



# Remnants Walk

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

And YAHWEH came down on the mountain of Sinai,  
to the top of the mountain,  
and YAHWEH called Moses to the top of the mountain,  
and Moses went up.  
Exodus 19:20



**The Unity of Yahweh | The Glorious Calling of Women | First Things First  
Men are from Where?! Women are from What?!**

**Do you have a spiritual blind spot?**

**Between the Testaments – Origin of the Rabbis**

**Questions & Answers | Letters from our Readers**

## Time to FLEE

... 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

**A**nd Shalom in the wonderful names of Yahweh and Yahshua; the name above all names. As year after year seems to be flying on by I would like to share in this personal the exciting news of Yahweh's soon coming Kingdom. Never before has that Kingdom been closer than today.

When we consider the Kingdom of Yahweh strictly from a prophetic standpoint many only look at such subjects as when will Babylon fall or when will the mark of the beast be implemented. However, for the Kingdom of Yahweh to appear the most important aspect to happen first is that the first-fruit bride of Messiah must come out of the commercial world of Babylon around her and sanctify herself and make her garments white.

*Rev 19:6-9 And I heard as a sound of a numerous crowd, and as a sound of many waters, and as a sound of strong thunders, saying, HalleluYah! Because YAHWEH, Elohim, Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and let us exult, and we will give glory to Him, because the marriage of the Lamb came, and His wife prepared herself. And it was given to her that she be clothed in fine linen, pure and bright; for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints. And he said to me, Write: Blessed are the ones having been called to the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he said to me, These Words of YAHWEH are true.*

The exciting part of what is happening today is that we see this very thing happening. For the first time in my some-odd 33 years as a covenant believer I am seeing a transformation taking place in Yahshua's set apart congregation where brethren are willingly coming out of the world and starting to live in community style settings. And it is within these settings that we can feed off of each other to grow in the 9 fruits of the spirit and to lose ourselves and take on the very mind of Messiah.

The fact that this very important prophetic event is indeed starting to happen should make every true believer rejoice and shout for joy knowing that the return of Yahshua and the setting up of the Kingdom of Yahweh are much closer than when we first believed. In reality, this has always been the first and foremost commitment of a covenant believer to come out of Satan's society and sanctify their life and give it over to Yahshua, the one who gave His life for them. And only after freely surrendering their life to Yahshua and denying their own human nature acquired from Satan can the true believer start to exhibit and produce the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit, which are love, Joy, peace, patience, goodness, faith, kindness, meekness, and self control.

As the world over the last 3-5 years has gotten exponentially more evil, Yahweh's called out elect has actually grown exponentially in the fruits of His Spirit to prepare to rule with Yahshua in His soon coming Kingdom. Whatever you focus on becomes more real to you, and since what most of what we see in Satan's society is terror, and wickedness and immorality at times it can appear that this is a normal lifestyle.

However, it is far from normal and very shortly when Yahweh's Kingdom covers this whole earth we will never again see sin for eternity. Never again will it ever come into the mind of a human being to violate one of Yahweh's commandments and every single person who will be in that Kingdom will serve Yahweh with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength. This is what we were called for; this is our destiny, how exciting that our destiny is so very close to becoming reality.

Isa 66:23 And it will be, from new moon to its new moon, and from Sabbath to its Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before Me, says YAHWEH.

B'Shem Yahshua,

*Don*

# Are we holding back the unity of Yahweh?

By Don Esposito

In John the 17th chapter Yahshua prays a very special prayer to Yahweh, the Father, asking the Father to unify us with them with the same unity that they have with each other.

***Joh 17:6*** I revealed Your name to the men whom You gave to Me out of the world. They were Yours, and You gave them to Me; **and they have kept Your Word.**

***Joh 17:9*** I pray concerning them; I do not pray concerning the world, but concerning the ones whom You gave to Me, because they are Yours.

***Joh 17:11*** And no longer am I in the world, yet these are in the world; and I come to You. Holy Father, **keep them in Your name, those whom You gave to Me, that they may be echad (united) as We are echad.**

***Joh 17:14*** I have given them Your Word, **and the world hated them because they are not of the world, as I am not of the world.**

***Joh 17:15*** I do not pray that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil.

***Joh 17:16*** They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

***Joh 17:17*** Sanctify them in Your Truth; Your Word is Truth.

***Joh 17:20*** And I do not pray concerning these only, but also concerning those who will believe in Me through their word;

***Joh 17:21*** that all may be echad (unified), as You are in Me Father and I in You, that they also may be echad(unified) in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

***Joh 17:22*** And I have given them the glory which You have given Me, that they may be echad, as We are echad (united):

***Joh 17:23*** I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected in one; and that the world may know that You sent Me and loved them, even as You loved Me.

***Joh 17:26*** And I made known Your name to them, and will make it known, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.

This is one of the most powerful requests that Yahshua had ever made on behalf of us believers, that I believe many believers have overlooked and as a result and have not tapped into the power of the answer to this great prayer by Yahweh. Also, it is quite striking that Yahshua says in verse 21, that the world will believe that Yahweh sent Him by seeing our unified Spirit with each other.

Yahweh and Yahshua are two distinct, separate eternal beings, who are one (echad) united by the Ruach H'Chodesh (Holy Spirit), which is what they are made up of. Never in scripture is the Set Apart Spirit of Yahweh a separate being with a free will that operates apart from Yahweh and Yahshua.

The Holy Spirit (Ruach H'Chodesh) in scripture is literally the mind of Yahweh and Yahshua. It is what they are, how they think, and the very manifestation of them. We are human and as humans we are housed in a fleshly body. Most humans never truly understand how our human body controls most of our actions, and even our very existence.

Think about it for a moment; for the average human being on this earth, every day that they live, their thoughts, their goals, and their purpose is almost entirely bound by their fleshly body.

They awake in the morning and usually to most humans their first thought is on washing their bodies, and then, their next thoughts are on eating to feed their bodies, putting on nice clothes and fixing their hair etc., to make their fleshly bodies look as pleasant as possible.

Then, most humans will travel to a worldly job to work for maybe 8 to 12 hours a day strictly to gain money to house, clothe, feed and nourish their flesh. Then, when they are not working, almost all the human motivation is toward some sort of pleasure seeking avenue to appease the fleshly body in which they are housed.

They will go to worldly secular movies, play golf and other sporting activities, join clubs, frequent nice restaurants, as well as a host of other activities that if one is honest with themselves is simply to appease the flesh by one of the 5 senses of taste, smell, sight, touch, and hearing. Not to mention also how psychologically this avenue of appeasing the 5 senses can drive humans' minds in a sexual capacity, and you needn't look very far to see the epidemic of sexual iniquity in thought and action in the world today with the abounding number of people using the Internet to view pornography and to be sexually promiscuous.

And that brings me to the next point of the human being; he is simply enthralled almost 24/7 with pleasing himself in the flesh by the 5 senses we mentioned. If we are honest with ourselves, setting aside the fact that as newborn babies we may be beautiful and cute, that from birth, humans are 100% instinctive to only care for their own needs.

A newborn baby who hungers will scream and cry until he/she gets the milk their human body is craving. They are not thinking of the pain and stress their poor mother just went through to give birth and give them life. They are not thinking of the endless hours that went into labor, or the extreme exhaustion that their new mommy is feeling. They simply (by instinct) have a human need of hunger from the 5 senses and will scream and cry until they get that human need met.

And just like that newborn baby, as humans grow up and become adults, with this very same human nature they will inevitably seek to continue to gratify their own flesh through these five senses. And the more that they can feed those 5 senses the more addictive they become and consequently become totally self-centered on their own fleshly gratification.

This is why Yahshua came into this world. He came to conquer and destroy the selfish, self-centered human nature, and to give us a new nature through the Ruach H'Chodesh (Holy Spirit), which is the very mind of Messiah. He came to show us that if we willingly surrender our human nature and free will that we received from birth to Him, that His very nature will dwell in us through His very Spirit, which is His very mind. This is a great mystery to most, but a reality to those who are called according to purpose.

***Col 1:26*** *even the mystery having been hidden from the ages and from the generations, but now is revealed to His saints;*

***Col 1:27*** *to whom YAHWEH willed to make known what are the riches of **the glory of this mystery among the nations, which is Messiah in you, the hope of glory;***

***Col 1:28*** *Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may cause every man to become perfect in Messiah Yahshua,*

***Col 1:29*** *and to this end I also labor, struggling according to **the working of Him who works in me in power.***

***1Co 2:4*** *And my word and my preaching was not in enticing words of human wisdom, but with the demonstration of the Spirit, and with power;*

***1Co 2:5*** *that your faith might not be in the wisdom of men, but in the power of YAHWEH.*

***1Co 2:6*** *But we speak wisdom among those who have comprehension, but not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, those being brought to nothing.*

***1Co 2:7*** *But **we speak the wisdom of YAHWEH in a mystery,** having been hidden, which YAHWEH ordained before the world for our glory,*

***1Co 2:8*** *which none of the rulers of this age has known. For if they had known, they would not have crucified the Master of glory;*

***1Co 2:9*** *according as it has been written, "Eye has not seen, and ear has not heard," nor has it risen up into the heart of man, the things which YAHWEH has prepared for those that love Him. (Isa. 64:4)*

***1Co 2:10*** *But **YAHWEH revealed them to us by His Spirit,** for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of YAHWEH.*

***1Co 2:11*** *For who among men knows the things of a man, except the spirit of a man within him? So also **no one has known the things of YAHWEH except the Spirit of YAHWEH.***

**1Co 2:12** *But we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit from YAHWEH, so that we might know the things that are freely given to us by YAHWEH.*

**1Co 2:13** *For the things which we discuss, are not dependant on the knowledge of words and man's wisdom, but on the teaching of the Holy Spirit, thus explaining spiritual things with the spiritual minded.*

**1Co 2:14** *But the material man rejects the things of the Spirit of YAHWEH, for they are foolishness to him, and he is not able to know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

**1Co 2:15** *But the spiritual man discerns everything, and yet no man is able to discern him.*

**1Co 2:16** *For "Who has known the mind of YAHWEH that he will instruct Him?" **But we have the mind of Messiah.***

This is the great hope and destiny of every true Disciple of Yahshua H'Mashiach. And this is the only hope of unity in the Body of Messiah. As we are one body, and we all have one hope, and one faith, and Yahweh is the one Father of us all, but if we will fight our fleshly, self-centered human nature, and allow His Holy Spirit to overtake our hearts and minds, then we will literally think and act not to the fleshly human side, but to the very nature of Yahweh Himself. We will be unified as Yahweh only has one mind (Spirit), and if each of us is surrendering to that one Spirit, then we would all have the same love, goal, loyalty, and purpose.

**Rom 8:5** *For the ones that are according to flesh mind the things of the flesh. And the ones according to Spirit mind the things of the Spirit.*

**Rom 8:6** *To be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace;*

**Rom 8:7** *because the mind of the flesh is enmity towards YAHWEH; for it is not subject to the Torah of YAHWEH, for it is not possible to be so.*

**Rom 8:8** *And those being in the flesh are not able to please YAHWEH.*

**Rom 8:9** *But you are not in flesh, but in Spirit, since the Spirit of YAHWEH dwells in you. But if anyone has not the Spirit of Messiah, this one does not belong to Him.*

**Rom 8:10** *But if Messiah is in you, the body indeed is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*

**Rom 8:11** *But if the Spirit of the One having raised Yahshua from the dead dwells in you, the One having raised the Messiah from the dead will also make your mortal bodies live through the indwelling of His Spirit in you.*

**Rom 8:12** *So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to flesh,*

**Rom 8:13** *for if you live according to flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the practices of the body, you will live.*

And if we work on this each day of our life and if we truly surrender daily to this wonderful Spirit of Yahshua that is living in us after baptism and the laying on of hands of an ordained elder of Yahweh, then we are becoming the very children and offspring of Yahweh the Father.

**Rom 8:14** *For as many as are led by the Spirit of YAHWEH, these are sons of YAHWEH.*

**Rom 8:15** *For you did not receive a spirit of slavery again to fear, but you received a Spirit of sonship by which we cry, Abba! Father!*

**Rom 8:16** *The Spirit itself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of YAHWEH.*

**Rom 8:17** *And if children, also heirs; truly heirs of YAHWEH, and joint heirs of Messiah, if indeed we suffer together, that we may also be glorified together.*

This is the miracle that Yahweh is performing in the world today; that He can take fleshly corrupted human beings with a corrupted selfish human nature, and literally through the freewill surrender of that nature to Yahweh, and the transplanting of His Holy Spirit in us, can we become His very offspring.

However, as long as we are still tabernacling in human flesh we will always have to fight the old nature and grow in the grace and mind of Yahshua Messiah daily. It is not a onetime battle, but a lifelong battle. However every day that we draw closer to Yahweh and strengthen ourselves with His Spirit and become more like Him, the easier it becomes as our life progresses. But we know that we will never fully accomplish this great transformation until Yahshua returns, and then, we will finally shed these corrupted mortal bodies, once and for all, and clothe ourselves with the full measure of Yahweh's Ruach H'Chodesh and immortality.

**1Co 15:35** But someone will say, How are the dead raised? And with what body do they come?

**1Co 15:36** Foolish one! What you sow is not made alive unless it dies.

**1Co 15:37** 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,

**1Co 15:38** and YAHWEH gives it a body according as He willed, and to each of the seeds its own natural body.

**1Co 15:39** Not every flesh is the same flesh, but there is one flesh of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another of fish, and another of birds.

**1Co 15:40** And there are heavenly bodies, and earthly bodies. But the glory of the heavenly is truly different, and that of the earthly different;

**1Co 15:41** one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

**1Co 15:42** So also the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.

**1Co 15:43** It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

**1Co 15:44** It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body; there is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

**1Co 15:45** So also it has been written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." The last Adam a life-giving Spirit. (Gen. 2:7)

**1Co 15:46** But not the spiritual first, but the natural; afterward the spiritual.

**1Co 15:47** The first man was out of earth, earthy. The second Man was the Master out of Heaven. (Gen. 2:7)

**1Co 15:48** As is the earthy man, such also are the earthy ones. And such as is the heavenly Man, such also are the heavenly ones.

**1Co 15:49** And as we bore the image of the earthy man, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one.

**1Co 15:50** And I say this, brothers, that flesh and blood is not able to inherit the kingdom of YAHWEH, nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

**1Co 15:51** Behold, I speak a mystery to you: We shall not all fall asleep, but we shall all be changed.

**1Co 15:52** 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.**

**1Co 15:53** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

**1Co 15:54** But when this corruptible shall put on incorruption, and this mortal shall put on immortality, then will take place the Word that has been written, "Death was swallowed up in victory." (Isa. 25:8)

**1Co 15:55** "O death, where is your sting? Hades, where is your victory?" (Hos. 13:14)

**1Co 15:56** Now the sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the Law;

**1Co 15:57** but thanks be to YAHWEH who gives us the victory through our Master Yahshua Messiah!

**1Co 15:58** So that, my beloved brothers, you be firm, immovable, abounding in the work of YAHWEH always, knowing that your labor is not without fruit in the Master YAHWEH.

Revelation 12:9 says that "Satan has deceived the whole world". And he has done so by tempting mankind through the five senses of taste, touch, smell, hearing, and sight through appealing to our human nature. And unfortunately, most humans simply are too weak and love themselves too much that they become willing participants in this great deception.

**2Th 2:9** His coming is due to the working of Satan in all power and miraculous signs and lying wonders,

**2Th 2:10** and in all deceit of unrighteousness **in those who will perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth in order for them to be saved.**

**2Th 2:11** And because of this, YAHWEH will send to them a working of deception, for them to believe the lie,

**2Th 2:12** that those not believing in the truth, but who have delighted in unrighteousness all may be damned.

It is not enough to simply seek the truth, and then, pick and choose what part of the truth fits our corrupted lifestyle. No, we have to love the truth with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. We have to follow only Yahshua and the elders that He handpicked and never be surfing the Internet looking at false religious websites, and all kinds of false conspiracy theories, which is spiritual harlotry in the eyes of Yahweh.

***Isa 8:12 Do not say, A conspiracy, to everything of which this people says, A conspiracy! And do not fear its fear, and do not dread.***

***Joh 10:9 I am the gate. If anyone enters through Me, he will have life, and will go in, and will go out, and will find pasture.***

***Joh 10:2 But the one entering through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.***

***Joh 10:3 The doorkeeper opens to him, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name, and leads them out.***

***Joh 10:4 And when he puts forth his own sheep, he goes in front of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.***

***Joh 10:5 But they will not follow a foreigner, never! But they will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of the strangers.***

In order to keep the one true unity that Yahshua prayed for in John the 17th chapter, His disciples must make a conscious effort to reject any and all false doctrine from anyone or anywhere that is not part of Yahshua's own selected leadership and the true body of Messiah.

It is selfish, prideful, human nature and NOT the Spirit of Yahweh that will eagerly, hour after hour, be searching false lying websites that have been placed there by Satan. And understand the truth about this, that it is Spiritual pornography and treason in the eyes of Yahweh and the very opposite of His blessing of oneness, unity and purity of truth in His congregation. And in the end it will only lead to doubt, falsehoods, and deception and ultimately the falling away from the truth. You must fight your human nature daily and allow the Holy Spirit to rule your human spirit, as the Holy Spirit of Yahweh would never look at websites contrary to the word of Yahweh and His true doctrine.

We have such a gift by the imparting of the Holy Spirit into our very being. We do not want to blaspheme that Spirit by mixing it with Satan's lies and deception. Instead we want to be daily focusing on surrendering to Yahweh in everything, to be praying without ceasing, to be studying the word daily, and to be allowing the Holy Spirit of Yahweh to transform our earthly, corrupted minds into the mind of Messiah. And even though we only can experience this now in the flesh to some degree, we look forward to the day when we will be fully transformed into the very nature and character of Yahweh Himself.

***1Co 13:12 For now we see through a mirror in dimness, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will fully know even as I also am fully known.***

What a great future we have to look forward to if we stay faithful and allow His Spirit to transform us and help us to be overcomers until the time of that great change at Yahshua's return. Truly, there is no greater joy to Father Yahweh, then the true unity of His children. I believe the starting of the Kibbutz mindset in the Congregation of Yahweh is another step toward the unity mindset that is needed for His soon coming Kingdom.

***Psa 133:1 Behold! How good and how pleasant it is, for brethren living together, even in unity.***

***Psa 133:2 It is like the precious oil on the head that ran down on the beard, Aaron's beard, going down to the mouth of his garments;***

***Psa 133:3 like the dew of Hermon coming down on the mountains of Zion; for there YAHWEH commanded the blessing: life forevermore. ■***



# Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus. Really?

by Don Esposito

As a Pastor for 22 years I have been blessed to council with many different people and a large portion thereof has been marital counseling. We even have full classes and workshops on relationships and communication at the Hayahad Bible school were we train couples to work together as a team in the marriage relationship...

It is quite funny how things most often go the same way, no matter which particular couple or group I may be working with. I will usually break down the men and women into two different groups and have a short prep meeting with each to assess what the particular needs and problems may be in each particular case.

With that said most sessions unequivocally go the same way. First I will meet with the men, which will take about 10 to 15 minutes; as I ask each individual *what one thing if he had to chose would he want from his wife in their marriage*, it's almost is always the same short to the point answer. I *want more support & respect* from my wife and for her to listen to me when I tell her something. Most of the other men will agree and then that pretty much ends the first session which is only for inquiries and assessment.

Then I will meet with the ladies and ask them the same question and again almost unequivocally the answer is always *I would like to be loved more*, and then usually we have a very emotional heartfelt session for About one hour in which the women will in very graphic detail explain why they want more love out of their marriages.

This is very A typical for relationship counseling sessions with men and women. Men are short and to the point, women are descriptive and explanatory. Men are very blunt and direct, women are very emotional and graphic. Men are the visionaries and women are the details. Like the book says *men are from Mars and women are from Venus*.

When we are dealing with relationships and in particular the marriage covenant, both sides must realize these differences to truly solve family problems and have harmony in the relationship.

Another very important point to mention when dealing with this subject, is the fact that it was Yahweh who created the sexes differently and not humans.

So when the wife criticizes their husband for not having more emotion, or the husband is criticizing the wife for being too detailed and taking too much time, we are really criticizing Yahweh for the way He created the different sexes to be.

***Gen 1:27 And Elohim created the man in His own image; in the image of Elohim He created him. He created them male and female.***

In order to truly make the marriage covenant work in harmony is for both spouses not only to understand the different physical, chemical and emotional balance that each one has, but to truly appreciate it for the gift it is.

A woman needs to appreciate and thank Yahweh for the fact that He created men to be leaders that can give them the comfort and security that is needed to make them totally content in the relationship, being the weaker vessel, and the man needs to appreciate the thought and detail that a woman can put into a project, such as interior decorating of the home, that a man at best could only make look like a exotic clubhouse.

I owned my own house at the young age of only 19 years old and I was very proud of that accomplishment. It was fairly clean and I always kept my house neat. I had very nice paintings on the wall and good quality furniture in the living and dining areas, but almost without fail every time a woman would be in the house, they would make the comment " I can tell a bachelor lives here" and for years I could never understand it until I got married.

I always say I had a house at 19 years old, but when I got married my wife Petra made it into a home. I appreciate her homemaking skills and encourage them, knowing that it is part of her character, and the person that Yahweh created her to be.

But what about the question of the woman wanting more love? Could they be asking, in many circumstances, for something that men may just not have to give in a way that a woman does, or maybe wants?

Is maybe Hollywood and romance books and our modern society portraying love and romance in an unrealistic and fairy tale fashion that is damaging to true life circumstances?

In a world where society gears most people through TV and advertising to be discontent and never satisfied we cannot let these feelings surface in Yahweh's congregation. As we mentioned, women are more emotional, where men are more rational thinkers, and I believe that the Madison Avenue image and the constant peer pressure in society on our converted ladies may be causing them discontent more from having their minds on the things below on this earth, than on the things above. They are emotional because Yahweh made them that way, but Satan also knows that and will try to play on that emotion to bring discontent into the family unit.

Ladies, did you ever think that going out to work every day and providing the rent and the food and the clothing for you and your children is showing love to you? Do you think that being faithful in your marriage and honoring the wife of his youth is also showing love to you? Remember as hard as it is to be a woman in this end time society, it is not much easier to be a man. There is ample pressure for a man to provide for his family, spend time with his wife and children, and keep his spiritual life on line with Yahweh. In Satan's end time society that can be quite a juggling act.

And the next thing I would like to ask the ladies is "what makes you think you deserve to be loved?" Love is not an inalienable right that everyone gets just for the asking, but it is a law of cause and effect and the one who wants to be loved must give it out in order to receive it back.

***Pro 18:24 A man that hath friends must show himself friendly:***

***Mat 7:2 for with whatever judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with whatever measure you measure, it will be measured again back to you.***

Clearly, this scripture shows as we measure out to others it will be measured back to us. So I ask you ladies, how big has your measuring cup been? This is a law of Yahweh, so if you feel that you're not getting enough love, then clearly you are not giving enough love either.

It is truly a question that you ladies need to pray about, because Yahweh's word cannot be broken and maybe the problem is not lying in your husband's corner, but maybe you are allowing Satan to play with your emotions as the weaker vessel to feel insecure.

Also, remember even the greatest of husbands can never truly give a woman real security. Only the true Shepherd, our Savior Yahshua can give us the spiritual security that all of need in our lives. Psalm 23 states Yahweh is my Shepherd I will not want, when we are secure with Yahweh, then we will be secure in our marriage.

Now men, on the other hand, knowing how bad the peer pressure is in this evil world to our women, out of our love for our wives this should make us even more sensitive to their feelings and to make them feel as secure as we humanly can.

Were as men are more visual, women are more emotional and need to hear more often how we care for them, and how nice they look for us, and how much we appreciate all the little things they do in cooking and cleaning for us and caring for our children. Are you truly loving your wife as Yahshua loves the congregation (Eph 5:25)

***Pro 25:11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in baskets of silver.***

When you look at creation, everything that Yahweh created needed the thing that He created the day after or previously for survival. The seeds and plants were created on day three and it needed the sun and moon for oxygen which were created the next day. In the same way, the man needs the woman that was created after him.

Remember the woman came out of the man and this means the man is not complete without the woman, and when the marriage covenant takes place, a miracle of Yahweh happens, and the two are put back together, and once again become one. So when we criticize our spouse we are criticizing ourselves.

So you see the answer to the dilemma is quite simple; if women will honor and show more respect to their husbands, then by Yahweh's law of nature, the husband will automatically show more love to his wife and visa versa. By getting our mind off ourselves and on others then we will get the comfort and security that we all desire. It's actually pretty simple if we just apply it, I guess men really aren't from Mars and women from Venus. ■

# Father should know best – But does He?



The future of humanity hinges on whether we as Believers obey YHWH's instruction to fathers!

Reprint from The Good News Magazine.

"Let me give you one piece of advice," the older man said. Through the window of the 747, Paris shone beautiful in the springtime sun. My traveling companion on the flight to New York had introduced himself as a businessman returning from West Africa, and we proceeded to talk for several hours. But it was only when the discussion turned to families that the man saw it fit to offer me his heartfelt wisdom: "Let me give you one piece of advice. Spend time with your children *now*."

However, the phenomenon of the father who, for whatever reasons, spends little time with his children is not cause for a mere passing regret before moving on to a more pleasant topic of conversation. The Bible tells us that the world will face a time of terrible suffering largely because, believe it or not, most fathers are not being fathers now. Does this seem like an over dramatization of the problem? Let's look at what the prophet Malachi had to say about the subject.

## The hearts of the fathers

Describing our day, Malachi spoke of worldwide upheaval that would take place unless the fathers turn their hearts, concerns, emotions, and intellects towards their children.

*"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of YHWH. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse ["utter destruction," Revised Standard Version, margin]" (Mal. 4:5-6).*

Here is a desperately serious warning for all of us. YHWH says the end result of a father's lack of responsibility is, simply, **utter destruction!**

## Just what is a father's family responsibility?

Fathers become fathers by taking up the reins of family leadership. Irrespective of modern opinions, the Bible teaches that a father is meant to be a loving authority figure, the head of his home, his wife and his children. A father's responsibility in the home is vital -- so vital that, in the absence of a father properly fulfilling his purpose, others try to fill the vacuum. The prophet Isaiah prophesied just what would happen when father in a society became ineffective:

***"As for My people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them" (Isa 3:12).***

Because husbands and fathers have abdicated their YHWH given responsibilities as leaders, guides and the ones who set and maintain standards, wives and children fill the void.

The integrity YHWH intended for the family unit is shattered. Respect, untaught in the home, becomes a rare commodity, and “the child will be insolent toward the elder” (verse 5). The whole society is upset, confused as to where to turn for guidance.

### **Fathers vs. mothers**

The most stable and productive societies have been those in which men and women have understood their YHWH-ordained functions in the family and have taken a moderate, balanced view of life and its responsibilities. For centuries of Western history, the pendulum has swung back and forth between societies dominated by men. Both extremes produce wrong results, because neither is what YHWH intended. Under the influence of Satan, the “prince of the power of the air” (**Eph. 2:2**), we have chosen to rely on our own minds, instead of turning to YHWH as the source of instruction.

YHWH has ordained a healthy balance between male and female responsibilities in child rearing, but with the father in overall control. The guidance and nurturing of the children by their mothers is absolutely vital, but under the right leadership of the father. Let’s take a closer look at the role of fatherhood today, identifying the problems and understanding just how YHWH has decreed that fathers should shoulder their responsibilities.

### **Fathers must be present**

Possibly the No. 1 problem among fathers today is simply not being there -- not spending time with children before they have grown up. The cases of the executive always off on business, the workaholic who rises early and leaves before the children are up and comes home after they have gone to bed, the man who spends his afternoons and evenings having a “beer with the boys,” only tell part of the story, however.

How many fathers, while not exactly committing the error of not being around, come home after a hard day, invade the refrigerator or liquor cabinet and use the television set as a barrier between themselves and their offspring, all the while telling themselves they are at home with the family?

How many fathers bring home a briefcase full of papers and disappear “not to be disturbed,” hardly seeing their children during the week? And the weekend? Well, it’s for relaxation on the golf course with “the boys” -- adults, that is, not children.

It is well known that the first two years of a child’s life are critical in so many ways, and especially in forming right perceptions of male and female roles. Absence of either parent at this crucial time can produce severe emotional and behavioral problems later in life. Children emulate their parents. They cannot emulate what they do not see.

### **Fathers must be leaders**

Predating social scientists by hundreds of years, YHWH long ago explained that a father should be neither harsh nor permissive.

Notice (**Ephesians 6:4**) “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training [or, more accurately, “with discipline”] and admonition of YHWH.” Notice *Proverbs 22:6* “*Train up a child in the way should go, and even when he is old, the will not depart from it*” (*Jewish Publication Society*).

There is an important difference between this translation and the Authorized Version’s rendition of the verse. The JPS editors correctly included the word *even*, omitted in the King James Version. This omission permit’s a misunderstanding of the scripture.

The Jewish translation stresses that with right leadership and caring instruction by parents in agreement, a child reared in YHWH’s way will not depart from it, even in old age. In other words, the child’s obedience will mature throughout life and up through old age. This verse cannot be used to excuse delinquent behavior during the teenage and young-adult years.

## Fathers must spend time

This world's economic and educational systems have removed father from the family for most of the child's waking hours.

In a study to determine how much time middle-class American fathers spend with their young children, microphones placed on the youngsters recorded their conversations. The average amount of contact with father was 37 seconds a day! Other studies showed a meager 90 minutes a week for children aged 6-10. Sadly, much of the responsibility for guiding, instructing and disciplining children falls to the mother, who is usually more available during the day. But under such pressure, many mothers, unsupported by their husbands, allow their children to decide their own behavior well before they are capable.

The conspiracy against the family is completed by a social system that encourages even women with children to leave the home to seek outside work.

The long-term effects on children of this poverty of leadership in the home are everywhere to be seen in the explosion of the number of "latchkey" kids -- young children entrusted with a house key because they regularly must come home from school to a locked, empty house -- and the sad but all too common eventual effects of teenage drug abuse and juvenile crime.

Statistics from Canada show that one in every 10 children has an emotional or learning disorder. In Canada, too, young people up to age 19 account for 27 percent of first admissions to psychiatric hospitals and clinics. But this kind of information has lost its shock value; it has become common-place. We are reaping the whirlwind of social disintegration. Devoid of the kind of leadership YHWH requires of fathers, we daily prove that *"a child left to himself brings shame to his mother"* (Prov. 29:15 To the father YHWH says, *"He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly"* (Prov. 13:24).

In a world that, in the name of love, increasingly decries spanking of any kind, it is significant that YHWH says such sparing of the rod equals hatred, not love, of the child. Now, by correction and discipline are we to understand severe physical punishment? Clearly not! First, we instruct our children on the behavior expected. We make sure they understand. If behavior does not improve, then it may be necessary to emphasize the rules by spanking in moderation.

Physical correction of wrong behavior should never be done in anger, but out of deep love. It should be accompanied by a reasoned explanation of why the correction is necessary and reassurance of the parents' love. Balance and wisdom in disciplining our children are the keynotes. A child corrected in this way, in Love, will show real love and respect in return.

The Bible reveals, too, that there is a time limit on effective child rearing: *"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying"* (Prov. 19:18, AV).

"For his crying" is better translated "to his destruction." That is, if we do not correct our children, we are contributing to their eventual failure. We will not mold in them the pattern of life that guarantees YHWH's blessings. We are now experiencing "a generation that curses its father, and does not bless its mother" (Prov. 30:11). The predicament results from poor and inattentive training, where the father has not taken the initiative in rearing the children and, where he has taken the initiative, the mother has undermined his efforts.

## An elect group

The family, according to YHWH's Word, should be an integrated unit functioning smoothly and harmoniously, in love, mercy and right discipline. It should be an embryo of YHWH's Family -- YHWH's Kingdom in microcosm. How well their fathers fulfill their responsibilities will partly determine their places in that Kingdom.

*"The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who begets a wise child will delight in him"* (Prov. 23:24).

Fathers, just how well are your hearts turned to your children? ■

# First things First

Reprint article from the Old Good News Magazine

***Here's the key to establishing right spiritual priorities. It's a must in simplifying your life! The first law of success is to have the right goal. When we are without a goal, we live a purposeless life. Yahshua made our spiritual goal crystal clear: "Seek first the kingdom of Elohim and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33).***

That wasn't just a nice-sounding platitude. It is a principle Disciples must base their lives on! Seeking Yahweh's Kingdom and His righteousness should affect all our activities, all our decisions, and all our thoughts.

But how? In **Ephesians 5:15-16**, Paul admonishes us, ***"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil."*** How well do you use your time? What's first in your life?

Proper spiritual health requires prayer and Bible study. How much time do you use for these spiritual priorities – especially compared with, for example, watching television? How you use each day's time demonstrates your real priorities – how much you seek Yahweh's righteousness. If most of this day has already slipped by without any prayer or Bible study, you should seriously examine your priorities. There are more important things to do than entertaining the physical senses.

John put it in plain language: ***"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world"*** (1 John 2:15-16). If you are too busy to pray, too busy to study the Bible, too busy to spend time with your children, too busy to help others, then you are indeed *too busy*. Now, more than at any other time in history, we need to simplify our lives. We need to limit the number of activities that can tempt us to take time away from spiritual priorities.

Satan's world offers an almost unlimited variety of amusing, entertaining diversions. Some are obviously sinful. Others are merely wasters of time. Some are even worthwhile in themselves, but can nevertheless at times interfere with our spiritual needs. We must take control of our lives so we can bring even our thoughts into captivity to Yahshua Messiah (**Corinthians 10:5**). We shouldn't let circumstances run our lives. This is the key to understanding and maintaining the right spiritual priorities: We must simplify our lives until we can see clearly what we are doing with our lives and with our time.

## **Spend time with family**

If you haven't spent any time with your children all day, you have an Elohim given obligation that is more important than watching a sports event. If watching television causes you to sin against your own children, stop watching so much television.

In Western societies, many mothers consider it more important to work at some career than to stay at home and rear their children. Sometimes they do it because their husbands insist. Sometimes it is absolutely necessary, but many times it is not. Benefits of the extra income are usually shared with the children, but the material benefits do them no good in the long run because they were not given the amount of time and training they needed. ***"A child left to himself brings shame to his mother"*** (Proverbs 29:15).

Many fathers desert their wives and children and choose to work inordinate amounts of overtime. For some, extra work is the only way to sufficiently “provide for their own.” But for many, it’s a desire to go from sufficiency to abundance, or from abundance to surplus.

Some are struggling to make the payments on a second car, or perhaps a house larger than they really need or can afford. If material things cause us to sin to fail to meet our Elohim ordained responsibilities – we should cut them out of our lives.

Studies reveal working fathers spend an average of 10 minutes a day reading, talking or playing with their children. Working mothers spend 16 minutes a day. Children’s daily television time, whether or not their mother works, exceeds two hours. Are you one of these statistics?

If we continually stay up so late working that we are only half functioning, then we cannot pray as we ought to, not study effectively, nor train our children. If we accept so many job responsibilities that we cannot come home in a good mood, we aren’t loving others as Elohim commands.

### **Our two-fold priority**

Our primary spiritual goal is to seek Yahweh’s Kingdom. But Yahshua didn’t stop there. He said we must also seek **Yahweh’s righteousness**. We can’t have one without the other.

Kind David clearly defines righteousness: **“All your commandants are righteousness” (Psalms 199:172)**. Keeping Elohim’s commandments is vitally important. “The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of Elohim.” (I Corinthians 6:9). Although the Kingdom is not yet ruling over all the earth, it must rule over us now.

Too many people want Elohim’s Kingdom to come simply so they won’t have to face and overcome their own problems. If your desire for Yahweh’s Kingdom is purely selfish, you will not be in Yahweh’s Kingdom. Yahweh will not give eternal life to any person whose basic motives are selfish.

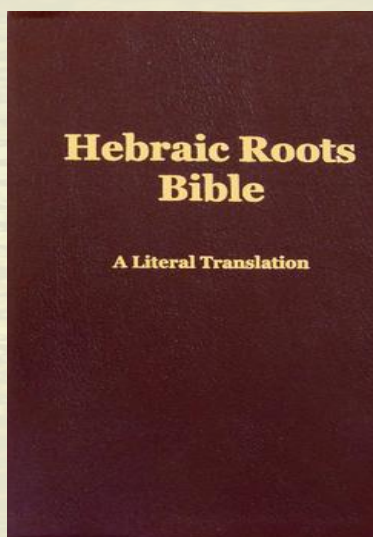
And since Yahweh’s people will, with Yahshua, reign in Yahweh’s Kingdom (**Daniel 7:27, Revelation 20:6**), each individual is preparing for Elohim’s Kingdom by learning to rule righteously in whatever area where Yahweh has given us responsibility now. You have the chance to be part of the solution, rather than part of the problem.

Yahshua commanded, **“Seek first the kingdom of Elohim and His righteousness.”** Notice what Yahshua Messiah promised. If we maintain the right priorities, “all these things (the food, drink and clothing we need) shall be added to you” (**Matthew 6:25-33**).

Yahweh will take care of us if we put Him first in our day-to-day lives. But it does require faith to seek the spiritual first. We must be willing to give our lives in obedience to Yahshua. Many have been killed because they obeyed Elohim. Of course, for many people, ridicule is worse than death. If you keep Yahweh’s laws, others may laugh at you. The real test of our priorities many times is not dying for our faith – it is living according to our faith. Look at your own life. If you are involved in so many activities that they cause you to sin, you must cut them out of your life. You must simplify your life until you can think clearly. Only then can you give proper priority to what you do, bring your thoughts into captivity and redeem the time. Remember, don’t just set goals, set the *right* goal, “Seek first the kingdom of Elohim and His righteousness.

We finished printing the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Hebraic Roots Study Bible last August. The Bible is loaded with historical, archaeological and doctrinal notes to help the reader truly understand the Bible from a true Hebraic Roots’ perspective.

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# Time to Flee...

Believers are told that they must remain in the world, and yet not be a part of it. But just how far should you go in avoiding the world's ways?

Reprint Article from the Old Good News Magazine

Joseph had proved himself to be a hard worker. Even though his brothers sold him into slavery, he still applied Elohim's laws about diligent service (**Ecclesiastes 9:10/Ephesians 6:5-6**).

On more than one occasion, Potiphar's wife made advances that would have tempted any red-blooded young man. Joseph, however, considered Elohim's commands more attractive than the body of this Egyptian woman, and instead of heeding her alluring words, Joseph ran as fast as he could away from the enticing situation. Joseph didn't want to stay around to see how well he could resist the temptation. He knew he must, at all costs, avoid any situation that might lead to sin.

## Overriding Principle

When Paul tells us that we must "*flee fornication*" (**1 Corinthians 6:18**), he is stating a principle that applies to all aspects of Elohim's Laws, not just those with sexual overtones. Whether the temptation is to steal, murder, covet, or break one of Elohim's spiritual laws, we must put as much space between us, and the troublesome situation.

It is crucial to coming out of this world! And since it is better to prevent the temptation from arising in the first place than to try and extract ourselves once the difficulty as occurred, we should be aware of the various factors that contribute to those potentially dangerous, spiritual speaking situations.

## Four main areas

Here then, are four main areas we need to consider if we are to follow Paul's admonition to "flee" from the face of sin.

*Avoid a wrong environment.*

When the Israelites entered the promised land, they were given instructions concerning the inhabitants: "*But of the cities of these peoples which YHWH your Elohim gives you as an inheritance, you shall let nothing that breathes remain alive, but you shall utterly destroy them...as YHWH your Elohim as commanded you*" (Deuteronomy 20:16-17).

But Israel failed to follow orders: "And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites under tribute, but did not completely drive them out" (Judges 1:28). *See also verses 29-33.* Then, as a direct result of the influence of those pagan nations them around them, "*The children of Israel did evil in the sight of Yahweh... and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and thy provoked Yahweh to anger*" (Judges 2:11-12).

Israel put itself in the wrong environment. The temptation of the heathen practices around them proved too great for the people to withstand. In our daily lives we must come into contact with the world. Yet drawing too close to any of these aspects of society will, eventually, cause wrong influences to rub off onto us. This is the Satan's world. He has fashioned all its ways. Therefore we must carefully consider the kind of environment in which we spend time.



*Avoid the appearance of evil.*

Under this heading we might include acts that might cause offense to others. Concerning those who were vegetarians, Paul wrote: “But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walk you not charitably. Destroy him not with your meat, for whom did Messiah died. **Let not then your good be evil spoken of**” (Romans 14:15-16). The principle is clear: It is often better to avoid an action that another might construe as sin.

*Avoid certain people.*

As members of the body of Messiah we must be friendly, helpful, and courteous. Yet for our own protection and for the eternal good of those involved, there are certain individuals with whom we should have no contact. In some extreme cases, the Congregation is forced to mark such individuals (Romans 16:17-18).

Being around people who criticize the Body of Messiah, who bad-mouth other Brethren is not conducive to being a believer. It is easy to listen to negative comments and soon become ensnared in a wrong attitude ourselves.

**Romans 14:1** tells us not to receive those who are weak in the faith if doing so will cause us to doubt. We must be careful about associating with certain people:

**“But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner – not even to eat with such a person. Therefore ‘put away from yourselves that wicked person’ “ (I Corinthians 5:11, 13).**

Why would any of Yahweh’s people want to be in constant, close association with people who show by their conduct that they are especially hostile to Yahweh’s law and way of life.

*Avoid unholy talk*

Yahshua said that out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks (Luke 6:45). Obviously, lies and misuse of Yahweh’s name should not form part of a believer’s communication, but our responsibility for our words goes further. Many people in this world delight in telling “blue” jokes or smutty stories. This is not the believer’s way to use your tongue.

**“But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you....neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting... For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret” (Ephesians 5:3-4, 12).**

We need to choose our words carefully. When we speak, it should always be to the profit or edification of the listener.

### **Replace evil with positive action**

These four main areas cover the negative side of life. We must be aware of the pitfalls of following such ways.

However, to end on a positive note, it is worth remembering that each of these four points does have a counterpart – a correct action we should practice.

For example we should spend time in an uplifting environment. Being close to the wonder and beauty of Yahweh’s creation is an inspiring experience. Trees, flowers, animals, even the stars, remind us of the constructive power of Yahweh.

When we give of our time in service to others, this creates a good appearance and causes Yahshua’s body to have a good name (Matthew 5:14-16).

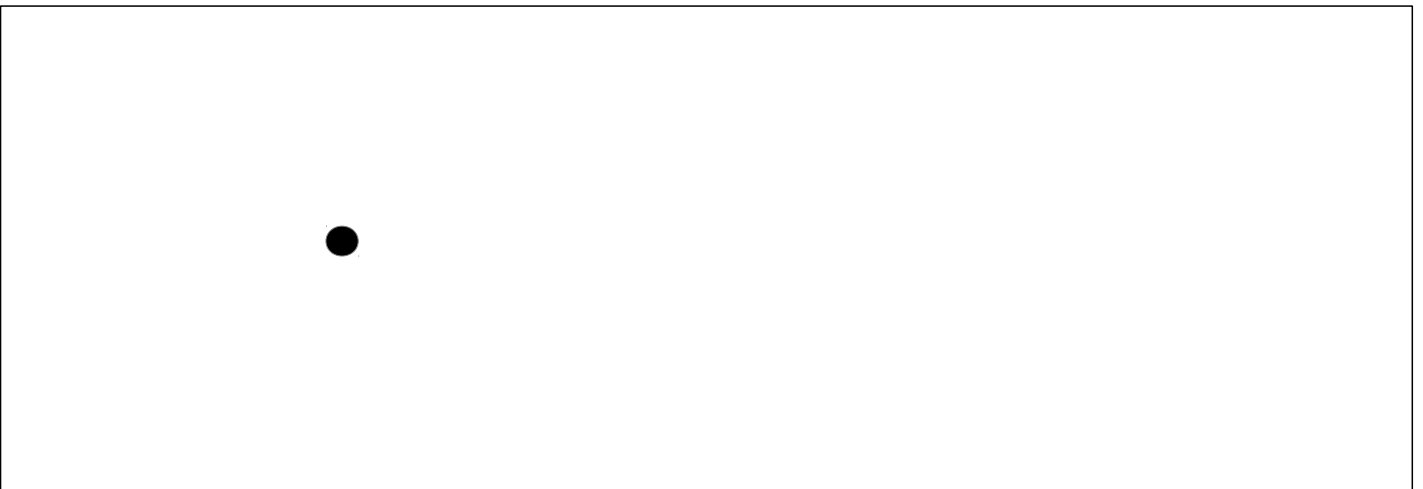
Spending time with solid, positive, humble members of Yahweh’s Congregation will produce the proper kind of personal relationships with the right people (Malachi 3:16, Proverbs 27:17). And finally, a careful choice of words can encourage and promote wholesome conversations between individuals who care for each other and for Elohim’s way (Proverbs 25:11).

Having examined these four areas of our lives, we need to consider our responses as we face such situations. Are we putting a wide safety margin between us and dubious encounters? Or, on the other hand, are we anxious to remain as close as possible to this world, perhaps actually breaking Yahweh’s law as we do so? Joseph Knew how he should respond. He fled from dangerous situations. Do we?

# Do you have a Spiritual Blind Spot?

**Are you sure you see yourself – especially your faults – the way Yahweh does? Before you read this article, hold this magazine about 12 inches in front of you, so that the black dot below is level with your right eye. Cover the other eye with your hand.**

Reprint Article from The Good News magazine



Now look straight at the dot and, keeping the page 12 inches from your face, move the page slowly around your head to the right. Did you notice that at a certain point the black dot disappears? Then, when you move the page farther to the right, the dot reappears before finally moving completely out of your field of vision. What happened?

There is a point in your eye where the optic nerve enters the eyeball. Because there is no retina (the inner surface of the eye) at this point, no vision can be registered. For this reason, this part of the eye is called the “*blind spot*”. When the image of the black dot passed over the blind spot, you could not see it. The blind spot area is so small that normal eye movements compensate for it. In the course of your daily activity you don’t even notice it. Nevertheless, it is a fact that there are two small areas, one in the eye, where even a person with perfect vision is completely blind.

## **Spiritual blindness**

The bible commands Yahweh’s begotten children to examine themselves each year at this time, so that they do not take the Passover unworthily (1 Cor 11: 27 – 29). After examining yourself, when you take the symbols of Yahshua’s sacrifice you rededicate yourselves to overcoming the many faults that you have seen are still there. But what about the ones that you have not seen? You have just proved that you have a physical blind spot. But could you perhaps have a spiritual blind spot – an area, or areas, where you just cannot see? The bible tells us that this is exactly the situation.

Look at Ps 19: 12. David wrote: “*Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults.*” What did David mean by his secret faults?

King David was a man after Yahweh's own heart (Acts 13: 22). He did not show a hostile attitude toward Yahweh, and he tried hard to change whenever he could see that he was wrong. But notice that I said whenever he could see that he was wrong. He couldn't always see it. David stole Bathsheba, another man's wife, and made her pregnant. After conniving and cheating in an attempt to avoid the consequences, he finally arranged to have Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, killed in battle.

But, incredible as it seems, David did not see how terribly wrong that whole episode was until the prophet Nathan brought him to his senses (2 Sam 11 & 12). The whole miserable episode showed King David that he had blind spots in his character.

But don't judge David too harshly. For perhaps you, too, have spiritual blind spots – areas where you just can't see how, where and why you are wrong. Sometimes it is hard enough to recognize and admit the problems you can see. So how do you go about overcoming those that you cannot?

In Ps 139: 23 – 24 David wrote, "Search me of Yah and know my heart; try me and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." In other words, you must ask Yahweh to show you the things that you cannot see? How will Yahweh do this? Let's look at some of the ways.

First, Yahweh can teach you through personal bible study.

Heb 4: 12 says that Yahweh's word is sharper than a "Two-edged sword" and can penetrate through layers of resistance to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart. The stories and examples of the bible show how Yahweh dealt with the thoughts and intents of many men and women, both righteous and unrighteous.

The great Elijah, we are told, was a man who had the same human nature that we have (Jas 5: 17). Sometimes Elijah showed great faith, but he was also, from time to time, the victim of discouragement. Moses, who was a very meek man had moments of stubbornness and even a bad temper. The prophet Jeremiah more than once felt like giving up. Paul and Barnabas quarreled for the kingdom of Yahweh.

Study the examples in your bible. Ask Yahweh, through His Holy Spirit, to teach you about yourself as you read. But remember this: If you start to see something wrong, admit it. A main characteristic of a Believer is willingness to admit when he is wrong, and then repent. If you intend to justify your faults, you may as well not bother to look for them.

### **Do you judge others?**

But bible study is not the only way to locate your blind spots. You know the old saying, "If we could see ourselves as others see us....." Well, we can.

Look at Ro 2: 1: "Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things." We can often see our own faults more clearly in other people.

Think about this; if there is a certain type of behavior that you find especially irritating in others, you may have that same problem yourself, it's just that you can't see it when you do it. When Yahweh sent Nathan to show David his sin with Bathsheba, Nathan reported a case in which a rich man who owned many sheep had stolen a poor man's pet lamb and killed it for a dinner (2 Sam 12: 1-4).

King David was outraged that anyone should be so greedy and selfish! Such a man must be put to death; David pronounced (verse 5). Then Nathan quietly pointed out that this was precisely what David had done when he stole the wife of Uriah and then caused Uriah's death.

What kind of behavior in others angers you the most? Is it greed? Selfishness? Aloofness? Or maybe laziness, prejudice, stubbornness or gossip? Think carefully, for in your answer may well be a clue to your own blind spot – "For you who judge practice the same things."

## Through circumstances

Yahweh can also reveal your blind spot to you through circumstances. Yahshua said, ***“With what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the same measure you use, it will be measured back to you” (Mt 7: 2).*** In other words, Yahweh will often see to it that you are treated the way you tread other people. Jacob was a young man of great talent and ability, but he had a serious fault: He would lie, connive and scheme to get his own way, without a thought for other people’s feelings. Jacob deceived his father Isaac into blessing him, instead of his brother Esau, with the birthright. That incident split up the family and caused much suffering and ill will (Gen 27).

Yahweh, of course, fully intended Jacob to have the birthright and could have worked it out in a way that no one got hurt. But this is not the first time that Jacob used cunning to get his own way (Gen 25:29-34) He had a blind spot and needed to be taught a lesson. During the next few years Jacob met his match. His employer, Laban, tricked him out of his wages and the wife for whom he had labored for seven years. And, then, toward the end of his life, Jacob was also deceived by a dead goat, just as he used a goat skin to deceive his father. You remember how Jacob’s sons dipped Joseph’s coat of many colors in the blood of a goat to convince Jacob, that his favorite son, whom they had sold, was dead. Jacob spent many years of grief, deceived as he had deceived others.

Has Yahweh allowed hurtful or embarrassing things to be done to you? Has someone you love let you down? Have you been insulted, humiliated, or made to feel like an outsider, left out of things? Have others hurt your pride or your feelings by gossip? Perhaps there is a lesson in it for you. Are you being given a taste of your own medicine? At this time of the year, when we think about putting sin out of our lives, it is good to consider what the bible calls the *“leaven”* of the Pharisees called *hypocrisy*.

Messiah had much to say to the religious leaders of the first century. In Mathew 23;16, He called them *“blind guides”* for in their self-righteousness, they had indeed become blinded to the real needs of those that they should have been serving. Time and again, Yahshua hit the blind spot of these men. When we read about it today, their mistakes are obvious, but they could not see them, do we see our own blind spots? Yahshua needs to be certain that those He is training to be leaders in His Kingdom do not make the same mistake. The leaven of hypocrisy did not die with the Pharisees. Does Yahshua see some of it in you today? Are you beginning to see that you may indeed have a spiritual blind spot? But when you see it and you realize that others have seen it (*and perhaps have suffered because of it*) all along, it is embarrassing.

Perhaps you finally begin to understand something that your family and friends have been trying to tell you for years. The natural reaction is to try to hide it again quickly- just like you can make the little black dot *“disappear”* by moving it back over your blind spot. But don’t give in to that temptation. Keep the problem in the open where you can fight it. David, when showed his sin, told Yahweh, ***“I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.” (Ps 51:3)*** Although David never forgot that he was capable of such behavior, he never made a mistake like that again (1Kgs 15:5).

Don’t just be content with a quick review of the faults that you know you have. Ask Yahweh for help in seeing your *“secret”* sins as well. ■



# The glorious calling of Women

10 WHO CAN FIND A VIRTUOUS WOMAN? FOR HER PRICE IS FAR ABOVE RUBIES. Regular Article from the Glory of Man Magazine

**Woman was created in the context of serving and helping a man. Adam and Eve were not expected, called, required, nor encouraged to open separate fruit stands or butcher shops, bringing in separate incomes.**

The biblical example is of a one income family. If man's chief end is found in the creation account of Genesis, should we not also find woman's chief end there also? I do not mean that man's duty is to glorify the Almighty and enjoy Him forever," while woman's duty is something else.

No, we know that both men and women are to glorify and enjoy Him. I suggest however, that each gender has separate "battle – stations" within this war of achieving our chief end. I think this is clearly seen in the creation account.

*In Gen 2:1-7 The Creator had put into place all that was needed for the herbs, plants, trees, etc. but He had not sent rain to cause the plants to grow, nor a man to care for the plants, so He brought a mist to water the earth and a man to till it.*

Notice that this is the male that is brought forth from the earth. It may be clearly seen from the Genesis account that males were created to act directly in all industry. It is males that are to till the ground, open the stores, build the factories, and other such things. More shall be seen later on this point, however. Gen 2:8-17 portrays the planting of Eden and its surrounding area.

*Gen 2:18 "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him."*

What is created next? Surely it was Eve. No, the Almighty created the beasts of the field, and the fowl of the air to help Adam in his calling. Yet a suitable help meet could not be found in this bunch.

So Gen 2:21-25 records the formation of woman to be help meet for Adam. Let us consider this: if Adam needed a help meet in his work like many view help meets today, why did He not create another man? If men and woman are both to go open fruit stands, factories and banks, why did He not just create two men and give them self-procreating organs like some type of frogs?

Thus you see that woman was not created to fulfill Adams calling, but woman was created to fulfill her own calling under Adam. Woman's calling is that of wifedom, motherhood, and overall household management. The woman was physically, emotionally, and mentally created for these tasks. The female body possesses exactly the correct tools for these tasks. What would the womb be used for in terms of the Almighty's calling to men?

Certainly the ways in which men and women use their brains are proof to their individual and vastly distinct calling. Man's brain is accustomed to single-mindedness, monotonous work, contentment in use of strength, aggression, and practical use of his hands.

Women are accustomed to nursing, nurturing, open-mindedness, delicate work, and are ill-fir for physical labor. Muscle development and structure are different from men to women. Certainly such a difference in body structure and mental performance says something about their difference in callings.

When Eve sinned, the human race did not fall into an estate of sin and misery, but Adam's sin did bring the human race into such an estate. Adam and Eve did not share some equality of callings or persons, that should either sin, the human race would fall.

Moreover, each sin and gender was given a distinct curse. Adam and all males were to labor by the sweat of their brows. Eve and all females were to have much travail in childbirth.

The doctrine of headship is a great help in explaining a woman's calling. A prime example of man's headship over woman is also found in the creation account. The act of naming is a symbol or proclamation of over authority over the thing named. Thus Adam's first act of authority or headship over the woman was to name her. Hence forth no woman was to be outside male headship of some kind.

Headship helps us understand the doctrine of a woman's calling because once we begin to see that woman are to be under headship at all times; we understand that this correlates with the fact that she must also be serving or helping in the calling of her head.

Thus we see there is a set order into being that, women should lean upon man and serve the Almighty with him in terms of his calling. A married couple both man and woman have different callings, but as a couple and as one flesh they share one distinct calling that is primary vocational, ministerial calling. *"For Adam was made first, then Eve". 1 Tim 2:13*

Are any women found to tending shops, banks, factories, bakeries, etc.? Are any women found outside a headship relationship, working in conjunction with that head's calling? The answer is clearly no, but I encourage you to look for yourself. Be honest in your searching, and you must read all accounts in immediate and mediate contexts.

You will find as I have found that the Almighty has given women a special and glorious calling of their own. The denial women have toward their true and righteous calling came about only during times of great feministic and atheistic pursuits and dominance.

During the latter half of the 1900's feminism greatly progressed due to an "elite" group of women. They sought to subvert the biblical calling of women. Not only in deed did these women seek to this, but these women knew and claimed their wanton attack on biblical principles.

Women, young and old, seeking to "Create a life" for themselves do honor, support, and accept all feministic principles outlined by their feministic heroines. There is no middle ground on this issue. If a woman seeks a career, she is in rebellion against the Almighty and His word. Our culture is so dominated by poor examples of womanhood that one cannot wonder at the willingness of young women to follow whatever example they find. While women are not to be inbreeding, barefoot, unkempt, uneducated, inept, they are not to accept the cultural norm of women in the work force.

Today young women are encouraged, expected, and helped greatly to become a member of the feminist's new model female army. Women must decide whether they shall choose to follow the cultural god of humanistic feminism or to follow the Almighty.

Women need not look to "The man's world" and fight for their "rights" there. This is not a man's world, it is the Almighty's world, and you shall live according to His Law in it. Any woman that seeks to adopt the calling that was given to men specifically and solely is to be charged with the attempt to subvert His order and become a man. Any women seeking to take on man's roles may be justly called transvestites.

Proverbs 31 is not a guideline for women outside a headship relationship. It should be noted the King Lemuel's mother is the author of Prov 31. It was her advice regarding his choice of a wife and mother of his children. It is a guidebook for wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters, not for modern working women. It is for the women working for the kingdom under the headship of the Almighty's men and leaders.

There are exceptions to this rule as to almost everything else. Females have lost femininity due to Feminism. Females as a whole no longer view their femaleness as a gift of the Creator, nor a blessing to be cherished. Women are too busy searching for opportunities to be man. They do not care to accept their holy, wonderful, and beautiful callings as godly women.

Shall the daughters of the Almighty go the way of the world, or shall they seek to glorify Him through cheerfully and willingly accepting their calling? ■

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# Between the Testaments

## Where did the modern Rabbi's come from?

**Just who were the Pharisees and where did their religious doctrines originate? In the Old Testament? No, for if it did, why did Yahshua so strenuously oppose their ideas? Is the bible – both Old and New Testaments- a house divided? An examination of the period “between the Testaments” shows that while men may be divided – the Bible is not!**

*Reprint from The Good News Magazine.*

Much of the professing believer's world today suffers from the mistaken notion that Yahshua came to do away with His Father's Torah – the law of the Old Testament. Nothing could be further from the truth! Yahshua himself said, “Do not think that I came to annul the Torah or the Prophets; I did not come to annul, but to fulfill. (Matthew 5:17) Yahshua plainly said that He did not come to do away with His Father's Torah but to complete Yahweh's revelation. Then why are so many confused on this point? Why do some mistakenly preach that the Torah was “done away”?

One of the major assumptions in this connection is that most theologians assume that the Pharisees and the other religionists of Yahshua's day were the representatives and the exponents of the revelation given to Moses – Elohim's Torah in the First Covenant . But the Bible shows that the One who later became Yahshua Messiah was present in the First Testament as the Messenger of Yahweh. Exo 3:2 And the Messenger of YAHWEH appeared to him in a flame of fire from the middle of a thorn bush... Everything existed through his (Yahshua's) hands, and without Him, not even one thing existed of the things, which have existed. John 1:1, 3; (see also Eph. 3:9 and Heb 1:2). Just where and when did the Pharisees get their practices which Yahshua condemned?

### **The Return from Babylon**

Chronologically speaking, three authors of the Old Testament are Ezra, Nehemiah and Malachi. These three men all worked among the Jewish community that had returned to Judea after the Babylonian captivity. They were largely successful in bringing to the people an awareness of Elohim's true religion. A body of priests (Aaron's descendants whom Elohim had ordained to be the religious leaders) was set up to guide the people in matters of religion. This company of men was known in history as the “Great Assembly” or “Synagogue” (Knesset Hagedolah). Due to the work of this body throughout the period of Persian dominance the Jews were living for the most part in accordance with Elohim's law (Heinrich Graetz, History of the Jews, Jewish Publication Society, Philadelphia. 1894, Vol. I pp. 406-407). Because of this, Elohim granted them special protection and privileges by a series of miracles, at the coming of Alexander the Great in 330 B.C. This is described in Josephus' Antiquities of the Jews, Book XI, Chapter X, Parts 5-6

## A New Way of Life

At his death, Alexander's empire was divided into four parts (Dan.8:22). Judea first passed under the rule of the Ptolemies of Egypt and, later, the Seleucids of Syria. Both of these were Macedonian (Greek) dynasties and were great exponents of the pagan, Gentile way of life known as "Hellenism." The basic philosophy behind Hellenism was this: Every man had the right to think for himself on any matter as long as there was not a real departure from the customs that were essentially Greek. This philosophy -- freedom of thought or individualism, which is seemingly altruistic in principle--resulted in myriads of confusing and contradictory beliefs among the Greeks in every phase of life. Every man was allowed his own ideas about the sciences, the arts, law and about religion. So varied were the opinions among the Greek scholars in the various fields of study that individuals took pride in contending with one another over who could present the greatest "wisdom" and "knowledge" on any particular subject. With the encouragement of the rulers, Hellenism spread rapidly in the Ptolemaic Empire. Judea was by no means exempt.

## Great Assembly No Longer in Authority

Within a score of years after the coming of the Greeks, the Great Assembly disappears from history as an organized body having religious control over the Jewish people. It is not known how the Greeks dismissed this authoritative religious body from its official capacity as teachers of the Law. But it is obvious that the authority of the Great Assembly was eroded and the Greek leaders forbade them to teach. Without the religious guidance of the Great Assembly, many Jews began to imbibe the Greek customs and ideas which were inundating the land. "With the change from Persian to Greek rule [the Ptolemies were Greeks remember,] Hellenism made its influence felt, and came pouring like a flood into a country which had known nothing of it. There was no escape from its influence. It was present everywhere, in the street and the market, in the everyday life and all the phases of social intercourse" (R. Travers Herford, Talmud and Apocrypha, Soncino Press, London, 1933, page 77). Much of this Hellenistic influence came from the numerous Greek cities which were established under the Ptolemies. Most of these were on the Mediterranean seacoast or on the east side of Jordan.

With the Great Assembly removed from the scene and this new culture substituted for the Law of Elohim, the Jews began to absorb many elements of Hellenism such as the wearing the pagan kippa, which came from sun worship. The Jews had no one to guide them in understanding the Torah except a few isolated teachers here and there who lacked the official authority of the Great Assembly. After a few years of this influence, the people literally came to a state of religious confusion. Some endeavored to keep a form of the Spiritual teachings, but with Hellenism everywhere, it became almost impossible to adhere to the true form of the Torah of Moses. Almost everything the Greeks brought to the Jews was antagonistic to the laws of Elohim, and without the religious guidance of the Great Assembly, many of them began to tolerate these innovations and even, as time progressed, to take up many of the Greek ideas and customs themselves.

## 100 years of Ptolemaic Rule

After a series of battles with the Syrians, Ptolemy I, the Greek King of Egypt, took firm control of Judea in 301 B.C. His descendants retained that control for over one hundred years, until 196 B.C. This one-hundred-year period of Greek-Egyptian domination is very important in the religious history of the Jews. This is the period in which many great and significant changes first began to take place in Jewish religious life. "During the comparatively quiet rule of the Ptolemies, Greek ideas, customs and morality had been making peaceful conquests in Israel" (Charles Foster Kent, History of the Jewish people, page 320).

There was little resistance to these inroads. We are informed by Dr. Jacob Lauterbach, a learned Jewish scholar that Jewish tradition knows of no religious teacher who taught any form of religion from the death of Simon the Just (270 B.C.) until about the year 190 B.C. (Jacob Z. Lauterbach, Rabbinic Essays, Hebrew Union College Press, Cincinnati, 1951, page 196). "This would have been impossible," Dr. Lauterbach says, "if there had been any official activity of the teachers in those years" (ibid.). But there was none.

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In fact, whole generations came and went, offering no great resistance to the new customs which were encouraged by the commercial and educational intercourse taking place between the Jews, Greeks and Hellenistic Egyptians. In fact, thousands of Jews migrated to Egypt during this period. By the end of the Ptolemaic period, there were over a million Jews in Egypt, out of a total population of about seven million. A prime example of Hellenistic influence is the wearing of the pagan kippa and the concept of the immortality of the soul. This doctrine was widely publicized in the writings of the pagan Greek philosopher Plato.

### **The Coming of the Seleucids**

In 198 B.C. the Seleucid Kingdom of Syria conquered Judea and drove out the Egyptians. Like the Ptolemies, the Seleucids were also of Greek origin and equally Hellenistic in culture and outlook. At first conditions in Judea were pretty much like what they had been under the Ptolemies. The Seleucid ruler, Antiochus II, was favorably inclined toward the Jews. Conditions rapidly changed, however, with the coming to the throne in 175 B.C. of Antiochus Epiphanies. Shortly after he ascended the throne, there was a contention among several of the priests in Jerusalem for the office of High Priest. Jason, the brother of the reigning High Priest, persuaded Antiochus to transfer the office to him, by offering a large sum of money to the King. Jason was Hellenistically inclined and was followed in this by many of the people. "A passion for Greek costumes, Greek customs, and Greek names [Jason's Hebrew name was Joshua] seized the people. Large numbers were enrolled as citizens of Antioch [the capital of Syria]. Many even endeavored to conceal the fact that they had been circumcised .... To demonstrate that he had left all the traditions of his race behind, Jason sent a rich present for sacrifices in connection with the great festival at Tyre in honor of the god Hercules (Kent, History of the Jewish people, pp. 324-325).

Of course, not everyone in Judea went this far, but by and large, most people are inclined to follow their human leaders, at least to a certain extent. About three years after Jason assumed office, Menelaus (Hebrew name Onias), a man most believe to have been of the tribe of Benjamin (not a descendent of Aaron and therefore not truly a priest) offered Antiochus a larger bribe than Jason, and he was named High Priest instead. Because of this, Jason fled beyond Jordan to the Ammonites for refuge. (see II Maccabees, Chapter 4). Many of the Jews thought Jason had been unjustly deprived of becoming High Priest. Many of the people began to take sides --- some for Jason, some for Menelaus. Fighting broke out between the two groups, both of whom were led by outright Hellenists. Jason's forces won out and Menelaus fled to Antioch. There Antiochus became infuriated to learn that many of the Jews had taken sides against his appointed official or, in effect, against his government itself! At that time Antiochus was planning to conquer Egypt. When that failed, due to the intervention of the Romans, he decided to take out his anger on the rebellious Jews at Jerusalem. He planned not only to subdue the Jews but to put an end to their religion once and for all.

Antiochus, feigning peace, proceeded to take the city. He polluted the Temple by burning Swine's flesh on its altar, and erected a statue of Jupiter Olympus in the Holy Place. This had been prophesied by Daniel (Dan. 11:29-31). He plundered the Temple of all objects of value and then issued a decree forbidding the Jews to worship Yahweh or in any way exercise their religion. Despite the severity of this decree, there were many Hellenistically inclined Jews who nonetheless accepted it without protest. Many of these Hellenists were priests and levities. On the other hand, for many other Jews, the majority of whom may have been only slightly interested in religion previously, this decree forbidding with such basic practices as circumcision and requiring idol worship was simply too much.

### **The Maccabean Revolt**

In the small village of Modein, the head of a priestly family, Mattathias, and his five sons, stood up to oppose Antiochus and his decree. "If anyone be zealous for the laws of his country and for the worship of Yahweh, let him follow me," he proclaimed (Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, Book XII, Chapter VI, Part 2). Thousands flocked to his banner and a full revolt was under way. Just before his death, Mattathias made his third son, Judah (called Maccabee), general of their army. After a long series of battles with his forces greatly outnumbered, Judah defeated the Syrians and their Samaritan allies.

In 165 B.C. He went up to Jerusalem and purified the Temple, restoring the true ritual of Yahweh. Judah was killed in a later battle. Finally Simon, the last survivor of Mattathias' sons, was able to proclaim an independent nation with himself as High Priest.

The nation was now, at last, free of foreign domination. But the years of religious anarchy and Hellenistic influence had taken their toll. Dr. Lauterbach states: "During the seventy or eighty years of religious anarchy, many new practices had been gradually adopted by the people" (Lauterbach, page 205). The British scholar Travers Herford adds: "In the absence of authoritative guidance, the people had gone their own way; new customs had found a place among old religious usages...new ideas had been formed under the influence of Hellenism which had permeated the land for more than a century, and there had been no one to point out the danger which thereby threatened the religious life of the people" (Herford, Talmud and Apocrypha, pp. 64-65).

## **The Sanhedrin**

We are now at the point where the Pharisees first make their appearance in history, sometime after the Maccabean wars. But before we note this, we need to examine briefly the rise of the Sanhedrin, the body which they dominated during much of its existence. While some sources would lead us to believe that the Sanhedrin was the direct successor to the Great Assembly, this was not the case. It was not until about 196 B.C. after a hiatus of some eighty years that the Sanhedrin was first established. This is shown by an ancient manuscript found today in a text called Fragments of a Zadokite Work. This text points to 196 B.C. as the year the Sanhedrin first met and interesting enough the very year the Essene sect migrated to Kumran. This body is said to consist of "men of understanding from Aaron" (that is priests), and "from Israel wise teachers" (that is, non-priestly teachers) (Lauterbach, Rabbinic Essays, Page 203). This is significant! The writer mentions there were both priests and lay teachers in the new Sanhedrin. This was an innovation. Until this time only the priests, with their assistants, the Levites, were considered to have the authority to teach religion to the people. This was one of the main reasons the Essene Priests rejected the Sanhedrin and even all Temple worship from that point in 196BC until the destruction of the Temple in 70AD.

This would not have been permitted while the Great Assembly, the successor of Ezra, was in authority. This is clearly shown from the writings of Malachi, who was contemporary with Ezra, Nehemiah and the early days of the Great Assembly. "For the lips of the priest should guard knowledge, and they should seek the Torah from his mouth; for he is the messenger of Yahweh of Hosts (Mal. 2:7). The Torah of Moses, which Yahweh had directly commanded him, clearly enjoined that the priests and Levities were to perform the functions of teachers, not just any layman who would presume to do so. (See Deut. 18:1-7; 33:10 and also Ezek. 44:23.)

## **Lay Teachers Reject Sole Authority of Priests to Teach**

Why was this radical change? Again we must briefly go back to the period of religious anarchy when the Egyptian Ptolemies ruled Judea. Both the Ptolemies and the later Seleucid rulers looked upon the High Priest as the head of the Jewish nation. In turn, it was the High Priest, with his assistants (other priests) who dealt with the Hellenist rulers on behalf of the nation.

Outstanding among these were Joseph, the son of Tobias, and his son Hyrcanus. In order to be successful diplomats at the Hellenistic court in Alexandria, they felt it necessary to adopt Greek ways. And these they brought back with them to Judea. Thus, it was the priests, the ones who should have been teaching the people Yahweh's Torah, who became the chief proponents of Hellenism. From 206 to 196 B.C. a series of battles between the rival Hellenistic kings of Syria and Egypt devastated many parts of Judea. Some blamed Hellenism for this trouble and began to seek to return to the laws of their fathers. But to whom could they turn?

The priests as a whole had become thoroughly Hellenized. In fact, different priests were taking sides in the wars and were even raising up armies to help either the-Syrians or the Egyptians. The only ones who had studied Elohim's Word and remained committed to it in any form were a few laymen and some minor priests. These sat in the new Sanhedrin.

## **What was Yahweh's way?**

Prior to and during the Maccabean revolt, the outwardly Hellenistic priests and their followers supported Antiochus Epiphanies. The lay teachers and the Sanhedrin as a whole supported the Maccabees. Religiously speaking, the major result of the Maccabee's victory was the total discrediting of Hellenism in Judea. The High Priesthood was given to the Hasmonean (Maccabean) family itself, which descended from minor priests. No one was an outright Hellenist any longer. Many were desirous of following Elohim's way. But whatever religious unity there might have been was short-lived.

The question basically was one of determining just what was Elohim's way. There was, of course, the written Bible (the Old Testament Tanach). But how were the people to apply its teachings to the various problems and events that arise in daily life? The Jews, remember, had just emerged from a period where the teaching and practice of Yahweh's law had been forbidden. And this had been preceded by an era of some eighty years during which Hellenism had made great inroads into the daily lives of the people; and all this while there had been no organized body directing religious life.

Hundreds of years before, Ezra and those priests and Levites assisting him had "...And they read aloud clearly in the Book, in the Torah of the Elohim, and they gave the sense, and caused them to discern the reading." (Neh. 8:8). Through the ages, Yahweh's servants have been responsible to show the people (with his guidance) how his Law applied in various situations in their lives. This was never the prerogative of anyone who wanted to choose "the rabbinate" for a vocation, but only those whom Yahweh specifically chose. And in ancient Israel, under the First Covenant, Yahweh chose the priests, primarily, with the Levites to assist them, for this purpose of teaching.

## **The Pharisees Come on the Scene**

Following the Maccabean victory there were many priests who were ready and willing to resume their ancient, Elohim-given role as teachers and expounders of the Law. But there were also the lay teachers who had come to sit in the Sanhedrin and had made a notable contribution to the Maccabean cause at a time when many priests were outright Hellenists and supporters of Antiochus Epiphanies. Lauterbach says that the lay teachers "refused to recognize the authority of the priests as a class, and, inasmuch as many of the priests had proven unfaithful guardians of the Torah, they would not entrust to them the regulation of the religious life of the people" (Lauterbach, page 209).

It was these lay teachers who organized themselves into the party of the Pharisees. Although many of the priests had indeed become Hellenized, this did not necessarily give the lay teachers the right to usurp some of the priests' Elohim-given authority. But, sadly they insisted on following the way that seemed right to them (Prov. 14:12; 16:25).

## **Here are the teachers who engineered the religious practices to the people.**

### **The Sadducees**

No one questioned the right of the priests to officiate in the Temple. But the priests pointed to Deuteronomy 17:8-13 as giving them, and not the lay teachers, the authority to teach and to decide questions pertaining to religion. They and their supporters organized themselves into the party of the Sadducees (name taken from Zadok, the High Priest in Solomon's day). The priests as a whole were wealthy. This and their previous support of Hellenism caused the people to mistrust them by and large. Josephus tells us, "The Sadducees are able to persuade none but the rich, and have not the populace obsequious to them, but the Pharisees have the multitude on their side" (Antiquities of the Jews, XIII, x, 6).

## Lay Teachers Justify the People's Errors

And yet the main reason for the popularity of the Pharisees and the rejection of the Sadducees was neither the tainted past nor the wealth of the priests. It was in the teachings of the Pharisees themselves. During the period of religious anarchy under Hellenistic rule, the continuity of official teachers of the law had been broken. Hellenism had made its inroads. Consequently, when the Maccabean War came to an end, and some teachers did think of returning to Yahweh's Torah, it was found that "many new customs and practices for which there were no precedents in the traditions of the fathers, and not the slightest indication in the Book of the Law, were observed by the people and considered by them as a part of their religious laws and practices" (Lauterbach, *Rabbinic Essays*, Hebrew Union College Press, Cincinnati p. 195).

In short, the people had adopted many customs and ideas which were in truth clearly pagan. The best example of these is the belief in the immortality of the soul already mentioned. "The difficulty was to find a sanction in the Torah [the Law] for the new customs and practices which had established themselves in the community..." (Herford, *Talmud and Apocrypha*, Soncino Press, London 1933, p.66). The teachers should have shown the people they were sinning (Isa. 58:1). Instead they chose to justify them. This should not seem strange. It was done in Jeremiah's day (Jer. 23:21-22) and in Isaiah's (Isa. 30:10).

## Pagan Customs called Jewish!

And yet the Scripture plainly states: "So says Yahweh, Do not learn the way of the nations; and do not be terrified at the signs of the heavens; for the nations were terrified at them. (Jer.10:2). Consequently, here is how the Oral law of the Rabbi's came about. The teachers taught that the new customs the people had adopted were not really pagan --- they were actually Jewish! They reasoned this: "That it is hardly possible that foreign customs and non-Jewish laws should have met with such universal acceptance. The total absence of objection on the part of the people to such customs in the opinion of the teachers must vouch for their Jewish origin", (Lauterbach p.211).

These teachers told the people that it simply was not possible for them, being Jews, to have inherited any heathen custom or practice. They furthermore taught that since the customs were "Jewish," then they must have been taught by Moses himself, and this is how the Oral Law started. (This is no different from today, when churchgoers by the millions assume that the original apostles observed Sunday, Easter, Christmas, and the like.)

However, since these new found pagan laws could not be found anywhere in scripture the rabbis who were the the teachers themselves came to believe that such generally recognized laws and practices must have been old traditional laws and practices adopted by the fathers and transmitted to the following generations in addition to the Written Law. Such a belief would naturally free the teachers from the necessity of finding scriptural proof for all the new practices" (ibid.).

In other words they claimed that these customs, since they were not written in the Old Testament, must have been handed down orally from Moses --- by word of mouth. Actually, these traditional laws--- these oral laws--- were not from Moses nor any of the prophets. There is not a single reference in the Scripture that Moses gave the Israelites any oral or traditional laws that were to be transmitted to posterity along with the written Word. The Bible states just the opposite. It plainly says that Moses wrote the whole Law in a book.

Notice: "*And it happened, when Moses finished writing, until their completion, all the Words of this Torah in a book...*" (Deut.31:24).

**There is no such thing as an "oral law of Moses."**

[Follow this link to the free Video Message - The Word of Yahweh](#)

## Oral Law Gains Acceptance

The theory of the “oral law” was accepted only gradually --- a matter of a few years, rather than months. “The theory of an authoritative traditional law (which might be taught independently of the Scriptures) was altogether too new to be unhesitatingly accepted...the theory was too startling and novel to be unconditionally accepted” (Lauterbach, p. 211). The greatest opposition to the so-called “oral law” came from the priests who, as a whole, declared that the Scripture was the only necessary code of laws to obey. “This apparently simple solution offered by the priestly group in the Sanhedrin did not find favor with the lay members of that body” (ibid. p. 209).

And, with the passage of time, the lay teachers ultimately came to constitute the majority of representatives in the Sanhedrin. These Pharisaic lay teachers succeeded in convincing the people that they were right and that the priests were wrong. Some of the people’s fears concerning the priestly Sadducees were apparently valid, however. Many of the priests did become worldly minded and they found worldly politics far more interesting than religion. For the Sadducees indeed say there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit. But Pharisees confess both (Acts 23:8). This was probably a result of the influence of the Greek Epicurean philosophy. It taught that there was no future life of any kind and that man should therefore seek as many physical pleasures in this life as possible, since that was all there was.

## New Laws of the Pharisees

Many of the Pharisees came to believe what they were doing was Elohim’s will. “It is certain that they [the Pharisees] regarded themselves as the successors of the prophets, and not merely in fact but by right” (Herford, p.71). Based on this claimed authority, they adopted a method of teaching what they believed to be laws of Elohim, without any initial reference to the Scripture for authority. “Finding no convincing proof for such laws in the Bible, they taught them independently of scriptural proof, i.e., in the Mishnah-form” (Lauterbach, p.229).

Mishnah-form was the name given for laying down laws to be observed, apart from Scripture. This is not to say Mishnah-form avoided Scripture altogether. But it was only after a law had already been accepted that the Scriptures might be checked for corroboration. Sometimes “affirmation” of a new law was forced from Scriptures totally unrelated to the particular subject. The word Mishnah is related to the Hebrew root meaning “second” and “study.” Mishnah-form was the second form that the Pharisees adopted for “study” as opposed to the original form of properly expounding the Scriptures, which was called Mishnah-form. This older, original form was known as “teaching after the manner of Moses” (Talmud, Temurah 156, Yebamoth 72b).

Midrash-form is based on deducing laws, teachings, legends, etc., from the Scripture. As time went on it too became perverted. “Whenever there was the remotest possibility of doing so, they would seek by means of new hermeneutical rules [rules pertaining to Biblical interpretation] to find in the words of the Torah support for these traditional laws” (Lauterbach, p. 212).

Thus the Pharisees were able to “find” the traditions they were now approving of by twisted interpretations of Scripture. In doing this they still claimed to be using the Midrash-form. Ezra is said to have taught Midrash-form when he, and his helpers “And they read aloud clearly in the Book, in the Torah of the Elohim, and they gave the sense, and caused them to discern the reading.” (Neh. 8:8). There was, however, one major point which Ezra was aware of, but which the Pharisees missed. It is this: Yahweh, in the Bible, never contradicts Himself. Malachi, a contemporary of Ezra was inspired to write: “For I am Yahweh, I do not change. Because of this, you sons of Jacob are not destroyed”. (Mal. 3:6). But many of the traditional laws the Pharisees approved of did contradict Scripture. What’s more, many of them even contradicted one another.

With the introduction of the new Mishnah-form, Scripture came to be less relied on than before. New laws, which were not even necessarily traditional, could be enacted. The Pharisees found the Mishnah-form to be an important weapon in their conflict with the Sadducees. Laws that were accepted after being handed down in the Mishnah-form tended to enhance the authority of the Pharisees, since it was solely on their authority that the law was accepted.

The very first individual of whom we have any record who began to teach new commandments in the Mishnah-form, apart from the scriptural basis, was Jose ben Joezer of Zareda. Jose laid down three new commandments. The first concerned the eating of a certain locust; the second, the blood of slaughtered animals; and the third, the touching of a dead body. In doing this he became known as “Jose the Permitter” (Talmud, Abodah Zarah 37b). “Furthermore, Jose is called ‘the Permitter,’ evidently because in all three decisions he permits things that were formerly considered forbidden” (Lauterbach, p.219).

These new laws of Jose were not customs the people had inherited from Hellenism. “It is therefore evident that these Halakot [rules]...were not older traditional laws transmitted by Jose as a mere witness, but Jose’s own teachings. He was the one who ‘permitted’ and he deserved the name [the Permitter]” (ibid., p.218).

These commandments of themselves were not earth-shaking violations, but they did set a precedent! Eventually others began to set down all sorts of new laws. These are what Yahshua called “*and in vain they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.*” (Mark 7:7).

### **The Probul of Hillel**

Many others ultimately followed in the steps of Jose. If the majority of Pharisees agreed on a new decision, it was accepted as the Word of Elohim--- even if Scripture taught just the opposite. Of the myriad of new laws laid down, perhaps the best example and the best known is the Probul of Hillel. Hillel the old headed a Pharisaic school in the days of Herod. His decisions, nonetheless, were not always in keeping with the Word of Elohim. For example, “All private loans are automatically remitted at the end of the Sabbatical Year (Deu.15:2) and hence it became difficult to obtain loans immediately before the onset of that year. In order to avoid hardship and encourage lending, Hillel instituted the Probul [Greek: “for the court”], which is a declaration made before a court of law by the creditor, and signed by witnesses, stating that all debts due him are given over to the court for collection.

Since the remission of loans during the seventh year applies only to individuals but not to public loans, the effect of the Probul is to render the individual’s loan public, and it is therefore not remitted” (Werblowsky and Wigoder, *The Encyclopedia of the Jewish Religion*, art. “Probul,” p.312). Hillel’s motive was apparently quite practical. And yet the Bible clearly states: “Beware that there is no evil thought in your heart, saying, the seventh year, the year of release draws near; and your eye be evil against your needy brother, and you give him nothing, and he cry to Yahweh against you and it be sin to you” (Deut. 15:9).

Rather Elohim says: “Surely, you shall give to him, and your heart shall not be grieved when you give to him, because Yahweh your Elohim will bless for this thing, in all your work, and in all that you put your hand to” (Verse 10). It was because of rules like the Probul that Yahshua told the Pharisees, “*And in no way he honors his father or his mother. And you annulled the command of Yahweh on account of your tradition*” (Matt. 15:6).

There were many such instances where the Pharisees enacted many new laws, based solely on their own human reasoning in an attempt to make what they thought would be a better way of life. Yet Elohim tells us: “ is a way that seems upright to a man, but the end of it is the ways of death” (Prov. 14:12; 16:25).

## Cause and Effect

The Pharisees error was a classic one. Seeing wrong situations, but relying solely on themselves, they attempted to treat the effect rather than the cause. Today, Elohim is treating the cause of man's ills in some individuals. He is presently changing the hearts of a few. “And I shall give to them one (echad) heart, and I will put a new spirit within you. And I will remove the stony heart out of their flesh, and I will give them a heart of flesh” (Ezek.11:19).

Yahweh's Law as revealed throughout all of Scripture is indicative of Elohim's character. It is a giving, serving, sharing, concern for the other person as well as the self, and can be summed up by the word LOVE--- love first of all toward Elohim and then towards fellowman. Elohim's Law shows us exactly how He would live if He were a human being. And this is precisely what Yahshua did when He emptied Himself of His divinity and took on human flesh--- He never once broke a single law of Elohim.

The rise of Pharisaism in the period between the Testaments represented an attempt on the part of these people to keep the Law. But they lacked a clear understanding of their own human nature as revealed in the Scriptures. Notice Elohim's deeply felt near-lament in Deuteronomy 5:29: “Would that this heart of theirs would be like this always, to fear me, and to keep all my commandments, that it might be well with them and with their sons forever”!

But “such a heart” was not in them at that time. They had only the human nature that we all naturally possess—the heart is “... deceitful above all things, and it is incurable; who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9)

Joshua told his generation. “...You cannot serve YAHWEH, for they are a holy Elohim; He is a jealous El. He will not lift up from you your transgressions or your sins...” (Joshua 24:19). To do simply was not in their nature--- nor is it in ours. But man was not left without hope. There was a promise of better things to come. “And Yahweh your Elohim will circumcise your heart, and the heart of your seed, to love Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your soul, that you may live” (Deut. 30:6).

The Pharisees as well as the other sects of the period wanted to serve Elohim and keep His commandments They had, as the Apostle Paul (who well knew) put it, “...For I testify to them that they have zeal to Elohim, but not according to knowledge” (Rom. 10:2).

Not aware of the necessity for a change in their own human nature, they found it necessary to change Elohim's law. Not that this was done outwardly, but rather by forced interpretations, rationalizations, attempted codifications of laws that are all-encompassing, and new laws that were not admitted always to be new. By changing the Law, they made it of “none effect.” That is, it did not have the effect that Yahweh's laws should have on those who keep them.

Pharisaic society was filled with strife. When Alexander Jannaeus, one of the Maccabean kings, ruled, the Pharisees were virtually at war with him and there was much bloodshed. The Talmud itself is a record of the Pharisees striving among themselves, one with another in religious debates, each one trying to convince the others of the correctness of his particular idea, rather than all working harmoniously to see Elohim's will.

Today, professing Believer's are treading down the same well-worn path the Pharisees mistakenly took. Where is the sect that has not attempted to read its own ideas into the Bible which it professes to obey? And where is the denomination that is truly bearing the fruits of Elohim's Spirit - Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, and Temperance? Indeed which one even knows what truelove is?

Don't you follow the crowd. Don't be led down the garden path into religious deception by any who would warp, distort and twist the scripture to their own destruction. We encourage you to search the scriptures daily to see whether these things be so (Acts 17:11). But by the same token we also ask that you apply the same criterion to all who claim to represent Elohim!

Remember, ". . . To the Torah and to the Testimony! If they do not speak according to this Word, it is because there is no light to them" (Isa. 8:20).

As you continue to prayerfully study your Bible and this magazine of Biblical understanding, you will find new vistas of truth continually opening before your very eyes!

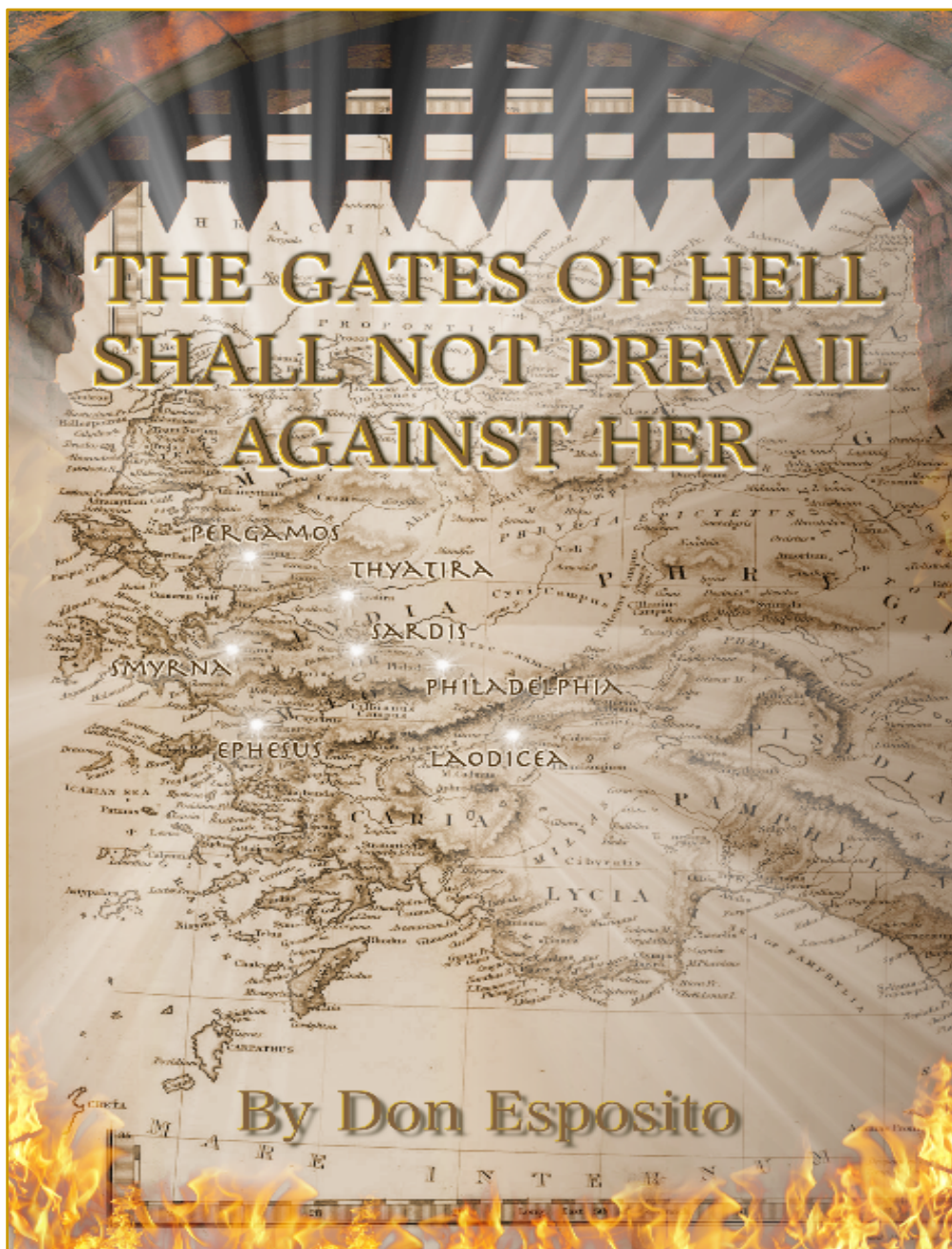
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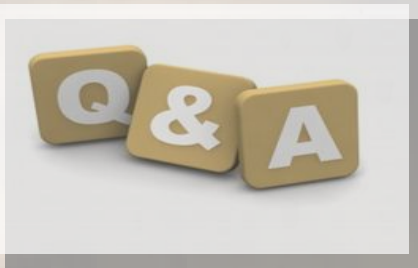
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Her*" by Elder Don  
Esposito.

Therein you will learn  
more about the Early  
Congregation which  
Yahshua our  
Messiah established.  
You will also learn  
what they believed,  
how they lived and  
how they endured  
harsh and merciless  
persecution for their  
faith in the Messiah  
of Israel, but more  
importantly, how they  
overcame by the  
blood of the Lamb.







# Answers to your Questions

**Question:** Where in the bible can I find peace and courage to really forgive my partner and father of my children and the other woman for committing adultery?

**Answer:** Rom 3:10-23 clearly states that all humans are sinners in need of death. It doesn't matter whether one committed adultery, and another may have pride, or committed anger as anger in scripture is compared with murder which brings a death penalty. Each person who ever lived (except Yahshua our savior) have committed sins worthy of the death penalty.

The way we have this penalty paid for is by repenting for our sins and accepting Yahshua's death in replacement for our death and being baptized in His name and having an elder lay on you for the receiving of the Holy Spirit.

But scripture states in order to accept the blood of Yahshua in replacement for your death for your sins, you must also forgive others and if you don't forgive others than your sins will not be forgiven.

**Mat 6:12** *and forgive us our offenses as we also have forgiven those who have offended us.*

**Mat 6:13** *And do not lead us into trial, but deliver us from the evil one, for Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.*

**Mat 6:14** *For if you forgive men their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.*

**Mat 6:15** *But if you will not forgive men their transgressions, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.*

If we do not forgive everyone who has sinned against us it will prevent us daily to pray to our heavenly Father and have Him forgive our sins. This should give us pity on others as we also need pity for our own sins.

**Question:** There are so many who claims to be the true congregation of YAHSHUA: All different Church of God groups etc... How will a person know for certain which follows the truth?

**Answer:** Please read elder Don's free book on-line called The Gates of Hell will not prevail against Her. Also, look at Is 8:20

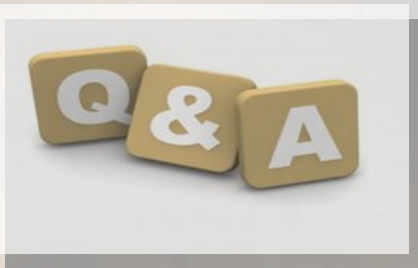
**Isa 8:20** *To the Torah and to the Testimony! If they do not speak according to this Word, it is because there is no light to them!*

If a congregation is not obeying the Torah including honoring the very name of the Creator Yahweh they would not be part of His true congregation. Also, Acts 4:12 clearly states there is only one name in Heaven and earth where men can be saved, and that name is Yahshua not 'jesus'.

**Act 4:12** *And there is salvation in no other man, for neither is there any other name under Heaven having been given among men by which we must be saved.*

Names in languages are not translated but transliterated, meaning they are basically the same with small phonetic differences. Moshe transliterates as Moses, Daveed, as David, and the name of the Son of Yahweh is Yahshua, which transliterates in English as *Jashua*. Also, remember that when the English language started about 400 years ago that the letter "J" was pronounced as a "Y". This is still true today in German such as the name written Joel would be pronounced Yoel.

Also, remember the original New Testament was written in Aramaic not Greek. Please see lesson 3 and lesson 10 on the name of Yahweh the Creator.



# Answers to your questions continued...

**Question:** Please explain *Exo 20:5-6* visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children on the third and on the fourth generation of those who hate me and showing loving kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

**Answer:** There are generational curses for some sins such as divorce, alcohol abuse etc., that can bring curses down to several generations. However the following scripture shows that all curses can be broken by the blood of Messiah.

**Gal 3:13** *Messiah redeemed us from the curse of the Torah, having become a curse for us; for it has been written, "Cursed is everyone having been hung on a tree;*

**Question:** What does scripture say about a man wearing a Kippur or skull cap as the Jews do?

**Answer:** *1 Cor 11: 4* Everyman praying or prophesying, having anything down over his head, dishonors his head.

Clearly scripture tells us that man was made in the image of Yahweh and it would be dishonoring Him to wear anything on our head during our service. Also, the Jewish Kippur comes from the false god Hermes and is totally pagan from sun worship. It was instituted during the reign of the evil priest Jason who was a Hellenizer, and trying to please the Greeks by forming the Greek pagan customs on the Jewish nation. Look at what the Historical book of Macabees says about the Jewish Kippur and its origin.

**2 Maccabees 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter:** Verse 7) But after the death of Seleucus, when Antiochus called Epiphanes took the kingdom, Jason the brother of Onias worked deceitfully to be the high priest.

9) besides this, he promised to assign an hundred and fifty more talents of silver, if he might have permission to set up a gymnasium, and for training up the youth in the fashion of the heathen,

10) Which when the King had granted, and he had gotten into his hand the rule, he (Jason) continued in all things to bring his own nation to the Greek fashion.

11) And the royal privileges granted special favor to the Jews by means of John the father of Eupolemus, who went as an Ambassador to Rome for amity and aid, that was taken away, and he also put down the governments that were set up according to Torah, and he brought up new customs of the pagans that were against the Torah;

12) for he gladly built a place of exercise (gymnasium) under the tower itself, and brought even the most noble young men under his subjection, and made them even wear the **Greek sun cap.**

13) Now such was the height of the Greek fashion, and the increase of heathenish manners, through the exceeding profanes of Jason, that ungodly wretch, and no High priest.

Clearly, if men are created in the image of Yahweh, then they should not cover their heads in the assembly, and most of all they should not wear a pagan kipper that is fashioned after the sun. You can see many kippers in ancient Greek and Roman statues to their false gods, as it is supposed to give a power for special knowledge, interesting enough even the pope wears this pagan symbol. The scripture is also clear on this matter that women do not need a clothe wrap on their head, but their **LONG HAIR** is their covering and men don't need a pagan kipper, but should have **short neat hair** in the assembly to give honor to Yahweh in whose image we are created.

You can read more on women head coverings at [www.coyhwh.com](http://www.coyhwh.com) in the study section.

# Letters From Our Readers...

Dear Elder Don,

Hello and how are you for the first time I am writing to you. I would like to congratulate you and praise our heavenly Father in using you to write the Hebraic Roots Bible for this end time work. My family and I have decided to join you and have accepted the Literal Hebraic Roots Bible and started a "Home Congregation of YHWH" since May 2015. Would you consider to visit in the future.

*(from Papua New Guinea)*

Dear Elder Esposito,

Thank you for your prayers for me and especially thank you for the spiritual guidance that you give us the brethren. Truly you are like a spiritual father to us out here in the wilderness. I am so glad we have you to teach us the truth.

*(from USA)*

Dear Elder Esposito,

Thank you so much for all your years of dedication to Yahweh, the Heavenly Father, and His Son Yahshua. We were given a copy of your book "The Gates of Hell Shall not prevail Against Her" for a feast gift at Sukkot 2015. I have already read your books, The Great Falling Away, and The Chosen People.

We hope that you will visit us again when you come to Texas. May Yahweh richly bless you and your congregations teaching the truth from scripture.

*(From Texas USA)*

Dear Congregation of Yahweh Jerusalem,

Greetings in the name of our Savior. I am sending you this letter as I got your name off the Internet and when I entered your site I was amazed at how the Holy Spirit is leading Elder Don Esposito in the truth of scripture. Praise our Heavenly Father for inspiring Elder Esposito to print the Hebraic Roots Bible in which every believer needs a copy of this vital truth. Please send to me any books or materials you have so I can share the truth with all I meet. I extend to Elder Esposito to visit us in Nigeria.

*(From Nigeria)*

*Comment: We have many new congregations in Nigeria over the last year and the work in Nigeria is growing rapidly. We also will be sending about 3,000 bible to Africa over the next several months for distribution.*

Dear Congregation of Yahweh Jerusalem,

I have had a very tough life and things have not always been easy, but I must thank you all for the ministry that you have and the work you are doing. I have never heard of such truth and the spirit in me was jumping for joy to hear your wonderful messages on-line. So many today are denying our Savior Yahshua's pre-existence and I was thrilled to hear Elder Don Esposito so clearly prove the pre-existence of Yahshua from scripture. truly your ministry is a light to a dying world.

*(from USA)*

Dear Elder Don,

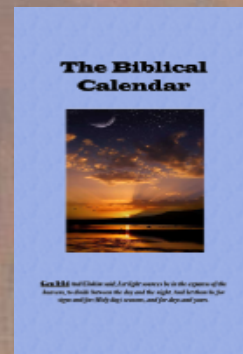
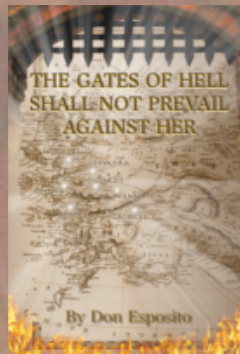
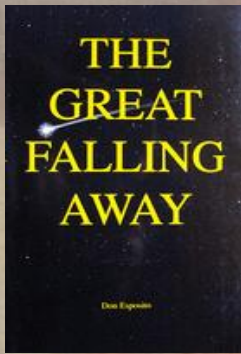
YAHWEH bless you Elder Don and your Family truly you are a servant of YAHWEH EL ELYON. I want to thank you for all the hard work you do for Yahweh and us brethren. The brethren here in Kenya will never be the same after your historic visit last January. You truly love us a father and try your best to care for our needs. Please visit us again and see the fruit of your work as things here in Kenya are exploding, and the brethren want to stay in Judicial Order as you teach from scripture. Blessing

*(From Kenya)*

*"Then You came down on Mount Sinai, And spoke with them from heaven; You gave them just ordinances and true laws, Good statutes and commandments. Nehemiah 9:13*

# Learn More!

For more information log on to the Congregation of Yahweh Jerusalem website and download all five of these PDF E-books. You will also find Bible lessons, Video and Audio messages and much more... everything **ABSOLUTELY FREE!**



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