The background of the cover is a photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, partially obscured by a rocky shore on the right. The sky is a mix of orange and yellow, with some wispy clouds. The water in the foreground is dark with some ripples. The entire image is framed by a white border, which is itself set within a larger grey border.

THE  
SACRED NAME  
BROADCASTER

1/2017

# THE SACRED NAME BROADCASTER

An Assemblies of Yahweh publication.  
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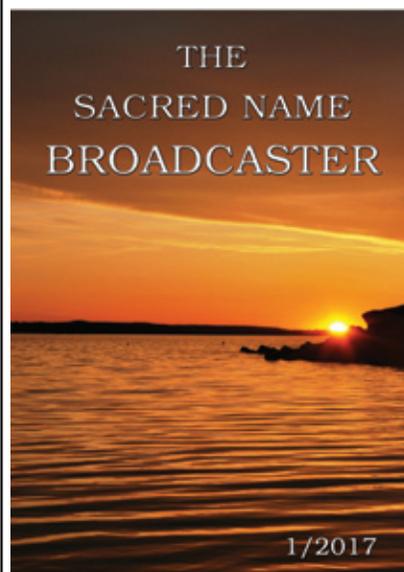
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Founder and Author: Elder Jacob O. Meyer

## Our Cover:



When we view the beauty of Yahweh's creation from the seashore, do we remember that Yahweh gave boundaries to the waters of the earth? "When he made firm the skies above, when the fountains of the deep became strong. When he gave to the sea its bound, that the waters should not transgress his commandment, when he marked out the foundations of the earth...." (Proverbs 8:28-29).

Yet mankind—created in Yahweh's image—has largely rejected His commandments. "Now therefore, my sons, listen to me; for blessed are they that keep my ways. Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. Blessed is the man that hears me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoever finds me finds life, and shall obtain favor of Yahweh. But he that sins against me wrongs his own soul: All they that hate me love death." (Proverbs 8:32-36).

If we love Yahweh and His Son, Yahshua the Messiah, we will keep His commandments. "For this is the love of Yahweh, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." (1 John 5:3).

# NO EXCUSE

FOR



by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

[This article was taken from a message that was preached before the Bethel Assembly on May 26, 1991.]

***“If I had not come and spoken to them, they had not had sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin.”*** (John 15:22).

The average person in this world spends their life searching for a religion that suits themselves. Very few people in this world take the approach, “I will look for the True Worship.” Yahshua the Messiah instructed that His teaching would close the door of self-justification and open the doors of righteousness—to be sin-free, and the keeping of Yahweh’s Law would be indicator of those that adhere to this message. ***“Because Ephraim has multiplied altars for sinning, altars have been to him for sinning. I wrote for him the ten thousand things of my law; but they are counted as a strange thing. As for the sacrifices of my offerings, they sacrifice flesh and eat it; but Yahweh accepts them not: now will he remember their iniquity, and visit their sins; they shall return to Egypt. For Israel has forgotten his Maker, and built palaces; and Judah has***

***multiplied fortified cities: but I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour the castles of it.”*** (Hosea 8:11-14).

The question must be asked, “Is this is a prophecy for only Hosea’s generation, or can it be applied to us today?” You might say, “We don’t have altars of sacrifice today,” but do you realize that there are more than 1,100 different religions in the United States today alone? Can these multitude of denominations be missing something? Are their altars of sacrifice—worship—leading people to sincere repentance? When we turn to Yahweh’s Word, the answer is clear: ***“Ephraim has multiplied altars for sinning...”*** Ephraim, the leading tribe of Israel, had a desire, not to serve Yahweh, but to do as they pleased. In order to facilitate this errant attitude, they multiplied ch-rches which condone sin. They are then free to maintain their own concepts and their own ideas and call it “religion.” But, conversely, Yahweh says ***“I wrote***

***for him the ten thousand things of my law; but they are counted as a strange thing.”*** (Hosea 8:12).

The King James Version translates this verse as ***“I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing.”*** Isn’t this passage true and bring fulfilled today? Worldly churches say ***“The Law of Yahweh is for the Jews, —it has no relevance for us in our time—it was only meant for Judaism.”*** One individual I witnessed to even went so far as to say that the reason why women were instructed to cover their heads was because so many women had lice, and they didn’t want to have a lice infestation in the congregation! Others have said that since there was no refrigeration in the ancient Middle East, a restriction was placed on consuming pork—but now you can eat pork because we have refrigeration! How could someone come up with ideas like that when they have no relevance at all to what the Scriptures

instructs us to do? It is because of the intense pressure on ministers to water down Yahweh's Law.

Yahweh gave to mankind the great things of His Law—the many principles of His Law. **“As for the sacrifices of my offerings, they sacrifice flesh and eat it; but Yahweh accepts them not: now will he remember their iniquity, and visit their sins; they shall return to Egypt.”** (Hosea 8:13). Does this not seem an inconsistent thing for the prophet to say? Almighty Yahweh, in Deuteronomy 28, has informed us that Israel shall never again return to Egypt. Yahweh's people will be moving forward to the Promised Land, through obedience to the Law—a rejection of sin.

I wish to urge everyone—we must never forget our Maker. We have no excuse for sin, because Almighty Yahweh has given us, as our Creator, the great things of His Law. There will be no way for the sincere seeker of Yahweh to turn their back on Yahweh's Word and to begin to accept a deviation from His Word. True Worshipers will understand the importance of Yahweh's Law and do their best to uphold the principals of it in their lives.

**“Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap according to kindness, break up your fallow**

**ground; for it is time to seek Yahweh, till he comes and rains righteousness upon you. You have plowed wickedness, you have reaped iniquity; you have eaten the fruit of lies; for you did trust in your way, in the multitude of your mighty men.”** (Hosea 10:12-13). Sowing represents putting forth plants, or putting forth seed, that will produce plants—fruit. Almighty Yahweh has told us that if we sow righteousness—which means, if we sow the keeping of Yahweh's commandments—we will reap kindness or grace. Worldly religion tells us that it is all grace—everything is grace—but that is not true. Righteousness is defined as obedience to the commandments, and the harvest that is reaped when we keep them is grace.

Yahweh informs us to break up the fallow ground in our hearts—ground that has been neglected. **“...For it is time to seek Yahweh, till he comes and rains righteousness upon you.”** But how many people persist in plowing wickedness? By plowing wickedness, they have rejected Yahweh's commandments, reaped iniquity, and eaten the fruit of lies.

The 11th chapter of Hosea describes a sad commentary on the times in which we live. **“When**

**Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.”** (Hosea 11:1). The Israelites had gone down into Egypt, because of a famine of the land. In our time, the world finds itself in an “Egypt” of sin, also because of a famine—hearing the Word of Yahweh. **“The more the prophets called them, the more they went from them: they sacrificed to the Baalim, and burned incense to carved images.”** (Hosea 11:2). The message of this ministry has been to call such as should be saved out of a life of bondage to sin.

In the Assemblies of Yahweh, we have interaction and communication with a number of religious organizations. We show them the Way of Yahweh by explaining doctrines with His Word. But it seems that the more we show them the clarity of Yahweh's doctrines, the more they fabricate ways to transgress them. They reject plain instructions, instead choosing to continue sacrificing to an elohim they call the “L-rd.” When we show them that L-rd is simply the translation of the Hebrew term *Baalim*—a carved image—they refuse to hear. What a sad commentary on the times when Truth is blatantly rejected, but error is accepted. **“My people are destroyed for lack of knowl-**



***The prophet Daniel tells us that, in the last days, many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall be increased. We have increased knowledge in almost every sphere of our lives, except the world has not increased its knowledge of religion.***

**edge: because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you, that you shall be no priest to me: seeing you have forgotten the law of your Elohim, I also will forget your children.”** (Hosea 4:6).

The prophet Daniel tells us in chapter 12 verse 4, that, in the last days, many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. Humanity has increased knowledge in almost every sphere of our lives, except in knowledge pertaining to religion. The masses have maintained the status quo in spirituality. What excuse do they have for that? What excuse do they have for turning away from Yahweh’s Truth? **“Yet I taught Ephraim to walk; I took them on my arms; but they knew not that I healed them. I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love; and I was to them as they that lift up the yoke on their jaws; and I laid food before them.”** (Hosea 11:3-4).

Think about what Yahweh says to Israel in Isaiah 1:2. **“Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for Yahweh has spoken: I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.”** Yes, Yahweh has been good to the people of this world. Look what he has done for the United States of America in just the past 50 years. Sometimes, as we are watching documentaries on television, I exclaim to my wife, *“Haven’t things really changed in only 50 years of time?”* In 1945, at the end of the Second World War, my family was farming 106 acres of land within a mile or so of Bethel. My father and grandfather were working it with six mules. One day, some of my mother’s relatives came to visit, and they asked *“When are you going to get a tractor?”* My mother joked, *“They are only planting the trees for the wooden parts on that tractor. We won’t have a tractor for a long time.”* Soon after this, in 1947, my father bought his first tractor. During this time of modernization, my father went from milking his 12-15 cows by hand, to using a mechanical

milker. These improvements radically changed the way work on the farm was done. What used to take hours could now be done in minutes. Since then, every aspect of our lives has been modernized by technology. This has helped us become more efficient and productive, but has it brought us closer to Yahweh?

What about religion? Has the Roman Catholic Church improved itself? How about the Baptists? Have they come to the knowledge of Yahweh’s Name, calling upon the Name of Yahshua for salvation and keeping the Sabbath as commanded in Yahweh’s Law? Obviously not. **“Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for Yahweh has spoken: I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knows his owner, and the ass his master’s crib; but Israel does not know, my people does not consider.”** (Isaiah 1:2-3).

The people of this world are not thinking. What will it require for people to begin thinking logically about spiritual topics? Will it take earthquakes, natural catastrophes, or war? How much damage must occur, and how many people must die before humanity begins to look differently at Yahweh’s Word? **“Ah sinful nation, a people loaded with iniquity, a seed of evil-doers, children who deal corruptly! They have forsaken Yahweh, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are estranged and gone backward. Why will you be still stricken, that you revolt more and more? The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even to the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and fresh stripes: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with oil. Your country is desolate; your cities are burned with fire; your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers.”** (Isaiah 1:4-7). I’m afraid some of these things are soon

to come upon the United States of America. America has rejected the blessings that have been given from above and have shamefully begun to mandate acceptance of blatant sin.

Hosea 14:1-2 gives us instruction which we must follow. **“O Israel, return to Yahweh your Elohim; for you have fallen by your iniquity. Take with you words, and return to Yahweh: say to him, Take away all iniquity, and accept that which is good: so will we render as bullocks the offering of our lips.”** Surely, there is no excuse for sin. Worldly religion has received all of the instructions that are included in the Sacred Scriptures, but choose to spurn Yahweh’s call. This arrogant interpretation of the Bible will cause grace to be cut off. As seen in the prophetic writings of Hosea, tragedy and calamity will be used by Yahweh as judgment.

**“Take with you words, and return to Yahweh: say to him, Take away all iniquity, and accept that which is good: so will we render as bullocks the offering of our lips.”** (Hosea 14:2). How can an errant people return to Yahweh? Through repentance, when our transgressions are made known by the mouth of His servants! Almighty Yahweh does not demand anything more than obedience and SINCERE WORDS OF REPENTANCE.

The average individual thinks in terms of materialism and trading one thing for another. *“Perhaps I can buy my way into the kingdom; perhaps I can buy my way into Yahweh’s favor.”* Yahweh has made His Word very clear. We must speak to Him, imploring Him to take away all iniquity, and make us into a new person. In response to that, He will teach us His Way and bring us into greater righteousness and obedience.

Perhaps one of the most penetrating passages in the Bible is Hosea 9:14. **“Who is wise, that he may understand these things? Prudent, that he may know them? For the ways of Yahweh are right, and the just shall walk in them; but transgressors shall**

## ***Release your mind from captivity and the doctrines that are taught in ch-rchianity, and just let that voice of Yahweh speak to you.***

***fall in it.***” Yahweh is requesting that those of His people who are wise, understanding and intelligent, must make changes and continue in the path of righteousness. Yahweh has given us a book that has been translated into English, our native tongue. It has been adequately translated, so that even the most average of minds can intelligently understand its meaning. Yahweh, as our Creator, does not intend to confuse or mislead us, but wants us to respond when He speaks—to use the intelligence He gave us to draw closer to Him. He has given us the tools to cut away the falsehood of the world and reveal the Truth which has the power to save mankind.

Hosea asked ***“Who is prudent?”*** To be *prudent* means to exercise foresight—to look into the future. We can see the direction this world is taking, and then, through His Word, make corrective decisions so we are not entangled in its sinful ways. This mindset will not allow us to formulate any excuse from any commandment or Law. They are given for all of mankind. Not just the Jew or Gentile, but we must all obey. Although they come to us from antiquity, we are all required to follow them. ***“For the ways of Yahweh are right, and the just shall walk in them; but transgressors shall fall in it.”*** (Hosea 14:9b). The term *just* means *those who have been justified*. These are they who, in times past, could not understand Yahweh’s Word, but have chosen now to allow it to cleanse them. Conversely, those who disobey will fall by the Word of Yahweh in judgment.

***“And it shall come to pass, when all these things have come***

***upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you shall call them to mind among all the nations, where Yahweh your Elohim has driven you, and shall return to Yahweh your Elohim, and shall obey his voice according to all that I command you this day, you and your children, with all your heart, and with all your soul....”*** (Deuteronomy 30:1-2). Isn’t that why Yahweh commanded for us to read the book of Deuteronomy periodically at the Feast of Tabernacles? It is so that we may remember the Laws that Almighty Yahweh has placed in His Word. When these things come to mind, we become more like Yahweh and can move out of an Egyptian environment to the pure worship of Yahweh and fully obey the voice of His Word.

The Jews have taken a correct understanding of the Torah. They understand the Torah as being something human. When we read the Book, it seems to the reader that we can hear the voice of Yahweh speaking to us. Can you hear the voice of Yahweh, almost as though the Book were a person, speaking to you? He inspired the prophets to write down His Covenant Law and to record His wishes as a direct communication to His people. ***“...And shall return to Yahweh your Elohim, and shall obey his voice according to all that I command you this day, you and your children, with all your heart, and with all your soul; then Yahweh your Elohim will turn your captivity, and have compassion on you, and will return and gather you from all the peoples, where Yahweh your Elohim has scattered you.”*** (Deuteronomy

30:2-3). In a pre-technological world, Yahweh employed the best way known to man to record His wishes. They were indelibly written down for all to receive.

Now that we are assured that Yahweh gave His Word for us to be informed of His Way, is there an excuse for sin when His commands are clear? No, there isn’t. Is there an excuse for not understanding the Bible? There is not, when you release your mind from the captivity of man-made doctrines which are taught in ch-rchianity. Allow the voice of Yahweh to speak to you plainly—forthrightly. The one who said ***“I am Yahweh, that is my name;”*** also commanded, ***“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”*** Yahweh has also restricted certain foods from man’s consumption. When you accept Yahweh and His Word you will be released from captivity—the captivity of sin and death. There is no excuse for sin! Repentance and conversion in the life of a sincere True Worshiper will release you from the grip of Satan through Yahweh’s grace.

When a legislator in our state capital, Harrisburg, who was a friend of the family, passed away, I told my wife and the office staff, ***“This was a man who had great compassion.”*** When I read the reports of his funeral, I realized that almost every individual that eulogized him used the same word. He left a legacy of being a very compassionate person to those in need. If anyone had a need, and it was in his hand to fill that need, he would not rest until he facilitated help for them. He was an outstanding individual who we were blessed to know. But consider Yahweh’s compassion, and how Yahweh has promised to fulfill all of our needs. He promised to turn captivity into freedom if we only follow Him. When people are captive in worldly religion, and repent from a sinful life, Yahweh will release them from their captivity.

***“...Then Yahweh your Elohim will turn your captivity, and have compassion on you, and***

*will return and gather you from all the peoples, where Yahweh your Elohim has scattered you. If any of your outcasts be in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there will Yahweh your Elohim gather you, and from there will he bring you: and Yahweh your Elohim will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and he will do you good, and multiply you above your fathers. And Yahweh your Elohim will circumcise your heart, and the heart of your seed, to love Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your soul, that you may live.*" (Deuteronomy 30:3-6). How is that accomplished? I constantly remind people of Hebrews 4:12, ***"For the word of Yahweh is living, and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart."*** His Word provides the scalpel that will uncover the sinful recesses of the heart, so that we may truly love Yahweh.

There is no excuse for people in our day to continue sinning. ***"For this commandment which I command you this day, it is not too hard for you, neither is it far off."*** (Deuteronomy 30:11). We read in 1 John 5:3 that the commandments of Yahweh are not grievous. Neither are they far off—we can hold them in our hand as we pick up our Bibles that we have in our homes. ***"It is not in heaven, that you should say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, and make us to hear it, that we may do it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it to us, and make us to hear it, that we may do it?"*** (Deuteronomy 30:12). We don't need to waylay an astronaut and send him to heaven with the instruction to, ***"Go get Yahweh's Law and bring it down to this earth***

*that we can do it."* We don't have to commission a caravan to venture to a foreign land to retrieve it for us. All we have to do is open the Sacred Scriptures, to understand it, and then obey the Word of Yahweh we read in our Bibles. Worldly religion cannot comprehend that it's so very simple to obey Yahweh—open your Bible, read the word, and obey it.

There is a fitting passage of Scripture to be found in the book of Ruth. The name *Ruth* means *beautiful friend*. Naomi and Elimelech had gone to Moab, because of a famine in Bethlehem Judah, their native city. Why do we say "Bethlehem" Judah? Because there was also a Bethlehem Naphtali up north. (It's like saying Bethel, Pennsylvania, because there is also a Bethel, Connecticut, a Bethel, Maine, etc.). After both of Naomi's sons died, she determined to return to Bethlehem. She told her daughters-in-law, "You might as well return to your people and get remarried to someone here in the vicinity." Orpah followed her mother-in-law's instruction, but Ruth clung to her. ***"And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law; but Ruth clung to her."*** (Ruth 1:14). Granted, Orpah had a good excuse for not going along to Bethlehem Judah—it wasn't her native country. She may have become homesick and lonesome and then regretted her decision to follow Naomi. But Ruth was faithful. She was a foreigner who had come to love the ways of Yahweh. ***"And Ruth said, Do not ask me to leave you, and to return from following after you; for where you go, I will go; and where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your Elohim my Elohim; where you die, I will***

***die, and there will I be buried: may Yahweh do so to me, and more also, if anything but death part you and me."*** (Ruth 1:16-17). Think about this beautiful confession of faith! Ruth begged, ***"Don't ask me to go back to my people. I want to follow you and to be faithful to the Covenant I made."*** She had experienced sincere conversion and was certain that following Yahweh was her only pathway.

What about you? Suppose the lure of the "Sirens" in nominal christianity begin to sing that appealing song. (Are you aware that, according to some linguists, the ***Iliad and Odyssey***, which relays of story of the deity Siren, are indeed Jewish, or Hebrew, in their background?) If the religion of christianity starts luring you back to her with appealing words, are you going to find an excuse to regress? Have you translated yourself into a spiritual Jew who will resist the pull of the world? Yahshua has spoken, and the Word of Yahweh has been made plain upon the tablets. There is never an excuse to go back into the pathway of transgressing Yahweh's Law, except the ones invented by people who despise True Worship.

I have made my decision. I desire to be a spiritual Israelite—a spiritual Jew. I desire to live like Yahshua. I desire to live like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I desire to live like the prophets of old and emulate the character of pillars of the Faith, like Ruth: ***"Your Elohim shall be my Elohim."*** Worldly religion entices you with self-gratification and a false sense of comfort through misinterpretation of plainly-stated Scripture. Those that have fallen under the siren's sweet song will ask, "Can it be all that bad to follow a pathway of sin?" Yes, because you

***All we need to do to understand and to fulfill the Word of Yahweh is to open our Bibles and obey it.***

will be worshipping a false mighty one, a mighty one that is not of Yahweh.

Ruth received instruction, and that's what made her unique. She received instruction in the Israelite Faith. Let's see that. **"And Boaz answered and said to her, It has been fully showed me, all that you have done to your mother-in-law since the death of your husband; and how that you have left your father and our mother, and the land of your birth, and have come to a people that you did not know, before this time. Yahweh shall repay your work, and a full reward will be given you of Yahweh, the Elohim of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."** (Ruth 2:11-12). She was humble—she received instruction. Naomi had come to learn that Israelites stick together, and this drew Boaz to her. Families stick together. We are not like the Goyim (peoples of the world) who go flying apart in every different direction. We're not like the Ishmaelites whose hand is every one against his brother. We are Israelites—we stick together. That is why Boaz instructed her, stick with me—stick near my property—and you don't need to go any further.

Ruth had been instructed in the Law of Yahweh, and she was obedient. Her actions showed that her character had been changed into that of an Israelite. She wanted to obey the Law, and she knew that she had to follow what Yahweh's Law stated. She knew that if she followed Yahweh's Will, she would ultimately receive a blessing for her dedication.

Ruth 3:11 bestows a commendation on Ruth the proselyte. **"And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to you all that you say; for all the city of my people knows that you are a worthy woman."** (Worthy woman in Hebrew is *aisheth chayil*.) If you want to be refreshed with a description of an *aisheth chayil*, refer to Proverbs 31:10-31. A worthy woman must implement

Yahweh's Law into her life and live by it through every aspect of every situation that is encountered. Ruth fulfilled this trait, and it was evident to Boaz and the community.

Let us continue to read and see more of Yahweh's Law being implemented in the dialogue. **"So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife; and he went in to her, and Yahweh gave her conception, and she bore a son. And the women said to Naomi, Blessed be Yahweh, who has not left you this day without a near kinsman; and let his name be famous in Israel. And he shall be to you a restorer of life, and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him."** (Ruth 4:13-15). In this passage, Ruth is glorifying and praising Yahweh for His blessing of conception. Ruth could have made excuses and justified evil actions just as Orpah had, but her character was different. The fruit of that faith was a son. Through this selfless act, Boaz's name became famous in Israel. Read the lineage that is found in Ruth 4:18-22. **"Now these are the generations of Perez; Perez procreated Hezron, and Hezron procreated Ram, and Ram procreated Amminadab, and Amminadab procreated Nahshon, and Nahshon procreated Salmon, and Salmon procreated Boaz, and Boaz procreated Obed, and Obed procreated Jesse, and Jesse procreated David."** (Ruth 4:18-22). How many women—sisters of the Assemblies of Yahweh—would like to bear a son like David, whose greatness is known even today? If you turn to Matthew the first chapter, you can trace the lineage of Yahshua the Messiah through Boaz. What a beautiful story that is! It shows that Yahweh accepts into His Assembly all who are sincere. There is no excuse for rejecting Yahweh and His Law, because when we accept Yahweh's Word, He will lead us into the one true Body—the Assemblies of Yahweh.

Let us consider the passage found in Amos 7:7-9. **"In this manner he showed me: and, behold, Yahweh stood beside a wall made by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand. And Yahweh said to me, Amos, what do you see? And I said, A plumbline. Then Yahweh said, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the middle of my people Israel; I will not again pass by them any more; and the high places of Isaac shall be desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste; and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."** When a cement block or brick wall is built, a plumb line is used. Close adherence to the line will allow a perfectly straight wall to be brought into fruition. Yahweh has a plumb line that is stretched out to measure how straight (upright) we are. The plumbline that He uses is His Covenant Law which He gave mankind so that we may be blessed! We must live by it—this is Yahweh's standard.

Turn to Isaiah 3:8. **"For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah has fallen; because their tongue and their doings are against Yahweh, to provoke the eyes of his glory. The show of their countenance does witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe to their soul! For they have done evil to themselves."** (Isaiah 3:8-9). We must realize that the pattern of excusing a violation to Yahweh's Law (sin) will lead us away from Yahweh. This is why today there is a gay and lesbian task force which supports gay and lesbian demonstrations. Instead of reading Yahweh Law and calling this aberrant behavior sin, it is extolled. Even to the heights of government these abhorrent actions are condoned and even encouraged. **"The show of their countenance does witness against them; and THEY DECLARE THEIR SIN AS SODOM, they hide it not. Woe to their soul! For they have done evil to themselves. Say to the righteous, that it shall be well**

*with him; for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.*” (Isaiah 3:9-10). By calling evil good and good evil (Isaiah 5:20), their actions declare that their sin, which instead of being eradicated, reaches a point that it is accepted by others. This does not change the fact that it is still despised by Yahweh. This is what happened in Genesis. Sin was heralded by the Sodomites; they didn’t, in shame, flee sin, but, because of general acceptance of evil, Yahweh had no choice than to pour judgment out on them. “...*Woe to their soul for they have done evil to themselves....*” They have actually brought Yahweh’s judgment, justifiably, upon themselves.

*“Say to the righteous, that it shall be well with him; for they shall eat the fruit of their doings. Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him; for what his hands have done shall be done to him.”* (Isaiah 3:10-11). Isaiah the prophet is given a proclamation to relay to those who are keeping Yahweh’s commandments righteously. Obedience will allow peace and blessings to be poured out. Conversely, Yahweh says to the wicked that He will use the evidence of their sin against them. I didn’t say it—Yahweh’s Word said it, and, just as Isaiah was ordered to address the topic of sin and righteousness, I must proclaim Yahweh’s Word loudly to the ends of the earth. My voice will rise and declare—to the righteous, it will be well with you when you keep Yahweh’s Covenant Law—to the wicked, woe to you when you agree with sin and declare your sin as Sodom.

Ch-rchianity has gone off the deep end! They have gone to the edge of the cliff and jumped over the edge! When ch-rchianity comes up with a doctrine of accepting all manner of sexual sins, the only thing a True

Worshiper can say is “*woe unto you—you have gone the way of Sodom and Gomorrah,*” They have fulfilled the words of Isaiah 28:15. “...*We have made lies our refuge....*” When you set your spiritual foundation on the instability of untruths, it doesn’t matter what kind of doctrines you

*the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding-place.*” (Isaiah 28:17). The plummet, referred to as a plumb-bob, gives us the target of our Faith. Righteousness! That is the standard of judgment by which we are going

to be judged. We must then, by ALL MEANS, apply ourselves to be obedient to Yahweh’s commandments! This means being diligent in keeping Yahweh’s Law! It means reading the labels! It means keeping the Sabbath! It means knowing and obeying every aspect of Yahweh’s Covenant Law. By doing so, we will be separate from worldly reli-

gion. We will not sit in their pagan houses of worship, or observe any of their pagan customs. “*Can two walk together, unless they have agreed?*” (Amos 3:3).

As we saw in Isaiah 28:17, “...*the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies....*” Consider the prophecy of hail found in Revelation 11:19 and Revelation 16:19-21. During this judgment to take place at the end of the age, Yahweh will use the damaging event of pouring hail out from heaven to chastise evildoers. “*And your covenant with death shall be annulled, and your agreement with Sheol shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then you shall be trodden down by it.*” (Isaiah 28:18). This is what Yahweh is saying: “*You think you’re going to heaven regardless of what you believe? I’ll tell you that isn’t true, and you WILL endure the second death!*”

*“The way of the just is uprightness: you that are upright direct the path of the just. Yes, in the way of your judgments, O Yahweh, have we waited for you; to your name, even to your*

***Everyone that commits sin also transgresses the law: for SIN IS THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW.***



1 JOHN 3:4

invent. Remember though, if you are opposed to Yahweh’s Covenant Law, you are going to eventually answer for it at the judgment seat of Yahshua the Messiah.

*“Because you have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come to us; for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves: therefore thus says the Sovereign Yahweh, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone of sure foundation: he that believes shall not be in haste.”* (Isaiah 28:15-16). Spoken of here is a sure, solid cornerstone. Some Rab-bis interpret this stone as being the *shetiya stone*, the foundation stone of the world. This is where they say rested the Ark in the Temple. Peter, in his first pastoral letter, unites this cornerstone with Yahshua—the cornerstone of our faith in Yahweh. He is the sure foundation on which to build our spiritual lives. “*And I will make justice the line, and righteousness the plummet; and*

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***“He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does Yahweh require of you, but to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your Elohim?”***

~ MICAH 6:8 ~

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*memorial name, is the desire of our soul. With my soul have I desired you in the night; yes, with my spirit within me will I seek you earnestly: for when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.”* (Isaiah 26:7-9). Yahweh’s Word is the guide established in our lives so that we can gain salvation. Is there an excuse to violate His Word? No, there is no excuse! Worldly religion may use the same Bible, but ignore the message of Truth that is in the Sacred Scriptures. Yahweh has offered grace, and, yet, people have not learned the ways of Yahweh. ***“Let favor be showed to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness; in the land of uprightness will he deal wrongfully, and will not behold the majesty of Yahweh.”*** (Isaiah 26:10).

Micah 6:6 has the answer: ***“With what shall I come before Yahweh, and bow myself before the high Elohim? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old?”*** Of course, not! That has been superseded by Yahshua’s sacrifice. That example of perfection, in the flesh, glorified Yahweh’s Word, and He has become our sin-sacrifice. ***“Will Yahweh be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my first-born for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”*** (Micah 6:7). Will Yahweh be pleased with thousands of animals as Solomon offered, or with 10,000 of rivers or jars of oil? Of course, not! ***“He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does Yahweh***

***require of you, but to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your Elohim?”*** (Micah 6:8). The answer to the question of Yahweh’s requirements is that mankind is to do justly—keep Yahweh’s Covenant—to love kindness, mercy, and compassion, and to walk humbly in submission to Almighty Yahweh by the keeping of His commandments. Now that the message of the Sacred Scriptures has been revealed, knowledge has been increased. There is no excuse anymore for anyone in our time to sin. All excuses has been removed, because the true doctrines of Yahweh are being taught by the Assemblies of Yahweh. Will we listen to them, or be judged?

***“Who is an El like to you, that pardons iniquity, and passes over the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He retains not his anger forever, because he delights in loving-kindness.”*** (Micah 7:18). Isn’t this a tremendous encouragement as we read of Yahweh’s forgiveness? Yahweh is a compassionate Mighty One! He pardons iniquity and passes over the sins (transgression of the Law) and cleanses the remnant of His heritage. ***“He will again have compassion upon us; he will tread our iniquities under foot; and you will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.”*** (Micah 7:19). After the washing of the items in the Temple, the defiled water, mixed with some of the blood of those sacrifices, traveled out of Jerusalem, down into the Kidron Valley, eventually ending up in the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth! This is a prophecy that can

actually be witnessed today in the geography of Israel. Yahweh cast the blood of those sacrifices that covered over the sins of Israel into the deepest of the seas. ***“You will perform the truth to Jacob, and the lovingkindness to Abraham, which you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.”*** (Micah 7:20).

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 provides the summary of this message. ***“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: all has been heard: fear Elohim, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole of man. For Elohim will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it is good, or whether it is evil.”*** (Ecclesiastes 12:13). To fear Elohim and keep His commandments is the summary of the whole Bible. This is what draws the message of the Sacred Scriptures together. Fear and honor Yahweh Elohim and keep His commandments. Without Yahweh’s commandments—without honoring Yahweh the Most High—man is incomplete. What will make man whole? Obedience to the commandments of Yahweh will complete him and join him with His Maker. This is what will give him the same character, personality, and spirit as Yahweh Elohim our Creator. He wants us to live up to the standard of the plumb line—Yahweh’s Covenant—Yahweh’s commandments, so that when we appear before Yahshua the Judge, to have all of our works scrutinized, we can be acceptable in His sight. May Yahweh bless His people as we turn away excusing sin and turn toward the righteousness that is found in His Word. S<sub>N</sub>B

# 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 8, 1992.]*

***“Set the trumpet to your mouth. As an eagle he comes against the house of Yahweh, because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law. They shall cry to me, My Elohim, we Israel know you. Israel has cast off that which is good: the enemy shall pursue him. They have set up kings, but not by me; they have made princes, and I knew it not: of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, that they may be cut off. He has cast off your calf, O Samaria; my anger is kindled against them: how long will it be before they attain to innocency? For from Israel is even this; the workman made it, and it is no Elohim; yes, the calf of Samaria***

***shall be broken in pieces. For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: he has no standing grain; the blade shall yield no meal; if it does yield, strangers shall swallow it up. Israel is swallowed up: now are they among the nations as a vessel in which none delights. For they have gone up to Assyria, like a wild ass alone by himself: Ephraim has hired lovers. Yes, though they hire among the nations, now will I gather them; and they begin to be diminished by reason of the burden of the king of princes. Because Ephraim has multiplied altars for sinning, altars have been to him for sinning. I wrote for him the ten thousand things of my law; but they are counted as a strange thing. As for the sacrifices of my offerings, they sacrifice flesh and eat it; but Yahweh accepts them not: now will he remember their iniquity,***

***and visit their sins; they shall return to Egypt. For Israel has forgotten his Maker, and built palaces; and Judah has multiplied fortified cities: but I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour the castles of it.”***  
(Hosea 8:1-14).

Pick up any newspaper today, watch any newscast, or listen to radio news, and one can easily perceive the growing wickedness of the times in which we are now living. Crimes—such as murder, robbery, and rape—proliferate throughout almost every community. Why are these acts considered wrong, and why do we conclude that they are evil? The answer is: the law of the land prohibits them.

What people do not seem to understand is that secular laws of the land are based upon the Sacred Scriptures and the commandments contained therein. The secular governments of the world have merely followed the Sacred Scriptures in

prohibiting what is not an act conducive to maintaining the peaceful atmosphere of the community. We must realize that acts of violence, in some way, affect every citizen, in every community, and, that when basic human rights are violated, humanity suffers.

If you could govern the world, what would be your first edict? Would you outlaw crime? (Pun is indeed intended!) Would you prohibit theft? Would you ban murder or bodily assault? Would you forbid rapes? Would you disallow drugs? Would you proscribe abortions? Each one of these acts has been deemed as criminal, so wouldn't it be natural for you to follow a path that would lead to the eradication of such heinous acts? This must be the thought and intent of every governor, including the True Worshiper, who is seeking to govern their lives by the Word of Yahweh. But how would you enforce the law against these criminal acts? Would you simply allow events to take their course unimpeded and then think that you could simply talk—counsel—criminals into changing their evil behavior? Almighty Yahweh, through His Word, has established a system of justice. This justice is based upon a righteous form of government which is meant to regulate human conduct in the pattern that our Heavenly Father intended. This system of justice is meant to ensure a peaceful existence between human beings in their interactions with each other. This government that will regulate human lives and bring them into compliance with His Laws. These Laws are rules that, when maintained, will ensure that each individual can live a happy, peaceful, and fruitful life.

One might consider that all governmental authority is merely a referee to make certain that each participant in the game of life lives by a set of rules, and that, when these rules are violated, has the power to take corrective action. Government is authority—whether it is the government from On High—

## ***Almighty Yahweh, through His Word, has established a system of justice meant to***

- ***ensure a peaceful existence between human beings in their interactions with each other;***
- ***regulate human lives and bring them into compliance with His Laws;***
- ***ensure that each individual can live a happy, peaceful, and fruitful life.***

under the auspices of Almighty Yahweh and Yahshua our Messiah—or whether it is the secular government. These governments enforce their rules so that each team plays—lives—by the rules.

Notice Hosea 8:1 again. ***“Set the trumpet to your mouth. As an eagle he comes against the house of Yahweh, because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law.”*** Hosea the Prophet here is warning against the impending Assyrian invasion. ***“Set the trumpet to your mouth...”*** denotes a device that is used to magnify the loudness of your words. Israel was in danger. Yahweh's prophet, Hosea—just as Isaiah and Micah—was told that he must announce impending judgment. Yahweh, as a righteous ruler,

would not have punished Israel if they had not sinned against Him. Action had to be taken in response to Israel's covenant-violations so that the land could be at peace again.

Has Almighty Yahweh changed? This question is touted by those who refuse to obey directions from on High. He has not changed! ***“For I, Yahweh, change not; therefore you, o sons of Jacob, are not consumed.”*** (Malachi 3:6). Yahweh has instructed His prophets, today, to preach the same message that He gave to Hosea—that we are in serious trouble and judgment is imminent. Even worldly people are beginning to recognize that the Heavenly Father's patience must be running out. If, then, Yahweh has not changed, the direction of mankind must be the one that has veered into the path of sure destruction.

Our world, today, has not improved since the Second World War. It seems we are reverting right back to the same conflicts that were endured by the populous 60 years ago. The quality of our lives has not improved. Constantly, there are trials for rape, murder, and robbery. Every day people are dying—killing each other. ***“They shall cry to me, My Elohim, we Israel know you.”*** (Hosea 8:2). Yahweh's response is, ***“You don't know Me! “You have cast off that which is good.”*** What is good? Yahweh makes it clear that ***“My Law, My government, My regulation, My authority: that is what is good.”*** But, ***“Israel has cast off that which is good...”*** therefore, I will open the gate, and ***“...the enemy shall pursue him.”*** (Hosea 8:3).

Continue in Hosea 8:4. ***“They have set up kings, but not by me....”*** They have made governments, but man has set their hope in wrong governments—false governments. Yahweh commanded that we shall not set over ourselves, as Israelite peoples, anyone that is not of our own ethnic [religious] background. ***“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 that are around me; you shall surely set him king over you, whom Yahweh your Elohim shall choose....*" (Deuteronomy 17:14-15). The problem brought to light here is that as Israel began to liberalize away from Yahweh's Law, they had begun to accept pagan idolatry as their savior.

Again, in Hosea 8:4. *"...they have made princes [sar in Hebrew means chiefs or leaders] and I knew it not: of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, that they may be cut off."* Why has this sentence been handed down from the Righteous Judge on High? Because idolatry is a violation of Yahweh's commandments. The second commandment, of the ten core commands, forbids making a representation of Him out of silver or gold—idolatry.

Hosea 8:7, *"For they sow the wind and they shall reap the whirlwind: he has no standing grain; the blade shall yield no meal; if it does yield...."* If the wrath of Almighty Yahweh blows upon a nation, there will be no fruit from that nation. The blade—harvest—can yield no meal. But if it does yield a pittance for their work, *"...strangers shall swallow it up."* Verse 11, *"Because Ephraim has multiplied altars for sinning, altars have been to him for sinning."* Ephraim—the 10 northern tribes—made altars according to their own desires. This is exactly what the religious world is proliferating with the multitude of different organizations today who all teach a rejection of Yahweh's Law. *"I wrote for him the ten thousand things of my law; but they are counted as a strange thing."* (Hosea 8:12). People may say, *"It's Jewish."* *"It's ancient."* *"It's Middle Eastern."* *"It has no relevance in our time."* And, yet, we see that the natural effects of sin continuing to be passed down through our time—to our children—through the fruits of disobedience.

*"As for the sacrifices of my offerings, they sacrifice flesh and eat it; but Yahweh accepts them not: now will he remember their iniquity, and visit their sins; they shall return to Egypt."* (Hosea 8:13). Egypt, in the Sacred Scriptures, represents a type of sin. Yahweh's people will be called out of that old house of bondage and into the land of promise—peace that is experienced by accepting the Way of Yahweh.

Father Yahweh wishes us to understand that good government is necessary and essential and must be a doctrine in the Assemblies of Yahweh. In Exodus 4, an incident occurred soon after the call of Moses. Yahweh said to Moses out of the burning bush, *"I will send you to Egypt, and I will have you tell Pharaoh, 'Let my people go.'"* Moses, as a humble man, is continually questioning whether he is the individual qualified to be Yahweh's representative. He understood that it was an awesome responsibility, actually standing in the position of representing Yahweh before the people.

*"And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor listen to my voice: for they will say, Yahweh has not appeared to you."* Was all of Israel present when Yahweh spoke to Moses out of the burning bush in the wilderness of Sinai? No! Moses predicted they would have no Faith in Yahweh or His servants, *"You have not been visited by Yahweh; Yahweh has not appeared to you. You are establishing yourself. You are guilty of self-aggrandizement."* *"And Yahweh said to him, What is that in your hand? And he said, A rod."* (Exodus 4:2). Moses had been herding the livestock of his father-in-law Reuel, the priest of Midian, and was holding a rod—a walking stick—used to herd livestock. The herdsman's rod was duplicitous in use—to direct the flocks and herds, and to fend off the threat of destruction which would have harmed the animals under his care. *"And he*

*said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it."* (Exodus 4:3). What do you do when you see uncontrollable danger within striking distance? You get away from it so that it cannot harm you. Yahweh said to Moses, *"There is no need to be afraid of it."* *"...Put forth your hand, and take it by the tail: and he put forth his hand, and laid hold of it, and it became a rod in his hand...."* The rod, here, represents the authority of Yahweh. This authority is placed in the hand of the individual He chooses. Yahweh gives a clear example to Moses here as He teaches him a lesson in government. Almighty Yahweh stands behind the leaders He has appointed, as they follow His Word.

You can see the rod of authority being used at Yahweh's command in Numbers 20 at the waters of Meribah and Massah. (What is so sad about the term *Meribah* is that it is from the verb, meaning *suing*. The children of Israel were bringing an accusation—a lawsuit—against Yahweh.) *"And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying, Take the rod, and assemble the congregation, you, and Aaron your brother, and speak to the rock before their eyes, that it gives forth its water...."* (Numbers 20:7-8). It is obvious that the rod represents authority—power. This assertion is collaborated in Psalm 110:2, as you can see the mention of the rod. *"Yahweh will send forth the rod of your strength out of Zion: Rule in the midst of your enemies."* The rod—*matteh*—here represents a rod of authority, used to mandate the submission of the enemies of Yahweh and to gain rulership by Yahweh's hand. We read in Numbers 17:1-3 that, after the Korah rebellion, *"...Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying, Speak to the children of Israel, and take of them rods, one for each father's house, of all their princes according to their fathers' houses, twelve rods: write every man's name upon*

*his rod. And you shall write Aaron's name upon the rod of Levi; for there shall be one rod for each head of their fathers' houses.*" This is what Psalm 110 demonstrates when the rod—a representative of Yahweh's power and authority—within the tribes of Israel, would demonstrate heavenly-backed leaders. Verse 8, *"And it came to pass on the next day, that Moses went into the tent of the testimony; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi had budded, and put forth buds, and produced blossoms, and bare ripe almonds."* Although all of the rods had appeared dead, miraculously, in the morning only one had revived, brought forth fruit, and shown life. Yahshua the Messiah, as the bearer of the rod of Yahweh's authority, is the Leader of the tribe of Elohim and as a descendent of Judah—the ruling tribe—was given the right of rulership.

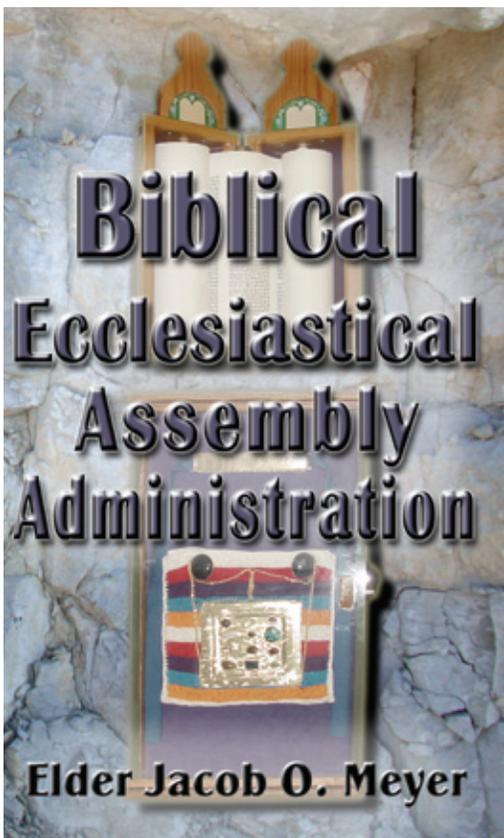
Notice again in Exodus 4:5, *"...that they may believe that Yahweh, the Elohim of their fathers, the Elohim of Abraham, the Elohim of Isaac and the Elohim of Jacob, has appeared to you."* It always seems that people demand to see miracles in order to believe. Yahweh said, *"Alright, drop the rod of your authority on the ground and it will become a serpent."* Remember that in Revelation 12:9 the old Serpent—Satan the Devil—is the one who deceives the whole world. So, consequently, Yahweh is telling Moses, *"Drop the rod of authority out of your hand, and it will become an adversary—a Satan."* Satan acts contrary to Yahweh's authority and government, seeking always to undermine it. But with Yahweh's leadership and guidance, His authority will vanquish evil. *"And Yahweh said furthermore to him, Put now your hand into your bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous, as white as snow."* (Exodus 4:6). Two great lessons are being shown to Moses, that if he lets

down his rod of authority—if he vacates it—it will become an adversary, and, if he forfeits his authority to rule under Yahweh's authority, he will be cast out of Yahweh's own Assembly. *"And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying, Command the children of Israel, that they put out of the camp every leper, and everyone that has an issue, and whoever is unclean by the dead: both male and female shall you put out, outside the camp shall you put them...."* (Numbers 5:1-4). If Moses would fail to exercise his authority and withhold his hand from taking action against the Adversary, Moses would be defiled and would be cast out of Israel. Yahweh is impressing upon Moses a lesson in governing. Let us understand that for every action, there is a reaction. Good actions—keeping of Yahweh's Covenant Law—produce peace and joy, but in contrast, bad actions—sin (breaking Yahweh Covenant Law)—produce discontent and unease, because it has placed the individual outside of the confines of Yahweh's peace.

Turn to Ecclesiastes 8:1-11. *"Who is as the wise man? And who knows the interpretation of a thing? A man's wisdom makes his face to shine, and the hardness of his face is changed [it is changed from hardness to softness]. I counsel you, Keep the king's command, and that in regard of the oath of Elohim. Be not hasty to go out of his presence; persist not in an evil thing: for he does whatever pleases him. For the king's word has power; and who may say to him, What are you doing? Whoever keeps the commandment shall know no evil thing; and a wise man's heart discerns time and judgment: for to every purpose there is a time and judgment; because the misery of man is great upon him: for he knows not that which shall be; for who can tell him how it shall be? There is no man that has power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither has he*

*power over the day of death; and there is no discharge in war: neither shall wickedness deliver him that is given to it. All this have I seen, and applied my heart to every work that is done under the sun: there is a time in which one man has power over another to his hurt. So I saw the wicked buried, and they came to the grave; and they that had done right went away from the holy place, and were forgotten in the city: this also is vanity. Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily [sentence: the pronouncement of judgment upon an evil work or sin], therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil."* Ecclesiastes 8:10-11. This passage of Scripture tells us, forthrightly, that execution of sentence will deter other people from doing wrong. For example, our governor has signed four or five death warrants against murderers who have taken the lives of innocents. It has been over a decade now and not one of them have had their sentence carried out and been executed. Since that time, how many people have committed murder? How many killers have been emboldened by the lack of justice? When people have no fear of a sentence being executed, then they have no fear of taking the life away from another human being. Take for example the Jeffrey Dahmer case. Ask yourself the question: Is there a dead body? *"Yes, there are fifteen."* Has he confessed to these murders? *"Yes, he has confessed to all of them."* Why didn't the prosecution, when presented with the facts in response to these elementary questions, take the next step, which is mandated by state law, and execute him? Yahweh's Law says, *"Speedy execution of sentence."* Man's government says, *"Try to find technicalities that allow guilty people to escape."* By doing so, the sinner is emboldened in his iniquity.

*"Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and prolongs his days, yet surely I know that*



Returning to the basic commands of the Old Testament (which is the basis of our Faith), we can perceive how Yahweh intends His modern-day Assembly to be organized.

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*it shall be well with them that fear Elohim, that fear before him....*" Ultimately, we can say it will be well with those who fear Elohim, because Yahweh will accept them into His eternal kingdom. *"...but it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he fears not before Elohim."* Ecclesiastes 8:12-13. Obedience to Yahweh's Law leads us toward our reward—rejection of Yahweh's Law leads us to destruction. Consequently, we now have to deal with thousands upon thousands of murderers who are sitting on Death Row, in prisons, around the United States of America. As I iterated before, for every action, there is a reaction. Because of the lack of action by a weak government, the reaction has been the proliferation of crime and violence. (I do not believe though in convicting a murderer of a Capital Offence on circumstantial evidence. I believe the evidence must be clear, beyond a shadow of a doubt. But, when that evidence

is clear, sentence should be carried out quickly.). Isaiah 26:7, *"The way of the just is uprightness* [to keep Yahweh's commandments], *you that are upright direct the path of the just,"* [toward the Kingdom of Yahweh, is what he intends to say]. In verse 2, *"Open the gates, that the righteous nation which keeps faith may enter in."* The subject of this Scripture is a description of a righteous nation, being led by a strong, obedient government, will lead them into the Kingdom-way of life.

*"Yes, in the way of your judgments, O Yahweh, have we waited for you; to your name, even to your memorial name, is the desire of our soul."* Isaiah 26:8. I think most of the brethren of the Assemblies of Yahweh were impressed the first time they heard the Name of Yahweh and that this was the initial doctrine that captured their interest. Our desire is to the memorial Name of Yahweh, but do we realize that the Name bears authority also? Continue in verse 9, *"With*

*my soul have I desired you in the night; yes, with my spirit within me will I seek you earnestly: for when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness."* Sometimes, when we see bad things happen, we identify it as judgment from On High which is being poured out upon the sinful people of this earth. Let's go a step further though, *"...when your judgments are in the earth..."* represents Yahweh's government, His authority upon the earth. Yahshua the Messiah is not going to allow the rod of His authority to falter, Psalm 110 assures us of that. So, when Yahshua is judging and ruling on this earth, the inhabitants of it shall learn righteousness. *"Let favor be showed to the wicked..."* [give them grace] *"yet will he not learn righteousness; in the land of uprightness will he deal wrongfully, and will not behold the majesty of Yahweh."* (Isaiah 26:10). Turn a wicked murderer loose—back into the world—and what will happen?

Undoubtedly, because he has not been corrected by an agent of the Law, will kill again.

When you turn to Hosea 11:12 you will see how an ineffective governing body will weaken the community as a whole. ***“Ephraim compasses me about with falsehood*** [Remember that Ephraim represents the ten northern tribes of Israel. It was Joseph and Ephraim, his son, and Manasseh, that were given the greatest land area to the north.] ***and the house of Israel with deceit....***” Initially this rejection began with the reign of Jeroboam. In 1 Kings 15 and 2 Chronicles 13 you can read how his sinful leadership took Israel away from Yahweh. He had begun to build competing houses of worship, and crowned his sin by enshrining golden calves as their deity. By following Jeroboam into idolatry, Ephraim allowed a division between themselves and Judah. ***“...but Judah yet rules with El, and is faithful with the Holy One.”*** Because Judah had maintained near-complete obedience to the commandments of Yahweh, Jeroboam sought to remove them from the teaching of the Sabbath, the holy days and other commandments that they received in Jerusalem. It was his intention to split off his people into a competing worship and to interfere with his subjects travelling to Jerusalem in order to worship Yahweh according to the command at the temple. He was then free to wield the power of his office by instructing his priests to teach humanistic doctrines which is in conflict with the Truth of Almighty Yahweh. This falsehood and deceit caused a rift in Israel that is still felt today.

Not long after Israel came out of Egypt, a structured government was established. Jethro, the priest of Midian, saw a deficiency in Moses’ leadership and designed a solution. ***“And it came to pass on the next day, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood around Moses from the morning to the evening. And when Moses’***

***father-in-law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing that you do to the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand around you from morning to even? And Moses said to his father-in-law, Because the people come to me to inquire of Elohim: when they have a matter, they come to me; and I judge between a man and his neighbor, and I make them know the statutes of Elohim, and his laws.”*** (Exodus 18:13-16). Moses is saying, ***“I tell them what Yahweh wants them to do so that there may be peace in the nation of Israel.”*** ***“And Moses’ father-in-law said to him, The thing that you do is not good. You will surely wear away, both you, and this people that is with you: for the thing is too heavy for you; you are not able to perform it yourself alone.”*** Scholars believe that there could have been approximately two million Israelites at this point. Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, saw that having only one judge for all of the people, was insufficient to run an effective government. He instructed Moses, ***“Now listen to my voice, I will give you counsel, and Elohim be with you: be for the people a representative of Elohim and bring the cases to Elohim and you shall teach them the statutes and the laws....”*** Moses was supposed to be the supreme authority, the teacher, the intermediary between Yahweh and men—like Yahshua is our Intermediary today, sitting in the heavens. The first duty of this position was to be a leader who would guide, ***“...and shall show them the way in which they must walk, and the work that they must do. Moreover you shall select out of all the people able men, such as fear Elohim, men of truth, hating unjust gain; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: and let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every***

***great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they shall judge themselves: so shall it be easier for yourself, and they shall bear the burden with you. If you shall do this thing, and Elohim command you so, then you shall be able to endure, and all this people also shall go to their place in peace. So Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law, and did all that he had said. And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. And they judged the people at all seasons: the hard cases they brought to Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves.”*** Exodus 18:13-26. By utilizing this system, the Will of Yahweh would flow through Moses to the nation of Israel. Because of his unique insight into the mind of Yahweh, he would then be qualified to act as the supreme judge of the people on earth.

Let us look closer at where good government actually begins. 1 Corinthians 11:31 provides the key. ***“But if we discerned ourselves, we should not be judged.”*** We are obligated to judge ourselves according to the Word of Yahweh. This also comes through very clearly in Colossians 2:16-17, a passage that is horribly misinterpreted by ch-rchianity, ***“Let no man judge you therefore in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a feast day, or a new moon, or a sabbath: which are a shadow of things to come; but the body of the Messiah.”*** The body of the Messiah—those given judicial responsibility—shall do the judging for each individual. This begins ultimately with individual judging themselves in light of the Word of Yahweh and accepting the correction found there. If the individual rejects that correction, then the next step is taken—the leadership of the congregation stepping in to render righteous judgment. This is borne

out constantly in the New Testament Scriptures. ***“Truly I say to you, whatever things you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever things you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”*** (Matthew 18:18).

There is a parable that appears in Proverbs 6 from which we can all receive instruction. ***“Go to the ant, you sluggard; Consider her ways, and be wise: which having no chief, overseer, or ruler, provides her bread in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest.”*** (Proverbs 6:6-8). This way of life is instinctive to the ants as they lay away the things needed for survival. All during the summer, the ant colonies can be seen scurrying around, picking up food to store away for winter. They have no chief telling them that it must be done. They have no overseer, no boss, or ruler. We understand, not only that Yahweh wants to sharpen up those that have become lazy in the Assembly, but, also, that we do whatever needs to be done. This rule is a guide that can be applied to every aspect of our lives. In order for us to preserve our existence we must prepare, being motivated from within—by the instruction of the Holy Spirit—instead of needing someone behind us with a lash, saying, *“You must do thus and so.”* That way when we encounter difficult times we will be prepared to weather them successfully.

Every member of the Assemblies of Yahweh should apply this lesson personally. Our primary act should be to allow Yahweh’s Word to rule over our hearts, all the time. The answers to our problems are in the Sacred Scriptures. All we must do is study, and apply the Word to ourselves. This direction is expressed clearly in Judges 8:22, ***“Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, Rule you over us, both you, and your son, and your son’s son also*** [establish a dynasty] ***And Gideon said to them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule***

***over you*** [I am not going to establish a dynasty.] ***Yahweh shall rule over you.”*** (Judges 8:22-23). I am convinced that we must believe in, and practice this simplistic system of governmental rule. In the Assemblies of Yahweh, each individual is responsible to keep Yahweh’s Covenant on the first level—for himself. Each individual should be listening to the teachings that are being brought out in the sermons and sermonettes, and then applying this instruction, which Yahweh’s Word gives us, to the heart.

The doctrine of government in the Assemblies of Yahweh is not only derived from Old Testament texts—the Hebrew Scriptures—but is reiterated in the New Covenant—the New Testament. The Apostle

***honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of the Messiah, and individually are members of it. And Yahweh has set some in the assembly, first apostles....***” We know who the apostles were that are referred to here. They are the twelve that Yahshua chose. He then also chose Paul who served Yahweh and who described himself as an “Apostle of Yahshua.” These were twelve apostles of the Lamb whose names are inscribed on the foundation of the city, the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21:13. ***“...Secondly prophets....***” We know that these prophets are Old Testament prophets. ***“...Thirdly teachers....***” We have inspired preachers, *prophētēs* (in Greek) or *nevi’im* (in Hebrew),

***We can never consider that what is described in the book of Judges—where every man did what was right in his own eyes—is acceptable. There is regulation, a structured environment, and it is based soundly on the Sacred Scriptures.***

Paul was very clear in his writings that government is indeed a doctrine to be taught and lived by in the Assemblies of Yahweh. We can never consider that what is described in the book of Judges—where every man did what was right in his own eyes—is acceptable. There is regulation, a structured environment, and it is based soundly on the Sacred Scriptures. ***“...whereas our comely parts have no need: but Yahweh tempered the body together, giving more abundant honor to that part which lacked; that there should be no schism*** [What does *schism* mean? It means a division, to rend, to split apart.] ***in the body; but that the members should have the same care for one another. And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member is***

who preach the Word of Yahweh. These teachers explain the Word, to make it even plainer, to elucidate it down to its minutest point so the people can understand their responsibility to Yahweh. ***“...Then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments....***” (1 Corinthians 12:24-28). Christianity doesn’t want to hear that. They don’t want to consider that importance of having government in its rightful place in the Assembly. Sadly, the fruits of this lack of leadership is evident by the plethora of false doctrines that are adhered to in their teachings.

To more fully understand the implications of this topic we must examine closely the related passages of scripture dealing with the subject. Continuing where we left off in 1 Corinthians 12:28, ***“...diverse kinds***



***of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But desire earnestly the greater gifts. And moreover I show you a most excellent way.***” (1 Corinthians 12:28-31). The “Way” that Paul is speaking of here is *love*, which he goes on to fully cover in the following chapter—1 Corinthians 13.

***“For even as we have many members in one body and all the members have not the same office: so we, who are many, are one body in the Messiah, and severally members one of another. And having different gifts according to the grace given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of our faith; or ministry, let us give ourselves to our ministry [service] or he that teaches, to his teaching or he that exhorts, to his exhorting, he that gives, let him do it with liberality; he that rules, with diligence; he that shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”*** (Romans 12:4-8). We can say he is comparing the Body of the Messiah to the human body. There are many members—for example, fingers, arms, legs, all the way down to our cellular structure—in the human body. Skin is our most prominent organ and is integral for the well-

being of the body. Skin, though, is composed of billions of cells, working together for one goal.

Paul also instructed that the leadership should strongly exhort the congregation. The term *exhort*, #3870 in the **Strong’s Greek Dictionary**, is *parakaleō*. It means *to call near, that is, invite, invoke (by imploration, hortation or consolation)*. I like to use, as a personal definition, *strongly encourage*. The dictionary definition says, *to urge earnestly by advice, warning, etc., and to admonish strongly*. Paul is dealing with a preconceived doctrine in Romans chapter 2 and was exhorting the leaders in Yahweh’s Assembly to stand fast to their mission.

Twice now, we have seen that government is considered to be a gift in the Assemblies of Yahweh—special gifts, special offices. Government is indeed a doctrine—a teaching which must be appreciated as a special gift in the Body of the Messiah. Leaders must be strong, but, as a spiritual guide, always preside in love. The term *rule* comes out as a key-factor in the requirements for the office of a bishop. ***“One that rules well his own house, having children in subjection with all gravity; (but if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the assembly of Yahweh?)”*** (1 Timothy 3:4-5). The

bishop is the presiding elder, one who presides over—rules—in the Assembly. He is guiding—just like he does his own family—the Assembly toward the Kingdom of Yahweh.

A spiritually-oriented membership will thrive under the leadership of Yahweh’s government and use it to refine their lives, bringing them into full alignment with Yahweh’s Word. ***“And he that overcomes, and he that keeps my works to the end, to him I will give authority over the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron as the vessels of the potter are broken to shivers....”*** (Revelation 2:26-27). You see here how authority and rule are synonymous. What is the rod of iron? Obviously, it’s Yahweh’s Covenant Law and the authority of power that Yahweh gives to His Son who guides His people.

Yahshua, who governed Himself perfectly by Yahweh’s Law, will wield this inflexible rod of authority as He subdues this earth with the help of His people, who will rule with Him. *“Wait a minute,”* some people may arrogantly say, *“I’m going to rule. I’m going to be a king!”* Yes, you will rule if you are faithful, but you must learn how to rule first. In order to learn to rule, you must govern every aspect of your life by the guidelines you will be helping to enforce in the future. Rule your own life—your own family—first! It is an individual responsibility in the Assemblies of Yahweh.

Turn to 2 Samuel 23:1, where David tells us of these requirements. ***“Now these are the last words of David. David the son of Jesse says, And the man who was raised on high says, The anointed of the Elohim of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel: The Spirit of Yahweh spoke by me, and his word was on my tongue.”*** A self-ruler will always be speaking the Word of Yahweh with a cleansed tongue. It should be similar to what took place to Isaiah in Isaiah 6:6-7, where the cherubim cleansed his lips—his tongue—with a coal from off the altar. After that

cleansing took place Isaiah was then able to be a messenger for the Most High. ***“The Spirit of Yahweh spoke by me, And his word was on my tongue. The Elohim of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me: One that rules over men righteously...”*** David was Yahweh’s messiah—anointed—for that age. He wasn’t the Messiah of Israel, Yahshua haMaschiach—Yahweh’s only begotten Son. David understood that his position was that he was anointed as a king for that age and was instructed to righteously lead Yahweh’s people. It tells us in prophecy how he will be resurrected, and he will be ruling as a vassal under Yahshua. Because of his faithfulness, he will have a great station in the eternal new Kingdom of Yahweh. ***“One that rules over men righteously, That rules in the fear of Elohim.”*** Learning how to rule means obeying the commandments of Yahweh. Putting them into practice and implementing them in your life. ***“...He shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun rises, A morning without clouds....”*** He will be able to rule clearly because he has had the experience of ruling himself in Yahweh’s Way.

A pilot once told me, he would joke with the air traffic controllers about visibility. If the controller would tell him that the visibility was 5 miles, he would respond, ***“That’s funny; I can see 93 million miles. (I can see the sun, you know.)”*** Just like on a crystal-clear morning when it seems you can almost see into infinity; the fear of Yahweh gives clarity to your decision-making capabilities.

***“He shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun rises, A morning without clouds, When the tender grass springs out of the earth, [there will be fruitfulness] through clear shining after rain.”*** David recognizes, ***“Truly my house is not so with El; Yet he has made with me an everlasting covenant....”*** Psalm 89 contains the promise of that everlasting Covenant Yahweh made with David.

***Yahweh’s  
government  
is structured  
on love and  
compassion  
as its key  
elements. It is  
built on facts  
and evidence...  
upon the  
absolute quality  
of Yahweh’s  
Covenant Law.***

***“...Ordered in all things, and sure: For it is all my salvation, and all my desire, Although he makes it not to grow. But the lawless shall be all of them as thorns to be thrust away....”*** Why was David concerned? There had been the Absalom rebellion, the problem with Adoniyah, and others. David knew that just as there were blessings from Yahweh for obedience, disobedience to Yahweh would bring judgment. ***“...But the lawless shall be all of them as thorns to be thrust away, Because they cannot be taken with the hand; but the man that touches them must be armed with iron and the staff of a spear: and they shall be utterly burned with fire in their place.”*** 2 Samuel 23:1-7.

The pattern of Yahweh’s governmental system is the True government that must be accepted as a doctrine. It is regulated by love and compassion which is based on Yahweh’s Word. In contrast, the governments of this world—and Satan, of course—refuse to obey Yahweh’s commandments and they bear the fruits of hate and cruelty. The Assemblies of Yahweh is striving to live according to Yahweh’s Word ,and we seek to govern ourselves by

the pattern which seeks to emulate Yahweh’s heavenly government. This offsets us, with striking clarity, from the governments of this world. Because we want to obey His Word, to best of our ability, we look for the factual base in all things, and find, when we use Yahweh’s Word as our evidential guide, the governmental system that Yahweh has put, and will put, in place, will unify us as Yahshua’s Body.

Yahweh’s government is structured on love and compassion as its key elements. It is built on facts and evidence. It is based upon the absolute quality of Yahweh’s Covenant Law. This is the government that Yahshua the Messiah Himself will implement on this earth when He returns to call Yahweh’s people to their reward. By His strong leadership, when He returns, He will be educating the nations of the earth in the Way of Yahweh, and they will desire to be His. ***“...Come, and let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh, to the house of the Elohim of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem.”*** Isaiah 2:3.

Almighty Yahweh’s government has been decreed in the Sacred Scriptures and is being taught as a doctrine in the Assemblies of Yahweh. When we fully submit ourselves to Yahweh’s authority, the Assemblies of Yahweh will run smoothly. It will operate cohesively, and will successfully bring us to perfection through His Holy Spirit. When we attain, and maintain, that first level of holiness, Yahweh will afford us entrance into His Kingdom which will be ruled by His only-begotten Son, Yahshua. Praise Yahweh that we can already, every week—every day—experience a microcosm of Yahweh’s Kingdom in His Assembly and in our daily family life when we allow it to be regulated by Yahweh’s Covenant Law.

SNB



# Entering His Gates With Praise

***“Make a joyful noise to Yahweh, all you lands. Serve Yahweh with gladness: Come before his presence with singing. Know that Yahweh, he is Elohim: It is he that has made us, and not we ourselves; We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, And into his courts with praise: Give thanks to him, and bless his name. For Yahweh is good; his lovingkindness endures forever, And his faithfulness to all generations.”*** (Psalm 100).

It seems that when a person discovers the Truth and realizes all of the implications of converting their life into that of a True Worshiper, they discover that there is more to the Assemblies of Yahweh than just listening to a 15-minute sermon on Sabbath morning, and, then, continuing their life in the mold of their upbringing. One of the most obvious changes that is

*by Deacon Nathaniel A. Meyer*

initially made is that of the weekly Sabbath. Growing up in a Sabbath-keeping home with parents who had proven the Sabbath from the Bible and, then, used that new-found knowledge to pattern their lives, the Sabbath became part of the fabric of our lives that is unmatched in worldly environs. A question that the author regularly receives is how we, in the Meyer family, learned to open the Sabbath, and should a faithful member of the Assemblies of Yahweh follow this pattern? When the Sabbath becomes a hallmark of our life, the act of observation creates a clear delineation between us and the nations, so it is imperative to treat it with the respect that Yahweh intended.

To properly keep the Sabbath according to the intent that Yahweh conferred to His people, we must

consider the Torah-command. ***“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shall you labor, and do all your work; but the seventh day is a sabbath of Yahweh your Elohim: in it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your manservant, or your maid-servant, or your cattle, or the stranger that is within your gates: for in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day: Therefore Yahweh blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”*** (Exodus 20:8). The word *remember* is #2142 in the **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance**, *zaw-kar*: to mark, to remember; to mention; make to be remembered, bring (call, come, keep, put) to (in) remembrance. Clearly, from the text, we understand that the seventh day of the week is to be anticipated, welcomed, and observed to be in compliance with Yahweh’s

command. Exodus 31:15-17 offers more understanding into the relationship that this day will foster with our Father in Heaven when we keep it correctly. **“Six days shall work be done; but on the seventh day is a sabbath of solemn rest, holy to Yahweh: whoever does any work on the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel forever: for in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.”** Yahweh gave the Sabbath to us as a gift which must be accepted and used to strengthen our Covenant relationship we have with Him. Setting the seventh day apart is not optional, but it is to be observed every week—all year. **“Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest: in plowing time and in harvest you shall rest.”** (Exodus 34:21). No matter what our work schedules, family responsibilities, or personal diversions are, the Sabbath is to be set aside and kept holy by Yahweh’s Assembly.

A key point that must be considered, in order to properly keep this commanded observance, is the aspect of preparation. This will allow us to enjoy a peaceful day of being “off the grid.” Many people are surprised when they discover that the sixth-day preparation is actually a Torah-Law command. Exodus 16:23-34, in discussing the gift of bread from heaven, shows faith that is displayed in preparation. **“And he said unto them, This is what Yahweh has spoken, tomorrow is a solemn rest, a holy Sabbath to Yahweh: bake what you will bake,**

**and boil what you will boil; and all that remains over save it to be kept until the morning. And they saved it until the morning, as Moses commanded: and it did not become foul, neither was there any worm in it.”** Described here is heavenly intervention, as

**“Speak  
also to the  
children of Israel,  
saying, You must keep  
my sabbaths: for it is a sign  
between me and you throughout  
your generations; that you may  
know that I am Yahweh who  
sanctifies you.”**

EXODUS 31:13

Yahweh assured Israel that, if preparation was made correctly, He would provide a miracle. I clearly remember a time when my mother had prepared a roast—large enough to ensure that there would be leftovers after Shabbat (Friday night) meal. Coming downstairs Sabbath morning, she discovered that one of the children had decided that they “needed” another helping of the beef and had forgotten to return the dish to the refrigerator. *“Don’t worry,”* she said, *“Yahweh will provide a miracle. He promised that if we do our job, He would preserve the food.”* I can definitely say that the cold roast beef sandwiches we ate for lunch were delicious, and no one got sick. Yahweh worked a miracle in an unintended oversight. He was faithful to His Word.

It was obvious, as a child, that Friday was different than any other day of the week. From the way we did the barnwork in the morning and evening, to the housecleaning when we got home from school at noon, we understood that as the

sun got close to the horizon, all of our work and preparation would cease. The descending sun was viewed with anticipation, and, as the Sabbath would draw on, we began to transfer our thoughts and actions to spiritual pathways. Stoves were turned off, tools and cleaning instruments were stowed, and we prepared to welcome the “queen of the week”—the Sabbath.

Friday night is enjoyed as family night in the Assemblies of Yahweh. Because temporal work ceases, the family is together with no distractions. Parents do not have to be concerned with the next day’s workload, or be concerned with the typical daily responsibilities of providing for the household.

Without the intrusion of television, homework, or extra-curricular activities, the children are given the chance to experience the family-unit as Yahweh intended.

A tradition in our family was to hold a devotional as a welcome to the Sabbath. Although there is no set biblical pattern for this time of devotion, my father developed a series of scriptural readings that would set the tone for the day. I have realized, that by doing this, he was creating a delineation between holy and common time. We are a Bible-believing family, so the first Scripture we turn to and read in unison are the 10 Commandments. Exodus 19:9 seals the words He spoke on Mount Sinai as a direct communication between Yahweh and His people. **“And Yahweh said to Moses, Lo, I come to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever. And Moses told the words of the people to Yahweh.”** The inaugural commands, that follow in chapter 20:1-17, are an outline for the 613 commandments that Yahweh laid on His people. They teach us how we should revere our Heavenly Father

and treat our fellowman. A word must be said here about the meter and tone of how we recite these words, to ward off the tendency for them to become habitual repetition. Yahshua warned about this in Matthew 6:7 as He instructed: **“And in praying use not vain repetitions, as the Gentiles do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.”** It seems difficult sometimes to put the hustle and bustle of the world aside, and give Yahweh the time and respect that He deserves. The point of opening the Sabbath is to make a division. While reading—slow down, watch punctuation, and read the words in earnest reverence. We are presenting our families before the great King, Yahweh. We should keep this in mind and allow the peace of the day to wash over our devotional and allow the Spirit to bring us into a peaceful state.

Following recitation of the 10 Commandments, we would turn to Exodus 31, and my father would read verses 10-17. The core-center of this Scripture can be identified as verse 13. **“Speak also to the children of Israel, saying, You must keep my sabbaths: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that you may know that I am Yahweh who sanctifies you.”** When you consider that Yahweh has given us a sign connecting us directly to Him, and that this sign has a cleansing effect for us today and to generations following who obey, we will, out of respect for this relationship, honor the Sabbath as a specially-observed day. We turn away from our daily pursuits and concentrate on Yahweh and His ways. When we do so, it gives us a unique perspective of our Father and His Son, Yahshua, and us as His creation. **“Therefore keep the words of this covenant, and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do.”** (Deuteronomy 29:9).

Something that is central to “Family Night” is the discussion of the events of the past week. When

every event is tied to Yahweh and His ways, our daily lives fall into categories that are easily identifiable. How did we deal with this trial, where did this blessing originate, or how was this situation handled? Placed in the light of Yahweh’s Law, we can see heavenly interaction with us through each challenge, or glory, that was experienced. Yahweh was there for us, and, now, we, as His children, are giving a day to Him in worship and adoration.

Without developing a broad knowledge-base of a topic, we would be unable to fully grasp the depth of a subject. Many times, in order to better understand a point of Law, we are taught to look deeply into Yahweh’s Word and see why the Law is there in the first place. The next Scripture read to open Sabbath is Genesis 1:31-2:3. Contained here is the conclusion of Yahweh’s sixth day of labor, followed by His actions on the seventh. **“And the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day Elohim finished his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And Elohim blessed the seventh day, and hallowed it: because that in it he rested from all his work which Elohim had created and made.”** (Genesis 2:1-3). Yahweh, after working diligently to create the earth and its surrounding environs, ceased His labor and bestowed a special blessing on the Sabbath. The word *rest* here is a *cessation of activity*. It is not that Yahweh was physically spent through His labors, but He understood that His creation would need a day of rest and refreshment to be spiritually and physically renewed. Yahshua addressed this in Mark 2:27-28. **“And he said to them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: so that the Son of man is Master even of the Sabbath.”** Many people misuse this Scripture to allow violation of the sanctity of the Sabbath. The fact is Yahshua did

not break Yahweh’s Torah Law by allowing His disciples to pluck heads of wheat (the context of the passage) and use them for immediate sustenance. The Sabbath is designed so that we can have the strength to fulfill our human requirements as tenants in Yahweh’s creation. It is always interesting to me when brethren of the Assemblies of Yahweh relay that on the afternoon of the preparation day, our bodies seemingly know that the Sabbath is coming on, and we almost collapse across the finish-line of the week. **“For I have satiated the weary soul, and every sorrowful soul have I replenished.”** Jeremiah 31:25 describes the benefits we receive as we cease our daily work and dedicate a day to Yahweh for worship and refreshment.

In the Temple of Yahweh, a Psalm was dedicated for each day of the week. Each Sabbath, as Psalm 92 was read, Israelites would assemble and worship at Yahweh’s house. **“The righteous shall flourish like the palm-tree: He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. They are planted in the house of Yahweh; They shall flourish in the courts of our Elohim. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; They shall be full of sap and green: To show that Yahweh is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.”** The last four verses of Psalm 92 reflect the growth that is received as we obey Yahweh and hearken to His Word. The life of the faithful servant of Yahweh becomes full. It is grown on the fertile soil of Yahweh’s Word and watered with pure sound doctrine. Our very existence portrays the beauty of Yahweh’s plan of salvation and His faithfulness to the Covenant He made with mankind. As the voices of our families unite in the reading of this Psalm, a glorious picture emerges of Yahweh, as the head of the spiritual family, leading His children toward the Kingdom.

The earthly family needs leadership and guidance to provide for, and to protect, its members. My

father, as the head of the household, understood that my mother was the anchor that solidified not only the operation of the house, but also as a leader in the family, installed faith and obedience in Yahweh. Proverbs 31:10-31 describes the “worthy woman” (*aisheth chayil* in Hebrew) and paints a picture of the family who is living for Yahweh. This woman, whose work is never done, has dedicated herself to the task of caring for her family. By fulfilling her mission, she is looking forward to the future in anticipation of discomforts, and preparing a remedy for it. By doing so, she allows the fruit of her hands to glorify Yahweh. ***“She looks well to the ways of her household, And eats not the bread of idleness. Her children rise up, and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her, saying: Many daughters have done worthily, But you excell them all. Grace is deceitful, and beauty is vain; But a woman that fears Yahweh, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; And let her works praise her in the gates.”*** (Proverbs 31:27-31). In my personal experience, my mother embodied the example of a worthy woman. I have also been blessed to marry, and share my life with, a woman that lives by the example of her mother. When this Scripture is read as we open Sabbath, not only the father, but also the children, understand the necessity to give the respect due to the mother of the family for her dedication and love for Yahweh. Notice verse 28 again, ***“Her children rise up, and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her.”*** This relationship points all the way to the garden of Eden where Elohim said, ***“And Yahweh Elohim said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him.”*** A help meet is a counterpart—a fellow worker for the family. The family, as a unit of Yahweh’s worshipers, must cooperate just as Yahweh and Yahshua oper-

We owe Yahweh everything, and, with the words

**“In Yahshua’s Name, HalleluYah!”**

we seal the week’s work, dedicating ourselves again to observe His Word in obedience to His commands.

ate in the Assembly of His people here on earth. Ephesians 5:22-30 describes the beautiful picture of this relationship. Yahweh gave His Assembly a leader, Yahshua, Who, out of love and service, will present a purified family for Yahweh’s honor and glory. ***“That he might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the assembly to himself a glorious body, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”*** (Ephesians 5:26-27). This Scripture will bring the thought to mind each week that—just as our parents love and labor in unity for the family—Yahweh and Yahshua are always there for us and will lead us toward perfection.

Prayer is communication with our Father in Heaven though Yahshua the Messiah. After the reading of the **Sacred Scriptures** to mark the division between common and holy time, a prayer is offered by the head of the household. This prayer of thanksgiving for the things we receive from On High—display verbally our dependence on Yahweh. We owe Yahweh everything, and, with the words “In Yahshua’s Name, HalleluYah!” we seal the week’s

work, dedicating ourselves again to observe His Word in obedience to His commands.

Following the prayer, the Shema is recited by all in attendance. ***“Hear, O Israel: Yahweh is our Elohim, Yahweh is one: and you shall love Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words, which I command you this day, shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. And you shall bind them for a sign on your hand, and they shall be frontlets between your eyes. And you shall write them on the door-posts of your house, and on your gates.”*** (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

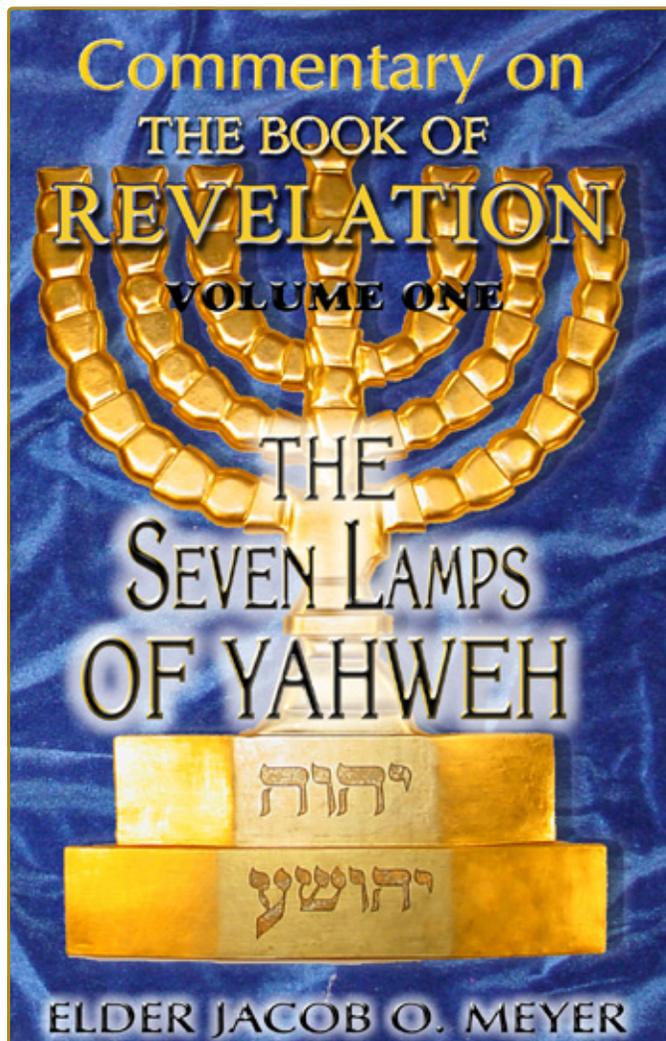
This passage of Scripture, which is recited twice a day throughout the week by members of the Assemblies of Yahweh, is voiced as a prayer—softly and introspectively. Yahweh Elohim deserves the respect and dedication of His servants who will willingly offer ourselves with our entire existence. Every action in our life must be governed by the love of Yahweh. Yahweh mandates that we transfer this love for Him to our children, and that it marks us as His own—His people—His servants.

The Sabbath occupies a unique position in the life of a member of the Assemblies of Yahweh. Through the passages and prayers listed above, we are able to more fully to observe the command to keep the seventh-day Sabbath holy. By doing so, we rededicate ourselves each week to His service. This not only sets the tone for the day of worship, but gives us direction and inspiration for every day of the week. We are thankful for the gift of Yahweh’s Sabbath of rest and look longingly forward to it. We anticipate and enjoy every moment of the Sabbath as a shadow of Yahweh’s Kingdom here on earth.

SNB

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