

## Transcript – Religion, Rituals, or Relationship

Thank you for the special music. Very nice. Alright, not to stop the tradition. Chag sameach! Starting to like that. I have a message today called, *Religion, Rituals, or Relationship ... Religion, Rituals, or Relationship*. And it's interesting because in the world today, the biggest question that comes up is does Elohim exist? Right? You have people out there from all kinds of religion that believe there's some kind of deity in the sky, they believe in the Bible, and then there's many, many people in the world that believe in nothing. They're believe in evolution and that we came from nothing.

But I believe the biggest question really isn't if Elohim exists, but to us that know Him, and better yet that He knows us, it is the greatest gift in the world to know Yahweh and have the mind of Messiah, like Andi was talking about. And I think sometimes we take that for granted, that we think it's normal; we think everybody has that, and everybody really doesn't have that. Galatians 4, and 8 and 9 ... Galatians 4, and 8 and 9 says:

**Galatians 4:8-9** *But then, indeed, not knowing YAHWEH, you served as slaves to the one by nature not being Elohim. But now, knowing YAHWEH, rather being known by YAHWEH, how do you turn again to the weak and poor principles to which you desire again to come under bondage?*

And it's really sad that sometimes where you will see people come out of paganized Christianity and jump into paganized Judaism or something like that. So, *Religion, Rituals and Relationship*. I'm going to start with religious spirits. And these are basically the three choices that we have in the world today. We can choose religion, although that word is never in Scripture. We can choose rituals, which a lot of people also do. Or you can choose relationship. But the one thing I want to share is you can't have more than one. You can't have the relationship if you're going to choose religion, and you can't have the relationship if you're only going by rituals.

Most in organized religions, such as Catholics, Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, and even Orthodox Jews, they have this spirit—a religious spirit. And what do I mean by a religious spirit? They believe the only way you can be pious is by going to a church or going to a synagogue and by the things that are coming out of that. And they believe that is holiness in itself. And I know growing up Catholic, you hear this a lot like, “Oh, no, no. She's a very righteous person. She goes to church every day,” or “She goes to church every week.” And they think by just going in a structured building that that's piety in itself to Yahweh.

It's very hard to get through to a religious spirit because it's all based on tradition, false perceptions, personal beliefs, such as the rabbis having the Talmud, the Catholic church following the priests at all costs, never thinking or caring whether it's true or not. And the religious patterns basically replace the truth. And unfortunately, even within believers, even within assemblies, you see people with religious spirits. And the religious spirit is extremely self-righteous ... extremely self-righteous.

I have people all the time ... Andi knows through the website ... people will write in, and I get a lot of letters also in the mail. You know, we get hundreds of letters coming in every month, and people will say something like, “Why do you say Jerusalem instead of Yerushalayim?” As if that makes me more righteous. Even somebody saying ... Because most of the year I have a beard. In the summer, it's hot. I cut my beard off. There's no command in Scripture that a man has to have a beard. And I challenge somebody, show me that.

If you do have a beard, you're not allowed to **cut the corners** of your beard. Why? Because if you cut the corners of your beard, you'll have what Scripture calls a devil-like goatee. Because when the Israelites came in to Canaan, they were worshiping devil-like goats. And even Satan is pictured as a goat. I could take you up to Caesarea Philippi, Pnias, right? Banias or Pnias because of Pan, the half-man, half-goat.

And there's been times I didn't have a beard, and I would meet somebody. I'd be speaking somewhere, and they'd say, “Why don't you have a beard?” And I'd say, “Are you're going to build your righteousness on my facial hair? Is that really how you're building your righteousness?” But that's the way a religious spirit is. That it's through a religious spirit they're thinking that's making them closer to Yahweh. And there's no love. There's no logic. It's simply a religious spirit.

People that write, and they'll say, "Why do you use the word 'Bible'? Why don't you use 'Scripture'?" The word 'Bible' comes from because the Bible was the first book that was binded [should be bound]. Remember in the Old Testament we have scrolls? The Bible is the first book that's binded [should be bound]. And where was it binded [should be bound]? In Byblos, Lebanon. Has nothing to do with paganism, absolutely nothing at all.

The same with names. Why do we use Jacob instead of Yaakov? Because our Bible is written in English. If you want all the names in Hebrew, read a Hebrew Bible. And most of the people that say this don't know Hebrew. But they want to have an English Bible with all these Hebrew names. And I tell them, if I put them in Aramaic, you can't say the names. We don't have those guttural sounds in our language. But somehow, you're going to be more righteous if you say 'Yaakov' instead of saying 'Jacob'. Right? And interesting enough, the letter J when it first came into English had the Y sound anyway. So, if you see 'Jacob' and you want to say 'Yaakov,' then say it. If you see 'Joel' and you want to say, 'Yoel,' then say that.

But a religious spirit is not going to get you into the Kingdom of Yahweh, as we'll see. It's the total opposite. It will stop you. The same way Yahshua said to the Pharisees, *you're not coming into the Kingdom and you block the door for those entering*. Right? Because you know when I look at my Bible, it's pretty simple. When I look at the Brit Chadashah, the New Testament, it's pretty simple. I gave a message about a month ago, *Love Your Neighbor as Yourself*.

It is the most basic thing of someone with the Holy Spirit to love their neighbor. We shouldn't even have to talk about that, right, if you have the Holy Spirit? And yet, it's one of the most contrary things that you see today in religious circles. You know, no matter what religious circle you see, you don't see it. You don't see something as simple as someone simply just loving their neighbor as themselves. You see people getting offended. You see people getting mad. You see people walking out if something isn't the way they want it. And it's pride, and it's a religious spirit ... it's a religious spirit.

Galatians 3 and verse 1. Because this same spirit was what stopped the Jews in the first century from believing in Yahshua. It was a religious spirit. Galatians 3 and verse 1. He says:

**Galatians 3:1-6** *O you lacking Galatians, who has made you jealous not to obey the truth, to whom before your eyes Yahshua Messiah was portrayed before among you crucified? This only I desire to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by works of Law or by hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, do you now want to complete yourself in the flesh? All of these vanities you endured. Oh that it might not be for no purpose. Then He supplying the Spirit to you and working works of power in you, is it by (Levitical) Law or by obedience of faith? Even as Abraham "believed Elohim, and it was counted to him for righteousness."*

**Galatians 3:7-10** *You must therefore know that those who trust in faith are the children of Abraham. Because Elohim knew in advance that the nations would be declared righteous through faith He first preached to Abraham, as it is said in the Holy Scripture, "in you shall all the nations be blessed." So that the believers are blessed by Abraham the faithful one. For those who rely on the works of the law are still under the curse, for it is written, cursed is everyone who does not practice **everything** that's written in the Torah.*

**Comment:** And they don't see this. Because the Torah movement is great, right? The Torah is holy, just and good. But this movement has turned into people trying to get their salvation through law keeping, and it is total contrary to our faith. Because not that there's anything wrong with the Torah, and we have to be obedient to the Torah, but the Torah can't save you because you break it.

I say it's like going before a judge, right? And you murdered somebody, you're going before there, and you tell your lawyer, "I'll take over from here. I have a great defense." The lawyer's like, "What's going on here?" "Okay, don't worry. I have a great defense." And the judge comes, "Yes, give me your defense." And you say, "I killed him. I'm guilty. Now let me go." How can that be? If you're guilty, how are you going to be rewarded for that?

That's what it's saying here. Every one of us is under the curse of the Torah. **The curse of the Torah is disobedience. So how could we look for our righteousness before Yahweh through something that we violated?** It's not going to work that

way. And that's why we need a Mediator. That's why we need somebody to pay the penalty for those sins, so then we could be righteous before Yahweh. But this is the same thing the Apostle Paul is dealing with. And verse 11.

**Galatians 3:11** *And that no one is justified by the Torah before YAHWEH is evident because, "The righteous will live by faith."*

The key is because none of ... Yahshua was justified by Torah because He kept it perfectly. He never broke it. So, He was justified by it. **Justified means to be made right before Yahweh.** So, we can't be made right by the Torah because we violated the Torah. And that's why we need somebody in between.

But those with a religious spirit couldn't get past the fact that the sacrifices were simply a shadow. They just couldn't get past there. And to be honest, if I was living in the first century, right, and I had 450 years of the tabernacle from Moses all the way to Solomon's Temple and now Herod's Temple, and now, all of a sudden, I'm being told that the Temple sacrifices are fulfilled, I'd probably have a hard time too. I'd have to understand it. "What do you mean? This is where Yahweh dwells! What are you talking about?"

And you can understand why Yahweh had to do away with the Temple. Because if the Temple was still here today, wow, what kind of problems would that have caused the last 2,000 years? And that's why I say, as believers. ... There's believers out there waiting for a third temple, believe it or not, by the Jews. They're thinking it's something good. And Yahweh says in **Isaiah 66**, *Heaven is My throne; earth is my footstool. Where's the house you're going to build for Me?*

And you know something? When they build this temple, ... and they probably will build it, the Jews ... they are violating the blood of Yahshua. Because they are smacking that blood of Yahshua to the ground. And they are starting to kill animals again, which Yahweh never requested. And that's why He says when they do this, ... and read **Isaiah 66** ... it says when they kill an animal, it's going to be like breaking a dog's neck. It's not going to be accepted by Him.

And this is ... And I really can appreciate and admire the Apostle Paul. Because the Apostle Paul, far from this lawless person they portray, the Apostle Paul is a rabbi. He's a rabbi of rabbis, and even was part of the Sanhedrin. So, if anybody ... It's like go out there today and see the Orthodox out there, that was the Apostle Paul. And yet what does he say? All the rabbinical things that he got were nothing. They were trash; they were dung that he says. Because when he understands that the blood of Messiah, the righteous blood of Messiah, wow, that's the only thing that can really make you righteous before Yahweh. But this is what he's dealing with.

If we go to Hebrews 10 ... And unbelievable today, there are people out there in the Messianic movement that believe the same thing. There's one man several years back, because he was believing in a **renewed** covenant instead of a **new** covenant ... And if we're still under the first covenant, you're in trouble because there's nowhere in the first covenant to have your sins forgiven. *Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, life for life.* Death for death, right? There's no way to do that ... So, this person, when it was clearly showed to him in the book of Hebrews, there is a new covenant and there is an old covenant. You know what his answer was? "Book of Hebrews must be fake. Rip it out ... rip it out." Because they can't come past this religious spirit that they have. But look at Hebrews 10, it's a beautiful chapter. Starting in verse 1.

**Hebrews 10:1-2** *For the (Levitical) Law had in it a shadow of the good things to come, but not the substance of those things themselves. Appearing year by year with the same sacrifices, which they offer continually, they never are able to perfect those being offered. Otherwise, if they had been perfected, they would have ceased to be offered. For from henceforth, their minds would [should be would not] have been driven them into the sins from which they had once been cleansed.*

**Comment:** Right? Doesn't that make sense? That if those sacrifices really forgave sin, then why did they have to do them year after year after year? We don't do that with Yahshua's sacrifice. We **commemorate** the one sacrifice He did, but we don't think He has to do the sacrifice year by year.

**Hebrews 10:3** *But in those sacrifices they are remembered their sins year by year,*

**Comment:** So, the Levitical order was never meant to forgive sin. It was to remind them that they were sinners. It was to have them hoping and praying year after year for the true Messiah to come and the sins to be truly forgiven.

**Hebrews 10:4** *for it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away (the penalty of) sins.*

**Comment:** Very easy. Why? Because the Torah says—and everything goes back to the Torah—*eye for eye, tooth for tooth, life for life*, and the life of an animal does not equal the life of a human. So, you can't go out there like Cain and Abel, right, and go and kill your brother in anger, and then come back and Yahweh's saying, "What did you do wrong?" He said, "Ah, don't worry. I killed a sheep. We're even. Let's start over again." Of course not. A sheep is not equal with the life of a human. It doesn't work that way. And that's why they never forgave one sin; they simply reminded them of their state.

**Hebrews 10:5** *For this reason, coming into the world, He says, "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but **You prepared a body for Me.**"*

**Comment:** And this is such a powerful scripture. It comes from **Psalm 40**. Our Bible translate this correctly, exactly according to the New Testament, the Brit Chadashah. What does the King James and other translations do? They changed the word. And instead of saying, "*For this reason, coming into the world, 'Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but You prepared a body to Me,'*" they say, "*You have opened up My ears.*" I think that's what the King James says. It's a big difference. This is one of the most powerful Messianic scriptures. In the original, even in the Septuagint, it says according to here, the same as the Dead Sea Scrolls, "*You have prepared a body for Me.*"

So, when a Jew comes up to me, ... and I've had many conversations with rabbis ... "Where does it say that the Messiah must suffer?" Right here. Right here in **Psalm 40**, it clearly says that **Yahweh is preparing a physical body for the Messiah to die**. **Psalm 16** says, *but He will not leave His body in the grave to see corruption*. Right? After ... That's why He had to be resurrected in three days. So very, very clearly, the Torah proves this, that only the Messiah could pay this penalty.

**Hebrews 10:6-8** *You did not delight in burnt offerings and sin offerings." "Then I said, Lo, I come, as it is written about Me ... Yahshua's speaking here, the Servant of Elohim ... in the beginning of the Books I delight to do Your will, O Elohim." Above, when He said, "You did not desire nor were pleased with sacrifice and offering and burnt offering and sacrifice concerning sins," which are offered according to the Levitical Law,*

**Comment:** And remember, at Creation, the Torah is there at Creation. All the commandments are there. And in principle, the statutes and the judgments are extensions of the original Ten Commandments. But what was not there in the Garden of Eden? The Levitical priesthood. Galatians tells us it was added because of transgression. **Exodus 19**, Yahweh was going to make all 12 tribes a kingdom of priests. Moses goes up to get the Ten Commandments. The people are down there in debauchery.

And Yahweh is saying, "Aye, aye, aye, aye, aye. How do I get them here in 1445 BC to 27 AD to My Son? How do I get them there before they wind up doing whatever?" And He says, "Okay, I'm going to take one of the tribes, which is Levi. I'll set them apart as representative, as priests. And it's not going to forgive their sins, but at least it will **remind** them year after year. And after 2,000 years of this, almost, they're going to be so happy when My Son finally comes and the real is here." What happened? The shadow became the reality to them. When Yahshua came and said, "I'm the Messiah. I'm the sacrifice for sin." They said, "We already have one. We have the Levitical Order." They didn't understand it. And that's what he's saying here. Drop down to verse 12.

**Hebrews 10:12** *But He, offering but one sacrifice ... Yahshua ... for sins, "sat down" in perpetuity "at the right hand" of YAHWEH,*

Is Yahshua and Yahweh the same being? Absolutely not. Thirteen times in the New Testament ... Right now, in heaven—no semantics, no games being played—right now in heaven, there's a throne where the Father sits. There's a throne on His right where the Son sits. And there's not one person stretched on two seats. There's a Father, Yah Yahweh the Father; there's a Son, Yahshua Yahweh the Son. Very, very clear.

For some reason, people with a religious spirit, they can't get that. They can't get it. I can show you a hundred scriptures that all say the same thing. But a religious spirit because of his self-righteousness and his pride, he'll never come to the truth. It's that simple. Because you could show him a hundred scriptures that clearly prove him wrong and his ears are closed. And he'll go to a rabbinical writing, or he'll go to one obscure scripture. They don't want to hear. And this is what Yahshua is dealing with. This is what the Apostle Paul is dealing with in the first century.

It gets to the point, when you really think about it ... I'm not going to go there ... But think about the fact when Lazarus is raised from the dead. Can you imagine if you were living in that time, maybe even there to witness it? You're friends of Mariam and Martha, the two sisters. And Lazarus is dead for **four days** before Yahshua comes. And Yahshua comes there after four days and they're crying. They're upset, "If you were only here." And what does He say? *I am the resurrection and the life. Unless you believe in me, you will not have life. Do you believe that?* And they said, "I believe ... I believe." And what does He say? *Lazarus, come forth!* And Lazarus comes out with grave cloths alive after four days being dead! Wow!

It's like now going to Papua New Guinea. People that were blind from birth were prayed for and they got their sight back! If that's not proof that Yahweh's with us, what is it? Show me where else Yahweh's doing these miracles. And what did the Pharisees say when this happened? "Wow, you know what? If He keeps doing this, the people are going to follow Him. We have to kill Him. Maybe we'll kill Lazarus too." Can you imagine? Just think about that for a minute. They **know** that He is the Son of Yahweh. Nicodemus, a Pharisee, comes to them by night and says, "We know You are the Son of Yahweh. Nobody could do this without that." **They know that!** And what is their answer because they have a religious spirit? Their answer is, "Let's kill Him."

Yahshua gave a parable on that, right? The man had the vineyard and he's sending people there to get it. They wouldn't listen. He sends his own son. Surely, they'll listen to the son. What do they do? They say, "Hey, if we kill the son, we'll get the inheritance." But can you imagine that sick, perverted mindset? That a miracle of somebody being raised from the dead after four days and their answer is, "We'll kill the guy who did it, and maybe we'll kill the guy who was raised, simply so we can keep our position."

And that's why in Matthew 23, Yahshua really came at these people and told them for what they're worth. And like I say, for people within your midst, if they have this religious spirit, they're not in our midst. They're not a brother and sister. They're not. They are selfish, right? Self-righteous, selfish people that are only looking for their own way. And this is what the Apostle Paul is dealing with in the first century. Colossians 2 and verse 13 ... Colossians 2 and verse 13. He says:

**Colossians 2:13** *And you, who were once dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He has granted to live with Him, having forgiven all your sins,***

**Comment:** Never forget that. That's the foundation of our belief. If you don't understand from the core of your being that your human nature is corrupted and evil, and it's not somebody else but it's you; and that what Yahweh is offering is to give you something to kill that human nature and get those sins forgiven. And unless you can internalize that, unless you understand without Yahshua's sacrifice you are done, you're going to the Lake of Fire. And yet He willingly came here and intervened on our behalf so that we can live, just like Lazarus. But not just live physically, but to live forever.

**Colossians 2:14** *and, by His mandates, ... Verse 14 ... He canceled the legal contract of our sins, which existed against us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to the torture stake.*

**Comment:** And this is the word for word translation, the way it should be. I challenge anybody: And I said it, I'll stand up here with the Pope, and let's go over this word for word in the Greek and the Aramaic, and let's see what it says. **There's nothing that ever says in this verse that the Torah is nailed to anything, never mind a cross. It doesn't say that. Literally what He's saying is that each of us, by the mandates that Yahweh set at the Garden of Eden, each of us has a legal contract of death for our sin.**

And I say that when the ... I've dealt with many atheists through the year. And you know, when they laugh and they giggle, and I say, "You know something? It really doesn't matter what you believe or I believe. The only thing that matters is what's

true. And there's a day coming where you will stand before that Almighty that you're denying and you will not be laughing. Because the Bible says there'll be weeping and there'll be gnashing of teeth. And Revelation says that they'll be screaming and crying and wishing for death at that time.

So, it's very simple here. Every human being has a contract of death. And it's our choice. Do we want to humble ourselves before Yahweh and accept there's only one way? There's Messianics, including big ministries like John Hagee, right? I don't know him personally. He supports Israel. That's great. But he wrote a book, "For Jews, there's another way to salvation. They don't have to accept the blood of Yahshua." You're not reading that in your Brit Chadashah. You're not reading that in your Tanakh. Because the Tanakh is very clear. **Isaiah 53**, right? The suffering Servant came for the sins of the nation. Nobody else. That's the only way to salvation. So, by far, there's nothing here about the Torah being nailed to the stake. It's talking about, *He canceled our legal contract of our sins*. That was what was against us. The Torah was never against us.

**Colossians 2:15-17** *And by putting off His mortal body, He exposed the powers of evil, and through His person, He put them to open shame ... He says ... Therefore ... Because of the sacrifice Yahshua did, right? ... Don't let anyone ... anyone outside the body ... judge you in what you're eating, ... that you eat kosher ... and what you're drinking, or in how you keep the feast days ... like we're keeping now ... or the new moon, or ... the Shabbat ... the Sabbath day, ... Don't let the world judge you for it. Because Yahshua was the one who died for your sins ... which remain shadows of coming things, but the body of Messiah.*

**Comment:** Let the body of Messiah judge you, not those outside. Why? Because they remain shadows. Why are we here 3,500 years after Yahweh gave the command to keep Sukkot, and why are we here doing it? Because it is still a shadow. The Millennium hasn't started yet. Yom Teruah, Feast of Trumpets, it hasn't come yet, so we're keeping it as a shadow. So don't let people judge you.

**Colossians 2:18** *Let no one, by pretense of sincerity, doom you so that you worship cherubs; ... This is asceticism, which was going on at that time ... for he is bold about things which he has not seen, and foolishly is vainly inflated by his intellectual superiority.*

**Comment:** I hear it all the time. "The Lord said this," "The Lord said that," "I had a dream," "I had a dream about this," "I had a dream about that," "dream about that." One lady said, "Oh, Yahweh said because my attitude was wrong, He told me, 'Don't keep Shabbat. Go to the mall and buy those things because I'm in a bad attitude.'" And I said, "Wow, you're not hearing from Yahweh, you're hearing from a demon. No way about it. Either you're lying to me, or you're hearing from a demon. It's one or the other because **Yahweh would never tell you to violate His Law, never in a million years.**"

And this is the point, sometimes this religious spirit gets to this. The religious spirit wants to so much make their case that they want to **act** like there's a superiority there. So, because it really isn't there, they'll say, "I had a dream," "I had a vision," "saw an angel," "saw this," "saw that."

**Colossians 2:19-21** *That person does not uphold the Head, by whom all the body is constructed and stands with joints and members, and grows through the discipline of Elohim. If, then, you died with Messiah from the elements of the world, why are you under the decrees again, as living in the world? Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch,*

**Comment:** Like I said, the rabbis, they have 1,000 laws for Shabbat. Years ago, I was called in by one of the head rabbis here in Jerusalem, and I was talking to him about that. And he said, "Well, how could you keep the Shabbat without the oral law? How would you know all the laws?" I went in Exodus; I said, "You know, it's very basic. You don't work on Shabbat, you don't cook on Shabbat, and you don't seek your own pleasure." I said, "Everything else, what do you need?" And he looked at me and said, "You know, you're right ... you're right." Because it is pretty simple. We don't need 1,000 laws. We don't have to break off our toilet paper before Shabbat starts and all this crazy stuff that they have. You don't need that. It's not necessary. And it's all part of the religious spirit.

**Colossians 2:21-22a** *Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch, for these are all customs which are changeable;*

**Comment:** And they do change, right? They **change** these customs. One day it's this, and one day it's that. The same with the person who has the religious spirit. One day they're loving the Jews; one day they're hating the Jews. One day they're doing this; one day they're doing that.

**Colossians 2:22** *for these are customs which are changeable; and they are the command and doctrines of men.*

**Comment:** Very simple. You know, if the Jews want to follow the Talmud, they want to follow the Mishnah, the oral law, that's their business; but I don't need to follow that. It's nothing but the doctrines and commands of men.

**Colossians 2:23** *Which things indeed appear to be a matter of having wisdom when presented by the humble person in reverence for Elohim, **provided they disregard the things of the flesh, not those things which are honorable, but only those things which satisfy the pleasures of the flesh.***

So, he's saying if you're doing this, some of these things, as long as they're helping you to get rid of your flesh, that's okay. But if they're rigidly telling you all these things to do, what you're allowed to do, like Seventh Day Adventists don't eat meat. Somehow that's going to make you more righteous if you're a vegetarian, right? **Romans 14** covers this, and we'll get into that a little later.

Luke 18 and verse 9 ... Luke 18 and verse 9. Because Yahweh disdains religious spirits. And you know why? Because a religious spirit is actually putting their righteousness above Yahweh. Yahweh gives us a law, right? He gives us principles. And they're saying, "That's not good enough. I'm going to go above this; and not only me, you better go by my principles or you're not pleasing to Elohim." And let's read the parable and hear how Yahweh looks at religious spirits. Chapter 18 and verse 9.

**Luke 18:9-14** *And He spoke this parable to some of those relying on themselves, that they are righteous, and despising the rest: Two men went up into the sanctuary to pray, the one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee was standing, praying these things to himself: Elohim, I thank You that I am not as the rest of men, extortioners, covetous, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice in a week; I tithe all I have, as many as I get. And standing at a distance, the tax collector would not even lift up his eyes to Heaven, but smote his breast, saying, Elohim, be merciful to me, a sinner! I say to you, This one went down to his house having been justified, rather than that one. For everyone exalting himself will be humbled. And the one humbling himself will be exalted.*

Like I gave that sermon the other day, *Vanity of Vanities*. **What human being could ever think apart from Yahweh that there is any good in us?** Even like what Andi was saying, that even when you are trying to do good you can't. You don't have it. It's not in you. It has to come from in ... even repentance. You can't repent, because you don't even know what it is. **You have to pray to Yahweh to give you the spirit of repentance and turn your heart.** Because remember, there's true repentance. There's worldly repentance that leads to death, and that's only feeling sorry for getting caught or sorry for losing something; but **there's Elohim-guided repentance that pricks your heart because you violated something that's of His character. And that's the repentance that's going to lead to eternal life, and it can only come from Him.**

Matthew 23 ... Matthew 23. This is Yahshua dealing with the Pharisees and the scribes who had this very spirit. Because when you logically think about it, you know, it's bad enough ... You talk about judicial order, right? It's bad enough if somebody is against policemen, if somebody is against the pastor, if somebody is against their boss at work. But here it is, they're against the Creator of the universe. They're against the Son of Yahweh. They're against somebody who proved it, who did all these miracles. And their minds were closed. There's nothing He was going to say that was going to change their mind because they were filled with iniquity. They were filled with so much pride, like Satan the devil, there's no turning back. And that could happen when you get so much self-righteousness that you're uncorrectable anymore. Here you are, the next step is the Lake of Fire. So, Matthew 23. He says:

**Matthew. 23:1-3** *And Yahshua spoke to the crowd and the disciples, saying, The scribes and the Pharisees have sat down on Moses' seat. Then all things, whatever he (Moses) tells you to keep, keep and do. But do not do according to their works, for they talk, and they do not do.*

**Comment:** And it's very interesting that this is the way it's written in the Hebrew. That He's saying ... There's a seat of Moses in the synagogue, and that's where the whoever's there, the priest or the teacher, the Pharisee would sit there to teach ... So He's saying, when they sit in that seat and they're reading the Torah, listen to everything that Moses is saying in the Torah. But He's saying, when they get off that seat, don't listen to a word they have to say. Because while they're in their seat, they'll tell you everything Moses said; and then they get out, and they don't do. They're hypocrites.

And the word hypocrite, it's a Latin word. It means actor. That's where it comes from. It means actor. And that's what they are, they're actors. They're playing a part. They come when they're sitting in the seat, they're telling you the Torah of Moses, but they get out and they don't do.

**Matthew 23:4-8** *For they bind heavy and hard to bear burdens, and lay them on the shoulders of men, but they do not desire to move them with their finger. And they do all their works to be seen by men. And they widen their tefillin ... the little boxes that they put on their arms for praying ... and they lengthen the tekhelet (the blue string in the tassel) of their robes. And they love the chief places at festivals and the chief seats at the synagogues. And the greetings in the markets, and to be called by men, Rabboni, Rabboni. But do not be called Rabboni for One is your Great One, the Messiah, and you are all brothers.*

**Comment:** It's very interesting, because the word rabbi simply means teacher. And it wouldn't make sense if Yahshua said called nobody a teacher, because there are people that are teachers. But in the Aramaic the word is not just rabbi, it's Rabboni which literally means not just teacher, it means my great one. And He's saying you have One Great One. You might have many teachers, but you have One Great One—Him.

**Matthew 23:8-11** *But do not be called Rabboni for One is your Great One, the Messiah, and you are all brothers. And call no one your father on earth, for One is your Father, the One in Heaven ... Doesn't mean your natural father; He's talking in a spiritual sense ... Nor be called master, for One is your Master, the Messiah. But he who is greater among you, let him be your servant.*

**Comment:** That's the way. There's no way to get around it. And I say, in the Kingdom, you know where I want to be? I don't want to be way up here, and I don't want to be way down there. I want to be at the exact spot with the gifts Yahweh given me where I can be the best servant. That's where I want to be. I don't want to be lower than that, because then I'm not glorifying Yahweh with the gifts He gave me. I don't want to be higher because I don't have the ability to serve at that. I want to be exactly according to the gifts I have where I can be the greatest servant.

**Matthew 23:11-15** *He who wants to be greatest among you, let him be your servant. And whoever will exalt himself shall be humbled, and whoever will humble himself will be exalted. But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of Heaven before men; for you do not enter, nor do you allow those entering to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour the houses of widows, you pray at the length as a pretext. Because of this you will receive more abundant judgment. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you go about the sea and dry land to make one proselyte; and when he has become so, you make him twofold more a son of Gehenna than yourselves.*

And then he goes on, *you blind guides*, and these kind of things; and I think I'll stop there. But we know it. We read the story. We see it. Self-righteousness is an evil, evil thing, and it will lead to where there's no relationship, zero relationship, nothing to do with Yahweh whatsoever. It's basically somebody out there who's building himself up through religious symbols, and it means absolutely nothing ... it means absolutely nothing.

Number two ... number two. And like I said, many Laodiceans out there have religious spirits. And that's the reason why they don't want to be part of a congregation. They don't want to be part of a body because they ... "Love your neighbor as yourself? Get lost, I don't need that stuff. Let me show you how great I am. Let me put on all this different garb and all this



stuff, and you know, maybe get my beard down to here. Let me pull all the attraction to me. Just keep looking at me and all these religious symbols I have.” And in Yahweh's eyes He's disgusted with it, and it means zero, period, zero with Him.

A matter of fact, I say, you're better off being an atheist. Because at least the atheist simply hasn't had his mind opened; he doesn't understand. The religious spirit actually reads the Torah and just twists and turns every part of it. And like I said, unfortunately, most religions in the world today, whether it's Catholicism, whether it's Greek and Russian Orthodox, whether it's Judaism, and even within our congregations, we have people who have religious spirits.

So **number two, rituals**. That's the second thing, that there's people who think that rituals are making them righteous before Yahweh. And on one sense, Yahweh does give us rituals. I'm going to read you one here. Let's go to Exodus 29 and verse 15. And some of these rituals are odd. I don't question; because if Yahweh gave it, it means it. The key is, though, **the ritual needs to lead you to something. The shadow needs to lead to a reality**, right?

So whenever you see a shadow, the shadow doesn't do anything; it just means there's a reality. There's a person there, right? Have you ever seen a shadow and thought it was somebody or something, and then it wasn't? It was like, you know, just like maybe a big stone thing or something. There was no reality to it. It was only a shadow. So if there's no reality, the shadow will mean nothing. But Exodus 29 and verse 15 ... Exodus 29 and verse 15. Now this is talking about the Levites. And here's a ritual that Yahweh gave.

**Exodus 29:15** *And you shall take one ram, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on the head of the ram.*

**Comment:** So, this is a ritual. The ritual was that the laying on of hands was a transferring of the sin from the people to the animal.

**Exodus 29:16-21** *And you shall slaughter the ram, and take its blood and shall sprinkle it on the altar all around. And you shall cut the ram into pieces; and you shall wash its inward parts, and its legs, and shall place them on its pieces and on its head ... This is a certain way to do it ... And you shall burn all the ram on the altar; it is a burnt offering to YAHWEH, a soothing fragrance; it is a fire offering to YAHWEH. And you shall take the second ram, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on the head of the ram. And you shall slaughter the ram; and you shall take of its blood and put it on the tip of the right ear of Aaron, and on the tip of the right ear of his sons, and on the thumb of the right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot; and you shall sprinkle the blood on the altar all around. And you shall take of the blood on the altar, and the oil of anointing, and you shall sprinkle on Aaron and on his garments, and on his sons, and on his sons' garments with him.*

So, you might read this and it might sound a little odd, right? Why would he be taking blood and putting it on the tip of the ear, the big toe? It is a ritual that Yahweh had for these people to show them something. And what I love is I love going in here. I have sermons on temple shadows and showing how all this relates to Messiah, like we were talking the other day on the Mount of Olives, right, with the sacrifice of the red heifer. Because all these things go back to Yahshua. So, they lead to somewhere. They are not ... Even though they may sound a little odd at first, there is an avenue that they are leading to a reality. So, I want to start by saying not all rituals are bad. I will go into another one. Numbers 15. A ritual that we believe in and we do ... Numbers 15 ... with the tzitziyot ... verse 37.

**Numbers 15:37-41** *And YAHWEH spoke to Moses, saying, Speak to the sons of Israel and you shall say to them that they shall make fringes on the corners of their garments, for their generations. And they shall put a thread of blue ... tekhelet ... with the fringe of each corner. And He shall be to you for a fringe, that you may look on it and remember all the commandments of YAHWEH, and do them; and that you do not go about after your own heart and after your own eyes after which you fornicate; that you may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy to your Elohim. I am YAHWEH your Elohim who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your Elohim. I am YAHWEH your Elohim.*

So here it is. Now some people actually believe like these Pharisees. Right? They make them long because they feel it makes them more righteous. “Look, I’m wearing a tzitziyot. I have the blue string; he doesn’t.” I was attacked one time on the internet by some guy saying I did not have my tzitziyot out showing; he could not see it. Wow. Is my tzitziyot going to

make you more righteous? Come on. That is what I am talking about here, a religious spirit that's looking to righteousness from these things.

You know what the tzitziyot is there for you? **It is there to remind you to keep the commandments.** And I say, how many men through the years ... There is adultery everywhere ... that maybe if they were wearing tzitziyot and they are going to commit adultery and they are taking their pants down and see that tzitziyot, they'd pull their pants right back up again? Right? So, it reminds us of the commandments of Yahweh. That is what it is there for. It is a shadow to go to the reality. There is no mysticism with it.

So again, it does not even tell us how to make it. We do it a tradition from an article I read. We do it with 39 strings. You do not have to do it that way. You can do it any way you want as long as it is a tzitziyot with a blue string in it, that is it. Whatever way you do it does not make you more or less righteous. It is a simple tradition that we do that Yahweh gave us. And you know why? So, it says **that He may be upon us. That it is a sign of the covenant.**

And I do not know if you have ever had this. But when you are not in organized religion, like the religions of the world, do people ever ask you, "What are you? Like, what are you? How do you categorize yourself?" And people all the time ask me, "What do we say? How do you ... We are not Catholic; we are not Protestant; we are not this; we are not Jewish, yet they see us wearing tassels." **The tassel categorizes what we are; we are commandment keepers because that's what it means.**

And that's why the women don't wear the tassels ... I have a good article on here from this ... because it's also a sign of authority. And the woman is under the authority of her husband. So, if the husband is wearing the tassel, the woman is wearing the tassel. If the woman wears a tassel on her own, that means she's not under the authority of her husband. It's that simple.

And children shouldn't be wearing it, because they're not in covenant yet. It's when you enter covenant, when you're in it, because there's an accountability. If I wear this tassel and I walk out of that room and I'm not keeping the commandments, Yahweh is going to give me a hard time. *To much is given, much is expected; the more is given, the more will be required.* So don't just put that tassel on like it's nothing. You're telling Yahweh, "Yes, I'm in covenant with you, and I will obey you." That's the sign of it. So, it means a lot. And that's why little children don't understand that. It's not a game. It's a serious thing. And only people after they join the covenant should they be wearing the tassel. But it's a good, it's a very good ritual that we do.

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11 ... 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11. Because there's rituals that our brother Judah does that are not from Yahweh. And you want to know? Like I said, sadly, there's basically two lines today of believers, right, that come out of organized religion. One line is the line that comes through the Church of Gods. Now they might not join Church of God, but when you're joining many of the break-offs, if you're joining any of these Sacred Names assemblies, if you're joining Seventh Day Adventists, any, they all come from the same branch. They all come from the original Church of God Seventh Day back in the 1860s. So, there's people that come out of organized religion and they become part of that. And they're usually the ones that learn the dead are asleep, there is no eternal hell-fire, all the basic doctrines that are really basic. But they're not basic if you don't know them.

Now there's another line. There's people who come out of organized religion and now they don't know what to do, right? Because they're only brought up with Christmas and Easter and Sunday and they go to the rabbis. They go to Judaism. And they read all the commentaries of Judaism and they ... Some have even go to temple, to Jewish synagogue on Shabbat and whatnot, and they don't realize what they're getting into. Because Judaism, the religion, it comes from the second century. It's not the religion that Yahshua belonged to.

The ones who were there in the first century joined the New Covenant congregation. The ones who didn't, the ones who hated Yahshua, the ones who had religious spirit, they made modern Judaism. That's what they did. So, when you're joining Judaism, you're joining a religion that absolutely hates our Messiah and denies Him. It's that simple. And they have all kinds of traditions that not only are man made, many of those traditions actually **break** the commandments of Yahweh.

I told you, when we lived here in the Old City, it was Yom Teruah, the Feast of Trumpets. We're commanded to go and blow our horn. I walked down to the Wailing Wall to blow my trumpet. I had nine rabbis come at me from every side. "Oh, no, no, no, no, you can't blow that." Why? Because Yom Teruah that day happened to be on a Shabbat, the seventh day of the week. I said, "It's Yom Teruah; we're commanded to blow." "No, no, it's Shabbat. It's work to carry your horn." "But what do I have to do? It's a commandment." "We're going to blow it tomorrow." "But that's not the commandment. The command is to blow it today. That's your own tradition." I said, "Woe to you. By your tradition you're breaking the commandment." He said, "Exactly." They know it, but in the Talmud it's written they have authority from Yahweh to change it.

There's a story in the Talmud that says there's a rabbi Eleazar, and he's a good, righteous man. And there's an oven, and they're trying to figure if this oven is kosher, clean, or not. So, Rabbi Eleazar believes it is, and all the other 499 rabbis don't believe it's kosher. So, Rabbi Eleazar says, "If this oven is kosher, and I'm right, I command this river to go upstream instead of downstream." A miracle. What happens? The river goes upstream. And the rabbis say, "That's great Eleazar, but we don't listen to rivers." So, Rabbi Eleazar says, "Well, if I'm right and you're wrong, I command this tree to be uprooted and fall down." And the tree is uprooted and falls down. And they say, "That's great Rabbi Eleazar, but we don't listen to trees." And then he says, "If I'm right and you're wrong, I command from heaven to share that." And Yahweh from heaven says, "Eleazar is right and you're wrong." And the rabbis say, "That's great Eleazar, but we don't listen to voices from heaven." And Yahweh in the heaven laughs and says, "My children have defeated Me."

Could you imagine the blasphemy of that story? And they teach it to the young people in Judaism showing why the rabbis have authority over Yahweh. Because they believe at Mount Sinai that Yahweh gave them that authority, and now His hands are locked. And no matter what they do, He can't take that authority back. And they tell these stories. And that's where they get their rituals from.

I'm going to give you a ritual over here is the ritual of the kippa ... the ritual of the kippa. So, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11 and verse 4 says:

**1 Corinthians 11:4, 7** *Every man praying or prophesying, having anything down over his head shames his head ... and verse 7 ... For truly a man ought to not have the head covered, being the image and glory of Elohim. But the woman is the glory of man;*

Very, very simple, right? That the man is made with the image of Elohim, so the man should not have his head covered. And yet our brother Judah, what do they wear? They wear the little kippa. And not only is it that they're doing wrong because they're covering their head when they shouldn't, the kippa is actually from sun worship.

I want to read you here from the book of Maccabees. It's not a biblical book, but it's a historical book. Where did this come from? Where did it come from? It came during the Hellenization from the 4th century BC after Ezra and Nehemiah died until the 2nd century when the Sanhedrin started. And they say during that 200 years a great Hellenization took over. What do I mean? That many of the Jews took the Greek customs with them. And it even says there's no great rabbi.

So, this is what it says in 2nd Maccabees 4:12. It says: "For he gladly built a place of exercise" ... It's talking about the Jewish leader. It's called gymnasium. What does that mean? Again, it's a Latin word. It means naked men. That's what gymnasium means, naked men ... "under the tower itself and brought even the most noble young men under his subjection, and made them wear the Greek sun cap." That's where the kippa comes from. So, there's nothing holy; there's nothing righteous. It's a ritual.

Many Christians that come out of Christianity, and like I said, they jump into the firepan of Judaism. They keep the Friday night, the erev Shabbat. They call it here, Kabbalat Shabbat. I never understood why. I just thought the name must mean something else, Kabbalat. But they call it Kabbalat Shabbat because it comes from the Kabbalah. Kabbalah is a book of witchcraft. Literally, if you're sick, they say in the Kabbalah, they say take a leg of a frog, and take this and this one, and then say this incantation over it. It is pure witchcraft. It is absolute witchcraft that they're using.

And in the Kabbalat Shabbat, where they come in as the Shabbat, as the sun is setting on Friday evening, they welcome in the Shabbat queen, and they have the two candles, and the woman goes like this [waving his hands in a circular motion] because she's welcoming in the ... People that doing this, they don't even realize they're welcoming in Ishtar. And then according to their belief, the Shabbat queen has sexual relations with Yahweh. You want to do Kabbalat Shabbat? Be my guest. **It's filled with paganism**, like most other rituals that Judaism is doing.

Like I said, I love my brother Judah. I'll help them; I support them, but I'm not going to support their paganism. I'm not going to support it. And **they don't have a relationship with Yahweh**. Sorry to say that. I've lived here for 20 years; I've seen it. I've gone to the wall. I went with friends. A friend of mine when we lived in the old city, Orthodox man, he asked me one day come to pray with him. So I said, "I want to go; I want to see how they pray." He has six spots to go to. It's like a marathon race. He's looking at his watch. He has exactly 12 minutes to get to the ... I'm huffing and puffing as I'm running behind him. He gets to the spot [quickly rattles as though praying] "Let's go to the next one." I'm thinking, "Wow, what blasphemy. This is prayer to Yahweh, running from spot to spot, bowing your head?" Just like it says in the book of Ezekiel, always bowing their head, like they do at the Wailing Wall.

And I'm not judging the heart. There's a lot of good Jewish people. There's a lot of good religious Jewish people. I'm not saying everyone is like this. But particularly the ultra-orthodox, they have a religious spirit, and these things are not of Yahweh. They are not of Yahweh whatsoever. Deuteronomy 4:2, very clearly says:

**Deuteronomy 4:2** *You shall not add to the Word which I command you, nor take from it, to keep the commandments of YAHWEH your Elohim which I command you.*

So, there's good rituals like building the sukkah. It's a great ritual. It makes us remind us, right, of how temporal our life is. But we should not be enforcing rituals, man-made rituals on the congregation, particularly when they come from paganism. And we really have to look and see.

Another one that's very interesting, that many Messianics got into this thing of praying to the east. I don't know if you heard this. They said, "You have to pray to the east, right, because of Daniel." ... And I'm going to read you from Daniel ... "Because Daniel always prayed toward Jerusalem, so we need to pray to the east." And it comes from Daniel 6:10.

**Daniel 6:10** *And when he had learned the document was signed, ... Daniel ... Daniel went into his house. And his windows were open on his roof chamber toward Jerusalem. He knelt on his knees three times in the day, and he prayed and praised before Eloheh, as he did before.*

"You see, Daniel prayed toward Jerusalem; Daniel prayed toward the east. We have to pray toward the east." There's only one problem with that. Daniel was in Babylon. Babylon is east from here, so Jerusalem is west from Babylon. So, Daniel wasn't praying to the east. He's praying to the west. And that's why I say people are doing things they have no idea what they're doing. And that's why, to me, I love Yahweh's judicial order. It's not man ruling over man. Judicial order is simply Yahweh made an order at Creation, ... It's all here in the Scriptures ... and our job is not to change that order, it's to keep the order.

I say the same with a judge. A judge on a court is not there to make law. He's simply there to interpret the law that's there, and make a judgment based on that law. That's what a judge does. And you have to put your personal feelings to the side, and you have to go by the Law of Yahweh. That's what He shares with us. So now, in the remaining time, let's get into relationship. Because we don't want religious spirit. We don't want rituals. That's not going to draw you to Yahweh. We want relationship. Hebrew 7 and verse 19 ... Hebrew 7 and verse 19. It says:

**Hebrews 7:19-22** *For the (Levitical) Law perfected nothing, but a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to Elohim. And He confirmed it for us by an oath. For they became priests without an oath; but this man by an oath ... He's comparing, right, the shadow of Levi to the reality of Melchizedek ... As He said to [Him by] David: "YAHWEH has sworn, and will not lie, You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek." ... And it's not the name of a person. Melchizedek,*

it's the king of righteousness. It's a title, one of Yahshua's titles ... *All these things make a better covenant because **Yahshua is its surety.***

**Comment:** And that's what I say. There's even people coming into the New Covenant, and they go out and get circumcised. I don't know how you could read the New Testament and ever come up with that a believer to join the New Covenant has to be physically circumcised. That's why I say you're going to tell someone keep Shabbat, and you're going to show them the scriptures, he's going to say, "Hey, you know, you're right. In the New Testament we have to keep Shabbat." And then in your next breath, you're going to tell him he has to be circumcised? After Acts 15, after Galatians, how do you get away with that? You won't with someone who's seeking truth, because there is nowhere—absolutely zero—like it or not like it.

But if you believe in the Brit Chadashah, you do not have to be circumcised to join the New Covenant. Why? Because **circumcision was not a law, it was a sign. It was a sign of the Old Covenant.** And if you're circumcised, which covenant are you joining? You're joining the First Covenant that had no forgiveness of sin! **Baptism is a sign of the New Covenant.** That's the sign. That's very, very clear from here. And **that's why Yahshua is surety.** Yahshua is not the surety in the First Covenant. It's *eye for eye, tooth for tooth, life for life.* The only thing in the First Covenant He was, was a promise of a better covenant to come.

**Hebrews 7:23-25** *And these priests who are many, ... talking about the Levites ... but being mortal they are prevented from continuing because of death; but this one, ... Yahshua ... because He is immortal, has the priesthood which remains forever. And from this He is able to save forever those who come to Elohim through Him, because He lives forever to intercede on their behalf.*

**Comment:** Right? We read it in **Hebrews 10**, His sacrifice is in perpetuity. It's forever; it's ongoing.

**Hebrews 7:26-28** *For this is the kind of High Priest proper to us: holy, harmless, undefiled, and separated from sinners, and having become higher than the heavens; who has no need, as do the high priests, to offer sacrifices day by day, first for their own sins, then for those of the people. For He died this once for all, offering up Himself. For the (Levitical) Law makes men high priests who are imperfect, but **the word of the oath which came after the (Levitical) Law appoints the Son who is perfect forever.***

Wow, how great! Like I said, the rituals Yahweh gives us, right, for our benefit—the foods we eat, unclean foods and whatnot, keeping Sukkot—these are all great rituals. These are things that draw us closer to Him. Not the man-made things; we don't need them. We don't need the religious spirits. This is what we need; we need relationship. Hebrews 8 and verse 6 ... Hebrews 8 and verse 6. It says:

**Hebrews 8:6-10** *But now, Yahshua the Messiah has received a ministry which is greater than that: also by so much more, He is the Mediator of a better covenant, ... Right? There's a first and a new ... so are the promises greater than the first covenant. For if the first was faultless, there would have been no place for a second. But finding fault with them, ... Not with the Torah but with the people, their inability to keep the Torah ... He said to them, "Behold, the days are coming, says YAHWEH, I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; not according to the covenant which I made with your fathers in the day of My taking hold of their hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I rejected them, says YAHWEH. But this is the covenant which I will covenant with the house of Israel after those days, says YAHWEH, I will put My Torah in their minds, I will inscribe it on their hearts, and I will be their Elohim, and they will be My people."*

**Relationship** ... relationship. And that's why when Elder Bruce was talking about with the name, why it's important, the name of the Father, the name of the Son. Because I say, logically think to yourself, do you know even one person in your whole life that you had a very close intimate relationship with that you didn't know their name? Think about it. Think about if you had a really, really good friend, right? And you saw that friend after maybe 10 years, and he was your friend for 20 years, and he didn't remember your name. Think about how you would feel, right? You would feel hurt because of that.

And this is what is here, you have a relationship. You get to know the name of the Creator, and you get to put that family name on you because that's what you're baptized in. **You're baptized in the family name of Yahshua Yahweh.** And you're becoming part of that; it's personal. Like Brother Lawrence always says, it's personal. It really is! It's personal now. It's not rituals; it's not religious spirits. **It's the Elohim of creation who created all things is actually looking for a personal relationship with you, that you can talk to Him when you're feeling down and when you're feeling up, you could share anything on your heart that you want with Him. And you know what? He hears and He answers!**

And that's what blew my mind away when I first became a believer 35 years ago, because I came from religious spirits. I came out of Catholicism. I didn't think this stuff was true. And when I saw that I could get on my hands and knees and I could pray to Yahweh and He would answer those prayers. And literally as I'm praying for something, I'd get up, I'd open my Bible and there's the answer in front of me. He would speak to me through His words! Literally, it's like He's speaking to you as you're hearing the words! You're asking a question, and the answer is right there! And it's like, wow, this is awesome!

I wish every atheist in the world can understand that. I wish every atheist in the world once can just pray with an open heart and open their Bible and let Yahweh speak to them. Because *the fool has said in this heart, "There is no Elohim."* I mean, there's no other way ... there's no other way. But this is what He wants to give us—relationship.

Matthew 11 and verse 27. And you know, we're living in such ... We've talked about it ... such a strange world, such an evil world, such a world where even children are getting depressed and killing each other. And there is an answer ... **there is an answer.** You don't have to be that way with the Spirit of Yahweh. There's no reason why we should be depressed or down continuously. There's a time for everything. There's a time where we might be down when something happens, a sickness, a death. But we shouldn't **live** in that kind of state. Matthew 11 and verse 27 ... Matthew 11 and verse 27.

**Matthew 11:27-30** *All things were yielded up to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father, except the Son, and the one to whom the Son purposes to reveal Him. Come to Me, all those laboring and being burdened, and I will give you rest. Bear My yoke upon you and learn from Me. That I am tranquil and I am meek, and in My heart you will find tranquility for your soul. For My yoke is pleasant, and My burden is light.*

Wow, this is the Savior we have. This is the Savior who didn't just come to this earth simply to pay the penalty of our sins, right? Because He could have did that. He could have just came as a human. He didn't have to be born of a baby. But He literally came in the womb of a woman, came out; and could you imagine that the Creator of the universe lived as a baby for X amount of years, pooped His diaper, needed a mother to take care of Him and feed Him or He wouldn't have survived? From birth He did that for us! Because He's saying, if I'm going to be their High Priest up there, if they're going to come to me with the most intimate problems they have, I want to know what they're going through. So, I'm not going to just come here for three days and three nights; that will pay the penalty. I'm going to live in a body like them.

And that's why he was fully man. This whole Greek-pagan thing, "He was half-Elohim and half-man" is not scriptural. He was a man; He put his divinity to the side. He came as a human being, as a man. And like I said, He suffered as a man. Isaiah tells us He had sicknesses when He was younger, right? Got sick as we did. When He was learning how to be a carpenter and He hit His thumb with that hammer by mistake, it hurt. And He had feelings like we do. So, when we're down and we're suffering, maybe hurt, maybe someone hurts us, don't you think that that happened to Yahshua?

That's why I love the house of Caiaphas. Because any time in my life, even if I'm getting a little bit low, all I have to do is think of the house of Caiaphas. Here He is on that last Passover, He just shared with His most intimate friends that they would be with Him in the Kingdom sitting on 12 thrones; and an hour and a half later, they're all fleeing in every direction. And He sees Peter, the chief apostle, right, the one who thinks out of the box, the one who came out and said, "I don't care if everyone denies you, I'll never deny you." And as He's being beaten and dragged through the courtyard of Caiaphas, He looks to the side and He sees Peter there, "I don't know the Man," cursing, "I don't know the Man." And still, He spends those last six, seven, eight hours in that cell, bloodied up, sitting there cold, without Yahweh now, because Yahweh had to turn His back because He was sin. And like He said, *Don't you think I can call My Father and end it?* But in the Garden of Gethsemane He said, *Your will be done, not My will be done.*

That's the kind of King we serve! That's the kind of Savior we have! **There's nothing going on in your life that He's not willing to help you with. And He wants more than anything a personal relationship with you.** What we have to do is get rid of the rituals and get rid of the religious spirit. Stop thinking that we're going to go to Him the way the idols did, the way the pagans did. They went to their gods by stone and wood. He's not like that. **He created us in His image, and He gave us feelings like He has, and He listens to us when we speak to Him.**

Like I said, **Revelation 8, Revelation 5**, the incense is the prayers of the saints. Can you imagine? Our prayers to Him are sweet smelling up to His throne. And even when things are getting heavy, there's a war going on here, there was an earthquake here, this is going on. And the cherub comes up, "Father, I have a prayer from one of Your children." "Hold on, put everything to the side. I want to hear what My child has to say." **We have direct access to His throne. What does that mean to us as children of His?** But this is what He's looking for to give us. Hebrews 2 and verse 9 ... Hebrews 2 and verse 9.

**Hebrews 2:9-13** *but we do see Yahshua, who humbled Himself to become a little lower than the cherubs through His suffering and His death, but now is crowned with glory and honor, so that He tasted death for the sake of everyone except YAHWEH. For it was fitting for Him, because of whom are all things, and through are all things, having brought many sons to glory, so that from the very beginning of their salvation they are made perfect through sufferings. For both the One sanctifying and the ones being sanctified are all of one nature; for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brethren, ... Right? He's not ashamed to lift our name up to Yahweh ... saying, "I will announce Your name to My brethren; I will praise You in the midst of the congregation." And again, "I will be trusting on Him." And again, "Behold, I and the children whom Elohim gave to Me."*

**Hebrews 2:14-18** *Since, then, the children have partaken of flesh and blood, in like manner He Himself also shared the same things, that through death He might cause to cease the one having the power of death, that is, the devil; and He might release them, who, through fear of death, are all their lives subject to bondage. For He did not take on the likeness of cherubs, "but He takes on Him the seed of Abraham." Wherefore it was right, that He should in **every manner** resemble His brethren; that He might be merciful, and a high priest faithful in the things of Elohim, and might make reconciliation for the sins of the people. **For since He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to help others who are tempted.***

Just like I just said. That's why He spent 32-33 years on this planet. He did it only to know what we're going through, because He wants to not just have sympathy, He wants to have empathy. He wants to truly feel what we're feeling. And it says **He went through every single thing, without sin** ... every single thing, without sin. What a great High Priest we have! But this is the reality of the New Covenant.

Colossians 1 and verse 9. And you know, I say something when I'm at the Bible school. Because we talk about judicial order, right? And there's a place for everybody. And not everybody is an elder. Not even every man has to be a teacher. The Holy Spirit gives to each as He sees, you know, as it's fit to Him. And I say, not everyone, every believer, is going to be a Moses. Not every believer is going to be a King David. But every single believer can have the relationship that Moses had and the relationship that David had. So, in judicial order, we're not all meant to be the ones to take the Israelites out of Egypt. We're not all meant to be the King of Israel. But **Yahweh wants that relationship where He called Abraham His friend, and He said, King David was a man after My own heart. He wants that same relationship with each of us.**

He doesn't restrict our relationship. **He might restrict our position according to the abilities He has given us. But our relationship, it's the heavens. It's where you go with it with your life. But unless you seek it, unless you look for it, unless you live to it every breath, you'll never live to the potential of the relationship you could have.** Yahshua said, *I came to give life and give it more abundantly.* And in a world around us, it's such a dichotomy where there's misery and sorrow and war and death; inside these doors are joy and happiness because we're the people of Yahweh.

And that's why we have the responsibility, though, of taking that joy out there and sharing it with whoever will hear—many won't, but there's someone who may. Right? You have to seek, like the one coin. You have a hundred coins, you lose one, you have to seek. The sheep; there's a hundred sheep, one goes, you have to seek one. But this is what He's looking

for, that every one of us can have that special relationship that a Moses or King David had. Colossians 1 and verse 9. He says:

**Colossians 1:9-13** *For this cause, from the day in which we heard, we do not cease praying on your behalf, and asking that you may be filled with the full knowledge of the will of Elohim in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, that you may live a righteous life pleasing to Elohim and bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the full knowledge of Elohim; being empowered with all power according to the might of His glory, to all patience and long-suffering with joy; so that you may joyfully give thanks to Elohim the Father, who has enlightened and made us a worthy inheritance to the saints, and has delivered us out of the authority of darkness, and brought us into the kingdom of His beloved Son,*

**Comment:** How thankful are we for that? We didn't ask for it. We didn't know. We were out there in the world like everybody else, but He took us out from the authority of the darkness of the kingdom of Satan, and He brought us into the Kingdom of Yahweh.

**Colossians 1:14-19** *in whom we have obtained salvation, and the forgiveness of sins; who is the image of the invisible Elohim, the right of the First-born of all creation. For all things were created through Him, the things in the heaven, the things in the earth, the visible, the invisible; whether imperial thrones, or dominions, or angelic orders, or authorities, all things were in His hands and have been created by Him. And He is before all things, and by Him all things are sustained. And He is the Head of the body, the Congregation, who is the Beginning, the First-born of the resurrection of the dead, that He might be preeminent in all things; because it pleased Elohim to complete all things in Him ... Drop down to verse 23.*

**Colossians 1:23** *if indeed you continue in the faith grounded and settled and not being moved away from the hope of the good news which you have heard and which has been preached in all creation under Heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister,*

Wow, what great messages the Apostle Paul gives us! What encouragement he gives us! Because you know, the twelve apostles knew Yahshua for several years during their ministry, right? But they knew Him at a time before He was glorified. They knew Him in a time when they didn't have the Holy Spirit, so many things He said they didn't understand. The Apostle Paul knew the resurrected Yahshua. The Apostle Paul was taught in a whole different way, and that's why we see there's a message that he has in his letters that we don't see anywhere else in Scripture that He's getting directly from Yahshua because of the relationship that he had with Yahshua.

A couple more scriptures, we'll be ending here. Galatians 4 and verse 1. Because religious spirits and rituals are not going to make you a child of Yahweh. Relationship is going to make you a child of Yahweh. Galatians 4 and verse 1.

**Galatians 4:1-7** *But I say, over a long period of time the heir is a child, and does not differ from a slave, even though he is master of all of them. However, he is under guardians and stewards of the house, until the time which his father had set. So also, when we were young, we were under the elements of the world, being enslaved. But when the fullness of the time came, Elohim sent forth His Son, having come into being out of a woman, being subject to the Torah, that He might redeem the ones under (the penalty of breaking) of the Torah, that we might receive the adoptions of sons ... Wow! So let me just continue two more verses ... And because you are sons, Elohim has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba! Our Father! So that you are no more a slave, but a son, and a son, also an heir of YAHWEH through Messiah. But then, indeed, not knowing Elohim ... I am going to stop there.*

So, think about it. He is saying over here, just like a child, like if you look at the royal family, right, King ... or Prince Harry and Prince William. I remember when they were little children growing up. And the one thing at least I know Diana wanted, I don't know so much about Prince Charles, maybe him too, but Diana did not want them growing up with a silver spoon in their mouth. They went, they served in Africa, they served the poor, they did all kinds of work, they served in the military. Because again if one of them, particularly William is going to grow up to be a king someday, he has to learn at a small age how to be a servant before being a king. And that is us.



You know, we are sitting in this room and sometimes we forget when we are going through financial trouble or we are going through sickness or heartache, we are forgetting that our Dad is the King. We are in on the family business, and He is part of it. And I joke but it is true, sometimes on an airplane I will be sitting and I am talking to somebody next to me and I am saying I am a pastor and this and that. And I will say, "You know what? I really don't like to share this, but I actually come from a fairly wealthy family." And then you see the eyes start going up. And they might ask like, "Well, why? What does your father do?" And I say, "I don't want to really share, but I am not talking about just millionaire; I mean, my Father is extremely rich ... He is extremely rich." And the eyes are really getting up, and they're curious. I say, "Well, to be honest, my Father owns the universe." And they're like, "Oh?" But it is true.

You know there is billions of stars and planets, and our Dad owns all that. And He is giving it to us. This is what it is saying, we are co-heirs. We are in on the family business. And all these things in this life, they are going to come and go; they are only a test. They are only there for us to learn these lessons so that when we are kings and priests in that Kingdom that we can look at those others that are going through the same thing and we can have that same empathy and sympathy and to treat them with mercy. That is what Yahweh wants us to do.

And like I said, look at the examples of the Pharisees. You are never going to learn that from a religious ... the opposite. You will become a king and a priest in the kingdom and you will rule like a Saddam Hussein. You have to learn this, because the only way that we can get the character of Yahweh and the Spirit of Yahweh is through relationship. That is the only way. You have to build that relationship because Yahweh is love. That's His very character. And we have to embellish ourselves. We have to not embellish, but we have to empower ourselves with that love. We have to grow in it. We have to cover ourselves. We have to become the same love that He is; and that everybody we see, we are seeing it from that standpoint, not from a religious spirit or from rituals.

Last scripture, Jeremiah 31 and verse 31. Because this is what the New Covenant is all about. Jeremiah 31:31.

**Jeremiah 31:31-34** *Behold, the days come, says YAHWEH, that I will cut a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not according to the covenant I cut with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of Egypt (which covenant of Mine they broke, although I was a husband to them says YAHWEH). But this shall be the covenant I will cut with the house of Israel: After those days, declares YAHWEH, I will put My Torah in their inward parts, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people. And they will no longer each man teach his neighbor, and each man his brother, saying, Know YAHWEH. For they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, declares YAHWEH. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sins no more.*

This is the New Covenant, not of religion but of relationship. Matter of fact, the word religion is not in the Bible. All three major religions, Catholicism or Christianity, Islam, and Judaism, they all start from the second century AD on. There is no religion in the first century. So, the New Covenant is not of religion but of relationship. **The shadows of the covenant are there to sanctify us and to draw us closer to Yahweh and Yahshua, who want a relationship with us as children and family members.**

And that's why the good rituals we do, like Sukkot, they are there to separate us from the world so we can have that relationship with Him. What a destiny we have, to be co-heirs of the universe. Isn't it so much better than religion and pagan rituals? Before religion there was pagan entities in which most religion came from. But from the beginning what Yahweh sought in the Garden of Eden with the first man He took out was a relationship. And like I say, Adam did not lose a religion; Adam lost a kingdom. We want to make sure we don't lose the same Kingdom. Yahweh bless. Chag sameach.