

## Transcript – Theory or Reality, Would You Have Believed?

Alrighty, Chag Semeach and Shabbat Shalom. I pray that everybody is having a wonderful Feast so far. I have a message today that I really hope makes you think and make some positive changes in your life. And the message is called, *Theory or Reality, Would You Have Believed?*

So I'm going to ask you some questions to really make you think about some things. We live in a fake world; I say that just about every message because we are. And we see that many things are deceived through the internet and the media. And it's on both sides of the fence. I mean everything from Sasquatch being out there and all these other weird theories that people have. And flat earth is only the beginning of it. All these crazy things that ... the royal family or reptilians.

And I mean you have so much crazy stuff that I can understand why people wouldn't believe a lot of things. So when you do bring out things like COVID or what not, the people are skeptical, right? But they're skeptical on a lot of things because of that. Because **there's fake news in everything**. Now, I'm not going to talk about that today, but I want to talk about fake news didn't just start in the last 10, 20 years. There's been fake news ever since time, ever since the Garden of Eden.

And my question ... my first question to you is if you were alive in the first century, would you have believed in Yahshua? And of course you tell, "of course I believe," right? But you have about a third of the people on the planet, more than 2 billion, maybe even closer, 2.5 billion people. And some former and other consider themselves Christians, right? So every one of those people that I would ask would say, "Of course I believe." And yet when we look at the world today, out of those 2.5 roughly billion people in the world claiming to be Christians, **how many really are believers**, right? So this is what I want to ask you.

Let's start in John 6 because I'm going to show you some things to make you think. You might not have believed. It wouldn't have been that easy to believe in that day. It wasn't an easy question. John 6 in verse 64. And then I'm going to show you how today you would know if actually you would have believed back then. John 6 in verse 64 to verse 66.

**John 6:64-66** *But there are some of you who are not believing ... This is Yahshua telling them ... For Yahshua knew from the beginning who they were, the ones not believing, and who were the one betraying Him. And He said, Because of this, I have told you that no one is able to come to Me except it is given to him by My Father. Because of this saying, many of His disciples turned their backs and did not walk with Him.*

So we see the same today, right? People get baptized. And like I said today, it's like while in Western society, close to 50% or more the people baptized turn away. And usually within the first year, which is really, really amazing. Third world, not so much. Third world, we probably have close to 90% retention rate.

But why did many of them walk back? Go back to verse 42. And as Yahshua was saying these things to them. And look what they said.

**John 6:42** *Is this not Yahshua the son of Joseph, of whom we know the father and the mother? How does this One now say, I have come down out of Heaven?*

So honestly, be honest with yourself. Now it's easy 2,000 years later, right? When we have the New Testament, and it's been there for 2,000 years, and almost everybody that is a New Testament believer today was born into *some form* of Christianity.

So maybe you changed Sunday to Saturday, and maybe you stopped believing in the Trinity. And maybe you stopped keeping Christmas and Easter, and you started keeping the Holy Days. But basically, most of the people that are hearing this today, from the day they were born, they believed that Yahshua was the Messiah. You might have known Him by a different name, but the person in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, nobody ever doubted that.

Except there are some, and I had the blessing of baptizing Muslims. I had the blessing of baptizing Jews. So yes, there are some that were *not born* believing that they come to faith. But for the most part, nobody ever really doubted that Yahshua was the Messiah, right? So when I ask that question, it's easy to say, of course, 2,000 years later. But if you were alive at that time, and here it is, right?

Yahshua was not a cherub. He didn't just appear doing these things. He was born to His mother Miriam, the stepfather Yosef, which they don't know, it's His stepfather. He grows up in Nazareth with all these people. We don't see that for the first 30 years of His life, that He's doing any miracles or anything that's any different than anybody else.

And then **all of a sudden**, He comes out at 30 years old, not only saying He's the Messiah, but saying that He came from Heaven, and saying that He was Elohim. So be honest, and all of a sudden it's, "but isn't this, isn't that Joseph and Miriam's boy, the one that we knew, the one we've seen, the one coming up to Jerusalem?" With them every year as we read when He was 12 years old, coming to Jerusalem.

And if you would say right off the bat how easy it would be to you, then either you're not being true or you're very easily to be deceived, right? Because why would you believe right off the bat? There were many people; Yahshua was not the first person who came out in the first century saying He was the Messiah. A matter of fact, because of the time period that that was the time period that the Messiah was to appear, from the **Daniel 9** prophecy, there were many people claiming to be the Messiah before Yahshua and after Yahshua; Simon Barcopa, who were not the Messiah, right?

So if you say right off the bat, "Oh yeah, of course I would have believed" then these are valid questions for these people to bring up. When Yahshua is saying, like I said, not only that He's the Messiah, but saying that He came down from Heaven and that He was actually Elohim.

John 7 and verse 1.

**John 7:1-5** *And after these things Yahshua was walking in Galilee; for He did not desire to walk in Judea, because the Jews were lusting to kill Him. And the Feast of Sukkot was near. Then His brothers said to Him, Move away from here and go to Judea, that Your disciples will also see Your works which You do, for no one does anything in secret and himself seeks to be in public. If You do these things, reveal Yourself to the world. For His brothers did not believe in Him.*

**Comments:** His own brothers, right? So He had brothers and sisters. We don't know what happened to Yosef, the stepfather. Seems that He passed away when He was a teenager, but His mother Mary was there even when He was being crucified. And yet His brothers did not believe into Him.

So what do people say now? Even like now, you have a presidential election going on. And one of the candidates is Robert Kennedy Jr.-RFK Jr. And one of the big things that his critics will say is, "Well even his family doesn't support him." His family is supporting Biden, they're not supporting him. So that's a big thing if your family doesn't support you.

And yet, how many of our families are not believers? How many people of us, including myself, that you could have family, maybe not even your immediate family, maybe not your father or mother or your children, but maybe cousins and uncles that think you're absolutely crazy because of the things you believe. But yet here it was. This is what they were saying, even as family didn't believe in Him.

**John 7:6-7** *Then Yahshua said to them, My time is not yet here, but your time is always there. The world cannot hate you; but it hates Me because I witness about it, that its works are evil.*

So one of the things *why* many people were not able to believe in Him ... and remember, after two to two and a half years of public ministry that He did all over the country and as we're going to see many, many miracles, after He was crucified, we see on the day of Shavuot, there's only 120 people in the upper room. So He did not have a lot of people that believed in Him right away.

Now, afterward, yes, as the Ruach H'Chodesh was given, 3,000 people were immersed from that first Shavuot, but there weren't many people before that. So it shows you something. **The people were too worldly.** And the people looked; they were looking at the system that was already there, the system of religion with the scribes and the Pharisees and the temple worship.

And Yahshua had ... not only did He have nothing to do with it, He wasn't a Levite. So He never went in the sanctuary of Yahweh while He was a human being, right? But yet, He even went there twice when He first started ministering at His end and actually threw over the tables of the money changers; told them that they were thieves and robbers. Pharisees and the Saducees the same way; told them what robbers and thieves that they were. So **He was against the religious establishment** and in the end very few people believed in Him ... very few people believed in Him.

John 7 verse 41 ... go to verse 41.

**John 7:41** *Others said, This is the Messiah. But others said, No! For does the Messiah come from Galilee?*

**Comment:** He came from a town called Nazareth; which Nazareth was one of the most **despised** places that was on the face of the earth at that time. Or at least in Israel, it was despised.

**John 7:42-43** *Has not the Scripture said that the Messiah comes from the seed of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was? Then a division occurred in the crowd because of Him.*

So the same as we have today, whether people are fighting with you over the calendar, or they're fighting with you over a doctrine. Or they're fighting with you over the trinity, or fighting with you over whether Yahshua is

the Messiah or not. Whether you're talking about Muslims and Jews, the same thing was going on there. But again, a valid reason. We know.

Micah 5 in verse 2, **the Messiah comes from Bethlehem**, right? Now they didn't know He was born in Bethlehem, probably most of the people because **He's from Nazareth**. And again, they didn't know a whole lot about Him when He first came out. It wasn't like they really knew Him. They're saying, "Hey, isn't this the carpenter's son? Where did He come from?"

So He was kind of very low-key before He started His ministry at 30 years old. So a man came at 30 years of age, who they knew the family, right? They knew who the family was. They knew the mother. They knew the father. They knew the brothers and sisters. And they basically knew Him as His whole life. And now **at 30 years old, He not only claims to be a prophet, but He claims to be the Messiah**. The very Messiah. He claimed to be the Son of Elohim and **even Elohim Himself**. That's why they were going to stone Him in **John 8:58** because **He claimed to be the I Am**. He says He will judge every man and that He came from Heaven, even though they all knew He was born of Mary, right?

So be honest with yourself. Be honest, if you were a fervent, Torah-believing person in that day, and every year you went up to Jerusalem, for the Feast, and every year you paid your temple tax, and every year you did a sacrifice, and all these things. And then Yahshua came. In the beginning, would it have been easy for you to believe in Him? Would it have been easy for you to believe in Him? Be honest.

Acts 1 and verse 6 that we **see even for His own disciples**, they had some trouble believing.

**Acts 1:6** *Then, indeed, coming together they questioned Him, ... This is His followers ... saying, Master, do You restore the kingdom to Israel at this time?*

Right? So they were wondering, because here it was, when He died, they didn't figure He was going to die. They didn't understand that until afterward, and all the scriptures that talk about **Isaiah 53** and the suffering servant. But also, **they knew when the Messiah comes, the kingdom is set up**. That's one of the things the rabbis say. That's one of their first questions. If Yahshua is the Messiah, why isn't the kingdom here?

And there's an answer, because **you can clearly prove from Scripture the Messiah comes twice**. First He comes as a child, a baby, **Isaiah 9:6**, *unto us the son is born unto us the child is given*, right? But then you see Him coming into clouds, in heaven. And you see in **Zechariah 14**, He's coming, as a spirit being to fight for Israel. So you clearly see in Scripture, but they didn't understand that at that time.

Matter of fact, the Messiah, the rabbis understood it *a little bit*, and they actually thought there were two Messiahs. That's why they thought there was a suffering Messiah, **Isaiah 53**, Messiah Ben Yosef, like Joseph, one of the 12 brothers, and Messiah Ben David, the reigning Messiah, the king Messiah. They didn't realize that it's one Messiah that actually comes twice.

But you can understand why they would have questions. So even after His crucifixion, even His followers had some doubts. Matthew 28 ... Matthew 28 verse 16 and 17. And this is right before He ascends to Heaven, and look what says:

**Matthew 28:16-17** *But the eleven disciples went into Galilee, to the mount where Yahshua appointed them. And seeing Him, they worshiped Him. But **some of them doubted**.*

So **even then**, even after the 40 days, right before He's being ascended, they're still doubting. And again, they're not doubting He's the Messiah, as we're going to see. You can't doubt at that point, because He was crucified, He was resurrected, and He's alive again as a glorified spirit being.

But **they're wondering why isn't the kingdom here?** Why isn't the kingdom here? And I'll tell you something, it's ironic. This sermon isn't here to make you doubt. It's here to make you question whether you're a real believer and to show you what the proof of that is. But today, actually, the same reason why people doubted back then, people doubt today, people will get a certain mindset. It could be prophecy or something else. And they could say, "Oh, you know, well ..." a matter of fact, I had somebody tell me that one time back in the 1990s that I think they said by 2000 or 2003 or whatever, if Yahshua doesn't come by then, I'm throwing in the towel.

So we don't know the year He comes, right? And we can speculate from Scripture. The Bible does look like the year 28 to 30 looks like a big year for prophecy and maybe even Him returning. But we don't know for sure. And it's not going to shake my faith if in 2030 Yahshua isn't here yet. I hope with all my being He is, but if He's not, if there's another seven there, if our Master delays His calling, it shouldn't make a difference. So **we don't put our stock in making predictions for this**. And you could see when people do why they fall away, just like the disciples here are wondering because **they had their own agenda**. They had their own mindset, which was not the mindset of Yahweh. But again, like I said, there was some legitimacy to their questions at the same rate.

So if they had legitimate concerns, then how do we know now? How do we know now 2000 years later? How do we know for sure that Yahshua is the Messiah, right? Well, first of all, it's very interesting that the rabbis in the Talmud, in their writings, and the rabbis hate Yahshua. They knew He was the Messiah. We see that from **John 3**. It says no man could do these things that you do unless Yahweh was with Him. And yet **they hated them and they wanted to kill them because they wanted to keep their power**. That's what it was about, right?

So if you look in their writings, they're not going to say anything good about Yahshua. And yet, **in their own writings, they admit** what I'm going to show you here. **They admit that Yahshua healed the blind. He healed the cripple. He healed the leper and He raised the dead**. And that's everything the Scripture says. Yahweh gives us not one sign, two signs. **He gives us four signs to know who the Messiah is going to be**. And more than that, but these four main signs. So that you can't be deceived like all the other messiahs.

Remember, even the Apostle Paul, when he was in the book of Acts, when he's being taken, and the Romans Centurions wonder, he said, "Oh we thought you were that Egyptian guy that led away 400 people." And he's like, "No, I'm not Him." So they didn't even know why they were coming after Paul.

But there were false messiahs. There's no doubt about that. And **Yahshua says even in the end time, there'll be more and more false messiahs that are coming**. So it's not about that, but it's about that we'll see that all these things that Yahshua did, that are clearly documented, they're written in four different good news;

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John - by four different people, who didn't have WhatsApp in those days. They didn't have a cell phone to call each other. They didn't have an email, or social media, that they basically were in different parts of the world. And they all said the same story. So talk about ... wow ... *in the mouth of two or three witnesses let everything be confirmed*. We're talking about **four corroborating witnesses at that point**.

And **the New Testament says 500 people He appeared to, after He was resurrected**. So wow, that's the cherry on the cake that once He's resurrected, there's no doubt that this person is **exactly who He said He was**, right? So again, they're not doubting Him being the Messiah. They're doubting their own time frame of those things.

But would you have believed? ... would you have believed? Because even after He was resurrected, there were still a lot of people who didn't believe for the reasons like I just read here. But let's read some of the things He did. Let's go to John 9 ... John 9. And I'm going to read here 1 through 7.

**John 9:1-3** *And passing by, He saw a man blind from his mother's womb ... This is again Yahshua ... And His disciples asked Him, saying, Our Master, who sinned, this one, or his parents, that he was born blind? Yahshua answered, Neither this one nor his parents sinned, but that the works of Elohim might be revealed in him.*

**John 9:4-7** *It is necessary for Me to work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day. Night comes when no one is able to work. While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world. And when He said these things He spat upon the ground and mixed clay with His saliva and rubbed it upon the eyes of that blind man. And He said to him, Go, purify yourself in the baptismal of Siloam, which translated is Sent. Then he went and washed, and came seeing.*

Wow. Go and wash, and he came seeing. So **He healed a blind man from birth**. Matthew 9:2-8 ... Matthew 9:2-8. Let's go there.

**Matthew 9:2** *And, behold! They were bringing a paralytic lying on a cot to Him. And seeing their faith, Yahshua said to the paralyzed one, Be comforted, child. **Your sins are forgiven you.***

**Comment:** Wow. So here it is. **He is even forgiving people's sins**. Can you imagine if somebody came up to you and said, "Your sins are forgiven you?" And look what they say:

**Matthew 9:3-5** *And, behold, some of the scribes said within themselves, This One blasphemeth. And seeing their thoughts, Yahshua said, ... because they said only Elohim can forgive sins ... Why do you think evil in your hearts? For what is easier, to say, Your sins are forgiven, or to say, Rise up and walk?*

**Matthew 9:6-8** *But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins then He said to the paralytic, Rising up, lift up your cot and go to your house. And rising up, he went away to his house ... wow ... And seeing, the crowds marveled, and they glorified YAHWEH, the One giving such authority to the sons of men.*

So that's one way that we know He's the Messiah too, because like we said, **faith always has a deed**. And **Yahshua backed up everything He did**. He backed up everything. He did **every single time**. Story after story. Like I said, the Talmud admits it. The Talmud admits that He healed the blind person, that He gave hearing to the deaf.

They admit all these things. He healed a leper, but they say He did it by witchcraft, which is ridiculous, because witchcraft can't help people like that. And witchcraft certainly can't give somebody life. Only Yahweh can give life, Satan can't do that. Satan can make believe, right? He can make believe like he's injured and make believe of a healing. I've seen fake healings from Satan, but not raising the dead; certainly not raising the dead.

Luke 7:13 ... Luke 7 verse 13 says:

**Luke 7:13-15** *And Yahshua saw her ... this is when there was a funeral. Boy had died and it was the only son of the mother ... And Yahshua saw her and had compassion on her and said to her, Do not cry. And coming up, He touched the coffin; and those carrying it stood still. And He said, Young man, I say to you, **Arise!** And the dead one sat up and began to speak. And He gave him to his mother.*

Wow. So this is where he wasn't even going to do this, but He had such compassion on the woman that He even raised the dead. He was able to raise the dead.

Let's go to Matthew 11 ... Matthew 11 and verse 2. Because even John the Baptist had some doubts. And again, not because of what Yahshua was doing, but because he was wondering why did the kingdom come at that time. So he also had his doubts to that, but listen to what Yahshua says, *proving* that He's the Messiah. Matthew 11, verse 2 through 6.

**Matthew 11:2-6** *But hearing in the prison of the works of Messiah, sending two of his disciples, John said to Him, Are You the One coming, or are we to look for another? And answering, Yahshua said to them, Going, relate to John what you hear and have seen. The blind receive sight, the lame walk; lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear; and the dead are raised, and the poor are given hope. And blessed is the one, whoever shall not be offended in Me ... **blessed is the one, whoever shall not be offended in Me.***

Because it is a good news of offense but yet, **Yahshua did every single miracle that was prophesied that Messiah would do, including raising the dead.** Amazing ... amazing, right? He even raised the dead. And I think sometimes we take it for granted because we read it so many times and we see it.

But there's nobody that ever walked this earth, no prophet, not Moses, not Elijah, anybody. You could say with Elisha, the time the man came back to life. But **only Yahweh gives life.** And Yahshua didn't just raise the dead one time. The powerful way we see from Scripture it was several times, even when He was being crucified, all the ones in the grave that were resurrected. But **He's the only one that has the power to give eternal life to everybody at the resurrection.** So that is amazing.

Hebrews 11 and verse 1. Hebrews 11 and verse 1. What does it say?

**Hebrews 11:1** *Now faith is the substance of things being hoped, and **it was** the substance of things that have come to pass, and the evidence of things not having been seen.*

So **faith is substance and faith is evidence.** And that's the key, right? So yeah, maybe when Yahshua first came, maybe then you would have asked, "Well, who's this person coming saying, He's this and that?" But **He proved it ... He proved it.** **He proved it by His deeds,** no doubt. Faith is evidence. And **Yahweh gave evidence to believe from His own Word.** He gave evidence to believe it.

So now this gets back to the question I asked in the beginning. Would you have believed if you were there in the first century? And maybe now you're saying to yourself, "Okay, you've got a point there, Elder Don. Maybe I wouldn't have believed it first. Maybe I would have ... because like the Bereans, maybe I would have been questioning. But yeah, after Yahshua did all those things, I would have certainly believed."

And now I'm going to show you how you can prove it. Because the disciples that did believe what happened next ... what happened next, Acts 4. And the problem is today that **religion gets in the way of belief**. And religion is just something you talk about at holidays around the table and give your point of view. But it has nothing to do with faith. It has nothing to do with covenant relationship. It has nothing to do with your conviction of who Yahshua is. Because **if you really have that conviction, boy, your life better show it**. You better not be like the other 2.5 billion people out there that basically it's a name only.

And actually today, most people are actually admitting it. There's even a new category that they're saying people who just socially believe these things and they want to keep Christmas and Easter, and they want to do these holidays and these things, but not in a religious sense. They want to do it just socially, just have something to do. And even in Israel, unfortunately for most people keeping the Chaggim the Holy Days. It's not because they believe in the Torah because they don't keep the Torah. They do it as just part of their tradition.

But I'm going to show you the apostles. Let's look at the proof that they showed. How we know they really believed? Let's read Acts 4.

**Acts 4:1-3** *And as they were speaking to the people, the priests, and the sanctuary leaders and the Sadducees stood near them, while they were being furious at them, ... at the apostles ... because they taught the people concerning the resurrection by the Messiah, that is from the dead. And they laid hands on them, and put them into custody until the morrow, for it was already evening.*

**Acts 4:4-6** *But many of those hearing the Word believed; and the number of the men came to be about **five thousand**. And it happened on the morrow that the rulers and elders and scribes assembled into Jerusalem; also Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander and as many as were of the high priestly family line.*

**Acts 4:7-10** *And standing them in the midst, they were inquiring, By what sort of power, or by what sort of name did you do this? ... Because they were doing healings even and miracles ... Then being filled with the Ruach H'Chodesh, Peter said to them, Rulers of the people and elders of Israel listen, if we are being examined today on the good work of this sick man, by what this one has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and all the people of Israel, that **in the name of Yahshua, Messiah**, ... Yahshua, H'Mashiach ... the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom Elohim raised from the dead, **in this name** this one stands before you whole .... In this name. No other name in the name of Yahshua, H'Mashiach.*

**Acts 4:11-12a** *This One is the Stone rejected by you the builders, the One who has come to be into the Head of the Corner; And there is **salvation in no other man, for neither is there any other name** ...*

**Comment:** There is no other name. The name is important. It's the people that sit around the kitchen table and talk religion will say, it doesn't matter what you call them, and this and that, and as long as your heart is



right. It's not the people that are going out and putting their money where their mouth is. The people that are getting arrested, the people that are standing up and maybe even dying for what they believe.

**Acts 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.*

**There is no other name**, very clearly. **There was no letter J in Hebrew**. There was no letter J in any alphabet until the 16th century. So **the name is Yahshua. That is what His name is, the salvation of Yahweh.**

**Acts 4:13-14** *But beholding the boldness of Simon Peter and John, and having perceived that **they knew not the books and uneducated men**, ... yeah, they didn't follow the Talmud and the Mishnah and all of these oral writings ... they marveled. And they recognized them that they were with Yahshua. But seeing the man standing with them, the one having been healed, they had nothing to say against him.*

**Acts 4:15-16** *But commanding them to go outside the Sanhedrin, they conferred with one another, saying, What may we do to these men? For that a notable miracle indeed has occurred through them is plain to all ... They healed through crippled man ... to all those living in Jerusalem, and we are not able to deny it.*

**Acts 4:17-19** *But that it may not be spread abroad further to the people, let us threaten them with a threat that they no longer speak on this name to any sons of men. And calling them, they ordered them not to speak at all, nor to teach in the name of Yahshua. But answering them Peter and John said, Whether it is right before Elohim to listen to you rather than YAHWEH, you judge.*

**Acts 4:20-23.** *For **we are not able not to speak what we saw and heard**. But having threatened them again, they released them, finding nothing as to how they might punish them, on account of the people, because all glorified YAHWEH on what was happening. For the man on whom this miracle of healing had occurred was more than forty years of age. And being set free, they came to their own brethren and reported to them what the chief priests and elders said.*

So here it was that they were over here and at other times they were beaten, right? And **that's where the proof came from it**. That's where the proof ... and another proof to know that what we are believing is if someone says to you, "Well how do you know what you are believing is true?" Because there is no way on earth that these twelve apostles, who if you look before they got the Ruach H'Chodesh, before they received the Holy Spirit, right? Before the crucifixion and resurrection of Yahshua, you see that they were jealous of each other, they were fearful. Peter on the very night that Yahshua is being taken and is going to be crucified the next morning. He is denying Yahshua three times.

Then during Passover week, what are they doing? They are hiding in the room because they are afraid. **If Yahshua was not resurrected and did not appear to them and it really didn't happen, do you really think that these people, not for a day or a week, but for the rest of their life, for the next 30, 40, 50 years would live that lie?**

Because maybe today, right? We did live 2,000 years ago. So we are believing on faith, we are believing on the evidence that everything in the Bible is true. And all the evidence put together is 100% that we believe in this.

But **these people were eyewitnesses**. And there is a difference when you are an eyewitness. I told the people who came with us to Mount Sinai there is a difference when you see that mountain with your own eyes, when you have seen it, when you see those writings with your own eyes, right? There is a difference to it.

So now these people who were with Yahshua, **they had to know that He was resurrected**. They had to have seen Him or they would have never lived that for 30, 40, 50 years for the rest of their life. And where would the faith have come from? Where would the courage have come from? If it didn't come when they were with Yahshua Himself, would it really have come out of a lie? Of course not ... of course not.

But this is now the question that comes back to you, right? Would you have believed? **If you say today that you are a believer, where is your deed?** Where is your faith? Where is your deed? Is it a believer again, just around the table, telling people that this is what you believe and no one is going to change your mind? Or are you out there doing a deed?

Are you out there? This is our commission. **Our commission is to bring this good news to the world**. And you know what? 2000 years later, Yahweh is still not working with 50% of the people, or 30% of the people, or even 1% of the people. **He is working with about 100th of 1% of people worldwide**, and I'm one and you're one. And what are you doing with it? And if you're saying, you believe Yahshua is the Messiah. If you're saying that, and you have no deed, shame on you. Shame on you, but you know what? There's still time. There's still time. You better get out there and start getting a deed because we're running out of time. The time is running out.

And like I said, when you look at King David, and you look at the Apostle Paul, and the apostles, and you look at these great men of faith, and they are great men of faith, right? The one difference between them and us is no matter what they did; good, better, and different, and they all have their reward. They can't do anything else. They're dead. They're lying in the grave. We are still alive. We still have at least one more day, at least today. Who knows? We could die tonight. We could be gone by tomorrow. But **while you have this last day of your life today, you need to use it to prove your faith**.

Because if not, then it's not faith. If not, it's nothing more than just a *prideful hope*, like the rest of the world, right? The same way that Catholic will sit there and tell you, no way are you going to change their mind on their Jesus. I've had people tell you, "You're not going to take my Jesus away from me." And I say, "I'm not trying to take *your* Jesus. I'm trying to give you the real Yahshua. That's what I'm trying to do."

You want to keep the Greek pagan? That's up to you. I'm trying to bring you the real thing. And this is how you prove it. You prove it by the deed. Yahweh's blessed me in my life that I've been able to, through His hands, not my own, but through His hands, to lay hands on people in miracles have happened. To prove, to show the proof of it. And I always say that miracles don't happen *to convert* somebody. They happen ... or to make faith in somebody. **Miracles happen as an outgoing of your faith**. The more faith you have, the more miracles are going to happen, because that's what Yahweh Spirit is. It's a Spirit of miracles. It's a Spirit of works, right?

So the apostles showed their belief. **They showed their faith by risking everything** with their family, their friends, being put in prison for their faith, and Yahshua as the Messiah. And then after this, they went all over the world. They went all over the world as far as India and even China, and all over, bringing this good news.

And the way that this has gone for 2,000 years, there's never been a person in the entire history of humanity that has touched more souls that have lived than Yahshua Messiah, never, ever and it's **because of Him**, but He was only here those 32, 33-some-odd years. **It's because of Him living in us.**

It's because for the last 2,000 years, He has had disciples that He is living in and He has transformed them. And that's the point of it. Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, life for life, and **it's His life for your life.** You're not to be living for yourself anymore. You're to put aside all of your wants and desires and you should be living for Him. That's why He called you. And you have to have a work.

Acts 2 and verse 37, because without faith, you have nothing, right? You have nothing. You could say you believe in everything else, but man, if you don't have those deeds, you have absolutely nothing. Acts 2, verse 37.

**Acts 2:37-38** *And hearing, they were touched in the heart, ... This is on the first Shavuot ... and they said to Kefa and the rest of the apostles, Men, and brothers, What shall we do? ... So here it is Peter, Kefa, he gave this powerful sermon about Yahshua being the Messiah, and they were convicted. And they said, what should we do? And look what he says ... And he said to them, Repent and be baptized, each of you in the name of Yahshua YAHWEH ... It's a family name ... for the forgiveness of sins, that you may receive the gift of the Ruach H'Chodesh, the Spirit of Holiness.*

**Acts 2:39** *For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all those afar off, as many as the Master our Elohim shall call ... So that's the blessing we get automatically. Our children have the opportunity to hear the truth through us, but they still have to receive it the same as we do. No free passes ...*

**Acts 2:41** *And some of them readily received his words and believed and were baptized. And there were added in that day about three thousand souls ... wow.*

So **faith is a prerequisite for baptism.** You have that faith, and that means you have to have a deed. You have to repent, you have to turn from your own old way, and you have to produce something, you have to have a ministry, you have to be doing something and bearing fruit for Yahweh.

Matthew 28 ... Matthew 28, verse 1. It says:

**Matthew 28:1-3** *But after the Sabbaths, at the dawning into the first of the Sabbaths, Mariam of Magdalene and the other Mariam came to look upon the grave. And, behold! A great earthquake occurred! For descending from Heaven and coming near, a cherub of YAHWEH rolled away the stone from the door and was sitting on it ... Wow, what a sight that must have been ... And his face was as lightning and his clothing white as snow.*

**Matthew 28:4-6** *And those keeping guard were shaken from the fear of him, and they became as dead. And answering, the cherub said to the women, You must not fear, for I know that you seek Yahshua who has been crucified. He is not here, for He was raised, as He said. Come see the place where He was lying.*

**Matthew 28:7-10** *And going quickly say to His disciples that He was raised from the dead. And behold! He goes before you into Galilee. You will see Him there. Behold! I told you. And going away from the tomb quickly, with fear and great joy, they ran to report to His disciples. But as they were going to report to His disciples, behold, Yahshua also met them, saying, Peace unto you! And coming near, they grabbed His feet and they worshiped*

*Him. Then Yahshua said to them, Do not fear. Go tell your brothers that they may go into Galilee, and there they will see Me.*

Wow. **He was raised from the dead, and there were 500 witnesses that saw Him** ... 500 witnesses! And you know what? In all the historical records for the last 2000 years, including that of the rabbis that were there at that time, there is not one record that says that this was a fake. There is nothing that says there is a fake. There's only records that say Yahshua healed a cripple. There's nothing that ever said that He made someone a cripple. There's only records that say that Yahshua healed a blind person from birth. There's nothing that says He ever made somebody blind.

These are true because they are in the historical records of your Bible, first of all, that we know is 100%, and even historical records that are there that talk about this. And it's ironic sometimes when you'll hear a disbelieving person that will say, about Yahshua, *if He even existed*. **There are more historical records about Yahshua than anybody that ever lived**. And actually in history, if there's like Aristotle or something, if you can get two things that were written about somebody, the historians will be amazed. We have two different references about the same thing. And here you have thousands ... you have thousands; the Brit Hadeshah, the New Testament.

There's like close to 20,000 or more manuscripts that are all saying the same thing, nothing contradicting itself. 500 witnesses, no historical record ever saying it was fake. Even Josephus ... even Josephus, the Jewish historian, it says in the book of Josephus that Yahshua was the Messiah. No one could raise the dead as He was, except that Yahweh did it, life can only come from Him. He's the only one.

Psalms 16, that's one of the prophecies of the Messiah. It prophesied that Messiah will die. **Isaiah 53** says it, *that He will be cut off, He will die*. And it's prophesied that He will be resurrected. Look at Psalm 16 and verse 10:

**Psalm 16:10** *For You will not leave My soul in Sheol; ... You will not leave My soul in Sheol (the grave, the dirt). You will not give Your Holy One to see corruption.*

And that means He would be resurrected within three days because we know Lazarus it was the fourth day, and what did He say? The body was already stinking. It was already being corrupted, the body corroding, right? *So You will not leave My soul in Sheol; You will not give Your Holy One to see corruption*. The prophecy was for Yahweh to raise the Messiah, and He did exactly that. Wow.

Jacob 2 ... Jacob 2 and verse 14. Jacob 2 and verse 14. And I hope you're asking yourself, I hope it's going through your mind, what is your deed? **If you say you believe you have to have a deed, or it's not belief**. And that's the point, like I said, in this life that people will ... we're living in a world where everything is just analyzed. Everything is talked about, everything that's said, whether it's YouTube, boards, articles, everybody just wants to give their opinion.

And I always wonder, man, what do people get this time? You've got hundreds of thousands of articles being written every week, and everyone has hundreds, if not thousands, of people replying to them. It's like we live in such a ... it's really a disgusting world. Because none of it is even based anymore on anything of character or whatever. It's just based on people just blurting out anything that comes out of their mouth.

But one thing it certainly isn't - is faith. It is the opposite of faith that Satan in his system, he has brainwashed these people into just, being creatures of habit and saying anything that comes out and having no self-discipline in their life. And here we are, here we are, right? In 2024, look at the world how terrible it is. But if you want ... if you say you believe, then listen to this.

Jacob 2, verse 14:

**Jacob 2:14-16** *My brothers, what is the gain if anyone says he has faith, but he does not have deeds? Is the faith able to restore life to him? But if a brother or a sister is naked and may be lacking in daily food, and any one of you say to them, Go in peace, be warmed and filled, but does not give them the things the body needs, what gain is it?*

**Jacob 2:17-18** *So also faith, if it does not have deeds, is dead being by itself. But someone will say, You have faith, and I have deeds. Show me your faith apart from your deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.*

**Jacob 2:19-20** *You believe that Elohim is (echad) One, United. You do well; even the demons believe and shudder ... They don't believe in Elohim, but they believe that He is united ... But are you willing to know, O vain man, that faith apart from deeds is dead?*

So he says it's a vanity to believe in anything else. It's vanity to sit here saying, "Oh, ha, ha, ha, these people here, they don't even use the name of Yahweh, and they don't even use the name of Yahshua. And ha, ha, ha, these people are keeping Christmas and they're worshiping a phallic symbol, ha, ha, ha." Yeah, and what is your work? ... what is your work? What is your deed?

So unless you have a deed, then you're not only as bad as those people, you're worse off because we have the Ruach H'Chodesh, we have the Spirit. We should be ... shame on us. For the world, they don't have the Ruach. And sad to say, I see so much good deeds sometimes coming out of organizations like Catholic charities that have orphanages and are helping people and doing. There's a lot of good work that are being done by false Christianity?

So nothing with their belief or unbelief to the truth and doctrine. And I give them credit for that, that they're doing that. But at the same rate, shouldn't it make us feel ashamed? Shouldn't it make us who *supposedly* have the truth, who *supposedly* believe that Yahshua is the Messiah with all heart, mind, soul and strength, believe in the Bible, right? That **we keep these things not because they're traditions, we keep them because they're truth. We keep them because of our conviction in this. We keep it because of our relationship with Yahweh,** that's why we're keeping these things.

And what is our faith every day? What is our deed every day that we wake up? Theory to reality, would you have believed? ... theory to reality, would you have believed? As the apostles and the Waldenses and the Paulicians in the wilderness had to show their deeds as proof of what we are sacrificing as proof of their faith. So do we. Do we believe in theory or reality? So like I said, as the apostles, the Waldenses, the Paulicians in the wilderness had to show their deeds as proof of their faith. So do we.

Do we believe in theory or reality? What are you sacrificing for the kingdom? And that's what it comes down to. Satan is conditioned, the world to sacrifice nothing. And that's why. Abortion, the killing, the murdering of a

baby. Who on earth can uphold murdering babies? And yet what do they say? It's a woman's right to choose. A woman's right to choose what she wants to do with her own body. And I say, so if I took my body and I swung my body around and killed somebody, that's my choice. That's my choice to do what I want to do with my body. I want to swing it around and kill somebody. Of course not! You can't do it your body that's going to harm another human being.

And yet, they mindlessly look at this because that's the way it is, right? Because it's a selfish world. Is it theory or reality? What are we sacrificing for the kingdom? What is the proof? What is the evidence of our faith? You have to look in your heart. For if you only ... if you truly believe that Yahshua is the Messiah, you have to live it. You have to live it and you have to bear fruit.

And I'll tell you a quick story here with one of our communities in Philippines and thriving community with Elder Orly that's down there. We were just there a couple months ago. And amazing! But I think back, that only a few years ago when they were starting out. And it was just Elder Orly and his family and a few other people that were there. There weren't many people. They might have been 20 or less.

And I remember it that time because they had nothing there. The rainy season was there. They were living in tents. There was mud everywhere. The kids got really, really sick. And they stuck it out. They stuck it out for like six months to a year somewhere around there to get that thing started.

And I think in Israel the same thing. I look at Kibbutz-Levi. That is a thriving Kibbutz today. Religious Kibbutz with thousands of people living there. And when they first started, it took them a year just to clear the rocks off the property. They set a family of five would eat one egg for breakfast. That would be their breakfast. Splitting, not one egg a piece, splitting one egg. There's a sacrifice that goes into everything. And what are you sacrificing for the Kingdom of Yahweh? Because you want to know now? Like I said, we went there a couple months ago. There's something like 130 people are more living there. They're living there.

I mean the people are happy and that's great. But I told them when I was there; never forget your forefather, Elder Orly, who started this? Never forget the sacrifice. His wife, Sister Merselita. And the other ones that were there with him. Never forget the people that put down the groundwork.

And for us it's the apostles. The apostles who, like it says in **Hebrews 11**, that lived in caves like the apostles and the Waldenses and the Paulicians that were martyred. That, like I said, that they came to them trying to get them to believe in infant baptism. And said, "All you have to do is just sprinkle water on your children and we'll let you go." And they said, "Never, never, never would we compromise this way." And they cut the heads off of their children and put it around their necks and made them come down the mountain with their children around their necks.

You see the stories with even the Holocaust where the people came in and they were taking the children away. And they said to the parent, "Either you deny your belief in Yahshua" and the children said, "Don't worry, don't worry, Mom. Don't worry. You don't give your faith up. We'll be strong." **These people sacrificed to the death because of what they believed in. That is faith ... that is faith. That is conviction. That is action.**

And in our life, what is it? What is it? We have an assignment I'm doing with the students now at the school that's going to start very shortly. And I gave them some assignments before we started. Write a daily planner.

... write a daily planner of your day and see what your day is up to. And then you could really analyze it and see what changes need to be made. Am I doing enough for the kingdom that I've been called?

This very, very special calling it Yahweh. Could have called a million other people and yet He called me. What am I doing for that? What am I doing *to show Him* my appreciation? Just like I said, **the definition of grace, it's not just the unmerited pardon but it's the ability that you want to share back because you are so touched by what's been given to you in your life.** That you're so humbled by it that you want to give back.

Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, life for life, Yahshua gave His life and was crucified so that He could live in us. We need to die to ourselves to allow the Ruach to produce fruit for His kingdom as every true believer has for the last 2000 years. And unfortunately we're living in a time where we see more fake believers and true believers.

And we do mirror and match people. And even the apostles said, "Look at my example, follow my example." And that's why we have to be those examples. Women or men, it doesn't make a difference, even children. **We want to be those examples for other people, for new people to see that they can follow in our footsteps.**

If not, like most of the people in the world today, it's a Laodicean era, then they're just Laodicean fakers talking a big game, that just because you know the name Yahweh or just because you're a Sabbath keeper that you are so better than everybody else. I saw this when I was in Church of God, and it's a sickening. It's actually quite sickening. It's just the Laodicean fakers, like Christianity, all talk and no action.

Everyone says how much they love Israel, right? And I've heard it, and a lot of people do love Israel. But I'll tell you something, we saw it all the years we live there, and I see it now, that for people in the West, that they'll say this, and oh they'll be willing to give money. Because giving money is the easiest thing in the world. It doesn't take much. It doesn't take sacrifice. That's the easiest thing to do, and even some people don't do that. Some people are even tithe. But every time something's happened, at least that I've seen for the last 30 years and longer than that, people stopped coming.

I remember when the antifada started in the end of 2000, 2001, and it went from like 50 buses there from the Old City to zero. To zero overnight, right? Because people were afraid. They're afraid. And even now, I'm sure there are some people that would love to come to the Feast with us in Jordan, and they're only not coming because they're afraid. And what are you trying to protect? You're trying to protect your flesh? Because I'll tell you one thing, like I say, whatever you focus on becomes so real to you.

And if your mind is on fear, you will never go out and witness the good news. I've had people tell me that my whole life, and some, even family members in good faith, to say, why are you going over here? In Africa, there's a war over here. Why are you going to Israel? There's a war over here. And I said if safety was the number one reason that believers and apostles thought of, then nobody would have ever done anything.

We wouldn't even be here today. We wouldn't even have believed. Because the only way we believe is that somebody, like the people in Church of God who taught me 40 years ago, and the ones who taught them 40 years before that, and the ones who taught them 40 years before that, going all the way back to, like I said, the Anabaptists, and the Waldenses, and the Paulicians, and the apostles. So if somebody didn't sacrifice in their life for safety ... and that's the first thing, we're a martyred congregation. We've been that way for 2,000 years.

And if safety is number one on your list, look out, because then you don't have faith. If that's what you're looking for, safety, and you're going to make your decisions only on that, then wow, you don't have faith. Not to say we're going to be reckless, but at the same rate, we do. We go where Yahweh sends me and I've always been like that.

It doesn't make a difference where, because if Yahweh sends me on a divine commission, just like when He sent me a few months back to Mount Sinai, Yahweh help the person that would get in my way. Not from me, from Him. Because when He sends you somewhere, and you are His ambassador, you better believe you have cherubs around you, and look out for anybody that gets in the way. So **we live by faith, we don't live by fear.**

Fear is the opposite, right? Because getting to the other side, there is only faith. There is only faith. So what is fear? It's just the absence of faith. In the kingdom, there will be no fear, it won't be there. So are we showing with our deeds what we're really doing? What do we fear if Yahshua is really before us? What do we fear if Yahshua both died and rose from the dead and is now sitting at the right hand of the Father? Like it says in **Romans 8**, right? ***If Yahweh before us, who can be against us?***

Last scripture, John 6 and verse 44.

**John 6:44** *No one is able to come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up in the last day.*

Yahweh has called us as first-fruit believers. Nobody can come to Him unless the Father calls him. He has called us. **He has shown us every single sign**, the signs in the heavens, the eclipses that are coming, the Revelation 12 sign, Israel being a nation again. He has shown us every single sign, after sign, after sign in this last generation. The earthquakes, the famines. He has shown us every sign to know our belief is true. Are you wheat or are you chaff? Your actions ... **your actions, not your words, will witness to Yahweh what you really are.** Do you pray and study every day? Something that's simple. Is Yahweh first in your life? Is your calling, theory, or reality?

Chag Semeach. Shabbat Shalom, Yahweh bless.