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The Feast of Tabernacles

Why the biblical Holy Days must
take precedence in our lives

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Restoration Times expounds the close ties between the Old and New Testaments. We teach the continuity and harmony that extend from Yahweh's actions anciently down through His present activity in Yahshua the Messiah. This was also the conviction of the early New Testament Assembly.

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Feast and Foremost

Why the biblical Holy Days must take precedence in our lives

by the late Donald R. Mansager

He said he belonged to a Sabbath-keeping group that kept all the commandments of Yahweh, including the weekly Sabbath. But when asked about observing the annual Sabbaths as well, he responded that it was unnecessary because animal sacrifices are now in abeyance. He assumed that sacrificing animals was the only purpose for keeping the Feasts.

Others presume with purely human reasoning the same thing, that the holy days were set aside when animal sacrifices were discontinued.

Sabbaths Are a Unit

In a puzzling contradiction, many will keep the weekly Sabbath but not the Feast day Sabbaths of Leviticus 23. They overlook the fact that the annual Sabbaths are just as prominent in the command of Leviticus 23 as is the weekly Sabbath.

“Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, concerning the feasts of Yahweh, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are MY feasts. Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; you shall do no work therein: it is the Sabbath of Yahweh in all your dwellings. These are the feasts

of Yahweh, even holy convocations, which you shall proclaim in their seasons” (Lev. 23:2-4).

The Bible teaches that both weekly and annual Sabbaths will be kept in the Millennium, Zechariah 14; Ezekiel 45 and 46; Isaiah 66:23. It is an axiom that what was in effect in ages past is to be honored now. These days were observed by Yahweh’s people during the time of Moses and in the New Testament by the Savior and His disciples.

Additionally, animal sacrifices were offered on both annual and weekly Sabbaths (Num. 28:9-11). If Yahweh’s annual Feasts requiring animal sacrifices are no longer binding, then by the same logic neither is the Sabbath binding upon Yahweh’s people.

“And on the Sabbath day two lambs of the first year without spot, and two tenth deals of flour for a meat offering, mingled with oil, and the drink offering thereof: This is the burnt offering of every Sabbath, beside the continual burnt offering, and his drink offering. And in the beginnings of your months you shall offer a burnt offering unto Yahweh; two young bullocks, and one ram, seven lambs of the first year without spot.”

These verses render invalid the argument that only the Feast days and

not the weekly Sabbath are in abeyance because of animal sacrifices.

Yahshua Observed All Sabbaths

The Sabbaths (weekly and annual) were kept by the Savior and by Paul (see chart “Biblical Feasts in the New Testament,” p. 1740, *Restoration Study Bible, Fourth Edition*).

Paul kept the weekly Sabbath, Acts 18:4, as well as Feast days, Acts 18:21. He taught the gentile Corinthians that the Messiah was our Passover sacrifice and therefore is the reason to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread:

“Purge out therefore the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, as you are unleavened. For even Messiah our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth” (1Cor. 5:7-9).

We no longer sacrifice animals on the Sabbath and Feasts, but we still keep these holy days just as Yahshua and the apostles did and taught.

Paul went to Jerusalem to keep Pentecost, Acts 20:16, and there he worshiped, Acts 24:11.

Many important events are connected with the annual Sabbaths.

Holy Spirit Enables a Closer Walk

Israel was protected from destruction by the blood around their doors while the Egyptian firstborn were slain on the first Passover. The days of Unleavened Bread commemorate Israel's exodus from Egypt and being completely free from Egyptian bondage. The Savior was put to death on Passover and became our Passover Sacrifice.

Seven weeks (50 days) after the celebration of Unleavened Bread is the Feast of Weeks. This memorializes Israel's entering into the Covenant with Yahweh. Israel was given Yahweh's laws, commandments, statutes, and judgments along with the promises for obedience. This they gladly assented to.

In the New Testament the Feast of Weeks (*Shavuoth*—also known as Pentecost) is remembered for the coming of the Holy Spirit to this earth which helps Yahweh's people to keep and obey the terms of His covenant, His laws. Now His Spirit permanently indwells His people through baptism into Yahshua's saving Name.

Man learns spiritual lessons from physical actions. Merely learning a truth of and by itself may be sufficient, but connect the experience with physical practice and the lesson becomes much more meaningful and embedded.

For instance, a truth learned at the Feast of Tabernacles will be strengthened because of the atmosphere and the participation of fellow Bible students whose main interest is in learning more and delving deeper into truth.

Fall Feasts Are Prophetic

The four annual Sabbaths of the seventh scriptural month have not yet been fulfilled. The new moon, which begins the seventh month, is known as the day of Trumpets. Then follows the day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles, with the grand, joyful, concluding day, the Last Great Day. The Last Great Day is in Hebrew, *Simhat Torah*, meaning "rejoicing in the law."

Paul's New Testament letter to the Colossians teaches that these days that

Yahweh has set aside for His worship are important for us, as they foretell future events:

"Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body of Messiah [is to judge]" (Col. 2:16-17).

Notice that Paul says the holy days, new moons, and the sabbaths are (not were) foreshadowing events of things yet to come. These special days Yahweh has given us are for our learning and education in His way of life.

Besides the Saturday weekly Sabbath (which commemorates creation and redemption), the annual Sabbaths memorialize past events and point forward to prophetic events not yet fulfilled. When the brethren are gathered in convocation at these times, special attention is given to understanding the significance of these days and what they portend.

Trumpets and Yahshua's Return

The Feast of Trumpets is probably best understood as announcing the return of the Messiah at the last trumpet blast from the heavens.

"For Yahshua himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of Yahweh: and the dead in Messiah shall rise first" (1Thess. 4:16).

The day of Yahweh comprises seven trumpets. Yahweh's wrath is delivered by His angels during the sounding of the first six trumpets upon the wicked who resist His will prior to the return of the Messiah, as found in Revelation 8:2-7 and 11:15.

The last or seventh trumpet consists of seven bowls (vials) of wrath or punishment. These make up the third woe, which extends from Revelation 11:15 to 18:24. These punishments are to bring the wicked to repentance, that they might begin obeying Yahweh.

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Those who have Yahweh's will at heart and are striving to be obedient Yahweh calls "My people." This is confirmed by Isaiah: "Come, my people, enter into your chambers, and shut your doors about you: hide yourself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast" (Isa. 26:20).

Those endeavoring to be obedient to Yahweh now will be given special care and protection. Trumpets is a reminder to Yahweh's people to examine all phases of our lives to be assured that we are indeed overcoming and growing in grace and knowledge. If we have a submissive and obedient attitude, seeking to please Yahweh in every way, then He will help us to be overcomers.

The day of Trumpets is to remind us that Yahshua will soon return and put down all rebellion and wickedness. Isaiah calls this period of time "the day of vengeance":

"The Spirit of Yahweh is upon me; because Yahweh has anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of Yahweh, and the day of vengeance of our Elohim; to comfort all that mourn" (Isa. 61:1-2).

He Atoned for Our Sin

The Feast days Yahweh has given to us are for our own good and to help us learn deeper, spiritual truths about Him and His ways and purposes. Each Feast day event helps to prepare us for the Kingdom.

The Feast of Trumpets heralds the seventh scriptural month and ten days later is the Day of Atonement. The ten days leading up to Atonement are a time of personal evaluation and examination.

Atonement follows Trumpets and is the fifth annual Sabbath. It is a day we fast from sunset ending the ninth day of the seventh scriptural month until sunset on the tenth day. We do not eat or drink for 24 hours. This shows

FEASTS WILL BE OBSERVED BY ALL IN THE KINGDOM

The annual Sabbaths will be kept in the Kingdom. The following prophecies are all taken from the Old Testament, showing that the weekly and annual Sabbaths will be observed under Yahweh's righteous laws and government. The solemn Feasts are the annual Sabbaths, and the word Sabbaths alone can include the seventh-day of the week as well as the annual festivals. Note the following unequivocal passages that prophesy future Feast observances to include everyone on earth:

- “And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, says Yahweh. And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh” (Isa. 66:23-24).
- “And I that am Yahweh your Elohim from the land of Egypt will yet make you to dwell in tabernacles, as in the days of the solemn feast” (Hosea 12:9).
- “And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, Yahweh Sabbaoth, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, Yahweh Sabbaoth, even upon them

shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith Yahweh will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles” (Zech. 14:16-18).

- “Likewise the people of the land shall worship at the door of this gate before Yahweh in the Sabbaths and in the new moons” (Ezek. 46:3).
- “But when the people of the land shall come before Yahweh in the solemn feasts, he that enters in by the way of the north gate to worship shall go out by the way of the south gate; and he that enters by the way of the south gate shall go forth by the way of the north gate: he shall not return by the way of the gate whereby he came in, but shall go forth over against it” (Ezek. 46:9).
- “And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean. And in controversy they shall stand in judgment; and they shall judge it according to my judgments: and they shall keep my laws and my statutes in all mine assemblies; and they shall hallow my Sabbaths” (Ezekiel 44:23-24).
- “In the first month, in the fourteenth day of the month, you shall have the Passover, a feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten” (Ezekiel 45:21).

how human we are and how much we depend upon physical food and drink to sustain this life. We look forward to being in that first resurrection when we will be changed to spirit beings (1Cor. 15:51-54).

Atonement is not just another Passover to commemorate the fact Yahshua died for our sins. Not only did the Savior die, but He also had to rise again from the tomb. Our salvation is not in a dead Savior.

We often see painted on old barns and rocks, “[Yahshua] died to save sinners.” This is not exactly what the Bible teaches. He died and paid the penalty for our sins. His shed blood is the corresponding price needed to pay for the wages of our sins. The Bible

never says He died to save sinners. He died as the penalty for our sins, but He was raised so that we might have life.

The day of Atonement symbolizes the return of Yahshua our High Priest who has been in the heavenly Holy of Holies for nearly 2,000 years. We eagerly await His appearance, knowing that when He appears, we will be changed from physical to spirit, from mortal to immortal. The day of Atonement is special and graphically brings to mind the promises made to those who belong to the Savior.

Atonement reminds us each year of the heavy price Yahshua paid for our sins by His death upon the tree. Just as ancient Israel realized their sins were covered for another year, we are

brought to remember that our sins have been covered by the blood of Yahshua.

Atonement also brings in the Sabbatical year of land rest every seven years, Leviticus 25:9.

We are no longer a rival, a sinner laden with our burden of sins, unable to approach our Heavenly Father. Knowing that the Savior died for our sins, that knowledge leads us to repentance, when we determine to begin a changed life.

When we accept His shed blood for our sinful behavior, our faith in Yahshua's redemptive price allows us to become a child of Yahweh. Through the shed blood of the Savior we can approach the King of the universe in humble prayer.

“For if, when we were enemies,

we were reconciled to Yahweh by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life” (Rom. 5:10).

Yahshua is our High Priest, our Advocate, our Intercessor who pleads our case before Yahweh. If we have an attitude of obedience with a true desire to learn and put in practice whatever He has in store for us, then He can work with us.

On Atonement day the high priest made atonement for his sins, those of his family, and the sins of Israel. On this day he went into the Holy of Holies for the purpose of making the atonement sacrifice. If the offering was not acceptable, the high priest would have been struck down within the Holy of Holies.

It was customary to tie a rope around the priest’s foot so that he could be dragged out in the event of such a calamity. No one else was allowed entrance into the Holy of Holies. The Israelites stood outside waiting with

anticipation for the high priest to appear. If he came out, they knew Yahweh had accepted their offering. His emergence brought a shout of joy from the gathered people.

Feast Picturing the Kingdom

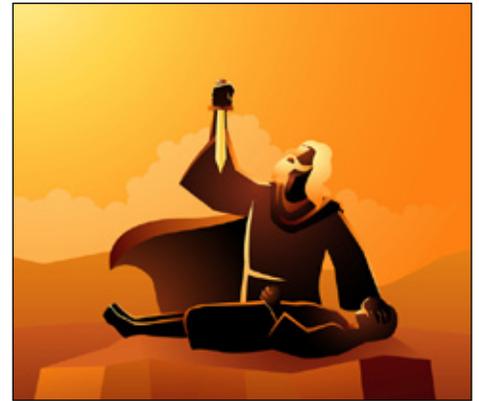
Following the day of Atonement is the Feast of Tabernacles. Tabernacles points to the coming rule of Yahshua when Yahweh’s laws will be enforced and the world will be keeping the righteous ways found in the Word.

The seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles are a time of joy as we envision this microcosm experience of the coming one thousand years. Brethren and those of good will rejoice together, living in temporary dwellings for seven days and learning in a small way what the Kingdom will be like.

For a combined eight days we live in temporary shelters, reflecting the transitory nature of our physical lives on earth. Some stay in nearby motels during this time. Sacrificing the

creature comforts of home, we gladly put up with some minor inconveniences in order to be faithful to Yahweh’s command.

Furthermore, turning our backs on the comforts of our modern civilization to observe Tabernacles is testimony to our being pilgrims on this earth, seeking



the city of Yahweh just as did faithful Abraham:

“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is Yahweh” (Heb. 11:8-10).

Tabernacles is like “mainstreet Millennium,” and the fellowship we share is with those who are also striving to be found worthy to become priests in the Kingdom.

All who attend the annual, commanded Feasts sacrifice to be there. The seven days of Tabernacles are followed by the Last Great Day, which pictures the quenching of spiritual thirst of the world when all will be obedient to Yahweh’s law, and the Savior turns the earth over to Yahweh’s rule.

“Then comes the end, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to Yahweh, even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule and

BIBLICAL OBSERVANCES AT A GLANCE

- **Weekly Sabbath** Falling on the seventh day of the week, it commemorates creation and redemption. We observe this day by rest from secular work, worship, and study of the Word.
- **Passover** Observed on the 14th of the scriptural first month. It looks back at Israel’s deliverance from the death angel and Yahshua’s shed blood for human sin.
- **Feast of Unleavened Bread** Beginning on the 15th of the first month, no leaven is eaten, signifying riddance of error and sin.
- **Pentecost** Also known as the Feast of Weeks, it falls 50 days from the waving of the barley sheaf during Unleavened Bread. Traditionally a time when the law was given and the Holy Spirit was sent.
- **Day of Trumpets** First day of the seventh month, it has yet to be fulfilled. Trumpets herald important heavenly events. Yahshua is to return at the last trumpet sound.
- **Day of Atonement** Falling on the 10th day of the seventh month, and regarded as the holiest day of the year, it is marked by fasting. Signifying a covering of our sins, it awaits a final fulfillment.
- **Feast of Tabernacles (and Last Great Day)** Beginning on the 15th of the seventh scriptural month, it depicts the Kingdom coming to earth under Yahweh and His laws. Yahweh’s people observe it for eight days by coming to where Yahweh places His Name and staying in temporary dwellings, as Israel did in the wilderness.

all authority and power. For He must reign, till he has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For He has put all things under his feet. But when He says all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that Yahweh may be all in all” (1Cor. 15:24-28).

Contrast with the World

Yahweh’s Feast days are the highlight of the year for Yahweh’s people. Not only is our faith strengthened by weekly Sabbath meetings, but spending eight days together helps to solidify everyone spiritually.

Many brethren have commented that when they first began keeping the Feasts, such as Unleavened Bread and Tabernacles, they often wondered what they could possibly be doing for all seven days. But time passes all too swiftly, and before we know it, the Feast is over and the aversion of having to go back into the carnal world becomes real.

Yahweh purposely reveals to His obedient the great contrast between joyfully living His laws at His Feasts and the dismal nature of man’s world of sin.

Having the Heart to Obey

If Yahweh has put in your heart the desire and determination to keep His Festivals, you can be sure that your desire to be faithful will be tested again and again. Satan will be there offering all sorts of excuses why you cannot attend the Feasts. What better proof for the importance of these commanded days!

Friends, relatives and even at times the immediate family discourage Yahweh’s people from being faithful in attending the Feasts. It is not a question of whether we WANT to go. The command is there. We are required to be in attendance at these special

convocations. A calling together is the meaning of “convocation”— these Feasts! We are to gather where He has placed His Name. And His mandate is clear.

“Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the Feasts of Yahweh, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my Feasts. Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; you shall do no work therein: it is the Sabbath of Yahweh in all your dwellings. These are the Feasts of Yahweh, even holy convocations, which you shall proclaim in their seasons” (Lev. 23:2-4).

The Adversary will test our faith each step of the way. Yet, our determination to be obedient will be richly rewarded when we continue to walk that narrow way. Overcoming will help us to be worthy to stand before the Son of man on that day when He returns to set up His kingdom on earth.

Great advantages await those keeping all the Festivals of Leviticus 23, namely, that we keep Yahweh’s Word



It is not a question of whether we WANT to go. The command is there. We are required to be at these Feast convocations.

in the forefront of our minds. We submit to His truths and strive to walk in the footsteps of the Savior. Through obedience we are laying up treasures in the heavens, preparing ourselves for the coming Kingdom.

As James tells us, “Submit yourselves therefore to Yahweh. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James

4:7). Solemnly consider the price Yahshua paid for you so that you might stand before Him when He returns to give eternal life to all those who obey Him. All who prove worthy will be given positions in His Kingdom.

We exhibit our intentions and aspirations by what we do, and earn the appropriate reward.

“Watch therefore, and pray always, that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man” (Luke 21:36).

Either we obey and live for Him now, keeping His Commandments and sacrificing for Him, or we can live for ourselves and experience His ire at the final days.

“And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of Yahweh” (Rev. 15:1).

Yahweh does not change. Israel rejected the Sabbaths, which are the sign between Him and His people, that they might come to know Yahweh.

“Moreover also I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am Yahweh that sanctify them. But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; and my Sabbaths they greatly polluted: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them in the wilderness, to consume them. But I wrought for my Name’s sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, in whose sight I brought them out” (Ezek. 20:12-14).

Make Your Sacrifice to Yahweh

You and I have the opportunity to make small sacrifices daily. Yahshua will soon be sent back to this earth to establish Yahweh’s government. Those who bear fruits revealing His laws active in their hearts and minds will be given everlasting positions in His kingdom. 



Taste the Kingdom

Yahweh commands specific observances as part of His worship. His annual Feasts are as necessary today as they will be in the coming Kingdom.

by Alan R. Mansager

In His wisdom, Yahweh has given us seven Feast observances occurring at three times in the year tied to the agricultural seasons. We learn spiritual lessons through physical acts. By getting actively involved, we retain important aspects and learn key lessons better.

Yahshua started His assembly by calling out those who had a heart to observe Yahweh's commands, including annual Feast days.

The three major Feasts to be observed each year are Unleavened Bread, Pentecost (Shavuoth or the Feast of Weeks), and Tabernacles. These are known as Pilgrim Feasts because His people were expected to journey to keep them.

Exodus 23:17; 34:23, and Deuteronomy 16:16 all say that it is mandatory for all the males and their families to appear before Yahweh at the times of these Feasts. Major events happened at each Feast, revealing their importance.

"And you shall rejoice in your feast, you, and your son, and your daughter, and your manservant, and your maidservant, and the Levite, the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are within your gates" (Deut. 16:14).

The Way and Means

Yahweh has also given us the ability to finance our Feast attendance. Those who are obedient to Yahweh know that He expects us to set aside a second tithe for the Feasts. This second tithe is not collected for the ministry. It is used personally for His Festivals.

Notice Deuteronomy 14:22-26, "You shall truly tithe all the increase of your seed, that the field brings forth year by year. And you shall eat before Yahweh your Elohim, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of your corn, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks; that you may learn to fear Yahweh your Elohim always."

This second tithe is separate from the first tithe of Leviticus 27:30-33. The first tithe is holy to Yahweh, belongs to Him and used for His ministry and worship in expanding the Body of Messiah.

The second tithe is set aside to be used in attending the Feasts. Putting away a regular amount each pay period allows Yahweh's people to really enjoy the Feasts with no burdensome debt. Even if your income is small, a tithe put away regularly will add up over many

months, enabling you to truly enjoy His days.

We Are in Training Now

If you are not keeping the Feasts as did ancient Israel, the Savior, and the Apostles, you should carefully consider the scriptural necessity of joining with others of like faith in observing these annual events and enjoying the blessings of obedience to the Word. Our earthly sojourn is only a training period for ruling with Yahshua in the Kingdom.

We are in school now, learning spiritual principles that will enable us to be good representatives of Yahweh even as we learn. This means we build character and integrity by living Yahweh's commanded way of life.

Through our example others should learn of the benefits of obedience to Yahweh. Our good works should encourage them to seek His paths. Notice what Paul wrote to the Corinthians: "You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men" (2 Cor. 3:2). Each believer is a walking Bible billboard as we live its precepts exactly as Yahshua did. Many watch us and judge the Truth by us.

There are a number of lessons we learn from a short study, beginning in Zechariah 14:16:

“And it shall come to pass, [that] every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, Yahweh of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.”

Following Yahweh’s intervening hand in the battle around Jerusalem at the end of this age, there will be human beings left alive on this earth. They will be told to come up to Jerusalem to worship Yahweh each year to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. Those in the first resurrection Yahweh plans to make a kingdom of priests as well as teachers.

“Blessed and holy [is] he that has part in the first resurrection: on such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of Yahweh and of Messiah, and shall reign with him a thousand years” (Rev. 20:6).

Revelation 5:10 says we rule on the earth. Those in the first resurrection will be made spirit beings, but will be under Yahshua and teach physical human beings the righteous ways of Yahweh.

Coming: Forced Compliance

Zechariah described the end of the age at which time Yahshua is to rule with a rod of iron.

“And it shall be, [that] whoso will not come up of [all] the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, Yahweh of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain,” Zechariah 14:17.

Apparently not all mankind will have learned the lesson that Yahweh’s way is best. The stubborn will rebel and not come to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. By withholding rain from them so their crops do not grow, Yahweh will make clear that He is in control of this universe.

The time they spend in observing the Festivals in humble obedience will be far more beneficial and rewarding than staying home and trying to prosper

in their own way, violating a direct command of Yahweh. If they continue to ignore Yahweh’s mandate, they will soon wish they had obeyed.

Those striving to be compliant, spiritual Israelites are joyfully keeping the Feasts now and will receive the blessings. But when Yahshua rules with a rod of iron in His kingdom, all people will be compelled to obey.

A Covenant Command

But the Feasts are a key part of the covenant made with Israel. They are first given in Exodus 23.

“Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year. Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:) And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field. Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Sovereign Yahweh” (Ex. 23:14-17).

Notice there is nothing in this command that even hints of animal sacrifices. These were added later. The Savior and the Apostles gave us an example to follow. They kept the annual Feast days, but without animal sacrifices in the New Testament.

If the Feasts stand or fall with animal sacrifices, then the weekly Sabbath is done away as well, as we find in Numbers 28:9-10: “And on the Sabbath day two lambs of the first

year without spot, and two tenth deals of flour [for] a meat offering, mingled with oil, and the drink offering thereof: [This is] the burnt offering of every Sabbath, beside the continual burnt offering, and his drink offering.”

Sacrifices of the Heart

In the New Testament our sacrifices are spiritual. It is a matter of obedience from the heart as nearly all the New Testament writers point out. Notice Paul’s letter to the Romans:

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of Yahweh, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto Yahweh, [which is] your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of Yahweh” (Romans 12:1-2).

Paul undoubtedly means obedience in mind and spirit, which he refers to in Romans 6:11-13. He himself said he died daily, 1Corinthians 15:31.

Peter concurs with Paul and points out that the Assembly is being constructed with living stones to make the spiritual building: “You also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to Elohim by Yahshua Messiah” (1Pet. 2:5).

Probably one of the most compelling of all in Yahweh’s Word is found in the Book of Hebrews, which shows that our praise and thanks to Yahweh constitute proper sacrifice:

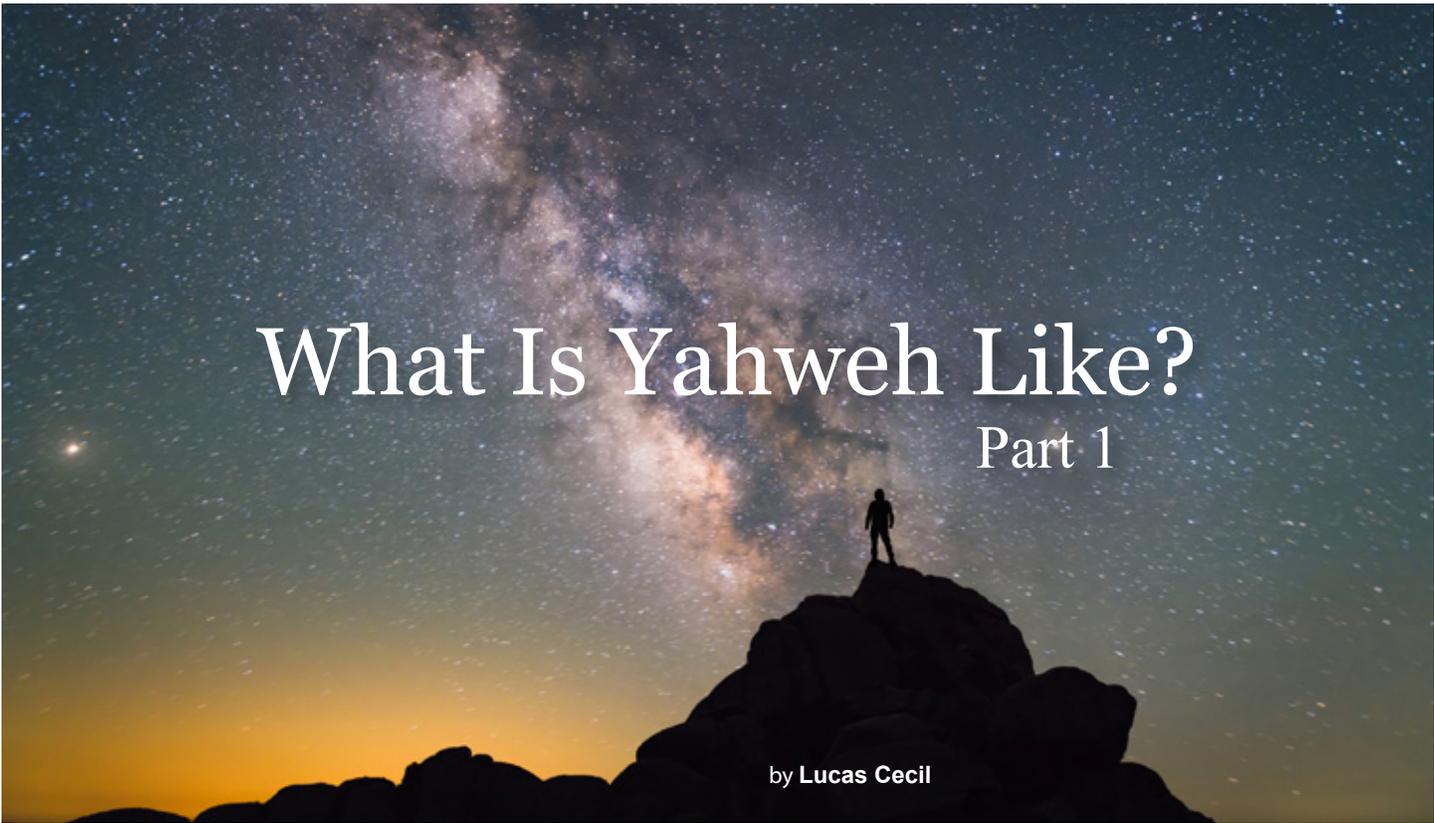
“By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to Elohim continually, that is the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name” (Heb. 13:15).

One can give thanks and praise at all times. Especially on the Sabbaths and Feasts we gather to sing praises and give honor to Yahweh and His Son. We study the Word and hear uplifting sermons, all the while endeavoring to imbed the laws of Yahweh in our mind.

(please turn to p. 17)

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What Is Yahweh Like?

Part 1

by Lucas Cecil

I have addressed some of Almighty Yahweh's attributes and their significance here, with the hope of shedding a little light on the magnificence that Yahweh is. This is by no means definitive; Yahweh is much more than we can contemplate.

I do not want this to come across as if I have Father Yahweh figured out and that now we can all fully understand and comprehend Him and His nature.

Yahweh is far above us, as is stated in Isaiah 55:8-9: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith Yahweh. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

With that, let's attempt to peer into Yahweh's attributes and see what we can find.

Yahweh Is Infinite

"Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting Elohim, Yahweh, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his

understanding."

The fact that Yahweh is self-existent, that He has always existed since forever, is one of the hardest truths for us to grasp with our puny human brains. In our fallen state, with our limited function, grasping the nature of Yahweh is like trying to jump into a raging river and hold all the water in place. There is simply no way for us to truly comprehend the nature of Yahweh.

In his book, *Knowledge of the Holy*, Christian author A.W. Tozer, wrote this: "To admit that there is One who lies beyond us, who exists outside of all our categories, who will not be dismissed with a name, who will not appear before the bar of our reason, nor submit to our curious inquiries: this requires a great deal of humility, more than most of us possess, so we save face by thinking [Elohim] down to our level, or at least down to where we can manage Him."

It's a common human tendency to try to fit things we don't understand into neat little boxes, to simplify the complex and make it manageable.

How many of us have encountered attempts to explain away Yahweh? It's a reminder of our limitations and the need for humility in the face of the infinite.

Yahweh's very Name expresses this nature. In response to Moses' question as to what Moses should call Him, Yahweh responded in Exodus 3:14: "I Am that I Am." "I Am" is from the verb of existence, *hayah* in Hebrew and means, "to become, come to pass," as well as "sustain."

Yahweh is, Yahweh was, and Yahweh will be, which leads to the next attribute...

Yahweh Is Never Changing

He says of Himself in Malachi 3:6, "I Yahweh do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed" (NIV).

Yahweh is, He will be, and He always has been who He is, never changing. Yahweh of Genesis 1:1 is the same Yahweh we honor and worship today. Neither His plans nor His promises change.

Why is this important? Why does this matter so much? Because we change; we lie; we fall short; we hurt; we change our minds; and we are subject to temptation and the fiery darts of the enemy.

Yahweh, in His unchanging nature, is a sure thing in a world filled with shifting goalposts and ever-changing rules and ideologies. Yahweh's rules are the same, His Word is the same.

We read in Psalm 18:2: "Yahweh is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; my Elohim is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." This ought to be a source of incredible joy for us as believers.

Theologian Sam Storms writes about the good news of Yahweh's unchanging nature: "What all this means, very simply, is that [Elohim] is dependable! Our trust in him is, therefore, a confident trust, for we know that he will not, indeed cannot, change. His purposes are unchanging, his promises unassailable. It is because the [Elohim] who promised us eternal life is immutable that we may rest assured that nothing, not trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword shall separate us from the love of [Messiah]. It is because [Yahshua Messiah] is the same yesterday, today, and forever that neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, not even powers, height, depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us

from the love of [Elohim] that is in [Messiah Yahshua our Master] (Rom. 8:35-39)!"

Yahweh's perfectly unchanging nature is paramount to His role in our lives as our Elohim. He HAS to be unchanging. We are the single-most fickle creation of Yahweh. If we cannot lean on Him consistently, we have no hope.

Yahweh Is Self-Sufficient

Yahweh doesn't have needs as we do. "For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself" (John 5:26).

As limited humans, we have incredible needs, which when left unfulfilled result in death. Yahweh, however, has never once been in need of anything. "Listen, my people, and I will speak; I will testify against you, Israel: I am Elohim, your Elohim. I bring no charges against you concerning your sacrifices or concerning your burnt offerings, which are ever before me. I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens, for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are mine. If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it. Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats? Sacrifice thank offerings to Elohim, fulfill your vows to the Most High, and call on me in the day of trouble; will deliver you, and you will

honor me." (Psalm 50:7-15)

Because of this self-sufficient nature, we can go to Him for all our needs. We do not have to worry about Yahweh running out of Mercy or Grace and Love for His people. Matthew 6:31-33 assures us, "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

So how can Yahweh provide our every need? Because of His next attribute:

Yahweh Is all Powerful

We read in Psalm 33:6: "By the word of Yahweh the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth." The Book of Job also gives us some insight in chapter 11, verses 7-11: "Can you fathom the mysteries of Elohim? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty? They are higher than the heavens above—what can you do? They are deeper than the depths below—what can you know? Their measure is longer than the earth and wider than the sea. If he comes along and confines you in prison and convenes a court, who can oppose him? Surely he recognizes deceivers; and when he sees evil, does he not take note?"

Omnipotent means to have unlimited power (*omni* = all; *potent* =



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powerful). Yahweh is powerful and able to do anything He wills without any effort on His part. It is important to note that He cannot do anything contrary to His nature.

Hebrews 6:13-18 says: “When Elohim made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, saying, ‘I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.’”

And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised. People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all arguments.

“Because Elohim wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. Elohim did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for Elohim to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged.”

Look at it like this: Yahweh’s omnipotence means that He is able to do all that He desires to do. When He decides, “This will happen,” it will happen. Nothing that you, I, or Satan can do can prevent the completion of what Yahweh purposes to do.

Isaiah 55:11 declares, “So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will

accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

Yahweh Is Omnipresent

Psalm 139:7 asks, “Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?”

Have you ever been alone in a room? Have you ever felt alone in the world? Do you have a secret place that Yahweh doesn’t know about? Do you wait for Him to turn His back so that you can sneak off and hide in your little place to do your business behind His back? Away from prying eyes?

King David wrote this is the 139th Psalm in verses 7-11: “Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are here. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me.”

And in Jeremiah 23:23-24 we read, “Am I only an Elohim nearby,” declares Yahweh, “and not an Elohim far away? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?” declares Yahweh. “Do not I fill heaven and earth?” declares Yahweh.”

Yahweh can see it all. Every move, every word, every triumph, and every

shortcoming; Yahweh sees it all. Now, when I say Yahweh is omnipresent, I do not mean He is present in the same way we are present. Yahweh’s being is, as we saw earlier, completely different from ours. He exists outside of our five senses.

This should give us great comfort. Yahweh is always near, even if we in our flesh cannot perceive Him. We can take comfort in knowing He sees us, He hears us, and He loves us. It should also be a reminder that there is no darkness black enough to hide you from the Holy one of Israel, as we see in Luke 12:2-3.

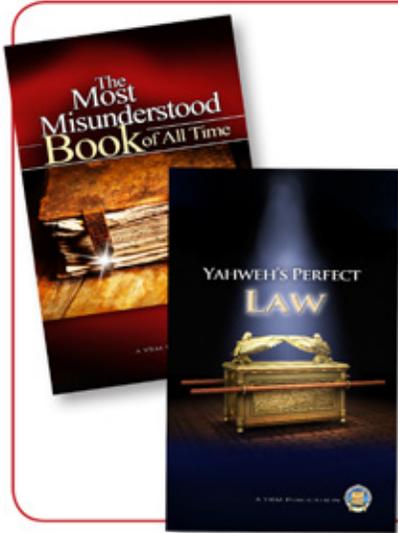
“There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.”

Yahweh Is Omniscient

“Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am Yahweh, and there is no other; I am Yahweh, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please’” (Isaiah 46:9).

Why is this important? Because it gives us confidence in our Father. He is the architect who designed and created you and me. Yahweh meticulously designed every detail, every pore, and every cell. Everything we humans have done can be summed up as nothing more than manipulation of an already completed work. For all of our understanding of His work, we have only seen a fraction of His creation.

In Job 38:1-7 we find this: “Then Yahweh spoke to Job out of the storm. He said: ‘Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand.



Lawkeeping in the New Testament

For many in churchianity, advocating obedience to the Word today is bondage to a bygone era and an attempt to earn salvation. Nothing could be further from the truth. The law represents the character and values of Yahweh and Yahshua, which believers are to reflect in their lives. Forget misguided church teachings. Get the facts. Request or go online to read the dynamic duo of booklets, **Yahweh’s Perfect Law** and **The Most Misunderstood Book of All Time**.

Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?”

If Yahweh could create all this around us and can weave our DNA together so perfectly that we inherit the traits and features of our parents through something so simple as intercourse, do we REALLY doubt that He has this all figured out? That He might fumble the ball? No. Of course not. Yahweh not only created, but knew to create, how to create, and make it all function.

Yahweh Is All-Wise

Yahweh Is full of perfect, unchanging wisdom. “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of Elohim! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!” (Romans 11:33)

Why is wisdom so important? Why is it good that Yahweh possesses this wisdom?

Wisdom is the practical application of knowledge. Wisdom is a byproduct of living. Yahweh has been around from the start. So it stands to reason that He would have a pretty good grasp on what is going on in His universe.

A true quote from American humorist Evan Esar reads: “An intelligent man believes only half of what he hears, a wise man knows which half.”

Wisdom is more than just “knowing something.” Wisdom understands the facts and is able to make the best decision. It uses heart, mind, and soul to come to a conclusion. But even at our best, we have nothing compared

to Yahweh. Yahweh knows the end from the beginning. He doesn’t need to guess, or provide conjecture. He just knows. His path is carved through the chaos with flawless precision.

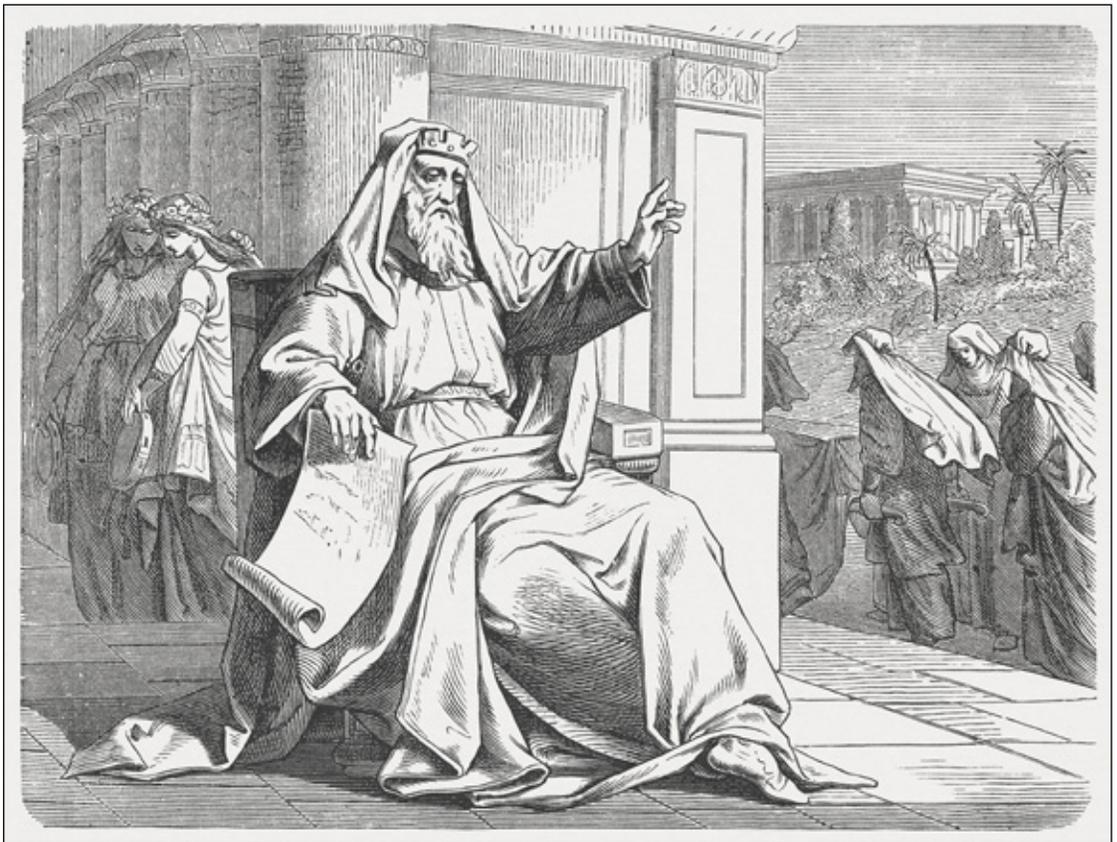
Let’s look at King Solomon. In 1Kings 4:29-34 Elohim gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore.

“Solomon’s wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than anyone else, including Ethan the Ezrahite—wiser than Heman, Kalkol and Darda, the sons of Mahol. And his fame spread to all the surrounding nations.

listen to Solomon’s wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom.”

Now we know how Solomon’s wisdom failed him. Even as the wisest man to ever live, he was still a man who fell woefully short. We might not have the same wisdom as Solomon. However, we have Yahweh’s wisdom in His Word to study, to think on, and and to dwell in.

We can take comfort in HIS infinite wisdom. The fact that Yahweh can never be any wiser than He already is means He is always acting in the wisest possible manner in our lives. No plan we can concoct can compare with His, As Proverbs 16:9 tells us: “In their



“He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five. He spoke about plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also spoke about animals and birds, reptiles and fish. From all nations people came to

hearts humans plan their course, but Yahweh establishes their steps.”

In part 2 we will learn more about Yahweh’s attributes that reveal His wisdom, mercy and most of all, holiness. These we also must strive to emulate in our walk in this world. 🙏

DID YOU KNOW?

DID YOU KNOW that the Messiah Yahshua endorsed the practice of tithing, which is the giving of ten percent of one's earnings (increase)?

The tithe is the firstfruits of your financial increase. In Scripture firstfruits always belonged to Yahweh (Ex. 22:29-30; Lev. 2:12-14; Rom. 11:16). These firstfruits are not ours to keep, which if we do is the same as robbing Yahweh, Malachi 3:8. Yahshua told His rivals in Matthew 23:23: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone." He upheld the necessity of the tithe as well as other obligations like judgment, mercy, and faith.

DID YOU KNOW that the Hebrew word "hovah," which is the last part of the name "Jehovah," has an offensive meaning?

The word "hovah" is **Strong's Dictionary** No. 1943 and means, "ruin" or "disaster." Why would our Heavenly Father give Himself a name with such a noxious connotation? This is one of the many proofs against the name Jehovah (or Yehovah). In addition, neither Hebrew nor Greek alphabets have the letter "J" or even a "J" sound. (See alphabet charts in the **Restoration Study Bible**). The letter "J" was the last letter added to the English alphabet and is not found in the first printing of the **King James Version** of the Bible. As endorsed by modern scholarship, the proper pronunciation of our Creator's Name is "Yahweh."

DID YOU KNOW that **Nomina Sacra** is key to the sacred Name(s) in the New Testament?

The **Nomina Sacra** is a way of abbreviation that was applied to certain key words in the early New Testament Greek manuscripts. According to some scholars, this may provide evidence for the Holy Names, Yahweh and Yahshua, in the

New Testament Greek. We provide a further explanation in the **Restoration Study Bible**: "**Nomina Sacra** meaning 'sacred names' in Latin, was a literary device used to abbreviate several words in early Greek NT manuscripts. Bruce Metzger's book, **Manuscripts of the Greek Bible**, lists 15 examples of these abbreviations from Greek papyri... Except for 'mother,' which is not found until the 4th century CE, all other [**Nomina Sacra**] have been found in Greek manuscripts from the first through third centuries CE. While scholars are still debating the purpose, some propose that this shortening of key words may have been used to replace the Tetragrammaton (see Ex. 3:15) with the common title *Kurios* (typically abbreviated 'KS' with a line above), in Greek Christian manuscripts, as found within this passage. This offers a possible explanation as to why Yahweh's Name is missing from the Greek NT. In fact, in those places where the Tetragrammaton should appear, the definite article is missing in front of the **Nomina Sacra**. This conclusion is supported also by German scholar David Trobisch's work, **The First Edition of The New Testament**. In the instance of a Hebrew or Aramaic NT original, this may also explain why the Greek title *theos*, typically (abbreviated 'THS' with a line above), appears in place of the Hebrew Elohim (see Gen. 1:1)."

DID YOU KNOW that Yahweh is the one who adds to the Body of Messiah?

The Apostle Paul in 1Corinthians 3:6 states that Yahweh gives the increase. While it's common for believers to become frustrated with friends or family who don't see the truth that they themselves see so clearly, it's important to always remember that our Heavenly Father is the One who opens the eyes and hearts to His Truth. His disciples can only plant seeds and help cultivate those that take root.

DID YOU KNOW that Romans 14:5 has nothing to do with Sunday worship?

Those who make Sunday the day of worship will typically turn

to Romans 14:5 for validation. The problem is that nowhere in this passage does Paul refer to a day of worship. Verse 6 shows what Paul is actually writing about. He says, "He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto Yahweh; and he that regardeth not the day, to Yahweh he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to Yahweh, for he giveth Elohim thanks; and he that eateth not, to Yahweh he eateth not, and giveth Elohim thanks." Paul is referring not to a day of worship, but to personal choices regarding eating.

DID YOU KNOW that the word "Sabbath" appears 60 times in the New Testament of the King James Version?

In contrast, the phrase "first *day*" of the week occurs only eight times in the New Testament and not once does it refer to Sunday as a day of worship. The Bible record shows that the Messiah and His apostles worshiped on the weekly seventh-day Sabbath in the New Testament, with no evidence of Sunday worship. In fact, Sunday was not made a day of worship anywhere in the Bible, but only by Roman Church edict.

DID YOU KNOW that the Feast of Tabernacles as well as all of Yahweh's Feasts and weekly Sabbath will be enforced in the coming Kingdom?

Zechariah 14:16-19 prophesies that all people will be made to observe the Feast of Tabernacles in the millennial Kingdom, including the families of Egypt. He also states that those who refuse to observe will receive the plague of no rain, Isaiah 66:23 and Ezekiel 46.

DID YOU KNOW that the most widely accepted symbol of Christianity isn't in the New Testament?

As with many generally accepted beliefs, no biblical support exists for the cross. The **Companion Bible** in Appendix 162 says this: "In the Greek New Testament two words are used for 'the cross' on which the [Savior] was put to death. 1) The word *stauros*; which generally denotes an upright pale or stake, to which the criminals were nailed for execution. 2) The word *xulon*, generally denotes a piece of a dead log of wood, or timber, for fuel or any other purpose. . . *xulon* is used for the former *stauros*, it shows us that the meaning of each is exactly the same."

Stauros and *xulon* describe the same thing, and this reference says of *stauros*, "It never means two pieces of timber placed across one another at any angle, but always one piece alone. Hence the use of the word *xulon* in connection with the manner of our [Savior's] death, and rendered 'tree' in Acts 5:30; 10:39; 13:29; Gal. 3:13, 1 Peter 2:24. This is preserved in our Old English name rood or rod." In his book, **The Non-Christian Cross**, (pp. 23-24) John Denham Parsons states, "There is not a single sentence in any of the numerous writings forming the New Testament, which, in the original Greek, bears even indirect evidence to the effect that the *stauros* used in the case of [Yahshua] was

other than an ordinary *stauros*; much less to the effect that it consisted not of one piece of timber, but of two pieces nailed together in the form of a cross. . . it is not a little misleading upon the part of our teachers to translate the word *stauros* as 'cross'. . . without carefully explaining that that was at any rate not the primary meaning of the word in the days of the Apostles, did not become its primary signification till long afterwards, and became so then, if at all, only because despite the absence of corroborative evidence, it was for some reason or other assumed that the particular *stauros* upon which [Yahshua] was executed had that particular shape." For more, see "The Cross," on p. 1193 in the **Restoration Study Bible**, 4th Ed.

DID YOU KNOW that using Yahweh's Name respectfully is expected for True Worship?

Some believe that using the Sacred Name places the user in danger of blasphemy. Leviticus 24:15-16 is often quoted as the reason the Jews stopped proclaiming the Name Yahweh and disguised or substituted other appellatives such as Adonai (L-rd) to hide the Name. The verses read, "And you shall speak unto the children of Israel, saying, Whosoever curses his Elohim shall bear his sin. And he that blasphemeth the name of Yahweh he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him: as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land when he blasphemeth the name of Yahweh shall be put to death."

Because the Name is holy and precious, no one should invoke Yahweh's Name flippantly or use it in a degrading, blasphemous manner. The death penalty was decreed on those who would bring disgrace to the personal Name Yahweh.

The Third Commandment clearly shows the sacredness and high esteem we should all have with Yahweh's Name, as declared in Exodus 20:7: "You shall not take the name of Yahweh your Elohim in vain; for Yahweh will not hold him guiltless that takes His name in vain."

To stop calling upon His Name lest one might blaspheme it, however, is much like ignoring the Sabbath so one will not break this Fourth Commandment. Neither can we ignore our parents to avoid breaking the Fifth Commandment. We must learn to handle rightly Bible truth and not do away with or circumvent His Commandments. There is salvation in Yahweh's Name and we are to invoke the Name Yahweh and use it, as we read in Joel 2:32: "And it shall come to pass, that whoever shall call on the name of Yahweh shall be delivered; for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those that escape, as Yahweh has said, and among the remnant those whom Yahweh does call."

King David clearly teaches in the Psalms that we must call upon the Name Yahweh and all nations will come and worship before Yahweh and "shall glorify your name," Psalm 86:7-9. The one whose Name is Yahweh will spare us according to Psalm 91:14, "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high because he has known my Name!" There are a number of Psalms with this and other promises. 

Meeting Hall Expansion Progress (Phase 2)

Construction update... We hope to have all the exterior metal completed before Tabernacles. The next major expense will be to finish the Sanctuary (top floor). Yahweh willing, we will receive enough donations to have that completed before the Feast of Unleavened Bread but all is in Yahweh's hands. To finish Phase Two, the ministry has used money it has been saving beyond donations received. We have also had to use some funds from other accounts. We do not make bank loans and will only build with the finances available. We have done most of the framing ourselves, hiring out only the parts we are not equipped to do safely. We have also done all our own contracting and design to save those expenses. We plan to stop if needed to recoup our finances before Phase Three, but if we receive donations for the project, we will continue working accordingly. It takes a lot to keep the lights on while pursuing a large project like this. A special thanks for all who have donated their free time and offerings, and for those who have prayed for this project. Yahweh has been opening doors and we have faith He will continue to do so. This is the last "big" project we have left to accomplish on the YRM grounds to make our facility adequate for the Feasts.



Current construction photos

Taste the Kingdom

(continued from p. 9)

Today, ceremonial offerings and ritual are not what Yahweh is looking for. He seeks a change in our hearts while giving glory to His Name. He does not say to give glory to His person, or thanks to His goodness or His mercy, but strongly emphasizes giving honor to His NAME as an important part of True Worship. We do this for eight days at the Feast of Tabernacles.

Big Blessings Follow Obedience

During this festive occasion we spend time with brethren of like faith as we fellowship with the family of Yahweh. Upon returning home we cherish the friendships and joyful times, reflecting on the deeper truths of Yahweh's Word.

Suddenly we realize that we have spent time with Yahweh and His Son, and have been associated with those who will be future priests in the coming Kingdom!

The fellowship with dedicated brethren who are also striving to be in the first resurrection becomes more priceless and lasting than even a family reunion with our own blood relatives.

So amazing is the experience that once we have attended a Feast with others of like faith, we never want to miss another one.



We now have a growing desire to attend each of them, as we know that Yahweh will bless those who obediently follow His command to keep His Feasts in

convocation with other sincere Bible believers.

If you have not been Feast observant, we urge you to determine to observe the coming Feasts with us this September. Prepare for the marriage supper of the Lamb, wearing a robe of righteousness and a crown when Yahshua returns and gives rewards to the saints: "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward [is] with me, to give everyone according as his work shall be" (Rev. 22:12).

בִּיבְלִי HEBREW WORD לֶשׁוֹן

שָׁבַר

Shavar shaw-var'

Composition: shin, qamets, bet, pathach, resh.

The Hebrew word **Shavar** (H7665) (primitive root) means to break, or break in pieces

My sacrifice, O Elohim, is a broken spirit; a **broken** and contrite heart you, Elohim, will not despise.

Psalms 51:17

Outreach Program's Current Partners

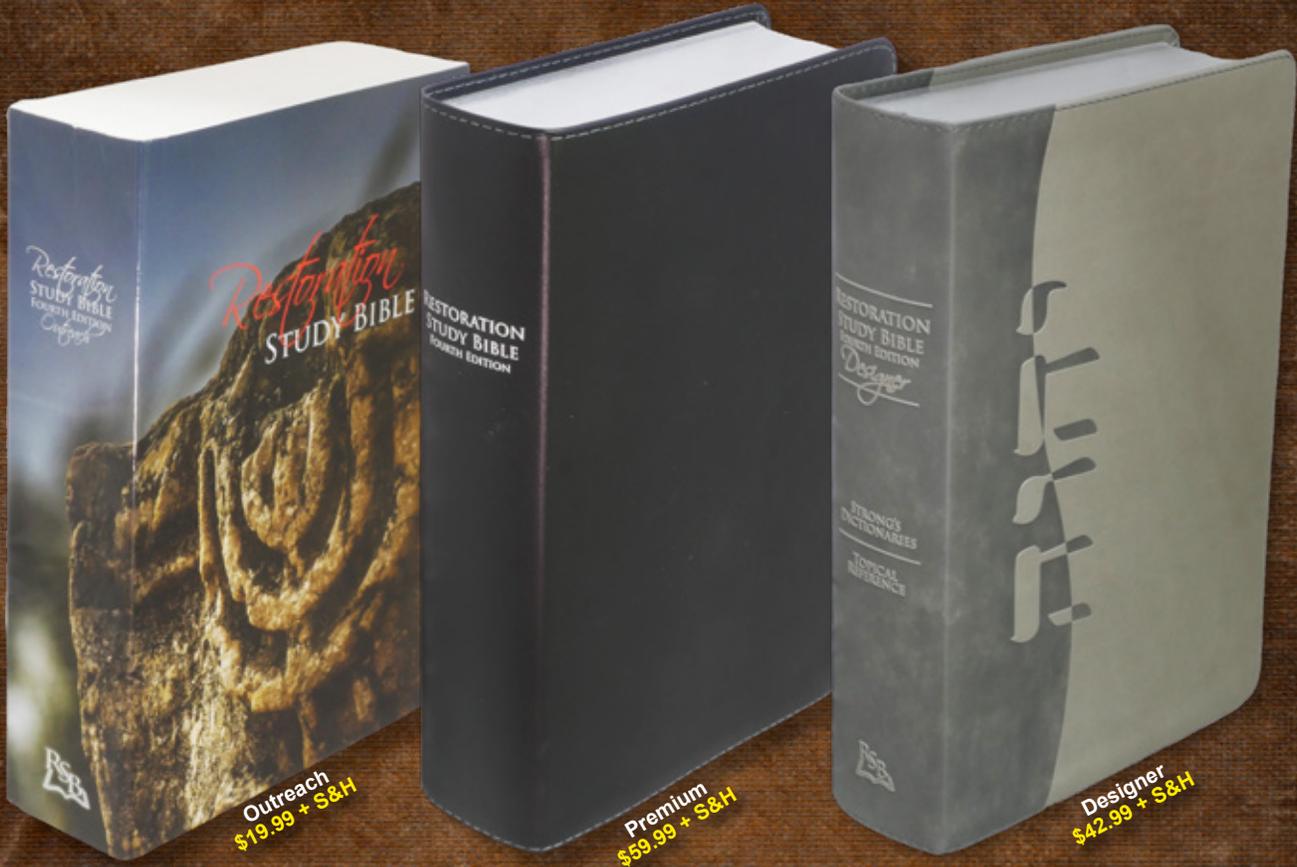
We recognize our outreach partners for their outstanding dedication to the Truth in their efforts to fulfill the Great Commission. If you are interested in becoming an outreach partner to help us spread the Truth, visit: <http://www.yrm.org/outreach> or call us at (573) 896-1000 during normal office hours (M-F, 8:00 am- 4:00 pm.) We will explain how you can join this group committed to spreading the Good News!

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4th Edition



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Eldertorial

Called to Be Special

What we believe becomes part of our mental equilibrium. Many take it personally when someone upsets their understanding with truth they had never considered. An individual can be totally wrong but will defend his views to the end without ever fact-checking what he believes with Scripture.

Only when we are willing to take an objective look do we have a chance at uncovering error and changing our convictions.

Deception is insidious. Those in the wrong may have no evil intent. But they are still deceived.

Pilate asked Yahshua, "What is Truth?" Yahshua had said the Word is Truth. It sanctifies His people. "Sancify" means to set apart. The more you believe and follow the Scriptures, the more you find yourself being "set apart" from nominal beliefs and often from family and friends. That's because what the Bible teaches and what most believe and teach about the Bible are two different things.

When you are different because you live the Word, you become a target. Yahshua the Messiah said it would be that way. The disciples found out He was right. They were detested, and history says were martyred as He was for teaching the Truth He taught.

Can it be any different for us? Yahshua said no. If you are not being

persecuted for your beliefs, take Paul's advice: Examine yourselves, whether you be in the faith. And examine your faith for error as well.

Yahshua said, "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets," Luke 6:26. He goes on to say love your enemies and do good to them who hate you, proving again that the true faith would be despised.

In fact, we are told to rejoice when oppressed. Yahshua said, "Blessed are you, when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My Name's sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven," Matthew 5:11-12.

Truth-seekers don't live for this world, but for a world that's coming. And nothing is more important in this life than that. 🙏

Q I don't believe in the rapture, according to 1Cor. 15:52, but a friend brought up a few Scriptures that I'm not sure of, such as 1Thess. 5:9, which says we are not appointed to wrath but to obtain salvation. He says wrath means the tribulation where believers are taken out of the world before the tribulation period. Also, Luke 21:36 says, "Pray that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass and to stand before the Son of man." How do we escape the tribulation if we are not raptured?

A The rapture says that the righteous will be snatched up to heaven before the tribulation. Your friend assumes that wrath means the tribulation. It is not so defined but speaks of Yahweh's judgment on sinful humanity, from which Yahshua delivers the righteous. As for Luke 21:36, it is no problem for Yahweh to protect His people on earth, not in heaven, as He did Noah and the Israelites (John 17:15). We find in Matthew 24:29-31 that Yahshua will gather his elect AFTER the tribulation, not before. (Ask for our booklet, **Is There a Coming Rapture?**, or read it online at <https://yrm.org/rapture/>)

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of the
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Day of Atonement - September 14
Feast of Tabernacles - September 19-25
Last Great Day - September 26

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