

THE
SACRED NAME
BROADCASTER

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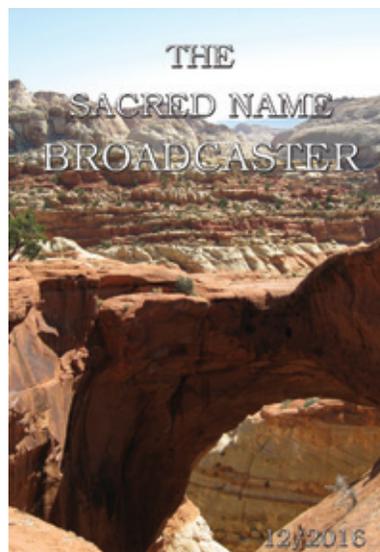
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Founder and Author: Elder Jacob O. Meyer



Our Cover:

"Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and measured out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?" (Isaiah 40:12). When we see the beauty of Yahweh's creation, knowing that Yahweh has made all these things by the greatness of His power, we give Him glory as our Maker.

Yet, this generation regards not the creative power of Yahweh, the Maker of all things. However, we will give Him glory and honor because He can do all things.

"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting Elohim, Yahweh, the Creator of the ends of the earth, faints not, neither is weary; there is no searching of his understanding. He gives power to the faint; and to him that has no might he increases strength." (Isaiah 40:29-29). Yahweh, through Yahshua the Messiah, can do all things for us—if we have Faith.

CHR-STMAS



Crosses Cultural Lines

excerpted from THE CASE AGAINST CHR-STMAS

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

During the winter months, the Jews also observe a festival. On the 25th day of Chisleu (corresponding to December 25) begins an eight-day observance. The central theme of the celebration revolves around the nine-branched candelabra. The

center candle is lit, and from this light, the remaining candles are lit each night during the festival. Gifts are exchanged, sometimes one each day. Festive decorations and delicacies are featured. In fact, ironically, some Jews today set up and trim an evergreen tree, which they call a Hanukkah bush!

The Feast of Hanukkah (the feast of lights) is said to relate to the inter-testamental era of Judah Maccabeus. It was his valiant effort as a freedom fighter and guerrilla commander of the Jewish resistance forces that succeeded in driving out the Syrian army during the reign of the pagan Antiochus Epiphanes.

After Antiochus initiated the apex of insults against the Temple worship in an effort to stamp out the Israelite Faith by sacrificing a young sow on the altar and erecting a statue of himself in the Temple, the Maccabees fought to drive out the pagan army and cleanse the Temple for the restoration of pure worship. After three years, the Jews were once again in control of Jerusalem, and the Temple was cleansed. During the eight days of cleansing, tradition says that a small flask of oil (the only one available) maintained the menorah light.

The account of this period in the history of the Jews can be found in the apocryphal books of Maccabees. The following quotes will give you some idea of the gravity of the situation they faced.

2 Maccabees 6:1-11

“Not long after, the king sent an old Athenian to force the Jews to forsake the laws of their forefathers and cease to live according to the laws of Yahweh, but to pollute the temple in Jerusalem and to call it that of the OLYMPIAN ZEUS, and to call the one in Gerizim that of ZEUS the Hospitable, in keeping with the character of those who lived there. This harshly and most grievously intensified the evil. For the heathen filled the temple with profligacy and revelry, amusing themselves with prostitutes and lying with women within the sacred precincts, and bringing into it things that were forbidden. The altar was covered with abominable offerings, which the laws forbade. A man could not keep the sabbath or celebrate the festivals of his forefathers, or admit he was a Jew at all. On the monthly celebration of the king’s birthday, they were taken by bitter necessity to taste the sacrifices, and when the festival of Dionysus was celebrated, they were compelled to wear wreaths of ivy and march in procession in his honor. At Ptolemy’s sug-

The rededication of the Temple was a memorable occasion. It is observed today as a strictly Jewish festival. Yahshua the Messiah also attended an observance at Jerusalem, John 10:22-24.

gestion a decree was issued to the neighboring Greek towns, that they should adopt the same policy toward the Jews and make them taste the sacrifices, and that they should slay any who would not agree to adopt Greek customs. So anyone could see how their misery was intensified. For two women were brought in for circumcising their children, and they led them publicly about the city with their babies hanging at their breasts, and then threw them down from the top of the wall. Others who had gathered in caves near by, to keep the seventh day in secret, were betrayed to Philip and all burned together, because they had scruples about defending themselves, in their respect for the dignity of that most holy day.”

1 Maccabees 1:41-64

“Then the king wrote to his whole kingdom that they should all become one people, and everyone should give up his particular practices. And all the heathen

assented to the command of the king. And many from Israel agreed to his kind of worship and offered sacrifice to idols and broke the sabbath. And the king sent word by messengers to Jerusalem and the towns of Judah to follow practices foreign to the country and put a stop to whole burnt offerings and sacrifices and drink offerings at the sanctuary, and to break the sabbaths and profane the feasts and pollute sanctuary and sanctified; to build altars and sacred precincts and idol temples and SACRIFICE HOGS and UNCLEAN CATTLE; and to leave their sons uncircumcised and defile themselves with every unclean and profane practice, so that they might forget the Law and change all their religious ordinances; and anyone who did not obey the command of the king should die. He wrote to his whole kingdom, to this effect, and he appointed inspectors over all the people, and he ordered the towns of Judah every one of them to offer sacrifice. And many of the people and everyone who was ready to forsake the Law joined with them and they did wrong in the land, and forced Israel to hide in every hiding-place they had.

“ON THE FIFTEENTH DAY OF CHISLEV, in the one hundred and forty-fifth year, he erected a dreadful desecration upon the altar, and in the towns of Judah round about they built altars, and at the doors of their houses and in the squares they burned incense, and wherever they found the hook of the Law, they tore them up and burned them, and if anyone was found to possess a book of the agreement or respected the Law, the king’s decree condemned him to death. The Israelites who appeared from month to month in the towns they treated with force. ON THE TWENTY-FIFTH OF THE MONTH THEY OFFERED

SACRIFICE UPON THE ALTAR WHICH WAS SET UP ON THE ALTAR OF BURNT OFFERING. The women who had circumcised their children they put to death under the decree, hanging the babies around their necks, and destroying their families and the men who had circumcised them. Yet many in Israel stood firm and resolved in their hearts not to eat what was unclean; they preferred death to being polluted with food or profaning the sacred agreement, and so they died. And Israel suffered intensely.”

1 Maccabees 4:42-60

“And he appointed priests that were without blemish and adherents of the Law, and they purified the sanctuary and carried out the stones that had defiled it to an unclean place. And they deliberated as to what they should do about the altar of burnt offering, which had been polluted. And a good idea occurred to them—to take it down, so that it might never be thrown up to them that the heathen had polluted it; so they took down the altar, and deposited the stones in the temple mountain, in a suitable place, until a prophet should come and declare what should be done with them. And they took whole stones, as the Law required, and built a new altar like the former one. And they built the sanctuary and the interior of the temple and consecrated the courts. And they made new holy dishes and they brought the lampstand and the altar of incense and the table into the temple. And they burned incense on the altar, and lighted the lamps on the lampstand, and they lighted the temple. And they put the loaves of bread on the table and hung up the curtains, and completed all the work they had undertaken.

“And they arose early on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month, that is, the month of



Under the guise of another, historic celebration (Hanukkah), Christmas is even being incorporated into Judaism, which rejects the Messiah! This insidious holiday is not restricted by any cultural boundaries.

Chislev, in the one hundred and forty-eighth year, and offered sacrifice according to the Law upon the new altar of burnt offering which they had made. At the time and on the day the heathen had polluted it, it was rededicated with songs and harps and lutes and cymbals. And all the people fell on their faces and blessed heaven which had prospered them. And they

celebrated the rededication of the altar for eight days and offered burnt offerings with joy, and offered a sacrifice of deliverance and praise. And they decorated the front of the temple with gold crowns and small shields and rededicated the gates and the priests' quarters, and fitted them with doors. And there was very great joy among the people, and the reproach the heathen



Hanukkah Bush

The customs of the
Chr-stmas celebration
continue to infiltrate
Hanukkah

had cast upon them was wiped out. And Judas and his brothers and all the congregation of Israel decreed that the days of the rededication of the altar should be observed at their season, every year, for eight days, beginning with the twenty-fifth of the month of Chislev, with gladness and joy.”

The rededication of the Temple was a memorable occasion. It is observed today as a strictly Jewish festival. Yahshua the Messiah also attended an observance at Jerusalem. (John 10:22-24).

However, this observance was not commanded by Almighty Yahweh in His list of holy days in Leviticus 23. Yahshua the Messiah kept those annual feast days of Yahweh, especially the seven-day observance of the Feast of Tabernacles and the eighth, Last Great Day (John 7).

Today, even the Jewish authorities express concern about the commercialization of Hanukkah. Orthodox and Conservative rabbis in New York inveigh against the obvi-

ous paganism of the decorations and the lavish gifts. Nevertheless, the customs of the Chr-stmas celebration continue to infiltrate Hanukkah.

The True Worshiper seeks with all his heart and soul to exit from the Babylonish system. (Revelation 18:4). We keep the commandments of Almighty Yahweh and cling closely to the Faith in Yahshua the Messiah. (Revelation 12:17 and 14:12). Keeping the commandments of Yahweh includes keeping holy His sacred time of Leviticus 23. Because of the evident pagan contamination of all the winter holidays—both Chr-stian and Jewish—we avoid observing them.

Pilgrim Fathers Rejected Chr-stmas

Many of the original immigrants came to the New World with the intention of reestablishing the true Faith of Yahshua the Messiah, and the Faith of the Apostles outside of Roman, papal persecution. The Pilgrim Fathers, who were essentially Puritans, came to the New

World at an early date (1620) and settled in New England. It was their intention to serve their Heavenly Father and Yahshua the Messiah in Spirit and in Truth. William Penn and the Quakers immigrated to Pennsylvania for the same reason. The German ancestors of the author arrived for the same purpose. But, sadly, these noble intentions have almost disappeared now.

A most informative book, which all True Worshipers should read, is titled **The History of the Plymouth Plantation**, by William Bradford. Among the pleasant surprises in this volume you can find a reference to the Sacred Name, and it is spelled IAH. This book will also prove that some of the early settlers abhorred the worldly holidays and did not keep them.

From this book, we would like to quote from page 126.

“Herewith I shall end this year [1621] except to recall one more incident, rather amusing than serious. On Chr-stmas Day¹³ the Governor called the people out to work as usual; but most of the company excused themselves, and said it went against their conscience to work on that day. So the Governor told them, if they made it a matter of conscience, he would spare them until they were better informed. So he went with the rest, and left them; but on returning from work at noon he found them at play in the streets, some pitching the bar, and some at stoolball, and such like sports. So he went and took away their games, and told them that it was against his conscience that they should play and others work. If they made the keeping of the day a matter of devotion, let them remain in the houses; but there should be no gaming and reveling in the streets. Since then, nothing has been attempted in that way, at least openly.”

Note 13 at the bottom of the page reads,

“The Pilgrims did not observe

either Chr-stmas or Easter, since as they said, they could find no authorization in the Scripture for such observance. They branded the celebration of these days as 'Roman corruption,' and declared that no one who participated in the customary rites could be called a true [worshiper]."

The following is quoted from the **Encyclopedia Britannica**, 11th Edition: *"In 1644 the English puritans forbid any merriment or religious services by act of Parliament, on the ground that it was a heathen festival, and ordered it to be kept as a fast. Charles II. revived the feast, but the Scots adhered to the Puritan view....In Latin countries... [gifts were] given on the 1st of January; this was in antiquity a great holiday, wherefore until late in the 4th century the [True Worshipers] kept it as a day of fasting and gloom,"* (article *Chr-stmas*).

Additional quotes regarding the Pilgrim Father's refusal to accept Chr-stmas as a biblical celebration may be found by perusing **Hastings Bible Dictionary** and **Shaff's History of the Chr-stian Church**, among other volumes. All clearly state that many of the early colonists coming to our shores did so to find a new home free of popish, Roman Catholic influence, where they were free to worship the Almighty according to their conscience. These people had proven the fallacy of observing the pagan holidays.

Conclusion

When the author began writing this article, his desk was loaded with reference books and materials and numerous clippings from magazines and newspapers. It is an extensive article, but hardly exhaustive. Massive amounts of research material yet remain to be published. In future issues of **The Sacred Name Broadcaster** you will find some of this research.

Why do people today, in our modern times, continue to cling tenaciously to customs which were derived from pagan superstitions?

***The True
Worshiper seeks
with all his
heart and soul
to exit from
the Babylonish
system.***

***"And I heard
another voice
from heaven,
saying, Come
forth, my people,
out of her,
that you have
no fellowship
with her sins,
and that you
receive not of her
plagues...."***

REVELATION 18:4.

Why do they never question from whence they came? Why not read the Bible and obey the inspired Scriptures rather than attempting to support traditional, unscriptural observances with the Scriptures?

The meaning of these idolatrous customs has not changed in the eyes of Almighty Yahweh. Even though people today may misapply their meaning to scriptural things, it is abundantly clear that ancient pagan worshipers took a small segment from the inspired Scriptures and corrupted it with their own ideas and incomplete knowledge, viewing the teachings of the Bible through unrepentant thinking. This led to the degeneration of the Messianic worship, as it may be seen on a broad scale throughout society.

In fact, for centuries, the true Messianic worship was never large or extensive. It was always composed of a few people, perhaps one or two individuals or families, who earnestly sought Yahweh and refrained from association with idolatry or false worship. Very little is heard from them through the reports of the world's historians. But, nevertheless, occasionally small groups do make historical headlines, such as the Nazarenes, the Waldenses, and the Pilgrim Fathers.

We have presented the irrefutable case against Chr-stmas. Now **you** must make a personal decision. It must be **you** who decides how you will conduct your life. You must decide if you will continue blindly in false worship, or humbly serve Almighty Yahweh and keep His commandments.

Why not use the following Scripture as your guide for basing a sound decision? **"As for me and my house, we will serve Yahweh."** (Yahshua 24:15). The author and his family have endeavored to evict paganism from our lives. The members of the Assemblies of Yahweh today have, as well, made a similar determination. Like the patriarchs of old, we faithfully seek to serve Him. We hope you do too!

SNB

NOVEMBER						
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December 2016

JANUARY 2017						
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FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	FIFTH	SIXTH	SABBATH
<p><i>About the Photo:</i> The mosaic floor of the Bet-Alpha Synagogue.</p>	<p><i>Hanukkah ends—</i> December 2</p> <p><i>New Moon—</i> December 1 December 31</p>	<p>DECEMBER—Corresponds generally with the Hebrew months <i>Chisleu</i> and <i>Tebeth</i>, which are the <i>ninth</i> and <i>tenth</i> months of the scriptural calendar. The twelfth month of the Gregorian year, it was the tenth month of the old Roman year, deriving its name from the Latin term <i>decem</i>, meaning "ten."</p> <p>SPECIAL NOTE: Scriptural days begin at sundown of the previous day.</p>		<p>1 <i>New Moon</i> <i>Tebeth</i></p> <p>Galatians 4-6</p>	<p>2 <i>Hanukkah</i> <i>Ends</i></p> <p>Ephesians 1-3</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Ephesians 4-6</p>
4 Philippians 1-4	5 Colossians 1-4	6 1 Thessalonians 1-3	7 1 Thessalonians 4-5	8 2 Thessalonians 1-2	9 1 Thessalonians 2-3	10 1 Thessalonians 4-5
11 2 Timothy 1-4	12 Titus-Philemon	13 Hebrews 1-3	14 Hebrews 4-5	15 Hebrews 6-7	16 Hebrews 8-9	17 Hebrews 10-12
18 Jacob 4-5	19 1 Peter 1-3	20 1 Peter 4-5	21 2 Peter 1-2	22 2 Peter 3	23 1 John 1-2	24 1 John 3-4
25 Revelation 1-3	26 Revelation 4-5	27 Revelation 6-7	28 Revelation 8-9	29 Revelation 10-11	30 Revelation 12-13	31 Revelation 14-16

When Was the Messiah Born?

excerpted from THE CASE AGAINST CHRISTMAS

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

The primary point at which to begin our study is to prove the day of the Messiah's human birth. Generally people will state that no one knows for certain the day when He was born, so we can choose a day that suits us to celebrate His birthday. Your Bible never mentions the specific day of His birth, so it is true that no one knows for certain when He was born. Nowhere can

you find within the pages of your Bible any statement designating a certain date for the Messiah's birth.

Actually, the diligent Bible student already knows that nowhere within the pages of our Bibles can you ever find any commandment to observe a birthday, especially that of the Messiah. As a matter of fact, three times birthdays are mentioned in the Bible, and on each of these occasions a violent death occurred. Please verify this from Genesis 40:9-22, Job 1:4 and

19, and Matthew 14:3-12.

The celebration of birthdays was unknown in primitive Judaism, so it is certain that the Messiah never celebrated His birthday. Apparently, Almighty Yahweh did not wish it to be observed, and, consequently, we can readily understand the reason for omitting mention of a specific day in the Scriptures.

But such omission did not deter Christian theologians from establishing a day on which to observe

the Messiah's birthday. Would you believe they actually broke the Law of Yahweh by adding to His Word? With impunity, they invented doctrines to justify their unscriptural practices. Please read Deuteronomy 4:2, Proverbs 30:6, and Revelation 22:18-19. How can any man sanctify a day which our Heavenly Father has not sanctioned?

Many times, authors will confess sheepishly that December 25 is not the Messiah's birthday. Did you know that it was over 200 years after the birth of the Messiah before anyone ever fixed December 25 as His birthday? Apparently the first one to set the date of December 25 for the Savior's birth was Julius Sextus Africanus, a historian from Alexandria, Egypt, who composed a chronicle of events of the world to 221 C.E. Did you notice that date? It took historians two and a quarter centuries after the Messiah's birth to decide upon the date of December 25 as His birthday.

Competing closely with this historian are two other accounts. The first one is thought to be spurious and found in the work of Theophilus of Antioch (Common Era 171-183). The second is Hippolytus' **Commentary on Daniel** (Common Era 202).

Apostolic Fathers Resisted Chr-stmas at Winter Solstice

Nevertheless, various sincere patriarchs in the Apostolic Assembly continued to resist observing the Messiah's birthday on December 25. As late as 245 C.E., Origen declared that it was a very sinful act to celebrate the birthday of the Messiah as though He were a King Pharaoh.

Clement of Alexandria mentions several accounts of setting the Messiah's birth date and condemns them as superstitions. He says some chronologists allege that His birth occurred in the twenty-eighth year of Augustus, on the twenty-fifth of Thoon, the Egyptian month (the twentieth of May). Chrysostom, in

a sermon he preached in Antioch on December 20th, 386 or 388 C.E., says that some believe the feast of December 25 to have been first held in the west, and then it spread quickly eastward from Thrace as far as Caddus. Notice the lack of agreement and gross confusion between these writers.

Gradually, as time continued on in the post-Nicene era, the pagan corruption of assimilating unscriptural doctrines to please unconverted people and, thereby, gain numbers, introduced into the Apostolic Assembly a substantial admixture of paganism.

All of these historical declarations should alert the truth seeker to ask probing questions. If there was such widespread disagreement among the post-Nicene fathers regarding when the Savior was born, we should scrutinize the origin of December 25 very carefully. Perhaps we should go along with one authority who straightforwardly declared that the earliest mention of December 25 as the day of the Savior's birth was in C.E. 354, placed in a popular Latin chronograph without justification.

The Messiah Not Born December 25

Several scriptural passages prove that the Messiah could not have been born in the winter, on December 25th.

The first point to prove this can be ascertained from the priestly courses. As recorded in Luke chapter 1, the succession of the orders of the priestly service militate against the winter birth of Yahshua the Messiah.

Zachariah the Priest was a member of the course, or section, of AbiYah. If we calculate correctly, the Messiah would have been **conceived** around the middle of December, rather than being born at that time. Such information is quite staggering, when you realize that Luke pinpoints the time of the conception of John to have occurred two months after the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which occurs

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in the spring. The course of AbiYah was the eighth priestly section to serve in the Temple. (1 Chronicles 24:10). These priests served eight weeks after the conclusion of the spring sacred season.

Additionally, Luke records that when the Messiah was born, a taxation had been imposed. The Roman government ordered all of the people to appear in their native cities to register for the census. (Luke 2:1-3). The Jews were very sensitive people. Their nation was, at that time, occupied by Roman military authorities, which they hated. Had those Israelites been forced to leave their homes in the dead of winter to pay a resented tax, a full-scale rebellion would have been launched by this subjugated nation. Less than two centuries previously, the Jews had rebelled against the hated rule of Antiochus Epiphanes and his Syrian army. They were known to have coerced

Roman occupation forces in later times to capitulate before their demands. They were tenacious fighters, as the resistance of the Masada defenders (only 70 years later) will testify.

Messiah's Birth Not in Winter

The common month of December, today, falls after the Jewish month called *Marchesvan* (the scriptural Hebrew name is *Bul*). During this month, animals are not pastured in the fields. Soon after the Feast of Tabernacles, the cold, rainy season begins. Sheep and cattle were driven to the homes of their owners and sheltered in folds during the night. No shepherd, or herdsman, encamped in the fields with his flocks during the rainy season.

The following is a quote from **The Two Babylons** (Chapter 3, Article *Festivals*), "At the time that the angel announced His birth to

the shepherds of Bethlehem, they were feeding their flocks by night in the open fields. Now, no doubt, the climate of Palestine is not so severe as the climate of this country; but even there, though the heat of the day be considerable, the cold of the night, from December to February, is very piercing, and it was not the custom for the shepherds of Judea to watch their flocks in the open fields later than about the end of October."

Yet another quote from this article says, "The first rain falls in the month *Marchesvan*, which answers to the latter part of our October and the former part of November... From whence it appears that [the Messiah] must be born before the middle of October, since the first rain was not yet come."

Here we discover accurate historical information set forth by an objective writer. Ample proof that the Messiah was not born during the dead of winter, but at a time

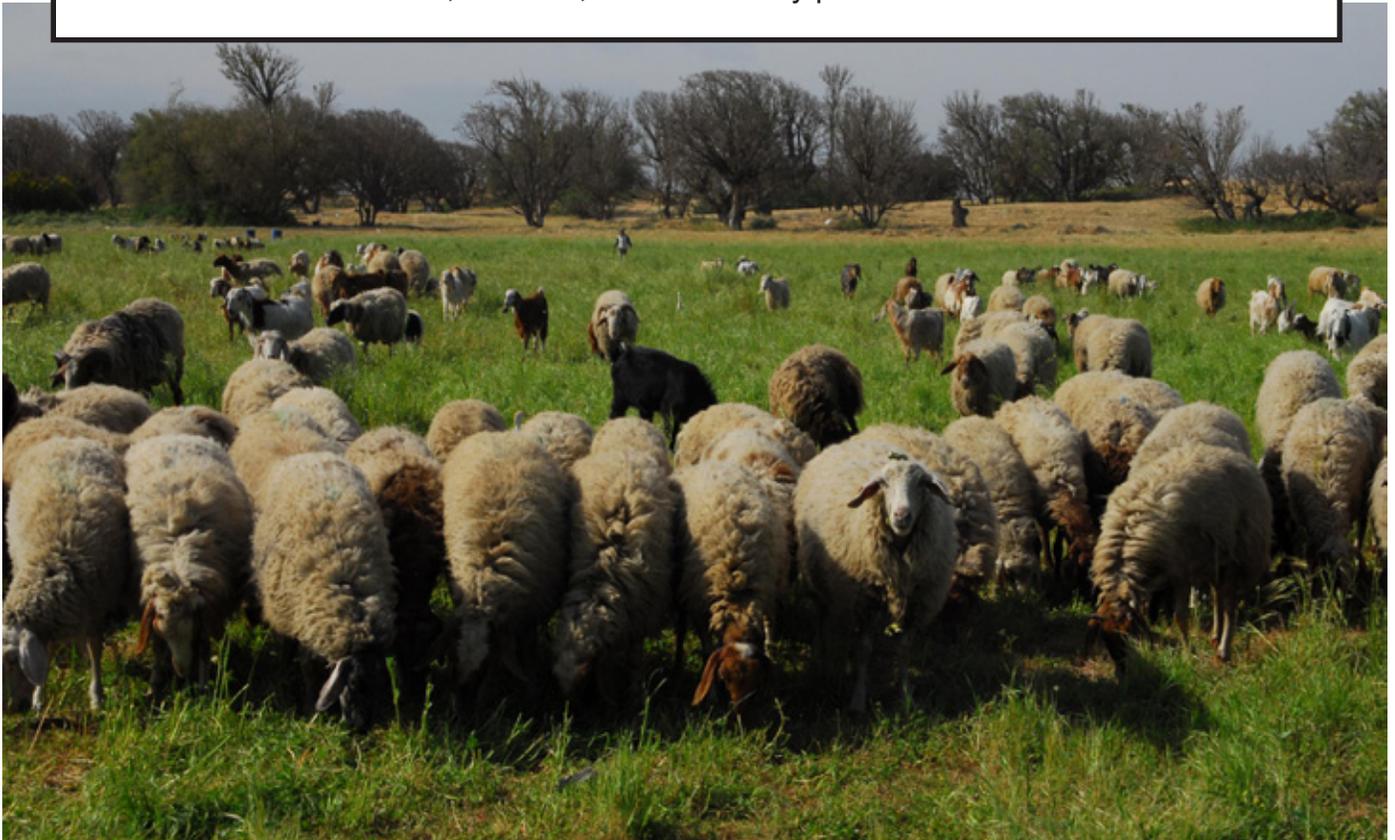
when shepherds were still grazing their flocks out in the fields near Bethlehem, can be read in Luke chapter 2.

Undoubtedly these shepherds were grazing their flocks in fields already harvested, but not yet replanted with the new crop. The Greek word used for field is **agros** and means *a field in the country*. Planting began after the fall rains arrived to moisten the soil for cultivation.

A major point not to be overlooked here is that churchianity believes the Messiah was born in an inn stable because there was no room in the inn. Actually, it is not stated that the Messiah was born in a stable, but that He was laid in a manger after his birth.

Such a huge throng of people moving simultaneously would be descriptive of the great crowds of feast day observers who pressed into the Jerusalem area. Remem-

Tradition states that the flocks of Israel were grazing in open fields at the end of December; however, this is biblically proven to be untrue.





ber, Bethlehem is about five miles south of Jerusalem. The vast crowds described in the New Testament had not traveled exclusively to register for the census. They were traveling to worship at the Temple in Jerusalem; those who lived at a distance from their ancestral homes registered enroute.

The mere fact that the Messiah was born somewhere other than in a house would, in itself, necessitate our looking for a time of moderate temperatures. Yahshua's parents would hardly have jeopardized His health by sleeping in such primitive surroundings. Certainly they could have been accommodated somewhere in a dwelling by the innkeeper, or relatives, or some concerned inhabitant of Bethlehem, if the weather had been inclement, as it usually is during the winter months. But Joseph, unable to find hostel accommodations for his wife, perhaps pitched a tent (tabernacle) along the way, and the Messiah was born there that night.

The Roman authorities would have planned for their taxation registration to take place in the fall of the year. At that time, the summer harvest had been sold. They would not have imposed a tax when poor people would have found it difficult

A major point not to be overlooked here is that ch-rchianity believes the Messiah was born in an inn stable because there was no room in the inn. Actually, it is not stated that the Messiah was born in a stable, but that He was laid in a manger after his birth.

to obtain currency during the off season.

Logically, the only timeframe suitable to accommodate all facts of evidence concerning when our Savior was born would be the fall of the year. The crops had been harvested, people were traveling to the Feast of Tabernacles at Jerusalem anyway, the weather was still agreeable enough to impose no extreme hardship upon the women and children, and revenue was readily available to pay the tax. All of these points combined will direct the Bible student to focus his attention upon the fall of the year, around the annual feast days of the seventh month which are legislated in Leviticus 23.

It is then no coincidence that we should encounter the confirmation of John 1:14, where **The Sacred Scriptures, Bethel Edition**, translates; ***“And the Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us, (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth.”*** Yahshua the Messiah took upon Himself a human existence. He came to tabernacle (live temporarily) with the human family He was appointed to save. SNE

PROPHETIC TRENDS



BABYLON GLORIFIES HERSELF

“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come forth, my people, out of her, that you have no fellowship with her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues: for her sins have reached even to heaven, and Yahweh has remembered her iniquities. Render to her even as she rendered, and double the double according to her works: in the cup which she mingled, mingle to her double. However much she glorified herself, and became wanton, so much give her of torment and mourning: for she says in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall in no wise see mourning. Therefore in one day shall her plagues come, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire; for strong is Yahweh Elohim who judged her.” (Revelation 18:4-8).

“In this manner says Yahweh of hosts, Do not listen to the words of the prophets that prophesy to you: they teach you vanity; they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of Yahweh. They say continually to them that despise me, Yahweh has said, You shall have peace; and to every one that walks in the stubbornness of his own heart they say, No evil shall come upon you. For who has stood in the council of Yahweh, that he should perceive and hear his word? Who has marked my word, and heard it? Behold, the tempest of Yahweh, even his wrath, has gone forth, yes, a whirling

tempest: it shall burst upon the head of the wicked. The anger of Yahweh shall not return, until he has executed, and till he has performed the intents of his heart: in the latter days you shall understand it perfectly. I sent not these prophets, yet they ran: I spoke not to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my council, then they would have caused my people to hear my words, and would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.

“Am I an Elohim at hand, says Yahweh, and not an Elohim afar off? Can any hide himself in secret places so that I shall not see him? says Yahweh. Do not I fill heaven and earth? says Yahweh. I have heard what the prophets have said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed. How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies, even the prophets of the deceit of their own heart? That think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbor, as their fathers forgot my name for Baal. The prophet that has a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that has my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the straw to the wheat? says Yahweh. Is not my word like fire? says Yahweh; and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, says Yahweh, that

steal my words every one from his neighbor. Behold, I am against the prophets, says Yahweh, that use their tongues, and say, He says. Behold, I am against them that prophesy lying dreams, says Yahweh, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their vain boasting: yet I sent them not, nor commanded them; neither do they profit this people at all, says Yahweh.” (Jeremiah 23:16-32).

At this time of year, many, if not most, people celebrate the supposed birth of the Messiah, yet they do not follow the teachings of Yahshua the Messiah that are clearly laid out within the Sacred Scriptures. (One can easily prove that the Messiah was not born at this time of year. For more information on this pertinent subject, you may receive a free copy of **The Birth of the Messiah, Chr-stmas is the Bible Teaches It, or The Case Against Chr-stmas**. You may also view them online at www.assembliesofyahweh.com.)

Yahshua Messiah has warned each one of us that we cannot expect to be rewarded for lasciviousness. *“Therefore by their fruits you shall know them. Not every one that says to me, Master, Master, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Master, Master, did we not prophesy by your name, and by your name cast out demons, and by your name do many mighty works?*

And then will I profess to them, I never knew you: depart from me, you that work lawlessness.” (Matthew 7:20-23). Did Yahshua tolerate drunkenness, or partying, or the annual promotion of the Santa Claus myth? ABSOUTLELY NOT!

The ministers of ch-rchianity, however, continue to support sin. Most of the ministers of ch-rchianity preach only about love. Yahshua Messiah is presented as an effeminate, ineffectual teacher and a weak leader. He is portrayed as willingly tolerating all kinds of evil. These ministers of ch-rchianity continue to preach that all people will be saved, regardless of what they do, or how they live. This is the result of the preaching of the no-law doctrine.

“Think not that I came to destroy the law or the prophets: I came not to destroy, but to fulfil.” (Matthew 5:17).

Yahshua the Messiah maintains that He did not come to destroy the Law of Yahweh. The term *destroy* is *loo’o*, #3089 in the **Strong’s Concordance**, a prime root which means *to dissolve, annul, or make invalid*. Yahshua the Messiah said that He never came to destroy (dissolve, annul, or make invalid) the Law of Yahweh, but to fulfill (obey, observe, and keep) Yahweh’s Law.

“Every one therefore that hears these words of mine, and does them, shall be likened to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded

upon the rock. And every one that hears these words of mine, and does them not, shall be likened to a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and dashed against that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.” (Matthew 7:24-27).

Will you be a doer who works, or a hearer only? Those who hear the words of Yahshua the Messiah and obey are like those who wisely build their house upon the rock. Those

the pillars of it. Selah. I said to the arrogant, Deal not arrogantly; and to the wicked, lift not up the horn: lift not up your horn on high; speak not with a stiff neck. For neither from the east, nor from the west, nor yet from the south, comes lifting up. But Elohim is the judge: He puts down one, and lifts up another. For in the hand of Yahweh there is a cup, and the wine foams; it is full of mixture, and he pours out of the same: surely the dregs of it, all the wicked of the earth shall drain them,

and drink them. But I will declare for ever, I will sing praises to the Elohim of Jacob. All the horns of the wicked also will I cut off, but the horns of the righteous shall be lifted up.” (Psalm 75).

Over the past eight years, the Barack Obama Administration has certainly left its mark on this country.

Vowing to “fundamentally transform America,” he removed the “don’t ask-don’t tell” policy from the US military, which has allowed openly gay or lesbian soldiers to serve in the military. Recently, transgendered soldiers are allowed to serve as well. A policy of political correctness has also been instituted in the branches of the U.S. military, causing many to leave the service.

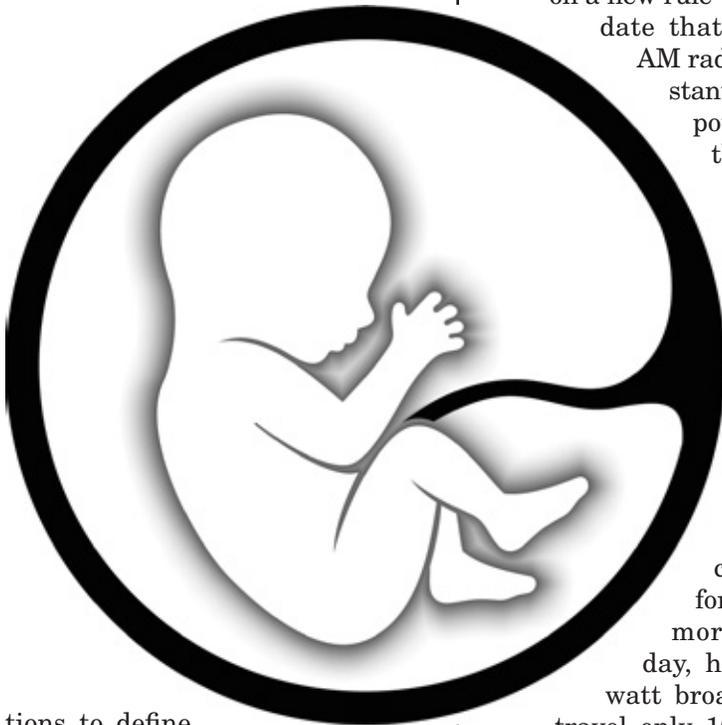
Although he campaigned in 2008 on a platform that was against same-sex marriage, Barack Obama later changed his views, saying that he had “evolved” into supporting gay marriage. Many states had passed laws against same-sex marriage, even, in some cases, amending their Constitu-



who are not obedient are likened to foolish individuals who have built their houses upon the sand. When the storms of life come upon us with pounding rain, sweeping floods, and powerful winds, the houses of those that hear Yahshua’s words—obediently following the Master—will stand firm.

Pendulum Swings

“We give thanks to you, O Elohim; We give thanks, for your name is near: men tell of your wondrous works. When I shall find the set time, I will judge uprightly. The earth and all the inhabitants of it are dissolved: I have set up



tions to define marriage as between a man and a woman. The Supreme Court, with a sweeping stroke of a pen, negated those laws. The Defense of Marriage Act was also set aside by the Supreme Court in this decision. The Defense of Marriage Act—passed by Congress and signed into law 20 years ago by President Bill Clinton—defined marriage as between a man and a woman.

Late-term abortions also were not allowed until this Administration opened the doors to ending the life of a fetus, even when it was viable for the fetus to live outside of the womb. Then, we learned about Doctor Gosnell, who would kill fetuses that were born alive with a snip of his scissors. Then, last year, we saw undercover videos showing late-term abortion advocates talking openly about how they would sell the body parts from these little innocent babies for their profit. They also described how the doctors would “harvest” the little babies in such a way as to preserve their value for those who purchased them for medical research.

Lately, the FCC has been working

on a new rule which will mandate that clear channel AM radio stations substantially limit their power at night, so that their coverage during the night would be the same as it is during the day. During the nighttime, when solar activity no longer inhibits the signal, these stations can be heard for 1,000 miles or more. During the day, however, 50,000 watt broadcasts usually travel only 100 miles or so.

It is these powerful, 50,000 watt, nighttime broadcasts that have been an essential part of the outreach programs of the Assemblies of Yahweh. Many people have come to the knowledge of the Truth, because of these 50,000 watt AM stations that have aired the **Sacred Name Broadcast** through the years. It was on February 5, 2016, that the **Sacred Name Broadcast** passed its 50th anniversary.

Just recently, the United States of America gave up its control of the Internet, as well. The Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, has caused medical insurance rates to increase dramatically. Tens of thousands of new regulations have been entered into the Federal Registry from every branch of government, as unelected bureaucrats broaden their influence of power. Veterans Administration officials have received sizable bonuses at the expense of military veterans who were delayed in their quest for a doctor’s appointment. IRS officials have also rejected, or delayed, requests for tax exempt status from organizations that have views that are different than their own. And

the list goes on and on.

All of this came to a head on election day, when voters chose Donald J. Trump for president rather than Hillary Clinton. Frustrated voters, tired of the status quo, sought to make real change and came out in droves for Mr. Trump. Some polling places in Pennsylvania had more than 80 percent of the voters voting for Donald Trump.

What effect the election of Trump will have upon the United States of America remains to be seen. Only by returning back to our Constitutional principles will we be able to see the United States grow stronger rather than weaker. In order for this to occur, this nation, however, must return back to the keeping of Yahweh’s commandments if we wish to receive these blessings from Almighty Yahweh.

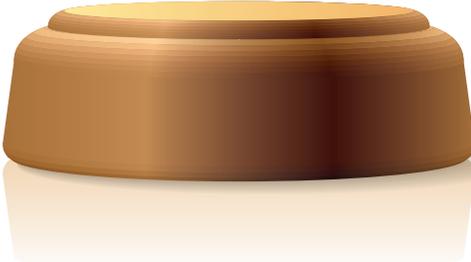
The Kingdom is Coming

Are you appalled by the world’s unabated drift toward liberalism and sin? Are you concerned about how the world has tolerated sin and how nominal religion has protected sinners? Then seek Yahweh, the only True and Living Elohim. Those who believe in the Bible and wish to live by every commandment of the Sacred Scriptures must unite to provide a powerful witness to the world. These people will find the narrow pathway that leads to salvation.

A righteous Kingdom is soon to come to this earth. Almighty Yahweh will soon send Yahshua the Messiah back to this earth to reign over this world in righteousness. Yahweh is seeking a people who desire to turn away from this evil, worldly lifestyle. A remnant people will return back to the True and Living Elohim and His Kingdom way of Life. Will you accept the atoning sacrifice of Yahshua the Messiah and prepare yourself for this momentous event? Repent for the Kingdom of Yahweh is at hand!

SNB

Government



as a Doctrine

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

[This article was taken from a message that was preached before the Bethel Assembly on February 2, 1992.]

“Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in justice. And a man shall be as a hiding-place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest, as streams of water in a dry place, as the shade of a great rock in a weary land. And the eyes of them that see shall not be dim, and the ears of them that hear shall listen. And the heart of the rash shall understand knowledge, and the tongue of the stammerers shall be ready to speak plainly. The fool shall be no more called noble, nor the churl said to be bountiful. For the fool will speak folly, and his heart will work iniquity,

to practice profaneness, and to utter error against Yahweh, to make empty the soul of the hungry, and to cause the drink of the thirsty to fail. And the instruments of the churl are evil: he devises wicked devices to destroy the meek with lying words, even when the needy speaks right. But the noble devises noble things; and in noble things shall he continue. Rise up, you women that are at ease, and hear my voice; you careless daughters, give ear to my speech. For days beyond a year shall you be troubled, you careless women; for the vintage shall fail, the ingathering shall not come. Tremble, you women that are at ease; be troubled, you careless ones; strip, and make yourselves bare, and gird sackcloth upon your loins. They shall mourn over the breasts for the pleasant fields, for the fruitful

vine. Upon the land of my people shall come up thorns and briars; yes, upon all the houses of joy in the joyous city: for the palace shall be forsaken; the populous city shall be deserted; the hill and the watchtower shall be for dens forever; a joy of wild asses, a pasture of flocks; until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is esteemed as a forest. Then justice shall dwell in the wilderness; and righteousness shall remain in the fruitful field. And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever. And my people shall remain in a peaceable habitation, and in safe dwellings, and in quiet resting-places. But it shall hail in the downfall of the forest; and the city shall



be utterly laid low. Blessed are you that sow beside all waters, that send forth the feet of the ox and the ass.” (Isaiah 32).

The concept of government as a doctrine comprises one of the central themes in the **Sacred Scriptures**. It is obvious from Genesis 2:16 that, immediately following the creation of mankind, Yahweh laid commandments upon Adam and Eve. The term employed here is *tsawah*, #6680 in the **Strong’s Concordance**. It means *to constitute, to enjoin and has been translated in such ways as a point, bid and forbid, charge, command, set in order, etc.* Upon the giving of a command, there must be some sort of monitoring system established to ensure that this command is followed. Almighty Yahweh served as the first Judge of His creation. When they disobeyed in Genesis 3 and 4, He initiated judgment and punishment Himself. However, the concept of ruling over ourselves as souls, or individuals, was always primary to the scriptural way of life.

In 1 Corinthians 11:31-32, we find **“But if we discerned ourselves,**

we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by Yahweh, that we may not be condemned with the world.”

To discern ourselves means to watch ourselves carefully. We clearly find in this Scripture the concept of ruling ourselves, or judging ourselves. Why is this necessary? The answer is to build character—to be like our Father Yahweh, who lives in heaven and to be like His Son, our Savior and Redeemer, Yahshua. This is an honor system. We watch over and judge ourselves now, that we may not be judged in the future by an all-powerful, wrathful Mighty One.

Let us consider Isaiah 32:1. **“Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness....”** Who is this verse speaking about? It is speaking about Yahshua the Messiah, our Savior, when He establishes the kingdom. **“...And princes shall rule in justice.”** Who is the entity referenced here? Is it not speaking about the members of the Assemblies of Yahweh who shall be kings and priests under the Messiah? **“A king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in justice...”**

Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high....” “Then justice shall dwell in the wilderness....”

Justice means the right or righteous rule of government, which oversees that things operate in a proper and correct manner. “...Righteousness shall remain in the fruitful field. And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever.” Look carefully at this, because this shows the effects of a righteous government. The effects of righteous government are (a) righteousness; (b) peace; (c) quietness; and (d) confidence. When righteous government is followed, the fruits will last into eternity—forever! Now, contrast the Kingdom age which is described in this passage with what you have in this Babylonish system today: upheaval, turmoil, violence, and corruption. Contrast today’s governmental systems with Yahweh’s, which consist of righteousness, peace, quietness, and confidence. These will be the results of Yahweh’s righteous Kingdom government—forever.

“And my people shall remain in a peaceable habitation, and in safe dwellings, and in quiet resting-places.” (Isaiah 32:18).

The people, today, have rejected the scriptural form of government, upon which all of the laws of this land and many other nations are founded. Notice then: Peaceable habitations (or homes), safe dwelling places (or homes), quiet resting-places (transient dwellings: hotels, motels). Just as we find in the **Sacred Scriptures**, people traveling have to have some kind of a dwelling in which to lodge overnight, and, in consequence, the inns will be safe. What a contrast with the society we live in today. We won’t have to have double, triple, and quadruple locks on the doors of the inns in the future, because peace—shalom—will be the order of day.

Today, the world is in obvious turmoil. Several decades ago, a murder would be sensational; today, murders rarely make front-page

news. Recently, someone randomly decided that today would be the day, so he went out and robbed two banks. He was caught after the second robbery, thankfully. Why are situations like this happening? The people today, everywhere, seem to violate Yahweh's Laws with impunity—the word *impunity* means *without punishment, without retribution*. This leads to acts of violence. Violence is a result of the violation of Yahweh's Law, which He calls sin. He defines the term *sin* in 1 John 3:4: ***“Everyone that commits sin also transgresses the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”*** Do you understand more clearly now that sin—violation of Yahweh's Law, brings forth fruits that are displeasing to the Law-Maker who gives us rules and regulations which are enforced by His government? Yahweh's government is called His Kingdom. His Kingdom has laws and regulations. They are the commandments and statutes that were laid on mankind and which contain judicial decisions.

“To him therefore that knows to do good, and does it not, to him it is sin.” (Jacob 4:17). It is sin if you know Yahweh's Covenant commandments and you violate them—transgress them—break them. But sin is sin, whether you know it or not. For example, you might be in a strange city, traveling down a parkway. Suddenly, the speed limit is reduced, and you did not notice the signs. When law-enforcement brings to your attention your transgression, does that exonerate you because you were ignorant of the law? You might say *“Well, I didn't see the sign,”* and you might plead that in front of the judge, but the judge might say *“If you go back and look, you will find those signs and those signs are situated there according to the law. Warning was given and even in your absentmindedness, you are guilty.”*

Hebrews 10:26-27 says, ***“For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more a***

sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and a fierceness of fire which shall devour the adversaries.”

We don't want to be in that position! The title of the Assemblies of Yahweh **Correspondence Course**, Lesson 16, **The Lake of Fire** is based on this Scripture. The Lake of Fire will devour those who are adversaries, or opponents of Almighty Yahweh's Law. But in Leviticus 4, we find that sin is also a term that is used when individuals do not know and acted in ignorance of the Law.

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“And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying, Speak to the children of Israel, saying, If any one shall sin through ignorance, in any of the things which Yahweh has commanded not to be done, and shall do any one of them.” This is very clear—sin is still sin even though you may be ignorant of the specific Law that you broke. This is why the sacrificial system was set in place. It gives the accidental-sinner a way to cleanse his way.

The Law of Yahweh was given to mankind to cause them to grow and mature, so that they could eventually be changed into spirit

beings and allowed entrance into the Elohim family, whose name is Yahweh. This is called developing character. The root word *character* means *an engraving instrument*. The Latin word *charazo* is the verb that means *to engrave*. Who and what have you engraved on you? What kind of an image do you project? The **Webster's Dictionary of the American Language**, 2nd College Edition, gives the first definition of *engrave* as leaving a distinctive mark. The question that we must all answer is “Have we been engraved with the character of Yahweh and Yahshua? Or the character of Satan?” Another definition is *a distinctive trait, quality, or attribute. Summarized by the term characteristic*. It is also *the pattern of behavior or personality found in an individual or group. Moral constitution. Moral strength, self-discipline, fortitude, etc., reputation, good reputation.* Yahweh's Law was given to us so that we would develop the spiritual character of Yahweh and Yahshua. It was meant to elevate us to a state of maturity, meaning a state of being fully developed, perfect, complete, or ready. Yahweh has a system! This system is perfect for educating Yahweh's people to be prepared for use to Yahshua in the Kingdom of Yahweh. Proverbs 16:32 expresses this pattern of maturity beautifully: ***“He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that rules his spirit, than he that takes a city.”*** How are we ruling our spirits? Are we practicing self-discipline satisfactorily, which will result in moral strength? This is what obedience to the Law of Yahweh gives us. We are then able to develop through the Faith and grow to complete maturity in the Messiah, to attain the state of being fully developed, and to be pleasing to our King who governs mankind. This is what Yahweh's Law wants. When you turn back to the beginning of the book of Proverbs in the **Sacred Scriptures, Bethel Edition**, you will see the heading—“Wisdom literature written by Solomon and

others.” The word *Proverbs* in the Hebrew is *mishlai*, which comes from the word *mâshal* meaning *rule*. When you consider the definition of terms, a fuller understanding of the term *Proverbs—rules to live by*. One of the best rules for us to live by is Proverbs 16:32—self control.

A popular Scripture is 1 Corinthians 13:11. ***“When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child; now that I have become a man, I have put away childish things.”*** A man is supposed to be fully developed, functioning under a system of self-discipline. He should have used that discipline to develop moral strength. The term *discipline* means *to be living in a certain structured lifestyle*. A person can only do this for themselves. That is where the term *character* enters the picture and why Yahweh’s way is an honor system. Ephesians 4 brings this out perfectly. Beginning with verse 9, ***“Now this, He ascended, what is it but that he also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.”*** Paul is telling us that Yahshua came down from heaven to this earth. That He was lowered into the lower parts of the earth (He died), but Yahweh allowed Him to ascend again (resurrection). You would expect the human body to stay dead, wouldn’t you? Why didn’t He remain dead and in the grave? Yahweh gave His life back again, and a life-giving power was put within his heart, mind, and body. He was then able to ascend ***“... far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets....”*** Remember, this is speaking of Yahshua the Messiah. He is the One who endows these offices in the Assembly. The Apostles were those who He specified to carry

His message to the world. What about prophets? We are built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, meaning the **Sacred Scriptures**. The prophets here,

Our spiritual leader is Yahshua the Messiah. How would He conduct Himself? How would He act in certain situations? He was always faithful to Yahweh.

undoubtedly, refer to the men of the Old Testament who wrote down the inspiration of Yahweh’s words ***“...and some evangelists*** [The term *euangelion* means *“the preaching of the message of salvation, the glad tidings, the good news of salvation.”*] ***and some pastors*** [a pastor is one who feeds the flock], ***and teachers*** [those who educate the flock] ***for the perfecting of the saints.”*** Why are these offices established by Yahshua? The answer is to make the individuals complete, or perfect. We can see this as one of the definitions of the term *character—a distinctive trait or quality or attribute or characteristic which means a good reputation, maturity: a state of being fully developed*. The result is that the saints will be perfect—complete or ready. By Yahshua establishing these offices in the Assemblies of Yahweh, He wants His servants to be prepared for the task ahead. ***“... to the work of ministering, to the building up of the body of the Messiah: till we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of Yahweh, to a full grown man....”*** This is where the term *maturity* fully comes out. I want you to understand that this system of organization is Yahweh’s establishment—it is by Yahshua’s Will—it is Yahshua’s sys-

tem in the Assembly. Yahshua taught this system, as did His Disciples, as a doctrine. ***“Till we all attain to the unity*** [so that everyone may be on the same level with the same understanding, believing, and practicing the same doctrines],

and of the knowledge of the Son of Yahweh, to a full grown man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Messiah. [Remember that the definition applied here is to be in a state of full development—maturity?]

“That we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error.” Many times, we encounter erroneous doctrines which are being preached and are filled with false ideas. This is a tool of subversion that will tend to carry unstable individuals that lack maturity away from the Faith. ***“But speaking the truth in love*** [What is the Truth? The Truth is Yahweh’s Word. ***“Your word is truth,”*** John 17:17.] ***may grow up in all things into him, who is the head, even the Messiah.”*** Our spiritual leader is Yahshua the Messiah. How would He conduct Himself? How would He act in certain situations? He was always faithful to Yahweh. ***“From whom all the body fitly framed and knit together through that which every joint supplies, according to the working in due measure of each several part, makes the increase of the body to the building up of itself in love.”*** We must be fitly framed into the Body of the Messiah and build our lives in the example of His character. Our goal is that we would be mature like Him. That is exactly what we have sought to do in the Assemblies of Yahweh.

Let us consider more fully who the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers are and what

their role is in the Assembly? Let us view them, as the Bible teaches them from the Old through the New Testament. The Old Testament books are written by the Prophets; the New Testament written by the Apostles. (This may be somewhat of a misnomer, however. It is all the **Sacred Scriptures**—the Word of Yahweh—rather than dividing it into the Old and New Testaments.) In the Word of Yahweh, we are able to understand that these terms do not simply specify “people,” but let us view them strictly as “offices.” These offices will not end with the death of an individual, but Yahweh will choose another to fill the office. This makes the Assembly viable over an extended period of time, which is a hallmark of true scriptural government. You can find an example of the transition from Moses to Yahshua in Deuteronomy 34 and Yahshua 1. Almighty Yahweh has already established a set of rules contained in His Word. They are Yahweh’s Torah Law—Yahweh’s Covenant with His people, the 613 commandments which comprise Yahweh’s system of rules and regulations. Paul here telling us that there are evangelists, pastors, and teachers to teach this system of regulation. But who enforces these rules? As we saw in Genesis chapters 2 and 3, Yahweh enforced the rules originally and was a Righteous Judge. Yahweh ultimately enforces the rules and regulations He gave us. Yahweh established the government. Yahshua the Messiah implemented that government. Again, in Ephesians 4:11. **“And he gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets....”** Yahweh is shown here to be the architect of the government He established. But when we go back into the Law, what is the description of what this government will look

like? Deuteronomy 16:18 **“Judges and officers shall you make yourselves in all your gates....”** In the Jewish *q’hillâh*, or congregation, there is a governing structure. This is headed by the rabbi who is supposed to be the teacher and the judge, making decisions predicated upon Yahweh’s system—upon His Law. Every *q’hillâh* must have a judge and an officer. The judge and officer may be combined, as you can take it from this verse. **“...which Yahweh your Elohim gives you, according to your tribes; and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment.”** We saw the fruits of this in Isaiah 32. Righteous judgment enforces righteous living, and righteous living brings quietness, calmness, tranquility, peace, and confidence. When someone is in turmoil, he is not confident, but is in fear. Because he is beset by turmoil, problems or violence, he doesn’t know at what minute his life will collapse and cannot experience the “Shalom” of Yahweh. **“And my people shall remain in a peaceable habitation, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment. You shall not wrest justice; you shall not respect persons; neither shall you take a bribe....”** They shall have peaceable homes, safe dwellings, and quiet resting places. This is what righteous judges—officers of Yahweh—will implement in every in every congregation—in every Assembly—peace, quietness, and safety. When we experience Yahweh’s governmental system implemented on earth, such as we enjoy during the Feast of Tabernacles, we understand how glorious Yahweh’s government is and saddened that so many people of this world miss this great doctrine! People sometimes come into the Assemblies

of Yahweh who have been injured by worldly religion, and they rebel against the established doctrines of our Faith. We try to teach them from the **Sacred Scriptures** that Yahweh, who gave us His Law, is the Supreme Judge. Therefore, we cannot bend or capitulate to any man who disagrees with Yahweh’s Word. **“...For a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise, and perverts the words of the righteous. That which is altogether just shall you follow, that you may live, and inherit the land which Yahweh your Elohim is giving you.”** (Deuteronomy 16:20). What is government supposed to perpetuate? The answer is in found here in verse 20. **“...that you may live....”** You can also frame this in the antithesis—and not die. Think of all the people who are dying needlessly in the world today. Death and destruction from the inner-city ghetto to the small town is an everyday tragedy. Some time ago, in a village near Bethel, the manager of a restaurant came out of the back door as he was closing up in the evening and was met by two young men. They had determined that they were going to rob him, and, to ensure that they wouldn’t be caught, were going to kill him. Because it was dark when they attacked him, he was able to throw the bag of money on the roof of the restaurant and was undiscovered until the police found it. Because the money was gone, the killers took his life—shot him down in cold blood. Here was man in his early 30s, who died with only half of his life lived, because two men rejected the law of the land. The commandments which Yahweh gave, which are enforced by judges and officers, enable mankind to have confidence (peace) walking at night, opening your door, and standing outside on your

Righteous judgment enforces righteous living, and righteous living brings quietness, calmness, tranquility, peace, and confidence.

front porch. The government of this world cannot guarantee this and actually precipitates the opposite.

Deuteronomy 17:8-9, ***"If there arises a matter too hard for you in judgment, between blood and blood*** [if an accusation is made against an individual who claims innocence, the evidence not being cut and dried], ***between plea and plea***

[if there is a decision that has to be made regarding material things], ***and between stroke and stroke*** [between personal injury of some sort], ***being matters of controversy within your gates; then you shall arise, and go up to the place which Yahweh your Elohim shall choose; and you shall come to the priests the Levites, and to the judge that shall be in those days; and you shall inquire; and they shall show you the sentence of judgment.***" The instruction here is that when the priesthood is functioning, and a judge is sitting in a responsible position in the place that Yahweh shall choose—which for a long time was Jerusalem, but today is Bethel, the tenor of Yahweh's Law will be upheld. This has been the responsibility of the government of the Assemblies of Yahweh, which was given to Moses in Exodus 18 when Israel came out of Egypt. Continue in verse 10. ***"And you shall do according to the tenor of the sentence which they shall show you from that place which Yahweh shall choose; and you shall observe to do according to all that they shall teach you."*** What does the term *tenor* in this



"And you shall do according to the tenor of the sentence which they shall show you from that place which Yahweh shall choose; and you shall observe to do according to all that they shall teach you: according to the tenor of the law which they shall teach you, and according to the judgment which they shall tell you, you shall do; you shall not turn aside from the sentence which they shall show you, to the right hand, or to the left."



DEUTERONOMY 17:10-11

sentence mean? That is the tone, the actual, literal meaning of what they tell you. I was scrolling across the TV channels one evening and came across a movie that intrigued me, so I watched a portion of it. The character said "I want to practice law, not on what someone's ideas are of what words mean, but on what the actual intention of the law is." All of the technicalities, the twisting of the laws of the land in our day, provide loopholes which enable a criminal action to be expunged. Several years ago, when judgment was made and sentence passed on El Sayyid Nosair, the assassin of Rabbi Meir Kahane, the trial judge in the Supreme Court in the state of New York (who was also a Jew), made the statement that the jury had handed down verdicts which were incomprehensible to human logic—beyond reason. I said to myself, "That is exactly right." One of the first points of the law is to take the simplest, most straight-forward, most down-to-earth meaning of the words in the law. Think about it: a murder was committed. Two witnesses said that they saw the gun in the hand of Nosair, the Egyptian who was aiming at Rabbi Kahane.

wound them, and finally to commandeer a taxi. You see, the tenor (tone) of the law was ignored. Testimony from the mouth of two witness should have led to conviction.

Continuing again in Deuteronomy 17:10. ***"And you shall do according to the tenor of the sentence which they shall show you from that place which Yahweh shall choose...."*** Jerusalem is not mentioned, but there is a headquarters that is strongly implied in this passage, a central point at which Yahweh's Law is completely taught and finitely acted upon. A place to which people can come and ask, "How do we settle this problem and receive a judgment?" ***"...You shall observe to do according to all that they shall teach you: according to the tenor of the law which they shall teach you, and according to the judgment which they shall tell you, you shall do; you shall not turn aside from the sentence which they shall show you, to the right hand, or to the left."*** You can see how Yahweh has blocked the attempted end-run that sometimes happens. The individual who is given a judgment is bound to that decision by a judge that

They saw shots fired from the gun, and they saw Rabbi Kahane die. That same gun was used in an attempt to kill two other people and commandeer a taxi. Yet, although he was acquitted of the murder of Rabbi Kahane, he was convicted of having the gun that killed him, of using that same gun to shoot at two other men and

has been put in place to enforce Yahweh's Law. ***“And the man that does presumptuously, in not listening to the priest that stands to minister there before Yahweh your Elohim, or to the judge, that man shall die: and you shall put away the evil from Israel.”*** In our day, Yahweh's judges cannot hand down execution sentences—capital sentences, but must make a division between those who are willing accept Yahweh's judgments and those who refuse a decision based on His Word. How heart-wrenching is it when the Directing Elder sets forth doctrines and policies based on the Law of Yahweh, based on the **Sacred Scriptures**, and people willingly defy the teaching.

In Hebrews 13:7, ***“Remember them that have the rule over you, men that spoke to you the word of Yahweh; and considering the issue of their life, imitate their faith. Yahshua the Messiah the same yesterday and today, and forever.”*** Yahshua the Messiah never changes, so when people say that there is no leadership in Yahweh's Assembly, they are speaking out against the King Himself. In Ephesians 4, Paul says that he instituted a system of government in the Apostolic Assembly based on Yahweh's Word. Today in in this end-time, reconstituted Apostolic Assembly here at Bethel, Yahshua the Messiah has also established a government described in His Word. When you lock those 2 verses together, you must understand that there is rule and government in the Assemblies of Yahweh, the same as it was in the Apostolic Assembly. Verse 17, ***“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit: for they watch in behalf of your souls, as they that shall give account; that they may do this with joy, and not with grief: for this were unprofitable for you.”*** In the Assemblies of Yahweh, it should be our intention to be in unity, and that unity is expressed in a unified government. Government is a doctrine—it is a teaching of Yahweh's

Law, as it was a teaching of the Apostolic Assembly.

There is a point of clarification that can be found in Romans 15:1-6 which will reinforce the unifying doctrine of government. ***“Now we***

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Messiah never
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Himself.***

that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. [Infirmities of the weak can be interpreted as weakness in the Faith. When the older members of the Assemblies of Yahweh are looked up to as elder brothers and elder sisters, then they shall, by all means, recognize themselves as providing an example to the younger. With this in mind, it becomes clear that to help the weak, our lives must be an example of one who is following the **Sacred Scriptures** in every facet.] ***Let each one of us please his neighbor for that which is good, to edifying. For the Messiah also did not please himself*** [He was not a self-serving individual. He was not one that defied Yahweh.]; ***but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached you fell upon me. For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that through patience and through comfort of the scriptures we might have hope. Now the Elohim of patience and of comfort grant you to be of the***

same mind one with another according to the Messiah Yahshua: that you may with one accord and with one mouth glorify the Elohim and Father of our Sovereign Yahshua the Messiah.” (Romans 15:1-6). All of us here are responsible to heed the instructions of the **Sacred Scriptures**. We are responsible to uphold Yahweh's Law as we are responsible to the Messiah, whose death has redeemed us and atoned for our sins. We must be in one accord to follow the Word of Yahweh. One cannot say, “I am going in this direction,” And another, “I'm going in that direction.” We must all be together as a unified body, functioning together so ***“that you may with one accord and with one mouth glorify the Elohim and Father of our Sovereign Yahshua the Messiah. Therefore receive one another, even as the Messiah also received you, to the glory of Yahweh. For I say that the Messiah has been made a minister of the circumcision for the truth of Yahweh, that he might confirm the promises given to the fathers, and that the Gentiles might glorify Yahweh for his mercy; as it is written, Therefore I will give praise to you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name. And again he says, Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people. And again, Praise Yahweh, all you Gentiles; and let all the peoples praise him. And again, Isaiah says, There shall be the root of Jesse, and he that arises to rule over the Gentiles; on him shall the Gentiles hope. Now the Elohim of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may increase in hope, in the power of the Holy Spirit.”*** (Romans 15:6-13).

The Assemblies of Yahweh is a hot potato to the people of this world. They don't know how to handle us, and so they ignore us. Maturity means being able to rule ourselves individually, which will result in a strong Assembly. All of the people of Yahweh must be uni-

We are upholding Yahweh's Word every where we go, every day, and as ambassadors of Him here on earth to act as a witness of our Faith to those we encounter. Yahweh's government is good and is based upon solid biblical dictates.

fied—all doing the same thing. We all must judge ourselves according to Yahweh's Word and to have the strength to repent when violations of Yahweh's Law are pointed out to us. Here is a verse of Scripture that should be ringing in our minds constantly. John 8:29, ***“And he that sent me is with me; he has not left me alone [Yahshua is speaking] for I do always the things that are pleasing to him.”*** That is government. That is self-rule, as Yahshua ruled Himself. Do we? I think, without exception, everyone of us can say, “No.” Sometimes we overstep the bounds of Yahweh's Covenant. Yahshua—the perfect example—never overstepped the bounds of Yahweh's Covenant Law and did the things that were pleasing to Him. But don't forget the impact of verses 31-32, ***“Yahshua therefore said to those Jews that had believed him, If you remain in my word, then are you truly my disciples; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*** Free from what? Although worldly religions miss the point of this Scripture, when the definitions are employed that we learned in this sermon, the message is clear: The Word of Yahweh makes us free from sin and death.

Yahshua the Messiah demonstrated discipline in His life. He demonstrated rulership—Yahweh's rulership—in His life. He ruled His life perfectly and set an example for us. We frequently quote Philippians 2:12, ***“So then, my beloved, even***

as you have always obeyed....”

What is the thrust of this passage—obeyed what? The congregation in Philippi had obeyed Paul's teaching, obeyed the Word of Yahweh, obeyed the Covenant, kept the 613 commandments and accepted the sacrifice of Yahshua. That should be our goal to achieve, to obey Yahweh's word. ***“...Not as in my presence only....”*** This is an honor system. I've always considered myself an ambassador for Almighty Yahweh, which gives me great pause to consider my actions. When I take a journey to a distant country, if I have to order something to eat, I ask the same questions as if you would be there, or my wife would be with me. It doesn't make any difference to me, if I'm by myself, or if I am with a group of brethren. I will eat a salad or fruit rather than contaminate myself with things I cannot prove. Paul continues ***“...but now much more in my absence....”*** What do you do when you are not with the brethren? What do you do when you are in a restaurant? Each one of us knows and understands that Yahweh is watching our every move. When you don't have anyone watching over you, know that your Heavenly Father is watching and act accordingly. ***“...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is Yahweh who works in you both to will....”*** We have that will, because we love Yahweh and want to keep His commandments. ***“...both to will and to work, for his good pleasure.***

Do all things without murmurings....” I disagree with the rabbinic interpretation that says you should desire unclean things, and then not eat them, simply because you want to obey the Most High. I don't even want to desire anything converse to His Word, because I know the Most High, Yahweh, set His Laws there for a purpose.

“Do all things without murmurings and questionings; that you may become blameless and harmless, children of Elohim without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation among whom you are seen as lights in the world.” What are lights in the world described here? It is like Yahweh's Torah—the lamp of Yahweh's Torah, emanating from us, shining into the world, the light of Yahweh, His way of life. ***“Holding forth the word of life....”*** We are upholding Yahweh's Word every where we go, every day, and as ambassadors of Him here on earth to act as a witness of our Faith to those we encounter. Yahweh's government is good and is based upon solid biblical dictates. It is based upon a solid foundation of doing things the way the eternal mind of Yahweh has fashioned them into this system. All we, as His children, need to do is to get into harmony with it—obey it. Paul gave righteous instructions to be upheld today. That we judge ourselves without murmuring and questioning, work on becoming blameless and harmless children of Elohim, uphold Yahweh's Word and shine His Law out into the world by living it every day. Yes, we have a great governmental system that was designed by the greatest mind in this universe—Almighty Yahweh—who Himself gave us this Law and conferred it upon us that we might be His children, to be more like Him and to eventually be adopted into the Elohim family at the resurrection of the Just. May we take these lessons and grow from them and strive for perfection—to do those things that are pleasing to Him. SNB

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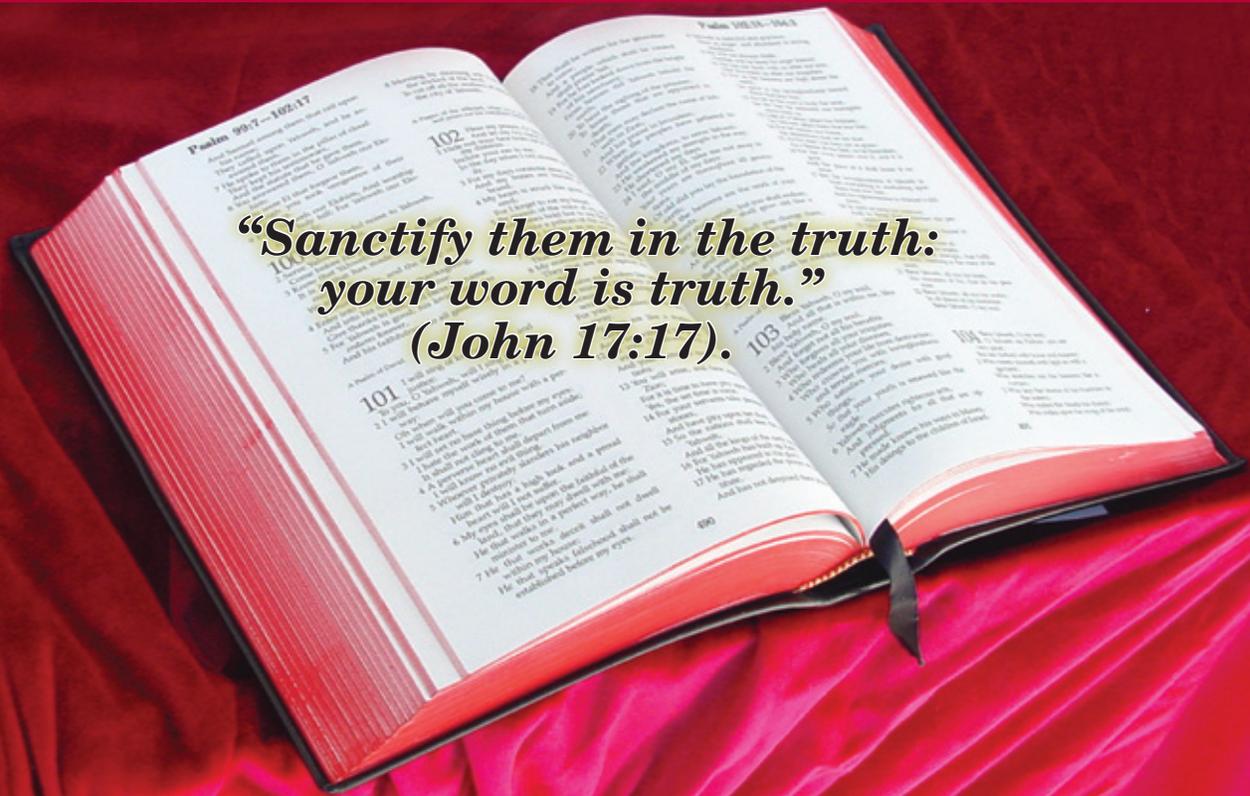
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