

THE
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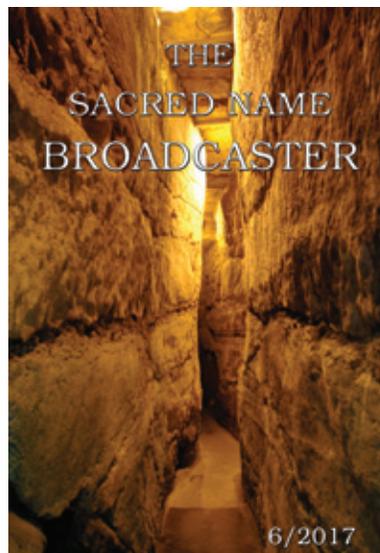
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Founder and Author: Elder Jacob O. Meyer

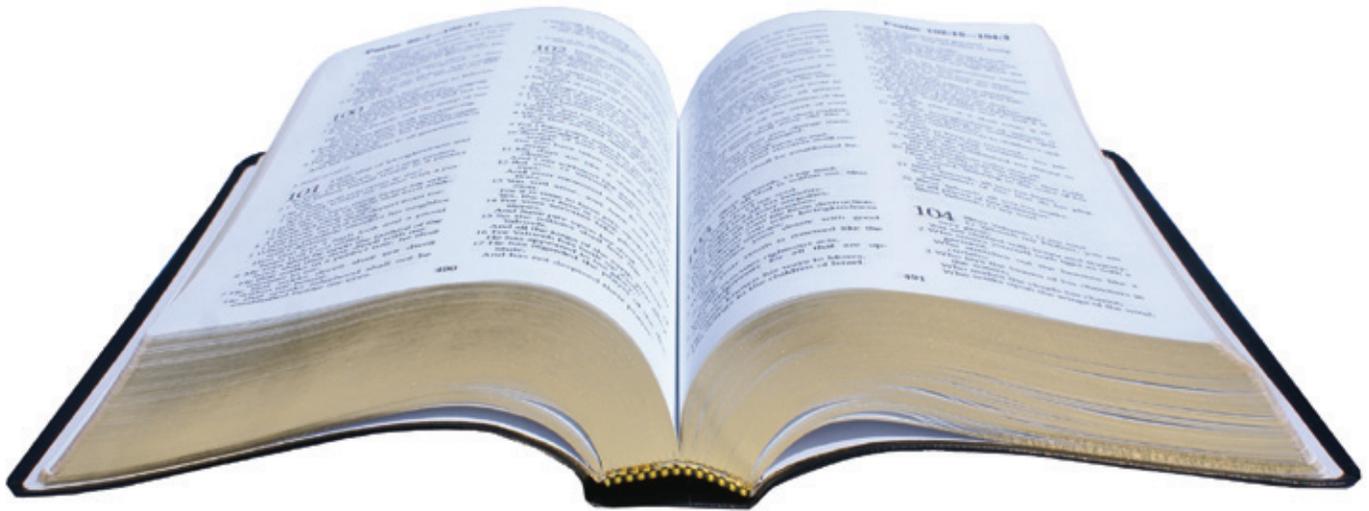


Our Cover:

Our cover this month depicts the Western Wall Tunnel that runs along the base of the Western Wall of the Temple Mount, which was excavated in recent years.

Within this tunnel, they unearthed the largest known stone in the Temple Mount project, which is more than 40 feet long and weighs more than 570 tons. Archaeologists are still baffled as to how such a large stone was moved into place with simple tools, but, yet, with great ingenuity.

The beautiful buildings of the Temple were thrown down just as Yahshua the Messiah prophesied. Will you also believe His prophecy that He will return again? Will you be ready when that last trumpet sounds to announce His Second Coming?



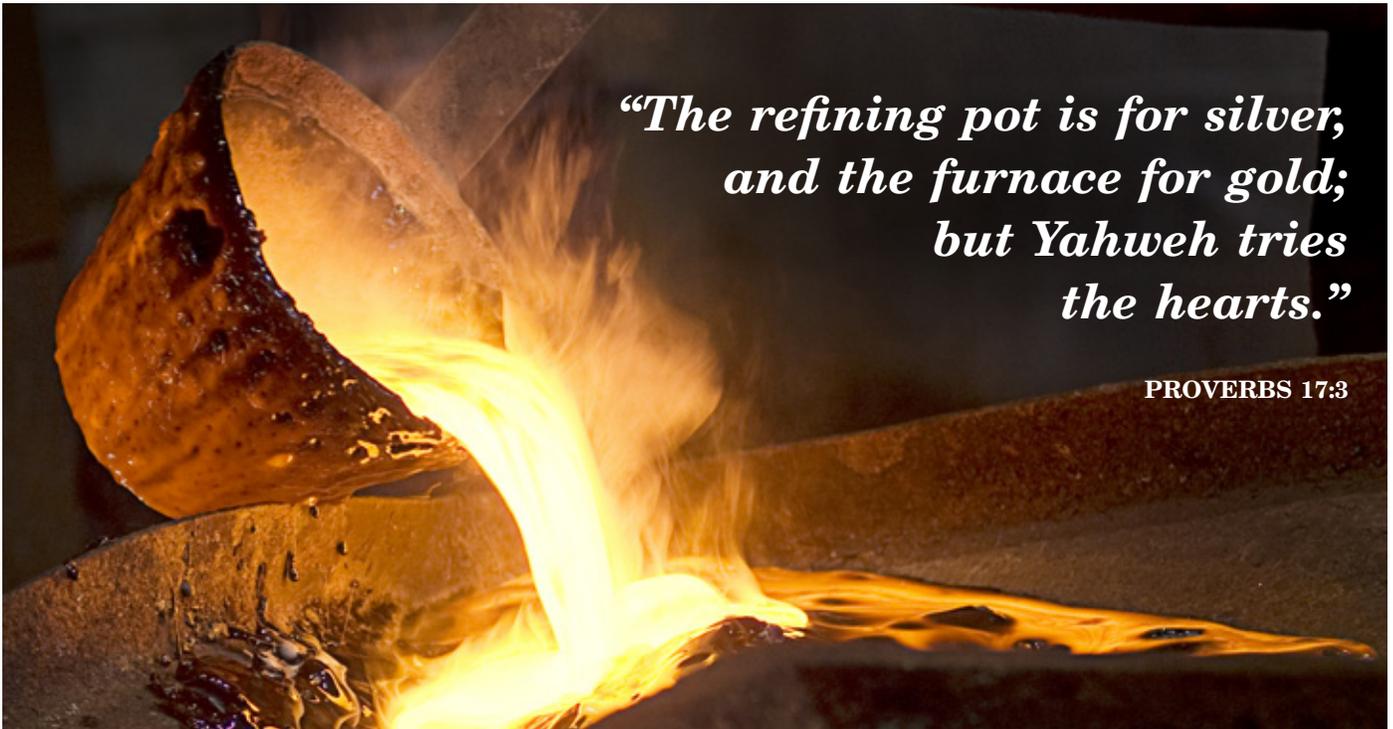
RIGHT DIVISION OF THE WORD

As a group of people who are living in the Laodicean era at the end of the age, it should be our desire to serve our Heavenly Father totally, just as did our spiritual forefathers—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. If the Assemblies of Yahweh is to fulfill the prophecies which have been written about them in the Word, we must be committed to total zeal in our obedience to the commandments of our Heavenly Father, just as were our forefathers in the early Apostolic Assembly, Acts 17:6. Acknowledging that the eye salve to which our Savior, Yahshua the Messiah, refers in

by *Elder Jacob O. Meyer*

Revelation 3:18 is the ointment, or oil, of the Sacred Name, we should not “go to seed” on this one issue, vital though it may be. In addition, the Laodiceans are cautioned to buy gold which has been tried in the fire and white clothing. Have you ever thought that these items could also be of utmost importance to our salvation? If we wish to be among the people of Yahweh, we must solve the deficiencies which were the detriment of the Laodiceans.

It was to Isaac that Almighty Yahweh addressed a reiteration of the Covenant which had been made with his father Abraham in Genesis 26. The reason why there was to be a continuation of the Covenant with the family of Abraham was stated in verse 5, where we read, “**Because Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.**” From this text, we can comprehend that Abraham had lived as nearly a perfect life as a human being was able to approach to spiritual perfection. Abraham had obeyed, or



***“The refining pot is for silver,
and the furnace for gold;
but Yahweh tries
the hearts.”***

PROVERBS 17:3

heeded, the Word of Yahweh. When Almighty Yahweh spoke and delivered a command, or an injunction, Abraham was instant in his obedience and fulfillment of his Covenant obligations to Almighty Yahweh (as we may note in Genesis 12 and 22, for instance). The Apostle Paul uses Abraham in Galatians 3 as a paramount example of the faithful. He instructs the people of Yahweh to harmonize their lives with this pillar in the Faith. He ends his exhortation to the people of Yahweh in this chapter by concluding, ***“And if you are the Messiah’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, heirs according to promise.”*** (Galatians 3:29). By re-reading this chapter, we may conclude that it was Abraham’s sinless life (his keeping of all of the commandments, statutes, judgments, and Laws of Yahweh) which earned him the inestimable complimentary appellative, a “friend of Yahweh” in Jacob 2:23, Isaiah 41:8, and 2 Chronicles 20:7.

Let us define the symbols

found in Revelation 3:14-22 from the Scriptures. A cross reference of the term *gold tried in the fire* will lead us to Malachi 3:3. ***“And he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi, and refine them as gold and silver; and they shall offer unto Yahweh offerings in righteousness.”*** Here the Word of Yahweh reveals that both the messenger of Yahweh—who prepares the way for Him—and Yahshua—who returns to rule—will purify the sons of Levi as silver and gold is refined (by fire). The prophet Zechariah records an almost identical passage for us in chapter 13, verse 9. ***“And I will bring the third part into the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people; and they shall say, Yahweh is my Elohim.”*** Apparently, the people of Yahweh will have to endure severe trials of their Faith over the next

few years, if we are to be given the responsibility of offering the spiritual, Millennial sacrifices of Yahweh. Let me assure you that Almighty Yahweh will never confer upon any of His people a major responsibility, unless they have been proven to be fully capable of discharging their assignments faithfully. How do you suppose you rate personally as a teacher of the Law (which is the responsibility of a priest or Levite, 2 Chronicles 15:3), if you had not learned by actual experience how the Law was to be applied? When Almighty Yahweh allows you to be placed in situations where you have had to cope with gigantic obstacles in order to obey the Law of Yahweh. When you have been able to overcome these obstacles by restructuring your life to the perfection of the Word, keeping the commandments diligently and perfectly, you will then have gained the experience necessary to teach the inhabitants of this world in the Kingdom age. You will be able to tell them, *“You can keep the*

commandments of Yahweh if you try, because I was confronted by a similar situation, and this is how I was able to overcome it," Teaching is transmitting your experiences and what you have learned to others, 2 Timothy 2:2. Almighty Yahweh will try you in this present life to see if you have qualified. Proverbs 17:3 reads, **"The refining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold; but Yahweh tries the hearts."** Gold tried in the fire would then be interpreted scripturally as a pure and dedicated heart, committed to living sound doctrine.

In past years, in the Sacred Name Movement, we have seen capitulation to the norms of society around us rather than making a dedicated stand for the Word of Yahweh. By doing this submissive compromising, a tremendous witness for the Truth has been lost. Constantly, I am confronted with accounts in the news media of various groups of both political and religious ideologies who make a determined stand against compromising their convictions. However misinformed, they seem to hold fast to their convictions without fear of reprisal. This can be an example to the True Worshiper today. When I read Hebrews chapters 11 and 12, I cannot help but feel my unworthiness to be called a spiritual brother to those of the Patriarchal and Apostolic Assembly of Yahweh, as they suffered privation and martyrdom for refusing to compromise with this world's system of things. Although dead, they can be called LIVING EXAMPLES of not loving this world, 1 John 2:15-16.

As we become members of the Body of the Messiah and proceed to build our spiritual house upon the Word, we find that the keeping of the commandments

will immediately bring about a reorientation of our lives. This is a separation between good and evil in our lives, which we desire voluntarily. It may run deeply, to the very core of our lives, as we seek to serve our Heavenly Father by keeping His commandments. Upon beginning to keep the Sabbath, some of us may lose a job. By accepting the Sacred Name and using it, we find that we may become separated from our families, friends, and, especially, from our former religious affiliation. When we become very selective in our choice of food, there are times when we must decline to eat at the home of an acquaintance, or in a restaurant. This kind of severance often yields the fruit of bitterness, as the brother or sister finds his former life slipping away from them through the keeping of the commandments of Yahweh. Sometimes, they cannot untangle the tentacles of worldly thoughts, ideas, and practices by evicting them from their minds to come up to that higher plateau of obedience. They linger awhile with one foot in the world and one foot in the Assemblies of Yahweh. After a period of time, we find that they have not stood still, but have drifted steadily backward. It might be well to remember that there is no standing still in our spiritual lives. We are either moving ahead, or slipping backwards. Backsliding will never bring us to the state of perfection of obedience to Yahweh which will enable us to be of service to Him, both now and in the Kingdom.

After initiating a serious study of the Bible, coming to learn that it is necessary to obey all of the commandments of Yahweh if we wish to be free from sin (1 John 3:4), the next question which

arises is, "Where do we divide the Law?" Paul informs us that we must, **"Give diligence to present yourself approved to Yahweh, a workman that needs not be ashamed, handling properly the word of truth."** (2 Timothy 2:15). This last phrase, "**handling properly the word of truth**" is so frequently misquoted and misapplied, that, after a time, it has become an irritation to the Bible student when it occurs. What is right division? Can you divide prophecy? Can it be in the dividing of the Law? Can it be dividing the Old from the New Testament segments in the Scriptures? A scrutiny of this entire chapter will reveal that Paul was instructing Timothy to live, and teach, the Law of Yahweh, and that he and his hearers would be required to endure hardship for this obedience. He goes on to urge finally in verse 16, to avoid profane and vain babblings (confusing language or explanations), because this will only advance the cause of unrighteousness (a better translation than the word *g-dliness* which is found in the **King James**).

Let us concern ourselves then with the term *unrighteousness*. This word means *not the right use of things* (un-right-use-ness). The only way that we can ever comprehend the correct use of this creation is to study the Law of Yahweh, which is our basic course of instruction in righteousness, Deuteronomy 6:25. **"And it shall be righteousness to us, if we observe to do all this commandment before Yahweh our Elohim, as he has commanded us."** Please also see Psalm 119:172. **"Let my tongue sing of your word; for all your commandments are righteousness."** Yahshua the

Messiah states that it is not sufficient to know the Sacred Name and use it where our salvation is concerned. He says that He will personally reject any person who is guilty of iniquity, or unrighteousness, even though they may have at one time performed MIRACLES in His very Name, Matthew 7:23. ***“And then will I profess to them, I never knew you: depart from me, you that work lawlessness.”***

Possibly one of the most quoted passages to prove that the commandments are still in effect today is Matthew 5:17-20. Presumably, the passage has been quoted with a specific view in mind causing some of the implications of this passage to be overlooked. Let me quote it again here and emphasize some of the crucial phrases so that you will see what I mean. ***“Think not that I came to destroy the law or the prophets: I came not to destroy, but to fulfil. For truly I say to you, Till heaven and earth pass away, one yothé or one tittle shall in no wise pass away from the law, till all things be accomplished. Whoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven: but whoever shall do and teach them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, YOU SHALL IN NO WISE ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.”***

Now, let us dissect this passage under surgical analysis. Is it only the 10 commandments which are necessary for our salvation? Where shall we separate the Law of Yahweh?

Living our convictions and Faith will definitely produce a certain understanding, humility, and concern for your brethren and fellow men, as you will grow in knowledge, while progressing in your Faith.

Yahshua our Messiah, as our example, has informed us that He never came to destroy (or do away with) one *yothé* (the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet) or even one *tittle* (the embellishments by which some of the scribes decorated letters of the Hebrew alphabet). This is quite a penetrating statement when we fully comprehend what it means! Heaven and earth are still very much with us, and, consequently, so is the smallest letter in the Law—and even a decorative embellishment—is still applicable! In pursuing this thought, Yahshua states in verse 19 that if we are to break one of the least commandments, or teach men so, we shall be called least in the Kingdom. I am reminded here of the underlying meaning of the third commandment, which reveals a certain sense of humor which is Yahweh’s throughout the Scriptures. He

says in effect, *“If you do away with My Name and bring it to naught, I will do the same with your name!”* Yahshua says in Matthew 5:19, *“If you break a least commandment which you might feel was insignificant, you will be broken in rank to be the least in the Kingdom.”* The immediate thought that follows on the heels of these ideas is this: Which commandment in the Scriptures can be called the least? Certainly, they are all presented to us by heavenly inspiration (2 Timothy 3:16), and we would not dare to compartmentalize them into categories of greatest and least, would we?

As the Way of Yahweh continues to grow narrower for the members of the Body of the Messiah, some people occasionally become discouraged with the difficult way, as did ancient Israel in Numbers 20:4. Perhaps this is the reason why there are so few of us united in this journey. Learning, education, assimilating knowledge is never easy. It requires determined effort—WORK—a denial of self, to learn these lessons. Living our Faith from day to day is building character, even though, at times, you might complain about the rigidity of the spiritual life. This spiritual character is vital if we are to be able to assist Yahshua in ruling in the Kingdom when He establishes it. Living our convictions and Faith will definitely produce a certain understanding, humility, and concern for your brethren and fellow men, as you will grow in knowledge, while progressing in your Faith. These will then produce GENUINE LOVE—love of Yahweh, love of the Truth, and love for your fellow men. Yahshua the Messiah emphasizes a necessity for strict obedience to the

commandments of Yahweh when He states in verse 20, ***“Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall in no case enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.”*** The downfall of the scribes and Pharisees was hypocrisy, Matthew 23:13-36, etc. To be a hypocrite is to espouse a tenet, but not follow the teaching yourself, as shown verse 3 of the same chapter. If we say that we are obeying all of the commandments, then it is imperative that we do obey them all, in a spiritual sense.

One of the critical stumbling blocks to commandment-keepers is where to draw the line (in effect, where to divide the Word of Truth). I have heard on a number of occasions that people expressed bewilderment at their inability to pinpoint a specific place to draw the line of division. If you are not taking the **Assemblies of Yahweh Correspondence Course**, and would like to prove to yourself where this line should be drawn, write to our offices immediately and begin to learn the whole counsel of Yahweh’s Word. In the meantime, we hope that this article will assist you in discovering for yourself where this should be.

The Covenant of Yahweh had been established and confirmed with all of the people of the Scriptures who were living a righteous life. For instance, upon making his exit from the ark of salvation, the Covenant was established with Noah (Genesis 9:11). It was established with Abraham (Genesis 15:18 and 17:7) and Isaac (Genesis 26:3). When the children of Israel went down to Egypt, they forgot the Covenant of Yahweh, and He had to restore it when Israel came out of Egypt (Exodus 2:24). This same exact

Covenant, which had been made as far back as Adam, Noah, and Abraham, was presented to Israel from Mt. Sinai, Exodus 19:5. This Covenant was ratified by Israel in Exodus 24:3 and 7. It was broken in chapter 32 and had to be reiterated by Yahweh in chapter 34:10. We might trace this identical Covenant (testament), which will be presented to the people in these last days, but also discover that it will be rejected, Revelation 11:19. This Covenant actually forms the intrinsic and integral message of the Bible. The message of the Kingdom basically is righteous government, outlined in its Laws. Kingdom means government. The Kingdom of Yahweh is His government. Our lives will ultimately show Him to whose government we will submit.

This Covenant of Yahweh may be ascertained by reading Exodus chapters 20-23. The laws, statutes (minor laws), judgments (judicial decisions), which accompany this Law are the royal Law mentioned in Jacob 1:25. They are the Law of liberty, which, when broken, is a bondage of sin, 1 John 3:4. Portions of this Law have been reiterated at various places in the Bible, but, especially, the book of Deuteronomy. Moses gave this as a restatement of that Covenant, the moral Law, by which Israel is to live if they wish to become the Kingdom of priests and kings, Exodus 19:6, 1 Peter 2:9-10, and Revelation 5:10. This restatement of the Law took place just before Israel went into the Promised Land. The allegory is that we, today, are hearing a restatement of that Law just before Yahshua the Messiah takes us into the Kingdom of Yahweh.

Let us return to Galatians chapter 3. In verse 19 we find

that Paul asks a very pertinent question. ***“What then is the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the seed should come to whom the promise has been made; and it was ordained through angels by the hand of a mediator.”*** Close scrutiny of this passage will certainly reveal that this Law was ADDED to something. What exactly was this added Law? Can we identify it in some way? Can we isolate it so that this book of Galatians will become clearer and harmonize with the remainder of the Bible? This was the Law which was to endure UNTIL the seed should come to whom the promise was made. This added Law points directly to the sacrificial Law. How plain and simple! It was the sacrificial Law (blood covering) which was added because of violations to the moral Law, until Yahshua could come and establish the Covenant in His own precious blood (Matthew 26:28) which covers sin. The blood of Yahshua took the place of the animal sacrifices which had sealed the first Covenant, Exodus 24:5 and 8 and Hebrews 9:9-28. This is the only way that we, today, in the Assemblies of Yahweh can divide the Law of Yahweh, just as did the early Apostles of the early Apostolic Assembly. If we wish to bear the characteristics of the True Worshipers as described in Revelation 12:17 and 14:2, we will be obeying all of the commandments of Yahweh, Deuteronomy 6:24, Psalm 119:150-152, and Malachi 4:4.

Now let us do a little deep, serious thinking. Let us forget what the worldly religious groups may have taught us in the past. Let us directly delve into the inspired Scriptures for our answers. It is

apparent that, although the patriarchs offered animal sacrifices, they only offered a minimum of them. When they offered sacrifices, they were looking toward the perfect sacrifice of the Messiah upon the tree of Calvary, Hebrews 11:23-29. There was no Law of sacrifice stated in Yahweh's Word until it was stated in the book of Leviticus. Read it for yourself (Leviticus 27:34)! This Law was given from Mt. Sinai. The Law of sacrifices was stated 430 years after Abraham was called a righteous man, Galatians 3:17-18. Let us read these verses together and emphasize crucial words which will clarify this point candidly. ***“Now this I say: A covenant confirmed beforehand by Yahweh, the law, which came four hundred and thirty years after, does not disannul, so as to make the promise of no effect. For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no more of promise: but Yahweh has granted it to Abraham by promise.”*** We have seen in Genesis 26:5 that the Law was obeyed by Abraham, along with all of the statutes and judgments. The keeping of the moral Law brings promise of salvation. Consequently, we must conclude that this is the Law which was given BEFORE by Yahweh, whereas the Law which was given afterward (430 years later) was the animal-sacrifice Law. This goes along with the ritual worship of Tabernacle and Temple, with the meal and drink offerings, the fleshly cleansings, and all of the other elements which were after the flesh, and not after the spiritual sacrifice. It is obvious, then, that Paul was showing the true doctrine of the entire Bible. The Law of sacrifices was only for a certain period of time. It

was not opposed to the promises of Yahweh, but it could not perfect the CONSCIENCES of the people. It included the rite of adult circumcision, because Abraham was designated a righteous man BEFORE his circumcision, Genesis 15:6. (Circumcision took place two chapters later, which was several years of time.) We must always bear in mind that when Paul was writing epistles, temple worship was still continuing and, undoubtedly, many of the converts to the Messianic worship were still influenced by it. We might remind ourselves that Yahshua kept all of the Law of Yahweh (1 Peter 2:22), but we never read of Him offering animal sacrifices. The members of the Assemblies of Yahweh have embarked upon the Narrow Way of the Messiah to perfect their lives in a spiritual sense. By living in yielded obedience to the commandments, statutes, and judgments of Yahweh, we have ratified the identically same Covenant which our forefather Abraham made with Almighty Yahweh. If the Word of Yahweh is not divided by this method (obedience to all of the moral commandments, while living in the Faith of the blood of the Messiah), we are left with two alternatives. First, we will eventually be proven to be no longer under obligation to keep any of the commandments of the Scriptures and will be forced to return to nominal Christianity. The Scriptures must be viewed with total consistency. They are a governmental constitution and must be understood as legal precedent. Or second, we will be forced to reject the doctrine of the Messiah which is found in the New Testament. We have seen both of these heart-rending eventualities occur in past years.

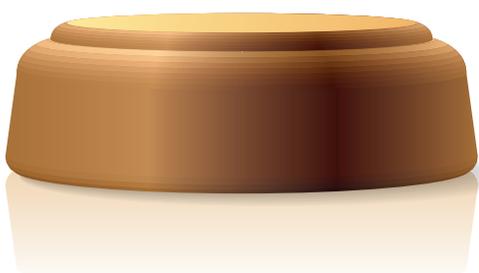
Conversely, if we divide the Word of Yahweh rightly—as has Paul, the moral from the sacrificial Law—we shall be able to stand in the evil day when Satan, the accuser of the brethren, unleashes his power upon us in the Body of the Messiah. That day will arrive all too soon!

If we live by this patriarchal, apostolic Faith, we will have to take great diligence in searching the Scriptures daily and allowing them to guide our lives. The Law of Yahweh and His commandments, statutes, and judgments must become an integral part of our lives. We will not have to measure our righteousness by that of our fellow brethren, but we will be forced to hold our own lives up to constant scrutiny and surveillance, judging our own selves by the standard of the Word. Keeping the Law of Yahweh will cause our character to develop into that of Yahweh's. It will produce the love in our hearts which will take us on to the end and salvation.

When Yahshua the Messiah was countering the offensive thrusts of Satan in Matthew chapter 4, the first temptation which was presented to Yahshua was directed toward His physical nature. “Produce bread from a stone, or you could starve to death,” Satan said. “If you are indeed the Mighty Son of Yahweh, you should have power to do this miracle.” Yahshua answered him, ***“It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh.”*** Have you ever reached the point where you place obedience above the very elements of your physical existence? Or are you still offering alibis when you

Continued on page 17.

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 29, 1992]

“In Judah is Elohim known, His name is great in Israel. In Salem also is his tabernacle, and his dwelling-place in Zion. There he broke the fiery shafts of the bow; the shield, and the sword, and the battle. Selah. Glorious are you and excellent, from the mountains of prey. The stouthearted are made a plunder, they have slept their sleep; and none of the men of might have found their hands. At your rebuke, O Elohim of Jacob, both chariot and horse are cast into a dead sleep. You, even you, are to be feared; and who may stand in your sight when once you are

angry? You caused sentence to be heard from heaven; the earth feared, and was still, When Elohim arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth. Selah. Surely the wrath of man shall praise you: the residue of wrath shall you gird upon yourself. Vow, and pay to Yahweh your Elohim: let all that are all around him bring presents to him that ought to be feared. He will cut off the spirit of princes: He is terrible to the kings of the earth.” (Psalm 76).

Throughout the Sacred Scriptures we can identify a consistent message: the individual who submits himself to Almighty Yahweh—the only True and Living Elohim—and keeps His Laws, will be blessed; conversely, those who reject His Laws will be cursed and judged with eternal

punishment.

Psalm 76 clearly contains the concept that Almighty Yahweh is in control. It is He who ultimately guides the universe, regardless of what may happen to His human creation or regardless of how His creation, treats Him. ***“You, even you, are to be feared; and who may stand in your sight when once you are angry? You caused sentence to be heard from heaven; the earth feared, and was still, when Elohim arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth.”*** (Psalm 76:7-9). The Elohim that we have accepted, is alive, and will recompense our actions, for good or evil. With this in mind, we must take steps in our spiritual and physical lives that will allow His blessings to be poured out on us and not His wrath.

“You caused sentence to be heard from heaven....” We must ask ourselves, “How was that sentence of judgment heard, on earth, from heaven?” The answer is that His lawful decisions, implemented from heaven, will be fulfilled in the earth. This leads us to conclude from this passage, that Yahweh indeed knows, and is concerned about, what happens on earth. ***“He will cut off the spirit of princes: He is terrible to the kings of the earth.”***

Yahweh’s governmental system, through oversight and supervision, is meant to bring peace, *shalom*, to True Worship, and, ultimately, to the entire earth. As we learned in our previous studies of this subject, government comprises regulation, so that everyone may learn how to conduct themselves at all times. In this kind of structured atmosphere, the individual will discover a sense of contentment—peace, if you will—because his life is regulated by established standards. He knows the regulations, he knows at all times what to expect and what is expected of him. He knows that obedience to the rules will produce joy and happiness, and begins to rely on them, fostering peace of mind. Conversely, disobedience to the rules will result in personal sorrow and pain.

Government in the Assemblies of Yahweh, and government as a doctrine, is a question of authority. It hinges on this exclusive fulcrum—who do you accept as your authority? The conclusion that each one of us must reach, must be properly proven from Yahweh’s Word—as it is expressed in the Sacred Scriptures.

When the author wrote the original **Statement of Doctrine** for the Assemblies of Yahweh in

the spring of 1969, I included a section on government. I had investigated the Sacred Name Movement, and identified that when a member seemed to profess an attitude of anarchy—without leadership—they could not bear the fruits of peace and harmony. Having then studied

It’s a question of authority. Do you accept Yahweh’s authority on this earth in these last days, or are you like Amalek?

the doctrines of the Sacred Scriptures, the concepts which are expressed in the **Statement of Doctrine** are meant to reflect what the Bible teaches. This message will again focus on the subject of Government as a doctrine.

Let us closely examine the section—*Government in the Assemblies of Yahweh*—in the **Statement of Doctrine**. It begins, “*We affirm that the doctrine of the Scriptures, relative to Assembly government in the Assemblies of Yahweh, is one of Law [Torah], order, and rule from the top down.*”

In the Sacred Scriptures, Israel was not a democracy. Israel was a “Yah-ocracy” (an improvement on the term theocracy), ruled by the Almighty. In the Assemblies of Yahweh, we must seek to emulate this type of government. We live as a “Yah-ocracy,” ruled by Yahweh, from the top down. This is that exactly what we read

in Deuteronomy 17. It says, ***“If there arises a matter too hard for you in judgment, between blood and blood, between plea and plea, and between stroke and stroke, being matters of controversy within your gates; then you shall arise, and go up to the place which Yahweh your Elohim shall choose; and you shall come to the priests the Levites, and to the judge that shall be in those days: and you shall inquire; and they shall show you the sentence of judgment. And you shall do according to the tenor of the sentence which they shall show you from that place which Yahweh shall choose; and you shall observe to do according to all that they shall teach you....”***

(Deuteronomy 17:8-10). Why go to a specific place and ask for the sentence of a priest or a judge? The answer is: Israel was commanded to go to the place where the sentence of judgment from On High may be heard.

Again, it is a question of authority. Do you accept Yahweh’s authority on this earth, or are you like Amalek? The nation of Amalek, who were anarchists—judging and regulating themselves—attacked Israel from behind. Moses, by upholding the rod of authority, with the help of Aaron and Hur, put them to flight. In the Assemblies of Yahweh, we understand that Yahweh has reconstituted His True Assembly, and that we are subject to Yahshua the Messiah, who leads this ministry. He is our judge and regulator. ***“And he is the head of the body, the assembly [the subject—antecedent noun—is Yahshua] who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”***

(Colossians 1:18). Ephesians 4:15, a passage we will examine more thoroughly as we go along, says, “...**but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into him, who is the head, even the Messiah....**” The Messiah is the Head of the Assemblies of Yahweh. We submit to Him—to His example, and to His authority. Almighty Yahweh is not the author of confusion—Babylon (1 Corinthians 14:33). Nimrod, as the founder of Babylon, opposed Yahweh and His system of government and was condemned. Consequently, in True Worship, everything must be done decently and in order. **“But let all things be done decently and in order.” “And the peace of Yahweh, which passes all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in the Messiah Yahshua.”** (Philippians 4:7).

Returning to the **Statement of Doctrine**, *“The government in the Assemblies of Yahweh shall be structured as closely as possible to that which was designed by Almighty Yahweh for Old Testament Israel and continued by the New Testament Apostles. We find the references to this government in Exodus 18, Numbers 11, and Ephesians 4.”* Can the sincere-seeker after Truth identify the biblical form of government today? Yes, when you read the Sacred Scriptures and accept its message.

The pattern for Israel to follow was instituted on the way to the Promised Land. **“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 18:15-16). The function of the judge is to explain to the populous why a judgment was rendered, where they had gone wrong to elicit this sentence, and the changes that must be made to bring themselves back into harmony with Yahweh’s Laws.

To aid Moses in the monumen-

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tal task of leading Israel, Jethro suggested instituting a pyramid structure—top down—starting with the sole individual, and incrementally narrowing the decision-making system, ultimately ending in the paramount judge, Yahweh. This broad-based organizational structure allowed Moses to efficiently and righteously lead a great nation which may have numbered up to two million citizens. **“...and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they shall judge....”** (Exodus 18:22). **“...I will give you counsel, and Elohim be with you: be for the people a representative of Elohim and bring the cases to Elohim....”** (Exodus 18:19).

Invariably the question is asked, “Does Yahweh have representatives here on this earth?” Our response is “Have you audibly heard the voice of Yahweh from heaven? Of course not!” But

Yahweh’s voice is heard through the decisions and directives of His representatives who are applying the Word of Yahweh in governing His people. It’s a question of authority—will we adhere to it?

“And the people were as murmurers [complainers] speaking evil in the ears of Yahweh, and when Yahweh heard it, his anger was kindled; and the fire of Yahweh burnt among them, and devoured in the upmost part of the camp.” (Numbers 11:1). Do you consider that Yahweh is constantly watching and hearing the activity of His people on earth? His angels—His watchers (Daniel 4:13)—directly report this activity to Yahweh in heaven. When Yahweh saw blatant rebellion from Israel, His immediate judgment was a destructive fire, poured out among a guilty people. It was on the fringes of the camp where the complainers were located, and this is where the fire of Yahweh devoured. I have personally witnessed Yahweh’s immediate judgment in the life of people who remain on the edge of the Assemblies of Yahweh, who willingly rebel against Yahweh’s Word, and refuse to move spiritually toward the heart of this ministry. Yahweh has established His Bible, His rules and regulations in the Scriptures, and those are not ever going to be changed! Mankind may change, but Yahweh never does!

“And the people cried to Moses; and Moses prayed to Yahweh, and the fire abated. And the name of that place was called Taberah [burnings], because the fire of Yahweh burnt among them.” (Numbers 11:2-3). The murmuring and complaining that came into the ears of Yahweh, meant that insincere

people were sowing doubts about the organization in the fringes of the camp, where the weak people were located, in an attempt to overthrow their faith. As a result, His fiery judgment executed His Will upon the dissidents.

Israel refused to learn. ***“And the mixed multitude that was among them lusted exceedingly; and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? We remember the fish, which we ate in Egypt for nothing; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic: But now our soul is dried away; there is nothing at all except this manna to look on.”*** (Numbers 11:4-6). With the great miracles that Israel had witnessed, they should have been looking up! Instead, seeking to placate the physical, they looked down, away from Yahweh. Israel was throwing an emotional temper tantrum: ***“We demand fish and a salad for supper! We’re tired of manna.”*** ***“Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, every man at the door of his tent: and the anger of Yahweh was kindled greatly; and Moses was displeased.”*** (Numbers 11:10).

Think about what Moses had to endure here. They’re actually telling him, ***“Hey, things were better in Egypt—in slavery—than they are here. We should go back to Egypt again.”*** This is the pressure that the leadership experiences at times in the Assemblies of Yahweh. ***“You should be more like ch-rchianity.”*** We must remember why we aren’t in ch-rchianity. We saw the fallacies, the contradictions, and the false doctrine. We saw the unconverted conduct of the people. We realized those ways

were wrong and we wanted to be in True Worship. Yahweh saved us out of bondage and we must always live in thankfulness for His merciful deliverance.

“And Moses said to Yahweh, Why have you dealt ill with your servant? And why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Have I conceived all this people? Have I brought them forth, that you should say to me, Carry them in your bosom, as a nursing-father carries the sucking child, to the land which you swore to their fathers? From where should I have flesh to give to all this people? [Where am I going to get fish and salad to feed these people tonight?] For they weep unto me, saying, Give us flesh, that we may eat. I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me. And if you deal thus with me, kill me, I pray you, out of hand if I have found favor in your sight; and let me not see my wretchedness.” (Numbers 11:11-15). Leadership is not an easy task. Many times I have had to cast my burdens, as Moses did here, before Yahweh, and let Him take them away.

“And Yahweh said to Moses, Gather to me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them to the tent of meeting, that they may stand there with you. And I will come down and talk with you there: and I will take of the Spirit which is upon you, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you bear it not yourself alone.” (Numbers

11:16-17). Seventy men, leading 2 million, is a miniscule number, considering the challenges that Israel was presenting. But, is anything too hard for Yahweh? When a righteous government is in place, with Yahweh at the head, all things become possible.

Described here again, is a pyramidal structure. An organized government, with Yahweh at the top, descending to a broad-based level at the bottom. The 70 elders, the ones who undoubtedly had lunch with Yahweh, as referenced in Exodus 24:11, were ordained to help Moses instruct and judge Israel. By implementing this pattern of leadership, information could flow up the chain of command, and righteous decisions, issued from the top, flowed down to the individual.

The Apostolic Assembly followed this pattern of government after Yahshua’s ascension. ***“And he gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, to the work of ministering, to the building up of the body of the Messiah.”*** (Ephesians 4:11-12). The description of the government here in the New Testament can be superimposed upon what we found in the Old Testament text. Each member of the leadership structure has a place and a part in the unification of the Body. Again, here, we find a system of government instituted by Almighty Yahweh, and set in place so that His people would be corrected, and directed as He wished.

Let us continue in the **Statement of Doctrine**, Government in the Assemblies of Yahweh section: ***“The Holy Scripture reveals that the specific prophetic and apostolic offices have been***

filled, although these functions remain in the offices of evangelist, pastor, and teacher, along with bishop and deacon.” In the prophetic office—the Old Testament prophets—their words and instructions are Yahweh’s Word. The reason we view it this way is so that there will not arise, as in other groups, self-ordained “prophets” who alter, or add to, Yahweh’s Word. The Bible is a closed book. We have every instruction contained in the Sa-

bly?” my response is, “How are we going to verify stability of faith?” There will be a certain stability that becomes evident in the fruits of an individual. What the Assemblies of Yahweh has done is appoint Local Leaders, through whom we work, in the local Assembly. These individuals are responsible as a “*tsibor*” to arrange the services. When a problem or question arises, then they bring them to me, and I render judgments, by Yahweh’s

cally a [Messianic] teacher and pastor (technically a deacon or deaconess).” The word *minister* we usually see as meaning a *servant*.

Now, go back over this passage again, inserting the biblical definitions we have learned. “... **that I should be a [servant] of the Messiah Yahshua to the Gentiles [serving], the good tidings of Yahweh.**” The priesthood of Old Testament times was instructed to renew

The Bible is a closed book. We have everything in the Sacred Scriptures that we need. We don’t need another Talmud. We have Yahweh’s Will expressed through the writings of the prophets and the apostles in the New Testament.

cred Scriptures that we will ever need to overcome this world and to prepare us for the Kingdom. We have Yahweh’s Will expressly interpreted and delivered to us through the writings of the prophets and the apostles in the New Testament. We don’t need another Talmud. The function of their office remains, however—inspired preaching, missionary work, decision-making. These functions are being fulfilled by ordained leaders who have been trained in the Truth of Yahweh.

Continuing in the **Statement of Doctrine**: “In addition, these men are called elders.” “**For this cause I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that were wanting, and appoint elders in every city, as I gave you charge,**” (Titus 1:5). Notice the word here is appoint, not ordain. When people ask, “Why don’t we have ordained elders in every Assem-

Word. This keeps every Assembly in unity.

Continuing, “Also, the Scriptures recognize the title **minister** relative to the office of Yahweh’s chosen elders.” We find in Romans 15:15-16, “**But I write the more boldly to you in some measure, as putting you again in remembrance, because of the grace that was given me of Yahweh, that I should be a minister of the Messiah Yahshua to the Gentiles, ministering the good tidings of Yahweh, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be made acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.**” The term *minister*, as it is used in the Greek text, most generally, is taken from #1247 in the **Strong’s Concordance**, *diakoneo*, which comes from #1249, *diakonos*. It means “an attendant, that is, (generally) a waiter (at table or in other menial duties); specifi-

the showbread every Sabbath, and then consume the bread from the previous week. It was a sign that they were supposed to serve-up spiritual food for the Assembly every Sabbath, under the direction of Yahweh. This would ensure that not only the priests would be strong in the Faith, but the congregations, who received the teaching would grow in strength and commitment to Yahweh.

Today, christianity has a terribly warped and distorted view of the ministry, saying that ministers are the servants of the people. We had that same thought (that a minister is the servant of the congregation) in the Assemblies of Yahweh until the late 1970s, which blossomed into the organizational problem we experienced in 1980. Upon studying the subject, I discovered that this is not what the Bible teaches. The people, in

democratic fashion, do not have a voice in the decisions of Yahweh's ministers. **"...that I should be a minister [servant] of the Messiah Yahshua to the Gentiles, [serving] the good tidings of Yahweh, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be made acceptable...."** How? **"...being sanctified by the Holy Spirit."**

So, what is this "serving?" What is this "ministry?" **"This office was given me of Yahweh,"** he says in verse 15, **"...because of the grace that was given me of Yahweh...."** It was given of Almighty Yahweh and Yahshua the Messiah, that Paul should be a servant to Yahweh, serving up Yahweh's Word, to nourish the people spiritually, every Sabbath. The Israelite pattern of government is clearly displayed and was adhered to by the Apostolic Assembly.

The next question that needs to be answered is, **"Who sets these offices in the Assembly anyway?"** **"Now this, He ascended, what is it but that he also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things. And he [Yahshua the Messiah] gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers...."** There was an Assembly in Israel in the wilderness that was operating under the authority of Yahweh's government. Stephen referenced this in his final sermon, **"This is that Moses, who said to the children of Israel, A prophet shall Yahweh raise up to you from among your brethren, like to me. This is he that was in the assembly in the wilderness with the angel that spoke to him in the mount**

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Sinai, and with our fathers: who received living oracles, to whom our fathers would not be obedient, but thrust him from them, and turned back in their hearts to Egypt" (Acts 7:37-39). The Assembly is, of necessity, an organized body. It cannot be anything less. The Assembly is a regulated, organized body. Any other interpretation would mean that they would not have obeyed the voice of Yahweh when He instructed them to assemble as a congregation at the Mount. They would not have honored Moses when he commanded that the encampment must travel, as the pillar of cloud and fire would begin to move. The Assembly of Israel was a unified organism that operated under the confines of Yahweh's directives from heaven on earth.

Once more, continuing in the **Statement of Doctrine:** **"Since it is Almighty Yahweh and Yahshua the Messiah through the Holy Spirit giving leadership positions in the Assemblies of Yahweh (to forestall internal politics) the term of each office shall**

be for life." Through the years, ego-centric individuals, desiring a position, have plotted ways to usurp authority. They begin to agitate, and to cause dissension, for the malicious intent of using that time of disruption to make their political move, evicting the rightfully ordained minister. They willfully forget though, that it is Yahweh and Yahshua, through the Holy Spirit, who give the leadership positions in the Assemblies of Yahweh. The congregation doesn't vote on their minister—Yahweh appoints the minister. This term of service is not limited by any man-made contract that the ministers in worldly religion negotiate.

The ministers of the Assemblies of Yahweh have been given the responsibility of teaching the Good News of the Sacred Scriptures. Is that not why you are here, as a student of the Word? You came in by hearing the Word of Yahweh being spoken by someone who, according to Hebrews 13:7 and 17, has the rule over you. Yahweh appointed this ministry, and the sign which confirms this assertion, is the sound, biblical doctrines we teach. I didn't seek the office—Yahweh appointed the office, and in that office have labored diligently to keep the Assemblies of Yahweh on the straight and Narrow Way. If you prove that for yourself, we will have a strong organization, and the Assemblies of Yahweh can accomplish great things!

"Should any elder not remain faithful, or not continue to qualify according to scriptural requirements and the established standards, he can be removed for cause." (**Statement of Doctrine**).

A member, if suspected of not being straightforward and honest in their membership, may

be disfellowshipped. If we see the fruits of the flesh become manifest, even though we cannot entirely prove sinfulness, a wayward brother or sister can be disfellowshipped, without cause, by the Directing Elder at any time. This is not so with ministers. A specific violation to Yahweh's Law must be proven, before impeachment and removal action is taken. The Scriptures tell us, **"Faithful is the saying, If a man seeks the office of a bishop, he desires a good work. The bishop therefore must be without reproach...."** (1 Timothy 3:1-2a). He must be living a life that displays the action of the Holy Spirit in all things. There can be no double standards allowed, but he must be an exemplary member of Yahweh's Assembly.

Continuing in 1 Timothy 3:2b, **"...the husband of one wife, temperate...."** Temperance is of extreme importance. Although Yahshua drank wine, John the Baptist did not. In Israel's trek through the wilderness, they were warned about drinking wine or strong drink and doing the service of Yahweh. Temperance is of very great importance. The extreme use of alcohol is going to dull the minds of people. **"Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? They that stay long at the wine; They that go to seek out mixed wine."** (Proverbs 23:29-30). Proverbs 31 tells us in verse 4, **"It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; Nor for princes to say, Where is strong drink? Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the justice due to any that is afflicted."** Justice comes

into play again. The judge must not be a wine-drinker, drinking wine to excessive measures. **"Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler [raging]; And whoever errs by them is not wise."** (Proverbs 20:1).

Continuing in 1 Timothy 3:2, **"...sober-minded, orderly...."** *Sober-minded* means *serious*. *Orderly* means *consistency*. A deep, sober-minded individual, will be able to look clearly into Yahweh's Word and harmonize it, consistently applying the doctrines in all of his teaching and judgments. **"...Given to hospitality [friendly] apt to teach [he must be an engaging teacher], no brawler [verbal or physical arguments], no pugilist [fisticuffs], but gentle, not contentious, no lover of money...."** My policy has always been, here in the Assemblies of Yahweh, that we pay wages according to the personal needs of the employee. Sometimes, that doesn't go over very well with some people. They may think, **"I should have prestige, and I should be making gobs of money."** We have seen how even executives in charitable organizations have made huge salaries off of the sacrificial giving of those on the lower strata. Yahweh's representative must not be a lover of money. We just need enough to live comfortably, not descending into the lavish lifestyle of materialism.

"...One that rules well his own house, having children in subjection with all gravity...." I like where it was inspired to put the all-inclusive adjective. It doesn't say, **"...having all of his children in subjection with gravity."** He says, **"...having children in subjection with all gravity,"** because, sometimes, you cannot regulate your children. You try to raise them

properly and correctly, teaching them the ways of Yahweh, and, sometimes, in the face of that love, they just want to do as they please. I thank Almighty Yahweh for having foreseen that kind of an eventuality in the lives of parents, who grieve with broken hearts when their children depart from the Faith.

"... (But if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the assembly of Yahweh?), not a novice [new in the Faith] lest being puffed up [arrogance] he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have good testimony from them that are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil." (1 Timothy 3:5-7). I have always tried to maintain a good reputation even though people may differ in beliefs. They may say, **"That Jacob Meyer, he went off the deep end. He's involved in some kind of a cult,"** but will agree, **"Yes, that Jacob Meyer is a great guy. He's down to earth. He knows what he's doing."** Our life must display the action of Yahweh's Holy Spirit at all times.

The next thing to consider is the office of the deacon. The origins of this office can be found in the book of Acts, chapter 6. Here you find the appointment and ordination of deacons. **"And the twelve called the multitude of the disciples to them, and said, It is not fit that we should forsake the word of Yahweh, and serve tables."** (Acts 6:2). Murmuring had begun in the congregation, **"Some people aren't getting their fair share at the communal meals. The ministry is taking so much time preaching and travelling, the needs of the Assembly are being forsaken"** The solution to this

problem was to appoint someone over this job. This concept though, goes all the way back to the priesthood of Israel. The Levites were responsible for the physical aspects of worship. The priesthood functioned as the ones who regulated the worship and engaged in the worship, but the Levites were the assistants to the priests. Each one of the Levitical families was given a specific job to do. Similarly, the deacons are given a job to do. That was to regulate the physical aspects of the communal meal and to help the widows and orphans. **“Deacons in like manner must be grave [serious], not double-tongued, not given to much wine....”** The bishop has to be temperate, but I guess we can give a little bit more wine to the deacons, because they have to deal of some serious problems. **“...not greedy of filthy lucre; holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them serve as deacons, if they be blameless. Women [deaconesses] in like manner must be grave, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be husbands of one wife, ruling children and their own houses well. For they that have served well as deacons gain to themselves a good standing, and great boldness in the faith which is in the Messiah Yahshua.”** (1 Timothy 3:1-13). The leaders in Yahweh’s governmental system must be examples of the application of Yahweh’s Law.

Let us continue, *“Ministers of the Assemblies of Yahweh shall meet all scriptural qualifications. It will be the policy of the Assemblies of Yahweh to select able men who are indeed elders*

in the Body of the Messiah, full of the Holy Spirit of Yahweh, to serve in any official capacity. In accordance with the established standards, these men will then be required to attend Obadiah School of the Bible at headquarters.” (**Statement of Doctrine**). The reason that this was put into the original **Statement of Doctrine** was that I had witnessed the confusion in the Sacred Name Movement. They had ordained individuals, placing them in responsible positions, who were unqualified. They had not studied Yahweh’s Word and were not living by the Sacred Scriptures. The Assemblies of Yahweh is different. To be in unity before Yahweh, our leaders must have been instructed in the Way of Yahweh and be given time to develop their leadership skills.

“The Scriptures exclude women from preaching.” (**Statement of Doctrine**). 1 Timothy 2:11-14 and 1 Corinthians 14:34 proclaim this plain doctrine. Consequently, you will never see women preachers in the Assemblies of Yahweh.

“Doctrinal matters for all Assemblies shall remain within the confines of the bishop and the ordained ministers.” (**Statement of Doctrine**). What is the importance of this point in the Government section of the **Statement of Doctrine**? Acts 15:1-21 relates a situation that had developed concerning the question of physical circumcision. This question was brought directly to the leadership in Jerusalem and culminated in verse 19 when Jacob, the bishop of the Assemblies of Yahweh, stood up and issued a finite decision, **“Therefore my judgment is....”**

“Should a member have any difficulties with doctrine, he is required to write a summary of his belief and present it to the

Standing Committee for Doctrinal Review....” The Standing Committee for Doctrinal Review is the group of ordained elders of the Assemblies of Yahweh. When a question of doctrine is presented, the elders study the matter exhaustively and issue a judgment. *“Doctrinal decisions must be made by the preaching eldership according to Acts 15 (the Jerusalem Conference) and not in the general congregation.”* In my experience, when an individual has a question, and takes the time to present an extensive paper concerning a point of doctrine under consideration, they should have asked me first. Many times, I am quickly able to identify the fallacy of their argument, or where they misinterpreted a word, or passage, which led them down the road toward false doctrine. Each member should feel free to come to the Directing Elder and say, *“Why are you teaching this way? I want to know.”* I’ll be glad to sit down and show them, from the Word of Yahweh, why the doctrines we teach have been laid-out as they have been. That said, we will answer doctrinal questions, however they come in.

“All members of the Assemblies of Yahweh must conform to 1 Corinthians 1:10 and Ephesians 4:1-7 by being in doctrinal unity.” (**Statement of Doctrine**). There are many other passages we could quote. However, Paul says in 1 Corinthians 1:10, **“Now I beseech you, brethren, through the name of our Sovereign Yahshua the Messiah, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that you be perfected together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”** The Assemblies of Yahweh must be a united,

cohesive organization; it cannot be divided.

“The Assemblies of Yahweh must be maintained as a unified Body, following the example of 2 Thessalonians 3:6-16.” (Statement of Doctrine). This is an extensive passage, but upon review, you will see that the unified congregation is maintained as such, because of the actions of the leadership, who make good judgments to protect the flock.

“The preaching of sound doctrine must be maintained; therefore, only ministers who are ordained, credentialed, or men in training by the Assemblies of Yahweh will be permitted to preach, or to occupy the pulpit for this purpose.” We do not allow transient ministers into Assemblies of Yahweh worship services. This is because we will not tolerate false doctrine being proclaimed from behind any pulpit in the Assemblies of Yahweh. The Sacred Name Movement and Christianity tolerate false doctrine. We are the Assemblies of Yahweh—a different Faith from Christianity, or any other religion for that matter. Therefore, we must uphold only the sound doctrines in the Sacred Scriptures.

“The senior ranking minister worshiping in any congregation of the Assemblies of Yahweh shall preach the main message at that particular time.” (Statement of Doctrine). This is so that there can be no question about who delivers the spiritual nourishment for the day. The Directing Elder will always preach in every Assembly where he attends; he will be prepared to preach.

“Regular Sabbath services shall have an optional sermonette and a main sermon, since the Scriptures do not recognize a Sabbath school.” (Statement of

“Now I beseech you, brethren, through the name of our Sovereign Yahshua the Messiah, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you....”

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10

The Assemblies of Yahweh must be united; it cannot be divided.

Doctrine). The reason why we use a sermonette, and a sermon, is because of 1 Corinthians 14:29, **“And let the prophets [the preachers] speak, two or three; and let the others discern.”** At the beginning of the ministry we had two sermonettes, along with the sermon. What happened was that the two sermonettes became two mini-sermons, forcing the main message to be cut in time and content. By restricting the service to only one sermonette of 15-20 minutes, I was able to comprehensively cover the subject of the day.

“The government of the local

Assemblies shall conform to the pattern of the Scriptures. Every member shall first be considered as forming a part of the united Body of believers around the world although worshiping locally in various areas.” (Statement of Doctrine). First of all, the members have to consider themselves to be members of the general assembly of the Assemblies of Yahweh. The local Assembly is only there as a convenience to local worship. It does not have local autonomy—none whatsoever. Each member is a member of the central organization—the Assemblies of Yahweh.

“If an Assembly has grown to adequate numbers, it should have a pastor, teaching elder, and deacon as its local governing body. The pastor shall be in charge of the local congregation. To assist him in delivering sermonettes and in visiting shall be a teaching elder. The deacon of the congregation shall be in charge of the temporal needs of the poor of the congregation. The deacons of each local Assembly shall be under the authority of the central government as well. The suggestions of the members of the local congregation will be considered before ordination of the deacons (Acts 6). The activities of each individual Assembly (including overseeing the elders) will be scrutinized by the bishop and the ministerial body as the need arises. The decision of the ordained ministers shall be final when they arbitrate matters of dispute between members.” (Statement of Doctrine). When each local congregation is under the direction of Headquarters, unity will be the fruit of cooperation. This way the Body of the Messiah will be linked in a unified effort to spread the Good News of Yahweh’s Kingdom and

to prepare for Yahshua's return. During times of trouble, this system will also bring us in to compliance with Deuteronomy 17, as the Local Leader goes to the headquarters of the Assemblies of Yahweh for the final decision, one predicated upon the Word of Yahweh.

The ideal government in the Assemblies of Yahweh today will function as Israel did. Exodus 18 and Numbers 11 are important and significant passages of Scripture, giving specific directions where government is concerned. The government of Yahweh must be predicated upon the Holy Spirit of Yahweh regulating His people. ***"Knowing therefore the fear of Yahweh, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to Elohim; and I hope that we are made manifest in your consciences also. We are not again commending ourselves to you, but speak as giving you occasion of glorying on our behalf, that you may have something to answer them that glory in appearance, and not in heart."*** (2 Corinthians 5:11-12).

The Assemblies of Yahweh government is a government from the heart. It is a heartfelt, loving government—a government that is designed to give everyone, every opportunity to bring themselves into harmony with Yahweh's Word and to be saved by Him. It is not our desire to cast people away from the Body—to disfellowship them. Our aim

and goal is to aid people as they correct themselves, but always considering that Yahweh expects us be a holy people. Remember, outside of the organization of the Assemblies of Yahweh there is no salvation—that I can guarantee you. I have seen it happen time and time again: People leave this

The Assemblies of Yahweh government is a government from the heart. It is a heartfelt, loving government—a government that is designed to give everyone, every opportunity to bring themselves into harmony with Yahweh's Word and to be saved by Him.

organization saying, *"Oh, I'm going to show you something. You think I'm going to die spiritually when I leave? I'm not going to die spiritually."* They forget about Yahshua's Word in John 15:4. ***"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it remain in the vine; so neither can you, except you remain in me."*** A few years down the road, after someone cuts themselves off from the vine, what do you see? Have they gained spiritually? Sadly, they have become a spiritually dead person, either allowing false doctrine into their worship, or losing their faith completely. Outside of the Assemblies of Yahweh, I know there is no salvation.

Consequently, it's a heartfelt government that appeals to the

heart of the members to raise themselves out of this Babylonish system. ***"For whether we are beside ourselves, it is unto Yahweh; or whether we are of sober mind, it is unto you. For the love of the Messiah constrains us; because we judge thus, that one died for all, therefore all died, and he died for all, that they that live should no longer live to themselves [they're dead now], but to him who for their sakes died and rose again."*** (2 Corinthians 5:13-15). When we were immersed, did we not put to death our former lives? The judgment of Yahweh, Yahshua the Messiah, Paul as he instructed the Apostolic Assembly, and the Assemblies

of Yahweh today, is that we surrender ourselves to the Covenant of the covering blood of Yahshua and to then go onward, living in the righteous keeping of Yahweh's Covenant Law.

"Therefore we from here on know no man after the flesh even though we have known the Messiah after the flesh, yet now we know him so no more. Therefore if any man is in the Messiah, he is a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they have become new. But all things are of Yahweh, who reconciled us to himself through the Messiah, and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation [to bring people back] namely, that Yahweh was in the Messiah reconciling the world to

himself, not reckoning to them their trespasses, and having committed to us the word of reconciliation." (2 Corinthians 5:14-19). That is what the Assemblies of Yahweh government is all about. Heartfelt love. We do not go around investigating your past life, but when you present yourself before Yahweh with a vow to repent and live for Him, you willingly submit to Yahweh's government. This is the application of Yahweh's government ruling in our midst—in our lives—ruling in the Assembly and reconciling us back to Yahweh through the shed blood of the Messiah.

"We are ambassadors therefore on behalf of the Messiah, as though Yahweh were entreating by us: we beseech you on behalf of the Messiah, be reconciled to Yahweh. Him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf; that we might become the righteousness of Yahweh in him." (2 Corinthians 5:20-21). The government of the Assemblies of Yahweh is a righteous government. It is patterned on the government of the heavens. I don't want to be repetitious, but I want to impress it upon our minds: It is a question of authority! Are we really living

under submission to Almighty Yahweh's Laws, or living some vain hypocritical existence? Are we unleavened bread, or leavened? That is a question we must all ask ourselves. If we are falling short of the grace of our Heavenly Father, a cleansing, a catharsis must take place, allowing us to be reconciled through the blood of Yahshua, to Himself. The Assemblies of Yahweh is a ministry of reconciliation. The sign of this reconciliation is a united group, keeping Yahweh's Covenant Law, and waiting for Yahshua's imminent return.

May Yahweh bless you. ^{SNB}

RIGHT DIVISION OF THE WORD

Continued from page 6.

are "forced" to work on Sabbaths, or just "do not" have the money to tithe? I am emphasizing some of the major commandments, but have you ever looked into the Bible at the minor Laws that are embodied in the term *"very word that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh?"* If we live by every word, we will certainly become a separated people, Leviticus 20:22-26. We will be led into righteous paths, Psalm 23:3. We will have found the Narrow Way.

In nominal Christianity, the consensus of opinion may be that a human being cannot obey the Law of Yahweh. Brethren, we have the Holy Spirit of Yahweh dwelling within us, and this Mighty Power will assist us in this life of obedience, John 14:17, 22-26. Personal experience will confirm that if we seek ways to

obey the Heavenly Father and His commandments, we will be guided by the Spirit to live for Him. Obedience to the commandments of Yahweh will not be a burden to drag us down into the murky depths of mental depression, but it will give us cause for rejoicing! Above all, we may be assured of rich blessings for our dedicated obedience. We have truly become the Israel of Yahweh, Galatians 6:15-16.

Over the past years, we have been very much encouraged by the desire of each member of the Assemblies of Yahweh to become more obedient and dedicated in the keeping of the commandments. You cannot know how we have rejoiced in seeing a group of dedicated servants of Yahweh taking shape. This dedication will result in greater strength in the Assemblies of Yahweh. How marvelously we are drawing closer together and uniting our hearts and efforts for the Name of Yahweh!

One day, this dedicated obe-

dience will take the form of an inspired song of rejoicing on the lips of each and every one of us. Listen how John describes this magnificent event. Revelation 14:2-3: *"And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and the voice I heard was as the voice of harpers harping with their harps: and they sing as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four living creatures and the elders: and no man could learn the song except the hundred forty-four thousand, even they that had been purchased out of the earth."* I hope to stand in that select throng. Those who do will be keeping the commandments of Yahweh and have the Faith of Yahshua the Messiah, Revelation 12:17 and 14:12. They will have the rights to the tree of life, because they kept the commandments of Yahweh, Revelation 22:14. Will you be there with us? ^{SNB}



The Sacred Name Broadcast

RADIO MESSAGE

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

Sound Doctrine

Many people have retained the memory of the awkward **King James English** whenever the subject of biblical terms is raised. Customarily, we remember these terms with some sort of reverence, never really grasping what they mean, although we use them just the same. Some Bible readers are inundated under the archaic King James language which featured a generous quantity of “thee’s” and “thou’s,” never realizing that people actually spoke like this during the Middle Ages, but that the Messiah Himself never used them. I have good news for those people who are confronted with the confusion of the archaic English. You need not fear to leave the ancient terminology which has shackled you to spiritual darkness. You can understand the Bible and what it seeks to convey by returning to the original languages in which the Scriptures were written, as nearly as we can return to them. Possibly the only way you may be able to do this is through the medium of one of the recent translations which employ modern English, but you may also, at the same time, use Bible study

aids to check the translation so that you can obtain the original thought. It is not wrong to read “your” or “you,” in place of the “thee’s” and “thou’s.” The Bible is a living book, and we who seek to be the people of the Book should realize that its message can be understood if we seek diligently for answers to our questions. The Holy Spirit is just as powerful today as it ever was, and it will lead you and guide you into all Truth. That Holy Spirit is the Word of Yahweh which was preached by our Messiah in His sojourn on this earth. Yahshua the Messiah said in John 6:63, ***“It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh profits nothing: the words that I have spoken to you are spirit, and are life.”*** The Holy Spirit is not an enigma, but it is a power which may be found in the Word of Yahweh, the Holy Word which He gave to the human family through His prophets. The Holy Spirit is the force and power which is Yahweh’s very personality and character dwelling within us after baptism into the Messiah’s Name.

The word *doctrine* is one

of these puzzling, enigmatic words. Many religiously inclined people have used the word, but, undoubtedly, few people have understood what it means. Life is an educational institution, and we should continue to learn as we travel toward our ultimate destiny with death. It is a school which should qualify us for a place in the Kingdom of the Messiah—the Kingdom of Yahweh—the government of the Heavens as it comes to this earth to rule with righteousness. We cannot neglect to learn, or we will not be obedient to the instructions of such venerable passages in the Scriptures as Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Sermon on the Mount. The term *doctrine* which we find in the Scriptures should be translated *teaching*. As students of the Messiah, we should allow the Word to teach and educate us in the Way of Life. However, few and far between are the people who will allow the Bible to teach them, to show them the way of life, to educate them in the very character and personality of the Almighty Heavenly Father Yahweh.

Now that we have defined the word *doctrine* as *teaching*, let us see what the Bible has to say on this subject. We shall transpose the more understandable modern term into the Scriptures, substituting simultaneously the correct meaning so that the Bible will take new significance for you. It was the Apostle Paul who said in 2 Timothy 4:2-3, ***“Preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts....”*** If Paul would be living in our world today, his description would not be more accurate. We are living in an age of Laodiceanism. True Worship has deteriorated into lukewarmness and indifference. There are few people seeking sound Bible teaching and fewer still are the dedicated seekers who will endure this sound teaching when they find it. This is, undoubtedly, the reason why there are so few people in the True Worship. Just as Paul saw the existing indifferent spiritual era of contemporary society almost 2,000 years ago, similarly Yahshua the Messiah accurately described the infinitesimally small number of end-time disciples when He prophesied, ***“Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”*** (Luke 12:32).

Additionally, to the Philadelphia Assembly of Revelation chapter 3, Yahshua the Messiah offered these brief words of encouragement, ***“I know***

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Worship.***

your works (behold, I have set before you an open door, which none can shut), that you have a little power, and did keep my word, and did not deny my name.” The True Worshipers seek to personify the character traits of that Philadelphia Assembly. We seek to keep the Word of the Messiah in all of its purity. We seek to do His works. Even though we are a small group—a little flock—we strive to please Him in all things. We receive His power, which is inherent in His Name, the Name which He was given by angelic message directly from Heaven before His birth. If you have never before heard that Name, it is Yahshua Ha-Messiach. The Holy Spirit of Yahweh comes in this specific Name, since we read in John 14:26, ***“But the Comforter, even the Holy Spirit, which the Father will send in my name, it shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”*** So, now you may

discern a most vital reason why one specific Name was preached by the Apostles in the book of Acts. You may observe that the Holy Spirit of Yahweh will abide only in the group of believers who know, use, and revere that Name which among humans is above every name. This is why the Philadelphia Assembly will have Yahweh’s Mighty Spirit in their midst, even though they are small and few in numbers, scattered, possessing only a minute amount of strength. The Messiah can work through that group, and He will do His Work through those few humble human instruments. Those Philadelphia believers will have been taught the Word of the Messiah. They will keep His Words, and this understanding will mold them into the modern-day version of the Messianic Apostolic Assembly.

Paul was very explicit in his instructions to Timothy—to anchor this young man in faithfulness and in the Truth of the Messianic Worship. Timothy was charged with maintaining the True Worship from Ephesus after the death of Paul. Timothy is the angel, or messenger, to the Assembly at Ephesus. We read an admonition to him directly from the Messiah in Revelation 2:1-7. The Assembly at Ephesus was in need of spiritual stimulation and teaching. This is precisely the reason why the book bearing its name appears in your Bible.

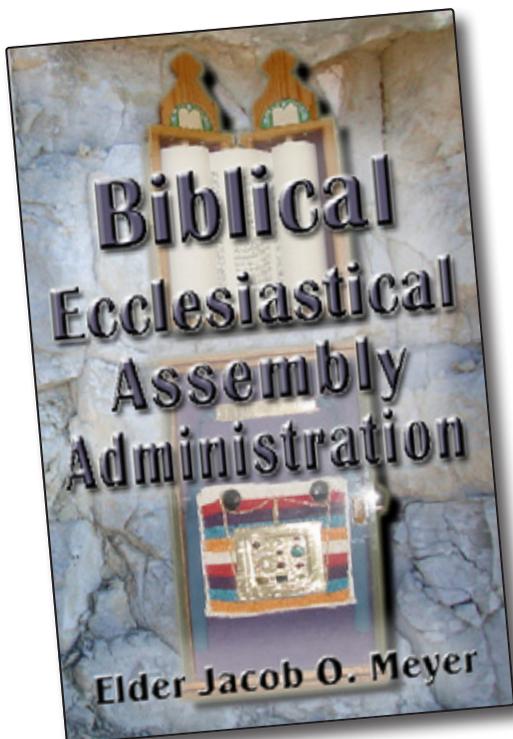
Think seriously about this new insight into the Scriptures, and you may be able to isolate the reason why the Apostolic Assembly drifted into a state of deterioration such as existed for many, many centuries. The Apostle Paul told those Ephesian

believers to remember who they were, why they had been chosen, and that they were one Body because they had been baptized into the one baptism of the Messiah, through one Almighty Heavenly Father. Yahshua the Messiah exhorted them to return to their first love, which was a keen desire to keep the Word of Yahweh, a hunger for the Word, to eat it as spiritual food, Revelation 2:4-5. Paul told Timothy in his second epistle, chapter three, verses 14 to 17, ***“But remain in the things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing of whom you have learned them; and that from a babe you have known the sacred writings which are able to make you wise to salvation through faith which is in the Messiah Yahshua. Every scripture Yahweh breathed is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction,***

for instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of Yahweh may be complete, furnished completely to every good work.”

All inspired Scripture which has been given by the Holy Spirit of Yahweh is necessary for teaching the True Worshiper the righteousness of Yahweh. The question is often asked of me, as a minister of the Word of Yahweh, “How much of the Bible do you accept as inspired?” In the Assemblies of Yahweh, we accept the entire Bible as inspired of Yahweh, because it shows the rare distinction of perfection which no human being could devise by his own intelligence. We accept the entire Bible—both Old and New Testaments—as being inspired of Yahweh and whose messages are necessary to show us the righteous character of the Heavenly Father Yahweh and how He wishes us to live. The Bible is a unit, one complete

unit, pointing us into a way of life. This is an entirely unique approach to Bible study, but it is identically the same approach which was used by the Messiah and His disciples—by the Apostolic Assembly of the book of Acts. When we approach the Bible in this manner, we arrive at a new understanding of the Scriptures, and we can see portrayed before our eyes the reason for the sin of Adam and Eve and the need for the Messiah. There is truly One Body, One Spirit, One Baptism, One Master Yahshua the Messiah, One Mighty One and Father of all who is called Yahweh in His Word. When you see all of these things, you have succeeded in putting all of the pieces together and you will find great Shalom—peace—which comes only from the Holy Spirit of Yahweh. Why not look into this sound teaching which the Holy Spirit of Yahweh is revealing in these last days? SNB



Biblical Ecclesiastical Assembly Administration

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

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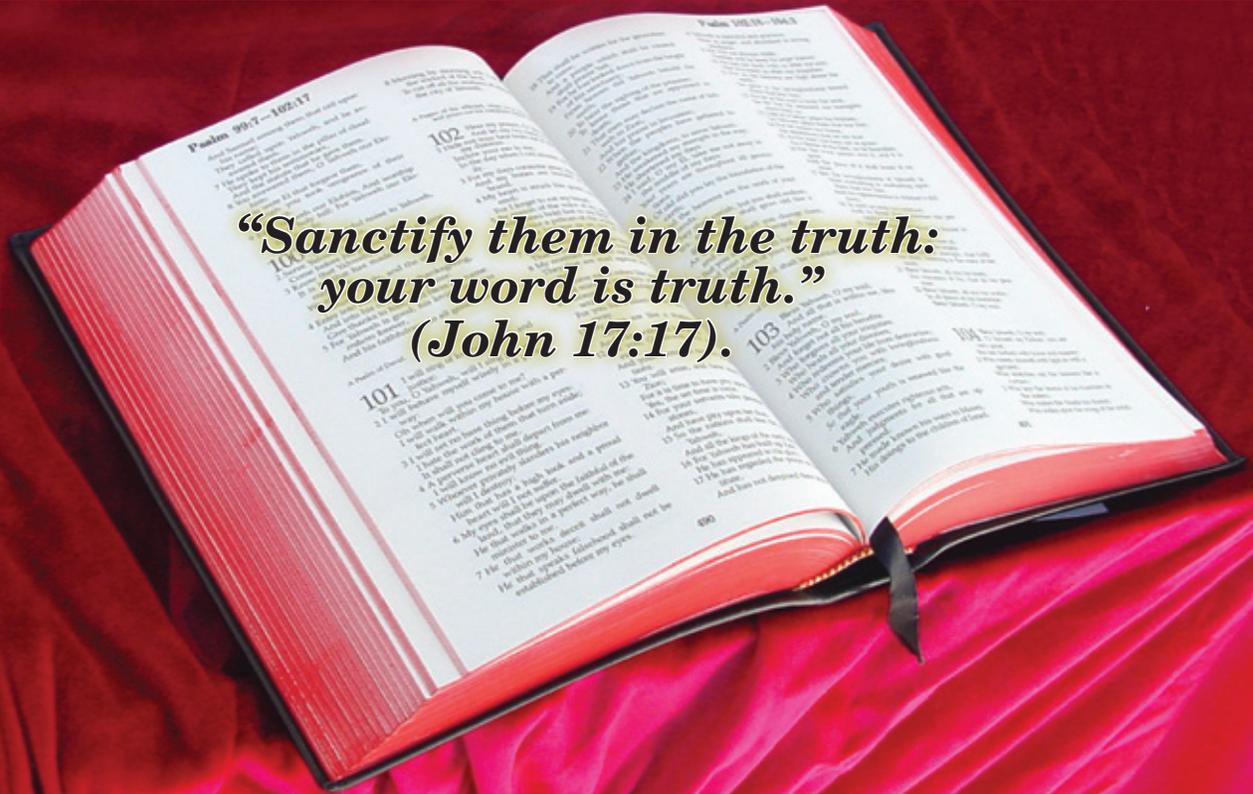
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