



THE SACRED NAME BROADCASTER

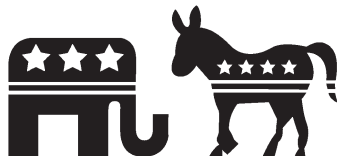
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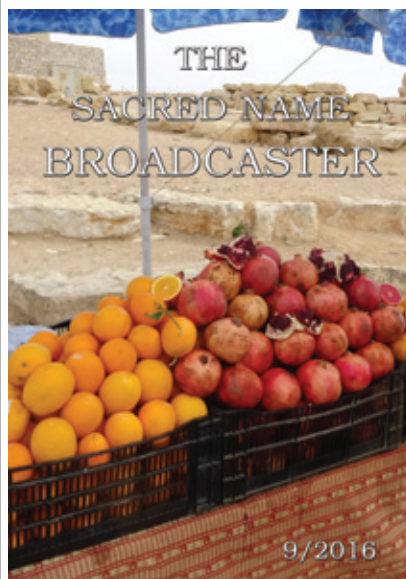
The sins of this generation have caused the love of the populace to grow cold. The only way to stop this drift away from our Heavenly Father is to repent and return to the paths of righteousness.

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Founder and Author: Elder Jacob O. Meyer



Our Cover:

The cover of this month shows a display of the fruits of the land of Israel at Mitzpe-Ramon. These are then freshly squeezed for each customer to preserve the essence of the fruit.

When Moses selected 12 men, who were heads of each tribe, to spy out the land of Canaan, they brought back the fruit of the land and confirmed that it was a land that flowed with milk and honey.

Ten men brought back a discouraging report; however, Caleb and Yahshua believed Yahweh's promise.

Who will believe the promises of Yahweh? Even though detractors may seek to sow seeds of discouragement and doubt, we will have faith to the saving of the soul.

"No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors, through him that loved us." (Romans 8:37).



How Would **YAHSHUA** Vote for President?

In the United States of America a very dramatic event takes place every four years. The citizens file into designated polling places to cast their ballots to elect someone to fill the office of President, the top office over the entire nation of 50 states. This honored position of President, the Chief Executive Officer of our country, has been called, by some commentators, the most powerful elective office in the modern world.

The President of the United States serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the federal government. He approves all congressional legislation before it becomes law; he may veto any measure he deems inappropriate. He enforces the laws that have been enacted, and he is generally responsible for the federal government's conduct of everyday business.

Each presidential election year, special announcements are regularly made to the public in an effort to urge voters to go to the polls and cast their personal vote. Radio and television commercials are directed toward motivating indifferent citi-

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

zens to vote. Posters appear on the walls of factories and businesses, while newspapers carry advertisements designed to persuade all of the citizens to exercise their franchise and vote. Frequently, the pastors of the various denominations are known to preach sermons urging their members to vote for the candidate of their choice, and, finally, the climax of the political campaign is reached on election day (the second Tuesday after the first Monday in November) in the United States of America, when the ballots are cast and counted.

One of the greatest attractions of the political campaign is the widespread intense excitement. More than a year before the election (some political candidates never actually stop campaigning), candidates will announce their intention to run for the nation's highest office—while the newsreel and television cameras record the press conferences designed

to attract the most advantageous free media exposure. Madly, the candidates dash around the country attempting to secure sufficient votes in the primaries to assure their nomination be approved at the national conventions. Most likely, today, the election is media driven and, in many ways, the media (radio, television, Internet, and print) influences the masses to swing the vote behind a candidate that they hope will win at the polls.

The extravaganza of a national political convention must be seen to be fully appreciated. Hard-hitting, partisan speeches filled with venomous accusations are directed against opposition parties and candidates.

However, the conventions are hardly spontaneous! To the trained eye it appears obvious that they are thoroughly orchestrated and directed from behind the scenes to ensure their party prime media exposure on radio and television. Actually, since the United States has gone to a primary election process to select convention delegates, political conventions have, of late, become



merely a formality. Political rhetoric of the most incisive type continues, however.

Millions of dollars are spent by the declared candidates just to bring their candidacy for the nomination before the electorate. The people comprising the retinue each political candidate engages will, furthermore, demand some sort of compensation and rewards afterward if their candidate wins. Surely, these are big stakes as the “spoils system” yields its fruits (to the victor go the spoils) following the election victory.

The individuals who are finally nominated to stand in the general election in the fall have spent multiple millions of dollars on advertising. One wonders where all this money originates. Who would be foolish enough to contribute a hundred thousand dollars (or even a thousand dollars) of their personal wealth to a presidential political campaign—**unless he hoped to realize some significant return from that expenditure?** Furthermore, who ultimately pays for the accumulated wealth of the big industrialists and their corporations, so they can contribute such lion-sized contributions—except **the consumers?** Those who purchase the products are asked to pay some extra price above costs so that business can, in effect, purchase a favorable climate in which to operate. Consequently, the effects of the political campaigns are more far-reaching than most people perceive, or would care to admit. Taxpayer money from the federal government also assists the candidates in the campaigns.

Let us not forget that the big labor unions also finance a large share of the cost of the elections with their Political Action Committee contributions (PACs). News reporters publish articles revealing that big labor literally spends millions of dollars on each election, funds which are derived from the monthly dues collected from their membership,

in an effort to elect candidates who will favor their cause. They also expect some kind of return from the government and solicit government sympathy during contract negotiations, along with labor legislation favorable to their cause.

It should, therefore, be obvious that SPECIAL-INTEREST GROUPS are responsible for a GREAT PORTION OF THE MONEY spent on presidential campaigns (and most other political campaigns for government offices also, for that matter). Could this be called “buying votes?” Undoubtedly!

During the excitement of the political campaigns this year, one wonders what Yahshua the Messiah would do if He were walking this earth today. Would He take an active part in partisan politics? Would He campaign for one or another of the candidates? Could He support either or both of the platforms of the major political parties? Would He work to register more people and get out the voters, help stuff envelopes with campaign literature, and arrange for political meetings? For which candidate would Yahshua vote? Which political philosophy would He support? Would He favor unrestricted or partial-birth abortions, as do some of the candidates? All of these are legitimate questions that we must answer as we strive to live by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of Yahweh (Matthew 4:4). Remember, we must follow the example of Yahshua in our manner of life each day (1 Peter 2:21).

Origin of Political Parties Not Recent

During the time of Yahshua the Messiah there were several religious parties active in Palestine. We have historical record of at least four of them: Sadducees, Pharisees, Essenes, and Zealots.

The Sadducees constituted the party of the priestly class, deriving

their name from Zadok the high priest, and were known as scholars.

The Pharisees were the party of the common people, strict Law-keepers, who derived their name from the word by which they were known—*parushim* (separatists).

The Essenes stressed purity of mind and body in an effort to achieve a more personal relationship with the Heavenly Father, and their name is derived from the root term **Hasidim**—*the saints* (whether in derision or seriousness is speculative).

The Zealots were a party bent upon restoring their own ethnic government to the Jewish nation and evicting the Roman army of occupation with its burdensome taxation; therefore, their motives were primarily political. Yahshua the Messiah even selected a man called Simon (perhaps his own brother), a member of the Zealot party, to be one of His disciples (Matthew 10:4). (The title **Canaanite** should have been translated as *zealot*.) Perhaps to them politics was indeed a religion!

However, nowhere within the pages of our Bibles do we learn that Yahshua the Messiah ever **JOINED** one of these parties. Apparently He felt that His *earthly mission transcended the objectives of these religious-political parties*. He was the **earthly representative** of Yahweh, the True and Living Father in heaven, a citizen of the Kingdom of heaven, appointed to be the King to rule over this earth with a righteous government.

Yahshua represented the spiritual family of Yahweh and, thereby, He placed Himself above the petty party controversies that are usually associated with power politics. His allegiance was exclusively to the Kingdom of Yahweh! **He was its foremost citizen.**

The Party Spirit

There is a definite spirit that seems to capture those who are





involved in a political campaign and it holds them firmly in its grip. An acquaintance once told me that he had joined a crowd that was gathering to hear a speech by a **Democratic** presidential candidate. Before the campaign train entered the confines of the railroad station, advance men distributed slogan-bearing signs and pennants for use by the people to cheer the candidate. Although he was a registered **Republican**, he stated that he became caught up in the sudden, thrilling fever of the party spirit of the moment—so that he began waving the signs and joined in cheering the candidate along with the rest of the partisan crowd. Afterwards, he expressed surprise that he should have conducted himself in such a manner, since he later voted for the **Republican** candidate.

Call this *mob psychology*, or *partisan party spirit*, or designate it merely as the thrill of seeing a famous person who is the candidate for national office; nevertheless, there is a captivating spirit of some kind connected to politics. We might describe it like the fanaticism of fans at a sporting event. (Did you know the word *fan* is the abbreviation of the term *fanatic*?) That spirit sometimes impels people to do strange things. One can hardly imagine Yahshua the Messiah cheering for one individual and then voting for another, or waving a sign at a street meeting in support of a candidate for public office who does not live by every word of Scripture.

Political Expediency

While looking over the current crop of political candidates that have sought the presidential nomination this year, it became apparent that they evidently projected a great deal of inconsistency between their expressed ideologies and their actual records.

Some of the candidates declare themselves to be opposed to the war in Iraq, to lapses in national

security, to the present high rate of government involvement in the private lives of the citizens, enormously escalating debts, and higher

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taxes. Yet, a scrutiny of their records reveals that they, themselves, had usually supported legislation imposing exactly the opposite action of their professed politics during their previous terms of elective office.

Some of the candidates emphasize a need to elevate the morals of the country, when, in fact, they may have been guilty of doing some of the identical things they claim to be trying to correct. Other candidates predicate their proposed programs upon dismantling certain branches

of big business, when they were undoubtedly receiving campaign funds from that very source. Others stress the need for more consumer protection, while they, in some respects, hardly seemed sincere about protecting the rights of the individual. Candidates are urging legislation to establish more and better daycare for children of working mothers, or for a cleaner environment. Some candidates are considered to be indecisive on the issues, taking conflicting positions at various times just to gain the most popularity (and votes) for themselves in any special situation. Others associate with angry people who threaten to implement violence, but find it necessary to camouflage their friendship.

Surely, Yahshua the Messiah would NEVER be guilty of political expediency. He would NOT be inconsistent. Isaiah declared that Yahshua will not judge according to the sight of His eyes, nor reprove according to the hearing of His ears, but with **righteousness** and **equity** He will rule (Isaiah 11:1–5). He will magnify Yahweh's Laws and make them honorable (Isaiah 42:21). Consequently, how could Yahshua support candidates who will not take a stand on correct and ethical principles?

The Party Platforms

Partisan power politics is a precarious attempt to unite under one tent multitudes of peoples, each with divergent viewpoints and backgrounds regarding what the government should, or should not, do for its citizens. The candidate bearing the party banner hopes to be elected, so he must appeal to the broadest spectrum of the voting public. The conventions of both Democratic and Republican parties will customarily experience difficulties over their party's platform. The party platform comprises a statement of policy on which the candidates will purportedly be





running.

The proposed program of the party is **supposed** to be explained in the platform. Inasmuch as a great deal of time and effort is usually spent accumulating evidence about the needs of the country, from many sections and from many witnesses during the platform hearings, one would assume that policies, as set forth in the party platforms, adopted by the conventions, would be binding on the candidates. However, this is obviously not the case!

If we were to read the party platforms of the major political parties that were approved during conventions over the past century, or more, and then compare them to the legislation that was finally enacted in Congress, we would discover that to devise the party platform is a virtually meaningless function. Few candidates view the platform as binding, or anything more than merely a statement designed and worded to attract as many people as possible to vote for their candidates. One individual might accept a specific section (or plank) of the platform and work diligently in support of that segment to be approved, while, simultaneously, objecting to a great portion of the remaining party beliefs.

However, the voters swallow the “bitter with the sweet,” and no one is ever completely satisfied. Politicians often ignore the platform the very day after the election (or sometimes the day after the convention!), and the public soon forgets about it.

Rarely do politicians keep their promises after they are elected. What particularly bothers the author is that both major United States political parties no longer adhere to the principles on which they were founded years ago. How could the sincere believer in the Sacred Scriptures support them? This would hardly be possible!

Could Yahshua the Messiah approve

of a plank such as was placed in the Democratic Party platform advocating **no restrictions on abortions** (they call it by the euphemism—pro-choice)? Although this stand has caused quite a display of emotion among the opposition, such a plank was, nevertheless, **adopted** at the convention and, still today, remains its expressed policy. How about a plank calling for free choice in sexual preference—regardless of what the Bible says about homosexuality and sexual perversion? Could a True Worshiper support that? Hardly! Could a True Worshiper support same-sex marriages? Would Yahshua the Messiah support such a practice? Obviously not!

If Yahshua was to select any political party and join it, He would, of necessity, attach His Name to their expressed policies and ideas. In so doing, He would **associate** Himself with some form of evil, since neither party’s platform is faultless. One would have to conclude that Yahshua would hardly be able to vote for the candidate of a party favoring the enactment of laws that are contrary to biblical principles. **He would never compromise the Word of Yahweh!**

Special-Interest Groups

The United States has adopted a policy of campaign financing in which a part of the expenses for the campaigns of the major candidates are paid by the government from taxpayer’s funds. The “matching-funds” legislation was an outgrowth of the Watergate incident of several decades ago, when rich industrialists were contributing huge sums of money to finance their favorite candidates—with the hope of later receiving some remuneration from the government. Now, all campaign contributions over \$100 must be reported, and they must be limited to \$5,000. Corporations may not contribute if they have interests in legislation. Cooperatives may not contribute to political campaigns.

Furthermore, the so-called soft money comes from huge contributions that go toward the parties or foundations, but find their way into the coffers of candidates for office. Even the so-called campaign contribution reform legislation has not succeeded in cleaning up the abuses in the contribution system. Would Yahshua the Messiah approve of spending multiple millions of dollars on campaign financing while there is so much poverty, and even hunger, in the world?

To declare forthrightly that the campaign contributions from industrial and labor sources are buying influence would be considered a vulgar and indecorous way of expressing what our system is doing. However, it has only been during the past few decades that such huge amounts of money are being devoted to national political campaigns; therefore the need for the public to speak uncritically and euphemistically. Special-interest groups, political action committees, and individuals have been contributing huge sums of money in the hope of obtaining some special privilege, or they certainly wouldn’t give so generously! Even then, some candidates carry along huge debtloads from their campaigns, or they receive large honorariums for speaking that they devote to retiring the debt, which again conceals some of the unvarnished truth.

On the other hand, when candidates advocate government-sponsored programs, someone will surely benefit. If the candidate is not buying votes, then he (or she) is certainly making a covert offer in the hope of attracting enough people who might have an interest in profiting through the programs or legislation they advocate, so that the voters will vote for and support him or her. In this way, the candidates stake all their hopes on the next election, while never considering the future generations

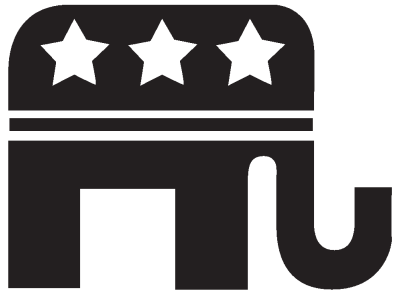


of people and how their lives will be affected when the bills come due. Many times, candidates promise things they cannot deliver just to get themselves elected. However, who remembers or worries about broken promises? Even the escalating national debt does not seem to affect most citizens, since the obligation is rolled back to future generations to satisfy the debt.

Yahshua the Messiah has promised the people of this world the most equitable and just government program that could be conceived. He has taught us that the yoke of His program (His law) is easy, and His burden will be light (Matthew

is established for all people, its rate of taxation is totally fair and just—an across-the-board (flat) 10 percent income tax for everyone. **No** special tax shelters will be put in place for the privileged few. A welfare program for the needy has already been outlined, to be financed by the third-year tithe contributed by everyone. However, those welfare recipients are also required **to work** and harvest some of their **own food supply** (Leviticus 19:9–10). Yahweh's way is to pay as you go, not to postpone the obligation for decades, or even for centuries.

If you would like to read over



11:28–30). He has declared Himself to stand firmly behind the righteous program as set forth by Almighty Yahweh—the promises contained within His Torah (Covenant Law). That program calls for the people to give something to make the agreement work (obedience), while Almighty Yahweh agrees to bless and protect those who place themselves within the bounds of His contract (Exodus 23:24–27).

The Covenant Law that Yahshua advocates is not a medium that can be **used** (or abused) by special-interest groups. None of the various classes of people in society will benefit above another. In the millennial reign of the Messiah, **true equality** will finally be achieved. Since the Covenant agreement

Rarely do politicians keep their promises after they are elected. What particularly bothers the author is that both major United States political parties no longer adhere to the principles on which they were founded years ago. How could the sincere believer in the sacred Scriptures support them?



the program that was approved by Almighty Yahweh and His Son, Yahshua the Messiah, read the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Known as the Pentateuch, or the Torah, it is an excellent platform and an outstanding policy document that will truly produce equality for all people everywhere on earth when it is implemented. It will already begin working for the True Worshiper today, in our daily lives, whenever we start to obey its precepts. We may already enjoy the benefits of the Kingdom way of life.

The Smoke-Filled Room

Successful worldly politics, many times, consists of making deals with the opposition (enemy). The artful



politician is, of necessity, a compromiser. For example, whatever is outwardly presented in the media of the national party conventions is only the tip of the “political iceberg.” What happens on the convention floor constitutes merely a public charade of what has previously been decided **behind closed doors**.

The illustration of the smoke-filled room becomes all too real to those who are actively involved in politics. One candidate may exchange his block of committed delegates for the promise of a major post in the new president's cabinet, or for some other future consideration. What the public is shown on the media news reports merely comprises a staging of what has already happened behind closed doors. Although less tobacco is being smoked today by politicians, the “back-room deals” continue to be made.

Politics makes **strange** bedfellows! As the people of the United States frequently discover, supposedly conservative political candidates tend to choose as their vice-presidential running mates people who have a background of liberalism or internationalism and, frequently, those who had earlier been their opponents. Apparently, the candidate's staff concluded that their man would have a better chance to win the election if his running mate came from the more liberal element of the party.

Such horse trading in politics is not new. It has been tolerated ever since the first political party was formed. It will continue to set the tone as long as there are elections to place people in governmental positions.

During the time when the big political machines were holding the major influence in several of the larger cities in our country, candidates for office were not elected by popular vote. Although it outwardly appeared as though it were a fair, honest, open election, the machine in power presented its own candi-

date to the public. Elections were decided in the back rooms of the party headquarters, long before the polls opened. Nevertheless, most of the voters assumed that they were electing their own representatives in government, which they later learned was fallacious. In this way, the big city governments were tightly controlled for personal advantage

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by the small group which held power. Votes were bought and sold like so much simple merchandise. Some individuals even were paid to vote numerous times, frequently using the names of dead people.

Would Yahshua the Messiah intimately associate Himself with a group of manipulative people in a smoke-filled room and lend His prestige to select a candidate via the “power broker” system? Obviously, if you know anything about the Bible, you might think that even considering such a possibility appears ridiculously humorous and

facetious.

If Yahshua our Messiah wouldn't engage in such corrupt politics, why should His obedient followers do so? The thinking person would hardly be amused to imagine that Yahshua and Satan would sit down together at a table in a smoke-filled room and trade candidates and power, or discuss who gets a certain delegate for his camp, or even uniting with the Adversary for some significant vote. Certainly this would be a clear violation of Psalm 2.

Yahshua the Messiah is declared to be the supreme King of the earth, as He distinctly proved to Satan in Matthew chapter 4. He does not need to dabble in worldly politics and neither should His followers do so. We will never be able to pressure anyone into loving Yahshua the Messiah and His Word any more than they themselves develop a desire to do. Read also Luke 4.

Yahshua told His disciples, ***“Go you into all the world, and preach the good tidings to the whole creation.”*** (Mark 16:15). HE NEVER INSTRUCTED HIS FOLLOWERS TO CONVERT THE WORLD. The world will not be saved through the exercise of worldly political power, but it will be saved by the intervention of the righteous Messiah who will establish the eternal Kingdom rule of Yahweh on this earth through the supernatural power given to Him by Almighty Yahweh Elohim, our Father in heaven. Yet, we cannot neglect to speak out against the evils of this present worldly system that are sinful and wrong, as the Sacred Scriptures declares them.

Political Infighting

The presidential campaign usually features several head-on confrontations in debates between the candidates. Ostensibly sponsored by nonpartisan groups, these exchanges of opinions relating to what the candidates personally be-





lieve on the issues are designed as information for the electorate. Those watching the debates will agree that the verbal blasts launched between the candidates are not light “rabbit punches.” They comprise vicious verbal blows similar to that of heavyweight fighters who firmly intend to knock each other out! Both of the candidates know that, if they intend to win the election, they must appear strong and decisive under the close scrutiny of the television cameras. However, many times, it is the most photogenic person who wins—regardless of his political views or convictions.

Many political candidates relish such infighting. To score a telling blow on an opponent seems somehow psychologically satisfying. Name calling and character assassination comprise a vital part of the political scene.

Dirty-tricks strategies launched against an opponent have frequently won elections. If a candidate has a thin skin, he shouldn't be in the political arena. The idea is to pull the opponent down and destroy his character in public so that people will dislike him intensely, regardless of what the truth really is.

Would Yahshua the Messiah engage in power politics or a debate with a political opponent? Paul, in Romans 1:29, designates “debate” (the Greek word *eris* means *to quarrel, or a wrangling, bickering*) as one of the characteristics of a reprobate mind. Would Yahshua see fit to engage in political rhetoric?

When Yahshua was confronted by the Pharisees, He did not debate with them. They were doing wrong, and all of the people knew it. Yahshua answered a question with a question when He knew that the Pharisees were laying a trap to catch Him in His words. In this way there was no debate and no wrangling between them. By adroit answers, guided by the Holy Spirit, Yahshua always **silenced**

His shrewd opponents.

Yahshua said, ***“My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from here.”*** (John 18:36). Yahshua never argued (debated) with His disciples in an attempt to convince them to accept Him as Messiah, or His message as Truth. He was a man of peace, **the world's foremost peacemaker!** See Isaiah 9:6–7. ***“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you: not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be fearful.”*** (John 14:27). He does not expect His disciples to debate or engage in a verbal confrontation with those of a different political persuasion.

Religion in Politics

During a political campaign, the presidential candidates will make a special effort to display a facade that they have embraced a personal religious faith. They are photographed entering their chosen house of worship, sitting in worship services, or exiting from services. They make a point of projecting tolerance and an ecumenical spirit by attending services with various religious groups—Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish. Each candidate is especially eager to have people of all religions believe that he is sympathetic to their personal aims and goals, that he has an ecumenical or tolerant attitude. Some of the candidates make a show of prayer at political meetings, which is designed to convince the religious people that he is a sincere person and will make a good president. Obviously, they seek to exploit religion to their best personal and political advantage.

Later, the picture changes entirely! After the candidate is elected to office, he no longer seems to be so highly motivated by the religious

ethics he has espoused. As the history of the term of office is written, the record becomes clear. For example, religious leaders in the past have expressed dismay that President Reagan attended worship services only a few times during his term of office. Nevertheless, did that make him a less religious person? Even President Lincoln (as did some of our most prominent leaders) never joined a church.

Too frequently, presidents are known to project a Jekyll-and-Hyde personality where religion is concerned. If the tradition calls for religious devotions, then they will join in prayer or worship. If the situation calls for “being one of the boys,” or for engaging in activities that are in violation of Yahweh's commandments and not an example of biblical morality, they will set aside their religion for the moment. That's what is known as **situation ethics**. Testifying to this conclusion is the frequent use of strong words of profanity by some of our past presidents.

If Yahshua the Messiah were here, walking this earth today, and was asked to **vote** for one of the candidates, which one would He choose on the basis of their religion? Which one of the political parties would He bless with victory, since all of the parties have had priests, ministers, and rabbis offering prayers at their conventions? We are reminded of the fervent prayers offered by the people of nations engaged in combat. Each side prays for victory during wartime, believing that the Almighty is on its side; and the one that wins is regarded as being in the right, since it was evidently blessed from on High. Can we view politics from the same perspective?

Would Yahshua the Messiah be influenced by a candidate's outward religious profession? Yahshua the Messiah came to establish True Worship on this earth. He did not engage in political activities when





He was here on this earth. He did not support anyone who held false doctrine, or who was an obvious hypocrite. Conversely, He condemned sin and error very strongly! Read Matthew 23.

Friendship with the world is enmity against Yahweh, Jacob 4:4. Yahshua would be engaged in doing His Father's business (Luke 2:49), rather than trying to win a popularity contest in a corrupt world of politics.

Did Yahshua Vote?

Nowhere in the pages of your Bible can you find that Yahshua the Messiah ever urged His followers to take an active part in the affairs of this world, or its governments. Should we not follow Yahshua's example, 1 Peter 2:22? Yahshua, Himself, preached the good news of the coming Kingdom of Yahweh (Mark 1:16). He instructed His followers to preach the Kingdom of Yahweh (Luke 9:60). His followers were told to obey Almighty Yahweh in their daily lives and to **seek first the Kingdom of Yahweh and His righteousness** (Matthew 6:33). If this last injunction were heeded, there would be precious little time for worldly pursuits, such as engaging in the modern, seemingly perpetual, political campaigns. Political campaigns appear to be directed toward doing the things of the world and pushing aside the opponent rather than seeking a constructive way to achieve the spiritual life in Yahweh, or teaching a high standard of morality.

Yahshua did not vote when He was here on this earth, nor did He participate in partisan politics. We must remember that He was the representative of the Great King of the universe, Almighty Yahweh. Yahshua was the only begotten Son of this Creator Elohim, the Ruler of the universe. See Psalm 2.

His mission on earth was to **call people to REPENTANCE**,

instructing them to submit their lives to the government of the Most High and encouraging them to enter into His Covenant. He was the **ambassador** of the Kingdom of Yahweh, which will eventually rule throughout the entire world in the affairs of men. Too frequently, people assume that they have been placed on this earth to govern themselves under their own personal dictates and beliefs until the world ends. They fail to realize that the governments of this world today are not representatives of Yahweh, but, in fact, Satan has seized control of this system. See Revelation chapter 11.

"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." (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Yahshua declared, ***"... My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from here."*** (John 18:36).

Just as the book of Daniel explains, the head of gold (materialism, wealth) of the metallic image today continues to furnish the thinking capacity for the nations of the world (Daniel 2). Babylon dominates this world today.

Yahweh, the Heavenly Father, has allowed the people of this world to attempt to rule themselves for a brief period of time. The people of this world have failed to achieve an era of peace and happiness during man's age. Through disobedience, the human family eventually will get itself into a serious situation from which it cannot extricate itself. Then Yahweh will intervene in the affairs of men to establish His Kingdom under the rulership of Yahshua the Messiah. Inasmuch as Yahshua the Messiah is to be the King of this

earth, how could He vote for (select) anyone to be in authority over Him in a worldly government?

Representatives of Yahweh, Ambassadors of Yahweh's Kingdom

Repeatedly, in the instructions that the Apostles left to the members of True Worship who trusted in our Messiah, we find that we are to view our sojourn here on this earth as REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM to come. Let us turn to 2 Corinthians 5:20, where we read, ***"We are ambassadors therefore on behalf of the Messiah, as though Yahweh were entreating by us: we beseech you on behalf of the Messiah, be reconciled to Yahweh."*** Please see also Ephesians 6:20. The members of the Assemblies of Yahweh earnestly strive to fulfill the assignment.

Paul recognized himself to be in the position of an ambassador, representing the heavenly Kingdom of Yahweh. In so doing, he had placed himself under the dominion and protection of that Kingdom. He later appealed to Rome, since he was a Roman citizen, but there is no record anywhere in the Bible that he ever took an active part in Roman government. We, also, who comprise the membership of the Assemblies of Yahweh today, are born as citizens of our native lands. We obey the laws of the state and pay taxes as the Scriptures instructs us. However, when we turn to Yahweh and receive Yahshua's Spirit through entering into Yahweh's Covenant, we register our citizenship in heaven, in the Kingdom of Yahweh, and its Laws always supersede those of earthly governments.

Paul makes this very clear and emphatic in Philippians 3:20. ***"For our citizenship is in heaven; from where we also wait for a***



Savior, the Sovereign Yahshua the Messiah.

Contrasted with those who are desperately trying to make this world a better place in which to live by the imposition of **human achievements**, the members of the Assemblies of Yahweh have come out of the world and separated themselves from this wicked system of things with its erroneous Babylonish ideas. We have registered our citizenship in heaven, and we labor earnestly to be accepted of Yahweh and Yahshua the Messiah. We realize that if we vote for a man to be President, we must approve of all that he does. He has been placed in a high position by our support. The **ONLY** Being in this universe who has the right to rule us, and in whom we have our **full confidence** to lead, is Yahshua the Messiah, the anointed King of Almighty Yahweh. We know that He will rule in righteousness and we can trust His decisions.

Since most of us today are living in the native lands in which we were born, we submit to the laws of the land as long as they do not conflict with those of Yahweh's Covenant Law. See Acts 5:29. In Romans chapter 13, Paul shows that the governments of this world were instituted to **keep the peace**. They police the land and defend its borders from outside attack from any aggressors, so there may be peace. Yahweh's people are obligated to obey its laws, as far as they do not conflict with those of Yahweh. Yahweh allows these governments to exist until His Kingdom is established. We are obligated to pay our taxes also, so that the government over us may function. Please read the entire seventh chapter of the

prophet Daniel also.

In the event that laws are made which are in direct conflict with those Yahweh has given in His Word, then we must faithfully obey the Laws of Yahweh, the Covenant into which we have entered. Notice again Acts 5:29. Peter and the Apostles

***“For our citizenship is in heaven;
from where we also wait for
a Savior, the Sovereign Yahshua
the Messiah.”***

PHILIPPIANS 3:20

said, ***“We must obey Yahweh rather than men.”*** The Apostolic Assembly was persecuted because of their determination to continue to obey Almighty Yahweh and serve Him rather than to submit to any unscriptural ordinances of men. Can we do the same today?

***A High Standard in
Yahweh's Law***

The Law of Almighty Yahweh actually prohibits anyone who has entered into His Covenant from voting to set another person over us who is not a saint of the Most High. We read this instruction in Deuteronomy 17:14-15. ***“When you come to the land which Yahweh your Elohim gives you, and shall possess it, and shall dwell in it, and shall say, I will set a king over me, like all the nations around me; you shall surely set him king over you, whom Yahweh your Elohim shall choose: ONE FROM AMONG YOUR BRETHREN SHALL YOU SET KING OVER YOURSELVES; YOU MAY NOT PUT A FOREIGNER OVER YOURSELVES, WHO IS NOT YOUR BROTHER.”***

As we can plainly see from this text, Almighty Yahweh desires that His people be ruled in **righteous-**

ness according to the intentions of His Covenant Law. An individual who is **unconverted CANNOT** comprehend the deep-rooted principles underlying the Covenant which Almighty Yahweh has delineated in the Sacred Scriptures for His people. Consequently, this passage of

Scripture **prohibits** anyone who intends to be a True Worshiper from voting for any other presidential candidate **except for** Yahshua the Messiah! Otherwise, we are in violation of

the commandments of Yahweh!

The members of the Assemblies of Yahweh forthrightly express our vote for the Messiah by vocally heralding the soon-coming Kingdom of Yahweh over which He will rule. ***“I saw in the night-visions, and, behold, there came with the clouds of heaven one like a son of man, and he came even to the ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and languages should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. . . . But the judgment shall be set, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it to the end. And the kingdom and the dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heavens, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High: his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.”*** (Daniel 7:13-14, 26-27).

Summary

The world today has reached the point where it reflects badly confused values in its conduct. Such is the sad commentary on these times in which we live. When our nation was founded, it was based upon the premise of liberty, freedom, and representative government—not special-interest rule. Today, presidents frequently rule and speak only after they consider the opinion polls (which are frequently slanted and distorted). Have you ever checked the definitions of the terms *liberty* and *freedom* in a good dictionary? If not, do so immediately and be astonished at how far the United States has departed from the principles of our founding fathers.

During recent decades, special-interest groups have become even more heavily involved in politics in an effort to secure government-legislated privileges for themselves. The original principle, on which the American system of government was founded, called for the selection of representatives to be sent to the state and federal capitols only for the purpose of implementing legislation so that the government could function. Those legislative sessions lasted from a few weeks to several months out of the year. Today, the legislative bodies of our land are usually in session throughout the entire year. Manned by professional politicians, they pass legislation **far beyond anything that was ever envisioned by the founding fathers!** Today, various citizen groups are again calling for the reestablishment of citizen legislatures, but the current system is so well entrenched that reform is virtually impossible.

As we have clearly seen from the Sacred Scriptures previously quoted, the Kingdom of Yahweh is far superior to any government on this earth. The governments today rule because Almighty Yahweh has allowed mankind to guide his own affairs for a limited period of time (Daniel 4:17).

During that time, the Holy Spirit calls various individuals into a

spiritual relationship to become the family of Yahweh Elohim. Converted people voluntarily decide to enter into His Covenant and they place themselves under His protection. Although they continue to abide by the laws of the countries in which they reside, these people no longer participate in the governments of worldly nations because they can discern the wickedness that exists there. Still, True Worshipers pay their taxes to their respective governments to support the services they provide, such as police protection (Romans chapter 13).

As representatives of the Kingdom of Yahweh, which is to come to this earth at the return of Yahshua the Messiah, the members of the Assemblies of Yahweh do not take part in the political activities of the nations in which they live. We cannot compromise the **high moral principles** laid down in the Word of Yahweh that we must follow. We proclaim these principles to the world and urge all people to submit to them. History records that in the past ages the governments of the world have severely persecuted the True Worshipers who have sought to live in faithful accord with what the Bible teaches.

Too frequently, elected officials become corrupted by political power and betray their trust. Continually, reports of political corruption in high places illustrate what can occur in the government of our country. Subsequent to the founding of our nation, elected officials generally held much higher moral and ethical values than do politicians currently, but history reveals that even some of them lived hypocritical lives. Annual scandals prove, repeatedly, that the only way for this earth ever to achieve righteous government is for Yahshua the Messiah to return and implement it. Then, all government will be conducted under the authority of the Word of Yahweh and the scrutiny of a righteous ruler.

It was true that, at the founding of our country, those who served in high elected positions held a clear

sense of responsibility to their constituents they represented and to their country. When anyone votes for elected officials we are supporting them in the stand they take on the legislation they enact, and, thereby, we subscribe to their leadership.

Scrutinizing all of the reasons presented in this article, one would have to conclude that **Yahshua the Messiah would never participate in political affairs.** As representatives who Yahshua has chosen to present a picture of His coming righteous Kingdom reign to the people of the world, we must follow Him in avoiding participation in the affairs of this present world.

Since the governments of **this** world are modeled after the system of **Babylon**, we must turn our attention toward the government of Almighty Yahweh that comprises His righteous Covenant commandments.

We have been commissioned by Yahshua the Messiah to proclaim His coming Kingdom to all nations of the world and to seek first His Kingdom (Matthew 28:19–20 and 6:33). If we faithfully fulfill this lofty calling we will have very little time remaining to become involved in the political affairs of this worldly system.

Therefore, by proclaiming and living these scriptural truths, the members of the Assemblies of Yahweh acknowledge Yahshua the Messiah to be our leader. We voluntarily obey His rule in our lives because the governments of this world are not motivated to maintain the righteous principles set forth in the Sacred Scriptures. While eagerly looking for and awaiting the establishment of the Kingdom of Yahweh on this earth, we obey the laws of the land inasmuch as they do not conflict with biblical Law.

Will you join with us in practicing these lofty ideals? We hope that you will seek first the Kingdom of Yahweh and prepare for the day when the Messiah returns to establish Yahweh's eternal Kingdom on this earth. ^{SNB}

THE *Breastplate* OF JUDGMENT AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

PART NINE

This article is Part 9 of a series of sermons preached by Elder Jacob O. Meyer in the Bethel Assembly.

“Judge me, O Yahweh, for I have walked in my integrity: I have trusted also in Yahweh without wavering. Examine me, O Yahweh, and prove me; try my heart and my mind. For your lovingkindness is before my eyes; and I have walked in your truth. I have not sat with men of falsehood; neither will I go in with dissemblers. I hate the assembly of evildoers, and will not sit with the wicked. I will wash my hands in innocency: so will I encompass your altar, O Yahweh; that I may make the voice of thanksgiving to be heard, and tell of all your wondrous works. Yahweh, I love the habitation of your house, and the place where your glory dwells. Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with men of blood; in whose hands is wickedness, and their right hand is full of bribes. But as for me, I will walk in my integrity: redeem me, and be merciful to me. My foot stands in an even place: in the congregations will I bless Yahweh.” (Psalm 26:11-12).

We shall consider the serious subject of *Urim* and *Thummim* in this month’s segment. Turn with me to Exodus chapter 28 to review this instruction. *“And you shall put*

in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron’s heart, when he goes in before Yahweh: and Aaron shall BEAR THE JUDGMENT of the children of Israel upon his heart before Yahweh continually.” (Exodus 28:30).

Just to refresh our minds, we shall also review verses 15 to 17 in Exodus 28. *“And you shall make a BREASTPLATE OF JUDGMENT, the work of the skilful workman; like the work of the ephod you shall make it; of gold, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, you shall make it. Square it shall be and double; a span shall be the length of it, and a span the width of it. And you shall set in it settings of stones, four rows of stones...”* (Exodus 28:15-17a).

The description here is of a piece of cloth (fabric) to which was affixed the setting for the stones to symbolize the tribes of Israel. It was to be folded double into a square to fulfill its purpose. Within the fabric of the breastplate, made by the doubling of the fabric, were placed the objects of the *Urim* and *Thummim*.

Considering the information in **The Englishman’s Hebrew Concordance of the Old Testament**, let us review some of the biblical passages that relate to the breast-

plate and the objects of *Urim* and the *Thummim* that were contained within that pouch.

The same terms are No.215 in the **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance**, which is the word ‘or. This is a prime root meaning “to be (causatively *make*) luminous (literally and metaphorically).” The word is *aleph*, *cholem waw*, *resh*, and is translated variously, but usually the term refers to the word *light*. No.216, also ‘or, means “illumination or (concretely) luminary (in every sense, including lightning, happiness, etc.).” No.217 is ‘ur, *aleph*, *shureq*, *resh*; the vowel letter *cholem* becomes a *shureq* in this instance. It is from No.215 which is the prime root which we must recognize from the above information is a verb, while No.216 is a noun. No.217 (a noun derived from the cognate verb ‘or, meaning “flame, hence (in the plural) the East (as being the region of light).” No.218 is the term *Ur* or ‘*Ur* as it is in the Hebrew, and it is “a place in Chaldea.” No.219 is ‘*orah*, which is a feminine noun from No.216, and it means “luminousness, that is, (figuratively) prosperity.”

Then we note the second element of the term—*Thummim*, which is based upon the trilateral root word *tamam*, No.8552, *taw*, *qamets*, *mem*, *patach*, final *mem*. This is the prime root and it means “to complete, in a good or a bad sense, literally or

figuratively, transitively or intransitively.” *Tamam*, No.8552, is the verb form. No.8550 is *Tummim*, which is *Thummim* when the *dagesh lene* is removed from the *taw*. Following an open syllable, it is *taw*, *qibbutz*, *mem* with the addition of the *dagesh forte*, *chireq yod*, and final *mem*. The form is the masculine plural of No.8537, meaning “perfections, that is, (technically) one of the epithets of the objects in the high priest’s breastplate as an emblem of complete Truth:—Thummim.” The related term—No.8537, *tôm* is from 8552, and means “completeness; figuratively prosperity; usually (morally) innocence.” (It is translated variously, but includes the meaning integrity, which appears twice in Psalm 26.)

Another associated term is No.8538, which is *tûmmâh* meaning innocence, from No.8537. As you will remember in Psalm 26, the term appears in verses 4 and 11. Therefore, the associative field gives us to understand that the term *Thummim* has the related meaning of integrity and innocence. The Hebrew term *Urim* usually has been translated as lights, but also has been associated with the word fire. Perhaps these two are homonyms, but I am going to refer to a passage that can be more readily interpreted in this segment if we allow it to represent the Hebrew term *Urim*.

Thummim has been translated as PERFECTIONS, but also has the connotation of INTEGRITY. Here again, we might say it appears as a homonym, but let us not close our minds as we study these passages, and we understand the relationship between these two objects that were located in the High Priest’s breastplate and these various passages that we are going to examine.

What is *Urim* and *Thummim*? How is *Urim* and *Thummim* manifested? I think the best explanation that can be given is in **The Companion Bible**. E. W. Bullinger

commented, “No command of [Yahweh] to MAKE these. Only told to put (*natan*, to give) them in the breastplate, i.e. into the bag of the breastplate...This bag was a doubled part, and the *Urim* and *Thummim* were probably two precious stones which were drawn up as a lot to give [Yahweh’s] judgment. ‘The lot is cast into the lap (Heb. bosom); but the whole judgment thereof is of [Yahweh]’ (Prov. 16. 33). Bosom here is put for the clothing or covering over it...The Heb. *Urim* and *Thummim* mean ‘lights’ and ‘perfections’... Probably these are the plurals of majesty, the sing. “light” (being put by Metonymy for what is brought to light, i.e. guilt), and ‘perfection’ (put by Metonymy for moral perfection, i.e. innocence). [Remember that this term innocence is part of the definition from the **Strong’s Concordance**.] Thus, these two placed in the ‘bag’, and one drawn out, would give the judicial decision (the name connected with the breastplate, cp. v. 15, above), which would be ‘of [Yahweh]’. Hence, the breastplate itself was known as ‘the breastplate of judgment’ (v. 15), because, by that, [Yahweh’s] judgment was obtained whenever it was needed. Hence, when the land was divided ‘by lot’ (Num. 26. 55, &c.), Eleazar, the high priest, must be present (Num. 34. 37 (cp. 27. 21). Josh. 17. 4). When he would decide it the lot ‘came out’ (Josh. 18. 11); ‘came forth’ (Josh. 19. 1); ‘came out’ (Jos. 19. 17): i.e. ‘out’, or ‘forth’ from the bag of the ephod.”

“...The Hebrew for lot is always goral [sic!] = a stone, except in Deut. 32. 9, 1 Chron. 16. 18 and Ps. 105. 11, where it is = hebel = a measuring line, put by Metonymy for the inheritance so measured.” (Editor’s note: In the book of Esther, the term for lot is *pur*, from whence comes the appellative for the notable feast - Purim.)

Let us look at some of these passages of Scripture referred to in **The Companion Bible**. In the

English Bible, we want to take into consideration what we have seen here and then expand our investigation to other passages and take into consideration the Hebrew text of the Sacred Scriptures. We have already read Exodus 28:30, where we read, “**And you shall put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim...**” This term “put in” is *nathan*, and translated give in or give into. “**...And they shall be upon Aaron’s heart...**”

We can see in Leviticus 8:6-9 describing the enrobing of the High Priest Aaron, that the breastplate rested over his heart, and the *Urim* and *Thummim* are placed therein. “**And Moses brought Aaron and his sons, and washed them with water.**” (Cleansing is always necessary before coming before Almighty Yahweh.) “**And he put on him the coat, and girded him with the girdle, and clothed him with the robe, and put the ephod on him, and he girded him with the skillfully woven band of the ephod, and bound it to him with it. And he placed the breastplate on him: and in the breastplate he put the Urim and Thummim. And he set the mitre on his head; and on the mitre, in front, he set the golden plate, the holy crown; as Yahweh commanded Moses.**” Moses, in this passage, was enrobing his brother, the High Priest Aaron, consecrating him into his office.

In Numbers 27:21, we find the consecration of Yahshua the General selected to succeed Moses. “And he shall stand before **Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the JUDGMENT of the Urim before Yahweh: at his word shall they go out, and at his word shall they come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation.**” Here at the consecration of the Israelite General Yahshua, we are told that he must always ask instructions of the High Priest Eleazar, who was the son of Aaron. Eleazar will, thereupon,

inquire of Yahweh by the judgment of Urim, whether Israel should go in or whether to go out. Here is a very serious matter that was under discussion, because, obviously, lives depended on Yahweh's instructions.

Turn to Deuteronomy chapter 33, which comprises a prophecy directed toward the tribes of Israel. In verses 8 and 9 the text speaks of the tribe of Levi, the Levites, from which tribe also came the *kohenim*—the high priestly family of Aaron. ***“And of Levi he said, your Thummim and your Urim are with your righteous one....”*** This pronouncement becomes very interesting when you consider that, up to this point, the Urim has been emphasized as the primary term. The terms appeared as “Urim and Thummim.” Now they are reversed. Why is this? We will see momentarily that *thummim* meant *innocence* whereas *urim* meant *conviction*. Here, innocence is placed before conviction.

“...Your Thummim and your Urim are with your righteous one, whom you did prove at Mas-sah, with whom you contended at the waters of Meribah....” Here is a reference to Exodus 17:7. Remember the term *Meribah* is the participial form of the term in Hebrew which means *lawsuit*—*mer-ibah*, which means *suing*, or *lawsuit*. ***“...Who said of his father, and of his mother, I have not seen him; neither did he acknowledge his brethren, nor knew his own children: for they have observed your word, and keep your covenant.”*** (Deuteronomy 33:8-9).

Do you remember a situation as it appeared in Exodus 32, when Aaron made the golden calf, and Moses returned to render judgment? Moses announced throughout the camp, ***“...Who is on Yahweh's side, let him come on to me....”*** (Exodus 32:26). The Levites joined themselves to Moses. The name *Levi* means *one who joins*. Then Moses said in verse 29, ***“Set yourselves apart today, for Yahweh, since each man was***

“...They have observed your word, and keep your covenant.”

(DEUTERONOMY 33:9B)

That is what the Levites were required to fulfill. They have joined themselves to Yahweh without reservation... We must be the epitome of the spiritual Israelites (the spiritual Levites) today.

against his son, and against his brother; that he may bestow on you a blessing this day.” Moses directed the Levites to go through the camp and kill everyone his brother, his child, his companion, and his neighbor.

Would you have the moral fortitude to fulfill that command? That is very difficult. But consider Deuteronomy chapter 13 before you reply. The average individual would say, “I cannot put away my son. I cannot put away my daughter. I cannot go against my father, my mother, my companion.” A lot of parents have had to do that, when their prog-

eny turned unfaithful to Almighty Yahweh. It says in Deuteronomy 33:9 that neither did he acknowledge his brethren. Certainly, if someone turns away from Yahweh, they are no longer Yahweh's people. They no longer should be in our minds—blood relationship notwithstanding. “Nor knew ***his own children***.” If our children turn away from Yahweh, we must remember that we shall observe Yahweh's Word and keep His Covenant Law, tolerance notwithstanding.

My mind was made up years ago. When the Scriptures said that the wages of sin is death, when the Scriptures tell us that sin is the transgression of the Law, and when the Scriptures tell us that we must always obey Yahweh's Covenant, then I shall faithfully obey Yahweh's Law and teach His Word without fear or favor. I do not care how many other ministers become weak and how many other organizations come and go. We must obey Yahweh, not men (Acts 5:29).

It is tragic when a prominent organization that was teaching Yahweh's Law for so long literally cut themselves loose from their history. They have no history anymore. They have abandoned the early writings of their founder, saying they were in error. Now they have cut themselves away from their history and will wander with instability all over the spectrum of nominal religion. Those who leave Truth will merely join with nominal religion and will, undoubtedly, totally disappear and disintegrate eventually.

“...They have observed your word, and keep your covenant.” (Deuteronomy 33:9b). That is what the Levites were required to fulfill. They have joined themselves to Yahweh without reservation. It is similar to the 144,000 who faithfully follow the Lamb wherever He goes. They will always adhere to the one who is teaching the Covenant Law. We must be the epitome of the spiritual Israelites (the spiritual Levites)

today. ***“...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh.”*** (Matthew 4:4). See also Deuteronomy 8:3.

“They shall teach Jacob your ordinances, and Israel your law: they shall put incense before you, and whole burnt-offering on your altar.” (Deuteronomy 33:10). Because the Levites faithfully kept the Law, they can teach it. Today, if we are similarly faithful, our prayers will be accepted as sweet incense upon the altar of Yahweh. (See Revelation chapter 8.) ***“Bless, Yahweh, his substance, and accept the work of his hands: dash in pieces the loins of them that rise up against him, and of them that hate him, that they rise not again.”*** (Deuteronomy 33:11). What a blessing has been conferred upon the tribe of Levi. Brethren, let us personify the character of spiritual Levites today—those who have joined themselves to Yahweh in a Covenant that will not be broken.

Let us look briefly at the term *fire*. Here, I would like to propose a passage of Scripture that can be better understood in the light of *Urim* and *Thummim* than merely to translate by using the plain *fire*. ***“And his rock shall pass away by reason of terror; and his princes shall be dismayed at the ensign, says Yahweh, whose fire is in Zion, and his furnace in Jerusalem.”***

(Isaiah 31:9). If we say the term *fire* means *Urim*, it would mean His light, His fire, His judgment is in Zion; and His furnace, the lake of fire (of Yahweh’s judgment) which is in Jerusalem, will be eventually in the Valley of Hinnom. This I think can be explained better with the term *Urim* than with the term *fire*, seen as the light of Yahweh’s Law (Torah). Those who do not obey His Torah will be judged and thrown into the furnace of Gehenna as punishment for sin.

Turn to Isaiah chapter 50, where

we encounter another passage that I think can be better explained by recognizing the term *Urim*, which is in the Hebrew text, not as *fire*, but also as *judgment* and as *Torah*. ***“Who is among you that fears Yahweh, that obeys the voice of his servant? He that walks in darkness, and has no light, let him trust in the name of Yahweh, and rely upon his Elohim.”*** (Isaiah 50:10). These words of encouragement stir us to greater obedience to the voice of the Obadiah preaching Yahweh’s

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Word. Not only is it encouragement, but a more intensive tone is used. It would seem to me that sometimes people should remember where they heard the Name Yahweh and that they should rely upon the organization that has been called, and established by decades of service, by Yahweh Elohim to carry His Truth to the world.

“Behold, all you that kindle a fire, and gird yourselves about with firebrands; walk in the flame of your fire, and among the brands that you have kindled.

This shall you have of my hand; you shall lie down in sorrow.” (Isaiah 50:11). It can be said, “walk in the flames of your Torah.” Many people today are going off the track in doctrine; they are not following Yahweh’s Law, but they make their own rules. They have, in effect, established their own law.

As I have showed previously in this series, Satan rejected a quarter of Yahweh’s Word, and some of the organizations that He obviously controls today accept even less than that. They make their own Torah; they are a law to themselves. They tear pages out of the Bible and cast them aside if they encounter something that they do not fancy. For example, the gay and lesbian synagogues and churches that are in existence—are these at variance to the Sacred Scriptures?

I received an article describing the shame of some Jews who are homosexuals. Even some rabbis have rejected the commandments in Leviticus chapters 18 and 20 which command them (and us) not to be involved in immoral conduct like this. Even some Orthodox Jews are reported to be dying of AIDS. It is a shame to the Jews, who were known as the people of the book. Yet they have gay and lesbian synagogues, and so what are they doing? In effect, THEY ARE WRITING THEIR OWN TORAH! This is what this passage is evidently trying to tell us. ***“This you shall have of my hand [judgment]; you shall lie in sorrow.”*** This is only one example of how people establish their own Torah and will eventually receive judgment at the hand of Yahweh, to lie down in the fires of Gehenna in sorrow, because they have rejected Yahweh’s Word to establish conduct they fancy. See Romans chapters 1 and 2.

Let us continue as we consider the second element here. That is the term *Thummim*, appearing in Exodus 28:30 (which we read previously). I would like for us to

begin this phase of the study with Genesis chapter 20. This incident occurs when Abraham journeyed to Gerar. Abraham had told Abimelech the King of Gerar that Sarah was his sister. Abimelech took Sarah, and Elohim appeared in a dream to him. Yahweh Elohim said, "...**Behold, you are but a dead man, because of the woman whom you have taken; for she is a man's wife.**" (Genesis 20:3b). Abimelech must have trembled in fear when this dream came upon him. Abimelech had not come near her, and he said, "...**O Sovereign, will you slay even a righteous nation? Said he not himself unto me, She is my sister? and she, even herself said, he is my brother: in the integrity of my heart and the innocency of my hands have I done this.**" (Genesis 20:4b-5).

Here we find the word *Thummim* appearing in the Hebrew text. It is translated into English as *integrity* rather than transliterated directly from the Hebrew texts. We continue reading with verse 6, "**And Elohim said unto him in the dream, Yes, I know that in the integrity of your heart you have done this, and I also withheld you from sinning against me: therefore suffered I you not to touch her. Now therefore restore the man's wife; for he is a prophet....**" (Genesis 20:6-7a). Almighty Yahweh recognized the sincerity of Abimelech and allowed him to make restitution for his error.

We have already considered Leviticus 8:8 and Deuteronomy 33:8. Consider now another passage which appears in Ezra 2:62. "**These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found: therefore were they deemed polluted and put from the priesthood.**" There was a question here concerning the priesthood. Apparently some of those priests could not find their names in the genealogical register. They believed that they were priests, but, in the Levitical genealogy, their

names were not registered.

In livestock breeding, a pure lineage must be maintained in the registry. There must be a written record kept, not a verbal, as proof of the purity of the individual, much more so in the priesthood. Verse 63 of Ezra chapter 2 reads, "**And the governor said to them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and Thummim.**" *Urim and Thummim* was required to learn the Will of Yahweh. Should this priest be allowed in, or is he not a priest and should he be put out of the priesthood? They did not have *Urim and Thummim* during the time of Ezra. Although he, himself, was a *kohen*; nevertheless, he did not have access to the *Urim and Thummim* as the representative of Yahweh at that point in history. Nehemiah 7:64-65 quotes virtually the same thought that Ezra stated, that they should be put out of the priesthood until there stood up a priest who had *Urim and Thummim*. *Urim and Thummim* was not available in the second Temple era. "**These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but it was not found: therefore were they deemed polluted and put from the priesthood. And the governor said to them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, until there stood up a priest with Urim and Thummim.**"

Someone offering the bread of Yahweh, unless he is a *kohen*, was prohibited in the Scriptures from sharing in the employment of the temple until the time when Yahshua shall reign. Then, the priesthood and royal family shall be combined. See Zechariah 6:12-15.

Let us turn next to 1 Samuel chapter 14. This was a time when Jonathan decided he was going to determine whether he can single-handedly defeat the Philistines at Michmash. Consequently, when the battle began Yahweh supernaturally intervened. There happened

a very great trembling from an earthquake that struck (verse 15). The Philistines became frightened, and the Hebrews (that had joined the foreign militia) went back over to the Hebrews and started fighting against the Philistines.

Something is missing here in the Masoretic text. This becomes more plain when Dr. Bullinger quotes from ancient manuscripts something which is not found in the Masoretic texts. Undoubtedly, some are the manuscripts which we shall study later on in my course in the Septuagint and Qumran writings.

"And Saul asked counsel of Elohim, Shall I go down after the Philistines? Will you deliver them into the hand of Israel? But he answered him not that day. And Saul said, Draw near here, all your chiefs of the people; and know and see in which this sin has been this day. For, as Yahweh lives, who saves Israel, though it be in Jonathan my son, he shall surely die. But there was not a man among all the people that answered him. Then said he to all Israel, You be on one side, and I and Jonathan my son will be on the other side. And the people said to Saul, Do what seems good to you. Therefore Saul said to Yahweh, the Elohim of Israel, Show the right. And Jonathan and Saul were taken by lot; but the people escaped. And Saul said, Cast lots between me and Jonathan my son. And Jonathan was taken." (1 Samuel 14:37-42). Jonathan had not heard the king's command, which was a ridiculous command, because King Saul had declared no one should eat food, but pursue swiftly after the Philistines that day. Jonathan had found some honey, and that honey revived him after an arduous day of battle. The passage continues to say that later on the people rescued Jonathan out of the hand of Saul. He was ready to kill his own son who had not heard the restriction, which, in fact, was

not a reasonable and logical prohibition anyway. When someone works hard, he must put fuel (energy) into his body to be effective. The lots were drawn, but Elohim at first did not answer. The lots were given, and those lots were the *Urim* and the *Thummim*, although those terms are not expressed.

1 Kings, chapter 9, describes the dedication of the first Temple, the Solomonic Temple. Let us read the instruction from Yahweh to Solomon. ***“And as for you, if you will walk before me, as David your father walked, in integrity [Thummim - innocence] of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded you, and will keep my statutes and my ordinances; then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, according as I promised to David your father; saying, There shall not fail you a man upon the throne of Israel. But if you shall turn away from following me, you or your children, and not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but shall go and serve other elohim, and worship them; then I will cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, I will cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all peoples.”*** (1 Kings 9:4-7).

The term *integrity*, in the English translation as it appears here, must bear the connotation of innocence, and that is what *Thummim* regularly means. ***“Is not your fear of Elohim your confidence, and the integrity of your ways your hope?”*** (Job 4:6). Of course, the innocence of our ways in life is our hope! That is the intended meaning of the term *justification*.

The connotation of innocence and integrity is again found in Psalm 7:8. ***“Yahweh ministers judgment to***

the peoples [judgment was done by Urim and Thummim]: ***judge me, O Yahweh, according to my righteousness, and to my integrity that is in me.***” We all hope for, and strive for, the judgment of Yahweh, the righteous judgment of heavenly rule to be upon us according as we have kept His Word, and according as we are innocent of transgression against Him. Who can insist that the Law of Yahweh has been done away with? Who can prove that the Sabbath has been set aside in the New Testament Age? Who says sin is no longer the transgression of the Law (which it was here)?

The fundamental Hebrew term behind the translation “righteousness,” associated with integrity or *Thummim*, should not be missed. *Righteousness* means *the keeping of Yahweh’s Laws*. The Scriptures always represent righteousness by keeping Yahweh’s Law. ***“Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you.”*** (Psalm 25:21). Do you comprehend the relationship between the terms innocence and uprightness? Uprightness means obedience to Yahweh’s Commandments.

Turn next to Psalm 26. We shall look carefully at the evidence that will be taken into consideration when a judgment is rendered. Here you can surely relate the text with Psalm 1. ***“I have not sat with men of falsehood; neither will I go in with dissemblers. I hate the assembly of evil doers, and will not sit with the wicked.”*** (Psalm 26:4-5).

The first psalm sets the tone for the entire Psalter (the book of Psalms). ***“Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers.”*** (Psalm 1:1). This can be transplanted into Psalm 26:4-5. ***“Walking in the counsel of the wicked”*** means sitting with men of falsehood, dissemblers and evil

doers, who set their own agenda. There is an assembly (*qahal*) of *resha'im* - evil doers. The psalmist continues in verse 6 of Psalm 26, “I will wash my hands in ***innocency: so will I compass your altar, O Yahweh.***” *Innocency* corresponds to the term *integrity* in verse 1 and verse 11 of this same chapter. ***“But as for me, I will walk in my integrity: redeem me, and be merciful to me.”*** (Psalm 26:11).

Psalm 26 comprises a very great text. We usually read it at the beginning, or sometime during, the Day of Atonement. We are asking Yahweh to judge and find us innocent, according as we have trusted in Yahweh and obeyed Him without wavering. As long as we have walked in His Truth, not being involved with the evil conduct of sinners, falsehood, and dissemblers, we hope to receive the verdict of innocence.

Dissemblers means those who drop out of the Assemblies of Yahweh. They are those who refuse to assemble and honor Yahweh as in Hebrews chapter 10, verse 25 and on. Here we are told that we shall not neglect the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is. Yahweh will judge those who are wicked dissemblers, those who depart from the Faith.

It seems as though every time I study the material to prepare for one of these sermons, great new Truths have emerged from the pages of the Bible that had been locked in the Sacred Scriptures to this endtime. See Daniel 12:4. I was just thrilled with that passage in Ezekiel chapter 28, which shows me that we are definitely in the Assemblies of Yahweh for a good reason. I am glad to be here because here is where the whole counsel of the Word of Yahweh is being preached, taught, and lived. This is the way to eternal life.

Our character is not like chrichianity, or other religious sects. In True Worship, we do not follow Satan’s practices of only keeping part of the Law. We accept the teach-

ing of the whole Scriptures, striving to live by every Word. Consider again that, as I was going through these Scriptures, suddenly a great Truth was impressed upon me, and I thought, "How had I previously missed this point for so long?"

There is also something very important that appears in Revelation 22:10-16. ***"And he says to me, Seal not up the words of the prophecy of this book; for the time is at hand. He that is unrighteous, let him do unrighteousness still: and he that is filthy, let him be made filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him do righteousness still: and he that is holy, let him be made holy still."*** (Revelation 22:10-11). In other words, a line has been now drawn.

In the Wisdom Literature class of Obadiah School of the Bible, we studied this subject from the book of Proverbs. We can read that the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth (Proverbs 11:31). It tells us here that the wicked have lost their hope, because the wicked people do not follow the Word of Yahweh. ***"When a wicked man dies, his expectation shall perish; and the hope of iniquity perishes. The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked comes in his place."*** (Proverbs 11:7). The wicked specifies the one who will be caught up in the great Tribulation.

In Revelation, chapter 22, we see that the line has been drawn. The one who is unrighteous cannot, thereafter, become righteous. The one who is filthy, cannot become cleansed. If one is righteous, you will want to remain righteous. If you are holy, then faithfully continue in your holiness. Continue reading with verse 12 of Revelation chapter 22: ***"Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to render to each man according as his work is. I am the Aleph and the Tau, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."*** (Revelation 22:12-13). Let

us go to the beginning of the book of Revelation and pick up another instance where the terms *Aleph* and *Tau* are represented. ***"I am the Aleph and the Tau, says Yahweh Elohim, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."*** (Revelation 1:8). We believe, from internal evidence, that the book of

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Revelation was originally written in Hebrew. Consequently, we reject the terminology *Alpha* and *Omega*, which are Greek.

The *aleph*, א, is the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet and the *tau*, ט, is the last letter. We do not have something similar in the English grammatical system as a SIGNED definite direct object. The 'eth, אֶת, in Hebrew constitutes the sign of the definite direct object.

Yahshua is the definite direct object of the plan of salvation. He is the One who will join heaven and earth, as in the first appearance of

the 'eth in Genesis 1:1. The first time the term 'eth appears in the Bible is in Genesis chapter 1. A translation of the verse is: ***"bereshith bara' 'elohim 'eth hashamayim we'eth ha'arets."*** The 'eth joins together heaven and earth. We also know that the 'eth is the preposition in Hebrew, the word *with*, and that appears almost like a finger pointing to Exodus chapter 32.

It struck me as I was going through the Scriptures preparing for this segment of the series that this term 'eth also points to the *Urim* and the *Thummim*. The first letter of the term *Urim* is *aleph* and the first letter of *Thummim* is *tau*. Does this point to a great Truth not heretofore taught in these modern times? Obviously it does! I thought then, "What a great revelation!"

So we can read verse 13 as an interpretation, "I am the sign of the definite direct object. I am the Aleph and the Tau. I am the preposition 'with.' I am the Urim and the Thummim of Yahweh." This knowledge just really thrills me! As I prepare each sermon, suddenly Yahweh reveals something startlingly new to me that has been locked in the Bible from ancient times. I have never heard anywhere of anyone who clearly related these two terms *Urim* and *Thummim* to Yahshua, except simply as a Judge.

"I am the Aleph and the Tau, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in by the gates into the city." (Revelation 22:13-14). Are we keeping His commandments? Some of the Greek texts say, "Blessed are they who wash their robes," and the washing of the robes has the inescapable connotation of cleansing yourself from sin to keep the commandments of Yahweh. If we do not wash our robes, do not keep Yahweh's commandments, do not perform the Will of Yahweh, we can be assured that

we will have no access to the tree of life. Therefore, your life will end when Yahshua returns at the Second Coming and judges the world at the great White Throne Judgment. If you do not have access to the tree of life, your life is limited to a brief existence. Those who have access to the tree of life must remember that Adam and Eve were denied access to the tree of life after their sin. They lived less than a thousand years.

When a wicked man dies, his hope perishes, his fate is sealed. Just remember that! All of us must faithfully live according to Yahweh's commandments. We may drive out onto a busy highway at any time and be killed. Our long life is not assured. We should remember that. Today, with all of the diseases that are rampant in the world, we should fear to disobey Yahweh, so that even if for some reason Yahweh would decide that it is in His plan to take our lives before the promised three score and ten, that we are ready to stand in the very next moment in righteousness, innocence, and integrity before Yahweh's throne.

Let us read Revelation 22:15, ***“Outside are the dogs, and the sorcerers, and the fornicators, and the murderers, and the idolaters, and every one that loves and makes a lie.”*** The dogs symbolize the *goyim* (the gentiles, people of the nations). The term *sorcerers* represents the people who are cohorts with demons. Fornicators indicates those who take part in illicit sexual activities of any kind and can be included under the category of *porneia*—immorality. Yahshua declares that if anyone hates his brother in your heart without cause, you are in danger of being declared guilty in His judgment. If you put anything before Almighty Yahweh, you are guilty of idolatry. Lies are serious sins, so we should by all means express the truth at all times, not simply when we are sitting on a witness chair in a courtroom and

may be prosecuted for perjury, but because Yahweh has prohibited bearing false witness at all times.

Do you know that whenever you are speaking, all things must be the absolute truth, straight as an arrow, never with the forked tongue of deceit, never speaking—in effect—out of both sides of the mouth? Always, Yahweh's True Worshipers must speak the truth because the ninth commandment demands that we shall not bear false witness against our neighbors.

Continuing, we read in Revelation 22:16, ***“I Yahshua have sent my angel to testify to you these things for the assemblies. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright, and morning star.”*** David confessed his sins before Yahweh and before the Assembly in Psalm 51. We must all confess and forsake our sins. When Yahshua mentions in verse 13 that He is the *Aleph* and the *Tau*, suddenly I said to myself, “Those are the first letters of Urim and Thummim, and they contain a great significance.” We can read, “I am the Urim, and I am the Thummim.”

We must recognize that the Messiah is an able Judge who is sitting at the right hand of Yahweh today. He is also our Defense Attorney when we seek to do what is right and good before Yahweh as He pleads with our Father in heaven. What does Yahshua say in John 5:22? He tells us, ***“For neither does the Father judge any man, but he has given all judgment to the Son.”*** Now we can determine why He has to be our High Priest. The High Priest wore the *Urim* and *Thummim*. The High Priest approves those people in the register of True Worshipers who are repentant and living a righteous life, those who are honoring the atoning character of His shed blood. He says in verse 27, ***“And he gave him authority to execute judgment, because he is a son of man.”*** (John 5:27). This

is the Son—the One today with the *Urim* and *Thummim* of judgment upon His heart.

Yahshua knows that mankind can live in obedience to Yahweh's Covenant. The Messiah Yahshua Himself was once a human being who overcame the attractions of sin. ***“Marvel not at this: for the hour comes, in which all that are in the tombs shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, to the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment.”*** (John 5:28-29).

Do you perceive the *Urim* and *Thummim* in this passage? I do. “They shall come forth to the resurrection of life. Judge me in my integrity, in my *Thummim*, in my innocence. Don't judge me for the things I have done, for I repent of those violations of Yahweh's Covenant Law. Judge me in my uprightness, as I keep the Law.” This knowledge is prophesied to be revealed in the last days (Daniel 12:4). It is hidden and locked within Yahweh's book. That is why I can affirm that I am never bored with the Bible. There are always things that are being revealed as we study, because the Holy Spirit of Yahweh is here in the Assemblies of Yahweh, and these are the last days.

We have uncovered many great lessons in this series. Let us not forget them! Let us not become bored with the Bible. Its words shine as brightly today as ever in history! Furthermore, let us not neglect to obey what the Scriptures tell us. This series brings out quite clearly that Almighty Yahweh is always in control, especially in these last days and in the future Kingdom of Yahweh. We may gain enduring spiritual strength from these lessons.

May Yahweh bless everyone as we adhere to the Narrow Way that leads to life everlasting and reject the comfort of the broad way that leads to destruction. SNB



The Sacred Name Broadcast

RADIO MESSAGE

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

Scriptural Family Life

Some time ago, the author happened to be in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for some study and research work. For lunch, several brethren and I went to a cafeteria in the modern Penn Center Plaza. As we were enjoying our lunch and some stimulating spiritual conversation, we were startled by a crash from an object thrown against the safety glass windows near where we were sitting. Looking toward the street, we observed several young boys running down the sidewalk, while passersby continued to stroll along nonchalantly with hardly so much as a sideward glance. Years ago, an attempt would have been made by someone to collar the boys and hold them until the proper authorities could be summoned, arrive on the scene, and take charge. Thankfully, the engineers responsible for planning the building had anticipated the prospect of having an object hurled toward the large glass windows. Safety glass had been installed throughout the building, and we were spared the tragic experience of being cut by flying glass. As we resumed our interrupted lunch, the topic of our discussion turned toward the obvious deterioration that can be noted in the moral fabric of our country, especially among young people.

Upon finishing our lunch, we returned to our car and drove toward the building wherein we had an appointment later that afternoon. This just happened to be the day when the women's liberation movement was mounting a special demonstration around the country. In many of the places where these demonstrations were scheduled, the news media reported that the turnout proved disappointing. However, in Rittenhouse Square in Philadelphia, we noted that rather large crowds had congregated. Later, the newspaper accounts of the demonstrations reported that another huge crowd demonstrating in New York had paraded down Fifth Avenue.

I wonder how many of the readers are as bewildered to behold these demonstrations as I am. Perhaps you have viewed such developments with the same sense of dismay while asking yourself the question, "Just where is all the unrest and social revolution leading?" Perhaps the bitter fruits of social change are so profound that they can never be reversed. Undoubtedly, this could be the reason for the sharply escalating divorce rate here in the United States, wherein currently 50 percent of the marriages end in failure.

This present series of radio broadcast transcripts is being presented so that we may dissect and closely

analyze some of the problems with which we are confronted today. It is my intention to present scriptural answers to these problems for you to consider, rather than to follow the contemporary form of reasoning which is controlled by the atheistic theory of evolution.

Do you know that there are indeed absolute, infallible proofs that our Heavenly Father is real and exists? You can prove His existence to yourself, if you care to do so. Then, after you have proved that there actually is an Almighty who is interested in you as an individual, you will find that He has blueprinted a way of life for humankind which will produce happiness, contentment, and fulfillment, if you will take this scriptural pathway. Perhaps I should point out that mankind hasn't had very much success in following its own way, especially recently. Perhaps humankind should return to the scriptural way of Yahweh for a significant change!

Family Deterioration in the U.S.A.

What has happened to the family unit in our country over the past several decades? Just as did ancient Rome, our nation is rapidly losing the stability that may be achieved from a tight family unit. When Rome became plagued with

infidelity, divorce, and illegitimate births, the downfall of this great ancient empire became imminent. Today, America is following this very same pathway!

In our country, the proper role of the father has been lost during the past 50 years. The father, today, has taken on the image of a slightly effeminate, slow-witted person who is held under the sway of a domineering wife. If the men of our nation would assert their authority, such misguided affairs as the women's liberation marches would never occur. If the father would assert his rightful authority, fewer divorces would occur, with less of the resulting juvenile emotional disturbance with its bad influence upon impressionable children.

One of the pitfalls besetting our industrialized society today is that the children rarely see their father working at his vocation. The father leaves the house in the morning and returns at night, tired from a hard day of toil. Because the family never sees the father at his work, they cannot relate to where their sustenance comes from or realize how tired he is when he returns home. In a situation such as this, frequently the wife is inconsiderate and decides that she must immediately have something done around the house. An argument ensues, other incidents are dragged in to compound the problem as the discussion heats up, frequently leading to serious consequences and a rift in the marriage relationship.

However, while the husband is to be the leader—the masculine force directing his family—he is not to assume the role of the cruel tyrant, ruling the family in terror. We must not abuse, but discipline in such a way that it will accomplish a change in attitude in the children. The husband must love his wife and respect her as the weaker vessel, even though he is the master of his house.

One of the most illuminating passages this regarding in the entire Bible is found in Ephesians 5:22-23. Please turn to this passage, and

read it for yourself. It describes a family relationship some psychologists term a “benign monarchy.” ***“Wives, be in subjection to your own husbands, as to Yahweh. For the husband is the head of the wife, as the Messiah also is the head of the assembly, being himself the savior of the body.”*** (Ephesians 5:22-23).

The wives are obligated to respect their husbands and to dress in modesty as befits saintly people. If I were to ask you to compare your personal life to that which is described by the Apostle Peter in the third chapter of his first epistle, would your life compare favorably? ***“In the same manner, you wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, even if any obey not the word, they may without the word be gained by the behavior of their wives; beholding your chaste behavior coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be the outward adorning of braiding the hair, and of wearing jewels of gold, or of putting on apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in the incorruptible apparel of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of Yahweh of great price. For after this manner beforetime the holy women also, who hoped in Yahweh, adorned themselves, being in subjection to their own husbands: as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him Master: whose children you now are, if you do well, and are not put in fear by any terror.***

“You husbands, in like manner dwell with your wives according to knowledge, giving honor to the woman, as to the weaker vessel, as being also joint-heirs of the grace of life; to the end that your prayers be not hindered.” (1 Peter 3:1-7).

“Liberated” from What?

Certainly, I don't know from what the modern women wish to be liberated! In our country, especially, women have been accorded

preferential treatment, except, of course, in certain instances. With the modern conveniences available today, the lot of the modern woman is not nearly as desperate as she sometimes believes that it really is. Some time ago, a few women employees of the Penn Central Railroad applied for equal job status with men. Apparently, they had previously been clerks or secretaries. Upon being granted this petition, several women were assigned by the management to do a man's job of inspecting freight cars. Several of the women refused to go, since the yards are often frequented by tramps and hobos. So ended this episode.

While the women's liberation demonstrations were being held, a certain beauty queen was asked for her opinion of the situation. She said, “I have better things to do than change a tire.” Personally, I think that such a comment just about sums up the entire women's liberation controversy. The woman has her role to play and the man has his, but the nation's news media sells lots of copy by giving front-page coverage to controversy.

The sharp rise in divorces in our country has been responsible for an entire generation of youth who have not known a stable family life. In our cities, gangs of young men and women aimlessly roam the streets looking for trouble, and, very often, finding it. Probably the gang of young boys who threw the object at the window in Penn Center Plaza in Philadelphia were merely speculating whether the glass would break. They probably had not considered the consequences of the danger of broken glass and how it could disfigure, or even kill.

When divorce occurs, the mother is often forced to work to support her family, turning the children into latchkey kids, left to run wild in the streets with no supervision. Single-person families number a large percentage of the homes today. Especially during the summer months, children rarely have jobs and, with much idle time, they get

into mischief. Our all-benevolent government has been providing child day-care centers, but one wonders if this is not simply another step toward taking the children from their parents so that the modern brand of education will be able to mold the child to the wishes of a few individual planners.

It is not the responsibility of the government, the school, or even your own religious organization to educate the child. In various passages such as Deuteronomy 6:6-7, the Bible assigns the responsibility to the parents to teach their children the correct way of life. ***“And these words, which I command you this day, shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”***

If each parent today were responsible for educating their children in the commandments of Yahweh and the Bible way of life, juvenile delinquency would vanish almost overnight.

The children are commanded in the Sacred Scriptures to respect and honor their parents, to rise up when an older person enters the room, and to learn to respect the leaders of the community. You may read this in Leviticus 19:32. Today, this scriptural concept is being largely ignored. Isaiah the prophet describes such a time as our modern age when he said, ***“And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them. And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbor: the child shall behave himself proudly against the old man, and the base against the honorable...As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they that lead you cause you to err, and destroy the way of your paths. Yahweh stands up to contend, and stands to judge the peoples.”*** (Isaiah 3:4-5, 12-13).



Problems Traced to Television and Internet

It is an established fact that the children of our day are spending far too much time in front of the television set, and, I might add, that many parents are doing the same thing. The steady diet of violence (murder, robbery, and other crimes), broken homes, and sick comedy will eventually begin to interfere with the logical reasoning power of any person. His conduct will change and become that of a degenerate, until his very personality has become altered. I am convinced that the current erosion of morals in our country can be traced directly to the advent of the television.

Furthermore, the internet has allowed illogical fantasies to be lived. Chat rooms and web sites featuring pornography and immorality are readily available. Youth, with little reserve of spirituality, will seek out the gratification of their carnal natures. Some will even do this on school computers. Home comput-

ers with an internet connection, but without parental supervision, will lead to danger. If the wasted hours in front of the television set, or internet computer screen, were utilized in Bible study, or reading something constructive to the mind, the country as a whole (and perhaps the world) would soon recover the strength of character which was our hallmark in the past.

Corporal punishment, as a form of discipline, has now become mostly outmoded and, in many places, illegal. However, the children must be taught respect for the rights of other people. If this takes an occasional “trip to the woodshed,” then by all means there should be no hesitation for a parent to resort to such reasonable discipline.

Are you alarmed with the drift of the times? If so, you may have reached the point where you feel that you, alone, cannot withstand the tide. But you can, if you determine in your heart to live in harmony with the commandments of our Heavenly Father. You may be the only one to do so in the particular neighborhood in which you live. Nevertheless, your life may have some positive influence upon your neighbors. This firm conviction will certainly be recognized and blessed by our Heavenly Father. Anyone, with any intuition at all, realizes that this world cannot continue its downward plunge into the morass of immorality for much longer, without eventually encountering a day of reckoning. Possibly 9/11 should have revealed this conclusion.

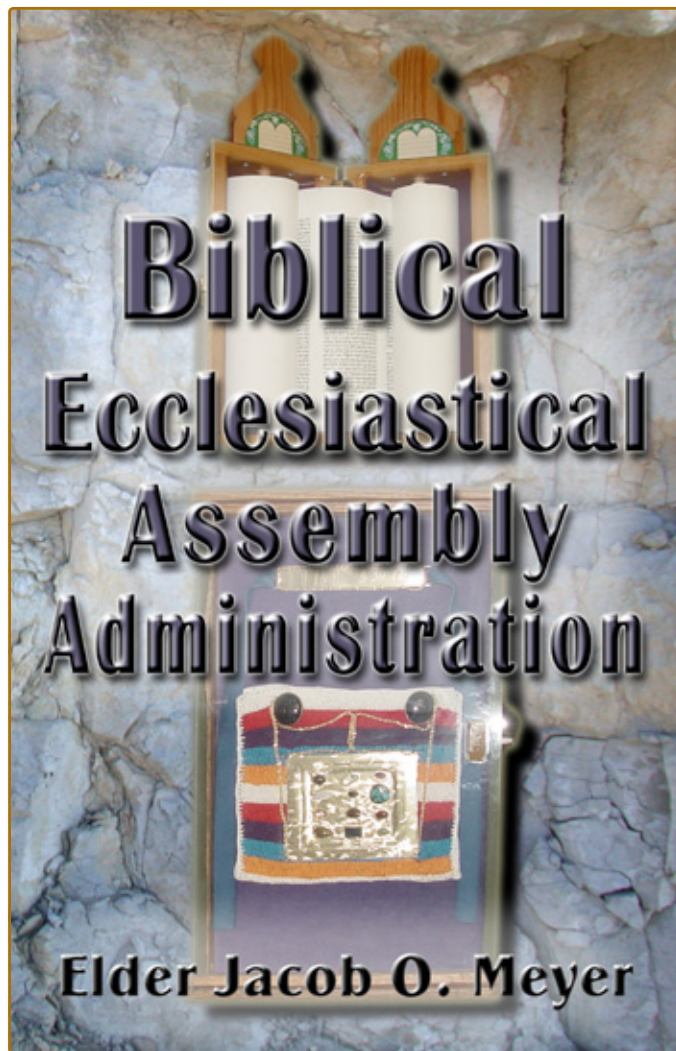
Judgment from our Heavenly Father is imminent—unless the world changes its ways. Now is the time for you to begin to experience the joy of living for our Heavenly Father. You may already enjoy a foretaste of living in the Kingdom of Messiah by placing your life under the direction of Yahweh’s Word and of Yahshua our Messiah today.

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