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The Remnant's Walk

**20th
Anniversary
Edition**



Rev 3:8 I know your works. Behold, I have given a door being opened before you, and no one is able to shut it, for you have a little strength and have kept My Word, and have not denied My name.

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

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

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

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

Some articles are reprint articles from the old Good News magazine and will say reprint. May you be blessed and grow in truth and Spirit. In His wonderful name, Shalom ...

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Personal

by Don Esposito

Greetings Brethren,

And shalom in the wonderful names of Yahweh and Yahshua. With this new edition of the Remnant's Walk, it is now 20 years since I started this magazine back in January of 2006. Boy, how time flies!

As most of you know, this ministry from Jerusalem started back in 1997 with my first trip to Israel with amateur archaeologist Ron Wyatt. It was an amazing trip seeing the Holy Land for the first time. And as I have shared many times, it was on that trip that I met my wife Petra in the Garden Tomb, the very place that claims it was the place where Yahshua was buried and resurrected.

I was still a newly ordained elder of Yahweh, only being ordained for a few years at that point, and I was still praying to Yahweh what direction He wanted me to move toward in service toward Him and His chosen elect. Back then, I would have never thought in a million years that Yahweh would take me from the land of Babylon in these last days to live in Jerusalem and Israel and foster this amazing end-time work that He has done with me and the Congregation over the last 28 years since that first trip to Jerusalem in 1997.

One thing that has helped me over the years to be a true servant of Yahweh was always putting the work and will of Yahweh first in my life and trying to serve Yahweh from a pure heart and not financial gain.

When I would pray and ask Yahweh how to better prepare His people for His soon coming Kingdom, one of the ways He showed me was to make a magazine that could help the brethren with spiritual growth in their daily walk as a believer.

And that is why I believe Yahweh inspired the name for this publication to be "***The Remnant's Walk.***" There are many magazines and publications that are Christian based and share family stories and living conditions of Bible believing people around the world, and some even give good recipes for healthy living, which is all fine and good in their proper place.

But I did not find a magazine that could give hard, true, heart-cutting articles for brethren to have a true change of life and prepare themselves for their positions in the soon coming Kingdom, and so we have the Remnant's Walk filled with many reprint articles from the old *Good News* magazine.

I pray that this publication has been a blessing to you over these last 20 years and will continue to be one in the short time we have remaining to publish it, as we have been doing.

B'Shem Yahshua, Elder Don

What Do You Think About This Article?



by Don Esposito

We are living in a world that has never existed before. Yahweh created the earth and all things with Yahshua roughly six thousand years ago, and since that time mankind worked from his home with mostly agriculture, cared for his family and schooled his children, and probably never went more than 50 to 100 miles away from his property in his whole lifetime.

Whatever you focus on becomes most real to you, and the focus for almost 5900 years was simply planting and harvesting one's food, caring for his family and worshipping his Creator.

That all changed about 100 years ago with the bringing in of the Industrial Revolution, World War I, and also the invention of the train and the automobile. This changed the world dramatically, and for the first time ever in the history of mankind people started changing from working from an agrarian society from home to traveling away from the home to work in factories in an environment that is unnatural.

Then, starting in the 1950s and 60s came the computer age and the invention of the television set and completely changed everything in such an abnormal way it would be impossible for humanity to last even one generation in these completely unnatural surroundings.

And to add even on top of that in the 1990s the Internet came; and now, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, people all over the world are infatuated with texting, Internet, tweeting, etc.

The world has become so unnatural with people working and sitting behind a chair on a computer screen that most people in this world are so falsely conditioned they do not even know what is normal any longer.

Normal to most is the infanticide of the unborn child, homosexuality, the progressive public school system, and reality TV, which is anything but true reality in a Kingdom mindset. And every human being on this planet has been affected by this abnormal change in lifestyle to one degree or another.

And the biggest effect is in the mind. Maybe you don't agree with abortion or homosexuality, but your mind is indeed being perverted by the totally abnormal society around you; because most are not home schooling and raising their own children, or working from home and growing their own food, but are working in this abnormal world. And again, *"whatever you focus on becomes most real to you."*

If you were locked in a room for one month, that room would become your reality. You would start to see things in that room you never knew before, because you would be only focusing on that room day after day. In the same way, by living in this perverted abnormal world day after day and living and working in a totally perverted society it is indeed infecting your mind and affecting your thoughts as this world is not the mind of Messiah but is the very mind of the Devil.

Also, and of most importance is that in this electronic fast-paced world of reality TV, talkbacks to every article read on-line and simply having an opinion about everything, whether it affects you or not, has developed a world of gossip, dissatisfaction, and false perception that affects almost every aspect of life in western society today.

And this is the crux of the problem; A BIG PROBLEM! A problem that is not realized by most because it is so normal; but in reality, it is a problem that will keep you out of the Kingdom of Yahweh.

Yahweh Word says in Proverbs 10:19, *"In the abundance of words sin does not cease, but one restraining his lips is prudent."* Also, in the book of Jacob 1:19 it states, *"Therefore, my beloved brothers, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath."*

In western society today people have an opinion on everything, and many times brethren are falsely accusing other brethren simply because someone is doing something different than they would have done. Western society and end-time America/Babylon has so conditioned people to have an opinion on any matter whether it concerns them or not, and this winds up many times not only falsely judging a brother or a sister, but being outright sin, as Yahweh tells us we should not be judging matters that don't pertain to us.

Pro 26:17 One passing by, crossing himself over strife that is not his own, is like one who grabs a dog's ears.

If someone was given the job to decorate a room for a Sabbath meeting, why do you need to have an opinion on how they did it? Or why would you need an opinion on how the Remnant's Walk is formatted, or the color of someone's jacket, or for that matter on anything that does not pertain to you?

I can tell you as the leader of the Congregation of Yahweh Jerusalem and someone who has traveled worldwide and met many brethren from all over the world that most third world brethren simply don't think this way. They just accept things for what they are, *'not what they want them to be.'* They follow instructions in matters that are not under their judicial order without always trying to figure out a better way. But westerners always want to look at every situation through their own eyes and make things right by their own false perceptions and standards.

There are many rules we all have in life from hygiene, to health, to work ethics, to cooking choices; and simply because someone doesn't have the same standard as we do, we should not have an opinion about it. Our only

standard should be the Torah; and if something does not violate the Torah and is not our responsibility, then we should learn to keep our mouth SHUT!

I will give you another example. Many times, when westerners meet third world brethren, they feel sorry for them because they have less money and material things than they do. They in turn will try to privately give them tithe money, instead of sending in the tithe through Jerusalem, thinking with a wrong perception that it is money that these third world brethren lack, when it is not money, but Bibles and other spiritual materials that they desire.

In reality, it is this wrong, faulty perception that has corrupted good third world brethren, and even elders, by tempting them with money that they never had nor needed. And it is these false, Laodicean brethren, who are blinded to their own false belief system and perception by their pride and Babylonian conditioning to always have an opinion, who many times have even caused some of these third world brethren to fall away.

It is these same Laodicean, opinionated people that will be highly offended if you even lovingly give them the smallest part of constructive criticism or, even worse, correction. They are highly offended because they are highly opinionated. It's that simple.

And these same false brethren will take no shame in telling everyone else where they are wrong, even if they are falsely accusing someone and many times inaccurately. Some have even come to the Feast in Jerusalem and instead of being thankful and blessing Yahweh for allowing them to be in His set-apart city, they will complain about the music, the food, the rules, etc., when in reality, the only problem was their over-

opinionated perception of how they thought things should be.

Tit 1:15 Truly, all things are pure to the pure, but nothing is pure to those being defiled and faithless, but even their mind and conscience has been defiled.

Tit 1:16 They profess to know YAHWEH, but by their works they deny Him, and they are abominable and disobedient, condemning every kind of good work.

The problem is that they can only see things through their own eyes because they have been hypnotized and brainwashed by the system of Babylon and the Laodicean prideful spirit. And although they have an opinion for everything, their pride simply can't allow them to see where they are wrong.

Many times, they will also think they know more than Yahweh's ordained elders who have been handpicked by Him for the last 2,000 years, and also the doctrine that has been handed down in a line of succession for the same time period. They will boldly and many times disrespectfully want to tell a true, ordained elder of Yahweh where they are wrong on doctrine, and pridefully want to explain how they know better, even though it is the priest or elder who has been given the position of responsibility in matters of doctrine in the congregation.

Mal 2:7 For the lips of the priest should guard knowledge, and they should seek the Torah from his mouth; for he is the messenger of YAHWEH of Hosts.

Eph 4:11 And indeed He has assigned some to be apostles; and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some shepherds and teachers;

Eph 4:12 for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the building up of the body of Messiah,

Eph 4:13 until we all may come to the unity of the faith and of the full

knowledge of the Son of Elohim, to a full-grown man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Messiah,

Eph 4:14 so that we may no longer be children, being blown and carried about by every wind of false doctrine of men, who through their craftiness are very skillful in deceiving the people;

Quite frankly, it is not the responsibility of members to form doctrine, but the elders in the congregation. The members should prove all things and study to see if the doctrine is true, but then, once he/she has proven in faith of where Yahshua's Congregation truly is, then they should be following the elderhood set in place by Yahshua Himself and not be questioning every decision, whether it meets their personal standard and opinion, which again is rebellion, disloyalty and sin.

And when one is acting in such a treacherous way, they are not being disloyal to man, but to Yahweh, who has ordained and placed the man in his position.

Exo 16:2 And all the congregation of the sons of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron in the wilderness.

Exo 16:6 And Moses and Aaron said to all the sons of Israel, At evening you shall know that YAHWEH has brought you from the land of Egypt;

Exo 16:7 and in the morning you shall see the glory of YAHWEH, in His hearing your murmurings against YAHWEH; and we, what are we that you murmur against us?

Exo 16:8 And Moses said, When YAHWEH gives you flesh to eat in the evening, and bread in the morning, to satisfaction; when YAHWEH hears your murmurings which you are murmuring against Him, you will see. And what are we? Your murmurings are not against us, but against YAHWEH.

Likewise, when we judge a brother or sister for how they are doing a particular job in the congregation or ministry in the body of Messiah because they are not doing as we

would, we are also bordering on disloyalty, gossip and sin.

Brethren, Revelation 18:4 states '**Come out of her My people.**' This scripture is primarily speaking of coming out of the physical land of Babylon, but is also speaking of coming out of its culture. A culture of immorality, and laxity, and a culture of opinionating on every subject, whether it pertains to the person or not. We need to cleanse our minds of all filth and gossip and start to only have thoughts that are of encouragement, love and support.

Php 4:8 Finally, my brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honest, whatever is just, whatever pure, whatever lovely, whatever of good report, if there is any virtue, and if there is any praise, think on these things.

Php 4:9 And what things you learned and received and heard and saw in me, practice these things, and the Elohim of peace will be with you.

This is a serious matter and will keep some out of the Kingdom of Yahweh. We must search deeply into our hearts and minds and daily ask ourselves if we are partaking in such a spirit of Laodicea/Babylon. We must be putting on the mind of Messiah and not allow commercial Babylon to affect our mind and thoughts.

We must have a spirit of appreciation to Yahweh in all things, that is filled with true humility, which will help to eliminate pride and a position that always thinks it knows better than everyone else. We must also get rid of the Babylonian mindset that always has an opinion on everyone and everything in life, and learn to enjoy life and things and people simply for what they are and not what we think they should be. So, now I can ask: "**So what do you think about this article?**"

Not Here to Stay

From the Amish Family Life Magazine



The Monday morning sun, not yet an hour high, lent a pleasant warmth to the back country, northeast of the town of Kirby.

The gravel roads, crisscrossed with buggy tracks, added their own bit of peace and tranquility to the view. Yesterday the quiet of the land, the salt of the earth, the Congregation of Yah had gathered at the home of Martin Graber, half a mile north of the crossroad, for their bi-weekly services. From all parts of the community they had come, driving their horses to the one destination.

As was their custom, they had gathered quietly and in the fear of Yahweh. Greeting each other with the Holy Kiss, the men had gathered in a semi-circle much as their forefathers had done in the past, and in muted tones discussed the weather and what age old Thomas Schrock had attained before he had passed away over in Lake County last week.

And as had been the custom of their forebears for many generations, they filed in and sang the old tunes of the *Ausbund*. Following that, the preachers earnestly admonished the church to walk in the ways of Yah, to crucify the flesh, to love their neighbors, and to walk in the old ways of *Demut*, and *Vergnuglichkeit*. The quiet visiting resumed over lunch and lasted well into the afternoon out under Martin's old maple tree.

All that was yesterday. And though the sun was not yet an hour high this morning, the people of the congregation were well into their week's work.

In the small clearing just west of the crossroad a young man sat on a pony cart, impatiently drumming his fingers across the seat beside him. It was young Martin Graber himself, and he was late this morning and now he had to wait. Hearing the shrill cry of a red-tailed hawk, he looked out, but failing to spot its location, his glance started again to the drab, little shanty set back by the trees.

If only he hadn't been late, he could have finished his calls before Steve Yoder had beat him to it, but with having to take the benches out of the house and all, he had arrived at the phone fully thirty minutes later than usual.

Inside the little shanty, Steve Yoder tipped back his chair and peeked through the crack in the door. Yes, somebody was waiting on him. He thought he had heard a horse. He hated to make Martin wait, but he had a few extra calls to make this morning, and he couldn't really come back later, because he was all of two miles from home.

That drought across the upper corn belt was driving corn prices up and he had decided to lock in another ten thousand bushels at \$4.87 per bushel. That was the price the feed rep had quoted him on Friday. Now the rep was dragging his feet, saying Friday's price was already outdated. Besides that, he had to call and verify the contract on those fat December steers.

He hated to make Martin wait. He knew what it was like to wait at the neighborhood phone. But he knew what would fix the problem. It would be better all around. They could just install their personal phone booths in their yards or somewhere on their own properties. So far there were still a few people opposed to it, but Steve knew it could come with time. It was just the way things went. This was after all, the twenty first century, a changing and fast-paced world, and the phone was part of it. You couldn't really make a living without it.

The feed rep had put him on hold, and while he waited, Steve let his mind drift back into the past. Thirteen years ago, when the neighborhood phone booths had first been allowed by the church, many people had been reluctant too. But the pressure had been building up for years, and the phones had come in, just a few scattered booths across the community. Steve recalled how reluctance had soon given way for most of the folks. As they had become familiar with the convenience, so had they become comfortable with it. It seemed they soon realized it was not all that dangerous after all.

So, too, the personal shacks would come, and Steve would not stand in the way. These scattered community phones were simply no longer practical in today's world.

Just like now. Martin was out there waiting when they could both be calling in their own orders. The crisp tone of the feed rep, coming over the earpiece, brought Steve back to the present.

Out on the cart, thirty-one-year-old Martin kept playing with his fingers across the cart seat while his mind wandered. He had barely time to sketch the day's assignments to his four employees before he had left for the phone. He hoped John had understood those instructions for the drawers he was to assemble. If only the phone wasn't so far from home, then he could run back and check on him. But that wouldn't work either. Like it or not, someone else would be in line when he returned. He really needed to call Chad and make sure he could do that kitchen delivery first thing in the morning. Also, he had to order some red oak lumber for that special desk Leonard had ordered.

Heaving a drawn-out sigh, he glanced once more at the shanty. Surely Steve would be finished soon. Meanwhile there was no point getting upset over a little wait.

Hearing a vehicle on the road, he glanced over his shoulder and waved as an old minivan went by. He watched bemusedly as a few small hands stuck out the van's window. He waved in return. His two oldest children were on their way to the little schoolhouse a mile and one-half to the west. It

certainly made it nice for them that the school driver for the outlying families went right by their house.

Some folks thought using school drivers was a bit overdone, but Martin couldn't see any difference between school drivers and work drivers. Most people seemed to think those were quite necessary. Using work drivers extended the reach of the church people, besides speeding up their lives and giving them more time. The only problem was, it was becoming increasingly more challenging to keep enough dependable drivers lined up. It was mostly hit and miss to catch Chad with an opening.

Chad thought it was all rather amusing. More than once, he had laughingly laid out a solution to Martin. "Get your own rigs," he would say. "Driver problem solved!"

Martin always shrugged him off. Amish just didn't drive trucks. But Chad had made another suggestion that Martin had not been able to shrug off so lightly. They had been doing a delivery one day while Chad was extolling the virtues of his new smartphone. To emphasize his points, he had gone online to find cabinet builders near him. Pulling up seven such shops, he held the screen for Martin to see. Pointing to the top of the list, he remarked, "I could get your name right here, "Graber Custom Cabinets."

Forgetting himself in his brilliant idea, Chad became animated. "Why don't you, Martin? Think of it! With an online presence, you would have no ceiling! You would double your sales in no time!" Chad paused for a breath, then continued, "With your ambition, Martin, and commitment to quality, there would be no stopping you!"

That was a suggestion Martin had not been able to shrug off. "I'll have to think about it," he replied. And he had thought about it, in fact he still was thinking about it.

Martin knew the web wasn't safe. (They often heard about its evils.) But he really didn't have to get involved. He would just let Chad set it up for him. There really was potential there.

After another glance at the shanty, Martin opened his folder and took out some paperwork. As long as he was waiting, he might as well finish the quote for the bedroom suite young Andrew Hilty had asked for. Then maybe he could call Andrew's work driver with it, whenever he finally did get to use the phone.

Applying himself to his pencil and clipboard, Martin Graber was soon oblivious to the world around him.

The sun was not yet an hour high when the gray pickup swung into the driveway of the first farm south of Martin Graber's. Pulling up to the walks, the driver beeped once, then pulled his cap over his eyes, slouched back into his seat, and immersed himself in listening to the news.

Five minutes later, Nelson Beachy came out of the house, tucking in his shirttails. "Good morning," he announced as he opened the truck door. "Sure is a grand morning, isn't it?"

Not waiting for an answer, he continued, "I've got a couple of buggy wheels that need to be reset, so I thought maybe we could swing over past J&I repair and drop them off. If you want to back over to the buggy shed, we'll load them."

"Sure, sure." Randy said agreeably, shifting his truck in reverse. Nelson didn't stand on dignity, and he was definitely a farmer, but Randy usually enjoyed his cheerful upbeat company. He actually looked forward to these Monday morning runs.

"So how have you been, Randy?" Nelson wondered after the buggy wheels were loaded, and he had situated himself in the front passenger seat.

"Oh, pretty decent. Pretty decent," Randy replied. "Which way do you want to go first?" "Let's swing over past the repair shop to drop off these wheels. Then I'd like to run on out to Abe Wenegerd's and talk to him for a bit. After that it's the normal run for supplies.

And do you mind if I use your phone? I need to get some chicken feed ordered for next week. Fifteen thousand chickens eat a lot of feed in a hurry."

"Sure, sure," Randy agreed amiably, then lapsed into silence while Nelson punched the feed company's number into the cellphone. Yes, it looked like a pretty typical Monday morning for Randy. He had been doing this nearly every week for the past two years and he pretty well knew the route. Sometimes they stopped at the repair place, sometimes at the dry goods store. Other times here or there to see someone Nelson wanted to talk to, but invariably they'd end up in Kirby to get the week's supply of groceries for Nelson's large family, besides any parts Nelson might be needing around the farm. They would usually be back a bit before noon. In the summer the Beachy children would have a load of produce ready for him to take the five and one-half miles to Kirby County Produce Auction.

His musings were interrupted by Nelson's hearty, "Good Morning!" directed into the phone. At the crossroad he swung to the left and waved to young Martin Graber seated on the cart not far from the phone shanty.

The sun was not yet an hour high when the black suburban pulling a trailer swung left onto Highway 89. In the back seat Andrew Hilty yawned and stretched. The other five occupants of the vehicle looked as bored as he felt. They were seventy-nine minutes away from Kirby, the GPS on the dash showed. That meant in another ten minutes they would be at the job site. Andrew was tired of this long drive. They could have finished the job last week if they wouldn't have been one man short. Albert had taken his family west to the Rockies on vacation, and that had left the crew short-handed all week. Hopefully they could wrap up this job today. The next few jobs would be closer to home.

Up front the phone jangled. Andrew listened as Robert took the call. Half a minute later he passed the phone back to Andrew. "It's Martin Graber," he said, "He wants to talk to you."

The sun was not yet an hour high as Eli Troyer brought his horse to a halt at the crossroad. He shielded his eyes against the early morning sun and checked for traffic. Seeing Martin Graber on his trim little cart at the phone shanty, he called out a cheery good-morning and received one in return. He swung his horse to the left and began the second verse of the song he had been singing, "Merk auf ihr Volker," the one they had sung in church yesterday. How he loved those old slow tunes with the meaningful words from the martyrs! They spoke to him of deep strength, unchanging faith, and dedication. His six-mile trip to Cottonwood Sawmill afforded him plenty of time to sing.

Eli had dropped off his oldest son at school, a mile and a half back, and he still had two miles to go. It was a long drive, and he hoped that eventually he would be able to stay at home full-time. But for now, he was making the trip three times a week, as he had been for the last several years.

Back when he worked with Robert's crew, the driver had picked him up at his driveway and there had been no long, slow buggy rides. There had been more money too. Robert had paid a full \$ 6.50 an

hour more than his current wage. However, Eli didn't regret the change. This way of life matched better with what he believed.

When Eli had quit going with the crew, he had wondered how he would make out, but so far, his family wasn't suffering.

True, they didn't eat fancy, and their clothes had some patches, but they had enough. He wasn't taking his family to the Rockies on vacation, and by the standards of some others he wasn't very "successful."

There were times, there really were, when he wished for more money, more leisure, more of what others had. But he always came back to realize this is what he had chosen, and he had no regrets.

His aim was to try to make his work week "fit" with his worship day. He found it much more fulfilling. Worship services had taken on a whole new depth because he was at one with simplicity, the old slow tunes, the ancient traditions, and he found joy in them.

There were times when he faced ridicule and criticism for the life he had chosen, but he was content in his work. He knew, and knew for certainty, that he wasn't here to stay. He was just a pilgrim passing through.

Eli reached the sawmill, and his horse turned in the drive, and stopped in the usual place where he was unhitched. His master led him to his stall, threw in a slab of hay to chew on, and gave him a parting pat before he hurried to the mill to start his day.

In two weeks, Yah willing, we, the quiet of the land, the salt of the earth, the Congregation of Yah, will gather again to worship, this time at the home of Nelson Beachy, the first farm south of Martin Graber's. We will come driving our horses and buggies. We will gather quietly and in muted tones discuss the weather, and the passing of a loved one, or the birth of a child. Then we will again file in and sing the old slow tunes of the Ausbund.

My eyes blur with tears as I write this, and I weep. We have lost something precious, the thread that ties our lifestyle and our religion together. We have become a people who on one day a week gather for worship in humility and simplicity. We are pilgrims and strangers on the earth. We are not a people of this world. That is only on Sabbath.

On Monday we are prominent business men and prosperous farmers, talented managers, and motivated workers. We are a people wise in the ways of the world, up to date on prices and markets. We are current on world news. We seem to think we are separate from the world because we have guidelines concerning technology. In reality, we are only a few jumps behind, dancing to the same tune, the tune of expanding profits, efficiency, convenience, and pleasure.

In the back country, northeast of Kirby, the people are my friends. I grew up here and I know them well. I am one of them. Martin Graber is the talented young preacher in our district. Steve Yoder, the deacon, is my uncle. Nelson Beachy is married to my second-grade teacher, and Andrew Hilty's brother went to school with me. Eli Yoder is my wife's brother. He is like a beacon of light, a shining example for me. I live here, just east of the crossroad. I cherish these folks, and I ache for what we have lost.

This Is Real *Repentance*

What is repentance? What actually happens in a repentant person's life? What does repentance have to do with salvation? Here are the facts.

by Neil Earle (Reprint Article)



“As for Saul, he made havoc of the congregation, entering into every house, and hailing men and women committed them to prison ...

And Saul, yet breathing out threatening's and slaughter against the disciples of YAHWEH ... came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, 'Saul, Saul why persecute thou me?' ...

And he trembling and astonished said, 'YAHWEH what wilt thou have me to do?' And YAHWEH said unto him, 'Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.' And ... they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus ...

And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, 'Brother Saul, YAHWEH, even Yahshua, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me' ...

And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized ... And straightway he preached Yahshua in the synagogues, that he is the Son of Elohim.

But all that heard him were amazed and said; 'Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent ... ?'" (Acts 8:3, 9:1-21).

What a story!

It is the best New Testament example of real repentance—what it is, how one comes to it, how to tell if it's genuine (1 Timothy 1:15-16).

Total Change

Change. About-face. Total reversal. Redirection. Complete transformation. These are the essentials of real, biblical repentance.

It includes feeling sorry, of course, but goes much deeper than that. A convicted, hardened criminal feels sorry when he faces the gallows. Yet this is not real repentance, merely selfish depression, inner anxiety triggered by the cowering fear of an inescapable penalty.

The Bible, in a lucid phrase, distinguishes between “the sorrow of the world” and “Elohim sorrow” (2 Corinthians 7:10). Worldly sorrow is mourning for the self. It is only another form of selfishness—inwardly directed pity, not the total transformation of the self, evidenced by real, demonstrable change, such as Paul experienced (Matthew 7:16).

Paul’s life change was completely overpowering—obvious—striking.

That’s why the worst thing you can say to a true believer is: “You haven’t changed a bit!”

Paul changed—totally. The transformation was so shocking that it stunned the early Congregation. Early believers had a hard time believing it (Acts 9:26). The Bible describes “fruits worthy of repentance”—measurable, noticeable evidence of change (Luke 3:8). Paul had these fruits.

The Old Testament prophets knew that real repentance is a definite, heartfelt change. “As I live, declares Adonai YAHWEH, I do not have delight in the death of the wicked, except in the wicked turning from his way, and so to live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! For why will you die, O house of Israel?” (Ezekiel 33:11).

Jeremiah eloquently portrayed real repentance: “Turn me, and I shall be turned; for You are YAHWEH my Elohim. For after I had turned away, I repented; and after I knew, I slapped on my thigh. I was ashamed; yea, I even blushed, because I bore the reproach of my youth” (Jeremiah 31:18-19).

Repentance is a point of no return. It is the pivotal decision in life. There is no room, in the mind of the repentant person, for turning back. YAHWEH’s terms are unconditional: “Repent, therefore, and be turned so that your sins may be blotted out and times of rest come to you from before the presence of YAHWEH” (Acts 3:19).

Sin is defined in 1 John 3:4 as the “transgression of the Torah.” Romans 7:7 explains that the law that sin violates is the Torah. YAHWEH’s law is a spiritual principle regulating our physical actions and relationships toward others, husbands and wives (Exodus 20:14, 17), parents (verse 12) and children (verse 10) and property (verses 15, 17).

Yahshua Magnified the Law

Yahshua Messiah amplified and enlarged the spiritual dynamics behind the Torah in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28).

Yahshua showed that sin begins in the heart (Matthew 15:19). Action follows thought (Proverbs 23:7). YAHWEH hates sin because He knows that spiritual satisfaction is never possible through wrong physical sensations. The “deceitfulness of sin” (Hebrews 3:13) tricks us into thinking that deep, inner blessings will follow if we take, appropriate, indulge. But sin never results in blessings.

“I’m pretty good,” some will argue. “I’ve never killed anyone.” But have we never felt anger, spite, jealousy, resentment or the desire for revenge? Of course we have! These emotions are but spiritual preparation in the human heart for the most dire acts, if we dared try to get away with them. There are no inner reserves of goodness, no strong, selfless motives inside a human being (Jer 17:9).

Real repentance, then—the deeply committed, emotionally jarring confrontation with and rejection of the evil saturating us deep inside—involves far more than a few superficial, cosmetic changes on the outside. The outer façade of righteousness never deceives YAHWEH and Yahshua Messiah (Matthew 23:25-26, 28).

The rich, young ruler who interviewed Yahshua Messiah thought he was doing all right. When Yahshua challenged him with the Ten Commandments he replied, “The young man said to Him, All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?” (Matthew 19:20).

Had he, really? Yahshua’s next statement flashed right to the heart of the matter: Yahshua said to him, If you desire to be perfect, go sell your property and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in Heaven; and come, follow Me” (Matthew 19:21).

What a bombshell! Yahshua discerned covetousness in this young man. Though outwardly successful, moral and a model citizen, the rich, young ruler, whom Yahshua liked (Mark 10:21), had not even begun to live the deep spirit and intent of YAHWEH’s commandments. “But having heard the Word, being grieved, the young man went away, for he had many possessions” (Matthew 19:22).

Death of the Self

There have always been curiosity seekers, those mildly titillated by after-dinner talk and coffee break discussions on the ultimate meaning of life. Some casually evidence an interest in the big questions at one time or another, and answers are available. Understanding is possible. The problem is that most people don’t want it badly enough to pay the price (Proverbs 17:16)! The price for understanding is to obey YAHWEH’s commandments (Psalms 111:10).

This is too high a price for the average person. It is nothing less than the death of self, the willingness to crush pride and vanity, the abasement of ego, the humility to agree that we violate the spirit and intent of YAHWEH’s Ten Commandments every day of our lives, the willpower mobilized by the shocking encounter with the evil within, the tenacity to fight for years in a sometimes tiresome struggle to root out wrong habits, attitudes and assumptions, even in the face of persecution and suffering.

This is the essence of the believer’s life. This is why only the few endure to the end (Matthew 7:14).

This is why the Bible teaches so emphatically: “They are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understands, there is none that seeks after YAHWEH” (Romans 3:9-11).

This is why Paul, a real repenter, sang so exultantly: “I have been crucified with Messiah, and I live, yet no longer I, but Messiah lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith toward the Son of YAHWEH, the One loving me and giving His life on my behalf” (Galatians 2:20).

A Tumultuous Upheaval

What is real repentance? It is a tumultuous upheaval in a person's life, a spiritual and emotional crisis triggered by a painful and intense conviction from grasping the true inner motives and intentions—the evil inside us (Matthew 19:17).

Real repentance is an experience that hammers home to us that we haven't just done wrong but that we *are* wrong (Psalms 51:5).

The truly repentant are pricked in the heart (Acts 2:37). They are shocked by the deceit and vanity that permeate their words and deeds—they realize that even their good deeds are many times only selfish attempts to appease YAHWEH's wrath or to make themselves feel better than others (Isaiah 64:6).

Real repentance includes the heartbroken desire to give ourselves over to YAHWEH—the willingness to allow YAHWEH to refashion us as He sees fit. This includes submitting to the human representatives of YAHWEH once we prove who they are (John 20:21).

Real repentance is the stabbing awareness that our personal sins, the wrong habits that we relish and enjoy, required the brutal and excruciating death of Yahshua Messiah (Isaiah 53:11).

Real repentance is toward YAHWEH and no one else. The truly repentant worry about their personal standing with YAHWEH, not their standing with anyone else.

Real repentance means to tremble at YAHWEH's Word, not at the opinions, customs and traditions of mere men (Isaiah 66:2). When YAHWEH speaks, we listen. We are submissive, teachable. We're willing to observe any festival, pay any tithe, shun any worldly association to measure up to YAHWEH's standards (Philippians 3:8).

Real repentance is the sober desire to replace selfish, fleshly reactions with the promptings of YAHWEH's Spirit inside us (Ephesians 4:24). It is the axial change in life, the most important experience we can ever pass through.

How Repentance Comes

How can we come to this conviction overnight? The answer is that we can't!

Who can deeply grasp true repentance inside a circus tent, listening to a sweating preacher whip up a frenzy about "hell fire?"

Real repentance does have an emotional content but it is much more than sheer emotion. It is conviction. Purpose. Determination. A quiet resolve to change.

Now, how do we get that?

Can it be "worked up" in a moment of hysteria? No.

"The goodness of YAHWEH leads you to repentance," Romans 2:4 tells us. Even the desire to repent comes from YAHWEH. No human being decides of his own volition to surrender before YAHWEH unless Elohim is at work first in that individual's mind. YAHWEH must help us pass from darkness to light, from death to life, from blindness to understanding. He must grant repentance:

"And hearing these things, they kept silent and glorified YAHWEH, saying, perhaps Elohim also has granted to the nations repentance unto life" (Acts 11:18).

“This One YAHWEH has established a Prince and a Savior to His right hand, so that He might give of forgiveness to Israel by repentance of sins” (Acts 5:31).

“So that he may discipline gently those who argue against him, if perhaps Elohim may give them repentance for them to know the truth” (2 Timothy 2:25).

Repentance is the gift of YAHWEH! How else could we ever see ourselves through YAHWEH’s eyes?

YAHWEH the Father Himself carefully selects those to whom He wants to reveal His truth at this time (John 6:44). YAHWEH then gives a small portion of His Holy Spirit to work alongside our minds (John 14:17). We begin to see our way of life for what it is—for the first time, we understand our true motives and intentions.

YAHWEH watches for the reaction this produces. If our conscience is tender, if we are yielded and teachable, we begin to put some things right in our lives. Then, in direct proportion to how much we yield to and obey YAHWEH, YAHWEH gives us more understanding. He works with us more strongly through His Spirit (Acts 5:29).

This begins the process of discipleship growth. A responsive heart and a pliable spirit are essential. Finally, we amass enough evidence, through study, prayer and meditation, to see ourselves for the first time—as a sinner, with a chemical, temporary life expectancy of only 70 years, in need of forgiveness and power from Almighty YAHWEH.

But this new attitude of obedience cannot atone for past sins. Thus, the truly repentant believer comes to hold an undying respect for the enormous sacrifice Yahshua made for him almost 2,000 years ago. Only Yahshua’s death can purge our past sins, wipe the slate clean (1 John 1:7).

Gratitude, tenderheartedness, an exquisite consciousness of YAHWEH’s mercy—these are the attitudes that predominate during real repentance. No hardheartedness, belligerence or placing blame on others. None of the *“But here’s the way I look at it”* syndrome.

The repentant person surrenders to YAHWEH. He throws himself upon YAHWEH’s mercy and pardon. Job’s cry is now his: *“I have heard of You by hearing of the ear, but now my eye has seen You; Therefore, I despise myself, and I have repented on dust and ashes”* (Job 42:5-6).

An Ongoing Process

But repentance is not merely a one-time event in a person’s life. It is an active, ongoing, dynamic process. Even after we have deeply, sincerely repented of our past sins and been convicted to follow YAHWEH’s way in everything, we will stumble and fall. We do not become perfect all at once. We still are ruled, for the most part, by our human nature. We are still under the influence of Satan and the world around us.

We will, in moments of weakness or carelessness, sin again. And then we must again repent and ask YAHWEH to allow Yahshua’s precious shed blood to cover the sin (1 John 1:8-10).

As we obey YAHWEH and submit to His government in our lives, He will give us more of the power of His Holy Spirit to overcome. The process of a believers growth—the process of developing YAHWEH’s perfect character within ourselves—is gradual, a lifelong profession (2 Peter 3:18). The true disciple consistently keeps himself in an attitude of repentance and submission to YAHWEH’s will.

In 2 Corinthians 7:9-11, Paul describes seven mental reactions triggered by real Elohim repentance. This Paul calls “Elohim sorrow,” the profound realization that our personal sins caused the death of the perfect, spotless Son of Elohim.

It is a mature, heartfelt mourning over the wasted energies, the squandered opportunities, the misplaced time and attention, the deep hurt to ourselves and others that sin produces. Yet the truly repentant believer comes out of this emotional turmoil raring to do something about it all.

Let’s notice these qualities:

“For behold this same thing, that distressed you on account of Elohim, has resulted much more in painstaking effect, but also in apology, but also anger, but also fear, but also love, but also zeal, but also vengeance! In everything you proved yourselves to be clear in the matter” (2 Corinthians 7:11).

Carefulness encompasses the diligent, circumspect, intense habits the genuinely repentant believer practices. He is wary. He wants to avoid the same sins springing up again (2 Peter 2:20).

The really repentant aren’t involved in the same sins again, at least as a life pattern or habitual walk. A motorist pardoned from the penalty of a speeding ticket is careful. He doesn’t gleefully charge off to speed again. The lesson sinks home.

“Yea, what clearing of yourselves.”

How true! The deeply sorry, sincerely broken-up individual now eagerly seeks YAHWEH’s approval. He wants to be totally absolved of guilt. He is disgusted with himself for allowing sin to “Master it over him,” and he energetically applies himself to the advice and counsel that will help him not miss the mark again (Psalms 63:1).

“Yea, what indignation!”

It is maddening to see how Satan subtly cons us into collapsing before temptation. Satan’s ploy is to deceive us into thinking that the satisfaction we derive from sensual enjoyment is more worthwhile in the short run than the thrill we can feel from resisting temptation and making real progress in our personal lives.

Don’t fall for this “cunning craftiness,” this devilish sleight of hand (Ephesians 4:14). Abhor and despise the temporary “pleasures of sin” (Hebrews 11:25). The real, repentant disciple is infuriated at Satan’s victories against his own attempts to overcome.

“Yea, what fear.”

Fear is a vital component in real repentance. “The fear of YAHWEH is the beginning of knowledge” (Proverbs 1:7). Once we understand that YAHWEH considers Sabbath breaking as wrong as murder, adultery and stealing, we should fear to disobey (Hebrews 12:28). We will want to flee the folly and distraction involved in worldly, pagan holidays like Christmas, Easter and Halloween once we deeply grasp the cunning deception involved.

We should recoil instantly from sin (1 Corinthians 6:18). Otherwise, our conscience slowly hardens and we end up half enjoying the sins we should hate. This is serious! Unless we dramatically wrench ourselves from some sins, we can slowly become amoral creatures, conscienceless reprobates whom even YAHWEH cannot shake up (Matthew 5:29-30). Elohim fear helps yank us out of this attitude (Matthew 10:28).

“Yea, what vehement desire.”

The spirit of our drifting, calloused, noncommittal generation affects us all. Vehement desire changes this. The casual “I suppose I should do something about this sometime” melts before the burning, pressing desire of the truly repentant to shake up his life, get back on track and stay there.

“Yea, what zeal.”

The genuine disciple isn’t a spiritual cliffhanger, edging as close to the spiritual abyss as possible. The repentant believer deeply feels the need to put as much distance between himself and his sins as possible. The invincible power of YAHWEH’s Spirit gives one a conquering, formidable zeal.

King David of ancient Israel, even in the inky blackness of despair over his capital sins of adultery and murder, found relief only in real repentance. Psalm 51 is his emotion-etched expression of that crucial event in his life.

David came storming out of that experience bursting with zeal, overflowing with Elohim projects as an expression of his thanks to YAHWEH (verses 13-19). David’s enthusiasm, triggered by his gratitude to YAHWEH for showing him mercy, helped seal his repentance. He threw himself into YAHWEH’s Work even more.

“Yea, what revenge for the devil.”

Exactly. David bounced back from his sins. The Apostle Peter’s cowardly rejection of his Master and Savior shook him to the depths of his being (Luke 22:61-62). It was a different Peter on the day of Pentecost in A.D. 30 helping move 3,000 people to real repentance (Acts 2:36). Peter’s conviction and intensity flowed in part from his determination to “revenge all disobedience” (2 Corinthians 10:6).

Are You Holding Back?

How about you?

If you have read this far you must surely realize that it is no shame at all to kneel before your Creator, your Savior, your Master and Ruler, and to really mean it when you say, “YAHWEH be merciful to me a sinner” (Luke 18:13).

Real repentance. It is that catalytic key step on the road to real life—the road to eternity (Luke 15:21-24). So how about it? Do you still only agree halfway with YAHWEH? Do you resent the concerned direction and authority you receive from this Work?

Do you still say, “Well, here’s the way I look at it.”

Do you hold back? Do you still retain sovereignty over part of your inner nature? Those of you who really understand should know by now that this is YAHWEH’s Work, not that of men (Acts 5:38-39). Those of you who feel pricked in the heart by the promptings of YAHWEH’s Spirit as you study our publications should begin to respond.

Why? Because the Holy Spirit can be inside you, illuminating your understanding, giving you a richer contact with the YAHWEH Family, setting you on the road to your eternal destiny—a life of accomplishment, service and usefulness in the coming Kingdom of YAHWEH.

It all begins with that first step: the willingness to admit, the honesty to confess, the strength and wisdom to agree, that we just didn’t *do* wrong, but that we *are* wrong. This is real repentance.

DON'T PASS OVER THE PASSOVER

by Bob Ellsworth (Reprint Article)



PASSOVER. It's a strange word. It sounds strange. It sounds archaic. And it sounds *Jewish*. It belongs in an unfamiliar class of words—words foreign to most of our ears: *Chanukah—Rosh Hashanah—Yom Kippur—Bar Mitzvah—Unleavened Bread*.

To most of us, it's merely a strange custom held over from "B.C." Yes, a curious custom. No religious ceremony has ever been born of more bizarre and traumatic circumstances.

The Passover was born in Egypt. And to the Israelites Egypt was the "New World." It was the patriarchal "land of opportunity." The tremendous success and wealth enjoyed by Joseph and his brothers—who had come to Egypt about 1700 B.C.—had prompted the majority of succeeding generations of Israelites to remain in Egypt—basking in the prosperity of their labor and enjoying the favor of the Egyptian government.

They resided principally in the land of Goshen, which comprised the eastern half of the Nile Delta. In a short 200 years, following the death of Joseph, the population of the Israelites mushroomed to between two and three million. What had begun as merely a foreign labor force gradually evolved into an increasingly influential and powerful nation within a nation.

Unfortunately, times change. And so do rulers. After 1500 a new Pharaoh came on the scene in Egypt. His name was Pepi II. And unlike his predecessors, he was not nearly so inclined to show favor to this industrious and ambitious group of "foreigners." The memory of Joseph and his brilliant policies, which had saved Egypt from economic and agricultural collapse, had all but faded.

Slowly, a bizarre and terrifying metamorphosis began to take place. Fearing the possibility of a potentially subversive group of Israelites overthrowing the government through alliance with his enemies, Pepi II implemented gradual and subtle steps to reduce the status and influence of the Hebrews. Like European Jewry under Hitler, the Israelites saw the well-being, harmony and respect they had always enjoyed suddenly deteriorate.

Israel in Bondage

They became “second-class” citizens. Restrictions were imposed. Privileges were diminished or eliminated. As a final and crushing step, fearing the loss of this vast pool of labor upon which the economy of Egypt now heavily relied, the new Pharaoh organized the Israelites into a vast and tightly controlled labor force—a state barely above complete slavery and privation.

Yet, surprisingly, even under this state of repression and semi-slavery, they continued to grow in numbers.

As the growth of the Hebrew population continued unchecked, Pharaoh realized he had painted himself into a corner. Any uprising by the now greatly dissatisfied labor pool would be more than his forces could control. Fearing the worst—Pharaoh instituted a drastic measure—a “final solution” to check Israelitish expansion. It was history’s first recorded policy of genocide. All male babies were to be exterminated.

From a state of freedom and prosperity, the Hebrews had come face to face with the eventual prospect of total annihilation. It was into this bleak and oppressed society that Moses was born. And it was in the midst of the subsequent events—the dramatic confrontation with the Pharaoh by Moses and Aaron, the plagues and the human calamities—that the Passover was born.

For the sake of space, let’s skip ahead in our story. Past Moses’ flight to Midian. Past the horrible plagues. Past the miraculous, stupefying events before the actual Exodus.

The complex weaving of circumstances has brought us to the night of the 14th of Aviv, 1487 B.C. Pharaoh has been warned by Moses of one final death-dealing plague that will come upon his people unless the Israelites are released.

Although broken and bitter, his nation in a state of devastation and economic ruin, Pharaoh stubbornly refuses. On this same night, Israel secretly prepares for its flight. It is the night of the first Passover.

What the Passover Pictures

So vital and convincing were the events of this night to YAHWEH’s overall plan that He instructs His true followers down through history—forever—to keep a memorial of its occurrence. Like the intricate plot of a fascinating novel, Almighty YAHWEH uses the circumstances and symbolism of this night, and the ensuing Exodus, to guide not only ancient Israel, but *true believers*.

The Passover is more than a ceremony. It tells you *how* to become a disciple—YAHWEH’s first “installment” in the salvation story.

Notice again the circumstances. The Israelites were enslaved in an alien land—Egypt. They were subject to its influence, its corruption, its pagan polytheistic religion. In fact, YAHWEH calls Egypt a *type* of sin. If it was wrong or immoral, chances are you could find it in Cairo, Rameses, or Succoth.

Now, what about you, a member of our modern, twentieth-century society? Where do you find yourself lately? Enslaved, right? You bet you are. We all are. To society, to our passions and desires, or to the “system.”

Our “cruel taskmasters” are indeed more subtle—and often appealing—than they were to the Israelites 3,500 years ago, but every bit as real. Very few of us indeed can claim to be the masters of

our own destiny. Looking back, usually we find our lot in life has been determined unpredictably, whimsically.

You, like the Israelites, were born into it. You, as they, had nothing to do with it and don't necessarily like it. But there's little any of us seem to be able to do—it's still the status quo.

And chances are pretty good that you, too, are mighty dissatisfied with your little "Egypt." You know—the assembly line, the rat race, the monotony. The lack of challenge and purpose. The shaky marriage. The hundreds of unfulfilled hopes, plans, dreams and ambitions. If any generation has ever echoed the words of Thoreau that "Most men lead lives of quiet desperation," it is ours today.

It's as if some unknown force has set up roadblocks at every avenue of your life. Yes, to one degree or another, you're *trapped*. You are, as respectable as your state may be, a virtual slave. You're in a twenty-first century Egypt.

Some would do anything to get out respectably. For many in our beleaguered society, a convenient "exodus" would be refreshing. A soiree or escape into some "wilderness" to redirect and reestablish our misguided and unguided lives. A simple vacation from our lot in life to ponder and muse on our existence.

For Our Day

Why did YAHWEH establish the Passover ceremony to be commemorated for all time by His followers? Notice Exodus 13:3, 9.

"... Remember this day in which you went out from Egypt, from the house of slaves. For by the might of His hand *YAHWEH brought you out* ... And it shall be for a sign to you on your hand, and a memorial between your eyes, so that the Torah of YAHWEH may be in your mouth: for with a strong hand YAHWEH brought you out from Egypt."

YAHWEH enjoins believers to keep the Passover so we may remember that He is our Lawgiver and Creator and Deliverer.

The New Testament contains almost as many references to the Passover as the Old. Luke 2:41 shows us that Yahshua, then still with His parents, kept the Passover. Several long chapters in the 4 Good News are devoted to the events surrounding the institution of the New Testament Passover.

And there is much more to the story of the Passover. The parallels and lessons YAHWEH intends us to draw are almost unending: the blood of a young lamb splattered on the doorpost—foreshadowing the sacrifice of Yahshua. The flight out of Egypt—showing we as believers must take *action*, we must initiate our "exodus" from sin and Satan's system of commercial Babylon.

The pursuit by Pharoah and his armies—signifying that believers are indeed pursued by a very real and active spiritual force, the Devil and his legions. The crossing through the Red Sea—the baptism of the Israelites, foreshadowing the rite to be commended for all believers upon their flight from sin.

But most importantly, we challenge you to "break out." We challenge you to conform not to a system that enslaves, but to that way (Acts 18:26; 19:9, 23) which will bring you purpose, refreshment and hope.

You can begin a new life. You *can* come out of your "Egypt."

Forgiving Isn't Easy

“I’ll never forgive nor forget what they did to me.” This common saying reflects the deep hurts of life. But YAHWEH requires believers to forgive the evils done to them.

by Graemme J. Marshall

He clutched in vain for the wall of the well as he was pushed over the edge. With a rush he fell freely into the blackness.

As he tried to right his falling body, a mighty whoosh came from the beating wings of a host of bats as they swarmed past him to the surface. His thoughts raced. How deep? Was there water at the bottom?

In a moment his heels hit with a crushing jolt. His legs jackknifed and his spine jarred as his bottom took the impact. His elbow cracked against a rock, sending pins and needles coursing through his arm.

He cried out in pain, shock and anguish at his dilemma. His lungs gasped in dank, moist air, fighting to regain the oxygen expelled on impact. For a dazed moment he sat in a crumpled heap.

As sense came back, he jerked his face upward. No evidence of his assailants, only the bright circle of the well top outlining the clear, blue sky. Gingerly he felt around the bottom with his feet to take stock of his dungeon. It was dark and sandy, and he was glad it was dry. It stank of bat droppings.

Regaining some composure, he began to yell to attract his brothers: “Hey, you guys, get me out! Why did you do that to me? Wait till I get home and tell Dad. You’ll be in trouble again; I can tell you.” No response. Again: “Hey up there! Get me out!” Only stillness.

He settled down to wait. After all, his brothers had been preparing lunch when he arrived unexpectedly. He mused on the day’s happenings.

An Evil Turn of Events

He had dutifully obeyed his father’s instruction to go and find out how his brothers were getting on as they herded the sheep. He had gone to where they were supposed to be, but they were not to be found. He was unfamiliar with the area and, as he circled around trying to pick up their tracks, he became lost.

He panicked and began to run, first one way and then another. Fearful at being lost, he was wandering aimlessly when a stranger suddenly appeared out of nowhere. The stranger asked him what he was looking for and was most helpful. He told him how his brothers had been there earlier and how he had overheard them saying they were going to Dothan.

The kind stranger gave directions, which proved right as he soon came upon his brothers' encampment, with the sheep grazing on grassy slopes. He had come up happily relieved to meet them. But as soon as he entered camp, they roughly grabbed him and violently threw him down the well with a final taunt: "See if your dreams get you out of this!"

Well, he knew they didn't like his dreams. He couldn't help it. The dreams just came to him. His brothers got upset when he told them about them. Even his father did once, too. And there was his coat of many colors. It seemed that everything he did made them envious, jealous and determined not to speak a nice word to him.

Then, voices at the top. Faces appeared above, at the rim of the well. Then a rope was lowered, the end hitting him in the face. At last, he thought, they have come to their senses.

He quickly scrambled his way up the rope. As he came out into the dazzling daylight, about to recriminate them, a cloth gag was stuffed into his mouth. He was roughly grabbed and his hands were tied with rope. He saw camels, traders and his brother Judah haggling with someone and then receiving money. An Ishmaelite suddenly took the rope that held him, pulled him over to a camel and latched him on behind. The caravan moved off and he struggled vainly to free himself.

Dust obscured his vision as he searched for the eyes of his brothers, hoping that somehow all of this was just a bad joke. The gag stifled his protests; his brothers turned their backs. He was only 17!

This was the selling of Joseph into Egypt. And this was only the beginning of some lifelong hurts he suffered. On arriving in Egypt, he was sold as a slave to Potiphar, chief of the royal guard (Genesis 37).

More Injustices

The years passed and Joseph settled into becoming an able manager of Potiphar's home and property. His success must have become legendary. Potiphar knew that he was being blessed because of Joseph, and turned all his personal affairs over to Joseph to manage.

We must assume that Joseph was never in a position to seek to return home or to get in contact with his father, Jacob.

Joseph was at the pinnacle of success—and then, sudden disaster struck. He was framed on trumped-up charges after he rejected the romantic advances of Potiphar's wife. No judge and jury helped here—he was automatically sent to prison. And there he languished to contemplate the twists of fate that can happen to a young, innocent adult.

The mud of false accusation had been thrown and it had stuck. No one tried to wipe it off his face. An employer had believed a false charge; a husband had believed a concocted story of attempted rape. They threw the mud and it stuck.

All his good—all his fruits—were not remembered. There was unquestioning acceptance of false charges, and he was unceremoniously led off to prison (Genesis 39).

Years later, when Joseph was made second in command of all Egypt, one wonders where Potiphar and his wife were. The bible records no attempt on Joseph's part to wipe off the mud of the years before.

Joseph nursed a lot of hurts in his life—events and circumstances hard to forgive. His brothers lived with the guilt of the lies they told. Such things are hard to forget and to forgive. When the brothers and their father Jacob came to Egypt to live, were all these things forgotten because of better times?

Joseph settled his father and brothers comfortably in Goshen. They prospered and he saw to their welfare. For 17 years, they lived in tranquility and privileged position.

But had his brothers forgotten the evil deed they had done some 30 years before?

When Jacob died, we find that the first act of the brothers was to send an immediate message to Joseph, not of condolence and sympathy, but of fear. They thought that now that the father was out of the way, Joseph would take revenge.

Joseph was astounded. He had come to see a reason for his suffering and held nothing against them anymore. He saw it was YAHWEH's guiding hand (Genesis 50:15-21). His brothers still suffered guilt.

The story shows that forgiveness isn't easy. Broken trust does alter relationships. But forgiveness is required of believers. Forgiveness is what heals us from a wounded heart.

Why Do We Need to Forgive?

There are two important reasons why we as believers must forgive. First, unless we are prepared to forgive those who hurt us, YAHWEH says He will not forgive us for what we have done (Matthew 6:14-15). And second, a forgiving nature is part of the character of YAHWEH Himself (Joel 2:13). Believers who are seeking to eventually become spirit-composed members of YAHWEH's Family must have forgiveness as a trait in their lives.

The Psalms reveal David's attitude toward those who wished him harm. First, he tried to overcome evil with good, even praying and fasting for enemies (Psalms 35:11-14). When wrongfully accused he even tried to restore that which he didn't take in the first place (Psalm 69:4). For much of the love he tried to show, David received back antagonism, and so he simply committed the problems to YAHWEH (Psalms 109:4-5).

So, if you are in a position to help an enemy, you should do what you can (Exodus 23:4-5). And if an enemy falls into personal calamity, the Bible warns about not rejoicing at it (Proverbs 24:17-18).

David did pray that YAHWEH would reward enemies according to their evil intent (Psalms 70). This was not David taking the matter into his own hands but rather committing it to YAHWEH to deal with as YAHWEH saw fit. And although David was ever prepared to be forgiving, he did not forget the evil within some people, and took precautions to protect himself from their influence.

The Greatest Example

These are the lessons of Joseph and David. Yet, Yahshua Messiah's example is obviously the greatest of all. While you were yet a sinner, Yahshua forgave you (Romans 5:8). And when He hung on the stake dying from loss of blood, suffering unbearable thirst and wounds, His reaction to the people who had put Him there and who had hammered spikes into His flesh was, "*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do*" (Luke 23:34).

Believers—followers of Yahshua—can do no less.

Let There Be LIGHT!

The Bible has more to say about light—and the absence of it—than you may have thought!

by Clayton D. Steep (Reprint Article)



About 6,000 years ago, the earth was a desolate planet, cloaked in a shroud of thick, murky darkness. The waters completely covering its surface rolled and tossed in the endless night, whipped by unobstructed winds. How long it had been like this we do not know. Then something momentous took place. This event is described in Genesis 1:3.

Above the churning, black waters YAHWEH waited, ready to act. Everything was finally ready. The time had come to start YAHWEH's 7,000-year plan. Over the billow and surge of unilluminated waves a mighty voice ordered, ***"Let there be light!"***

Immediately the blackness yielded as the awesome forces of the elements reacted in obedience to the Almighty Creator. And with these words YAHWEH's plan was set in motion.

"Let there be light!" A command for illumination of a dark planet. Yes, but at the same time, the words that launched YAHWEH's plan reflect its outcome in a thrilling and inspiring way. Actually, as we are about to see, there are few aspects of the physical, material realm that illustrate spiritual truths as profoundly as the relationship between light and darkness. Hundreds of scriptures draw the analogy. In this article there is space to cite only a few of them.

Many hours of rewarding Bible study await you if you will look up verses listed in a concordance under the headings "light," "dark," "day," "night," "blindness" and related words.

The Light of the World

Think of it: The world was in total darkness until YAHWEH made light to shine. The world hadn't always been in darkness. It *became* that way. How? Why? Because of sin!

When YAHWEH first created the earth—thousands of years ago—angelic beings described as “morning stars” sang for joy (Job 38:7). Many of them were given this earth as a place of habitation. They were ruled by the great archangel Lucifer, whose name meant “light-bringer” or “shining star of the dawn.”

Do you know how bright stars are? Our sun, as bright as it is, is just a dwarf as stars are measured. With all those brilliant “stars”—angels of light—inhabiting this earth, it must have been a bright place indeed, at least spiritually speaking.

Then tragedy occurred. Lucifer, not satisfied with this earth, led a rebellion against Almighty YAHWEH in heaven.

The rebellion was not successful. Lucifer and the angels who followed him were cast out of heaven (Isaiah 14:12, Revelation 12:3, 9). No longer was he called Lucifer or “Light bringer.” He was now called the Devil and Satan, and his kingdom became a kingdom of spiritual darkness and confusion (Ephesians 6:12).

It was therefore fitting that the physical earth that was his domain was to be in darkness and confusion, too, rendered that way by the titanic battle Lucifer and his legions waged against the Eternal and His hosts.

And so, the earth came to be in desolate darkness until YAHWEH intervened some 6,000 years ago to bring light. It should be noted, however, that YAHWEH did not totally abolish darkness at that time. He introduced light into the world. He divided the light from darkness. He declared that the light was “good” (Genesis 1:4). But the darkness (which, it is interesting, He did not call “good”) He allowed to persist.

There is something we can learn from this. As night coexists with day on our physical planet, so in the spiritual realm Satan and his rulers of darkness now coexist on earth with spiritual light.

Do you know what that spiritual light on earth is?

“You are the light of the world,” Yahshua said to His Congregation (Matthew 5:14). Yes, spiritually speaking, YAHWEH's true Congregation is the only true light on this planet. Each era of YAHWEH's Congregation is symbolized as a single “lampstand” (Revelation 1:20). Each congregation member individually is a child of light (Ephesians 5:8).

Have you wondered how Satan recognizes who, among the billions of human beings alive, are YAHWEH's people? How does he pick you out as a target of his attack if you are converted?

If a million unlit matches were spread out in a vast, dark room, how could you locate a specific match? You couldn't. But light that one little match and immediately it is visible from everywhere. It stands out in striking contrast to all the other 999,999 matches.

Like that room, the whole world lies in spiritual darkness, its inhabitants swallowed up in the obscurity. But here and there in the spiritual blackness a light shines. That's you, if YAHWEH's Spirit is “aglow” in you (Romans 12:11), you are such a light (Philippians 2:15).

Satan sees you clearly. He can pick you out. He sees the Congregation clearly. He hates what he sees (John 3:20), and he is exerting every effort possible to put out those lights.

Luk 22:31 And the Master said, Simon, Simon, behold! Satan wants to sift all of you like wheat.

Don't allow him to do so. Determine that your light shall continue to shine. Let there be light—always!

The final punishment determined for Satan and his demons, who are even now limited by “chains of darkness” (2 Peter 2:4), is to be “wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever” (Jude 13). What a comedown for those who were once brilliant morning stars!

You've probably heard of the “black holes” out in space that astronomers are studying. Some black holes have been described as once-gigantic stars that shriveled up and folded in upon themselves. Now, instead of giving out light, they seek to draw everything to themselves, their gravity having become so intense that not even light can escape. Who knows? Maybe the likeness is more than coincidental.

Is Your Lamp Lit?

We must learn to hate spiritual darkness, though it is true that, physically speaking, we may in some ways enjoy nighttime. For one thing, we become tired and need to sleep. What is more, in our technological world, where a flick of a switch brings illumination, nighttime has lost most of its drawbacks.

If you lived in a society without artificial light, however, the night would be quite a bit more unwelcome. It would be easier to understand the lesson Yahshua gave in John 11:9-10. He said, *“If a man should walk in the day, he does not stumble because he sees the light of the world [the sun]. But if a man walks in the night, he stumbles, because there is no flame in him.”*

Light is not inherent in a human being. It must come from an outside source. The sun gives light by day. Without the sun at night—in a world without conveniences such as electricity—humans run the risk of stumbling. Oh, they may by their own efforts build a fire, but such human works amount to mere sparks and do not vanquish the night (Isaiah 50:11).

People in such a situation need light from the sun if they are to walk without stumbling, as Yahshua pointed out.

Actually, the darkness engulfing human beings cut off from YAHWEH is twofold. The Bible describes them as being in darkness (John 3:19) and blind (2 Corinthians 4:4).

The eyes of those being called now, however, have been opened (Ephesians 1:18). Our source of light is YAHWEH. “YAHWEH is Elohim and He has given us light” (Psalms 118:27). “For You will light my lamp,” David exclaimed to the Eternal, “YAHWEH my El will enlighten my darkness” (Psalms 18:28).

A lamp—the kind the Bible speaks of—needs fuel to function. The Holy Spirit is the oil that fuels our lamps and keeps them burning.

We need a constant supply of that fuel. The more of YAHWEH's Spirit we have, the brighter our light will shine.

How much effort do we expend seeking that precious oil? Like the five foolish virgins in Matthew 25:1-13, are we allowing our lamps to flicker and die out for lack of oil? Or do we always have an adequate supply, as did the five wise virgins?

As Different as Night from Day

“Let there be light!” That, in so many words, is what Yahshua Messiah commanded His followers (Matthew 5:14-16). In order to do that, we must seek an uninterrupted supply of the Holy Spirit.

But there is more that we must do. We need to study and put into practice YAHWEH’s Word. “The entrance of Your words gives light,” the psalmist declared to YAHWEH (Psalms 119:130). “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path,” he exclaimed in verse 105.

Let there be more light in your life. Drink in of YAHWEH’s Word and put it to practice. *“For the commandment is a lamp, and the law is light,”* states Proverbs 6:23. Outside of YAHWEH’s revealed laws and inspired testimony, there is no light (Isaiah 8:20).

Also, let there be light by getting involved in YAHWEH’s great commission of sending forth the “light of the Good News” (2 Corinthians 4:4), emanating truth in a dark and dying world.

Of course, when we become believers, we do not shine in full brightness all at once. It takes time. It is something we grow into. But it is vital that growth be present and noticeable, for “the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day” (Proverbs 4:18).

From the first glimmer of dawn, the sun does not cease to grow brighter until it reaches its apex, what the Proverb refers to as “the perfect day.” The sun does not retreat or retrogress. A believer should constantly undergo self-examination, asking, “Am I making progress in shining brighter this year than last year, this week than last week, today than yesterday?”

Let there be light! How well those words sum up the believers’ calling. How are you doing? Is your light shining ever brighter?

A Striking Contrast

Light, as long as it is allowed to shine, always overcomes darkness. It always dominates (Ecclesiastes 2:13). When you turn on a light in a dark room, the darkness vanishes. But you cannot “turn on” darkness in a light room. The only way darkness can return is if the source of light is extinguished or covered up (Luke 11:34).

Light is a positive force. Darkness is negative; it is the absence of light. Light symbolizes life (John 8:12) and truth (Psalms 43:3); darkness symbolizes death (Psalms 143:3) and error (Luke 11:34). Light symbolizes YAHWEH; darkness symbolizes the power of Satan (Acts 26:18).

Light and darkness are opposites. They can’t get along together. “Do not unite in marriage with unbelievers. For what partnership does righteousness have with lawlessness? And what fellowship does light have with darkness?” (2 Corinthians 6:14). Answer: None!

The Apostle Paul further amplifies this truth in Ephesians 5:8-13: “For you then were darkness but are now light in the Master; walk as children of light. For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth, and you must discern what is acceptable before our Master” (verses 8-10). Living YAHWEH’s way—that is, generating light.

Paul continues: “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather condemn them” (verse 11).

Members of the Congregation, on the other hand, are to let their light shine. You can’t hear light. A believer exposes the works of darkness by being an example. It is the contrast between right and wrong that exposes the wrong.

If you are a believer there must be a contrast, as clearly as light contrasts with darkness, between the way you do things, your outlook, your attitude—your total purpose in life—and that of the world or something is amiss!

When you are tempted to blend in with surrounding darkness, to partake of things hidden in shadows, to do what you know you should not, to cover your lamp or compromise the bright glow it should be giving off, get a hold of yourself and think—say out loud to yourself if need be—“Let there be light!” and follow through by doing what you know YAHWEH’s will to be.

The Day of YAHWEH

Bible prophecy shows the Day of YAHWEH is the time YAHWEH intervenes in world affairs and punishes rebellious nations at the return of Yahshua Messiah.

But that’s only the beginning. Actually, Yahshua’s return will mark the beginning of the millennial “day” after the “night” of Satan inspired human misrule (1 Thessalonians 5:2-8, Romans 13:12-13).

Yahshua is the “Sun of righteousness” who “shall arise with healing in His wings” (Malachi 4:2). The glorious day of YAHWEH extends on past the Millennium, encompassing the ultimate transformation of the present heavens and earth into “new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:10-13).

We must never lose sight of the awesome destiny we have before us. YAHWEH is the “Father of lights” (Jacob 1:17). That’s us!

In YAHWEH is no darkness (1 John 1:5, Psalms 139:12), no shadow (Jacob 1:17). He clothes Himself with light (Psalms 104:2). YAHWEH dwells in “unapproachable light” (1 Timothy 6:16).

Yahshua, being the brightness of YAHWEH’s glory (Hebrews 1:3), shines as the sun in its full strength (Revelation 1:16). He is the bright and morning star (Revelation 22:16). We shall be like Him (1 John 3:2). That’s part of the “inheritance of the saints in the light” (Colossians 1:12).

In this age, evil and righteousness coexist like night and day. After the completion of YAHWEH’s 7,000 year plan, however, in the New Jerusalem, there will be no evil. Neither will there be night (Revelation 21:23, 22:5).

“Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father” (Matthew 13:43).

“And those who act wisely shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and those turning many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever” (Daniel 12:3).

Let that be your destiny. Let there be light!

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



KEEP THE FAITH

In this day and age there are many dangers threatening our congregations. The world wants to creep into our plain churches like never before in our history. Materialism has never been more prevalent. We live in the richest country in the world, and it is so easy to get caught up in the mad rush for financial security. The philosophies of nominal Christianity have a way of getting inside the fold, and we no longer want to be accountable to the body, saying, "As long as it's not a salvation issue, I can do as I want." The divide between the Kingdom of Yahweh and the world is blurry to us.

We could work all day searching for a means of protection from these enemies of the Bride of Messiah, and we must. We will have to stand up boldly and fend them off. But, in all these labors we

are like the doctor who, in his imperfect knowledge, treats the symptoms to the best of his ability. Or like the foundering ships' mechanics, who labor long hours so the ship may reach the nearest port safely. Even having done all we can, we still depend on Yahweh to lead and protect.

We are prone to become lax and complacent, and our fervent love cools. We fail to teach the younger and the weaker members the true meaning of discipleship. Yahweh tells us in plain words that a lukewarm congregation is of no use to him. *"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would that thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing ..."* (Revelation 3:15-17).

Our forefathers suffered much and gave up everything to follow Messiah. They came to this land with an unwavering vision. They sought to establish a congregation that would truly be a worthy bride, where they could worship in peace. Through their labors we have been blessed beyond measure.

But living in a land of freedom presents its own dangers. And to forget that we are but pilgrims in this world and become halfhearted in our quest for that golden crown. If we do not use all diligence in that quest, we become lukewarm and other things will soon take first place. We will be so busy pursuing that dream of material things or a life of ease that there will be little time left for spiritual things.

Family search for the truth can lead to falling easy prey to the vain babblings of worldly wisdom. We are so used to the idea of a life of ease that we are easily convinced the Christian life should be the same. When we are totally committed to the way of truth, Yahweh will lead us on that way. The teachings that we can take fire into our bedroom and will not be burned will be revealed as false. Even with our best efforts we will find ourselves falling short of the goal.

The earnest Pilgrim will find safety by blending into the church of the body of Messiah, giving and receiving strength, encouragement and help along the way. When we come to the point where our youth believe that nonconformity and living in plain simple life are empty traditions that biblical standards are legalism then our ship is truly in danger. She has lost her course and is drifting before the wind.

Where there is life there is hope! The church needs the students who teach why and how she is a biblical church. She needs fathers and mothers who show that these traditions are practical applications of the commandments of Messiah. And she needs young people who prove their walk by the scriptures that they may be worthy to carry the torch.

Fellow soldiers in Messiah let us "put on the whole armor of Yahweh that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Let us with Elohim's help turn up the flame of the lamp of faith that we will not be found lukewarm in this period now with the flame of emotional fervor which leaps high and soon exhausts itself and dies down leaving a smoked shade. Rather let us fill our lamp through the love of truth and trim the wick to produce a strong steady flame which neither wind nor strong storm can extinguish. Let us keep this view so that we can say with the Apostle Paul, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course I've kept the faith."

SCARS

These scars. What was I to do with them? Although I was grateful for my healing, I was ashamed of my scars. What would folks think of me if they knew? So, I kept my scars hidden.

It was risky venturing out into the public. What if I forgot to be careful and my scars became visible to someone? Their opinion of me would be changed forever. I didn't want anyone to know the battle I had fought that had earned me these scars. So, I covered them carefully and tried to appear as normal as possible.

Then one day I met Sarah. She radiated a peace and joy that instinctively drew others to her. The most shocking thing about Sarah was her scar—a horrible, jagged scar that ran from her cheekbone to the left side of her chin. It had mangled her lips also. She was still lovely somehow. But her scar! How could she stand to leave her house? Didn't people gawk at her?

At last, I got the chance to speak with her. "I have something in common with you," I said softly. "I have scars."

"May I see them?" she inquired.

Slowly I rolled up my sleeves and showed her. She touched them and smiled. "They're beautiful," she said.

I stared at her in shock. "But Sarah!" I cried. "How can you say that? They're ugly! I'm so ashamed of them. At least I can cover mine. Yours"—I gave her a pitying glance. "I probably wouldn't even leave the house," I whispered, my head down.

"Dear, you don't understand," she said. "I'm glad for my scar. I wouldn't hide it if I could." I glanced up, wondering.

"Don't you see?" she asked. "Scars are a sign of healing. Blessed, glorious healing."

And as I watched, I saw. The folks who came to Sarah, had wounds in various stages. Some were fresh; some were partly healed; some were almost healed. They saw Sarah's scar, nicely healed, and they wanted to know Who had healed her. Her scar gave her opportunity to guide them to the Master Healer.

But what was the saddest sight of all? Too many shuffled along with angry festering wounds. Sarah shook her head sadly, "They keep picking on their wounds. They don't clean them out and give them a chance to heal," she said mournfully.

Then I fully understood. I would rather have scars than open wounds.

My scars meant that I have healed.



Answers to

Your Questions

Q) Since the time of the equinox online is after the time of the new moon conjunction in March 2026 do we need to add an extra month to the calendar in 2026?

A) The equinox occurs on the first day of the new month, and although the new moon is a few hours before the technical time of the equinox, since it happens on the same day, that would be day one of the new year and month of Aviv as the “DAY” of the equinox is the first day of spring and the old winter is over.

Remember, as where the conjunction happens for a few minutes as the moon continues to move just like an eclipse, the equinox is a much slower movement, and even though websites put an exact time for the equinox, this is not accurate and it is really a one to two day movement to really see a potential move, which takes place once a year to divide winter from summer.

The equinox is really a matter of a day more than the matter of a few minutes, and the day of the equinox is the first day of spring/summer, so if it's also the first day of the new month it would have to be Aviv, as if you added an additional month it would throw off all the agriculture cycle for the entire year having Passover in May, and Sukkot in November.

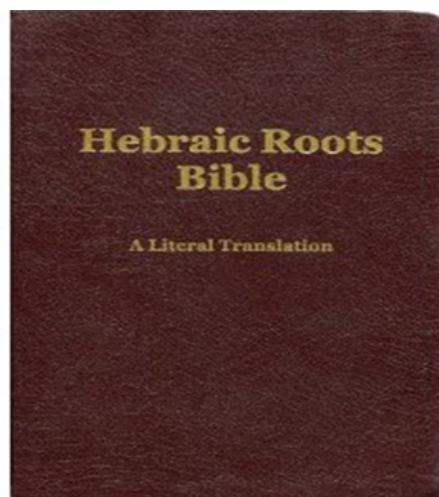
In ancient times, people would not have known today's technical definition what is claimed as the exact time of the equinox (which they have changed over the years) but they would know the signs of the “DAY” of the equinox with no shadow to the sundial, and on the day of the equinox, observers at the equator will see the sun directly overhead at noon. Also, on the DAY of the equinox the sun rises due east and sets due west for all people on the earth to witness!

All these physical signs for normal people show that the day of the equinox is the turning of the year from winter to summer. In a perfect world, one would think that every year on the day of the equinox would be the first day of Aviv and the new year, since winter has ended, but we know the calendar and the earth's wobble have changed.

That would definitely make things more symmetrical, but if we wait another whole month, you would have Passover out in summer in May, and Sukkot out in November, well after the changing of the year. Since this changing of the equinox from winter to summer happens on day one of the new month, this month would have to be called Aviv as winter has passed and summer is now here.

With the equinox, which cycle runs for a whole year, the overlapping time is the whole day of the equinox. Again, the modern technical definition of the equinox is when the exact center radius of the sun passes the equator, but since the sun is moving so slow, the process of the actual sun passing the equator will take several days and the naked eye could not tell the difference for at least one full day and that is why the equinox is a once a year daily event, whereas the moon cycle, although also technically has an actual time to the minute for conjunction, in reality there is also about a 15 to 20 minute overlapping of time to the naked eye that also has to be taken into account.

If the equinox happened the next day after sunset (day 2 of the new month), you would add the extra month, but as long as the equinox and new moon happen on the same day it would have to be Aviv 1 since that new moon day was also the day of the equinox.



Get a Free Download of the Hebraic Roots Bible at www.coyhwh.com.

Letters From Our Readers

Congregation of YHWH,
THANK YOU!

Yahweh has been speaking to me through your ministry. I had been praying about what my gift that He has given me and through the message I listened to, it was made known and what joy I feel in my heart! Yahweh just keeps on giving, and I am truly blessed. I prayed for truth without compromise and deceit and He led me to the Congregation of YHWH Jerusalem. What a blessing it is to give the tithe that is commanded for us to do. To give to a ministry that does Yahweh's will.

I want to be fully disciplined by Yahweh as He has shown that discipline within the Congregation of YHWH Jerusalem. I pray for the ministry daily.
Blessings from our mighty Father Yahweh be abundant.

Love,
Sister from KY

To the Congregation of YHWH,

A friend of ours gave us one of your Hebraic Roots Bibles, 3rd edition, a few months ago. This literal translation has really helped to further illuminate the Father's intended meaning in the Scriptures. We've been digging deep into the Torah over the last year or so, trying to view the Word as it was intended in the Hebrew or Aramaic to better understand meaning thru context, culture and grammar.

Your Bible is helping this even more for our family as we study together. So, thank you for the work that you are doing, it is blessing many people such as myself.
Yah bless you and keep you, may His face shine upon you.

Amen and Amen, Family from Tenn.

Greetings,

I pray this letter finds you all prospering and in health, even as your souls prosper. I am writing to first thank you for my Hebraic Roots Bible. It has really been a blessing to me. I am really grateful there are congregations out there that assist those of us that are incarcerated, who desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of Yahshua Messiah. I would like to know if you all have literature and Bible studies that are available for us in prison. If so, would you start to send them to me, anything that you all have that would assist me in my growth will be greatly appreciated.

Also, I would like to know if you all or do you know a ministry that can or would be willing to come to this prison to have a service? Because there are about 8 guys here that would love to be baptized here in the name of Yahshua. And we do know that Yahweh is always willing to meet the desires of His children.

Well, family I leave as I came in Yahshua's name. Praying you all are blessed in all your endeavors.

Prisoner in US

Congregation of Yahweh,

Thank you for this wonderful Study Bible! The insights are bringing us into new depths and truth. And there's a shift, people seeking truth and relationship with our Heavenly Father YAHWEH and Yahshua! I appreciate if you could send these as soon as possible! Blessings,
Sister in USA

Dear Congregation of Yahweh Jerusalem,

I am writing you hoping you find yourselves in good spirit and health.

I would like to apologize to you for writing this letter after so much time has passed. But I guess it is better late than never, right? Plus, I do not want to be like the 9 leprous people in Luke 17:12, I would like to be like the 10th, that even when he was a Samaritan, he was the only one coming back to Yahshua to thank Him.

After all this, the reason I am writing you is to thank you from the bottom of my heart for having sent to me that beautiful Bible (Hebraic Roots Bible). I am very grateful for it.

I had been reading it and studying it every day and it has been the best tool I ever had to get to know our Elohim YHWH and our Savior Yahshua Messiah.

Thank you and Shalom from:
Brother in USA

To whom it may concern:

Shalom Alechem! I am presently incarcerated and would like to know if you can provide me with a free copy of the Hebraic Roots Bible.

Currently I am the coordinator over the Messianic Jewish service in the high security building in the Lewis Unit. The weekly Shabbat is very significant and we observe it faithfully proclaiming the name of Yahweh Elohim and Yahshua Hamashiach. I do believe that the Hebraic Roots Bible is essential to providing the accuracy of the Holy Scriptures.

If you are able to satisfy my request, please send to the address listed above.
Thank you for your time and donations to those in need.

Kind Regards,
Brother in Prison

THE MOST AMAZING STORY OF FAITH AND COURAGE THAT A TRUE BELIEVER CAN ONLY HOPE TO FIND!

Read about the true Congregation of Yahshua and how it survived through antiquity under such duress persecution against it by its enemies. The truth is stranger than fiction. It's shocking and eye opening. If you are a believer, you will be cheerfully enlightened to find out that the original Congregation that Yahshua Messiah our Savior started in 30A.D. has survived into this present time and that *"the Gates of Hell have not been able to prevail against it."* ***This book is the most conclusive thorough research of the early congregation of its kind and has many references from the 2nd to 18th centuries with more than 250 footnotes.*** The Truth shall make you free. (Jn 8:32)



Did you Know:

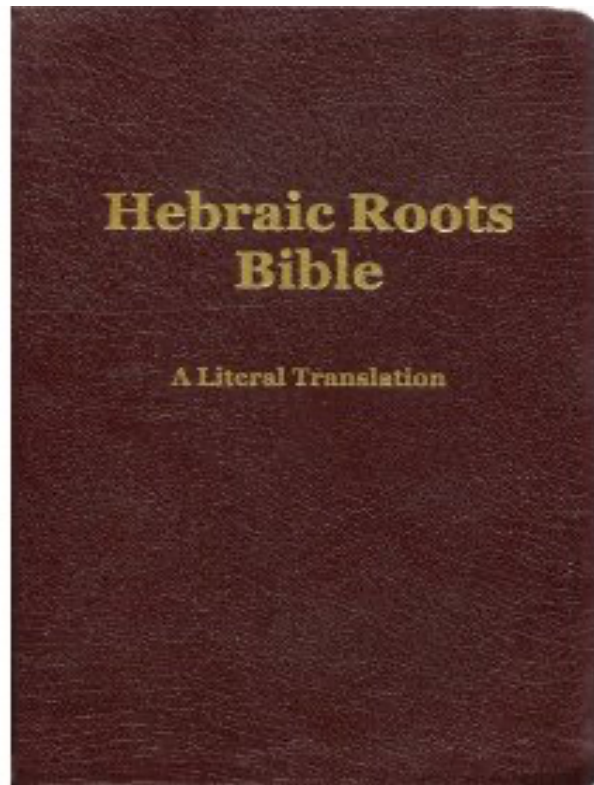
- *How the first century congregation started and what the first century congregation believed and practiced?*
- *That most beliefs of Christianity today come from the 4th century Emperor Constantine and not from the early congregation?*
- *That millions of true covenant believers were martyred by the Roman Empire in the Middle Ages?*
- *That the remnants of the true congregation started in 30 AD are still around today?*

Go to www.coyhwh.com and download the amazing book ***"The Gates of Hell will not prevail against her"*** as a free gift for you right now! You can also write to our address for a hardcopy that we will also give you as a gift.

**Congregation of YHWH, 13300-56 S. Cleveland Ave,
#111 Fort Myers, Florida, 33907**

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Psa 132:8 Arise, O YAHWEH, into Your rest; You, and the ark of Your strength. vs 9 Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let Your saints shout for joy.

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Est 4:14 For if you are completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance shall rise up to the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house shall perish. And who knows if you have attained to the kingdom for such a time as this?

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Rev 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw on My right, and the seven golden menorahs: the seven stars are the messengers of the seven congregations, and the seven menorahs you saw are the seven congregations.



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Exo 17:6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb. And you shall smite the rock, and water will come out of it; and the people will drink. And Moses did so before the eyes of the elders of Israel.

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Psa 137:5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget;

Psa 137:6 let my tongue cleave to my palate, if I do not remember you, if I do not bring up Jerusalem above the head of my joy.

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

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