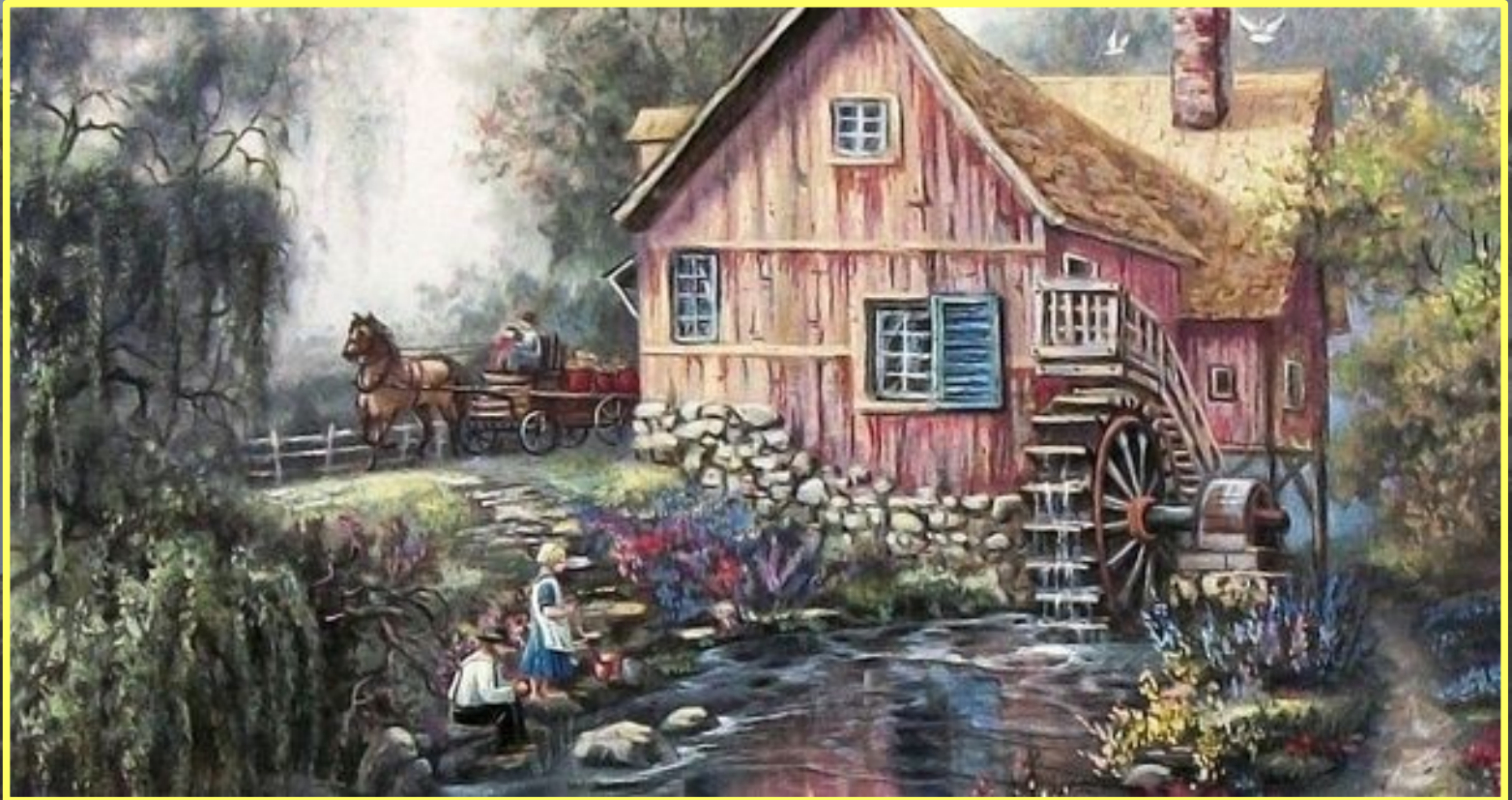




Remnants Walk

The one claiming to rest in Him, ought to walk, himself, even as He walked. (1 John 2:6)



So says YAHWEH, Stand by the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; and you shall find rest for your souls.
Jeremiah 6:16a

... is a Worldwide Ministry aimed at restoring the Faith once delivered by Yahshua of Nazareth to the Congregations at its inception close to 2,000 years ago. This restoration needs to take place in order to reach those with ears to hear and eyes to see the truth from the lies, so that the good news of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations. *(Matthew 24:14)*

We encourage all those who consider themselves to be true believers to ask: "which congregation do I belong to? The true faith our Savior Yahshua the Messiah set down in the year 30 CE, or the false doctrine, drenched in paganism and sun worship, as set down by Constantine in 325 CE?" The two are vastly different and we cannot serve two masters. *(Matthew 6:24)*

One was a Hebrew Congregation with a Hebrew Savior that was completely Torah observant. The other was and still is a counterfeit, lawless church, sealed by the decrees of Constantine and implemented for the sole purpose of deceiving and enslaving mankind. *(Revelation 12:9)*

The articles contained in this publication are motivated by the Word of Truth, the Holy Scriptures, inspired by our Almighty Father Yahweh and Yahshua Messiah, His Son. Words made manifest through the power of the Holy Spirit. *(2 Timothy 3:15-17)*

May this free gift bring you closer to our Father Yahweh through His son, our savior and soon returning king, Yahshua the Messiah. In His wonderful name. Shalom...

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Personal

by Don Esposito

Greetings Brethren,

And Shalom in the wonderful names of Yahweh and Yahshua; the name above all names. I was thinking to myself the other day what life must be like to a twenty-year-old today. I am fifty-four years old and when I was a young boy there was no Internet, or social media. There were no Walmart's, or Costco's, and not even cable TV, only a TV with six channels.

The world was changing back then, but nothing like we see today. When I was a young boy, I knew the name of all the store owners in our town, and there was loyalty that you would always give your business to the local vendor, who was also a friend.

Also, if you didn't have the money to pay, it was not a problem, as you were trusted by the store owner to come back and pay when you were able to. The world has changed so much from only 30 to 40 years ago, and in so many other ways.

I would have never thought I would live in a time that the normal family unit would no longer be considered to be between a man and a woman. I never thought I would live in a society that has a divorce rate of almost 60%, but even worse, more than 50% of people don't even get married any longer, but simply cohabitate together.

I also never thought I would live in a time where it is illegal for teachers to even mention the Bible, but will teach a curriculum that states the world was created without a Creator. The same legal system will make adoption almost impossible for most couples, but will allow a woman to legally kill their baby without punishment.

And the biggest problem in all this, getting back to the twenty-year-old, is that all the above-mentioned things are normal to them. Our youth today are living in a false, chaotic, world, and they have been hoodwinked into believing that this world today is the reality, when in reality, it is a façade.

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, the old serpent being called the devil, and, Satan; ***he deceiving the whole inhabitable world*** was cast out onto the earth, and his cherubs were cast out with him.

As believers, we need to get back to the biblical old paths, and also to be instilling these old paths into the hearts and minds of our children today. We need to be home-schooling our children, and keeping them away from all forms of social media, and worldly entertainment. We need to be instilling faith in their lives, and preparing them for the soon coming Kingdom of Yahweh to this earth.

Jer 6:16a So says YAHWEH, Stand by the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; and you shall find rest for your souls.

B'Shem Yahshua,

Elder Don

Is Your Fingerprint Pure

By Don Esposito

Pro 22:1 *A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches; better is grace, rather than silver or gold.*
Proverbs also tells us that “*The King should not even look upon the evil*”.

Lev 5:1 *And when a person sins, and hears the voice of swearing, and he is a witness, or has seen, or has known, if he does not reveal it, then he shall bear his iniquity.*

We live in the most superficial, hypocritical, world that mankind has ever seen. In January, the United States of Babylon have their yearly update on the country, called the State of the Union, where the President will come before both houses of Congress and also with the Supreme Court judges present, and will give his vision of the state of the country, presently, and for also the coming year. The president will also invite a few American citizens as guests, and share their story during his speech, and make the stories of these Americans come out to be portrayed as heroes.

What was most interesting about this year's speech, and the hypocrisy that America/Babylon has come to accept as part of their very culture was that President Trump had as his guest a man that was just released from prison and exonerated for being a drug pusher and selling drugs to youth. The man truly changed in prison, and even became a prison minister and conducted bible studies, and helped to mentor many other prisoners. In the US Congress, it is extremely divided, and usually if something is for the party of the Democrats, no Republican will clap, and also vis versa. However, when this man's story was announced the whole chamber, both Democrats and Republicans, stood and gave a standing ovation.

I find this actually something that is honorable, and praise Elohim that this man found Elohim in prison and has changed his life. However, where the hypocrisy comes in, is the fact that in the same chamber was the newly named judge to the Supreme Court, Bret Kavanaugh, who was railroaded and lied about due to unwarranted, unproven, accusations from his high school years some 35 years earlier. And even during Judge Kavanaugh's confirmation hearing, he was being judged for things he wrote in a high school yearbook, 35 years ago. The point of this is that Congress was actually not supporting the man who was in prison and changed his life, or really against Judge Kavanaugh, but in both cases, they were trying to act politically correct, to fulfill their agenda.

And the Democratic agenda is based on destroying any form of Bible morals, and bringing a progressive agenda to the country of the United States. This has been going on for more than 80 years, but truly, now, we are at a breaking point in the United States of Babylon. The agenda of the left is no longer hidden as there are many new congressmen and women who openly admit that they are socialists, and want to make America a socialist country. They are also open about their agenda for open borders, and trying to use the poor third world people looking for a better life, as pawns in their game of power, to manipulate the voting structure to bring about the fulfillment of their wicked, immoral, agenda. The other hypocrisy that was in the State of the Union address was that when President Trump announced that there were more women in the US workforce than ever before, all the congresswomen stood up and cheered, not for President Trump, but for themselves.

However, when President Trump mentioned about making a new law to change and nullify the newly made law in New York to allow a woman to abort and kill her baby, actually at the time of birth, not a single one of the some odd, 50 women, sitting on the democratic side, all dressed in white, stood up to support such a measure.

This was absolutely horrifying to think that not a single democratic woman would stand up to protect the fruit of their womb, not to kill a baby that had just been born, and only given life for a matter of a few minutes. How does such hypocrisy survive in our society today? Because all governments of this world have been overtaken by commercial Babylon.

Rev 18:3 *because of the wine of the anger of her fornication which all the nations have drunk, even the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her; and the merchants of the earth became rich from the power of her trade.*

The United States of America is without a shadow of a doubt, end time Babylon that Scripture speaks of. But, also, they have brought this evil, unfair world trading system that all the rich merchants of the earth have gotten rich by. America, Babylon is the one who created the Internet, and all forms of social media to bring their worldwide, false narrative, of secular humanism, homosexual lifestyles, and anti-Semitism, all over the globe. The Internet has infiltrated every aspect of most humans' lives on this planet, and most people have their iPods or smart phones working 10 to 16 hours a day.

And now, in the last year, through congressional hearings, the executives of Face-Book, and Google, and other social media outlets like Twitter, have admitted that they have made their programs and the algorithms which work their programs to be the most addictive for young people, and even adults, who use them. The way that the formats are made to give a few second delay in waiting to see how many likes and thumbs up a person receives is equated with playing a slot machine in a casino. The only difference that at least a gambling addict has to go home sometime, and leave the slot machine behind, as where the social media, and iPhone addict can literally be watching their accounts 24/7.

And the effect in just a few short years of this plan to addict the youth of the world has been devastating. The suicide rate of youth has sky-rocketed, and depression rates are even higher. Youth today, don't know how to relate to each other, because their only reality is a false, plastic, façade, existence that doesn't really even exist.

We need to get back to the reality of life where a person's human worth is in the character that he/she possesses, and not in the false façade of thumbs up or likes on a social media page. Interacting with humans is getting less and less, and people are spending more time isolated on computer devices with more and more hours every day.

And just as we have a physical fingerprint that is unique to every individual on earth, each of us also has an electronic fingerprint, to the things we read and watch online. Every false website that either falsely teaches that the Sabbath rotates, or the earth is flat is corrupting the truth, and the character of those who are watching it.

As the people of Yahweh, we need to abstain from all immorality, and get off of the façade of social media, and get back to building the character that we need as a believer by building the relationships with the people around us. We need to be extroverted and helping others and not being overwhelmed with how someone likes or dislikes, a photo or a post that we put online.

We also have to realize that just as we have a physical and electronic fingerprint, we also have a spiritual fingerprint that should be known by how much love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, meekness and self-control we exhibit to others, each and every day. As the other fingerprints will disappear one day, but our spiritual fingerprint will last forever. And just as a physical fingerprint is unique to every human being on earth, as believers in Yahshua, we need to make sure that our spiritual fingerprint is also unique to the person we are in Messiah, and not a compromise to the corrupted world around us.

Do You ‘Esteem Others Better Than Yourself’?

Reprint article by Richard Rice

Yahweh commands us as believers to do so! What does it mean? And how can we fulfil this instruction?

Can you imagine the president of a large corporation esteeming a lowly, production-line laborer better than himself? Or a professional baseball player considering an insignificant batboy of greater importance?

How about a top-ranking government official being more concerned with the comfort and happiness of his constituents than his own?

In this age of vanity, competition and greed, it’s hard to imagine any of these situations taking place. Satan has so bombarded this society with a spirit of hardness, indifference and self-importance that we automatically think of our own interests first and others’ second. We want the chief seat, the top honors and the best advantages, without concern for anyone else.

Yet Yahweh requires all true believers to esteem others above themselves.

Esteeming others better

Notice Paul’s inspired command to the Philippians: “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves” (Phil. 2:3).

Did Paul mean that he as an apostle should look on the members of the Congregation as being above his office, or that a pastor should consider his position less important than that of an usher? Did he mean that a husband should think of his responsibility as being less than that of his wife and children?

Are we required to have feelings of inferiority about ourselves? Should we feign humility over our abilities when we are better skilled or more qualified than others to do a task or hold an office?

Of course not!

To understand, let’s first notice several other translations of this verse. The Williams translation says, “Practice treating one another as your superiors.” The 20th century New Testament states it, “Each of you should...regard others of more account than himself.” The New American Standard Bible has it, “Let each of you regard one another as more important than himself.”

This verse, then, has to do with being lowly in mind—abasing and humbling oneself in preference to others. It means putting the interests, cares and comforts of our fellowman above our own—forgetting ourselves in sacrifice and service.

Paul further admonished: “*in brotherly love to one another loving fervently, having gone before one another in honor... minding the same thing toward one another, mind not vain glory, but associate with those who are humble. Do not be wise within yourselves*” (Rom. 12:10, 16).

Moreover, we as believers should extend this attitude of honor to the unconverted of the world. Yahweh doesn’t want His people to totally isolate themselves from non-believers, but rather to be an example of His love, kindness and good works.

Yahshua said, “I do not pray that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil” (John 17:15). And again, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify you Father which is in heaven” (Matt 5:16).

Esteeming others above ourselves, then, describes the attitude Yahweh wants believers to develop as a basic approach to life—whether toward each other or toward the world. It can only come through dying to one’s self, taking on Yahweh’s nature, and being filled with His mighty love.

Yahshua set the example

Yahshua Messiah set a perfect example, throughout His life, of obeying this principle. Notice that just after commanding believers to esteem others better than themselves, Paul said, *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Yahshua Messiah”* (Phil. 2:5).

This verse shows that Yahshua Messiah practiced the very admonition that Paul enjoined. Messiah did not strive to please Himself, but to put the needs and feelings of others above His own.

“Let each one of us please his neighbor for his good to building up. For even Messiah did not please Himself” (Rom. 15:2-3). Paul wrote, *“Messiah... who existed in the form of Elohim... emptied Himself, taking the image of a servant... He humbled himself, having become obedient until death, even the death of a torture stake.”* (Phil. 2:5-8).

Time and again Messiah exemplified an attitude of service toward all within His reach. He expressed a special love and compassion for the poor and uneducated—the down-and-outers. He was a friend of publicans and sinners. He took a personal interest in little children, thus showing that His concern reached out to all classes and age groups.

Yahshua stopped to heal and console the sick and afflicted. He called and dealt with the weak of the world, including His own disciples—He considered them friends, prayed for them and expressed a keen desire for their success.

Our Savior even had concern for the thief on the tree, while He Himself was dying. He humbled Himself at every turn and became a lowly servant. And He did so not only because He loved people, but also to set an example for us to follow!

In order to develop this attitude, we must first realize that Yahweh has called us out of the world not only to repent of our sins, but also to repent of what we are—greedy, grasping, selfish people. He wants us to turn to Him with all our hearts so that He can infuse in us the very mind and nature of His Son, Yahshua Messiah.

The new disposition that Yahweh wants us to acquire is a complete reversal of our former motivation. Yahweh wants us to empty ourselves of vanity and self-centeredness so that the happiness and well-being of others becomes uppermost in our minds.

Yahweh’s desire is for us to lose our sense of self-consciousness and replace it with an attitude of outgoing concern for all—and attitude of wanting to see them grow, advance, and prosper.

As we yield to Yahweh and His Holy Spirit, a miraculous change will occur in our lives. We will take on a new heart, nature and outlook. We will become kinder, more thoughtful, and compassionate. We’ll find that serving others will become a sheer joy and delight. Moreover, this new disposition will become a daily habit—a spontaneous way of life (Gal. 5:22-23).

What we can do

Here are some practical ways for each of us to fulfill Yahweh’s command to esteem others better than ourselves.

“Care for the fatherless and the widows.” Jacob wrote, *“Pure and holy service before Yahweh the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their afflictions, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world”* (Jacob 1:27).

A major test of how converted we are is how we respond to the needs of people less fortunate than ourselves.

Invite into your home for dinner and fellowship fellow Believers who can’t repay you.

Notice Messiah's instructions about how we are to share the resources with which Yahweh blesses us:

"And He also said to him who had invited Him, When you make a dinner or supper, do not call your friends, nor your brothers, nor your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also should invite you in return, and it becomes a repayment to you. But when you make a banquet call the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; and then you will be blessed, for they have nothing to repay you. For it will be repaid to you in the resurrection of the just" (Luke 14:12-14).

Donate food and clothing to the poor and destitute. Yahweh and He wants to see how we use it: *"But whoever has worldly possessions, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his mercy from him, how is the love of Elohim in him? My little children, let us not love in word, or in tongue, but indeed and in truth"* (I John 3:17-18).

Pitch in to help friends and neighbors caught in desperate straits. Do we refuse to or, by neglect, fail to respond when we are aware of others in need?

Pitching in might involve helping a farmer gather his crops before they are damaged by inclement weather, assisting a family with household chores when either father or mother is sick or cutting firewood for a widow before winter sets in.

Encourage those who are downcast or heavily burdened. As Solomon wrote, "Heaviness in a man's heart makes it droop, but a good word makes it glad" (Prov. 12:25).

Radiate enthusiasm—it's contagious. Be sincerely cheerful. Try to pick up the spirits of those around you. *"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another"* (Rom. 12:10).

Befriend children and teenagers. Today's society is, literally, an obstacle course for young people. Problems, temptations and wrong influences can overwhelm youths. Whether by example or by direct involvement, where possible and where wise, help steer young people in the right direction (Prov. 22:6).

Don't be ashamed or embarrassed to do menial tasks in serving your brethren in Yahweh's Congregation. Messiah, the supreme servant, set the example for us to follow (John 13:2-5). Is it too much to ask for us to clean the home of someone who is sick, bathe or provide transportation for an invalid or clean up after a congregational social?

Be grateful. Say "Thank you" for even the smallest things that others do for you. A note of appreciation or a phone call to someone who renders you a service shows that you recognize and esteem his generosity. Paul wrote that we should give thanks for everything (I Thess. 5:18).

Help a fellow employee succeed. Has a fellow worker fallen ill? Perhaps you could offer to handle some of his responsibilities. It may prevent him from losing his job.

If you're a boss, treat your employees with fairness, honesty and concern for their welfare. Notice Paul's admonition: "Masters, give what is just and equal to your servants, knowing that you have a Master in Heaven also" (Col. 4:1).

Esteeming others better than ourselves is simply a matter of expressing love and humility and thinking of them first. It is putting their lives, comforts and interests above our own. It is the essence of a true believer and sums up the meaning of genuine Elohim love.

Every command of Yahweh is a "now" command—not a suggestion to be put off until tomorrow or next week. Now is the time to humble ourselves and get down to business. Let's strive to become holy vessels in which Yahweh can live and manifest His way of life to all mankind.

Why not start right now?

GRACE, Do You Really Understand It?

Reprint Article from Good News Magazine By Douglas Peiltz

The word grace is part of every believer's vocabulary yet for many the subject is confusing. Let's let Yahweh's Word give us a clear understanding.

Few people—even professing believers!—really understand what grace is.

And rather than searching the Bible for Yahweh's teaching on the subject, they get bogged down in debate over whether grace does away with Yahweh's Torah (law).

Is grace, as many assume, merely unmerited pardon for sin—or is it much more? Why do we need grace, if we do? Does grace abrogate the need to keep Yahweh's commandments? We need to know! Let's go to the Bible and let Yahweh's Word answer.

Grace in the New Testament

The New Testament Greek word translated “grace” is *charis*. *Charis* was a widely used word in the first century; its primary meaning is “that which gives pleasure or delight.” But, like the English word *grace*, *charis* held a variety of associated meanings not dealing with the grace of Yahweh toward man. Before we see what Yahweh's grace is, let's first look at these other uses.

Luke, in describing Yahshua's childhood development, wrote, “*And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, being filled with wisdom; and the grace of Yahweh was upon Him*” (Luke 2:40). In other words, Yahweh was well pleased with Yahshua Messiah. Obviously, *charis* is not used to mean unmerited pardon for sin in this case, since Yahshua was without sin (Hebrews 4:15, II Corinthians 5:21).

In the book of Acts, Luke uses *charis* to express kindness, favor or goodwill toward another. Yahweh gave Joseph “favor [*charis*] and wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt” (Acts 7:10). The Congregation was given favor, or *charis*, with the people around Jerusalem (Acts 2:46-47).

Charis can also express thankfulness. Paul said, “But thanks [*charis*] be to Elohim, who gives us the victory through our Master Yahshua Messiah” (I Corinthians 15:57).

Finally, *charis* can be used to denote a gift or favor done as an act of goodwill: “Then the high priest and the chief men of the Jews informed him [Festus] against Paul; and they petitioned him, asking a favor [*charis*] against him, that he would summon him to Jerusalem—while they lay in ambush along the road to kill him” (Acts 25:2-3).

Yahweh's grace

Charis was used by the Greek world in all the above senses. But the New Testament writers applied this word in a new sense to describe what Yahweh is doing for humanity. They realized that Yahweh's plan of salvation is so kind, so merciful, so unmerited and so thankworthy that it is the ultimate *charis*!

Yahweh's purpose is to reproduce Himself. Those whom Yahweh calls (John 6:44) are given the chance to repent and accept Yahshua Messiah's sacrifice. Then, upon being baptized, they are given Yahweh's Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38), which enables them to Yahweh's character and ultimately be born into the very Family of Yahweh (I John 3:1-2). *Charis* is an all-encompassing word for this whole process of conversion that is being accomplished by Yahweh's power.

Why grace is necessary

Why is grace essential to salvation (Ephesians 2:8)? And why are all efforts to earn salvation futile (verse 9)? There are two reasons.

First, “all have sin” (Romans 3:23) – sin being the transgression of Yahweh’s Torah law (I John 3:4) – and “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). We have all earned the death penalty. And just as any government today realizes, the violation of law cannot go unpunished, or anarchy would ensue. No, a penalty must be paid, regardless of how sorry the criminal is or how good he promises to be in the future.

Similarly, our regret and subsequent good behavior can never pay the penalty for sin, because the penalty is death. And Yahweh’s Torah (laws) are enforced. Yahweh does not compromise with sin by allowing a way of life that leads to unhappiness, misery and death to go unpunished. The penalty for our sins must be paid.

Second, not only have we sinned, but man by himself is incapable of overcoming sin. Paul said in Romans 8:7, “The mind of the flesh is enmity towards Elohim; for it is not subject to the Torah (law) of Elohim, for it is not possible to be so.” Our best efforts are futile unless Yahweh gives us the help we need.

Yahweh’s grace toward us begins when Yahweh begins calling us. Unless Yahweh opens our minds, we cannot understand His purpose (John 6:44). Paul commented, “Yahweh...called me through His grace” (Galatians 1:15).

The very fact that you can understand the truths of Yahweh as revealed in the Bible is because of Yahweh’s grace. But being called is just the beginning of grace.

The process of conversion requires more than understanding. It requires change, or repentance. We must freely choose to obey Yahweh—and unless Yahweh shows us what to repent of and the importance of obeying Him, we cannot repent. “The kindness of Yahweh leads you to repentance,” Paul explained in Romans 2:4.

But being sorry for sinning, and changing, is not enough. So Yahweh’s grace continues with Yahshua Messiah’s sacrifice: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of Yahweh, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Yahshua Messiah, whom Yahweh set forth to be a propitiation (an atoning sacrifice) in His blood, through faith, as a demonstration of His righteousness” (Romans 3:23-25).

Yahshua Messiah paid the penalty of sin, which is death, in our stead. Messiah’s sacrifice is the supreme expression of divine grace. It is totally unmerited (Romans 5:6-8).

Messiah’s sacrifice frees us from the penalty of breaking Yahweh’s Torah (law). But it does not do away with the Torah (law)! Think: Would Yahweh now allow the violation of laws that necessitated the death of His own Son? Of course not.

Grace does not nullify Yahweh’s Torah. Rather, grace is necessary because Yahweh’s Torah is eternally binding. As Paul explained: “Shall we continue in sin (the transgression of Yahweh’s Torah—I John 3:4) that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?” (Romans 6:1-2) Continuing in sin would mock Yahshua Messiah’s supreme sacrifice.

Unmerited but not unconditional

Here is where many misunderstand. Grace is unmerited, but it is not unconditional. There are two conditions: repentance and faith (Mark 1:5, Acts 2:38). Although we can never earn salvation, Yahweh does set certain requirements for receiving His grace.

Let's understand. Once Yahweh, by His grace, reveals to us the need to repent and humbly accept Yahshua Messiah's sacrifice as payment for our sins, we must do our part. We must voluntarily yield ourselves to Yahweh, admitting where we have been wrong, and make the necessary changes. Then we must be baptized as an outward expression of our repentance and faith (Romans 6:3-6).

Don't misunderstand—Yahweh's grace is free and unmerited, but if we refuse to change our lives—to obey Yahweh—He is under no obligation to bestow His grace upon us. Yahweh will not allow Messiah's sacrifice and His grace to be taken lightly. The process continues. Peter tells us we must now “grow in grace” (II Peter 3:18). Grace is unmerited pardon for sin, but it is much more. For if grace were merely the unmerited forgiveness of sin, how could we grow in grace? We must, while coming under Yahweh's grace overcome sin.

If you are truly under Yahweh's grace, you will be striving diligently to obey Yahweh's commandments. Paul said: “For the saving grace of Elohim has appeared to all men, instructing us that having denied unrighteousness and worldly lusts, we should live discreetly and righteously and holy in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and appearance of the glory of our great Elohim and Savior Yahshua Messiah, who gave Himself on our behalf, that He might redeem us from all lawlessness and purify a special people for Himself, zealous of good works” (Titus 2:11-14).

We are to develop Yahweh's character by growing and overcoming in order that we can ultimately be born into the very Family of Yahweh. But we cannot do this alone (Matthew 19:25-26). We need Yahweh's Spirit. And His Spirit, by His grace toward us, is a gift (Acts 10:45, 11:17). Yahweh's Spirit gives us the power we need to develop character. But we must work at it. Paul said, “But by the grace of Yahweh I am what I am, and His grace which was toward me has not been without fruit, but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of Yahweh within me” (I Corinthians 15:10). To grow in grace is to overcome sin through coupling Yahweh's Spirit with our own efforts. Without Yahweh's help, overcoming sin would be impossible.

Finally, after we have developed Yahweh's character through Yahweh's Spirit, one final act of grace is bestowed upon us—eternal life! We deserved death, but will receive life eternal. As Paul said, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of Yahweh is everlasting life in Yahshua Messiah our Master” (Romans 6:23). The world is deceived into believing in a shallow, limited concept of Yahweh's grace. True grace is more than the forgiveness of sin; it is the total process of salvation.

Peter summed it up beautifully: “Now the Elohim of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Yahshua the Messiah, whom Yahweh has given to us, will strengthen us to endure these little afflictions that we may remain steadfast and established in Him forever. Amen...I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of Yahweh in which you stand” (I Peter 5:10-12).



grow in
the love of

YAHWEH

Yahweh's begotten children are to manifest His love in their lives. Are you exhibiting this type of love?

At age 14 Todd Conner had an interest that surpassed even his enthusiasm for his high school football team. It was his baby brother Allen, born Oct.7, 1975. Todd loved Allen a great deal and their relationship grew, but it was shaken by tragedy.

In November Allen's body went limp in Todd's arms. "Mother!" shouted Todd. "Something's wrong!" Allen had suffered permanent kidney impairment. Two valves on the tubes leading from his bladder had malfunctioned, causing urine to back up into and damage Allen's kidneys.

Emergency surgery saved Allen's life. His recovery was slow but by Dec. 15, 1976, Allen weighed 16 pounds and was ready for valve reimplantation surgery, which was a success.

Allen's wellbeing lasted only until July 1977, before his condition began deteriorating again. This was a painful period for Todd. He saw his brother lose what he had gained through surgery. No longer could Todd gallop around the house with Allen on his back shouting, "Go horsey!" Allen became so unsteady he could barely walk. Soon Todd's relationship with Allen was reduced to carrying him.

Doctors said Allen's only hope was a kidney transplant. Todd quickly volunteered one of his. Initially, his parents were against the surgery because they feared that something might happen to Todd. With only one kidney, for instance, he might never play football.

Tissue compatibility tests showed Todd to be the best choice as the donor. In counseling before the operation his feelings about football were discussed, but his love for Allen was still, greater. “I don’t care about that,” said Todd.

On May 10, 1978, Todd was wheeled off to surgery. He heard Allen’s familiar voice crying out “Todd” as the baby, too was taken to surgery. “After today,” Todd reminded him, “you’re not going to hurt anymore.” But Allen’s concern at that point was only for Todd. “When they give me part of you, will you hurt?” Allen asked. “Nope” said Todd. “It won’t hurt me because you’re my brother.”

The day after the surgery Todd and Allen greeted each other with kisses and repeated each other’s names. The surgery was successful, and Allen regained his strength. A year later Todd resumed football practice.

The story of Todd and Allen proves Yahshua Messiah’s words, “*Greater love than this has no one, that anyone should lay down his life for his friends*” (John 15:13). Todd was willing to risk his goals—and his life—for Allen. Of course, we in Yahweh’s Congregation know that Yahweh could have healed Allen, but the point of the story is the great amount of love Todd had for his brother.

The world lacks love

How many of us today openly exhibit the type of love Todd had for Allen? How much are we willing to give of ourselves—to sacrifice—for the benefit of others around us? Most human relationships do not exhibit this kind of love. They are damaged by the “*get as much for me as I can*” philosophy that has prevailed throughout history.

From the beginning we have been subject to these selfish pulls, authored by the fallen archangel Satan the devil. Cain murdered his brother Abel because he lacked brotherly love. His heart was filled with jealousy because he wanted to *get* rather than *give* to his brother.

The story of Sodom and Gomorrah also reveals a breakdown in human relationships. The cherubs visiting Lot in the form of men were not safe. They were threatened with homosexual acts by Lot’s neighbors! Why did this situation exist? The citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah lacked love. Their problems went much further than homosexuality—the moral, social and spiritual fabric of the society was ripped beyond repair (Ezek. 16:49-40). There were not even 10 men of good character in Sodom (Gen. 18:32).

The end time—the time in which we now live—is compared to Sodom and Gomorrah (Luke 17:28-30). We see the same breakdown in human relationships. One out of two U.S marriages ends in divorce, and the surviving marriages are often unhappy. Homosexuality is increasing. Child abuse is a serious problem worldwide. Labor unrest abounds. Wars divide the nations of our planet.

All these conditions indicate a lack of love. They show that the world is going the way of the *get* philosophy rather than the *give* way of life. All these breakdowns in human relationships produce the same thing—unhappiness! Unhappiness for the person failing to show love, and misery for the person experiencing the lack of love.

Educators, sociologists, psychologists, philosophers and religious leaders vainly attempt to determine the underlying reasons for the present state of man. But only one source strips away human reason and gives us the true answer: Yahweh’s Holy Word.

The Bible reveals the cause of breakdowns in human relationships: “From where come conflicts and fighting’s from among you? Is it not from your lusts warring in your members?” (Jacob. 4:1). The conditions in the world persist because man has rejected the way of Yahweh! People cut off from Yahweh are subject to the lusts of the flesh (Rom. 1:18-32).

What about the Congregation?

But can Yahweh’s Congregation lack love? Yahweh calls this Congregation age the Philadelphian Era (Rev. 3:7). The word *Philadelphia* means “brotherly love.” However, Yahshua warned that because of the sinful environment around us, the love of many in the Congregation would wax cold in the end time (Matt. 24:12). We, as disciples, live in a modern Sodom and Gomorrah. This environment weakens our ability to love one another.

The environment of ancient Corinth was extremely corrupt as well. It was notorious for sexual looseness. Believers in that city were adversely affected.

Paul wrote that the Corinthian Congregation was full of envy, strife, and division (1 Cor. 3:1-3). One man committed incest with his stepmother; this was not a hidden sin but one that was freely accepted by other members (1 Cor. 5:1-2). Congregation members were unable to resolve their problems among themselves, and foolishly went to the judges of the world (1 Cor. 6:1).

What love produces

These problems reveal a congregation lacking proper love. In response, Paul showed them how love should work in the Congregation—what it should produce among Congregation members.

The Congregation is one spiritual Body made up of many members, each of them important—just as a physical body is made up of different but equally important parts. With this established, Paul showed the need for appreciating one another. In fact, those who appear the least deserving of appreciation are to be shown the most! The purpose for this attitude among believers is to produce unity and empathy for each other (1 Cor. 12:13-26).

How wonderful it is when the children of Elohim respect and appreciate one another. It breeds a far different atmosphere than does a corrupt world that hinders people from showing love. Furthermore, this atmosphere of brotherly love stimulates the love of Yahweh.

What, then, is love? Love begins with the keeping of Yahweh’s law. Many people today think Yahweh’s law is done away. But the Bible reveals that it is only through the knowledge of Yahweh’s law that we know what sin is (Rom. 3:20, 1 John 3:4). We enjoy the fruits of Yahweh’s love by putting His law to work in our lives (Rom. 2:13, Jacob 1:22). Yahweh’s law doesn’t harm your neighbor—it helps him. Keeping Yahweh’s law shows him love (Rom. 13:8-10). More than that, Yahweh’s love is a product of Yahweh’s Spirit working in us (Rom. 5:5).

By utilizing His Spirit, and the tools of prayer, bible study, meditation and fasting we produce obedience to Him and develop right attitudes and approaches to life. Then, those around us are affected by Elohim’s love that flows through us.

These character traits of Elohim’s love are beautifully described in 1 Corinthians 13, where love is broken down into the attributes it produces in believers and the benefits it offers people around them. Each part is worthy of careful consideration.

Love suffereth long (1 Cor. 13:4). Patience is needed when things go wrong, so we will suffer without anger or discouragement. It comes from understanding the other person's weaknesses, just as Yahweh understands our weaknesses and exhibits great patience towards us. How much happier we all are if this trait is practiced, because it produces a more relaxed feeling within ourselves and others. Yahweh expects us to have the same mercy for others as He does for us (Rom. 2:1-5).

Is kind (1 Cor. 13:4). Kindness is responding to the needs of others. Much of Yahshua's life was spent meeting the needs of others through healings and other miraculous events. He performed miracles out of compassion (Matt. 9:36, 14:14, 15:32), which is a combination of sympathy for someone in distress and a desire to alleviate his or her problem. Yahshua acted out of deep sympathy and sorrow for the plight of those around Him (Isa. 53:3-4). So ought we.

Envies not (1 Cor. 13:4). Envy prevents us from rejoicing at the success of others. It cripples personal relationships (Prov. 27:4). It led to Yahshua's death at the hands of the Jews (Matt. 27:18). How much better it is to be grateful for the accomplishments of others! It builds much warmer and more secure relationships. It helps others reach their full potential without fear of hurt. Aren't you happier when your successes are appreciated? When envy is removed, appreciation is possible.

Vaunts not itself, is not puffed up (1 Cor. 13:4). Love eliminates pride, which separates us from others because we feel superior. Feelings of self-superiority should warn us that love is missing in our lives; this separates us from Yahweh and men (Prov. 16:18, 29:23). When pride is eliminated, love replaces it and draws us together, because we hold other people in higher esteem than ourselves. We see our own weaknesses more clearly and focus on the strengths of others. We can share our fears and failures with others (Jacob 5:16). Humility is an important ingredient in producing Yahweh's love.

Doth not behave itself unseemly (1 Cor. 13:5). Good manners are an expression of love. They show our concern for others when we act out of humility. We should question our actions to see if they are done in good taste. Yahweh tells us to show honor and follow the rules of custom (Rom. 13:7) Our society has faltered in this trait and discarded etiquette and proper behavior.

Seeks not her own (1 Cor. 13:5). Yahweh's love acting in us will make us more generous; we will have the *give* attitude that motivates Yahweh Himself. We will think as much or more of others as we do of ourselves. The way of selfishness and *get* has caused all this world's evils, but a believer will not demand to have his own way at the expense of others.

Is not easily provoked (same verse). Love eliminates wrong anger. When Yahweh gave us His Spirit at baptism, He intended that we conduct ourselves according to His character and that we be of the same mind as Yahshua (1 Tim. 1:7, Phil. 2:5). Yahshua was compassionate, sympathetic, slow to anger (Neh. 9:17). Should not we be so in dealing with the unconverted, and even our brethren?

There is a time for righteous indignation (Eph. 4:26). Yahshua Himself was angry on occasion, but He channeled His aggression perfectly. Wrong anger results from our lack of patience, kindness, generosity, courtesy and unselfishness. One slow to anger is better than the mighty (Prov. 16:32). Remember that a soft answer turns away wrath (Prov. 15:1).

Thinks no evil (1 Cor. 13:5). Yahweh's way is one of forgiving and forgetting the evil deeds of others, when repented of. It replaces unnecessary suspicion with trust. This approach builds friendship. Stop and analyze how much this world suffers because of evil thought.

.. *Rejoices not in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth* (verse 6). A person filled with love doesn't like to see others sin and suffer the consequences. Instead he enjoys the truth that frees a person from sin and unhappiness. As Yahshua said, "And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32).

Bears all things (1 Cor. 13:7). Love doesn't avoid obligations. It is willing to take on responsibilities. And you carry the excess load of one another, and thus complete yourself in the instruction of Messiah (Gal. 6:2). Yahshua gladly took upon Himself the burden of being our Savior (John 10:17-18). It required a tremendous sacrifice, but His love for us made it possible. We need the same love for others.

Believes all things (1 Cor. 13:7). Believing all things doesn't remove us from reality. It makes more real to us that Yahweh is about to usher in His perfect government to replace today's pitiful societies. History has shown that we cannot believe in man's ways, but we will soon *all* believe Yahweh. We are frequently too negative - we doubt instead of believe.

Consider Yahweh's optimism. "And Yahshua said to His disciples, Truly I say to you that a rich man will with great difficulty enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. And again, I say to you, it is easier for a heavy rope to pass through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Yahweh. And His disciples were exceedingly astonished when they heard this, saying, who then is able to gain eternal life? But having looked at them, Yahshua said to them, with men this is impossible, but with Yahweh all things are possible" (Matt. 19:23-26).

When you are burdened with trials and troubles ask yourself, "Do I believe Yahweh?"

Hopes all things (1 Cor. 13:7). Believers' love is filled with hope for the future. There is the hope generated by Yahweh's presence in our lives and in the lives of others. There is the ultimate hope of Yahweh's Kingdom being established and having a part in it. We are to lay hold of this hope (Heb. 6:18)—when we are filled with it, we will radiate happiness.

Endures all things (1 Cor. 13:7). Love endures hardship. It helps us have the right attitude when things are difficult. True believers cause all things to work for good (Rom. 8:28). Endurance is essential for salvation. (Matt. 24:13). We must have it to face the frightening events to precede Yahshua's return to earth.

Yahweh is love

Relationships work well when love is present in them. When it isn't, unhappy relationships exist. This is true among marital partners, family members, friends, casual acquaintances, fellow employees and members of Yahweh's Congregation. We all need love to make our relationships work.

Yahweh is love (1 John 4:8)! Love literally emanates from Him. Everything Yahweh has created for us and is doing through us is done in love. What greater example of love is there than the fantastic plan Yahweh has designed to change humans into literal children of the Yahweh Family?

By following Yahshua's example and obeying Yahweh's laws, we can have the right relationships among ourselves. By submitting ourselves to Yahweh we can be prepared to enter His Kingdom. The Kingdom of Yahweh will be based on love—and we must grow in Yahweh's love to be there! "And this I pray for, that your love may still increase and abound, in knowledge, and in all spiritual understanding" (Phil. 1:9).

Should a Believer Be Cremated?

By Don Esposito

We are living in a very different world than we have ever lived in before, and yet in so many ways in our society Satan the devil has hoodwinked human beings into following pagan practices from thousands of years ago. Worldly holidays, such as Christmas and Easter, are filled with paganism, and the worst is Halloween, where people will even dress their children up in demonic outfits sending them to beg candy from their neighbors. Truly, Satan has deceived the whole world (Rev 12:9).

However, what I want to speak about in this article is a trend that has erupted in the past decade of cremating a person when one dies. Should a true covenant believer partake in such a ritual? Where does the idea of cremation come from, and what is the purpose of it?

The idea of burning the dead comes from paganism, and was only done to the wicked as a punishment of wiping out their memory forever. Look at what happened when Achan took ill-gotten gain that Yahweh commanded against, and the sons of Israel were punished for it.

Joshua 7:24-26 And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the robe, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his donkey, and his flock, and his tent, and all that he had. And they made them go up to the valley of Achor. **25** And Joshua said, How you have troubled us! YAHWEH shall trouble you today! And all Israel threw stones at him, **and they burned them with fire**, and they stoned them with stones. **26** And they raised over him a great heap of stones to this day. And YAHWEH turned back from the heat of His anger. On this account the name of that place is The Valley of Achor (Grief) until this day.

Look at also the punishment that Yahweh put on Moab being they also used the pagan cult practice of burning their dead.

Amos 2:1-3 So says YAHWEH: For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not turn back from it, for he **burned the bones of the king of Edom into lime**. **2** But I will send a fire against Moab, and it shall devour the **palaces of Kerioth**. And Moab shall die with uproar, with a war cry, with the sound of the ram's horn. **3** And I will cut off the judge in its midst, and I will kill all his rulers with him, says YAHWEH.

Also, look at how burning of the dead was associated with witchcraft in Scripture.

Deu 18:10 There shall not be found in you one who passes his son or his daughter through the fire, one that uses divination, an observer of clouds, or one fortune-telling, or a spell caster,

We know from paganism that both Satanists and people using witchcraft use fire and burning in their satanic rituals, and also that cremation of the dead is used in pagan religions, such as Hinduism and Buddhism, because they believe in the false belief of reincarnation of spirits. ***Having your body burned in fire is a punishment for the wicked, not a reward of the saved.***

Mat 10:28 *And you should not fear the ones killing the body, but not being able to kill the soul. But rather fear Him **being able to destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.***

Rev 20:14-15 *And death and the grave were thrown into **the Lake of Fire. This is the second death. 15** And if anyone was **not found having been written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the Lake of Fire.***

All ancient societies who believed in an afterlife would never burn their dead. It is an ancient basic principle, and also a biblical principle that you give a proper burial to your parents and family members, and set them up in a proper burial place awaiting the resurrection to come.

Ecc 6:3-4 *If a man fathers a hundred children, and lives many years, and the days of his years are many, and his soul is not satisfied from the good, and **also there is no burial for him; I say, a miscarriage is better than he. 4** For he comes in with vanity, and goes out in darkness; his name shall be covered in darkness.*

From creation the pattern of our heavenly Father was to bury the dead in the earth from where they came from, and not to burn their bodies.

Gen 3:19 *By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until your return to the ground. For you have been taken out of it; **for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.***

Ecc 12:7 *then the dust shall return to the earth as it was, and the spirit shall return to The Elohim who gave it.*

Also, I would like to make the point that while Christmas and Easter are pagan ritual celebrations that people partake in for personal, and social, and even religious reasons, that the ritual of cremation in recent years has become popular for one simple reason; MONEY!

In the system of commercial Babylon, where the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, and the middle class is getting smaller and smaller, it is extremely expensive to bury a loved one when they die, and cremation is a much cheaper route to go. However, when burying our dead, should money really be the first consideration? From ancient times people such as Abraham bought expensive property to bury his wife and family, to make sure that they would have a proper resting place waiting the resurrection of the just.

Gen 23:2 *And Sarah died in Kirjath Arba, it is Hebron, in the land of Canaan. And Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.*

Gen 23:3 *And Abraham rose up from before his dead and spoke to the sons of Heth, saying,*

Gen 23:4 *I am an alien and a visitor with you. **Give to me a possession among you, so that I may bury my dead from before the eyes.***

Gen 23:5 *And the sons of Heth answered Abraham, saying to him,*

Gen 23:6 *Hear us, my master. You are a prince of Elohim among us. Bury your dead in the best of our burying places. Not a man of us will withhold his burying place from you, from burying your dead.*

Gen 23:7 *And Abraham rose up and bowed himself to the people of the land, to the sons of Heth.*

Gen 23:8 *And he spoke with them, saying, If it is your desire to bury my dead out of my sight, hear me. Ask for me of Ephron the son of Zohar,*

Gen 23:9 *that he may give to me the cave of Machpelah which he has, which is in the edge of his field. In full silver let him give it to me among you, for a possession of a burying place.*

Gen 23:10 *And Ephron was sitting among the sons of Heth. And Ephron the Hittite replied to Abraham in the ears of the sons of Heth, to all those entering the gate of his city, saying,*

Gen 23:11 *No, my master, hear me. I have given the field to you; also the cave that is in it. I have given it to you. Before the eyes of the sons of my people I have given it to you. Bury your dead.*

Gen 23:12 *And Abraham bowed before the people of the land,*

Gen 23:13 *and spoke to Ephron in the ears of the people of the land, saying, **only if you would hear me. I have given the silver for the field; take it from me, that I may bury my dead there.***

Gen 23:14 *And Ephron answered Abraham, saying to him,*

Gen 23:15 *My master, hear me; the land is worth four hundred shekels of silver; what is that between me and you? And bury your dead.*

Gen 23:16 *And Abraham listened to Ephron, and Abraham weighed to Ephron the silver of which he had spoken in the ears of the sons of Heth, four hundred silver shekels which passes with the merchant.*

Gen 23:17 And was certified the field of Ephron in Machpelah, which was before Mamre, the cave and the field in it, and all the trees in the field, which were in all its borders around it,

Gen 23:18 to Abraham for a purchase before the sons of Heth, with all entering the gate of his city.

Gen 23:19 And after this Abraham buried his wife Sarah at the cave of the field of Machpelah before Mamre; it is Hebron, in the land of Canaan.

Gen 23:20 And the field was certified, and the cave in it, to Abraham for a burial possession from the sons of Heth.

The first thing we see is that it was very important for Abraham to have a place that he personally owned to bury his dead, and to make sure that they had a proper burial, and a place to rest, awaiting the resurrection. It is also interesting to note that not only did he make sure he had a place to bury his family, but he insisted that he pay for the land to make sure that it could not be taken away from his descendants to come.

And so important was this place in the history of Israel that here we are almost 4,000 years later and the cave of Machpelah in Hebron is still there to this day with the very bones of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and Sara, Rebecca, and Leah. This clearly shows the importance of the resurrection mindset to Abraham and his sons from the very beginning of the covenant, fully knowing and believing in faith of a resurrection to come.

Which brings me to my next point of why on earth would any true covenant believer, who believes in a resurrection, burn his/her body? Our body is the very vessel that the Holy Spirit dwelt in while we were on earth, and it is also the vessel that Yahweh will use to change our mortal bodies into our newly glorified bodies.

1Co 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit in you, which you have from YAHWEH, and you are not of yourselves? 20 You were bought with a price; then glorify YAHWEH in your body, and in your spirit, which belong to YAHWEH.

Just as Abraham bought the field in Machpelah for a price, Yahweh has purchased our physical bodies with the very blood of His Son, Yahshua. Are you really glorifying Yahweh by burning the very property (body) that He paid for? The Babylonians came in and burned the Temple (sanctuary) of Yahweh in 586 B.C., and it was the most traumatic event in the history of Israel because the Ark of The Covenant, and Yahweh's Spirit and presence dwelt in that sanctuary.

And now, Yahweh's Spirit and presence is dwelling in each and every true baptized covenant believer, and it is by that Spirit dwelling in you that you have the hope of the resurrection to come. With this in mind, why on earth would a true covenant believer burn the very body that Yahweh used to place His Holy Spirit, and will also use to change into a glorified Spirit being.

1Co 15:51-52 Behold, I speak a mystery to you: We shall not all fall asleep, but we shall all be changed. 52 In a moment, in the blinking of an eye, at the last trumpet; for a trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall all be changed.

This is the whole reason that Hitler cremated 6 million Jews, as he knew the Jews believed in a resurrection and he was not only trying to take away their physical life, but he was also trying to take away their hope of eternal life. Also, Scripture refers to our human body as the seed that is used to plant, to bring about our spiritual body at the resurrection.

1Co 15:35-38 But someone will say, How are the dead raised? And with what body do they come? 36 Foolish one! What you sow is not made alive unless it dies. 37 And what you sow, you do not sow the body that is going to be, but a bare grain, it may be of wheat or barley, or of some other seed, 38 and YAHWEH gives it a body according as He willed, and to each of the seeds its own natural body.

1Co 15:42-44 So also the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body; there is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

That is why the Bible refers to the dead as asleep, because it is like when a seed is planted in the ground and awaiting to grow up a new plant, and likewise when you see a dead person lying there they really do look as if they are sleeping, and if they died in faith, then they are sleeping in the dust of the earth, and waiting for the resurrection of the just, to be resurrected a new creation. It is just not even a biblical concept or thought to burn the very body that Yahweh created you in, dwelt with His Spirit in, and will use to change into an immortal spirit being.

1Th 4:13-18 *But I want you to know, my brethren, concerning those who sleep, that you should not grieve, as the rest do who have not hope. **14** For if we believe that Yahshua died and rose again, even so YAHWEH will also bring with Him all those **who have fallen asleep through Yahshua.** **15** For we say this to you in the Word of YAHWEH, that we the living who remain to the coming of our Master will not at all go before those **who have fallen asleep.** **16** Because the Master Himself shall come down from Heaven with a commanding shout of an archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of YAHWEH. And the dead in Messiah will rise again first. **17** Then we who remain alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet with our Master in the air. And so, we will always be with our Master. **18** So, then, comfort each other with these words.*

The hope of every true believer is the hope of the resurrection. That is what we live for each and every day of our lives. When our Master Yahshua died, He was not translated by Yahweh to heaven immediately, but His dead body was placed in a grave where it laid as an example to us for three days and three nights, and then, His physical body that He housed as a human being was resurrected as a glorified, spiritual body.

Mat 27:57-60 *And late afternoon having come, a rich man from Arimathea (Joseph by name) who also himself was a disciple of Yahshua, **58** coming up to Pilate, this one asked for the body of Yahshua. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given. **59** And taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in a shroud of fine linen, **60** and he laid it in his new tomb which was hewn in rock. And they rolled a large boulder and they placed it upon the entrance of the tomb. And they departed.*

(And after His resurrection)

Joh 20:24-27 *But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one called Twin, was not with them when Yahshua came. **25** Then the other disciples said to him, we have seen the Master. But he said to them, **Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands, and thrust my finger into the mark of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe!** **26** And after eight days, His disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. The door having been locked, Yahshua came and stood in the midst, and said, Peace to you. **27** Then He said to Thomas, **Bring your finger here and see My hands, and bring your hand and thrust into My side, and be not unbelieving, but believing.***

We are almost at the end of 6,000 years of Satan's rule on this earth and the Kingdom of Yahweh will very soon be set up all over the world. When Yahshua comes all true first-fruit covenant believers will be resurrected from their graves and given a glorified spirit body that they will reign with Yahshua forever.

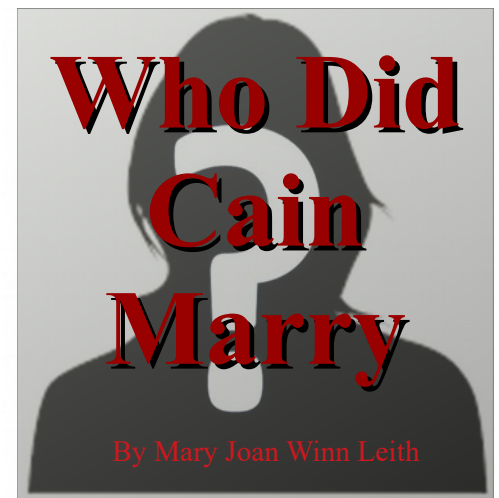
Cremation is pagan and goes against every principle of Yahweh as a restorer and redeemer, not a fire burner, and the only people who will have their bodies burned are those who will go into the Lake of Fire.

Rev 20:14-15 *And death and the grave were thrown into **the Lake of Fire. This is the second death.** **15** And if anyone was not found having been written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the Lake of Fire.*

Due to financial stress of commercial Babylon, Satan is hoodwinking people into cremating their body and burning it, instead of having a proper burial place and sleeping in the earth awaiting the resurrection of the just.

Cremation is not a biblical principle, but is from paganism and goes against every principle of Yahweh, and should be avoided by true covenant believers who believe in a resurrection.

Who was Cain's wife? The Bible reports only that after killing Abel, "Cain went away from the presence of Yahweh, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden. Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch" (Genesis 4:16-17). Since the enlightenment this question has repeatedly come up in rhetoric against biblical inerrancy. It is a good question. After all, Cain and Abel are apparently the only children at creation of creation's first couple. So, where did this unnamed woman whom Cain marries in the land of Nod come from? And for that matter, if Adam, Eve and Cain are the only people yet living on the earth, why is Cain afraid that in his wanderings "*anyone who meets me may kill me*" (Genesis 4:14)?



Who is out there at that moment to threaten him? Taking the biblical text at face value, the first couple had no children prior to their expulsion from Eden.

This question in fact predates the Enlightenment by centuries. The early rabbis had to wrestle with it, as did Christians who needed credible responses to questions like this one from pagans who thought the Bible laughably crude. And there are venerable Jewish and Christian answers. In both cases, based on the principle that all humans on earth necessarily descended solely from Adam and Eve, the first humans Yahweh created, Cain's wife had to be his sister.

Thus, in the Genesis Rabbah (a midrash collection of the fifth century C.E.): "Cain was a twin, for with him was born a girl, and Abel was one of three, for with him came two girls" (22.2). The Genesis Rabbah says that Cain married one of Abel's twin sisters (in fact, Cain killed Abel in a fight over this sister). Early Christians similarly explained that Cain married his sister, pointing simply to Genesis 5:3-4: "When Adam had lived one hundred thirty years, he became the father of a son in his likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth...and he had other sons and daughters." After years of wandering, Cain married one of Adam's many other daughters.

However, when my students ask about Cain's wife, I offer a different explanation. I warn them that modern scholarship is not as diverting as the traditional Jewish and Christian ones. I tell them about how in recent years sociologists and anthropologists have called attention to the fact that traditionally as humans we have tended to give ourselves group identities in opposition to the "other": "We" are who "we" are because we don't do what "they" do. A biblical example is the Israelite use of "uncircumcised" to identify the Philistines. The implication is that a "proper" human being (i.e., and Israelite) would be circumcised, and that it is humanly abnormal—repulsive—to be otherwise. In essence, "we" are fully and "normally" human, and anyone who is "not us" is at best less human and, at worst, not human at all. Egyptologist Gerald Moers has observed that in ancient Egypt, the word for "Egyptian" was also the word for "human". Foreigners/outside were inhuman or subhuman and represented injustice and chaos: Non-Egyptians were "barbaric...[with] monstrous bodies...animal-like." And a proper pharaoh kept them firmly under his foot.

A similar mind-set explains where Cain's wife came from. There were, no doubt, other people "out there" when Yahweh created Adam and Eve, but they didn't count, as far as the Israelite storyteller was concerned. They weren't fully human in the sense that Adam and Eve were. It was, in fact, appropriate that Cain married one of these "other" foreign people because his sin had literally diminished full humanity and separated him not only from Yahweh, but also from his properly human mother and father.

Geography is relevant here, too. In the pre-modern world, to paraphrase former Speaker of the House, Tip O' Neil, "all religion was local." People seldom traveled far from home, and people who lived outside their own geographical purview did not figure in their thinking. This was the operational factor in ancient Israel's thinking about Yahweh and the world.

In the oldest strata of the biblical text, Israel was assigned to Yahweh, and other nations to other gods: When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance; when He separated the sons of man, He set up the boundaries of the peoples, according to the number of the cherubs of Elohim (Deut 32:8). For the portion of Yahweh is His people; Jacob is the lot of His inheritance.

ASK THE AMISH



Ask The Amish will be a new section of the Remnant's Walk with reprint articles and letters from the Amish community from a publication called "Family Life", which started back in 1967. Some original authors are listed in the publication, some are not. If there is an author listed, they would be listed at the end of the article with an original publishing date. Some Amish chose not to put their names on articles they write.

The heritage of our church decisions

Our Amish churches everywhere use rules of conduct or *Ordnung* to maintain uniformity in the church, and to keep unwanted practices out of the church. There are people who label all such as man-made rules, and say they are wrong and detrimental to the church. But we believe one of the points that has enabled the Amish to hold to non-conformity is **discipline**. To have discipline, we must have standards. If we rebel against the standards decided by the church, it is evident that something is wrong in our heart.

Each restriction we have is the result of some problem or misuse the church faced at one time. When we face new problems, we must make decisions whether we want to act on them or not. When I was a boy, there was no rule against watching or owning a television set, for the simple reason that there was no television. A hundred years ago there was no *Ordnung* against short dresses because at that time it was the practice among all women to wear them floor length.

For myself, I prefer to go by the collective decisions that have been handed down to us over many generations. Is there not a real danger that if we throw out what we have inherited from our forebears, we may be missing something we will not be able to replace? ("Now That I Think Of It", D. Wagler, 04-91)

Photographs

The question was raised about having knickknacks, images, and photographs since Exo 20:4 seems to forbid them. *Also, against Images.*

It is inconsistent for us plain people to have small figures, knickknacks, or photographs standing around. I think we have plenty of scriptures against these so that we don't need to make Exo 20:4 say something it was never meant to say. Exo 20:4 is talking about making images for idol worship, and then, praying to them. I'm afraid if we try to apply this verse, we are bound to contradict ourselves.

If this verse is forbidding all images and likenesses and photographs, then we should not use coins with images engraved on them, or postage stamps with pictures on them. We also should not allow an x-ray to be taken, for this is nothing else but taking a photo of our body structure. Worse yet, we should not allow our children to make any picture at all. Even a simple drawing of a cat would be wrong, for certainly it is making a likeness of something.

Please don't misunderstand me. I also think it is wrong to have images, knickknacks, and photographs. I believe we should all work harder to keep our houses plain and simple and consistent with our dress. I have written this because I feel that only harm and frustration can result from giving a wrong reason for holding a right belief. ("What Do You Think"? 2-71).

No Graven Image

Perhaps it is time for us plain people to examine our position concerning pictures and photographs. Why do we feel as we do?

When we plain people are asked why we are opposed to the use of photographs someone often comes up with the verse from Exodus 20, the second of the Ten Commandments: *"Thou shalt not make onto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth."*

However, does this verse really fit when applied to having our pictures taken? The answer is neither a simple yes or no, or perhaps it is both.

If we mean in a literal way, the answer is no. The verse does not apply because the verse said that we should not make a graven image of likeness of anything, period. It doesn't say, *"Thou shalt not make a photograph of a man's face, but to trace the outline of a child's foot is all right."*

Of course, we make likenesses in other ways. Taken literally, the verse would not allow us to take a blue print of a house, our children should not make a picture to color, and Family Life shouldn't print a picture on its cover. Or does the verse just mean photographs taken with a camera? We still would have problems. Does that mean we would not object to having our portrait painted, which often looks nearly as true-to-life as a photo? Does it mean we should not permit X-rays to be taken, which are photographs of internal parts of our bodies? If pictures of people's faces are wrong, why do we use things with such pictures every day, on our money and coins, and on our postage stamps.

So, if we answer in a literal and direct way, we would have to say no, the second commandment is NOT talking about snapshots. (If it were, what were the poor people supposed to make out of it for the thousands of years before the comparatively recent invention of the camera?)

Maybe someone will say Exo 20:4 means a graven image, a likeness carved or molded, with a 3-dimensional effect. But that wouldn't even include photographs.

However, if it is understood in an indirect way, yes, the plain people's traditional opposition to photographs and their tendency to be camera-shy can be connected with the commandment against idolatry. Taken in this indirect way some of the things that appear inconsistent in our stand begin to make sense. That will explain why we are not alarmed by the toy cow in our child's play box, or the picture on the postage stamp, but try to look the other way when somebody tries to hold a camera up in front of us.

We believe that posing for photographs is part of the world's mis-guided emphasis on glorifying the outward person. The Bible tells us that it's the inward man that is important (1 Pet 3:3-4). Fixing up our hair, wearing jewelry, bright colors, fancy clothing, these are the world's ways of drawing attention to the beauty of the created.

Yahweh wants us to honor the Creator, not the created. The world put's a lot of emphasis on a pretty girl or a handsome boy. As believers we should work against this kind of thinking. A person's facial features should not affect our opinion of a person's worth or value.

Thus, we believe that letting ourselves get involved in the world of photography leads us away from humility, not toward true humility. We already have problems with too much emphasis on dress and finery at weddings and such occasions. Going to a photo studio to have such occasions recorded in a permanent visual record only increases this temptation toward false values and unchristian adornment. We have enough pride in our hearts without feeding and encouraging it by doing things that tend to increase the temptations.

There's also the stewardship question. Photography is expensive. Once a church becomes involved in it, there seems to be no end to the sums that can be spent for equipment and film. **All this to attempt and make permanent what Yahweh has decreed shall pass away.**

In conclusion then, if we take the second commandment directly and literally, it doesn't make sense to apply it to our opposition to cameras. But taken in a more indirect way, things do begin to add up. We don't want to emphasize the outer self, lest we do it at the expense of the inner being. We don't want to exalt self, lest we rob the Creator of His glory.

It follows then that we are not opposed to the graven image in the toy box; few people are tempted to hang their hearts on a child's toy. That explains why we make the difference between the photograph of our backbone, and one of our faces. No proud grandfather has been tempted to impress people he meets by pulling from his wallet X-ray photos of his grandchild's spinal column! (This is also why some church groups allow snapshots to be taken when requested by the government for their files, photos not kept personally.)

No, let us not slip gradually, bit by bit, into the ways of the world, that lead into an emphasis on pride and personal vanity. When we are gone, let us not be remembered by how broad our noses were, the height of our brows, or the angle of cheekbones, but by what truly matters, the lives we have lived and the examples we have left.

Dust we are and to dust we shall return. Why frame and embellish and hang on the wall pictures of this house of clay in which we live? Let us beware, lest we permit self to be exalted, becoming unto us a graven image.

E. Stoll, 03-87

Letters from our Imprisoned Brethren...

... I was in prison, and you came to Me... Matthew 25:36b

Dear Congregation of Yahweh,

I pray this letter finds you all well. On behalf of our entire congregation, I want to thank you for the Bibles and the Love and encouragement from you. We have been so blessed in these last days to witness a dramatic return to the Hebraic Roots, and the sacred name of our Creator Yahweh, and Messiah Yahshua. "All Glory Be to His Name".

We are in tears of joy over the receipt of the Hebraic Roots Bibles. In addition to our weekly congregation, we now gather every night with 7 to 9 men from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm in detailed Bible Study. Our Sabbath congregation here in prison is at 40 men right now. When I started praying for all the men here to receive the call in their hearts by the Holy Spirit to open the word and desire the foundational roots of understanding in the original Hebrew, I had no idea that so many would hear and seek the emet, truth.

And the Hebrew letters reveal, The almighty Father's Spirit is the covenant. Meditation on scripture allows us to seal this covenant with Yahshua as the word. We will continue to study, mature walk, and grow in faith.

Ahav Rabbah,

Your Brother in Messiah Yahshua

Dear Don Esposito and friends,

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Messiah,

I'm writing this letter because I read elder Esposito's books and it has truly opened my eyes so much. I just finished the Gates of Hell Shall Not prevail Against Her. I love reading of the History of the true remnant congregation. Thank you.

Please, I am now requesting two more of Don Esposito's books, as this will give me all of them. And I know I will learn much from them. They are "Who is the Messiah of Israel" and "The Biblical Calendar".

Thank you very much for your love for the inmates.

A soldier for Messiah

Dear Brother Esposito,

Greetings in the name of our Father Yahweh through the power of the Ruach, in the name of Yahshua! I pray that you are blessed on this fine day. You will never know how much you through Him, have blessed our assembly here in our prison unit. It has taken 4 years to get where we are today.

We have the Hebraic Roots Bible, that is the only one I proclaim out of, during our Sabbath service on Saturday at 2:00pm. Since we don't have an assembly coming in to the service, it is one hour a week, but praise Yahweh for that.

We also have a video ministry on Monday at 8:00am for also one hour. We need your help first in being baptized by a true elder and having hands laid on us. I have been teaching in the assembly here for 4 years. Our service on the Torah is not like any other service here. We are hated by most of the other church mafia, please pray for us.

We are all part of the true congregation and need to be baptized in the name of Yahweh Yahshua, and have hands laid on us for the imparting of the Ruach h'Chodesh.

Thank you, and Yahweh bless in Yahshua,'s name

Dear Congregation of Yahweh (Jerusalem),

Greetings in His name,

I have been attending what the prisons call (Sabbatarians) for nearly four years, Enclosed is a prison pass to attend services that will verify what I say.

In my class and services, we have about 14 regular worshippers, and they are using your Bible, (the HRB). About 4 men carry this Bible. So I borrowed 1 for a week to examine it closer...It has nice large bold print great little notes with helps in the back that are very helpful as well...I have weak eyes and am 60 years of age as of April 6th, and this Bible is perfect. My only living loved one is very ill and old and on social security, with no husband, so I don't ask much of her...And, I have never gone to the prison store in the full nine years I have served.

Our FATHER provides all I really need...and a good solid Bible like that one is a big part of my daily life... (something I really need) So, if you might consider me for a nice Bible, I promise to read it faithfully and daily.

Please consider me if at all possible. I would be very happy and grateful to have a Bible like that.

In Messiah



Answers to your Questions

Q): *Is warming up already prepared and cooked food on the Shabbat a wrong thing to do?*

A) Lev 23:3 Work is to be done six days, and on the seventh day shall be a Sabbath of rest, a holy gathering; you shall do no work; it is a Sabbath to YAHWEH in all your dwellings.

The Bible restricts servile work, in which cooking is included. That would include any type of baking and boiling of any food. However, food that is already prepared and cooked does not require any work involved, and can be heated.

Q) *How can I balance 1 Cor 15:33 and Proverbs 27:17? Question-related to an article in Remnant's Walk 2018, summer edition Page 22-23.*

A) We do not see any contradiction with these two scriptures. Iron sharpens iron, but iron will destroy plastic. If your friends are a bad influence, they will not sharpen you, but dull your spiritual life. There are many proverbs against keeping bad relationships with bad people.

Q) *Is it bad if my neighbor gives me their daughter to be married because of my faith, and she is not a believer of Yahshua?*

A) Scripture is VERY clear that it is sin and wrong to marry a non-believer:

2Co 6:14 *Do not unite in marriage with unbelievers. For what partnership does righteousness have with lawlessness? And what fellowship does light have with darkness?*

2Co 6:15 *And what agreement does the Messiah have with Satan? Or what part does a believer have with an unbeliever?*

2Co 6:16 *And what harmony has the sanctuary of Elohim with idols? For you are the sanctuary of the living Elohim, even as it is said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them, and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people."*

2Co 6:17 *Because of this, "Come out from among them and be separated, says YAHWEH, and do not touch the unclean thing, and I will receive you."*

2Co 6:18 *"And I will be a Father to you, and you will be sons and daughters to Me, says YAHWEH Almighty."*

It will be destructive to both your physical and spiritual life and would not be allowed by the elders.

Q) *Please, I have two questions. The first one is located in 1 Corinthians 15:29. Here~ were believers being baptized for the dead ones? The second one is that~ did Yahshua really descend to hell to preach to the departed souls down there as is written in 1 Peter 3:18~20~ 4:6?*

A) First, in 1 Co 15:29, "Otherwise, what will they do, those being baptized for the dead? If the dead are not at all raised, why indeed are they baptized for the dead?"

The Apostle Paul here is not suggesting in any way that believers should be baptized for dead people. The point the Apostle Paul is trying to make is that if Yahshua never rose from the dead, then what would be the point of being baptized in His name, as you would be being baptized for a dead person, if He was never resurrected.

In the second question;

1Pe 3:18 *Because even Messiah once suffered concerning sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to YAHWEH; indeed being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit;*

1Pe 3:19 *and he preached to those souls, which were detained in Hades,*

1Pe 3:20 *which were formerly disobedient, in the days of Noah, when the long suffering of Elohim commanded an ark to be made, in hope of their repentance; and eight souls only entered into it, and were saved upon the water.*

1Pe 4:6 *For to this end also the good news was preached to the dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but might live according to YAHWEH in the Spirit.*

The definition for the word for hades is actually "*the dirt*" not hell, so this scripture is simply stating that those who are buried in the ground and are dead, did indeed hear the witness of truth through people like Noah, and also Enoch. And although their accountability in the great white throne judgment will be less than those who had more of Yahweh's truth, they will still be judged by the truth that they did know.

The word in Scripture that most people think of as a hell burning fire, is called "The Lake of Fire", or Gehenna fire.

Mat 10:28 *And you should not fear the ones killing the body, but not being able to kill the soul. But rather fear Him being able to destroy both soul and body in Gehenna*

Q) Sarah was the daughter of one of Abraham's parents. Was Abram in an incestuous marriage?

A) In Genesis 20:12 Abraham states that Sarah was his "achot", in the original Hebrew. This word can mean sister, but is also a general word for relative. Josephus and other Jewish writings state that Sarah was the cousin of Abraham, and the daughter of Abraham's father's brother, who died, and was raised by Abraham's father Terah, and therefore not his blood sister.

Q) Who are the sons of Elohim as in Gen 6:2 and Job 2:1?

A) The term Sons of Elohim in Hebrew is 'Bnai Elohim', and in Scripture can refer to both cherubs as in Job, and also the set apart lineage of Adam, that went through Noah, Abraham, King David, and Yahshua. That is why Yahshua is referred to as a Son of Man, or Son of Adam, and also, Son of Elohim.

Please listen to the message called "The Purpose of Man, Part 2 Lineage" in the video section of our website for a more in-depth study on the subject. www.coyhwh.com.

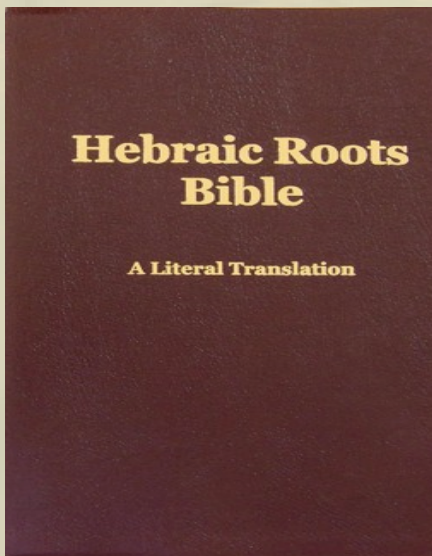
Q) Can you explain ... And Elohim created man in His own image~ in the image of Elohim created He him; male and female created He them

A) Gen 1:26 states "And Elohim said, let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;"

The animal kingdom was made only with instincts, and doesn't have a mind to think and ponder about things. The human mind is creative and can reason, it also has feelings, and the ability to love and feel sympathy. It can also appreciate a beautiful flower or a comforting song.

Also, mankind was made with hands, and eyes, and ears, and a mouth, as Scripture states that Yahweh also has. The only thing is mankind was made in Yahweh's image, but humans must grow into His likeness by rejecting their corrupted human nature, and receiving Yahweh's set apart, Holy Spirit, and growing in the 9 fruits of that Spirit listed in Galatians the 5th chapter.

For a further explanation you can read our study paper called "The Purpose of Man" listed in the study section online at www.coyhwh.com | There are also sermons on this subject with the same name in the video section.



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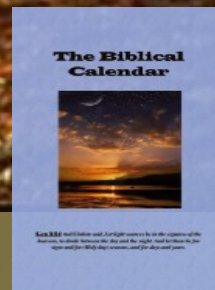
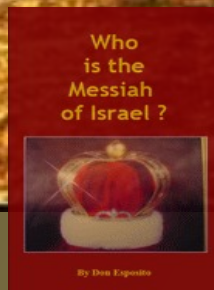
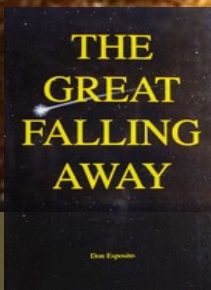
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Stand by the roads,
look, and ask for the
ancient paths, where
the good way is; and
walk in it, and find rest
for your souls.

Jer. 6:16



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