

THE SACRED NAME BROADCASTER

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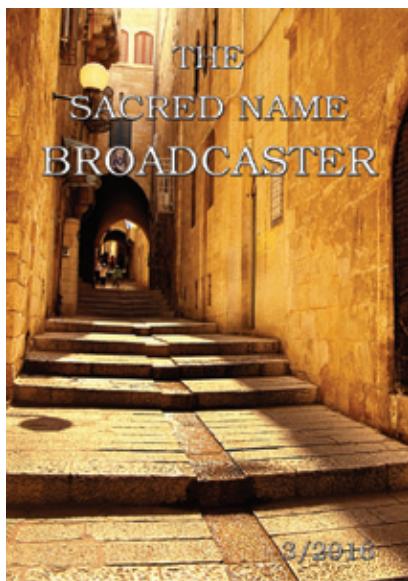
The Apostle Paul instructed the Ephesian Assembly to put on the whole armor of Yahweh—which includes putting on the breastplate of righteousness. Those who follow this directive will be able to stand firm in those days of evil that lay ahead.

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All quotes in The Sacred Name Broadcaster are from The Sacred Scriptures, Bethel Edition, 1981, Assemblies of Yahweh, Bethel, PA 19507, unless otherwise stated. All translations of the Bible quoted herein have been corrected to be consistent with the oldest available manuscripts. Copies of The Sacred Scriptures, Bethel Edition, are available. For information about purchasing your copy, write to Assemblies of Yahweh.

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Founder and Author: Elder Jacob O. Meyer



Our Cover:

Our cover this month shows the street of the old city of Jerusalem. When Yahshua our Savior walked the length and breadth of Israel two millenia ago, He did so as a sin-free man—the only human being to do so.

"Come follow me," Yahshua called to His disciples. We may also become a disciple of Yahshua the Messiah in this modern day, thus fulfilling our calling. The elect Assembly at the end of the age will "follow the Lamb wherever He goes." All who follow Yahshua will make themselves ready with a pure and spotless life.

The Days of



Unleavened Bread

Ch-rchianity ignores the keeping of annual holy days outlined in Leviticus 23 and has missed the vitally significant lessons Almighty Yahweh wishes us to learn concerning His plan of salvation. If you question the average church member today, he will profess ignorance regarding the holy days that are legislated in the Bible. Some people will venture the challenge that those who keep the biblical holy days are Judaizers, legalists, or not New Testament believers.

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

At the outset of this article, we must emphatically state that the Bible sets forth a clear description of the True Israelite worship. Judaism, during the time of Yahshua the

Messiah, had wandered far away from the Faith of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, veering into a “doctrine of men,” Matthew 15:7-9. Just as Chr-stianity in our time has broken the Sacred Scriptures in half at the testaments (John 10:35), so that it

could justify itself in formulating a doctrine of its own liking, the religious establishment of Yahshua’s time ignored basic commandments in favor of the oral rabbinic tradition they maintained.

It has been the objective of the

members of the Assemblies of Yahweh to allow the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, to express its message forthrightly, and, then, we try our best to obey what it directs. We endeavor to harmonize the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and apply its message as literally as possible. We discover that the Bible teaches a very different Faith from that which is practiced in nominal Christianity. We soon realize that we cannot proof-text our doctrines or beliefs. We must allow the Bible to speak its message to us rather than forcefully superimposing our beliefs upon the Scriptures.

The Apostle Peter tried to make us understand the durability of the Word of Almighty Yahweh, His inspired Sacred Scriptures. He says. ***"For, All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of it as the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls: but the word of Yahweh endures forever. And this is the word of good tidings which was preached to you."*** (1 Peter 1:24-25). See also Psalm 103:15-16.

The Word of Yahweh will endure forever. His superior position of power and authority ensures that it will endure throughout all time and eternity. We must remember that Yahweh does not change, Malachi 3:6 (please see also Hebrews 13:4).

Significantly, the quote from the pen of the Apostle Peter that you have just read is taken almost verbatim from Isaiah 40:6-8. This should tell us something. The Apostles of the New Testament had not separated their Messianic Faith from the Old Testament prophecies! The Old Testament represents the basis of our modern Faith, just as it formed the foundation for all the saints of the Most High of old.

We must believe that the patriarchs and prophets of the Old Testament were faithful, sincere, and loyal worshipers of Almighty Yahweh. They sought to maintain an accurate fidelity to that enduring Faith. The Messiah and His Apostles in the New Testament merely constituted the continuation of that

unbroken thread of sound doctrine that reaches to our time. That same identical doctrine will be manifested within the Messiah's remnant Body as they teach the Truth of the Word in these last days.

We must remember that if we are to be New Testament believers,

The Word of Yahweh will endure forever. His superior position of power and authority ensures that it will endure throughout all time and eternity.

that New Testament (or Covenant) which is outlined for us in Hebrews 8:8-12 represents a direct quote from the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah (31:31-34). In this way, basing a Faith upon an unbroken line of religious worship produces durability, consistency, constancy, stability, reliability, and steadfastness in teachings and beliefs.

Why Keep Yahweh's Annual Holy days?

Outlined in Leviticus 23 and Numbers 28-29, you will find a list of holy days on which our Heavenly Father has commanded that a holy convocation be held. A holy convocation means a "calling together" (Hebrew-*miqra'*) of the True Worshipers and all people of good will who are dedicated to serving our Heavenly Father. Almighty Yahweh attaches special significance, and a moral lesson, to the observance of these holy days. He has commanded His human creation to keep them.

After deep study and meditation on these passages of the inspired Scriptures, we must conclude that our Heavenly Father wants us to learn a deeper insight into the plan to salvation. Keeping Yahweh's holy days each year requires us to review thoroughly the progressive steps along the definite pathway a believer must take to pass from sin to salvation. The meanings of the names, words, and practices attached to Yahweh's holy days will impress upon us this understanding.

Conversely, why not keep the common holidays that are observed by the people of the world? Don't they serve the same purpose? The True Worshiper must realize that he will experience difficulties by stepping outside of the mainstream of society to observe different practices than all the people around him. It is always easier for a group to function if everybody does the same thing. Why should a few people determine to keep different days and do different things than the majority do? Will this not disrupt society?

Analyzing the worldly holidays will soon reveal to us that these holidays kept so zealously by the world are designed to gratify the sensual, carnal natures of people. Almighty Yahweh has warned us strongly that we shall not observe the ways of the nations (Jeremiah 10:2). Throughout Ezekiel chapter 20, Almighty Yahweh strongly insists that we keep His Sabbaths, although Israel rejected Yahweh's Word and apostatized, worshiping wood and stone on high places.

After making such a comprehensive study of the worldly holidays, we must finally conclude that, if we try to find supporting evidence for keeping them, we discover that none of these holidays or traditions, as they are commonly observed today, are found in the Bible. Where can one find biblical supporting evidence for Chr-stmas trees, Santa Claus, the date of December 25 as the Messiah's birthday, Easter observed as the celebration of the Messiah's resurrection, bunnies, chicks, candy,

colored eggs, and the myriad other traditions that have adhered so tenaciously to these two worldly holidays? Nowhere are they mentioned! Obviously, the Bible never mentions any of these traditions.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread

In each instance where the biblical narrator begins his description of the events leading up to the death of our Savior, Yahshua the Messiah, he mentions Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. You may check the references for yourself: Matthew 26:2 and 17, Mark 14:1 and 12, Luke 22:1, and John 13:1. Yahshua the Messiah, on the same night on which He was betrayed (1 Corinthians 11:23), ate the Old Testament Passover Memorial with His disciples. This is clearly proven from Luke 22:13-16.

The disciples He had designated to make preparations went to the specified location, found the upper room, and prepared the ritual Passover meal as prescribed in the Old Testament. When the hour for eating it had arrived, Yahshua the Messiah sat down, and indicated His great desire had been to partake of the Passover Memorial Supper with His beloved disciples before His death. At that very meal—commonly known as the Last Supper—Yahshua the Messiah ate the commemorative meal with its Old Testament Passover symbols as found in Exodus 12. Then He established renewed symbols so the Passover Memorial of the True Lamb of Yahweh could be observed with special meaning in the New Testament Messianic Assembly down to our very time. Do you perceive how scripturally based was the Messiah's life?

Yahshua the Messiah died on Passover Day, the 14th of Abib. The Israelites in Egypt, on this same day (Abib 14) many years before, took the Passover Lamb they had selected, and when the setting sun had sunk below the horizon at the

beginning of the 14th, they sacrificed their personal blood offering. At the very beginning of the 14th day of the first scriptural month, they killed their lamb and smeared the blood on the lintel and the two doorposts of the houses in which they prepared this sacrificial meal. That terror-filled night, the Destroyer from Almighty Yahweh passed over, hopped, skipped across, and exempted the blood-protected dwellings of the Israelites, while death penetrated into every unprotected Egyptian house.

After burning the remains of the Passover lamb in the morning after their night of vigil, the Israelites spoiled the Egyptians. Demanding their rightfully earned wages from their former slavemasters before leaving Egypt, they were richly blessed. Then, all Israel gathered together at Rameses in a type of the annual holy convocation to make their united exodus from Egypt (Exodus 12:37).

Passover was observed in the individual houses of the Israelites (Exodus 12:3-7). Late on Passover Day, as the various Israelite families joyously assembled at a central gathering point at Rameses to begin their united journey as a new nation coming out of Egypt together, the Egyptians continued to bury their numerous dead firstborn that Yahweh had smitten in that final tenth plague. That massive burial even extended well into the second day, or the 15th day of the first scriptural month, the first Holy Day of Unleavened Bread. Please see Numbers 33:3.

Yahshua the Messiah, Yahweh's Passover Lamb, began shedding His blood about the same time the Israelites killed their lamb in Egypt. Immediately after Yahshua the Messiah had eaten the Passover, He departed from the upper room to the Garden of Gethsemane. Here He poured out His heart in prayer before Almighty Yahweh, asking strength to endure His coming trial. With His sweat, great drops of blood burst forth from His brow,

falling down to the ground (Luke 22:44). The pressure of His internal agony and the weight of the sins of the world pressing down upon Him caused bloodshed.

Thereafter, He was severely beaten in a trial by scourging, losing a great deal more of His blood. The Roman soldiers pressed the crown of thorns down upon His head, and He was nailed to the tree where the final death stroke was administered, a spear plunging into His side, causing His blood to be totally shed and drained from His body. That shed blood today cleanses our sins as we apply it symbolically to our hearts.

It was on the day of preparation when He died—Passover Day—with the Sabbath rapidly drawing on. This Sabbath was not the weekly seventh-day Sabbath, but the annual Feast High Day, Abib 15, the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

This can be clearly determined from Luke 23:54-56, where the evangelist records that the women watched His burial, returned, and rested, and then prepared spices and ointments to complete His burial. They could not have prepared spices and ointments on the annual high day, but that preparation of embalming products took place on the day falling between the annual holy day and the seventh-day weekly Sabbath. They were unable to embalm Him until He had been in the grave three days and three nights, because a Roman seal had been placed on the stone at the door with a guard of Roman soldiers watching. This was the last act in Messiah's passion drama and is described in Matthew 27:62-66.

(If you have never studied the subject of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Assemblies of Yahweh **Correspondence Course Lesson 9** provides a thorough study of this great Truth. Why not enroll in the entire Correspondence Course? In the meantime, request this single lesson and make a thorough study of the subject now. In addition, request our free article **How to**

Keep Yahweh's Holy Days. This will assist you to see more candidly into the importance of observing Yahweh's holy days.)

Commandment to Keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread

Nominal ch-rchianity depends heavily upon the writings of the Apostle Paul to justify their religious practices. But SHOCKING as this may seem to them, the Apostle Paul STRONGLY commanded all of his followers to keep Yahweh's Feast of Unleavened Bread.

"Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, even as you are unleavened. For our Passover also has been sacrificed, even the Messiah...." (1 Corinthians 5:6-8).

Now what are you going to do? Paul clearly says, "**LET US KEEP THE FEAST.**" That Feast of Unleavened Bread that he urges us to keep is a SEVEN-DAY PERIOD OF TIME—Abib 15-21. The Feast of Unleavened Bread, for seven days, follows the day on which the Passover Memorial is observed. Those Chr-stians who say they are following Paul, but are not keeping the Feast of Unleavened Bread, are clearly not following him! Hypocritically, they choose what they wish to believe about his writings and practice only what pleases them while IGNORING his plain statements urging *obedience* to Yahweh's Commandments. In this, they are fulfilling the description of the Apostle Peter in his second epistle, chapter three, verses 15 and 16. **"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 ig-**



norant and unlearned wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, to their own destruction."

The Feast of Unleavened Bread observance is clearly outlined for us in Numbers 28:16-25. In this passage, animal sacrifices, meal and drink offerings, are also specified. But the biblical writers are unified in their insistence that the Messiah has set aside Old Testament sacrifices and ceremonial offerings by the offering of Himself as atonement for our sins. Please see Hebrews 9:6-15. Please see also Hosea 14:2, Psalm 50, Micah 6:6-8, and Hebrews 13:15-16.

That Paul kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread during his ministry is clearly manifest in the book of Acts. Turn to Acts 20 and read verses 6-12. It was at the Days of Unleavened Bread that Paul visited the Assembly at Troas (Troy). Here a miracle took place when Eutychus fell out of a third-floor window, having fallen asleep during Paul's lengthy sermon. After Eutychus' resuscitation (resurrection), he broke bread and ate. A misunderstanding of this term *breaking bread* has come to mean just simply *eating a meal*, but, in this instance associ-

ated with the Days of Unleavened Bread, the term *breaking of bread* is significant. Regular leavened bread is soft and must be cut with a knife, or torn. Unleavened Bread is hard and brittle and must be broken. Therefore, we find an answer to several other scriptural problems that could now become harmonious to the whole.

The Meaning of the Term "Leaven"

In 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, Paul leaves no doubt that the term *leaven* stands for sin, because he tells us that the spiritual leaven indicates malice and wickedness. Malice and wickedness explain the meaning of the word *sin*, which has been defined for us as *transgressing or breaking Yahweh's commandments* (1 John 3:4).

Unleavened Bread (or bread baked without benefit of the puffing up, or raising action, of leaven) indicates sincerity and Truth. Truth firmly stands for the keeping of Yahweh's commandments, for example Psalm 119:142 and 160, along with John 17:17.

Consequently, the Apostle Paul wishes us to understand that when we keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread as he has strongly urged the New Testament (Covenant) believer to do, we must keep it by eliminating sin from our lives and strive to worship in a sinless state before our Heavenly Father.

Two words in the Old Testament have been translated leaven. The first is *chametz*. You will find it noted in **Strong's Concordance** as #2556 and #2557. It is defined as *to be pungent; ie. in taste (sour ie. lit. fermented, or fig. harsh).*" The word *fermentation* as defined in **Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language, Second College Edition** means, "*to boil, be agitated; 1. A substance or organism causing fermentation 2. A yeast, bacteria, enzymes, etc; 3. A state of excitement or agitation.*"

For corroboration of this definition, check how the **Tregelles Gesenius Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon, the Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament** by Brown, Driver and Briggs, and the **Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament** by Holladay, define the word *chametz*.

Reference also the second word translated *leaven*, #7603 in **Strong's**, *se'or*. It is defined as *barm, or yeast cake (a swelling by fermentation).* The root word noted is #7604, as *sa'ar*. Defined as a prime root, properly meaning *to swell up* or, the causative definition is *to be redundant*. You may also check #7607. The action of leaven in "swelling or puffing up" results in the softness of leavened baking products. Unleavened products demonstrate more firmness, stability, and strength than raised products; therefore, unleavened bread stands for firm, pure Truth.

If you are unfamiliar with the word *barm*, **Webster's Dictionary** defines it as follows: *From the Indo-European base meaning 'to surge up'. The foamy yeast that appears on the surface of malt liquors as they ferment.*

The Greek word used in the New Testament is #2219, *zume*, and it means *to ferment as if boiling up*. The root is believed to be #2204, *zeo*, which means *to be hot, to boil*. The term translated *unleavened* is #106 in the **Greek Dictionary of Strong's**, *azumos*, and is defined as meaning *uncorrupted*.

What really does corrupt an individual? Yahshua the Messiah answered that question for us very clearly in Mark 7:21-23. **"For from within, out of the heart of men, evil thoughts proceed, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, covetings, wickednesses, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, railing, pride, foolishness: all these evil things proceed from inside, and defile the man."**

Each one of these evil, corrupting practices can be traced to breaking Yahweh's Law somehow. Practicing disobedience to Yahweh's Law will corrupt, defile, debase, or degrade an individual. Therefore, throughout the Bible, the lesson conveyed by keeping the Feast of Unleavened Bread is to eliminate sin, or all that which spiritually corrupts from our lives, so that we may be pure and righteous in the eyes of our Heavenly Father.

Yahshua's Definition of Leaven

Throughout His ministry, Yahshua the Messiah sought to take His disciples back to the root—the very core—of their problems, so that they could make deep-seated changes and, thereby, begin a converted life. Yahshua the Messiah indicates that adultery (for example) begins in the heart and the thoughts of the offender (Matthew 5:27-28). The heart of man is deceitful and desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). Sin then begins in the heart (or deep inside) an individual when he determines to disobey Yahweh's Laws.

But Yahshua indicates that sin receives encouragement by false doctrine. Someone who has a proclivity

toward sin will seek ways to soothe his conscience by trying to support his evil actions with a biblical text. Those who teach the message of the Bible must be extremely careful not to mislead those who hear them. This is, undoubtedly, the reason why the Apostle Jacob (James) insists that there shall not be an abundance of teachers in Yahweh's Assembly (Jacob 3:1). If the elders cause someone to stumble in the Word of Yahweh, that sinner will become our responsibility through false teaching. We must eventually take responsibility for him and his sin before the Messiah's judgment seat.

Yahshua then used the term *leaven* to describe false doctrine (Matthew 16:5-8, 11-12). **"And the disciples came to the other side and forgot to take bread. And Yahshua said to them, Take heed and beware Of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we took no bread. And Yahshua perceiving it said, O you of little faith, why reason you among yourselves, because you have no bread?...How is it that you do not perceive that I spoke not to you concerning bread? But beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Then understood they that he bid them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees."**

The teaching (or doctrine) of the Pharisees and Saducees was leavened. Yahshua the Messiah warned His disciples that they must beware (watch out carefully) so they do not assimilate the false doctrines of these two major sects of Judaism. Yahshua the Messiah severely castigated the Jewish religious establishment of His day in Matthew 23 and many other instances. They hated Him for exposing their false doctrines and abominable practices, just as unrepentant sinners today despise Yahweh's True ministers who are faithfully teaching the scriptural way of righteousness. **"For I fear,**

lest by any means, when I come, I should find you not such as I would, and should myself be found of you such as you would not; lest by any means there should be strife, jealousy, wraths, factions, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults; lest again when I come my Elohim should humble me before you, and I should mourn for many of them that have sinned previously, and repented not of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they committed.” (2 Corinthians 12:20-21).

Yahshua then conveys to us that leaven represents false doctrine that will lead people into the abominable practice of sin. If someone is taught correctly, he will be able to live a righteous life. In the end, then, the Bible shows that leaven stands for false doctrine and sin. Unleavened bread represents sound doctrine (or teaching) and righteous living which comes from obedience to Yahweh’s commandments.

Yahshua the Messiah further defines this false teaching in Luke 12:1-3. *“In the mean time, when the many thousands of the multitude were gathered together, so much that they trod one upon another, he began to say to his disciples first of all, Beware you of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. But there is nothing covered up, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. Therefore whatever you have said in the darkness shall be heard in the light; and what you have spoken in the ear in the inner chambers shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.”*

Yahshua defines the leaven of the Pharisees as hypocrisy. Hypocrisy is when religious leaders teach sound doctrine but do not follow it, and when people assert that they stand for some principle but do the contrary. Too many times you will behold ch-rchianity offering lip service to Scripture, but clearly the injunctions that they teach from the

Bible are not practiced. *“All things therefore whatever they bid you, these do and observe: but do not you after their works; for they say, and do not.”* (Matthew 23:3).

Turning to Mark 8, we discover that Yahshua the Messiah added yet another important element to His explanation of the word *leaven*. He emphasizes to His disciples that they shall take heed and watch out for the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod. We have already seen that He explained the leaven of the Pharisees as hypocrisy. What about the leaven of Herod?

The Herodian dynasty traced its roots to the Nabatean Arabs. Therefore, the antecedents of Herod were in a foreign family. As a matter of fact, Herod the Great never entered the Temple that he so zealously reconstructed, because he was not a Jew, and, therefore, not allowed inside.

The term *Herod* obviously represents *worldly government*. By joining the terms *Pharisee to Herod*, Yahshua the Messiah sought to demonstrate that His disciples (even those in our time during these latter days) should beware of a corrupted religious establishment resting upon a worldly corrupted government based upon philosophies foreign to the Sacred Scriptures. We must remember that the true Israelite ruler must make a copy of the book of Deuteronomy and read from it daily so that he will remain humble and faithfully committed to obedience to Yahweh’s commandments (Deuteronomy 17:18-20).

The Bread of Affliction

We are cautioned in various biblical passages that specify how we shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread to eliminate all leaven from every area under our personal control. *“You shall eat no leavened bread with it; seven days you shall eat unleavened bread with it, even the bread of affliction; for you came forth out of*

the land of Egypt in haste: that you may remember the day when you came forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life. And there shall no leaven be seen with you in all your borders seven days; neither shall any of the flesh, which you sacrifice the first day at evening, remain all night until the morning. ...Six days you shall eat unleavened bread; and on the seventh day shall be a solemn assembly to Yahweh your Elohim; you shall do no work in it.” (Deuteronomy 16:3-4, 8).

Our personal minds and hearts certainly represent our personal property. We must obviously eliminate from our minds and from the very heart (or center of our being) false doctrine and sin which will corrupt us morally.

In addition, the areas within our control—such as our homes, farms, businesses, and other work areas—must be cleansed from leavening products. Almighty Yahweh, our Heavenly Father, wishes to teach us a lesson. He wants to show us that we must constantly be alert to maintain purity over that which is under our control, and that we do not ingest any actual leaven. This will make us become label readers, as we carefully scrutinize everything that we purchase or use. Practicing the elimination of leaven for one week out of the year will condition us so that we very carefully examine every doctrine that we accept and practice. In this way, we will be alert throughout the year to reject any false doctrine that might influence us to disobey Yahweh’s commandments.

Those who properly keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread will eliminate leavening products such as yeast, baking powder, and all leavened, baked, or cooked products from their living area. Then when they strive to keep Yahweh’s commandments as perfectly as they possibly can, with the help of Yahweh’s Holy Spirit, it will set them apart from most of the people of this Babylon-

That entire week, as initially Israel sought to avoid the Egyptians, and, eventually, saw the defeat of Pharaoh's army, they had no time to delay. They had to move forward continually. If they stopped too long, the pursuing Egyptians would overtake them and once again enslave them. Therefore, when we find any sin in our lives we must eliminate it quickly—immediately—so that it will take no permanent possession of us.

ish system. They must constantly make the decision to follow Almighty Yahweh as perfectly as they can by keeping His commandments. Or one can liberalize the teachings of the Bible and, thereby, allow himself to remain only at the fringes of this worldly society while not completely pressing toward the center of the Assembly of Yahweh's saints. Please see Numbers 11:1.

When someone faithfully accepts and practices the spiritual lessons taught by the Feast of Unleavened Bread, it will clearly and distinctly set him apart from this worldly system of things. Determination to live for our Heavenly Father will cause the people of this world to persecute the True Worshiper. Therefore, keeping Yahweh's commandments and eliminating sin from our lives sets us apart from this worldly system, but it causes us to suffer affliction, just as did the saints of Yahweh down through history.

When the Israelites ate their Passover in Egypt, leaven remained in their houses. They were told to bake unleavened bread and to begin to eat it that same night on which they ate the Passover lamb. When Israel left Rameses to journey to Succoth, the inspired record states: ***"And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they brought forth out of Egypt; for it was not leavened, because they were thrust out of Egypt, and could not delay, neither had they prepared for themselves any food."*** (Exodus 12:39).

Customarily, the ancient Israelite homes included a dough box in which they prepared their daily bread. The dough box contained flour, and, perhaps, certain other ingredients like shortening had already been placed in the flour. But no leavening agent had yet been introduced. Consequently, when they left Egypt so hurriedly, they had no recourse but to bake unleavened bread, because there was no time to wait around a good portion of the day to allow their bread to rise as the leavening agent performed its action.

Consequently, unleavened bread also includes the secondary meaning of *haste, to forsake sin quickly*. That entire week, as initially Israel sought to avoid the Egyptians, and, eventually, saw the defeat of Pharaoh's army, they had no time to delay. They had to move forward continually. If they stopped too long, the pursuing Egyptians would overtake them and once again enslave them. Therefore, when we find any sin in our lives, we must eliminate it quickly—immediately—so that it will take no permanent possession of us.

As a consequence, this lesson should not be lost on the True Worshiper today. We also must leave sin as rapidly as possible when the Holy Spirit of Almighty Yahweh reveals to us what we must do to be saved. When we learn that sin is the transgression of the Law (1 John 3:4), and the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23), we must hasten to

forsake sin and make our personal exodus to the protective area offered by obedience to Yahweh's commandments. The Holy Spirit does not push or shove. It leads and can readily be quenched by stubborn people who delight to serve themselves.

Yahshua's Broken Body

In 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Paul describes the renewed symbols partaken by the disciples at the Passover Memorial that Yahshua introduced at His last Passover observance, depicting our Savior's atoning death.

Yahshua the Messiah, on that last Passover occasion of His earthly life, took bread, and, after he had given thanks to Yahweh for it, He broke it and identified it as representing His own broken Body that was to be the Memorial remembrance of His death each year. We are informed that, as often as we keep this observance (the annual observance of Yahshua the Messiah's Passover Memorial as our substitute sacrifice), we show forth or demonstrate to the world our faith in the Messiah's sacrifice. This passage has been grossly misinterpreted to mean that we can observe the Memorial Supper anytime we choose. Such is not the case. Almighty Yahweh Himself, our Heavenly Father, has laid down the conditions for observing this communion service and how frequently we shall partake of it. Yahshua died on a specific day,

Paul emphasizes that before we partake of Yahshua's Memorial, we must cleanse our lives and hearts of anything that might displease our Heavenly Father and His Messiah.

and we must observe His death on its annual anniversary.

Paul emphasizes that before we partake of Yahshua's Memorial, we must cleanse our lives and hearts of anything that might displease our Heavenly Father and His Messiah. **"Therefore, whoever shall eat the bread or drink the cup of Yahshua in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of Yahshua. But let a man prove himself, and so let him eat of the bread, and drink of the cup. For he that eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he discerns not the body. For this cause many among you are weak and sickly, and not a few sleep."** (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). Therefore, just as he says in chapter five, verse 7b-8, **"For our Passover also has been sacrificed, even the Messiah: therefore let us keep the Feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."**

In 1 Corinthians 10:16, Paul wants us to respond with an af-

firmative statement formed from the question he asks. **"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a communion of the blood of the Messiah?"** The cup of blessing is described in the Old Testament as the new wine found in the cluster (Isaiah 65:8-9). The symbol of blood, as it is partaken at the Memorial Supper, is grape juice (if you have never proven this conclusively to yourself, write in for our free article, **Wine or Grape Juice?**). It represents the blood of the New Covenant, we constantly remember so that we do not negate the Messiah's sacrifice. See also Hebrews 10:26-31. Some groups use fermented wine as this symbol, but wine represents confusion and judgment.

The bread which we break is obviously that which cannot be cut but represents the unleavened bread symbol used at the ancient Passover that Yahshua the Messiah now continued, linking us to the ancient Old Testament Israelite Passover in Egypt.

The word *communion* is a translation from the Greek word *koinonia*. This word means *a fellowship in or through a partnership*. When two people make an agreement with each other, they are, then, in fellowship, or close communication (communion). If two people disagree and break a partnership through failing to live up to that agreement, fellowship and communication in partnership is broken, lost, or dissolved. Consequently, when we eliminate sin from our lives and faithfully keep Yahweh's Covenant agreement in partnership with Him, as we partake of the Passover Memorial Supper—drinking the symbol of the Messiah's shed blood and eating the symbol of His broken body—we, in effect, renew the terms of that irrevocable Covenant each year.

Unleavened Bread: The Symbol of Yahweh's Mark

"Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and in the

seventh day shall be a feast to Yahweh. Unleavened bread shall be eaten throughout the seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with you, neither shall there be leaven seen with you, in all your borders. And you shall tell your son in that day, saying, It is because of that which Yahweh did for me when I came forth out of Egypt. And it shall be for a sign to you upon your hand, and for a memorial between your eyes, that the law of Yahweh may be in your mouth: for with a strong hand has Yahweh brought you out of Egypt. You shall therefore keep this ordinance in its season from year to year." (Exodus 13:6-10).

Did you notice that, by eating unleavened bread each year, it shall be a sign to Almighty Yahweh that we recognize His absolute authority over us? His sign will be imprinted upon our forehead (between our eyes), which means the seat of our understanding, and on our hands (directing everything we do with our dexterity). By comparing Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and 20-25, it will become obvious that the sign of recognition of Yahweh's authority over us, symbolized by the eating of unleavened bread, actually means the keeping of the commandments, statutes, and judgments of our Heavenly Father. Israel could not keep Yahweh's Law while they were enslaved in Egypt, but, after their release from Egyptian bondage—which symbolizes sin, they obeyed Yahweh's commandments. As long as they obeyed His Laws, they were His people.

Now, when you compare Revelation 13:16-18, it should become immediately obvious to you that the Mark of the Beast represents disobedience to Yahweh's commandments. The Mark of the Beast means the sign of ownership that the ruler of this world's governments places upon his own subjects. Who is the ruler of this world's governments? The answer may be found in Luke 4:5-7. **"And he led him up, and**

The magazine cover includes the title 'How to Keep YAHWEH'S HOLY DAYS' at the top. Below the title is a large image of a menorah. The text on the cover discusses the annual holy days of Almighty Yahweh, mentioning Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles. It also includes a small logo for 'Jacob C. Phagan'.

*The annual holy days of Almighty Yahweh that are outlined in the Scriptures provide us with a foretaste of things to come. Are you aware of the vital importance that these special days play in Yahweh's plan of redemption for mankind? Do not delay in requesting your copy of the article **How to Keep Yahweh's Holy Days**. It is free of charge and without obligation. Write today to:*

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showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to him, To you will I give all this authority, and the glory of them: for it has been delivered to me; and to whomever I will I give it. If you therefore will worship before me, it shall all be yours."

Satan is the archenemy of Almighty Yahweh. He influences people to break Yahweh's commandments and commit sin, so that he may assume the worship of the human race. Therefore, contrast the Mark of Yahweh (which stands for the keeping of His commandments) with the Mark of the Beast (which stands for living as Satan directs, in opposition to Almighty Yahweh's Word and gratifying the carnal nature).

The Showbread

When Almighty Yahweh commanded the establishment of His worship among the Israelite peoples in the wilderness, He instituted the ordinance of perpetual showbread to be placed in the Tabernacle. Please note Exodus 25:23-30. It was the responsibility of the priesthood to set

the bread in order each week before Almighty Yahweh (Exodus 40:23).

The showbread was to symbolize the constant availability of spiritual food where Yahweh's presence abides. Turning to Leviticus 24:1-9, we can observe that this bread was to be carefully baked and prepared each week. The passage indicates that it would be baked without leaven. Please read also Leviticus 2:11. Therefore, the messages preached by Almighty Yahweh's chosen elders each week must be sound doctrine exclusively and not adulterated by corrupted teachings. It is the responsibility of each person to assemble for worship, or cling to the group that fulfills this type today. We believe it is the Assemblies of Yahweh.

The Purpose of Eliminating Leaven

The principal reason why leaven must be eliminated from both the physical and spiritual lives of the True Believer is because of its relationship to the overall lesson of keeping all of Yahweh's feast days. We must remember that Passover is called the preparation for keeping

the Feast. During the Feast of Unleavened Bread, diligent care must be taken to eliminate all leaven. If we discover any leaven in our homes, or in our lives, it must be thrown out immediately.

We have seen that, spiritually, leaven characterizes disobedience to Yahweh's commandments, or sin, false doctrine that leads one to sin, hypocrisy, which is the liberalizing of Yahweh's way of life, and the corruptive influence of the governments of this world. We must faithfully observe the commandments of Yahweh and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. We must keep Yahweh's commandments with the substitute sacrifice of the shed blood of Yahshua the Messiah sprinkled upon our hearts as a cleansing agent so that we can stand pure before Almighty Yahweh, forgiven of our sins.

The necessity of eating unleavened bread with our meals during the seven-day period of the Feast should impress upon our minds that we carefully scrutinize and read the labels on the doctrines that we accept. We must be pure, sinless, and spotless, spiritually without blemish, so that Almighty Yahweh will accept us into His Kingdom (His Family).

The Progressive Steps to Salvation

The following constitutes a list of Yahweh's holy days and the lesson we should derive from keeping each one.

1. **Passover, Abib 14.** This is the preparation for keeping Yahweh's Feast of Unleavened Bread. It entails the acceptance of unleavened bread as the memorial of Yahshua's broken Body, broken for our chastisement, and the symbol of His shed blood as a cleansing for our sin. It represents a death that will lead to a new, sin-free, repentant life.
2. **The Feast of Unleavened Bread, Abib 15-21.** The keeping of this Feast for a week symbolizes, for the True Believer, a cleansing of his life from anything that might corrupt his pure, righteous, spiritual life and attitude. Such cleansing makes him a fit vessel where the Holy Spirit of our Heavenly Father and His Messiah may dwell.
3. **Pentecost, seven complete weeks after the weekly Sabbath falling on Passover or during the Days of Unleavened Bread.** This Holy Day symbolizes our personal ratification of the everlasting Covenant and receiving the personality of our Heavenly Father and His Messiah through their Holy Spirit dwelling in us and helping us to be converted.
4. **The Feast of Trumpets. The first day of the seventh scriptural month.** This observance illustrates a division of Yahweh's people traveling toward His Kingdom, while the wicked people of this world journey toward their judgment at Armageddon. It symbolizes a warning from Almighty Yahweh so that all who are sincere may follow Him.
5. **The Day of Atonement, the 10th day of the 7th scriptural month.** It is a time that represents the unity with Almighty Yahweh, illustrated by the marriage supper of the Lamb, and memorializes the atonement sacrifice of our Savior, Yahshua the Messiah, when He shed His blood to break down the separation between Yahweh and His sinful people.
6. **The Feast of Tabernacles, the 15th to the 21st day of the 7th month.** This week of celebration memorializes our hope in attaining the Kingdom of Yahweh, the millennial reign of our Savior, Yahshua the Messiah, and adoption into the Yahweh Family illustrated here, as we keep the Feast of Tabernacles, just as the weekly Sabbath we observe points us toward the Kingdom of Yahweh.
7. **The Last Great Day of the Feast, the 22nd day of the 7th scriptural month.** This Holy Day illustrates eternity, the limitless future, when all people who survive the tribulation and Yahshua's judgment have finally received the Holy Spirit of Almighty Yahweh (John 7:37-39).

Who will make this journey from sin to salvation? Obviously, it will be unleavened people who have cleansed their heart and mind from everything that corrupts. It is people that have developed perfect spiritual character, rejecting this world of darkness and sin to cross over into the light of the Truth of Almighty Yahweh our Heavenly Father encapsulated in the keeping of His commandments.

We invite you to participate with us in the keeping of Yahweh's commandments. See for yourself how Almighty Yahweh has portrayed for us a pathway that the True Worshipers must travel annually to remind us how we may attain the Kingdom of Yahweh, to be adopted into the very family of the Most High.

People of good will are always welcome to join us for the worship of the True Mighty One Yahweh, in the Name of Yahshua the Messiah. (Write for further information.) SNB



THE *Breastplate* OF JUDGMENT AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

PART FOUR

This article is Part 4 of a series of sermons preached by Elder Jacob O. Meyer in the Bethel Assembly.

"Now this is the commandment, the statutes, and the ordinances, which Yahweh your Elohim commanded to teach you, that you might do them in the land to which you are going over to possess it; that you might fear Yahweh your Elohim, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, you, and your son, and your son's son, all the days of your life; and that your days may be prolonged. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with you, and that you may increase mightily, as Yahweh, the Elohim of your fathers, has promised to you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. Hear, O Israel: Yahweh is our Elohim, Yahweh is one: and you shall love Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words, which I command you this day, shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. And you shall bind them for a

sign on your hand, and they shall be frontlets between your eyes. And you shall write them on the door-posts of your house, and on your gates. And it shall be, when Yahweh your Elohim shall bring you into the land which he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you, great and good cities, which you built not, and houses full of all good things, which you filled not, and cisterns dug out, which you did not dig, vineyards and olive-trees, which you planted not, and you shall eat and be full; Then beware lest you forget Yahweh, who brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall fear Yahweh your Elohim; and him you shall serve, and shall swear by his name. You shall not go after other elohim, of the elohim of the peoples that are around you; for Yahweh your Elohim who is among you, is a jealous El; lest the anger of Yahweh your Elohim be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth. You shall not tempt Yahweh your Elohim, as you tempted him in Massah. You shall diligently keep the commandments of Yahweh your Elohim, and his testimonies, and his statutes, which he has commanded you. And you shall

do that which is right and good in the sight of Yahweh; that it may be well with you, and that you may go in and possess the good land which Yahweh swore to your fathers, to cast out all your enemies from before you, as Yahweh has spoken. When your son asks you in time to come, saying, What do the testimonies, and the statutes, and the ordinances, which Yahweh our Elohim has commanded you mean? Then you shall say to your son, We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt: and Yahweh brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand; and Yahweh showed signs and wonders, great and terrible, upon Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his house, before our eyes; and he brought us out from there, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he swore to our fathers. And Yahweh commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear Yahweh our Elohim, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as at this day. And it shall be righteousness to us, if we observe to do all this commandment before Yahweh our Elohim, as he has commanded us." (Deuteronomy 6:1-25).

We regularly consider and quote several passages from this chapter. For example, the *Shema'* should be

re -
cited
twice
a day in
the homes
of the Assem-
blies of Yahweh
members, as I have
instructed the broth-
erhood many years ago.

In a relationship to the current series of messages, we wish to point out especially verse 18, “*And you shall do that which is right and good in the sight of Yahweh; that it may be well with you, and that you may go in and possess the good land which Yahweh swore to your fathers....*” (Deuteronomy 6:18).

Beginning in verse 10, we find a passage that tells us that Almighty Yahweh would bring Israel into the Promised Land. He predicted, however, that after they had been there a certain period of time and had enjoyed all of these material possessions which Yahweh was going to give them free of charge—houses, cisterns, vineyards, olive groves—Yahweh warns them, “*Then beware lest you forget Yahweh, who brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall fear Yahweh your Elohim; and him you shall serve, and shall swear by his name. You shall not go after other elohim, of the elohim of the peoples that are around you....*” (Deuteronomy 6:12-14). You can certainly comprehend that this comprises a very stern warning. Almighty Yahweh would have us perceive just how pertinent is this warning even for the time in which we are living today.

“*For Yahweh your Elohim who is among you, is a jealous El; lest the anger of Yahweh your Elohim be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth. You shall not tempt Yahweh your Elohim, as you tempted him in Massah.*”

Some day, when Yahshua judges, we will learn that how we live, how we treat our fellow man, and who we serve are of vital importance to our acceptance into His Kingdom.

(Deuteronomy 6:15-16). Exodus 17:7 describes the incident of Massah, wherein the Israelites intended to bring a lawsuit against Yahweh. The term *Massah* in Hebrew means *a testing* (from the root *nassah* #5254 in **Strong's Hebrew Lexicon**), while the term *Meribah*, which means *a quarrel*, has as its root #7378, *riv*, which is a legal term meaning *a lawsuit*.

“*You shall diligently keep the commandments of Yahweh your Elohim, and his testimonies, and his statutes, which he has commanded you. And you shall do that which is right and good in the sight of Yahweh; that it may be well with you, and that you may go in and possess the good land which Yahweh swore to your fathers....*” (Deuteronomy 6:17-18). It should be obvious, also, that the terms *right* and *good* are related to the terms *judgment* and *righteousness*. They appear to be parallel, especially when we consider verses 24 and 25. “*And Yahweh commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear Yahweh our Elohim, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as at this day. And it shall be righteousness to us, if we observe to do all this commandment before Yahweh our Elohim, as he has commanded us.*” (Deuteronomy 6:24-25).

The terms *right* and *good* appear in several additional passages in the Sacred Scriptures. Turn to Deuteronomy chapter 12, where we will begin reading with verse 25. This

passage speaks of the prohibition against eating blood and fat in flesh foods. “*You shall not eat it; that it may go well with you, and with your children after you, when you shall do that which*

is right in the eyes of Yahweh. Only your holy things which you have, and your vows, you shall take, and go to the place which Yahweh shall choose: and you shall offer your burnt-offerings, the flesh and the blood, upon the altar of Yahweh your Elohim; and the blood of your sacrifices shall be poured out upon the altar of Yahweh your Elohim; and you shall eat the flesh. Observe and hear all these words which I command you, that it may go well with you, and with your children after you forever, when you do that which is good and right in the eyes of Yahweh your Elohim.” (Deuteronomy 12:25-28).

Here appears a transposition of the terms *the good* and *the right* instead of *the right* and *the good*.

“*When Yahweh your Elohim shall cut off the nations from before you, where you go in to dispossess them, and you dispossess them, and dwell in their land; take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you; and that you inquire not after their elohim, saying, How do these nations serve their elohim? even so will I do likewise.*” (Deuteronomy 12:29-30).

Should there be a separation—an obvious difference—between the Assemblies of Yahweh and worldly religion which we find all around us? The answer, of course, is an emphatic “Yes!” We cannot follow

any of this worldly system. Especially at popular holiday seasons, it is of vital importance that we make a stand. During the Xmas season, someone wished me a “Merry Christmas,” and I told them forthrightly, “We do not keep Xmas.” “Oh, you don’t?” the person replied. “No,” I said, “the Messiah wasn’t even born at this time of year.” He then replied, “Well, whatever.” Worldly people apparently do not take our Creator and His Word very seriously. However, our personal worship and spiritual relationship with Yahweh is important. We must be very careful in regard to what happens in our personal life. Some day, when Yahshua judges, we will learn that how we live, how we treat our fellow man, and who we serve are of vital importance to our acceptance into His Kingdom.

“...How do these nations serve their elohim? even so will I do likewise. You shall not do so unto Yahweh your Elohim: for every abomination to Yahweh, which he hates, have they done unto their elohim; for even their sons and their daughters they burn in the fire to their elohim.” (Deuteronomy 12:30b-31). The people today are given to even worse idolatry than ever before in history. People today sin by worshiping the creature (creation) rather than the Creator. Here is where the root of idolatry can be found.

When the news media reported the birth of the white buffalo calf in the summer of 1994 in Wisconsin, people flocked to see it, leaving flowers, food, clothing, etc., as votive offerings to this creature, thinking that the prophecy of the Indians is now being fulfilled, and a new era is about to begin. The average individual customarily acts so conversely against what the Bible teaches. Is worldly, atheist, pagan thought influencing you? It sometimes appears that even some members of the Assemblies of Yahweh are influenced by this present overwhelmingly,

enticing worldly system. We must carefully guard ourselves against the influence of evil.

“...How do these nations serve their elohim? even so will I do likewise.” The allurement of sensual attractions—the lights, the music, and whatever else is evident—appears to ensnare very many people. Jews put up Hanukkah bushes (Xmas trees), and they joke about it. They put up Xmas lights and call them Hanukkah lights. Well, friends and brethren, this mixing of Truth and error we must scrupulously avoid. You shall not worship Yahweh your Elohim with paganism, as the world does. ***“You shall not do so unto Yahweh your Elohim: for every abomination to Yahweh, which he hates, have they done unto their elohim; for even their sons and their daughters they BURN IN THE FIRE to their elohim.”*** (Deuteronomy 12:31). You may imagine that no paganism is being practiced today; however, it certainly is, because people are teaching their children the Santa Claus lie. Thereby, they will be consigning their young people (sons and daughters) to burn in the lake of fire, simply because they have taught their offspring to worship pagan elohim.

During the Xmas season, the Unitarian Ch-rch in Harrisburg was planning what they called a solstice service to commemorate the winter solstice (sun standing still). Again, in nations around the world, people at the Xmas season worship the creature—the creation—rather than the Creator. Do not imagine that there is no idolatry in this world. All the traditions associated with the Xmas season are idolatry. If you try to take Xmas away from most people, they become angry and express displeasure with you. ***“Whatever I command you, that shall you observe to do: you shall not add to it, nor diminish from it.”*** (Deuteronomy 12:32).

Let us look for just a moment at

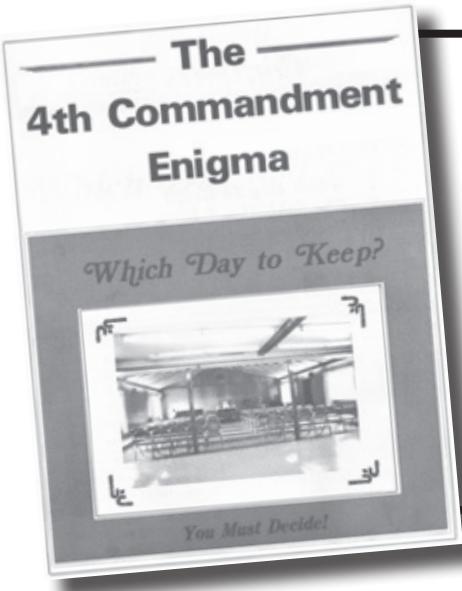
the term *good* as we find it in most scriptural passages. Translated from the Hebrew word *tob*, #2896 in the **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible**, it means *good* (*as an adj.*) *in the widest sense* and is translated variously. The term most frequently used in association with the translation *good*, is *right* or *doing that which is right in the eyes of Yahweh*. This word *right* is #3477, *yashor*, which means *straight*, from #3474, *yashar*, which means *to be straight or even; fig. to be (causat. to make) right, pleasant, prosperous*.

Let us read from Nehemiah chapter 9, beginning with verse 9. ***“And you saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, and heard their cry by the Red Sea....”*** Why are we being constantly warned against the ways of Egypt in the Scriptures? Egypt serves to symbolize sin in the Sacred Scriptures. Yahweh’s people found themselves ensnared in Egypt when they went to Egypt for food, in the famine in the time when Joseph was there. Soon they became enslaved in Egyptian bondage. They cried out to Yahweh, and He heard their cry in Egypt.

Continue reading, ***“...and showed signs and wonders upon Pharaoh, and on all his servants, and on all the people of his land; for you knew that they dealt proudly against them, and got you a name, as it is this day. And you did divide the sea before them, so that they went through the middle of the sea on the dry land; and their pursuers you cast into the depths, as a stone into the mighty waters.”*** (Nehemiah 9:10-11).

Why are you studying the Bible with the Assemblies of Yahweh? Do you remember that you also were brought THROUGH the sea of humanity into the True Worship of Almighty Yahweh? You could have quite easily missed being here. Yahweh brought us to a knowledge of His Truth because He divided the sea before us. The sea of humanity

PART FOUR



gave way so that we could clearly comprehend Yahweh's Truth and the True Worship of Almighty Yahweh.

"Moreover in a pillar of cloud you led them by day; and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light in the way in which they should go." (Nehemiah 9:12). Yahweh led us to His True Worship, just as surely as He led the Israelites of old. **"You came down also upon mount Sinai, and spoke with them from heaven, and gave them right ordinances and true laws, good statutes and commandments...."** (Nehemiah 9:13).

Do you still recognize Yahweh's Law as being in supreme authority over you, a good law, or do you feel inhibited by the strict way taught by the Assemblies of Yahweh? How do you view the lessons of the breastplate of judgment and righteousness? The spirit of that breastplate of judgment and righteousness is here in the Assemblies of Yahweh, and it is searching your heart today. Think about it!

"... And made known to them your holy sabbath, and commanded them commandments...."

I always like to consider the word *ordinances* to mean that which YAHWEH HAS ORDERED! It comes from the word *ordained*. The

The 4th Commandment Enigma: *Which Day to Keep?*

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word *ordained* has the connotation of something Yahweh orders. Did Yahweh give us right orders, true laws, and good statutes and commandments? Yes, He did these things. Then why do people continually question Yahweh's ways?

"... And made known to them your holy sabbath, and commanded them commandments and statutes, and a law, by Moses your servant...." (Nehemiah 9:14). When Yahweh made known to you His holy Sabbath, how did you react to the message? I reacted with joy, but I did not, at that time, know the entire extent of keeping Yahweh's weekly holy day. When I began keeping the Sabbath, I recognized that the True Worshiper must attend services on the Sabbath, but there is more to it than that. Sabbath is not Sunday or Saturday. It must be construed as YAHWEH'S SABBATH. The holy Sabbath has various regulations connected with it that sets it apart from the observance of the Chr-stian Sunday.

When people learn that I keep the Sabbath they tend to say, "Oh, your Sunday is on Saturday." "No," I say, "That is not the case. We keep the scriptural Sabbath from Friday night sundown to Saturday night sundown. It is the seventh day of the week. It is a holy day. It is a day Yahweh commanded and sanctified

to be kept."

What did Yahweh do when we began keeping the Sabbath; did He choke off our livelihood? No, he continued to provide for our sustenance. **"And gave them bread from heaven for their hunger, and brought forth water for them out of the rock for their thirst, and commanded them that they should go in to possess the land which you had sworn to give them."** (Nehemiah 9:16).

"But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their neck, and listened not to your commandments, and refused to obey, neither were mindful of your wonders that you did among them, but hardened their neck, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage. But you are an Eloah ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abundant in loving-kindness, and forsook them not." (Nehemiah 9:15-17).

Why is it that Yahweh cannot turn some people into His way? They have stubbornly insisted on following their own ideas, and they frequently feel restricted by Yahweh's Word. Instead of seeking the Word of Yahweh like a noble Berean—asking Yahweh to correct them from His Word—they make

THE *Breastplate of JUDGMENT AND RIGHTEOUSNESS*

the decision not to go all the way in obeying the Word. In Galatians chapter 4, Paul describes how certain people desire to return to the weak and beggarly elements wherein they desire again to be in bondage. This is really a cutting passage. Can every member of the Assemblies of Yahweh agree with this passage? Do you understand that worldly religion enslaves by imposing the responsibilities of false doctrine—Yahweh's Word releases us from the bondage of sin and death.

The relationship of good and right is converse to evil and wickedness. The close association of good and right with judgment and righteousness should be obvious. Yahweh wants us to be responsible to do good. He desires us to control our actions based on what we do in our daily lives by having a good conscience. He does not wish us to turn in the direction of practicing evil and wickedness. We must exercise good judgment. Good judgment means for us to rule well our personal lives, and righteousness means to live in a right and straight manner, not crooked like the lifestyle of the old serpent, Satan the Devil.

Hezekiah—A King Who Does Right and Good

The accounts of the certain kings of Judah provide us with a picture of what right living means. In 2 Kings chapter 18, we find as a prime example of this principle in the life of King Hezekiah. *"Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign. Twenty-five years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah. And he did that which was right in the eyes of Yahweh, according to all that David his father had done."* (2 Kings 18:1-3).

King Hezekiah receives a great commendation. *"He removed the high places, and broke the pillars, and cut down the Asherah: and he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for to those days the children of Israel burnt incense to it; and he called it Nehushtan."* (2 Kings 18:4). The high places were the locations where Baal was worshiped. Baal worship continued on in these high places, with a commingling with the practices of Yahweh worship. But Yahweh warns us not to worship in those places or in that way. (*Nehushtan* is a term meaning something made of copper.)

"He trusted in Yahweh, the Elohim of Israel...." Do we in our hearts trust in Yahweh and His Word absolutely and without reservation? Or do you conclude that Yahweh is cheating you out of something beneficial because He has ordered restrictions on your conduct, commanded, and instructed you to do something that requires your lifestyle to change? I know people who believe this. You may believe that Yahweh has cheated you out of some kind of pleasure, because you can no longer live like people of the world.

"...So that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor among them that were before him. For he held fast to Yahweh; he departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which Yahweh commanded Moses." (2 Kings 18:5-6). Doing right things means to hold fast to Yahweh, not to depart from obedience to Him. Why does Yahweh's judgment fall upon someone—is it not because they have departed from the ways of Yahweh?

"And Yahweh was with him; wherever he went forth he prospered: and he rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not. He defeated the Philistines to Gaza and the borders of

it, from the tower of the watchmen to the fortified city." (2 Kings 18:7-8).

Hezekiah serves as a prime example of what it means to do that which is right and good in the sight of Yahweh—to put on the symbolic breastplate of judgment and righteousness lifestyle.

Manasseh Rebelled

What about the conduct of Hezekiah's son? 2 Kings chapter 21 begins, *"Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign; and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name was Hephzibah."* Manasseh enjoyed the longest reign of any Israelite king. The name of his mother, *Hephzibah*, means *my delight is in her*. *"And he did that which was evil in the sight of Yahweh, after the abominations of the nations whom Yahweh cast out before the children of Israel."* (2 Kings 21:2). Then the account goes on to explain some of areas in which Manasseh did what was evil.

Remember that Manasseh was the son of Hezekiah. His life appears to represent a fulfillment of Ezekiel chapter 18, wherein the son of a righteous man is said to depart from righteousness to do evil. Manasseh's name means *forgetful*. Why did Hezekiah name his son Manasseh? This was to be his heir, born after Hezekiah received the sign from Yahweh that he would be healed. See Isaiah chapter 38. Hezekiah probably wished to forget the time when he was physically afflicted. He named his son Manasseh; however, this child forgot the ways of Yahweh as practiced by his father.

Let us read from 2 Chronicles chapter 33 where we find the parallel of what happened to Manasseh. *"Therefore Yahweh brought upon them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh in chains, and bound him with fetters, and carried him*

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to Babylon." (2 Chronicles 33:11). Manasseh was evidently enraptured by the Babylonish spirit and attitude, so Yahweh allowed him to be taken into Babylon as a prisoner in chains. Babylon symbolizes confusion and is typical of every sin that humankind can commit.

"And when he was in distress, he supplicated Yahweh his Elohim, and humbled himself greatly before the Elohim of his fathers. And he prayed to him; and he was entreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that Yahweh was Elohim." (2 Chronicles 33:12-13).

This account of the life of Manasseh somewhat parallels what happened to Nebuchadnezzar. For a certain period of time, it seems that these kings could not reason soundly, but when they were in great distress, they remembered (no longer forgot) Yahweh. This reminds us of what we are told in Deuteronomy chapter 4 which is prophesied to happen in these times in which we live. **"When you are in tribulation, and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days you shall return to Yahweh your Elohim, and listen to his voice...."** (Deuteronomy 4:30).

Consequently, Yahweh brought Manasseh back to Israel and allowed him to resume ruling in his kingdom in Jerusalem. A repentant Manasseh restored the worship of Yahweh, but in verse 17 we read, **"Nevertheless the people sacrificed still in the high places, but only to Yahweh their Elohim."** This reveals a continuing religious syncretism that Manasseh did not remove from His Kingdom.

David—Beloved of Yahweh

We want to remind ourselves of the character of King David. David received Yahweh's Holy Spirit, and

he became a great king. In the book of 1 Samuel, we see that Yahweh intended to install as king someone that He knew would follow His instructions, someone after Yahweh's own heart. Yahweh commands the prophet Samuel, **"Fill your horn with oil, and go: I will send you to Jesse the Beth-lehemite; for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."** (1 Samuel 16:1b). Then, in 1 Samuel 16:7 we read, **"But Yahweh said to Samuel, Look not on his appearance, or on the height of his stature; because I have rejected him: for Yahweh sees not as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but Yahweh looks on the heart."**

Notice in 1 Samuel 13:14 the description of King Saul's judgment. **"But now your kingdom shall not continue: Yahweh has sought for himself a man after his own heart, and Yahweh has appointed him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept that which Yahweh commanded you."** This is what Samuel explains to King Saul.

Consequently, Yahweh liked and approved of what He saw in David's heart. After David had been anointed, the account explains, **"...and the Spirit of Yahweh came mightily upon David from that day forward."** (1 Samuel 16:13b). However, an evil spirit came upon Saul (1 Samuel 16:14). If David was anointed with Yahweh's Holy Spirit (and we also claim to have Yahweh's Holy Spirit in the Assemblies of Yahweh today), what does that Holy Spirit lead the True Worshiper to do?

Turn to Psalm chapter 51. David knew he had the Holy Spirit of Yahweh, and he knew at that point in his life that he was in danger of losing it. **"Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities."** (Psalm 51:9). Remember again exactly what you read in Exodus chapter 28. **"And Aaron shall bear the names of the children**

of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart, when he goes in to the holy place, for a memorial before Yahweh continually. And you shall put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goes in before Yahweh: and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before Yahweh continually." (Exodus 28:29-30). Symbolically, the breastplate relates to the Holy Spirit of Yahweh, because the Law is symbolized by light (*urim*) and leads us to perfection (*thummim*). See Proverbs 6:23 and Philippians 3:12-15.

Returning to Psalm chapter 51, we read again verse 9, **"Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities."** Remember this psalm comprises the confession of David after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

It is so heart-rending when you read 2 Samuel 11:2b, **"...and from the roof he saw a woman bathing..."** At evening, David was walking on the roof of his house, and he could not help seeing this woman who had exposed herself on the roof of her house down below his palace. It was an accident that he saw this woman taking a bath. However, **"...And the woman was very beautiful to look upon."** David evidently continued to look at her. He should have immediately turned away from something that he was not allowed to look at. This woman was another man's wife, as he found out upon making an inquiry about her.

Notice, David **"sent and inquired"** in verse 3. His incidental view of Bathsheba turned into lustful, thereupon taking the form of action, and that sinful action was what led him into trouble. You might possibly notice some sinful act on television, or happen to see something sinful or provocative in a magazine. You cannot help that—it is an accidental sight—but do not



continue to look and think about what you have seen. Turn away from it. David should have said to himself, "I have no right to look at the woman. I must turn away from that sight." He should have fled from sin, but he did not do this.

This is also the colossal problem confronting the world today. We seem to accept and tolerate sin. We seem to accept the practice of sin simply because the world does. Yet, Yahweh has commanded us not to ask how these worldly nations worship their elohim in Deuteronomy 12:28, 30. You cannot say, "The ch-rches allow their members to practice a little adultery. The ch-rches tolerate their members to commit a little fornication. The ch-rches allow their members whatever they wish in violation of their day of worship. Why can't we do the same thing on the Sabbath? I feel inhibited!"

David fell into a serious sin. In 2 Samuel chapter 12, Nathan the prophet came to him with a parable. David was filled with indignation against the man who took the only little lamb the poor man had. Nathan said, "**You are the man,**" in verse 7. Then David realized what he had done, and he quickly repented. He wrote Psalm 51 as a public confession of his guilt. See verse 4.

"Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities." (Psalm 51:9). He had to throw himself on the mercy of the judge. "**Create in me a clean heart, O Elohim; and renew a right spirit within me.**" (Psalm 51:10). David knew that he had invited a wrong attitude in his heart, or he would have been able to resist the allure-ment of the flesh. Then you ask secondly, "Was the woman trying to ensnare David?" She willingly came when he invited her to supper in the palace.

"Create in me a clean heart...." David had impure, sinful, vile thoughts in his mind. I wonder what

our hearts look like in the sight of Yahweh. Yahweh looks on the heart, as read in 1 Samuel chapter 16:7. Yahweh does not look as man looks on the outward appearance. Where does He look? He looks inside, under the facade (the surface) on the heart. "**...For man looks on the outward appearance, but Yahweh looks on the heart.**"

We believe and teach that the True Worshiper should attend worship services dressed in his very

David wants to change the wrong attitude that led him into the sin of adultery.

"Cast me not away from your presence..." He is pleading with Yahweh. "**...And take not your holy Spirit from me!**" (Psalm 51:11). He now realizes the extent of the punishment Yahweh could give him. This is an awful possibility because of what you read in 1 Samuel 6:14 where David had seen how an evil spirit from Yahweh came upon King Saul, after the Holy Spirit had departed. He saw what sin had done to this once majestic person, who had defied Yahweh's Word.

"Restore to me the joy of your salvation; and uphold me with a willing spirit." (Psalm 51:12). Do we think like the people of the world who imagine they will go to heaven when they die? For instance, an article written on Jeffrey Dahmer (a serial killer) was titled, "**Did Jeffrey Dahmer Go to Heaven?**" Of course he did not! The religious editors agreed that was ludicrous. "*HalleluYah!*" I said. How could this evil person (who had killed so many people) be rewarded? The obedient are recompensed in the earth. No one goes to heaven when they die. See Proverbs 11:31. Dahmer cer-tainly did not!

"Restore to me the joy of your salvation...."

Turn to Proverbs chapter 6, where it says, "**Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Or can one walk upon hot coals, and his feet not be scorched? So he that goes in to his neighbor's wife; whoever touches her shall not be unpunished.**" (Proverbs 6:27-29). Further, in verses 32-33, we read, "**He that commits adultery with a woman is void of understanding; he who does it would destroy his own soul. Wounds and dishonor shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.**" (Prov-erbs 6:32-33). Do you imagine that sin could ever produce a lasting

What we must change when we come into the Assemblies of Yahweh is our hearts.

best. We do not want to look like the world looks with torn or washed off jeans, a generally sloppy appearance. We want to look our best (as we should) when we approach Almighty Yahweh. Put on a necktie, white shirts, suits, and shined shoes. But what is in the heart? Yahweh looks on the heart. Therefore, we must approach Him with cleansed hearts if we desire His blessings.

David learned that he evidently had found he must have had a very dirty heart. "**And renew a right spirit within me.**" He knew that he had been in a wrong, sinful attitude. What we must change when we come into the Assemblies of Yahweh is our hearts. Or do we remember our unconverted days and how pleasurable to the flesh it was to fantasize about things that Yahweh despises? David realizes he needs cleansing, and it is not merely the physical, outward cleansing of going to the mikvah. It is to experience a catharsis of his heart. However,

pleasure?

The adulterous person has a wounded character that can never be healed. The scar tissue will always remain upon his heart and be revealed in his character. The scarlet letter will always be visible in the mind of that person. Today, the world simply shrugs off the results of this sin; they do not seem to care. They imagine that everyone is practicing sin, so they might as well join in. Factually, the joy of the salvation of Yahweh is gone—wounds and dishonor are upon the heart and character of that person.

Turn back to Psalm chapter 51, continuing with verse 12, we shall read, ***“And uphold me with a willing spirit. Then will I teach transgressors your ways; and sinners shall be converted to you. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O Elohim, Elohim of my salvation; and my tongue shall sing aloud of your righteousness. Yahweh, open my lips; and my mouth shall show forth your praise. For you delight not in sacrifice; else I would give it: you have no pleasure in burnt-offering.”*** (Psalm 51:12b-16). How can the guilty one cleanse away sin with the sacrifice of animals? David knows it is not possible.

“The sacrifices of Elohim are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O Elohim, you will not despise.” (Psalm 51:13-17). What we read at the beginning of Psalm chapter 7 leads us to believe that someone might be plotting to destroy David. Then, as we continue reading down in the passage, we come to the term *Selah*, which turns the passage into a different theme, ***“Arise, O Yahweh, in your anger; lift up yourself against the rage of my adversaries, and awake for me; you have commanded judgment.”*** (Psalm 7:6). Now think about what you are reading. Yahweh has commanded good judgment. He is going to command judgment upon a wicked system. The Assemblies of

Yahweh may comprise only a few thousand people, but those who are faithfully committed to Yahweh in our time can obtain safety during the forthcoming tribulation. I know it is coming just as surely as it came in the days of Noah. Yahweh and Yahshua have given us these prophecies.

David's enemies are wrongfully trying to destroy him. I do not wonder that these enemies today can be compared to Satan the Adversary and the hoards of demons following him, who would like nothing better than to shred this organization to pieces just as Yahshua said to Peter, ***“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan asked to have you, that he might sift you as wheat....”*** (Luke 22:31).

“And let the congregation of the peoples compass you about; and over them return you on high.” (Psalm 7:7). David desired that Yahweh would protect His congregation. The congregation of the people of Yahweh must draw close to Him, as they did during ancient Israelite times. To receive His blessings, Yahweh's people must live sin free, obedient to His Covenant Law.

“Yahweh ministers judgment to the peoples: judge me, O Yahweh, according to my righteousness, and to my integrity that is in me.” (Psalm 7:8). What standard will Yahweh use to judge you? Do not fall for the Christian concept that you can do anything you please, and, still, Yahweh pats you on the head like an old, greyhaired, feeble-minded grandfather, as He says, “Yes, that's nice.” Yahweh will not tolerate willful, premeditated sin. See Hebrews 10:26-31, a passage that appears in the New Testament, yet still threatens judgment to the willful sinner.

Changed Hearts

The breastplate of righteousness and good judgment must clearly rest upon the heart of the people. What is your integrity like? What is your

conscience like? People today appear to exhibit very little of a conscience. Nothing in their mind seems to tell them: “I should not go on watching this television show. I should not be watching this violence and profanity. I should not be watching this illicit sex on television. I should not be here at this place. I should be somewhere else.” My parents and grandparents used to continually warn me as a young person. They would say repeatedly, “You shouldn't be doing this. You shouldn't ever go to worldly places.” The Word of Yahweh gives us such good instruction, we must follow what it says.

“Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous....” (Psalm 7:9a). The wicked will some day come to an end. This is prophesied very plainly in the Scriptures. Their end will be in the lake of fire.

An issue of ***U.S. News and World Report*** that came to my desk contained an article casting aspersions upon anyone believing the Bible. The author remarked that the establishment churches of the world contend that those who believe in Bible prophecy will not try to solve the ills of the world today. They are obviously preaching what was termed when I was young a “social gospel.” Instead of looking to the future to the Second Coming of Yahshua and preparing for His Kingdom to come to this earth, they attempt to solve all of the social ills of the world today. This is the liberal philosophy of the world today. Religious denominations urge governments to throw lots of money in the direction of these problems. They try to solve the problems without bringing sinners to repentance, without teaching personal responsibility and self-control.

I am no longer the idealist that I once was, because I have now seen a broad spectrum of life. I still have the hope of living in an ideal environment—the Kingdom of Yahweh—but I also know that

everyone who walks through my office door is not 100 percent honest and dedicated to Truth and righteousness.

At one time, I believed that anybody who came into the Assemblies of Yahweh, actually those who requested to be on our mailing list, were sincerely trying to serve Almighty Yahweh and might someday be baptized. I found, to my heartache over the years, that I cannot be that idealistic anymore.

When this worldly system is putting out misinformation such as appeared in that article in **U.S. News and World Report**, and by also teaching that the world should not expect the Second Coming of Yahshua, I know that these problems are not going to be solved. The world wants their sinful pleasures to experience no termination. "**The poor you will have always with you.**" There will always be lazy people who are not going to work regardless how much they read in the Scriptures that if a man does not work, he does not eat. See 2 Thessalonians 3:10. People do not want to solve their problems, because their problems allow them an excuse to sin. Some people thrive on problems.

"...For the righteous Elohim tries the minds and hearts." (Psalm 7:9b). Yahweh looks on the heart (Jeremiah 17:9). The evil heart of man, and liberal philosophy suggest that "everybody is basically good."

"My shield is with Elohim, who saves the upright in heart." (Psalm 7:10). Do that which is right and good and you may receive eternal salvation.

"Elohim is a righteous judge, Yes, an El that has indignation every day. If a man turns not, he will sharpen his sword...." (Psalm 7:11-12). If a man defies Yahweh and does not repent, He will sharpen His sword to execute judgment. Indeed, Yahweh is love, but He practices righteous judgment. "**He has bent his bow, and made it ready; He**

Yahweh has commanded good judgment. He is going to command judgment upon a wicked system. The Assemblies of Yahweh may comprise only a few thousand people, but those who are faithfully committed to Yahweh in our time can obtain safety during the forthcoming tribulation.

has also prepared for him the instruments of death; He makes his arrows fiery shafts. (Psalm 7:13). This passage is directed toward the unrepentant man. Do we talk enough about Gehenna fire and the finality of Yahweh's judgment? Man wants to do as he pleases, therefore, he wants to believe that Yahweh gives only grace. Nevertheless, the converse is true.

Behold, he travails with iniquity; yes, he has conceived mischief, and brought forth falsehood. He has made a pit, and dug it, and has fallen into the ditch which he made. His mischief shall return upon his

own head, and his violence shall come down upon his own pate. I will give thanks to Yahweh according to his righteousness, and will sing praise to the name of Yahweh Most High. (Psalm 7:14-17). We must give thanks to Yahweh for revealing His righteous Torah law to us. Our lives must consist of good judgment based upon the commandments of Yahweh that will regulate our lives to do right.

The correct application of the Scriptures can be found in John chapter 14. "***If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that it may be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth: that the world cannot receive; for it beholds it not, neither knows it: you know it; for it remains with you, and shall be in you.***" (John 14:15-17).

Follow the Way of Yahweh

Which spirit are you following? Are you following the Spirit of Yahweh characterized by the love of keeping His commandments, or, conversely, are you motivated by the spirit of the world which rejects the knowledge of Yahweh's ways?

Further in verse 30 of John chapter 14 we read, "***I will no more speak much with you, for the prince of the world comes: and he has nothing in me....***" Satan the Adversary is identified as the prince of the world. No relationship exists between Yahshua and the Adversary; therefore, why do people today want to join hands or step over the line to become a part of this worldly system of his?

Turn to Galatians chapter 5. "***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control; against such there is no law.***" (Galatians 5:22-23). What are these attributes of the fruits of the Spirit? They are the fruits of

obedience to the 248 positive commandments. There is no law that prohibits these attributes. It tells you that you shall love Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. It tells us to love your neighbor as yourself. A positive commandment must have action to fulfill it. Yahweh tells us that He is the Elohim of peace (Shalom). Therefore, we must seek peace and pursue it.

While reading Zechariah chapter 8, an impression was made upon me where we are commanded to keep what Yahweh has spoken. ***“These are the things that you shall do: Speak you every man the truth with his neighbor; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates; and let none of you devise evil in your hearts against his neighbor; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, says Yahweh.”*** (Zechariah 8:16-17). Think about this instruction from Yahweh for a moment.

Now read the end of verse 19, where we find, ***“...therefore love truth and peace.”*** What do you do when you love the Truth of Yahweh? How do you fulfill the judgment of Truth and peace in your gates? All of these great character traits are encompassed in the fruits of Yahweh's Spirit. The fruits of the Spirit are positive commandments in the Bible. Love the Truth and love the peace, and you will fulfill the Spirit of Yahweh's Law.

We can perceive all the fruits of the Holy Spirit in various positive commandments; for example, in Leviticus chapter 19, we find the following terms: *Goodness*—you shall do that which is right and good in the sight of Yahweh. *Faithfulness*—fidelity, which can also be translated truth (from the Hebrew word ‘emeth). *Meekness*—we should take Moses as our example (Numbers 12:3) and what Yahshua teaches us in Matthew 5:5, the meek shall inherit the earth. When we fulfill these requirements, we shall fulfill

the Spirit of Yahweh's Law.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control; against such there is no law. And they that are of the Messiah Yahshua have impaled the flesh with the passions and the lusts of it.” (Galatians 5:22-24). What does it mean to impale the flesh? Is that something pleasurable to accomplish? No, that means kill the flesh! To be like our example Yahshua, we must be separated from the world, and that means we must put to death the fleshly weaknesses. See Hebrews 7:26.

Turn to Jacob (James) chapter 1 where we read, ***“Therefore putting away all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”*** (Jacob 1:21). Do you meditate on the Sacred Scriptures? That is a good question to be answered by all of us. Or is it more pleasurable to fantasize about sin? Some may conclude, “Yahweh does not allow me to do everything I want to do; therefore, I am being cheated out of life.” I will tell you how you are cheating yourself—by practicing sin: the gift of eternal life if you continue with the attitude of a wicked heart and mind. Follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and you will obey Yahweh's commandments.

As we began to consider the subject of the breastplate, and I preached the sermon on the breastplate, the Urim and Thummim, (and Yahweh's Holy Spirit active in the Assemblies of Yahweh), the incident of Acts chapter 5 soon comes to mind. When is something like this going to happen in the Assemblies of Yahweh? ***“But a certain man named Ananiah, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, and kept back part of the price, his wife also being knowledgeable of it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.”***

(Acts 5:1-2). Are you withholding some of your life, perhaps a portion of your heart from Yahweh and Yahshua? ***“But Peter said, Ananiah, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land?”*** (Acts 5:13).

Who today could be lying to the Holy Spirit of Yahweh? Have you kept back part of your life from submitting completely to Almighty Yahweh? To use an illustration, an old man went down into the water of baptism. He realized he would not be saved unless he was baptized, and, so, when He went down he raised his hand out of the water. The minister who was doing the baptizing asked, “Why are you raising your hand?” The old man replied, “I want to keep this hand outside of the water, because I may want to sin a little bit in the future.”

Keeping back part of the price, withholding part of your life, and not being completely repentant, to live right and good with Yahweh (as did Ananiah), will bring you death as it did him. People think they can hide things from Yahweh, but Yahweh is all knowing. Adam and Eve learned that lesson. In the Obadiah School of the Bible, Wisdom Literature class, I explained Proverbs 7:9, ***“In the twilight, in the evening of the day, in the middle of the night and in the darkness....”*** The young man went looking for sin. People think they can hide things from Yahweh at night, but the light shines like the day around Yahweh. Such are the treacherous aspects of believing you can sin at night. In the middle of the night, people imagine they can get away with things like committing adultery and fornication, since human eyesight is dimmed in the darkness.

We find David addressing this idea in Psalm 139:11-12, ***“If I say, Surely the darkness shall overwhelm me, and the light about me shall be night; even the darkness hides not from you,***

THE *Breastplate of JUDGMENT AND RIGHTEOUSNESS*

We—Yahweh’s people—should daily have on our hearts the good judgment predicated upon Yahweh’s commandments, His Word.

but the night shines as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to you.” Consequently, people cannot hide anything from Yahweh. Yahweh knows what is going on because He looks within our hearts, on the very inside of our private, unseen being.

In Acts chapter 5, Peter asked Ananiah why he was following Satan. Satan is the prince, the ruler, of this worldly system. See Luke 4:6. Consequently, everything in the world must be questioned. We continue reading with verse 3, **“But Peter said, Ananiah, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land? While it remained, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your power? How is it that you have conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to Yahweh.”** (Acts 5:3-4).

Lying to Yahweh is a subject that is thoroughly examined in Hebrews chapter 10. **“For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and a fierceness of fire which shall devour the adversaries.”** (Hebrews 10:26-27). People who do not fear Yahweh and His Word, or the prophecies of the Sacred Scriptures, as they should, are those who will become Yahweh’s adversaries. I fear Yahweh! The adversaries of Yahweh will be devoured by the fire of Yahweh, after they are judged and have been thrown into the fire of Gehenna.

“A man that has violated Moses’ law dies without compas-

sion on the word of two or three witnesses: of how more severe punishment, think you, shall he be judged worthy, who has trodden underfoot the Son of Yahweh, and has counted the blood of the covenant with which he was sanctified an unholy thing, and has done despite to the Spirit of grace?” (Hebrews 10:28-29). By sinning willfully, the sinner has rejected Yahweh’s Son and His sacrifice, which is a serious act. This person has spurned the Spirit of grace and done violence to Yahweh’s plan of salvation. Are we really comprehending what the writer of the book of Hebrews wrote? Why, then, do not more people repent and turn toward a life of obedience?

“For we know him that said, Vengeance belongs to me, I will repay. And again, Yahweh shall judge his people.” (Hebrews 10:30). Here, we find a quote taken from Deuteronomy 32:5. The clause, **“Yahweh shall judge his people,”** is found in a number of additional texts, (for example Psalm 135:14). Yahweh will judge His people. If we fail to judge ourselves, and rule over our personal lives, He will find it necessary to do it for us.

“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living Elohim.” (Hebrews 10:31). There seems to be no fear in the minds of the world. They just do as they please and fulfill their personal desires. I sit in my office just several hundred feet from the busy Interstate Highway 78. Sometimes, if I am on the telephone talking, I will turn my chair and I will be looking out at the highway as I am talking. I see many vehicles “flying” up and down the road, some of them trucks

seemingly crawling up the bumpers of cars ahead of them. If any mechanical malfunction happens to a car with a truck traveling so close to a car, a terrible tragedy would occur. People have no fear of killing anyone in such a way or caring about the damage that could result. You can spend years in prison to pay for an accident you have caused because of this kind of negligence. Why are people on the highways driving like they do? Perhaps this is another result of violence shown on television.

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living Elohim. I fear Him, because I know that Yahweh can judge me quickly for something I do wrong. But who is listening? Is Yahweh dealing with your heart today? If so, then repent and cleanse your heart and mind! Take a new direction in your life, and go Yahweh’s way.

We are commanded in Deuteronomy 6:16 to do that which is right and good in the sight of Yahweh. In Deuteronomy chapter 12, we are warned not to inquire how the nations of this world are serving their mighty one, or how the preachers of this worldly system are explaining away the Bible.

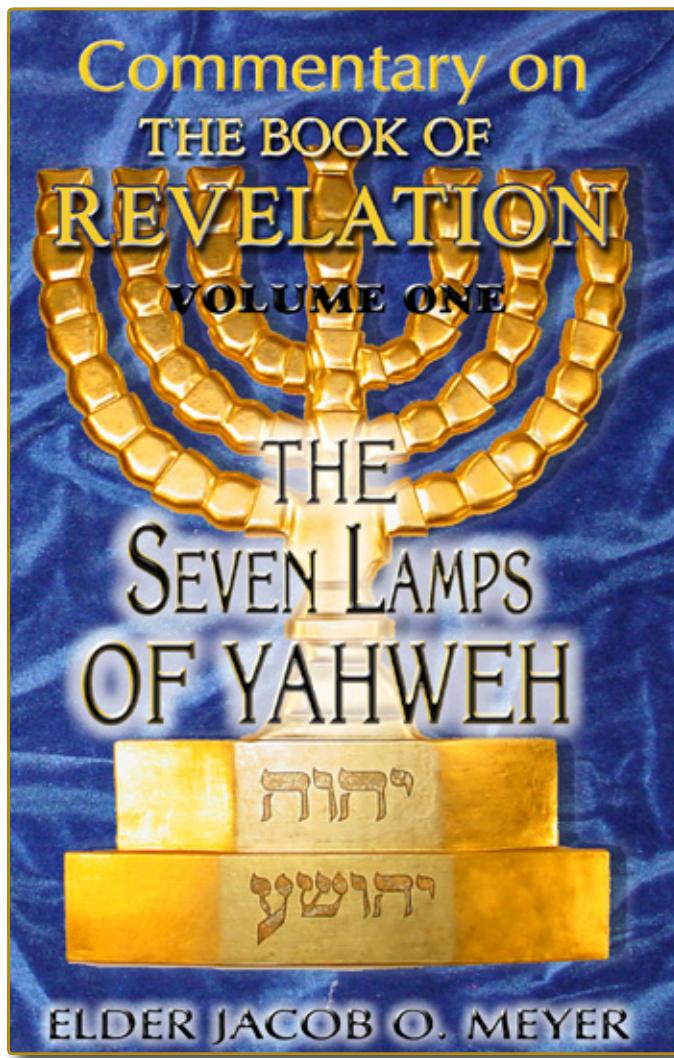
Read the Scriptures and obey what the Bible teaches. We—Yahweh’s people—should daily have on our hearts the good judgment predicated upon Yahweh’s commandments—His Word. Righteousness symbolizes obedience to Yahweh’s Covenant.

We preach the message of Hebrews 10:26-31 strongly, but who fears the Word of Yahweh? Fear Yahweh and His Word before it is too late. Let us be the strong spiritual people Yahweh has in mind as the members of the Assembly of Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7-13). May Yahweh bless you as you strive to perfect your life in anticipation of being with Yahshua the Messiah in His Kingdom.

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