

THE
SACRED NAME
BROADCASTER

7/2016

THE SACRED NAME BROADCASTER

An *Assemblies of Yahweh* publication.
Assemblies of Yahweh, The Narrow Way Newsletter, The Sacred Name Broadcaster, The Sacred Name Broadcast, The Sacred Scriptures, The Sacred Name Telecast, and WMLK Radio are Service Marks and Trade-marks of Assemblies of Yahweh, Bethel, PA 19507

July 2016
Volume XLVIII, Number 4

CONTENTS

Faith & Love

Page 1



Page 9



Page 10

1 **Faith and Love, Part 2**

Paul, in Galatians 5:22, lists the fruit of the Holy Spirit beginning with love. Yet love is growing cold nowadays, because sin is so prevalent.

10 **Prophetic Trends: Lawlessness Multiplied**

Wars and rumors of wars, nation against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places: all of these things are prophesied to occur before the return of Yahshua the Messiah. Take heed not to be led astray.

14 **The Breastplate of Judgment and Righteousness Part 8**

The breastplate represents judgments and righteousness. When we follow Almighty Yahweh and His Word to the letter, He will protect His obedient children during times of trouble. Yahweh will not have to judge us—we will judge ourselves.

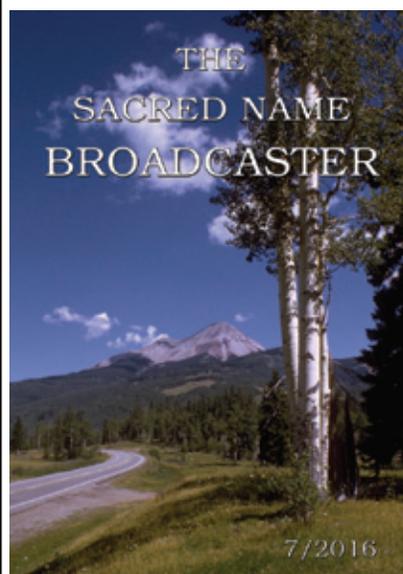
The **Sacred Name Broadcaster** is published monthly by the Assemblies of Yahweh, Bethel, PA 19507. Your subscription has been paid by the willing co-workers of this ministry who are concerned that this message of salvation should be made available free of charge to all the world as a witness before the Second Coming of Yahshua the Messiah. While no charge is ever placed upon this publication, CONTRIBUTIONS (all of which are tax deductible) are gratefully accepted to help defray expenses. We hope you will share in making this information available to others.

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.

© Copyright 2016 Assemblies of Yahweh. All rights reserved. Periodical postage paid at Reading, PA 19612 (ISSN 879320). Telephone (717) 933-4518. POSTMASTERS: Send form 3579 to Assemblies of Yahweh, PO Box C, Bethel, PA 19507.

Founder and Author: Elder Jacob O. Meyer

Our Cover:



This month's cover depicts the beauty of Yahweh's creation—majestic mountains and stalwart trees. The end-time message of hope to the inhabitants of the earth is to give glory to Yahweh our Maker, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

“The mountains shall bring peace to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.” (Psalm 72:3). In a time when peace has been taken from the earth, we find solace and comfort in Yahweh's Word.

When we ponder the beauty of the earth—the work of the hands of Yahweh—we can find peace in the grandeur of a lofty mountain. Joyfully, we exclaim “Oh Yahweh, how great you are!” **“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on you; because he trusts in you. Trust in Yahweh forever; for in Yah Yahweh is an everlasting rock.”** (Isaiah 26:3-4).

Faith & Love

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

It has been said that one of the reasons why the book of John is such a favorite to everyone is because John, the Apostle of Yahshua, expressed so much love. Galatians 5:22 begins by listing the fruit of the spirit, which is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control. Paul, in his book of Galatians, begins the fruit of the spirit with love.

What is love? I have found that the people who harp on love generally express the least amount of love. The people that do not speak of love usually are the ones who show love in their daily lives and in their associations with various people, not only of the Assemblies of Yahweh, but also their fellow men.

I have found that two of the fruits of the Holy Spirit are lacking on so many occasions. As I said in part one of this article, we have often found a lack of faith. A point I have wanted to make is, "If the Bible depended upon you to be written, would the Bible ever have been written? If the faith that you're expressing was the faith of the Apostles, would the Bible ever have been written?" Now that's a good question, and you should answer it for yourself. I can't answer it for you.

In the Passover Memorial service, we read from John chapter 13, so it's altogether fitting that for a first text for this article we should

go to John 13. I plan to look into what the Scriptures teach on love to define love. All of the worldly churches teach love, and some of them show a great deal of it, but is it the correct kind of love? Not the sick, pseudo, sanctimonious type of a thing that the worldly churches usually express, but what does the Bible really teach on love?

We can find that love is something dynamic, living, something powerful, something that will just multiply when we have it. John 13:34, "**A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another.**" There's a group of nominal Christians that say, "It's a new commandment. This is the new commandment of the Bible, and it's just love. All you have to do is just love each other, and that's all that's necessary. That's all Yahshua the Messiah ever meant." But that is totally wrong.

In Leviticus chapter 19, we have a set of laws that were given to Israel to show us principles of how we should deal with our brethren and how we should deal with our fellow man. It's a standard that we can use to measure our relationship with each other. In Leviticus 19:18, "**You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people; but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am Yahweh.**" Do you think that was a new commandment

that Yahshua gave in John 13:34? Of course, it wasn't! It was from the Old Testament times, but the people had become so legalistic, so self-centered, so harsh in their dealings with each other, that Yahshua thought, "Well, we better make it a new commandment; we should RENEW it."

There are people who deal with their brethren in a loving way, and I am focusing upon the Jews today. I think one of the reasons Yahshua gave this commandment in John 13 was because the Sadducees were a very harsh people. They did not believe in a resurrection. They believed in getting all you could now and enjoying life now, because when your life was over, it was over. You were going into the grave, and that was the end of it.

Just look across the page to Leviticus 19:34, "**The stranger that sojourns with you shall be to you as the home-born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt: I am Yahweh your Elohim.**" Today, many have no love for their fellow men, but this is legislated against in Yahweh's Word. "**The stranger that sojourns with you shall be to you as the home-born among you.**"

When I began to study the Bible, I was just filled with love for my

PART TWO

neighbor. When I began to study the Bible and saw who my neighbor was, I was just flooded with love for all people, because we all trace to one common stock, and that is Noah. All of us should realize this—that we all trace to one common ancestor and that’s Noah. **“The stranger that sojourns with you,** [that is, the people who are your neighbors around you] **shall be to you as the home-born among you,”** just as one born into your family, perhaps a cousin. It’s been said that we’re all 32nd cousins, if you want to trace us all down to one final ancestor. The stranger shall be **“as the home-born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt: I am Yahweh your Elohim.”** Here Yahshua the Messiah has blocked anything but love in our dealings, our relationship, with our fellow men—every human being on this earth. We’re even told to love our animals that we own, so that all of our dealings with everybody and everything should be through love. This is a very outstanding truth when you begin to learn it. How many of us are deficient in some area?

Let’s go back again to verse 34 in John 13. **“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”** WHAT DID YAHSHUA DO AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEMORIAL SUPPER? HE TOOK OFF HIS KINGLY ROBES; HE LAID THEM ASIDE. HE TOOK A TOWEL, AND HE GIRDED HIMSELF, AND HE WASHED HIS DISCIPLES’ FEET. Here was the King of the earth bending down and taking a position as a slave, and this He did to teach love for the brethren—service. I can just imagine in the Kingdom if Yahshua the Messiah is driving along the road and a storm is coming up and out there is a man who is struggling to get in a load of hay before it’s ruined by the rain, that He would take off His kingly robes and hang them on the fence and rush

right over there and help that man load his hay and get it in the barn before it’s rained on. I just expect that much of Him, because He has love for His fellow men. What kind of love did He express in going to the tree for us?

Now think about this for a moment. Do you think Yahshua saw any qualities within us that He should have saved? Can you say that you were a good, righteous individual before you encountered the Truth of the Bible? I used to think I’m living a pretty good life out there in nominal Christianity, and, then, lo and behold, when I compared my life to what the Bible teaches, I found that I was nothing—I was less than nothing—and it really made me wonder why Yahweh had not taken action and put me out of the way, destroyed me beforehand. I didn’t rob a bank; I didn’t commit adultery; I was trying to live a good life. But then you look at what Yahweh expects of you and me in the Bible and you compare it to what you’re living and you think, “Well, I’m pretty bad.” I even called on Baal. I didn’t even call the Heavenly Father by His True Name. I couldn’t have been saved, because I didn’t call on the Savior’s True Name, the Name He was actually given—Yahshua. I was calling Him by the name of an idol mighty one.

Let’s look a little further. **“By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another.”** (1 John 13:35). Let’s define this love.

In John, chapter 15, beginning with verse 9, **“Even as the Father has loved me, I also have loved you: remain you in my love.”** This is the kind of love that Yahweh expects of each and every one of us. What did Yahweh do for the human family? He saw them in sin. He saw them in degradation. He saw them going down the pathway to destruction. As they say of people who are about to die, they have one foot in the grave and the other one on a banana peel. We were rushing madly toward the abyss of destruction. But

Yahweh saw our need, and He did something about it. He didn’t give us an extra push to send us over the brink, but He did something for us by sending His Son. The Father loved Yahshua. Yahshua expressed love for the human family. Yahshua says, “Continue you in my love. If you love me, keep my commandments.”

Did you ever think that the commandments had any bearing whatsoever on love and whether it’s true love of the brethren and true love of Yahweh for His people? **“If you keep my commandments, you shall remain in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and remain in his love. These things have I spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. This is my commandment, that you love one another, even as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”** (John 15:10-13).

Perhaps you have read of stories of when they were using horses as a means of draft power, in a city, there would be a little child playing in the street, and a horse would get loose and start running madly down the street, toward this little child, and a man would rush across the street and save this little child, perhaps losing his own life in doing it. How many stories of heroism are there describing sinking ships—the Titanic, perhaps, or the Lusitania—where men gave their seats in the boat to little children? Or how about the four chaplains in World War II who went down with the ship after giving their lifebelts to one of the soldiers or sailors on the ship, gladly, laying down their lives for their friends?

Brethren and sisters, the greatest quality you can have is not to push somebody over the brink to destruction, but it is to reach out there and grab somebody when you see him going toward destruction. This is an exact reversal of the carnal nature, because what does the carnal nature

do? What made Walter Winchell or Jack Anderson a great columnist in the eyes of the world? What made some of the society columnist great in the eyes of the world? Gossip and slander and digging up all kinds of dirt on their fellow man and broadcasting it.

Carnal nature likes to dwell on the seamy side of life. The spiritual man looks on the bright things; he has his eyes fixed on Yahweh and Yahshua rather than on the mire of carnality on this earth. Carnality and spirituality are at diametrically opposite poles one from another.

In Romans 5, beginning with verse 6, ***“For while we were yet weak, in due season the Messiah died for the lawless. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: for possibly for the good man some one would even dare to die.”*** (Romans 5:6-7). You might say that the man who snatched that little baby off the street, or pushed him away from a speeding train and died himself doing it, wanted to give that little life an opportunity to live. Perhaps, at the last moment, he thought to himself, “Well, I’ve lived 30 or 40 or 50 years, and I’ve enjoyed life. I’m going to give someone else an opportunity to live.” Such an act is regarded as heroism. ***“For scarcely for a righteous man one will die.”***

If you’re standing there at the edge of a track watching a speeding train coming towards a little child sitting on the tracks playing, you’ll weigh it a long time before you lose your life for another person. Life can’t be restored unless Yahweh does it supernaturally. Romans 5:7b, ***“...for possibly for the good man some one would even dare to die.”*** Maybe in a moment of heroism someone might decide he could die for someone else. Romans 5:8, ***“But Yahweh commends his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, the Messiah died for us.”*** That’s what we commemorate at the Passover Memorial Supper. Yahshua died for us when we were carnal, when we were evil, when

“Even as the Father has loved me, I also have loved you: remain you in my love.”

This is the kind of love that Yahweh expects of each and every one of us.



our hearts were filled with sin and unrighteousness.

In 1 Corinthians 16:14, we find the apostle Paul urging something. ***“Let all that you do be done in love.”*** I would like to point out here that the word *love* in the Greek is *agape*. *Agape* is a *spontaneous outgoing concern and affection for each other*. *Spontaneous* means *something that happens deep down inside; it’s instant*. When you see a need, you’re there. This is what Yahweh expressed for His people in giving us Yahshua the Messiah when we were filled with sin, when we were down there in the mire of degradation. Messiah died for us, and we should have that same concern for our fellow men—outgoing concern and affection for each other.

Let’s turn over to the great love chapter. In your Bible, if you’re using the **King James Version**, you’ll find the word *charity*, and *charity* is an Old English term meaning *love*. Let’s see how Paul describes love in 1 Corinthians 13. You’re going to be receiving a great deal of new light and understanding.

“And now I will show you the

best way of all,” he ends the 12th chapter speaking of spiritual gifts. ***“If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels,”*** the word *tongues* here is *glossa*, and it means *languages*. ***“If I speak with the tongues of men [or languages of messengers] but have not love, I have become sounding brass, or a clanging cymbal.”***

In Luke 12:1, Yahshua the Messiah defines unleavened bread and leavened bread for us. He does so at several other places, but the allegory of leavened bread in Luke 12:1 is hypocrisy. ***“Beware of the leaven of the Sadducees and Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.”*** Paul says the same exact thing. ***“...But have not love, I have become sounding brass, or a clanging cymbal.”*** If you do not have love, what do you have? You have just an outer shell, and it doesn’t mean a thing to you.

You know, in our time, people want to emasculate the Bible. They want to get right out there and dig everything out of it and throw it out of the window, pull out verses and chapters and throw it away, and say that doesn’t apply today, when 1 Corinthians 10 and 11 shows that they ARE for us today. They want to get rid of so many of the doctrines of the Bible. They want to do away with various prophecies and say those aren’t necessary—they’re not for today, they’ve already been fulfilled—until what do you have? All you have is just a shell outside and nothing in it—like Yahshua the Messiah described the Pharisees, ***“Outside you’re whited sepulchers, beautiful to the appearance but inside full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.”***

That’s what Paul said. If we speak with tongues of men and of messengers, if we profess the spiritual life, we’re going to have to live it. It’s imperative that we live it, or we become just a tuneless sounding, a tuneless repetitious sounding of a note without any change. It has never done us any good, never changed us. The message never

benefitted the people at all.

“And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”

Love is what will change the individual's life, he says. ***“And if I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body to be burned...”*** A better translation of that would be “even seek glory by self-sacrifice,” not necessarily burn yourself, or become cremated after death. The Jews abhorred cremation, so Paul certainly wasn't talking about cremation. He was talking about self sacrifice, putting yourself on the altar and sacrificing everything you have. If you're doing that for self-exaltation—for self glory—it's worthless.

How about the Roman general that came in to the Senate one day and, in order to show the Senate that he was sincere, he put his hand in the altar to Jupiter that stood there in the hall. He held himself without a sound until his hand was consumed in the embers. He got his name on the history books, but was that love? No, it was self-exaltation. He was putting himself first. He wanted to show the Roman Senate what a courageous man he was. You know that, undoubtedly, George Washington would never had been made the commander of the Continental Army, or become president, if he wouldn't have come to the meetings of the Continental Congress dressed in a military uniform. He got out there, and he put on airs, you see. He had the capability to carry it through, and, therefore, he became known as the father of the country.

But something like that is what Paul describes. In the sixth chapter of Matthew, Yahshua the Messiah

“Love suffers long....”

Can you be patient with your brother if you're seeing him do something wrong? Can you be patient with those that come into the Assemblies of Yahweh, and they haven't been educated properly? Can you be patient with them while they're learning?

says they're sounding trumpets before them when they're giving. This is exactly what they do. When they have a charity, they'll have someone say, “Ben gives \$500.” His neighbor doesn't want to be outdone, so he'll say, “Joel gives \$650,” and so they just continue outdoing each other.

“And if I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body to be burned,” if I give everything that I have, even down to my very body, ***“...but have not love, it gains me nothing.”*** The characteristics of love are now enumerated, beginning in verse 4 of 1 Corinthians 13.

“Love suffers long....” Can you be patient with your brother if you're seeing him do something wrong? Can you be patient with those that come into the Assemblies of Yahweh, and they haven't been educated properly? Can you be patient with them while they're learning? That's one of the greatest attributes of a good teacher—patience with his class. Just think that. In the Assemblies of Yahweh, we have people from a wide spectrum of religious backgrounds. Love for that person will be patient while that person is learning and coming along, and you can see growth. When they are people of good will, we owe our brethren patience, because we love them.

“Love suffers long and is kind....” If someone does something

bad to you, do you retaliate?

“Love does not envy....”

How much envy do we have in the world today, keeping up with the Joneses? Have we brought along that kind of character into the Assemblies of Yahweh?

Brethren and sisters, no one—unless Yahweh blesses them abundantly—is going to be rich. Yahweh has

blessed the poor of the world, and has chosen them, but they're rich in faith, and they are the heirs to the Kingdom. For instance, years ago I was visiting an old couple that was on a pension. Now this old couple was very faithful in contributing. Every month, along came a check for their tithes. They were contributing out of their pension. They invited me to their home for supper. I happened to glance into the kitchen, and I saw that she had an old stove, and she had the door propped up with a board. I really admired that woman, because here she was sacrificing. She could have used her tithes and bought a new stove, but she had a tremendous amount of concern and love for other people that she was sending in her tithes and the tithes of her husband from a pension, a small railroad pension, to serve Yahweh.

“Love does not envy....” So when we come into the Assemblies of Yahweh, we must envy no one. ***“Love vaunts not itself....”*** Did you ever notice how some of the preachers boast, “I, I, I”? Sometimes they write out all kinds of literature and material and “I, I, I” this and “I, I, I” that. “Love is never boastful.” The brethren of the Assemblies of Yahweh don't sound the trumpet before them and say, “We're helping out drug addicts, we're doing this, and we're doing that.” We're quietly doing it.

“Love vaunts not itself, is not

puffed up...” A most uncomfortable position to be in is when you’re with a conceited person. They say “me, me,” and “I, I.” The writer of Proverbs says that a person should never boast, a person should never sound his own trumpet—blow his own horn, if you want to use the vernacular expression. **“Love...does not behave itself unseemly, seeks not its own, is not provoked....”** Rudeness makes enemies; it doesn’t make friends. If a man would have friends, the writer of Proverbs says, he must show himself to be friendly. Do you know that a lot of these characteristics of the person that has no love will be explained later on in the chapter as **childish?**

When we come into the Assemblies of Yahweh, we might be childish. We might act like a child. But then we grow up, then we discard all of those childish traits and characteristics. Notice this one: **“...seeks not its own, is not provoked....”** You can take an awful lot when you have love.

“Love...takes no account of evil....” Some time ago I discovered that somebody in the Assemblies of Yahweh had sheets of paper in the back of his Bible, and every time one of the Elders would be preaching, if he made a mistake, he’d jot it down. He had lists, and lists, and lists of things. I remember when I was going to school, there was an English professor—a Doctor of English—addressing the teachers. A teacher here at Bethel High School said that his talk was so dry that he began to just criticize the man’s English and found 121 errors in grammar or expression while the English professor was speaking. He just ridiculed him terribly in front of the class.

That’s not what love does. Love is going to overlook errors. Love keeps no score of wrongs. If someone wrongs you, you don’t bear a grudge. Did you notice Leviticus 19:18, **“You shall not take vengeance, [take action if someone wrongs you] nor bear any grudge against the children of your people.”** That’s

legislation from the very heavens—that is Yahweh speaking to you and me. You may not hold a grudge. Love will never do it, but *agape* is spontaneous and doesn’t need legislation. It is a fruit of the spirit that Yahweh should have put within your heart and within your life.

“Love...takes no account of evil; rejoices not in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” There is nothing love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith. And so you have the term *faith* brought in. Faith is described in the 11th chapter of Hebrews. It’s love, it’s endurance. I remember when Mrs. Meyer and I were baptized. We really didn’t know what to expect after the baptism when the Elders laid hands on us and prayed that we would receive Yahweh’s Holy Spirit. We didn’t know what might happen. Were we going to talk in tongues, or were we going to fall on the floor and pass out, or what was going to happen to us? So when they were praying, nothing happened. I didn’t feel a thing; nothing happened. But just like a little seed springing up in our hearts, when we were on our way home, I never felt so much love in my heart for my wife and for the rest of the world as I felt that time and since then, also.

THERE IS NOTHING LOVE CANNOT FACE. THERE IS NO LIMIT TO ITS FAITH, ITS HOPE, ITS ENDURANCE. It’s going to delight in Truth. It will fulfill Philippians 4:8, thinking only on the good, not on the bad. You know that sometimes if you get into a bad spirit, a bad mood, a bad attitude—a bad attitude will feed on itself. The best thing you can do is break it, just like sickness, or something of this nature, like a malady that you pick up. It will feed on itself, and you’ll become sicker, and sicker, and sicker. You have to do something to break it.

I have often found that if you feel sick, take a good shower or bath, and that will stimulate your blood flow,

and it will send the blood through to the organs. If your organs are in good shape, your blood will be cleansed and, in just a little while, you’ll feel much better. Don’t just lie there and do nothing when you’re sick. There are many, many things you can do to help Yahweh heal you.

Notice verse 8 of 1 Corinthians 13, **“Love never fails.”** Does your love ever come to an end? Love will never end. It will go on to the end of the age and on into the kingdom.

“...But whether there be prophecies, they shall be done away....” One day you can expect that this work will be over, according to prophecy. One day you can expect that we’ll no longer be able to broadcast over the radio or over television, and, then, this work will be over, and it will have to go into another phase. **“...But whether there be prophecies....”** The word *prophets* means *preachers*. Their work will be over. **“whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether knowledge, it shall be done away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; but when that which is perfect has come, that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child....”** Now, if you want to have a perfect picture of carnality, take a look at somebody when they are about 3 years old. They’re totally carnal. “I want this, and I want that.” If another child comes, they’ll hide their toys, or they will grab them away from another child. They’re just a picture of carnality.

“When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child, now that I have become a man, I have put away childish things.” So they come to a completion when there is love. **“For now we see in a mirror, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know fully even as also I was fully known. But now [he says, in just a brief summary] these three live—faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.”**

Then he begins the 14th chapter of 1 Corinthians, ***“Follow after love...”*** when you’re looking for spiritual gifts. Let’s see what love does. What did Yahshua the Messiah say in Luke chapter 6? In Luke 6:32, ***“And if you love them that love you, what thanks have you? For even sinners love those that love them.”*** If you ever want to see a great amount of love, look at drunkards, they will be hanging on each other, and they’re just loving each other. Sinners have love for each other, too. ***“And if you do good to them that do good to you, what thanks have you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to them of whom you hope to receive, what thanks have you? even sinners lend to sinners, to receive again as much.”*** (Luke 6:33-34). Probably, Yahshua should have added “with a lot of interest.” Verse 35 continues, ***“But love your enemies, and do them good....”***

It is difficult to love your enemies. When I was taking my course in teaching Bible, the one thing that really impressed me above all the other things that the instructor said—above all the other methods that you can use to instruct your class—was, ***“Love the unlovely.”*** Now if you can put that thought in your mind and in your heart, the Assemblies of Yahweh will just expand like you’ve never seen anything expand before. ***“Love the unlovely.”***

How can we ever discriminate against somebody that is unlovely to us? How can we look down our noses at a poor person? How can we ever discriminate in favor of anyone, or against anyone? How can we ever discriminate in favor of a rich person? Somebody made the statement one time, “If a great radio preacher would come into this audience, what would you do?” “Why,” I said, “I’d treat him like everybody else. I’d invite him to sit down and listen.”

“But love your enemies....” It’s difficult to love your enemy when someone’s attacking you. Then there are people who say, “We have no enemies.” Think about that one

for awhile. “We have no enemies,” but they do. Yahshua said that we would have enemies.

“But love your enemies, and do them good, and lend, never despairing; and your reward shall be great, and you shall be sons of the Most High: for he is kind toward the unthankful and evil. Be you merciful, even as your Father is merciful.” (Luke 6:35-36). Love will be merciful. As I said at the beginning, the Apostle John is described as the disciple that had the most love of all.

Notice what he says in 1 John 2:3: ***“And by this we know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.”*** How do you know that you’re serving the Heavenly Father? “Here’s the test,” he says, “Do we keep His commands?” Did you ever think that that could be a test to really know if you’re serving the Heavenly Father? Do we keep His commands? Do we keep what he’s told us to do? ***“He that says, I know him, and keeps not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him....”*** How many religious organizations are teaching love, how many of them say, “We are the true body of the Messiah,” and, then, disprove it when they’re put to this test? Now you think about that.

“He that says, I know him, and keeps not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him the love of Yahweh has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in him....” (1 John 2:4-5). HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT YOU’RE SERVING THE TRUE MIGHTY ONE UNLESS YOU’RE OBEDIENT TO HIS WORD? Do we have that much love for our Heavenly Father that we can come to perfection through keeping His Word? Our love for Yahweh will come to perfection when we try to obey Him in all things.

Now, that isn’t saying you can be saved by keeping the commandments. By grace we’re saved, because Yahweh saw us in a sinful condition

and extended the olive branch of peace to us and the sacrifice to call us back to Him if we repent. Notice verse 6 of 1 John 2. ***“...He that says he remains in him ought himself also to walk even as he walked.”*** “Here is the test by which we can make sure that we are in him: whoever claims to be dwelling in him, binds himself to live as the Messiah himself lived.”

Yahshua is our example. We are bound by the Word of Yahweh to live as the Messiah did. When you read the next two verses, it says that there aren’t any new commandments, but it’s the word that was heard from the beginning. The new commandment is that the light has shined in darkness, and we had better believe it.

You read in 1 John 2:7-9, ***“Beloved, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you had from the beginning: the old commandment is the word which you heard. Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in him and in you; because the darkness is passing away, and the true light already shines. He that says he is in the light and hates his brother, is in the darkness even until now.”***

You know, that’s a tremendously potent thought. If we say we’re in the light, then we’re obligated to love our brethren. If we are in the Truth and we are hating our brethren, we cannot be the children of Yahweh. Yahshua said we can’t hate our brethren. Let’s look a little further. ***“He that loves his brother remains in the light, and there is no occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hates his brother is in the darkness, and walks in the darkness, and knows not where he goes, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.”*** (1 John 2:10-11). And you know what happens when you walk around in the darkness—you will eventually leave the narrow pathway.

I remember one fall I was upstate deer hunting, and, all of a sudden,

a blizzard hit. I was in the woods, looking for this deer that I was tracking through the snow. I was walking along, and, all of a sudden, there was nothing but white all in front of me, and, so, the only thing that I could do for fear of walking around in circles was just wait until the wind and snow stopped. But how many people never wait and stop?

I remember my great uncle—who was at one time the president of the Ministerial Board of Eastern Pennsylvania—talk about some of the ch-rches he would have to go into to straighten out problems. He said he was shocked that in one of the ch-rches he went into a council meeting, and he said they were standing up, shaking fists at each other, screaming, and shouting in anger at each other. He finally took the floor and said, “Listen, you can’t act like this. If somebody acts like that, then they have to leave, because we can’t have anything like that here.”

But do we hate our brethren? In the third chapter, verse 1, ***“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of Elohim; and we are. For this cause the world knows us not, because it knew him not.”*** (1 John 3:1). I’d like to ask you this question: If Yahweh is your Father, are you expressing the kind of love and affection for the brethren that He would express? If Yahshua walked in here in disguise, would you express love for Him if you didn’t know Him?

You know in Hebrews, the 13th chapter, we read we’re always to entertain strangers, because we don’t know when we’ll entertain an angel unawares. You know that you might be entertaining an angel. Who knows when Yahweh is testing you and a stranger comes walking up to you. It could be an angel manifested in bodily form, a messenger from Yahweh, checking up on you, like happened with Lot.

“...That we should be called children of Elohim; and we are. For this cause the world knows

us not, because it knew him not.” (1 John 3:1). That is a truism. 1 John 3:9 states, ***“Whoever is begotten of Yahweh does not practice sin, because his seed remains in him: and he may not practice sin, because he is begotten of Yahweh.”***

It is a very serious thing to leave the keeping of the commandments of Yahweh. The distinction between the children of Yahweh and the children of the Devil is in the keeping of Yahweh’s commandments. That’s the test! That’s the test of fellowship in the Assemblies of Yahweh, but that’s exactly opposite of what you hear in ch-rches of nominal ch-rstianity, isn’t it?

Notice this: ***“In this the children of Yahweh are manifest, and the children of the devil: whoever does not righteousness is not of Yahweh, neither he that does not love his brother.”*** (1 John 3:10). If we do not love our brethren, then we are not Yahweh’s children. ***“For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another: not as Cain was of the evil one, and killed his brother. And why did he kill him? Because his works were evil, and his brother’s righteous. Marvel not, brethren, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He that loves not lives in death. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer....”*** (1 John 3:11-15a). Yahshua said you have to get to the root of the problem, and the root of murder is hate.

Have you ever seen someone hate another person? I remember someone describing a fight he saw at work one time—two men fighting over a woman. They fought through the recreation room, down through the maintenance department, and in the maintenance department one of the men grabbed a ball peen hammer and had the other man under his arm and was on the verge of committing murder. He raised his hand to strike the top of the head of the other man and, just when

For now we
see in a mirror,
darkly;
but then
face to face:
now I know
in part; but then
shall I know
fully even as
also I was fully
known.

But now these
three live—

Faith,
hope
and love;

and the
greatest
of these is
LOVE.

he raised his hand, as Yahweh would will, the maintenance foreman was there and snatched the hammer out of his hand. Well, he came down with his fist on top of the other man's head, instead and they finally parted the two. He hated the other man for interfering with his relationship with this woman. That's carnality. That's worldliness. Such worldliness has no place in the Assemblies of Yahweh.

The root of murder is hate. A murderer doesn't go up to someone with a gun, say, "I love you, brother," and then shoot him. It's impossible, because you respect his life. You should love his life. Love is respect for the other person's rights. ***"By this we know love, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."*** (1 John 3:16).

The Assemblies of Yahweh could grow very rapidly if we would all uphold each other. Instead of condemning someone if someone does wrong, we should first of all go somewhere to a secret closet and pray for our brothers. If we learn to pray for our brethren, first of all, if we see them having a fault, Yahweh, with his Holy Spirit, will move on that person, and there will be a change. Prayer changes things, and it will change the life of another individual. You'd be surprised how often that happens, though. Prayer changes things, and prayer will change the life of another person.

Let's look at 1 John 3:18. ***"My little children, let us not love in word...."*** You can say you love somebody; you can say you have faith, like James [Jacob] said. ***"My little children, let us not love in word, neither with the tongue; but in deed and truth. By this shall we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our heart before him: because if our heart condemn us, Elohim is greater***

than our heart, and knows all things." (1 John 3:18-20). Love must express itself in action.

In 1 John 4:7-8, we read, ***"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of Yahweh; and everyone that loves is begotten of Yahweh, and knows Yahweh. He that loves not knows not Yahweh; for Yahweh is love."*** Brethren and sisters, if we wish to ever be the family of Yahweh, we must have the characteristics of the heavenly, and that is Holy Spirit-begotten love.

The distinction between the children of Yahweh and the children of the Devil is in the keeping of Yahweh's commandments. That's the test!

"For Yahweh is love." Really? Marcion said that there was a difference between the Yahweh of the Old Testament and the Mighty One of the New Testament. The Old Testament Mighty One was bloodthirsty, hateful, and vengeful, he believed. How could a Mighty One of love ever order His armies to destroy various tribes of people, or nations of people, as He did in Deuteronomy 7? That's a good question, but you know that love has concern for his own? Yahweh didn't want those people contaminated with false doctrine. He didn't want them contaminated with hate. He didn't want them to be contaminated with false worship, false religion. ***"Yahweh is love."***

"In this was the love of Yahweh manifested in us, that Yahweh has sent his only begotten Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love not that we loved Yahweh, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if Yahweh so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No man has beheld Yahweh at any time...." (1 John 4:9-12a). How

can we see Yahweh? You can see Yahweh in action. Yahweh, Himself, dwells in us if we love one another, and His love is brought to perfection within us. The same thing is found again in verse 16b: ***"Yahweh is love; and he that lives in love lives in Yahweh, and Yahweh lives in him."***

Let's look at another one in the 5th chapter of this same book, ***"Whoever believes that Yahshua is the Messiah is begotten of Yahweh: and whoever loves him that***

begat loves him also that is begotten of him." (1 John 5:1). Can't we show love to our brethren and, thus, show love for Yahweh? That's what John means. ***"Whoever believes that Yahshua is the Messiah is begotten of Yahweh: and***

whoever loves him that begat loves him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of Elohim, when we love Yahweh and do his commandments. For this is the love of Yahweh, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. For whatever is begotten of Yahweh overcomes the world: and this is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith." (1 John 5:1-4). Oh, but they say, "The commandments of Yahweh are a burden. They're a yoke of bondage, and they're hateful," and all the other things that can be attached in a very derogatory manner to keeping Yahweh's commandments. John says that's wrong. IF WE LOVE YAHWEH, WE'LL WISH TO KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS AND WISH TO BE OBEDIENT.

In closing, I'd like to make use of just a few scriptures. I wish we would put them down so that you can review them daily. In 1 Timothy 1:5, ***"But the end of the charge is love out of a pure heart and a good conscience and faith unfeigned...."*** Love—unfeigned,

un-pretended. Oh, you can pretend you have love, but when it comes down to it—and proven—do we have it? But this doesn't say it ends the commandment; notice that. The end of the commandment, that to which the commandments of Yahweh leads us, is *agape*, out of a pure heart and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned. In case you think the Law was something bad, ***“But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully...”*** (1 Timothy 1:8).

In 1 Peter 4:8, *agape, spontaneous love*, will cover the multitude of sins, ***“above all things being fervent in your love among yourselves; for love covers a multitude of sins....”*** Romans 13:8, ***“Owe no man anything, save to love one another: for he that loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.”*** The Law of Yahweh is a principle for living. THOSE COMMANDMENTS SHOW US HOW WE SHALL LOVE YAHWEH AND HOW WE SHALL LOVE OUR FELLOW MEN. ***“for he that loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. For this, [now he enumerates them] You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet, and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this word, namely, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love works no ill to his neighbor: love therefore is the fulfillment of the law.”*** (Romans 13:8b-10).

How can you fulfill Yahweh's Law? To show love for your neighbor, for your fellow man, especially those of the household of faith, Galatians 6:2. If you forget any other scripture in the Bible, don't forget this one, ***“Bear you one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of the Messiah.”*** (Galatians 6:2). Love is the fulfilling of the Law.

A lot of people are familiar with Matthew 22 but let's just go over it again. Matthew 22:35-38, ***“And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, trying him: Teacher, which is the great command-***

ment in the law? And he said to him, You shall love Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.” Verse 38 summarizes the first five commandments (part of the first five anyway). Love for Yahweh summarizes the first part of His Law. How do we love Yahweh, by doing away with His Name? By bringing a reproach on His Name, or by misusing it? If we were to misuse our Heavenly Father's Name, we would be violating the third commandment, and that is very serious.

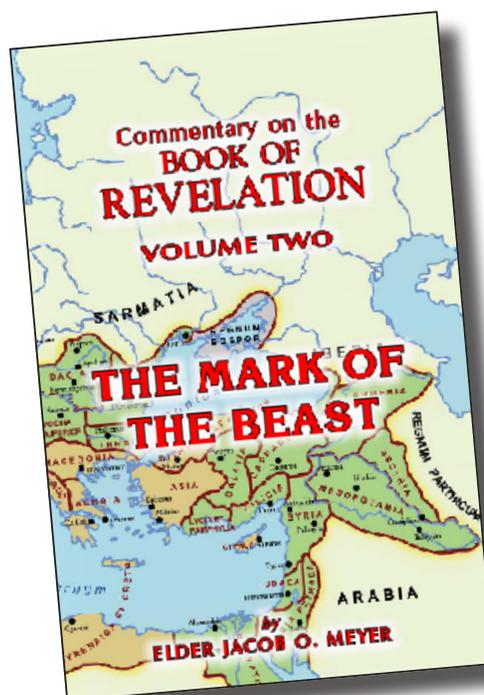
“And a second like unto it is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments the whole law hangs, and the prophets.” (Matthew

22:39-40). Oh yes, the Bible teaches the keeping of the commandments. ***“...If you would enter into life, keep the commandments.”*** (Matthew 19:17b). That love is specified, it's outlined, and it is written down how we shall not encroach upon the rights of our brethren and upon the rights of Yahweh.

Yahweh left nothing to chance. He gave us His commandments, and His commandments are love out of a pure heart—unpretended. When the Holy Spirit comes into our lives, that love will become manifest, and it will be obvious to all of us, to our brethren, to the outside world—especially because there is a change. SNB

Commentary on the Book of Revelation Volume Two

THE MARK OF THE BEAST



The second volume of the **Commentary on the Book of Revelation** series by Elder Jacob O. Meyer is now available.

This volume comprises volume two of an anticipated four- or five-volume **Commentary on the Book of Revelation**. It contains 90 pages of excellent Bible study research.

You may write or telephone the Assemblies of Yahweh office to receive more information on how you can purchase a copy of this book.

ASSEMBLIES OF YAHWEH
PO Box C, Bethel, PA 19507
(717) 933-4518
www.assembliesofyahweh.com

PROPHETIC TRENDS



today's news in prophecy

LAWLESSNESS MULTIPLIED

*“The term **beast** can imply both a king or kingdom in Bible prophecy. From such passages as 2 Thessalonians 2 and Revelation 17:12-14 and 19:20, we must conclude that it is a **man** (a human) who will rule over a great empire at the end of the age. It is interesting that we should read in this passage of 2 Thessalonians 2:4, referring to the man of sin: ‘**He that opposes and exalts himself against all that is called Elohim or that is worshipped; so that he sits in the temple of Elohim, setting himself forth as Elohim.**’ It appears that the Apostle Paul sought to point us toward a view of the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes as a pattern from which to learn just how this end-time ruler will conduct himself. The name Antiochus means opponent. Just as the man of sin is said to oppose the True Elohim and exalt himself, so Antiochus opposed True Worship and served as a **type of the anti-Messiah.***

*“Please follow closely as we read the description of Antiochus Epiphanes found in Daniel 11:36-39. ‘**And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every El, and shall speak marvelous things against the El of elohim; and he shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished; for that which is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the elohim of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any Eloah; for he shall magnify himself above all. But in his place shall he honor the***

Eloah of fortresses; and an Eloah whom his fathers knew not shall he honor with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. And he shall deal with the strongest fortresses by the help of a foreign Eloah: whoever acknowledges him he will increase with glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for a price.’

“Did you notice how perfectly this passage corresponds with 2 Thessalonians 2? This end-time Beast government will apparently be ruled by a Roman emperor type of individual. He will be assisted by a false prophet, who will seek to combine, once more, the offices of religion and government, but not in harmony with Yahweh’s Word. If you recall, in ancient Rome the emperors were worshiped as mighty ones. In all public places, altars were erected on which incense was offered by those who attended various public functions such as sporting events, the theater, etc. It may surprise some to learn that the Roman emperors were known by such terms as the Supreme Pontiff and Pope. These titles (perhaps even derived from ancient Egypt) were eventually transferred to the religious leader who made his headquarters in Rome. Once more, in these end times, worship will be offered to a human individual as it was in ancient days.

“Just as in the days of Antiochus Epiphanes, a great religious persecution is forecast to follow immediately on the heels of the ascension to power of this man who is known as the

Beast. If you have ever read the apocryphal books of Maccabees, you will understand how, in this era of history, the Jews were forced by government law to disobey the Laws of the Scriptures, or die for their convictions. Thousands died rather than apostatize from their Faith, which had carried them through so many centuries prior to this time.

*“We hope that you noticed, also, the last clause of Daniel 11:39 which says, ‘**and shall divide the land for a price.**’ This description indicates that this man, who will rule over the enormous Beast empire, will be a man who relies upon the taxation of the multitudes. If you believe that we have been burdened by an excessive taxload at present, you haven’t seen anything yet! In our country, the United States, you are witnessing a tax burden being imposed which has grown greater in volume than any since the days of ancient Rome. What bothers so many thinking people is the inequity of our modern taxation system and the disbursement of the funds which become available. Today, we observe an enormous, skyrocketing increase in entitlements. For instance, in New York City about one out of every eight people is collecting welfare payments. This figure has not yet leveled off, but is increasing constantly. This condition is not an isolated instance, but you may be seeing the same situation existing in your very own city. Plain, honest, hard work, manual labor, if you please, is ridiculed as being contemptible.*

“Knowing that an era of taxa-

tion beyond all current anticipation awaits us, we may then understand the passage of Scripture in Revelation 14:11. **'And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; and they have no rest day and night, they that worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.'** In our time, it has become popular to find a moonlight (second) job. Few families are actually able to maintain a sound fiscal balance without either the wife working or the husband holding down two jobs. We have heard it stated that a nation has the right to tax a person 100 percent of his earnings, meaning, of course, that **a nation may make slaves of its subjects!**

"This end-time Beast system will accept concepts such as these, as it forces the people to work increasingly longer hours and for less take-home pay to finance the ambitious public projects which the ruler will propose. This direction will almost exactly duplicate the incident of Pharaoh in Egypt as he tried to force Israel into greater productivity with each passing week, even to the point of MAKING BRICKS WITHOUT STRAW. Once more, a cry of desperation will rise from the lips of the oppressed people, directed toward Almighty Yahweh, the Heavenly Father, to bring them out of such abject bondage into which they have fallen.

"This Beast ruler will finally become so driven by his lust after material wealth that he will turn against organized religion, even the religion which has aided him to become the ruler over this vast empire. You may read about this development in Revelation 17:16-17. There is an enormous amount of wealth today being held by some groups of organized religion! They have succeeded in building huge financial empires by entering the business world while neglecting their assignment from our Savior, fulfilling the Great Commission as found in Matthew 28:19-20.

"One can find nothing in this passage which directed the disciples to purchase businesses, buy stocks and bonds, or operate banks. Rather,

they were commanded to preach the glad tidings of salvation to all of the whole world.

"In order to learn how this man of sin will direct worship toward himself, please pay close attention as we read Revelation 13:6-8. We find there, **'And he opened his mouth for blasphemies against Yahweh, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, even them that dwell in the heaven. And it was given to him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and there was given to him authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation. And all that dwell on the earth shall worship him, every one whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that has been killed.'**

"What a horrible shame, a sad commentary on our times, that a man should presume to elevate himself above the status of our Heavenly Father! Nevertheless, isn't that exactly what the churches of this world are saying and doing today when the ministers preach a doctrine which proclaims that the Almighty has died? Is this not the destination to which the new morality leads, as it suggests that there are no absolutes in our modern time, and that man can do exactly as he, himself, sees fit.

"This man of sin will not hesitate to malign the wonderful Name of our Heavenly Father, just as did Pharaoh in Egypt in the book of Exodus. Please see Exodus 5:2. He will believe the popular modern teaching that there is no Almighty, or that we may invent one to suit ourselves as we see fit. Just as Almighty Yahweh had to pronounce judgment upon all of the false mighty ones of Egypt, and upon their king who insisted on worshipping them, so Almighty Yahweh will judge the false mighty ones that are worshiped today, those to which the man of sin will subscribe.

"Who is Yahweh that I should obey Him?" asks Pharaoh. "I know not Yahweh!" was his declaration that he did not fear Yahweh, the True Mighty One of heaven (Exodus 5:2). In exactly the same manner,

this Beast ruler will blaspheme the Name of the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. The severe plagues, described in Revelation 16, will be necessary to restore the worship of Yahweh upon this earth. This world today is filled with a spirit of bewilderment and fear. As at no other time in history, we notice how fear rules in almost every aspect of society, from national foreign policy down to making our personal plans for the coming weekend. Fear of the future has produced the current wave bent on searching unknown realms for answers to our problems, while neglecting absolutes found in the sacred Scriptures which were already proven to be sound." (Elder Jacob O. Meyer, **The Mark of the Beast**, pages 23-26).

"The Apostle Paul tells the Thessalonian brethren that, prior to the Second Coming of our Savior, a most remarkable change would occur in the attitudes of the people of the world. There would occur a falling away of great magnitude! The Greek word employed here in the text for falling away is **apostasia** (#646 in the **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible** lexicon), and it means a **DEFLECTION FROM TRUTH**.

"If we have ever witnessed a defection from the Truth of the sacred Scriptures, surely we may observe this taking place today. Just as certainly as I am speaking to you now, we are witnessing a decline in moral values and a rejection of reliance upon the sacred Scriptures to serve as our exclusive spiritual guide. The morality of the sacred Scriptures is spurned in favor of the new morality, wherein everyone decides for himself what is right.

"This defection from Truth will occur until a great majority of people today actually declare that religion holds very little influence over their lives.

"If I may be so bold, I would like to venture a question at this point. Why, then, attend worship services in the first place? Why sit through an hour long service and waste that amount of time? Why give any more contributions toward the propaga-

tion of religion? But, usually, people seem to feel that something along the line of religion must be maintained, although it may be only an empty show with little actual experience, or simply a crutch to aid one through a time of crisis. This fulfills the prophecy of 2 Timothy 3:5. **'Holding a form of righteousness, but having denied the power of it: from these also turn away.'**

"Don't you know that your children recognize the hypocrisy when you maintain only a show of religion while living contrary to the concepts which are taught in the Bible? Perhaps this is one of the primary reasons that this younger generation is engaged in such a violent revolution as it attempts to tear down the norms of society. If you are as disturbed as I am when viewing the downward slide of contemporary religion, we may find consolation in the fact that this departure from Truth has been predicted to occur IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO OUR SAVIOR'S RETURN.

"As a matter of fact, such a falling away is necessary so that the man of sin can be revealed. This man of sin is commonly known as the "anti-Messiah" or "anti-Chr-st." Here, I would like to interject the definition of the word sin and read again the last part of 2 Thessalonians 2:3, '... and the man of sin [transgression of the law] be revealed, the son of perdition [destruction].' Now we may behold a very ominous picture of this anti-Messiah figure. This man will be an advocate of lawlessness, one who advocates law breaking or transgression of the law (doing just as one pleases)! Can you understand now just where this youth rebellion is leading? When an individual contends that he need only obey laws which he, himself, believes are just and finds no obligation to obey all of the laws of the land, then we have reached the state of anarchy and lawlessness which is exactly described by Paul." (The Mark of the Beast, pages 63-64).

Reaping the Whirlwind

"How long, you simple ones,

will you love simplicity? And scoffers delight them in scoffing, And fools hate knowledge? Turn you at my reproof; Behold, I will pour out my spirit upon you; I will make known my words to you. Because I have called, and you have refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man has regarded; But you have rejected all my counsel, and would none of my reproof; I also will laugh in the day of your calamity; I will mock when your fear comes; When your fear comes as a storm, and your calamity comes on as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish come upon you. Then will they call upon me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of Yahweh. They would none of my counsel; They despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, And be filled with their own devices." (Proverbs 1:22-31).

As society descends into the depths of confusion, so few people can discern the signs of the times that we are reaping what we have sown as a society for the past decades. In the past 50 years, lawlessness has abounded, and we are reaping the fruits of this rejection of Yahweh's Laws. Now we find ourselves in a narcissistic generation that is so self-absorbed with their own lives that they arrogantly display their sins on social media. This self-centered generation is now assuming the reins of control over society. This is not a generation that is merciful; they will rather send out death threats over the Internet for a perceived infraction, or if they feel slighted in any way.

"There is a generation that curses their father, and bless not their mother. There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet are not washed from their filthiness. There is a generation, oh how lofty are

their eyes! And their eyelids are lifted up. There is a generation whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men." (Proverbs 30:11-14).

Because this generation has cast off the Covenant Law of Almighty Yahweh, wickedness abounds. Safety is lacking and crime rampant. Although government statistics claim that crime is abating, the news reports each day confirm that we are living in a time of great political unrest and lawlessness. The transgression of Yahweh's Law is flaunted by its proponents without the tinge of shame. Terrorist acts are occurring on a daily basis around the world, and few world leaders acknowledge it. Yahweh has promised to visit the iniquity of those who hate Him and His righteous commandments.

Yahshua the Messiah warned us in His Olivet prophecy that lawlessness will abound in the end of the age and that the love of the populace would grow cold. Elder Jacob O. Meyer (OBM) has laid the blame for this lawlessness on the religious leaders of this age, who have been teaching a no-law doctrine for decades, each generation accepting sins that previous generations would not tolerate. Yet who cries out against the evil? Very few speak up and condemn the wicked deeds that are being done. Instead, they justify the wicked and condemn the righteous who are trying to keep Yahweh's Law. Yet, we must cry out loud against the wickedness of this age, warning that Yahweh's judgments are soon to fall and that all must repent so that we do not receive of His plagues.

Terror Abounds

Recent years have seen terrorist attacks with increasing ferocity. On June 12, 2016, a terrorist killed 49 people in a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, in the name of his mighty one. We have seen shooting incidences, knife attacks, ax attacks, the use of a truck driven down a crowded

street and over fleeing pedestrians, car bombs, homicide bombers—the list continues with no end in sight, it seems. All of these things are the beginning of travail. The end is not yet, but it draws near with each passing day.

Flee Babylon

We live in a time of great confusion, and society is being dismantled before our very eyes. Scientists have created part-human, part-pig, embryos in an effort to grow human organs inside pigs. Researchers at the University of California, Davis, believe that hybrid embryos could provide them with a method of growing human organs in the absence of organ donors.

The first right-to-die clinic opens in California after a recent law permitting physician-assisted suicide officially went into effect. For \$2,000, terminally ill Californians can now pay a doctor to help them commit suicide. While in Belgium, judges have ordered a nursing home to pay a fine and damages to a family for refusing to allow a fatal injection for a patient. A patient at a Catholic facility agreed to euthanasia with their doctor; however, the nursing home officials refused to allow the procedure, so the woman instead was moved to a private address to die. But, in a bizarre twist, the court decision sanctioned the nursing home for preserving life!

In a recent test, food analysis samples found 4.3 percent of the samples of burger contained traces of pathogenic DNA. Rat DNA was found in three products, and human DNA was discovered in one frozen vegetarian burger. Did you know that human and rat DNA are commonly found in foods today? The FDA even has allowable limits for rat droppings in certain food ingredients! More than 6 percent of the samples contained beef, chicken, turkey, and pork in burgers that were not supposed to contain those ingredients! This is caused by grinding chicken, turkey, or beef in a grinder that was used previously to grind pork products. To avoid

this, it is strongly suggested that one purchase only kosher-certified products to eliminate this cross-contamination.

Beast Emerges

Following the vote in the UK to exit the EU, the European Union has indicated that they wish to expand their influence—especially militarily. Recent plans reveal how the EU wants autonomy of defense and security matters such as the gradual synchronization and mutual adaptation of national defence planning. Several European politicians have voiced support for the creation of an EU army, and a recent strategy document suggests that Brussels is pushing ahead with plans for further integration on defense. Could the impending collapse of world economies push Europe into a new superstate? Following the Brexit vote (for the United Kingdom to leave the EU) European press was ablaze with stories of plans by the EU to create a European superstate, where the nations will lose their right to have their own army, criminal law, taxation system, or central bank.

Avoid the Beast

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

‘Now is come the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our Elohim, and the authority of his Messiah: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down,

***who accuses them before our Elohim day and night.’** (Revelation 12:9-10).*

*“These signs and lying wonders will be advocating disobedience to Yahweh’s Law. Of course, you are aware of the scriptural definition of sin which is found in 1 John 3:4, **‘Everyone that commits sin also transgresses the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.’** Some translations render this passage as “sin is lawlessness.” To gain the full impact of the term sin when reading the text, use the definition of 1 John 3:4.*

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

*“The only avenue of escape, if you hope to be numbered with the elect of Yahweh, is for you to live closely by the instructions of His Word. Matthew 24:24 states that if it were possible, even the very elect should be deceived, but it is impossible for Yahweh’s people to be deceived, since they are living in humble obedience to His Truth. We trust that you will give all diligence to make your calling and election sure so that you may be accorded an entrance into the Kingdom of Yahweh. You may receive protection in these last days if you fulfill Revelation 3:10. **‘Because you did keep the word of my patience, I will also keep you from the hour of trial, that hour which is to come upon the whole world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.’**” (The Mark of the Beast, pages 72-73). ^{SNB}*

THE *Breastplate* OF JUDGMENT AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

PART EIGHT

This article is Part 8 of a series of sermons preached by Elder Jacob O. Meyer in the Bethel Assembly.

“Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which Yahweh Elohim had made. And he said unto the woman, Has Elohim said, You shall not eat of any tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the Serpent, Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, Elohim said, You shall not eat it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die. And the serpent said unto the woman, You shall not surely die: for Elohim knows that in the day you eat of it, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as Elohim, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit of it, and did eat; and she gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig-leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of Yahweh Elohim walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and the man

and his wife hid themselves from the presence of Yahweh Elohim among the trees of the garden.

“And Yahweh Elohim called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where are you? And he said, I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree, of which I commanded you that you should not eat? And the man said, The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And Yahweh Elohim said unto the woman, What is this that you have done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And Yahweh Elohim said unto the serpent, Because you have done this, cursed are you above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon your belly shall you go, and dust shall you eat all the days of your life: and I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed: he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel. Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply your pain and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; and your desire shall be to your husband, and he shall rule over you.

And unto Adam he said, Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree, of which I commanded you, saying, You shall not eat of it: cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil shall you eat of it all the days of your life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to you; and you shall eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of your face shall you eat bread, till you return unto the ground; for out of it were you taken: for dust you are, and unto dust shall you return. And the man called his wife’s name Eve; because she was the mother of all living. And Yahweh Elohim made for Adam and for his wife coats of skins, and clothed them.

“And Yahweh Elohim said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: therefore Yahweh Elohim sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from where he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden the Cherubim, and a flame of a sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”
(Genesis 3:1-24).

Having realized that this series

of sermons could not be ended with the seventh segment, I departed for my Asian journey in early January with the subject continually on my mind. To show how Yahweh works, and His Holy Spirit deals with us, I had taken some good sermon material with me to the Far East. However, upon my arrival in the Philippines, while in a discussion with several people, a message suddenly seemed to come together in my mind. I used this material for the first sermon in Cagayan de Oro City, Mindanao, Philippines. My colleagues in the Philippines remarked to me how much they appreciated the sermon and how much such teaching needed to be preached throughout the Philippines on this subject.

Therefore, I spoke on this subject throughout Asia in the various locations that I visited. During these sermons, I would continually refer to the subject of the breastplate. Since the people of Asia had not yet heard this series of messages, they were very excited about the message I was preaching, and I received many questions from the brethren and visitors to the meetings throughout Asia, hungry to learn more on this enlightening subject.

A very striking account is taught to us in Ezekiel 28, related to the breastplate; consequently, before moving along, I would like to review Ezekiel chapter 28. This passage is directed toward the king of Tyre, who (we must emphasize) was never in the garden of Eden. The king of Tyre was a Canaanite monarch living in the Canaanite territory located to the north of Israel. We must conclude that this prophecy of Ezekiel 28 is directed toward the ultimate controlling power standing behind the throne of this idolatrous Canaanite kingdom. Known also as Lebanon, Tyre, and Sidon, they were very influential in the politics and trade of the ancient Middle East, even reaching to the western hemisphere. This prophetic lamentation is directed toward the power behind the king of Tyre.



“Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, In this manner says the Sovereign Yahweh: You sealed up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.” (Ezekiel 28:12).

One Sunday afternoon while in the Philippines, I went fairly early to the hotel in which I was staying. It was while the Pope was visiting in the Philippines. Sunday morning the media had videotaped his big mass in Rizal Park. It was then replayed on Philippine television in late afternoon, and I was able to watch some of it. His sermon illustrated Ezekiel 28:12. His theme was “As My Father Has Sent Me, So Send I You,” which is scriptural from the evangel of John (John 20:21, 17:18). But then he would add statements like, “with the power of the Trinity,” admixing the twist of false doctrine to biblical truth. Throughout his message, he would say something true, quoting a verse (or part of a verse) out of the Bible and then twist it by adding statements containing false doctrine. He would use unscriptural expressions and ideas, or explain away the text he had just read. The people think he has great wisdom, but they do not check the scriptural quotes.

The power behind the throne of the governments and popular religions of this worldly system of Babylon is one in confusion, and it creates confusion. This comes through very clearly in this passage in Ezekiel. But the people

imagine him to be full of wisdom and perfect in beauty, just like that papal entourage that appeared on Philippine television.

Verse 13a reads, ***“You were in Eden, the garden of Elohim; every precious stone was your covering....”*** As I pointed out before, Satan had access to EVERY STONE in the breastplate. EVERY precious stone was his covering. He had access to every one of those stones. Then the rest of the verse lists the stones, ***“...the sardius, the topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold....”*** All of these stones are included in the composition of the breastplate.

I would like to point out something that should be obvious to the Bible student. The lists of precious stones found in passages throughout the Bible are significant and should be compared. The list in Exodus chapter 28 reads, ***“And you shall set in it settings of stones, four rows of stones: a row of sardius, topaz, and carbuncle shall be the first row; and the second row an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond; and the third row a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; and the fourth row a beryl, and an onyx, and a jasper: they shall be enclosed in gold in their settings.”*** (Exodus 28:17-20).

Each one of the Israelite tribes was represented on the breastplate and symbolized by one of the stones.

The number of the tribes is 12. The breastplate included 12 representative stones according to the time of birth of the 12 sons of Jacob (Israel). Ezekiel chapter 28 reads, **“...the sardius, the topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold...”** (Ezekiel 28:13). Three stones are missing from the list, as I pointed out in the last segment. Those three stones that are missing are the ones that represent the tribes of Gad, Asher, and Isaachar.

The name *Gad* in Hebrew means *fortune or troop*, listed as #1410 in the Hebrew dictionary of **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible**, from #1464, *gud*, it means *to crowd upon, i.e. attack*. It is akin to #1413, which is the double ayin root *gadad* meaning *to crowd; also to gash (as if by pressing into)*. Satan wants to press against (or oppress) True Worship with persecution. He even hopes to take a slice out of Yahweh! He has accomplished much of his evil scheme, I would say. Today, very few people are worshipers of Yahweh, most heed the false doctrines of the Adversary.

The second missing tribe is *Asher* and this name means *happy*, #836, from #833, which means *to be straight*. Satan is not straight. He is crooked. He is the serpent who leaves a crooked trail. Turn to Proverbs 2:12-15. The definition continues—*(used in the widest sense, espec. to be level, right, happy); fig. to go forward, be honest, prosper*. As I pointed out in the last segment, the reason why Satan determined to delete this stone is because it condemns him—he is not straight, he is not right, he is not level. He will not level with you. He wants to take you backward, away from the Kingdom of Yahweh. He is not honest. He does not want you to prosper in the knowledge of the Truth of Almighty Yahweh.

The other tribe omitted is *Issa-*

char, which is represented by the amethyst. In **Strong’s Concordance**, it appears as #3485, from #5375, and the term means *he will bring a reward*. What reward will Yahweh give you? Also #7939, which forms a part of this root of the term *Issachar*, means *payment of contract; concr. salary, fare, maintenance; by impl. compensation, benefit*. How does Yahweh intend to compensate you for your faithfulness? He wants to adopt you into His very own Elohim family, whose Name is Yahweh. He wants to bring you into His glorious new Kingdom age. Satan is promising something he cannot deliver when he says to Adam and Eve, *“You shall not surely die.”* Adam and Eve died! We do not find anywhere in the Scriptures that they repented. Perhaps they did—I hope they did.

Satan had access to every stone of the breastplate, and those stones represent something. However, he rejected a quarter of them. Ezekiel 28 mentions only nine stones. The number nine constitutes the finality of judgment. There is something additional that I want you to notice. The stones in this list that Satan (who is the worldly power behind the throne of the king of Tyre) had access to are rearranged from their original order. These nine stones are not all arranged the way Yahweh arranged them in Exodus chapters 28 and 39.

The stones in Exodus 28 and 39 are arranged according to the birth of the tribes, which are Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Isaachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin. Remember the number 12 symbolizes good government in the Scriptures. Yahweh is not the author of confusion (Babylon—I Corinthians 14:33), but he is a Mighty One of *shalom*, which means *completeness and order—peace*.

What then can we determine from this information? The answer is

that Satan determines to rearrange the Scriptures the way he wants to interpret them. Daniel 6:8 and 12 states that the law of the Medes and the Persians could not be altered. That fact impressed me! I put a little note in the margin in my Bible, saying *“But what about Yahweh’s Law?”* If the law of a human ruler cannot be changed or altered, then why do worldly people think Yahweh’s Law can be changed, or altered, or even rejected?

The Scripture says, **“For I, Yahweh, change not...”** (Malachi 3:6). Yahweh makes these scriptural decisions. He selected the stones to represent the tribes and every one has a significance. Satan the Devil only accepts three-quarters of what the Bible teaches and, sometimes, even less than that! He also scrambles and rearranges everything so that it is all in confusion so the average person cannot understand the Biblical message. We should understand that Satan the Adversary—not Yahweh—is the author of Babylon (confusion). Satan is guilty of a selective acceptance of what the Bible teaches. He only accepts what he himself wants to believe. This also appears to be one of the characteristics of popular contemporary ch-rchianity.

Let us turn to Job chapter 28, and we will read beginning with verse 12, **“But where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?”** Man knows not the price of understanding, because he is always following the teaching and the suggestions of the Adversary. Understanding cannot be found here on earth. Where is it found then?

“The deep says, It is not in me; and the sea says, It is not with me. It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price of it. It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire.” (Job 28:14-16).

Precious metal cannot buy us

How does Yahweh intend to compensate you for your faithfulness? He wants to adopt you into His very own Elohim family, whose Name is Yahweh. He wants to bring you into His glorious new Kingdom age.

the wisdom that we need. However, Job's references to the precious metals remind us of the value of sound doctrines of the word that can be applied to assist us in acquiring wisdom. Remember Job 28:6, "***The stones of it are the place of sapphires, and it has dust of gold.***"

The passage continues to declare "***Gold and glass cannot equal it, neither shall it be exchanged for jewels of fine gold. No mention shall be made of coral or of crystal: Yes, the price of wisdom is above rubies. The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold. From where then comes wisdom? And where is the place of understanding? Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept close from the birds of the heavens. Destruction and Death say, We have heard a rumor of it with our ears. Elohim understands the way of it, and he knows the place of it.***" (Job 28:17-23).

Drop down to verse 28, where we are clearly informed, "***And to man he said, Behold, the fear of Yahweh, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.***" Today, more than ever before, the world seeks ways to cast off the instructions of the Sacred Scriptures. The world wants to cast off the knowledge of the Holy One. Worldly people do not want to accept Yahweh in their knowledge, but that is where the fear of Yahweh is and that is the concept that the breastplate symbolizes.

Why does man think he must change or correct to his own inclinations the wisdom of Yahweh's Word? Here in this passage, we are

clearly told where wisdom can be found. Yet, like Satan the Adversary, unconverted mankind only accepts a portion of it, and, then, even that small portion is scrambled and confused like Babylon.

Isaiah chapter 54 comprises a Scripture very dear to my heart. Read verses 11 and 12. "***O you afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will set your stones in fair colors, and lay your foundations with sapphires. And I will make your pinnacles of rubies, and your gates of carbuncles, and all your border of precious stones.***" (Isaiah 54:11-12). These are all stones that are found included in the breastplate. I have tried to show that we must accept the teaching of every one of the precious stones included in the breastplate, and we must accept them in their originally stated order. The names of the tribes of Israel are significant to our understanding of the plan of salvation. These precious stones that represent the Israelite tribes are of great significance, because Yahweh has specified them to be included in the High Priest's attire.

"***And all your children shall be taught of Yahweh; and great shall be the peace of your children.***" (Isaiah 54:13). This statement is most important! Not only are we to teach our children Yahweh's Word at home (and it is important that we do this), but, furthermore, we must correct them with the Word. The Bible constitutes our standard of living. The holy Scripture provides the standards to guide our life. It contains the principles each individual must measure up to. Each individual member of the Assemblies

of Yahweh strives to live by every word (Matthew 4:4). We adhere to the Covenant—to the Word—and we do not scramble it, but we harmonize the biblical message from Genesis to Revelation.

The Pope is representative of the modern-day high priest of Baal. He reads out of a Bible, but what is he reading? He is reading pagan names. He preaches "the L-rd." See Hosea 2:16-17 (center-column references). When he is preaching from the Bible, he is scrambling the Bible and following the practices of worldly, idolatrous religion. He only accepts a part of the biblical message. Yet, the governments of the world are following him unquestioningly as he is riding upon the Beast (government) of this world.

I once asked an individual, "***Have I preached anything that does not come directly from the Bible?***" He replied, "***Well, no. You stay within the Bible at all times. However, I cannot understand how you come up with different doctrines than we do. We use the Bible too,***" replied this Christian individual. Then I said, "***What is the reason why the Assemblies of Yahweh is different? Someone is misinterpreting.***" YOU have to make that personal judgment concerning who is misinterpreting. Is it christianity, or the Assemblies of Yahweh? Why are we reading from the same Bible, seemingly, and yet, we find there different doctrine? The answer is that we, the members of the Assemblies of Yahweh, do not scramble the Scriptures. We do not misinterpret the Bible. We do not select a minute portion and proof-text doctrines by it. We strive to live by EVERY word. We harmonize the Bible from Genesis to Revelation

and strive to live by its ordinances.

Your children will then be spiritually complete when they are taught of Yahweh. This is what we try to accomplish in Dalet School. We also teach and correct our children with the Word of Yahweh in the home.

“In righteousness shall you be established: you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you.” (Isaiah 54:14). This is what will happen when we follow Almighty Yahweh and His Word to the letter. He will protect His obedient children in times of trouble (as in the Great Tribulation). Yahweh will not need to judge us, for we judge ourselves. The breastplate represents judgment and righteousness.

In a recent Jewish publication appeared a discussion of the articles of High Priest’s garments. I shared a few of those Rabbinic thoughts with the family and those who had gathered at my home. I would like to share with you a few of those points in this segment because I think they are important.

What do the High Priest garments represent? ***“And bring you near to you Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister to me in the priest’s office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron’s sons.”*** (Exodus 28:1). Did you notice what we are reading? Aaron, the *kohen*, the High Priest, was to be set apart from among Israel. He has a significant duty to perform, that of leading Israel to worship Yahweh.

Consequently, the passage continues, ***“And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.”*** (Exodus 28:2). Glory and beauty are what the holy garments are meant to represent. That is what the breastplate—an article of the holy attire—is meant to portray. Israel

“In righteousness shall you be established: you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you.”

(ISAIAH 54:14)

This is what will happen when we follow Almighty Yahweh and His Word to the letter. He will protect His obedient children in times of trouble (as in the Great Tribulation). Yahweh will not need to judge us, for we judge ourselves. The breastplate represents judgment and righteousness.

could say of the dress and demeanor of the High Priest, “I am seeing a holy person. He is representing Yahweh to me.”

Now think of it. The members of the Assemblies of Yahweh are supposed to be a kingdom of priests. Do the people of this world see Yahweh in us? We should be representing Yahweh to the people around us.

The High Priest’s holy garments were to distinguish him from the average Israelites around him. This colorful attire was for glory and for beauty. I have previously pointed out this fact. *Glory*, #3919, is the Hebrew term *kavod* and it means *weight; but figuratively in a good sense, splendor or copiousness*. Do we understand Almighty Yahweh’s superb goodness, His splendor, His copiousness, so that we can present these characteristics to the world? This is what Almighty Yahweh intended to illustrate by the High Priest garments. These garments are holy, sanctified garments. They are meant for splendor, glory, and honor.

The word *beauty* is *tiphrah*,

#8597, from #6286, and it means *ornament (abstr. or concr., lit. or fig.): -beauty (-iful), bravery, comely, fair, glory (-ious), honour, majesty*. *Pa’ar* is #6286, a prime root meaning *to gleam, i.e. (causat.) embellish; fig. to boast; also to explain (i.e. make clear) oneself*.

Consequently, these garments are intended to convey two lessons. They are to give weight to Aaron’s position, a measure of special respect, and to also ornament him. You see he was elevated from the children of Israel and was intended to serve as their example.

How about us: are we faithfully emulating this priestly function? It is important that we are. We should not be like Satan the Adversary, who tries to gash (injure) Yahweh’s people, one who tries to diminish Yahweh’s Work. We should not be like Satan the Adversary, who is trying his best to undermine, limit, and falsify the Scriptures. Satan has done this evil task by removing the revealed, personal, the Sacred, Name of Yahweh, the Author of the Sacred Scriptures. He removed the

correct Hebrew Name for the Messiah. Even today he does not wish Yahweh's ministry to prosper. He interferes with Yahweh's plan of salvation. Can we now better understand the prophecy of Ezekiel 28 as we see that Satan is responsible for establishing the religions of this world which are in confusion? One of the reasons they are in confusion is that they do not accept the entire message of the Bible. They literally tear the Bible apart at the testaments. Most of them want to separate the Bible at the Law, refusing to keep it.

Imagine how horrified I was that someone in the Assemblies of Yahweh would make the statement, *"We do not need to keep the Sabbatical year. It is too hard on us. We do not need to do that."*

"Do you want to be like Satan?" I exclaimed. *"Do you want to be an adversary? Do you really want to accept only a portion of the Sacred Scriptures, the Bible?"* That clearly goes against what the Word says. Mankind is required to live by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh. (Deuteronomy 8:3, Matthew 4:4, and Luke 4:4).

The Assemblies of Yahweh **Statement of Doctrine**, point 1, reads, *"We affirm that in order to interpret the inspired Scriptures correctly, we must use the Old Testament as a basis for our faith. We must therefore interpret the New Testament through the teachings of the Old, recognizing complete harmony of the Word, thereby achieving sound doctrine, John 10:35."* We strongly affirm that we believe the entire Bible, that we accept it and harmonize it. That has always been my teaching from the moment that this ministry was inaugurated in 1966.

Let us not forget 2 Corinthians 2:11. This passage reads: ***"...that no advantage may be gained over us by Satan: for we are not ignorant of his devices."*** No, we have not forgotten, but now we understand much more accurately why

Ezekiel 28 appears in the Bible. We are not ignorant of Satan's devices. Satan only accepts a portion of the Sacred Scriptures. Then he distorts and confuses the remainder of it so that those people who follow His ideas cannot be saved.

Satan will not be saved, and he intends that you will never be saved, so he tries to accomplish what he did with Eve. He asks, "Did Yahweh really say that you cannot eat of the fruit of EVERY tree in the garden, from any and all trees in the garden? Did he really say that? Perhaps you misunderstood." Eve counters his disturbing question by replying, "Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, Elohim has said, You shall not eat it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die." There was only one tree that Yahweh reserved for Himself—the one in the middle of the garden.

The phrase "neither shall you touch it" may be something that was not recorded because the Scriptures do not have these words in Genesis chapter 2. Or, Eve may have added this interpretation. ***"And Yahweh Elohim took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And Yahweh Elohim commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of knowing the good and [knowing the] evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*** (Genesis 2:15-17). The phrase "knowing the" I duplicated, bringing along the ellipsis by inserting it in brackets in **The Sacred Scriptures, Bethel Edition**. However, the ellipsis is not written out in the Hebrew, but is clearly indicated by the context. The tree of knowing the good—Yahweh taught them the good. The tree was of knowing the evil—Yahweh does not want us to know the evil, so He taught us to obey the good at all times. He loves

His children and does not wish them to do evil, so that the penalty for sin must be executed.

Think back in your life. Are there things that you wish you could drive out of your memory? You must do so with the help of Yahweh's powerful Holy Spirit. Evil conduct was perhaps your practice. Drive it out with the Holy Spirit of Yahweh. You shall not know the evil. Do not continue to contemplate or practice it, and you will not have to overcome it. You shall not eat of it. This tree of knowing the good and knowing the evil, should you eat (know or practice) evil you shall surely die (for all eternity).

Yahweh says in Genesis 3:22, ***"And Yahweh Elohim said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever..."*** Yahweh is able to overcome the evil because He has achieved the spiritual power to do so. Characteristically, mankind is spiritually weak. Satan the Adversary intends that you should continue in weakness. He does not want you to become strong spiritually like Yahweh. Satan insults Yahweh when he says, ***"You shall not surely die: for Elohim knows that in the day you eat of it, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as Elohim, knowing good and evil."*** He blatantly implies that Eve will gain in knowledge if she eats from the forbidden fruit.

Satan attempts to influence man by enticing human ego. Man says, "I am going to be like Elohim if I eat from that tree." That idea comes from a Satanic source, because it rejects Yahweh's commandment. Yahweh showed Adam and Eve only the good, yet in their weakness (the stigma of the flesh), they also desired to know evil, and Satan sought to influence that weakness.

"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food,

and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise...." (Genesis 3:6a). Sadly, we occasionally hear people comment, "People who are worldly wise are smarter than we who try to keep our children separated from the evil in the world." They assert that experiencing sin makes a child better? How can this be true? We talk about people being "street wise" or "worldly wise"—wise in the ways of this world. That is what this passage describes.

The evil makes some people "smarter" in some ways. Yahshua said, **"...for the sons of this world are for their own generation wiser than the sons of the light."** (Luke 16:8b). Yes, this is true, but the converted people are ultimately proven to possess the true wisdom after all, and that will finally become plain in the Kingdom of Yahweh. When you do not know the evil, you will not need to drive it out of your mind. Too many people are spiritually weak and believe sin is pleasurable, that it should be desired to make one "smart."

"...She took of the fruit of it, and did eat; and she gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig-leaves together, and made themselves aprons." (Genesis 3:6b-7). The term *naked* in the Hebrew text of Genesis chapter 2 is *'arom*, and the identical letters of the same term with different vowel points is translated *cunning* or *subtle*. In 2 Corinthians 2:11, we find, **"...that no advantage may be gained over us by Satan: for we are not ignorant of his devices."** We are not ignorant of Satan's subtle, cunning devices. If you want to be naked in the eyes of Yahweh, then follow the Adversary. Satan wants to gain an advantage over you by leading you into sin.

How does he do this? He explains that people today only need to obey a portion of Yahweh's Word, and then he scrambles the rest of the Bible through wrong interpretations so that even very serious sins are no longer considered to be sin.

Satan puts the pressure on. He gains an easy victory if he can cause the True Worshiper to fall and stumble. I will not stumble and violate Yahweh's dietary Laws, for example, because I know what pigs do, and I know where they come from. Pork is not food for human consumption, even though government agencies may approve that forbidden flesh as human food.

Turn to 2 Corinthians, chapter 4, where we will begin reading with verse 1. **"Therefore seeing we have this ministry, even as we obtained mercy, we faint not...."** Have we obtained grace? Grace is not license to do as you please, but the kindness and forgiveness of Yahweh if we violate the terms of His Covenant Law. We do not plan to stumble and fall, but all of us should intend to continue to grow spiritually.

"...But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of Yahweh deceitfully; but by the manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of Yahweh." (2 Corinthians 4:2). In Ezekiel chapter 28, Satan is shown to be walking craftily and he handles the Word of Yahweh deceitfully. He ultimately rejects the Word of Yahweh. Ch-rchianity customarily does the same also. They handle the Word of Yahweh deceitfully in order to accommodate those who desire to sin.

I once asked my grandfather, "Why are we allowed to eat pork? The Scriptures tell us we are not supposed to eat pork." He replied, "Well, the Bible approves using those

animals that have split hooves and chew cud, so we can eat pork because the hog has split hooves." I went back to the Scriptures (Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14) and looked up the passages. "Yes," I said, "but they do not chew cud, and they are specifically prohibited." Then my grandfather said, "Do not ask any more questions." Is this not how ch-rchianity reacts to questions? Do not ask so many questions! Go along with the flow of humanity.

Ch-rchianity only accepts a portion of the Bible. Popular religion walks in craftiness and subtle devices. The Assemblies of Yahweh follow the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation, harmonizing what it says and not rejecting any of it. As I explained earlier, in Daniel chapter 6, the human law of the Medes and the Persians could not be altered, why, then, is Yahweh's spiritual, heavenly inspired Word (His Law) altered? It is impossible to change the Word of the unchangeable Mighty One! Yahweh's true ministers cannot handle the Word of Yahweh deceitfully.

The Truth is manifested in the Bible. I recommended that everyone continue to read and study Yahweh's Word daily. As I mentioned in one of the lectures in Obadiah School of the Bible, I had the opportunity on my journey to sit in quietness and read the minor prophets and to notice how those minor prophets' messages are interrelated and very much, absolutely, completely dependent upon the Torah (Law). Read the Bible daily, and you will never go astray.

"And even if our message of good tidings is veiled, it is veiled in them that perish...." (2 Corinthians 4:3). Remember one thing: those who reject a portion of the Scriptures will follow Satan directly into the lake of fire. You will perish, just as surely as he will. He wants to take you along with him. The fire of Gehenna was ignited not to consume mankind,

but to judge Satan and his angels (Matthew 25:41). However, Almighty Yahweh will use it to destroy those of the human family who obstinately refuse to stop sinning.

“...In whom the mighty one of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that the light of the good tidings of the glory of the Messiah, who is the image of Elohim, should not dawn upon them.” The unbelieving are those who do not have faith to repent and change, but they are blinded by the mighty one of this world, who is not Yahweh, but Satan the Adversary. Satan is the subject of this passage. The Torah is symbolized as the light and the glory, the *kavod*. The Messiah serves as our Messianic High Priest. We should follow and exemplify Him. See Hebrews 7:26-28.

“For we preach not ourselves, but the Messiah Yahshua as Sovereign, and ourselves as your servants for Yahshua’s sake.” (2 Corinthians 4:5). The True Worshipers are to be the Obadiahs—the servants of Yahweh.

It is important that we understand from Galatians chapter 1 how all of us must “dare to be a Daniel.” We must dare to stand alone. In this passage Paul is writing to the Galatian Assembly. It says in verse 10, **“For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of Elohim? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still pleasing men, I should not be a servant of the Messiah.”** This is a necessary question: Who are you trying to please? Are you trying to please “men,” or “Elohim”? We must all stand alone for Truth as Obadiahs even if all of the world departs into sin! We are preaching not ourselves, but the Messiah Yahshua as the King, the Ruler, the Sovereign, and ourselves as Obadiahs for Yahshua’s sake, just as Paul is writing here.

“Paul, an apostle (not from men, neither through man, but through Yahshua the Messiah,

and Yahweh the Father, who raised him from the dead).” (Notice this clear pronouncement in Galatians 1:1.)

Back in 2 Corinthians, chapter 4, we shall continue reading, **“Seeing it is Elohim, that said, Light shall shine out of darkness, who shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh in the face of Yahshua the Messiah.”** (2

We must all stand alone for Truth as Obadiahs even if all of the world departs into sin!

Corinthians 4:6). Genesis 1:3 is the scriptural reference here.

Can we now understand more about Ezekiel chapter 28? Let us surround ourselves with the good conduct espoused by Yahweh and with His good judgment.

Turn for a final passage to 1 Corinthians, chapter 3. **“For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Yahshua the Messiah. But if any man builds on the foundation gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, stubble; each man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it is revealed in fire; and the fire itself shall prove each man’s work of what sort it is.”** (1 Corinthians 3:11-13).

I have previously explained the significance of the fire in the stones in the High Priest’s breastplate. The stones should remind us of the fire of Yahweh’s Torah (Law) and the fire of Yahweh’s judgment promised to befall those who reject His Word. When you notice that, as the breastplate turns, the fire appears in its

stones, it should remind us to obey all of the Torah (Yahweh’s Law) and to beware of Yahweh’s gaze that will some day bring judgment by eternal fire upon those wicked people who will not repent.

“If any man’s work shall endure which he built on it, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as through fire.” (1 Corinthians 3:14-15). How could you describe your works? How would Yahweh view your life? Let us surround ourselves with the good judgment of Yahweh’s Torah, His commandments, statutes, and judgments.

Dear readers, we have not yet even touched on the subject of the Urim and Thummim. When we get to the subject of the Urim and Thummim, it should just inspire us. Here we have this great Truth within the teachings of the Assemblies of Yahweh. Do we sufficiently value what great blessings Yahweh has conferred upon us here in this organization?

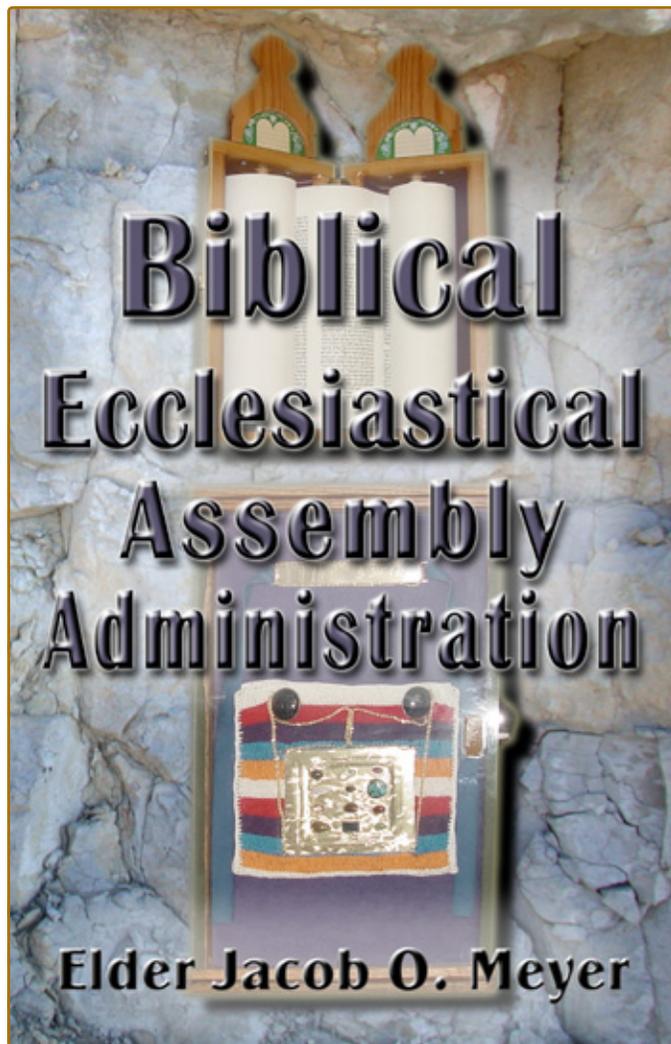
On my ministerial journey to Asia, people repeatedly told me there is no other organization on the face of this earth like the Assemblies of Yahweh. They said, “We have never heard or read anything like the literature you publish.” Do you personally appreciate all the Truth that we have received? You should rejoice every day that you are here! I would not be anywhere else but in Bethel, because I know that Yahweh’s complete Truth does not exist elsewhere!

I am expecting Yahshua the Messiah to return soon; therefore, I am not going to lose patience or faith so I can meet Him in the air. I want to prepare myself so that Yahshua will accept me when He returns.

May all of us continue faithful to the end that we may receive the crown of life everlasting. May Yahweh bless you! SNB

Biblical Ecclesiastical Assembly Administration

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer



By harmonizing the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, the Assemblies of Yahweh has embraced a simple, basic method of Bible research. Returning to the basic commands of the Old Testament (which is the basis of our Faith), we can perceive how Yahweh intends His modern-day Assembly to be organized.

Elder Jacob O. Meyer leads us in a study of Assembly government by looking at the commandments in the Old Testament, the Assembly in the wilderness, and then progressing through history to understand how Yahweh's True Assembly on earth should be, and has always been, administered.

This study shows that in the time of the Messiah and during the era of His Assembly, Yahweh the Father and Yahshua the Son did not change (Malachi 3:6 and Hebrews 13:8). This duo—the Father and the Son—continue down to this very day to direct every aspect of the organization founded by the Messiah almost two millennia ago.

For current pricing information on how to obtain your copy of this new informative study on Assembly Administration, write to:

Assemblies of Yahweh

PO Box C

Bethel, PA 19507

(717) 933-4518