to assure increase in flocks and herds and fecundity of human families.

"Circumcision was practiced as a consecration of the reproductive powers, and the firstborn child was

sacrificed in order to secure increased fertility." (**Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics**, Vol. 1: p. 117). A licentious feast was held in the fall of the year to ensure a fertile fall crop. Another feast was held in the spring of the year after the time of the annual lambing season. This occasion was marked also by great sexual licentiousness. Remember that Ashtoreth, Astarte, or Ishtar are the same idol. This spring feast of ancient, pagan Ishtar worship is still observed in Christianity today, retained in the practices of Easter. The use of rabbits and eggs both represent fertility. Rabbits are animals that reproduce in hoards and are noted for their virility. Eggs, from which comes new life in the form of fowl, are also used because they directly represent the aspect of fertility. Eggs hatch very quickly and, therefore, represented fecundity.

Another practice is the "hot cross buns," which represent the sign of the queen of heaven, which we have shown to be Ashtoreth or Astarte. The Easter Sunday sunrise service, where the people rise early to meet the sun, when, in some cases, they eat a breakfast (feast) consisting of cooked eggs (again the symbol of fertility), came to us directly from paganism. The rising sun (representing Baal) is now said to represent the giving of life to the Messiah. How much more corrupt can Christianity

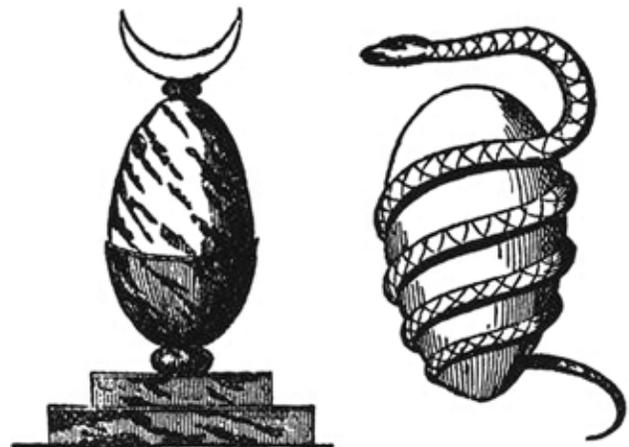
be? Baal, or the Sun, is said to give life to agriculture on the earth, and the people in these modern times are still observing such abominable practices which originated in antiquity.

Let us see what Yahweh thinks of sunrise services. ***"And he brought me into the inner court of Yahweh's house; and behold, at the door of the temple of Yahweh, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men, with their backs toward the temple of Yahweh, and their faces toward the east; and they were worshiping the sun toward the east. Then he said to me, Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? For they have filled the land with violence, and have turned again to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose. Therefore will I also deal in wrath; my eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity; and though they cry in my ears with a loud voice, yet I will not hear them."*** (Ezekiel 8:16-18).

Israel as an Apostate Nation

Moses states the commandment of Yahweh in Deuteronomy 16:21: ***"You shall not plant an Asherah of any kind of tree beside the***

The egg is frequently used to symbolize fertility and has been adopted into Christianity. Shown on the left is the sacred egg of Heliopolis (city of the sun). At right is Tryphon's egg.



altar of Yahweh your Elohim, which you shall make for yourself. Neither shall you set up a pillar for yourself; which Yahweh your Elohim hates.”

Yahweh abhors such evil, because, even if their heart means to do right in the beginning, entropy always sets in. If mankind does not work at his salvation, he will eventually drift from the Narrow Pathway into idolatry. The commandment still applies for us today so that we strive to remain as far removed from the doctrines of corrupted Christianity as possible, and, thereby, “avoid all appearance of evil.”

In the Torah, the Israelites were directed by Yahweh to destroy all the evil religions when they entered the Promised Land, Exodus 34:12-17. ***“Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you go, lest it be for a snare among you: but you shall break down***

their altars, and dash in pieces their pillars,, and you shall cut down their Asherim; for you shall worship no other El: for Yahweh, who is zealous for His Name is a jealous El: lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot after their elohim, and sacrifice to their elohim, and one calls you and you eat of his sacrifice; and you take of their daughters to your sons, and their daughters play the harlot after their elohim, and make your sons play the harlot after their elohim. You shall make you no molten elohim.” Yahweh very explicitly warns His people never to allow themselves, or their children, to go whoring after idols.

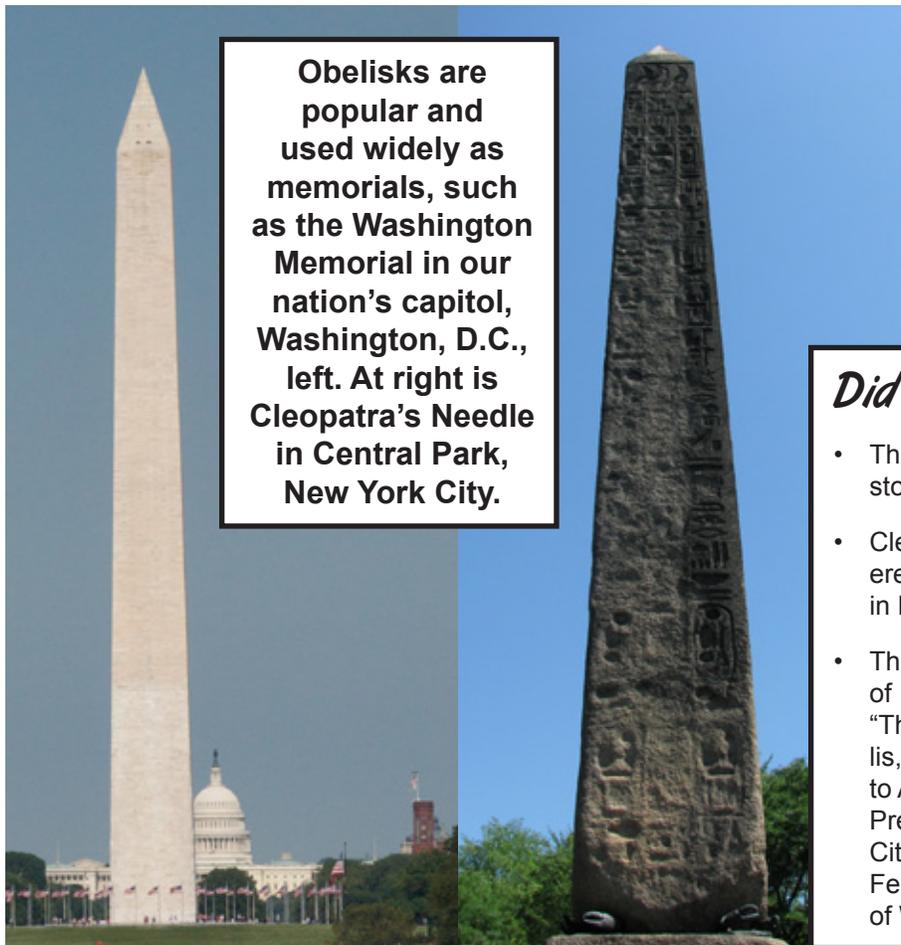
When the Israelites entered into the land of Canaan, those of the first generation remembered the works of Yahweh, but then these died, and another generation took their

place who did not know Yahweh, or the works He had done for them in Egypt, and the children of Israel did evil in the sight of Yahweh (Judges 2:10-11). They went and served Baalim and Ashtaroth; for this reason, Yahweh raised up judges (Judges 2:16) to deliver them.

In those days, there was no king in Israel (apparently Yahweh was not even universally recognized as such), and every man did what was right in his own eyes. After a judge, or a prophet (who was also a judge), died, the nation again fell into an apostasy. King Solomon, as his reign progressed, gradually allowed such worship to increase, even being located in the valley of Hinnom, just on the western edge of the city of Jerusalem.

Ahab, the king of the ten northern tribes of Israel, allowed his wife Jezebel to maintain 450 priests of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah. (1 Kings 18:19). She was the daughter of Ethbaal, King of Sidon, who served as the high priest of Baal. By marrying a foreign wife, Ahab imported idolatry. See Deuteronomy 7:1-6 and Ezra 8 and 9.

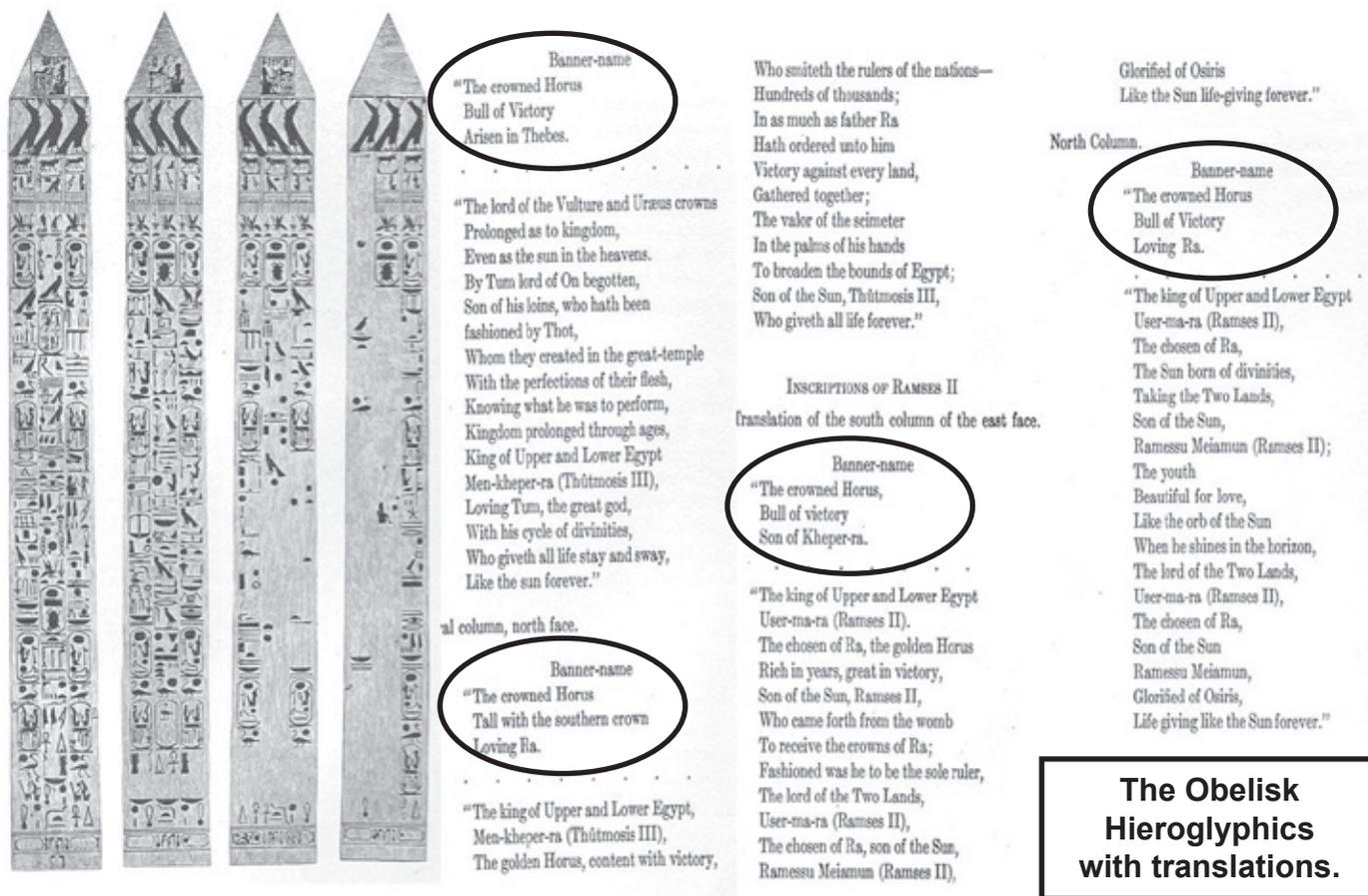
Ahaziah, Ahaz, and Manasseh allowed Israel to sin in this respect. The Israelite king Jereboam caused Israel to go into idolatry of this sort. The prophets of Israel and Judah spoke out against this wickedness,



Obelisks are popular and used widely as memorials, such as the Washington Memorial in our nation's capitol, Washington, D.C., left. At right is Cleopatra's Needle in Central Park, New York City.

Did you know...

- The Washington Monument is the tallest stone structure in the world.
- Cleopatra's Needle in New York was erected in Egypt while the Israelites were in Egyptian captivity.
- The inscription on the plaque at the bottom of the Cleopatra's Needle obelisk reads: "This obelisk was erected first at Heliopolis, Egypt, in 1600 B.C.E. It was removed to Alexandria in 12 B.C.E. by the Romans. Presented by the Khedive of Egypt to the City of New York. It was erected here on February 22, 1881 through the generosity of William H. Vanderbilt."



Above: Translation of Hieroglyphics inscribed upon Cleopatra's Needle, brought to New York City from Egypt, that contains praise to Horus and Ra. Horus, along with Isis and Set, were part of the Egyptian Trinity.

and reformers—like Hezekiah and Josiah, kings of Judah—destroyed the asherim and the sacred stones, as well as their little shrines. King Zedekiah, the last king of Judah, did NOT reform, as had his forefathers, but he did evil in the sight of Yahweh, and, subsequently, Judah was taken into Babylonian captivity. This pagan worship was incorporated into Greek mythology and religion, hence into Roman religion, and finally assimilated into Judaism and Christianity, developing into the present form we have today.

Conclusion

We have seen that Baal and Asherah (Astarte) worship is a very abominable practice. It is hated by Yahweh. The reason Israel was so taken in by this worship was because

they did not destroy the Canaanites and their religion. Thus, since they made treaties with these people and gave their sons and daughters to the children of the Canaanites, they began to fall into idolatry.

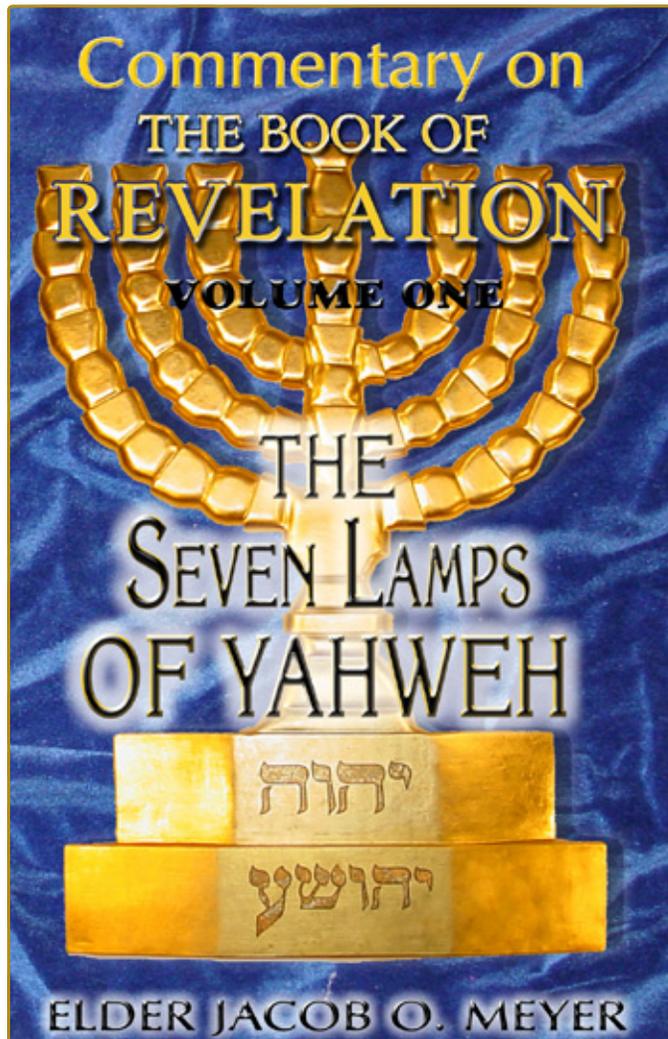
Pagan worship had an attraction True Worship did not: the "liberty" to do as you please (which Judah 4 calls the license to do as you please). Since Baal was a local mighty one who "controlled agriculture," the people fell victim to human philosophical interpretations of the Canaanites, and they forsook Yahweh. They were not seeking to please Yahweh, but only to please themselves. Therefore, the liberalism of sex worship appealed to them. If Israel had followed Yahweh's Law, they would have most definitely received the blessings instead of the

curses (Deuteronomy 28, 29, 30).

We, as True Worshipers, must carefully avoid the idolatry commonly found in the modern religions. We must be the modern Apostolic Assembly, basing our beliefs in the Bible only and living by its every command. We must follow Revelation 18:4: **"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come forth, my people, out of her, that you have no fellowship with her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues...."** We must flee idolatry and be chaste spiritual virgins, dedicated totally to Yahweh and the Bridegroom, Yahshua the Messiah. The sacred Scriptures, free from philosophical interpretations, must be our exclusive standard. ^{SNB}

The Seven Lamps of Yahweh

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer



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the beginning.”***

(Isaiah 46:9-10)

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