



Hebrew Roots®



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A View From Beit Shalom

Go up in peace to your house.
I Sam. 25:35

Shalom **A**leichem,
(Peace be unto you)

There are events occurring in this world today which are causing great anguish in the hearts of many men and women, including *Messianic Believers*. Therefore, our prayer is that you may obtain the *Great Peace* which comes only from *Abba*, our Father in Heaven, and which will sustain each one of us through these days of trial and trouble:

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus [Messiah Y'shua]." (Phil. 4:6-7)

~ The Big News ~

The big news, as we go to press, is the spreading of the coronavirus (Covid-19) into many parts of the world. It is beyond the *epidemic* stage ("an occurrence of disease that is temporarily of high prevalence") and has entered into the *pandemic* stage ("an epidemic occurring over a wide geographical area"). Whatever one wishes to call it, the virus has thrown much of the world into a panic.

To make matters worse, some are connecting Covid-19 with the implementation of the new 5G (fifth generation) microwave technology (see *Front Line News* p. 29). Some are even saying it is a Chinese plot to bring down the American economy in

retaliation for the trade sanctions that have been imposed on that country by the United States; although it is reported that China was the first to suffer, beginning in December, 2019.

One must be careful not to believe everything that is being rumored about the virus (and/or 5G). Sadly, many people are accepting these claims, thereby contributing to a climate of near hysterical fear within portions of the American population.

It must be remembered that contracting Covid-19 is not an automatic death sentence. The vast majority of those (otherwise healthy people) who have tested positive have experienced some flu-like discomfort. However, their bodies natural immune system has been healthy enough to recover.

As Believers, we are to live wisely by doing our best not to expose ourselves to the virus. Nevertheless, we are not to live in fear, for we know the end of the story and how it will all be resolved in God's own time and method. Therefore, whatever circumstance you find yourself in, keep doing the work which Y'shua has commissioned you to do:

"I charge you before God, who gives life to all things, and before the Messiah Yeshua, who in his witness to Pontius Pilate gave the same good testimony, ¹⁴ to obey your commission spotlessly and irreproachably until our Lord Yeshua the Messiah appears. ¹⁵ His appearing will be brought about in its own time by the blessed and sole Sovereign, who is King of kings and Lord of lords,

¹⁶**who alone is immortal, who dwells in unapproachable light that no human being has ever seen or can see -- to him be honor and eternal power. Amen.** (I Tim. 6:13-16 CJB)

~ The Author of Confusion ~

If all of the Covid-19 and 5G information seems confusing, do not despair. If it is intended to be confusing, in order to panic people, it is being promulgated by the *Author of Confusion* -- none other than *HaSatan*:

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saints."
(I Cor. 14:33)

One of *HaSatan*'s main tools for confusing people is to twist Scripture. He tried this trick during the temptation of *Y'shua*, but it did not work because *Y'shua* knew the Scriptures inside and out:

"For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works." (II Cor. 11:14-15)

HaSatan's final temptation of *Y'shua* was to promise Him rule over all the kingdoms of the world. Certainly, at that time (as well as today) the kingdoms of the world were his to give, since he was (and still is) the "God of this world:"

"Again, the devil . . . said to Him, 'All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.'

"¹⁰ Then Jesus [Y'shua] said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the LORD [YHVH] your God, and Him only you shall serve."

(Matt. 4:8-10)

Y'shua recognized that the Adversary wants to be worshipped. What we need to do is:

". . . submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." (James 4:7-8)

~ Deepest Sympathy ~

The entire *Messianic Community*, was deeply saddened to learn of the recent death of *Yael Good*, the 20 year old daughter of Joseph and Debbie Good (who have operated *Hatikva Ministries* for decades, and are pioneers in the *Messianic Movement*).

We have fond memories of watching *Yael* grow from a tiny baby into a beautiful adult. May she rest in peace until the *Resurrection* -- wherein truly lies our hope:

"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus [Y'shua] from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ [Messiah] from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through

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Those wishing to assist financially in this teaching ministry can do so by sending a check or money order, payable in US funds, to:

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His Spirit who dwells in you."

(Rom. 8:11)

~ Sukkot 2020 ~

Please be informed that the *Season of Our Joy Sukkot* celebration will not be held this year. If you were planning to attend there, begin looking now for a different venue, so that you can keep the Festival of *Sukkot* with like minded Believers.

~ Prison News ~

The Prison Ministry continues to grow. If you are incarcerated and have requested to be placed on our mailing list, but have not yet received any material -- it is in the works. Please be patient.

For our new prison subscribers, please be aware that we cannot answer personal requests, do independent research, become mentors, or pen pals. We cannot even answer individual letters -- even though we would like to be able to do so. There are simply not enough hours in the day and we are not getting any speedier as we grow older.

Also, be aware that we only offer the materials listed in the *Materials Order Form*. We do not have other items, such as bibles, concordances, prayer books, tallits, etc. available for distribution.

As funds permit, each new issue of *Hebrew Roots®*, when published, is automatically mailed to those Prison Subscribers we have heard from within the last 12 months.

Also, please be sure to indicate on the *Materials Order Form* if you have any mailing restrictions, so that the material is not returned to us, thereby causing delay and additional postage expense.

~ This Issue ~

Some people believe the *Written Torah* is a harsh set of laws which are impossible to keep. We, however, see the *Torah* as a Law of Love -- hence the opening article for this issue is entitled *Torah Love*.

Our good friend, and *Torah* scholar, Tim Kelley has contributed two new articles on *Miraculous Healing*.

The festival of *Purim* has recently come and gone, but the lessons of

Purim (as found in the book of *Esther*), are timeless and have been manifested even in the 20th century. The article, *Purim Fest 1946*, relates this strange tale.

~ Current Offers ~

Two previously recorded CDs are in the process of being re-recorded into DVD format. The first is: *Bitter Roots* (RB2) from the *Repairing the Breach Series*. The second is: *The Ten Trials of Avraham* (R2) from the *Roots of Our Faith Series*. Orders will be mailed as soon as these new recordings are ready.

Due to popular demand, a new booklet is in preparation stage. It is called *A Little Hebrew* (SPLH) and consists of several articles, by the same title, which have appeared in back issues of *Hebrew Roots®*. This booklet is not meant to be a complete study guide to learning the Hebrew language, but merely an *Introduction* to the subject.

The *Fall Holy Days* will be here before we know it. Now is the time to begin preparing by ordering the booklets (SPFHH and SPSSA) which pertain to those *Festivals*.

If you would like to have any of the current offers, you may place your order by completing the enclosed *Offer Form* or the *Materials Order Form*. (Be sure to include your name and address with all correspondence.) If you would like extra copies of materials, to pass on to friends and/or relatives, please indicate the quantity desired and consider including a donation to help cover printing and mailing costs. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

May the peace of God
be with you always,

Dean & Susan Wheelock

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# Torah Concepts:

## Torah Love

Great peace have those who love Your law,  
And nothing causes them to stumble.  
*Psalm 119:165*

**T**here is a teaching in some quarters of the Christian world that the God of the Old Testament is a vindictive God who established harsh laws. The belief is that the God of the OT made His laws so difficult that it is impossible for anyone to even come close to fulfilling them -- in other words, the Law was preprogrammed so the children of Israel would fail.

It is also often taught that *Y'shua* came to do away with those bad, restrictive laws -- laid down at Mount Sinai -- replacing them with a simple "law of love." They say that if we all just learn to "love one another" then, at death, we can all go to heaven and live happily ever after. In their world view, there are no Sabbaths, Festivals, or other restrictions on behavior based upon any of the Old Testament laws. The only rules they recognize are what the New Testament writers may have placed on the congregations to whom they wrote.

### ~ The Antinomians ~

Theologians call this position "Antinomianism." This simply means "against law" or "no law." (*Anti* = against, and *nomos* = law in Greek.) *Antinomians* believe that the Old Testament (and especially the *Torah* -- God's Instruction Book) is to be ignored by believers in *Y'shua* except as an historical document. They see the *Torah* as being full of unjust laws, many of which no one could ever keep -- or even know how to attempt keeping them correctly. They do not call the Law a *Torah of Hate*, but sometimes their rhetoric gets them close to that position.

Our position is just the opposite. We see the *Torah* as a book full of

instructions set down by a loving God to show His chosen people how they can live long, peaceful, and prosperous lives in the midst of a wicked world. We believe the *Torah* is a set of instructions which is to be kept by all Believers and will, eventually, be kept by all the peoples of the world -- as indicated by the prophet *Isaiah*:

"Now it shall come to pass in the latter days  
*That the mountain of the LORD'S [YHVH's] house*  
*Shall be established on the top of the mountains,*  
*And shall be exalted above the hills;*  
*And all nations shall flow to it.*  
<sup>3</sup> Many people shall come and say,  
*'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD [YHVH],*  
*To the house of the God of Jacob;*  
*He will teach us His ways,*  
*And we shall walk in His paths.'*  
*For out of Zion shall go forth the law [torah],*  
*And the word of the LORD [YHVH] from Jerusalem.*  
<sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations,  
*And rebuke many people;*  
*They shall beat their swords into plowshares,*  
*And their spears into pruning hooks;*  
*Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,*  
*Neither shall they learn war anymore.'*" (Isa. 2:2-4)

The purpose of this article is to show how the *Written Torah* is really a book of loving instructions and not a set of harsh rules to be rejected.

### ~ The Harsh Stuff ~

Before going to the "Love Part" of the Law, it is appropriate to investigate a few of the Scriptures which people sometimes use when they form their opinion that God's Old Testament law is "harsh" and "vindictive." Some of those opinions are rooted in the instructions God gave to the children of Israel, on how to deal with the inhabitants of a city when they went to war against another nation, or when they first entered the *Promised Land* to conquer it:

"**When you go near a city to fight against it, then proclaim an offer of peace to it.**" And it shall be that if they accept your offer of peace, and open to you, then all the people who are found in it shall be placed under tribute to you, and serve you.

"<sup>12</sup> Now if the city will not make peace with you, but makes war against you, then you shall besiege it. <sup>13</sup> And when the LORD [YHVH] your God delivers it into your hands, you shall strike every male in it with the edge of the sword. <sup>14</sup> But the women, the little ones, the livestock, and all that is in the city, all its spoil, you shall plunder for yourself; and you shall eat the enemies' plunder which the LORD [YHVH] your God gives you.

"<sup>15</sup> Thus you shall do to all the cities which are very far from you, which are not of the cities of these nations."

(Deut. 20:10-15)

This passage speaks specifically about fighting against a nation which was outside the *Promised Land*. First there must be an offer of peace. However, if the peace offer was refused, then the Israelites were to kill every male except for the "little ones." Meanwhile, the women and everything they owned became the property or "spoil" of the Israelite army.

### ~ The Cities of the *Promised Land* ~

When dealing with the cities, which God was giving to the children of Israel for a permanent possession (those within the borders of the land of

Canaan), there was a different set of instructions to follow:

**"But of the cities of these peoples which the LORD [YHVH] your God gives you as an inheritance, you shall let nothing that breathes remain alive,<sup>17</sup> but you shall utterly destroy them:** the Hittite and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite, just as the LORD [YHVH] your God has commanded you,<sup>18</sup> lest they teach you to do according to all their abominations which they have done for their gods, and you sin against the LORD [YHVH] your God."

(Deut. 20:16-18)

In that special case (dealing with the cities within the land of *Canaan* -- the *Promised Land*), the Israelites were commanded to destroy all of the people -- fighting men, old men, women, and children.

This seems like a terribly harsh command. After all, the children of Israel were the ones invading the *Canaanite* territory (even though it was at God's direct command). Today the claim might be made that the inhabitants were just living peaceful lives. This was, of course, not true, for *Canaan* was a land of great sin and violence at that time.

### ~ Possible Outcomes ~

Let us look at some possible outcomes from these two examples and see if it can be discerned why God gave such harsh commands concerning them.

In the first case (a city outside of the *Promised Land*) the women and small children were spared while all the adult males were destroyed, because they did not accept the Israelites offer of peace. Why destroy all of the men? Because they are the ones who would be waiting for an opportunity to rise up in retaliation and attack Israel if they were allowed to live. The result would be endless war -- as we see so often in today's world -- when the fighting men of the enemy are allowed to live.

However, by sparing the women and small children, the Israelites offered them an opportunity to forsake paganism -- which (if taken) could eventually lead them away from the

penalty of the "Second Death" (Rev. 21:8) -- i.e. permanent death. These new converts would become a part of the people of the God of Israel. This action could become a blessing for them instead of a curse. Thus, what initially seemed to be a tragedy, for the women and children, really gave them the glorious opportunity to come to know the God of Israel, the Creator of heaven and earth and eventually (in a distant age) to obtain eternal life. They might be compared to *Ruth*, who voluntarily became a citizen of Israel and was richly blessed by becoming an ancestor of *King David*:

**"But Ruth said:**  
**'Entreat me not to leave you,**  
**Or to turn back from following**  
**after you;**  
**For wherever you go, I will go;**  
**And wherever you lodge, I**  
**will lodge;**  
**Your people shall be my people,**  
**And your God, my God.**  
**<sup>17</sup> Where you die, I will die,**  
**And there will I be buried.'**

(Ruth 1:16-17)

One important aspect to consider, concerning the men who were put to death, is that eventually all of those men, who were killed, will be resurrected and given an opportunity to repent and obtain eternal life (see our booklet *Death and Resurrection*):

**"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,<sup>28</sup> so Christ [Messiah] was offered once to bear the sins of many."** (Heb. 9:27-28)

In order for a final judgment to take place, those who have died must first be resurrected back to life. The *Book of Revelation* speaks about both a First and Second Resurrection. Those who are part of the *Bride of Messiah* will be in the *First Resurrection* (at *Y'shua*'s return) to serve under Him as kings and priests during the *Millennium*:

**"And they sang a new song,**  
**saying:**  
**'You are worthy to take the**  
**scroll,**  
**And to open its seals;**  
**For You were slain,**

**And have redeemed us to God by Your blood**  
**Out of every tribe and tongue**  
**and people and nation,**  
**<sup>10</sup> And have made us kings and**  
**priests to our God;**  
**And we shall reign on the**  
**earth."** (Rev. 5:9-10)

Everyone else will be in the *Second Resurrection*:

**"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the *Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. <sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works."**

(Rev. 20:11-13)

Everyone who ever lived is going to be in either the First or the Second Resurrection -- clear back to *Adam* and *Chava* (Eve). The resurrection mentioned in Rev. 20:11-13 is the *Second Resurrection* and the people who are raised up at that time will be judged according to their "works." They are not all going to be automatically thrown into the *Lake of Fire* (as some hellfire and brimstone preachers teach). Some will, upon resurrection, see the error of their ways, accept the blood of *Y'shua* in payment for their sins, and have their names written into the *Book of Life*.

But one might argue that those people did not yet have the *Book of Revelation*, so they did not know what their long-term future possibilities might be. Is not the same true today? What does God have in store for us that we have not even begun to imagine at this time?

**"But as it is written:**  
**'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,**  
**Nor have entered into the heart**  
**of man'**

**The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.'**

"<sup>10</sup> But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God." (I Cor. 2:9-10)

**~ An Ancient Teaching ~**

There is an ancient Jewish teaching, concerning a final judgment, which pertains to *Shemini Atzeret* (the Eighth Day) which follows the Festival of *Sukkot* (Tabernacles). This teaching is said to picture the very final judgment of mankind which takes place after the *Millennium* -- at the time we know as the *Great White Throne Judgment*. (Of course they do not recognize this parallel, to the book of *Revelation*, since they do not accept *Revelation* as *Scripture*.)

The Jewish teaching is that on *Yom Teruah* (Day of Trumpets when *Messiah* returns to earth with His Bride) everyone's name will be written into one of three books: The *Book of Life*, the *Book of Death*, or the *Book of the Intermediates*.

Those who are already part of the *Bride of Messiah* (at that time) will already have their names written in the *Book of Life* and will be raised to eternal life at that time. Those who are totally wicked, and beyond redemption, will have their names written into the *Book of Death* to await the *Second Death*. Everyone else (the vast majority of all the people who have ever lived) will have their names written into the *Book of the Intermediates* -- awaiting final judgment when their names will be transferred into either the *Book of Life* or the *Book of Death*. Those, found in the *Book of the Intermediates*, will have a time period pictured by the ten *Days of Awe* (between *Yom Terurah* and *Yom Kippur*) to get with God's Salvation Program and have their names transferred into the *Book of Life*.

According to this teaching, concerning the aftermath of the *Great White Throne Judgment*, there will no longer be any "Intermediates":

**"And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book**

**of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.**

**"<sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.**

**"<sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire [the Second Death]."** (Rev. 20:12-15)

**~ God is in Control ~**

It must always be remembered that God is in complete control of all those people whom the children of Israel encountered -- just as He is in control of all that is currently going on in the world today -- including all the people whom modern Israel encounters:

**"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."**

(II Pet. 3:9)

God has a plan that is far beyond our comprehension and it is His desire that none should permanently perish:

**"For My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
Nor are your ways My ways,"  
says the LORD [YHVH].  
"For as the heavens are higher  
than the earth,  
So are My ways higher than  
your ways,  
And My thoughts than your  
thoughts."** (Isa. 55:8-9)

**~ God Protects Israel ~**

Meanwhile, what about those people who lived in the cities of *Canaan* that were being given over to the children of Israel where all the people -- men, women, and children -- were to be destroyed? We have already seen how God has a final plan for them -- at the very end of days. But why did they all have to die when being conquered by Israel?

One possibility is that they were put away because of their perverse religious practices, which included gross sexual misconduct as part of their religious worship (a very powerful incitement for men in particular). It is also entirely possible that many of the inhabitants were suffering from some type of venereal disease which, if the women were allowed to live, could have infected the Israelites, thereby causing great harm to God's chosen people. In addition, eliminating the females prevented the Israelite men from being tempted to follow after the false religions of the pagan women.

But, it might be asked: Why destroy the children? Possibly because they too could have carried a venereal infection from birth, passed on from a mother who had the disease.

The bottom line is we just do not know, but God knows, and He said it was preferable to cleanse the *Promised Land* by getting rid of them all. God will deal with each one of them as individuals at a much later time (as seen above). God intended to give the children of Israel a land wiped clean of all paganism, uncleanness, and disease -- for it was to be a type of the coming *Kingdom of Heaven* on earth. That way there would be no evil influence to draw the Israelites away from the proper worship of God.

Of course, *Scripture* shows this is not how it happened, for many of the pagans were left alive in the land and they became a snare to the children of Israel:

**"And you shall destroy all the peoples whom the LORD [YHVH] your God delivers over to you; your eye shall have no pity on them; nor shall you serve their gods, for that will be a snare to you."** (Deut. 7:16)

**~ Other Harsh and Vindictive Laws? ~**

It is also argued, by some, that the "laws" which were laid down for the children of Israel to follow, once they came into possession of the land, were also often harsh and vindictive. One example is that of the *Rebellious Son*:

**"If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and who, when they have**

**chastened him, will not heed them,  
then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city.** <sup>20</sup> And they shall say to the elders of his city, "This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard."

"<sup>21</sup> Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear"" (Deut. 21:18-21)

If this law were in strict practice today, in America, there would be a great number of young men who would be stoned to death. However, the *Rabbis* teach there is no record that such a penalty was ever carried out in the history of *Israel* and *Judah*. They say just the fact the law was on the books was sufficient to bring rebellious sons into conformity with that aspect of the law which deals with respect for one's parents. In all likelihood, the parents would use the threat, of bringing their rebellious son before the elders of the city, and it would have been a sufficient deterrent.

In any case, the responsibility was on the shoulders of the parents -- not on the local authorities. Unlike today, when non-parental "authorities" can insert themselves into what should be a family affair, and, in many cases, have the children taken away and placed in foster homes -- for better or for worse.

### ~ Retribution ~

Another common *Scripture* which is often brought up is:

**"But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, <sup>24</sup> eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, <sup>25</sup> burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe."**

(Ex. 21:23-25)

The problem with quoting only this portion of the *Scripture* is that it does not give us the entire picture.

Here is a principle for interpreting *Scripture* -- one needs to go to the first occurrence of a commandment in order to understand the basic principle involved and the context in which it

was given. If there are additional places where the command is repeated, they are to be used to enhance the original meaning, but not to replace the first one. Therefore, let us back up one verse and look at this first issuance of the "eye for eye" passage in its full context:

**"If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine.**

"<sup>23</sup> **But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, <sup>24</sup> eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, <sup>25</sup> burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.**

"<sup>26</sup> **If a man strikes the eye of his male or female servant, and destroys it, he shall let him go free for the sake of his eye.** <sup>27</sup> **And if he knocks out the tooth of his male or female servant, he shall let him go free for the sake of his tooth.**" (Ex. 21:22-27)

This command is given in the context of two men fighting and a pregnant woman getting involved and becoming injured -- which causes her to give birth prematurely.

If the child does not die or is not maimed, they go before a Judge to see what monetary compensation the court will impose on the man who was responsible. In this case the Judge determines what compensation should be given to cover expenses and probably, what we call today, "pain and suffering."

However, if the child is maimed or dies, then the *Torah* seems to say that the man responsible should be maimed or killed. However, remember, that the principle of compensation has already been established, therefore -- in practice this passage was understood to mean that the man would have to pay a certain penalty (no doubt much more severe) based upon what the Judges determined the value of an eye, etc. to be.

The fact that compensation is the preferred penalty is further confirmed by the specific penalty stipulated for the eye or the tooth of a male or female

slave. Rather than giving a slave monetary compensation (they were slaves where would they spend it?) they were given their freedom. There is no indication the master who caused the injury had to give up his eye or tooth in retribution.

### ~ Origin of the "Evil Law" Concept ~

The idea that the Old Testament Laws were "evil" stems from a religious philosophy called *Gnosticism* -- an ancient philosophy going back at least to the time of *Plato*, but, in all probability, much earlier. A major tenet of *Gnosticism*, as it was later applied to Christianity, was that the God of the OT was like an evil pagan god who bound the children of Israel with harsh vindictive laws. He was sometimes called the *Demiurge*.

Then along came the son Jesus (*Y'shua*) who rebelled against his Father and brought a better religion based upon love. Thus, Christian *Gnosticism* pits Jesus and His Father against one another -- despite the fact that *Y'shua* clearly stated:

**"I and My Father are one."**

(John 10:30)

Some *Gnostics* taught a form of asceticism -- forbidding to marry or indulge in pleasures of the flesh. However, a different school of Christian *Gnosticism* taught just the opposite. They said it did not matter what one did in the flesh as long as the "spiritual" man remained pure.

While *Gnosticism*, in its original form, is no longer admitted to by Christian denominations, nevertheless its effect can be seen in some of the modern teachings of Christianity -- especially those related to *Antinomianism*.

### ~ Torah Love ~

We turn now to the main topic of this article -- that the *Written Torah* is a document which reflects the Love God has for His people, the called out ones. The Apostle John taught that God is the very embodiment of love:

**"And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in**

**love abides in God, and God in him."**  
(I John 4:16)

The question today is: Can God's Love for His people be substantiated when one examines the 613 Commandments found in the Old Testament? There are many Scriptures which instruct the children of Israel to love God, but there are few which actually state that God loves His people. However, one of them is found in:

**"The LORD [YHVH] your God  
in your midst,  
The Mighty One, will save;  
He will rejoice over you with  
gladness,  
He will quiet you with His love,  
He will rejoice over you with  
singing..."** (Zeph. 3:17)

The prophet *Ezekiel* speaks about a time of love between God and the children of Israel -- the implication is that love travels in both directions -- from God to man and from man to God:

**"When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine,' says the Lord GOD [Elohim]."** (Ezek. 16:8)

God expressed His love by entering into a Covenant with the children of Israel. In addition, there are a number of Hebrew Scriptures which speak about God's *chesed* חֶסֶד (Strong's 2617) or "lovingkindness" toward His people. This word is not found in the *Torah* itself, but there are 34 usage's of *chesed* in other parts of the Hebrew Scriptures -- for example:

**"I will mention the  
lovingkindnesses [*chesed*] of  
the LORD [YHVH]  
And the praises of  
the LORD [YHVH],  
According to all that the LORD  
[YHVH] has bestowed on us,  
And the great goodness toward  
the house of Israel,  
Which He has bestowed on them  
according to His mercies,  
According to the multitude of  
His lovingkindnesses [*chesed*].**

**<sup>8</sup> For He said,  
"Surely they are My people,  
Children who will not lie."  
So He became their Savior."**  
(Isa. 63:7-8)

Even though there are few direct statements in the Hebrew Scriptures where it plainly states "God loves us" -- there are many passages which demonstrate His love for His people:

**"And you will again obey the voice of the LORD [YHVH] and do all His commandments which I command you today. <sup>9</sup> The LORD [YHVH] your God will make you abound in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your land for good. For the LORD [YHVH] will again rejoice over you for good as He rejoiced over your fathers, <sup>10</sup> if you obey the voice of the LORD [YHVH] your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this Book of the Law, and if you turn to the LORD [YHVH] your God with all your heart and with all your soul."**  
(Deut. 30:8-10)

This passage shows how God "rejoices" over His people when they return to the path of obedience to *Torah* and agree to keep His covenant and his Law (*Torah*). Other similar passages are:

**"If the LORD [YHVH] delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, "a land which flows with milk and honey."**  
(Num. 14:8)

**"Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them in this land, with all My heart and with all My soul.' <sup>42</sup> For thus says the LORD [YHVH]: 'Just as I have brought all this great calamity on this people, so I will bring on them all the good that I have promised them.'**  
(Jer. 32:41-42)

### ~ God's Love in Greek ~

While the Hebrew Scriptures are somewhat sparse in their direct statements that God loves us, the Greek Scriptures contain a number of passages

which directly express this thought. This revealing of God's Love for His people was a portion of the "Good News" (the *Gospel*) which *Y'shua* was commissioned to proclaim:

**"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."**  
(John 3:16-17)

This thought is fleshed out further by the Apostle Paul:

**"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ [Messiah] died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ [Messiah] died for us."**  
(Rom. 5:6-8)

The Apostle John makes, what *Antinomians* might consider a startling statement, connecting the love of God directly to His Commandments:

**"Whoever believes that Jesus [Y'shua] is the Christ [Messiah] is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.**

**"<sup>12</sup> By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. <sup>13</sup> For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.**

**"<sup>14</sup> For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world -- our faith. <sup>15</sup> Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus [Y'shua] is the Son of God?"**  
(I John 5:1-5)

John's statement that the "love of God" is the keeping of the commandments brings us right back to the Hebrew Scriptures which teach over and over that if a man loves God he will be striving to keep God's commandments as contained in the *Written Torah*:

**"And now, Israel, what does the LORD [YHVH] your God require of you, but to fear the LORD [YHVH] your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD [YHVH] your God with all your heart and with all your soul,<sup>13</sup> and to keep the commandments of the LORD [YHVH] and His statutes which I command you today for your good?"**

(Deut. 10:12-13)

With all of this in mind, let us turn to an examination of a few of the 613 commandments found in the *Torah* which demonstrate God's Love toward His people through the terms and conditions of His Covenant with the children of Israel.

#### ~ Love in the Commandments ~

Following is a small sampling -- which shows the great love God has for His people by giving them such a perfect set of laws. That is exactly what *Moshe* (Moses) told the children of Israel just before they crossed into the *Promised Land* -- prior to his death:

**"For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD [YHVH] our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? <sup>8</sup> And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?"**

(Deut. 4:7-8)

David amplified this teaching:

**"The law of the LORD [YHVH] is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD [YHVH] is sure, making wise the simple; <sup>8</sup> The statutes of the LORD [YHVH] are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD [YHVH] is pure, enlightening the eyes; ..."**

(Psalm 19:7-8)

In I John 5:3 we read "His commandments are not burdensome." This is exactly the same thing *Moshe* told the children of

Israel just before they entered the *Promised Land*:

**"For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. <sup>12</sup> It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?"**

**"<sup>13</sup> Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?" <sup>14</sup> But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.**

**"<sup>15</sup> See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, <sup>16</sup>in that I command you today to love the LORD [YHVH] your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD [YHVH] your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess."**

(Deut. 30:11-16)

#### ~ Some Specific Commandments ~

The following commandments are a small sampling of God's expression of love for His people. They show how their observance can bring blessings to the people of God.

Note: We are working from a list of the 613 commandments which was compiled and classified by *Rambam* (Moses ben Maimon (1135-1204). It is taken from his book, *Mishneh Torah*, and is listed in the book *Bible Basics* by Jerome S. Hahn. In addition to the actual statement of the commandments are codes indicating whether that command is applicable today and, if so, how and to whom it applies.

The first commandment listed is:

#1 -- "To know there is a God."

**"I am the LORD [YHVH] your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."**

(Ex. 20:2)

How is this commandment an expression of God's Love? Because God was not required to reveal Himself to anyone. He is the Creator of the

universe and could have chosen to hide Himself if He so desired. Yet, instead, He chose to reveal Himself, not just to a single individual, but to a whole nation of people and will, eventually, to the entirety of the world. God wants all people to come to Him through *Y'shua* and receive salvation:

**"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,<sup>4</sup> who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."**

(I Tim. 2:3-4)

It is wonderful to know who the God of the universe really is, and to know that He offers all men eternal life through His Son *Y'shua*!

This command applies to everyone everywhere.

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#87 -- "To rest on the seventh day."

**"Six days you shall do your work, and on the seventh day you shall rest, that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your female servant and the stranger may be refreshed."**

(Ex. 23:12)

Just think -- we do not have to work on the Sabbath. In fact, we are forbidden to work on that day and required to rest instead. According to *Bible Basics*, this commandment is for everyone everywhere and we totally agree. If all people would come to an observance of the Sabbath day the world would change from its pathway of evil to a pathway of good. The Sabbath day is a direct expression of God's love -- to give needed rest to all men -- if only they will accept that loving instruction:

**"And He said to them, 'The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. <sup>28</sup>Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.'**

(Mark 2:27-28)

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#138 through #161 -- (All dealing with forbidden sexual relations.)

**"None of you shall approach anyone who is near of kin to him, to uncover his nakedness: I am the LORD [YHVH]."**

(Lev. 18:6)

To "uncover a person's nakedness" is a Hebrew idiom meaning to have sexual relations with that person.

God loves His people and knows that heinous crimes are sometimes committed in the sexual realm among family members. People who are forced into such relationships may never be able to forgive the perpetrator. This is really an avoidable tragedy. If only men would listen to the loving instructions of a loving God (instead of their fleshly pulls) these things would not happen.

By avoiding prohibited sexual encounters, men and women are able to live a life knowing they are within God's will concerning their relationships:

**"Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.<sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? <sup>20</sup>For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."**

(I Cor. 6:18-20)

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#211 -- "Not to deny possession of something entrusted to you."

#212 -- "Not to swear in denial of a monetary claim."

**"You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another."**

(Lev. 19:11)

Some cultures tolerate or even encourage people to get whatever they can by whatever means possible. It would be wonderful if all thieves, crooks, and extortioners ceased cheating and stealing. Society would be transformed overnight! Truly, God's law is a Law of Love:

**"Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need."** (Eph. 4:28)

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#499 -- "Buy and sell according to Torah law."

#500 -- "Not to overcharge or underpay for an article."

**"And if you sell anything to your neighbor or buy from your neighbor's hand, you shall not oppress [maltreat or do wrong to] one another."** (Lev. 25:14)

These two commands are consistent with the previous two (211 & 212). Again, such laws are needed in order to have a righteous and peaceful society.

**"He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, But he who honors Him has mercy on the needy."**

(Prov. 14:31)

Here is how John the Baptist instructed the soldiers who were coming to him for the baptism of repentance:

**"Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, 'And what shall we do?' So he said to them, 'Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages.'**

(Luke 3:14)

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One of the problems modern society faces, concerns the anti-Torah judgments handed down by our Judicial System. There are 74 commandments in the Torah which apply to judgment. The following three lead off this section:

#540 -- "Appoint Judges."

**"You shall appoint judges and officers in all your gates, which the LORD [YHVH] your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with just judgment."** (Deut. 16:18)

#541 -- "Not to appoint judges who are not familiar with judicial procedure."

**"You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small as well as the great; you shall not be afraid in any man's presence, for the judgment is God's. The case that is too hard for you, bring to me, and I will hear it."** (Deut. 1:17)

#542 -- "Decide by [a] majority [of Judges] in case of disagreement."

**"You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice."** (Ex. 23:2)

The last one (#542) is what happened to *Y'shua*, who was condemned by a few of the chief priests who then fired up the crowd of common people to call for His crucifixion. Nicodemus referenced this law when he spoke to the chief priests and Pharisees concerning *Y'shua*:

**"Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus [*Y'shua*] by night, being one of them) said to them, <sup>51</sup> 'Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?'"**

(John 7:50-51)

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As we have already seen, one verse of Scripture can yield more than one of the 613 commandments. A case in point are four commandments all derived out of Lev. 19:15:

**"You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor."** (Lev. 19:15)

#588 -- "The Judge must not have mercy on the poor man at the trial."

#559 -- "The Judge must not respect the great man at the trial."

#561 -- "The Judge must not pervert justice."

#563 -- "Judge righteously."

Once again we must think about how our modern nations would be transformed if all of them had righteous Judges. Nevertheless, righteous judgment can be fulfilled by each one of us in certain situations. For example:

**"My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ [*Y'shua HaMashiach*], the Lord of glory, with partiality. <sup>2</sup> For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes,<sup>3</sup> and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes**

and say to him, 'You sit here in a good place,' and say to the poor man, 'You stand there,' or, 'Sit here at my footstool,' <sup>4</sup> have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

<sup>5</sup> Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? <sup>6</sup> But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts?

<sup>7</sup> Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?

<sup>8</sup> If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself,' you do well; <sup>9</sup> but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors."

(James 2:1-9)

As James pointed out, we all can practice righteous judgment in our dealings with other people thereby putting into action the Love of God. This is especially important when dealing with brethren in the Body of Messiah -- but it also applies to anyone with whom we come in contact. *Y'shua* taught that it is better to let someone take advantage of you than to cause major problems in one's fellowship or community:

"**You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."** <sup>39</sup> But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. <sup>40</sup> If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. <sup>41</sup> And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. <sup>42</sup> Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

<sup>43</sup> 'You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy." <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good,

and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

<sup>46</sup> 'For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? <sup>48</sup> Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.'" (Matt. 5:38-48)

However, if you see someone taking advantage of a widow, orphan, or stranger, then it is time to speak out, for God hates those who take advantage of the helpless:

**"Cursed is the one who perverts the justice due the stranger, the fatherless, and widow."** (Deut. 27:19)

#### ~ Tabernacle Laws ~

One other area, which is sometimes condemned by *antinomian* types, concern the *Tabernacle* sacrifices. Some wonder why God required the Israelites to kill all of those "poor little animals." What they often fail to realize is that when a person commits a sin that goes unforgiven -- the penalty which results from that sin is death. Therefore, God introduced the principle of "substitutionary sacrifices" so that a truly repentant person could express his joy that he had been forgiven and was now free of the death penalty his sin had carried. This was done by offering an animal as a sin offering to substitute for the sinner who was bringing the offering.

The first animal sacrifice occurred in the *Garden of Eden* when God made skins from animals to cover the nakedness of *Adam* and *Chava* (Eve):

**"Also for Adam and his wife the LORD [YHVH] God made tunics of skin, and clothed them."** (Gen. 3:21)

Another recorded "substitutionary sacrifice" occurred when Abraham offered up Isaac on the altar:

**"And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. <sup>11</sup> But the Angel of the LORD [YHVH] called to him from heaven and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' So he said, 'Here I am.'**

<sup>112</sup> And He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.'

<sup>113</sup> Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son."

(Gen. 22:10-13)

The ultimate "substitutionary sacrifice" was, of course, *Y'shua*, who offered up His very own life in order that our sins might be removed and we might live:

**"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,<sup>28</sup> so Christ [Messiah] was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation."**

(Heb. 9:27-28)

Obviously, there are many more of the 613 commandments which could be referenced. Hopefully, this brief survey is enough to show that God truly cares about His people and that He gave a marvelous body of laws which, if they had been observed by the children of Israel, would have made them a great and prosperous nation down through the ages.

#### ~ Other Areas ~

Some of the other areas where God gave commandments which express His love include:

- ◆ The Festivals, which teach God's plan for mankind. (See our booklet *Celebrate the Festivals*.)
- ◆ The *Land Sabbath*, which gives the land an opportunity to rejuvenate every seven years.
- ◆ The *Food Laws*, which keep us from eating food that may not be in our best interests, either physically or spiritually. (See our booklet *To Eat or Not to Eat*.)

- ◆ Leaving part of one's crop for the poor to glean, so they too can be blessed with an adequate amount of food. (See our booklet: *A Believer's Guide to Complete Righteousness*.)
- ◆ Commandments concerning *Lashon Hara* (the Evil Tongue) which would stop all gossip and the speaking of evil about other people, thereby promoting harmony in relationships. (See our booklet: *Guarding the Tongue*, or our pamphlet: *Stamp Out Lashon Hara* for more information.)
- ◆ Commandments concerning damages -- when someone's property is damaged by another person. (See our booklet: *Righteous Judgment in Community*.)
- ◆ And finally, the strict commandments against idolatry. These are most important, because all idolatry comes directly or indirectly from *HaSatan* (*Satan* the devil) and is designed, by him, to draw men and women away from the One true God -- thereby leading a person towards eternal death rather than eternal life. (See our booklet: *Death and Resurrection*.)

**~ Summary ~**

The *Torah* is not a book of evil laws given by a harsh and vindictive God -- it is a book of loving instruction given by a Loving Father for the good of His children.

While some Old Testament commandments may seem harsh in the extreme (especially those dealing with the settlement of the *Promised Land*), the truth is they were necessary for the cleansing of the Land so the children of Israel could dwell there in righteousness and peace.

The idea that the Father's law (found in the Old Testament) is evil, while the Son's law of "love" (of the New Testament) is good, is a false

teaching which comes directly from *Gnosticism*. The truth is, all of God's laws (both Old and New Testament) are an expression of God's love and were established for the good of His people. All of the *Torah* commandments -- if applied in the manner in which God intended -- help to produce the *Fruits of the Spirit*:

**"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."** (Gal. 5:22-23)

Our God is a God of complete and total love. Therefore, in His great mercy He sent His Son *Y'shua* to pay the price of the "substitutionary sacrifice" for the sins of all mankind. Likewise He will not grant eternal punishing (ever burning hell) to those who prefer to follow the sins of *Satan* the devil. Rather, He will put them out of their misery by casting them into the *Lake of Fire* where they will receive eternal death.

On the other hand, those who accept the blood of *Y'shua* will be granted eternal life in the *Kingdom of Heaven*:

**"How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings."**

(Psalm 36:7)

Therefore, let us turn our hearts toward God and His loving commandments and long for the day when we will be changed from flesh to spirit -- from mortal to immortal -- when we will be granted the power to never, ever, sin again:

**"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption."**

**"<sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed -- <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup>For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.'"**

(I Cor. 15:50-54)

Shalom,

DEW & SAW

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*Ob, how I love Your law!  
It is my meditation all the day.  
You, through Your commandments,  
Make me wiser than my enemies;  
For they are ever with me.*

*Psalm 119:97-98*

# Miraculous Healing - Part I

## Does God Still Heal Today?

If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God  
 And do what is right in His sight,  
 Give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes,  
 I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians.  
 For I am the LORD who heals you.

*Exodus 15:26*

by Tim Kelley

**W**hy don't we see healings today like they did in Biblical times?

This is a question that is often heard today. When we see a person – especially a young believer – lying on a bed with his life quickly evaporating, we wonder why God doesn't hear the countless prayers being offered on the young person's behalf. How can a God that clothes the birds in the air and counts the hairs on our head, not intervene and heal a person who loves Him and walks in His way?

When believers talk about healing, they oftentimes mean "miraculous healings." Most Bible students understand that God designed the human body to pretty much heal itself. They also know that it often takes someone with knowledge of the human anatomy to set a bone or bring down a fever. Though these types of human intervention are widely considered to be part of the natural healing process, they are not considered "miraculous." Neither are most surgical operations considered to be "miraculous healings."

### ~ Does God Heal Today? ~

To the majority of believers, a "miraculous healing" takes place when a person is healed without medical intervention or after all medical options have been exhausted. A perfect example of this is the New Testament

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story of the woman who for twelve years suffered with the same infirmity:

"**A**nd there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed [therapeuo] by anyone.<sup>44</sup> She came up behind him [Y'shua] and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased ... <sup>47</sup> And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed [iaomai]."

(Luke 8:43-44, 47 ESV)

This is a classic example of what we normally think about when it comes to "miraculous healings," a healing that takes place after all other options have failed to provide the desired results. This is the type of healing we would like to see – especially if the person, on their deathbed, is a friend or family member.

So what does the Bible have to say about this miraculous healing? There is much that can be said, but in this study I want to focus on three points:

- ◆ Our understanding of healing and God's understanding might not be the same.
- ◆ Many, if not most miraculous healings were performed for a purpose.
- ◆ The frequency of Biblical healings is probably less than we thought.

After discussing those points, we will try to answer the original question – "Why don't we see these types of healings today?"

### ~ Healed? ~

So what does it mean to be "healed?" In Luke's account of the above story, he used two different words that were both translated "healed." In verse 43, the Greek word is *therapeuo* (Strong's 2323) which literally means "to serve." It comes from the root word *theros* (2330) which means "to heat." *Therapeuo* is connected to healing by the understanding that anciently, when a person was sick, it was considered most important that the sick person be kept warm. Thus, someone would cover the sick person with blankets, applying warm towels, or even lie alongside the person in an attempt to keep him warm. The person that helped keep the person warm was the *therapeuo* ... they were there to "serve" the sick person. We see an example of that when a servant girl was brought to lie next to King David to keep him warm.<sup>1</sup> This may also be the case when Elijah and Elisha (in their respective cases) laid upon the person in an attempt to revive them.

*Therapeuo* is almost always translated "heal" in the New Testament, but is most often translated "servant" or "attendant" in the *Septuagint* [LXX].

The second instance of "heal" in the above account is in verse 47 where it is translated from the Greek word *iaomai* (ee-ah-om-ahee) (Strong's 2390). It is most often translated "heal" in the New Testament. Its Hebrew counterpart is *rasha* נָסַח (Strong's 7495). According to the BDB,<sup>2</sup> *rasha* means "to darn, mend, repair, and stitch together." Gesenius<sup>3</sup> states that the root is derived from the sound of a person sewing rapidly.

*Rasha* is an interesting word because it implies something that was

<sup>1</sup> I Kings 1:1-4 – the LXX used a derivative of *theros* in verse 2 that is translated in English as "warm."

<sup>2</sup> Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon; Francis Brown; Hendrickson Publishers; Peabody, MA; 14th printing in July 2012; pg. 950b

<sup>3</sup> Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon to the Old Testament; H.W.F. Gesenius; Baker Books; Grand Rapids, MI; 1979; pg. 775b.

whole, then split apart, then made whole again by sewing. For instance, a wound caused by a sword would need to be stitched together for it to heal properly. In other words, the healed person is "restored" to the way he was before.

The first place we see the word *rapha* is in the story of Abraham and Abimelech (Gen. 20). Abraham had moved toward the land of the Philistines and his wife was taken captive by Abimelech, the Philistine king. As a result, God closed the wombs of the Philistine women. After God spoke to Abimelech, he returned Sarah and subsequently God "healed" the wombs of the women. Thus the healing that took place was a restoration of their wombs to the way they were before Abraham arrived.

Thus "healing" in the Biblical sense is to fix the part that is broken. For instance, if a blind person stumbles and falls, breaking his arm, the setting of the broken bone and subsequent healing of the bone does not necessarily fix the blindness.

Another interesting point about the word *rapha* is that it is associated with the concept of "salvation" and "deliverance." In the above story of the woman being healed, Yeshua's answer to her was:

**"... 'Daughter, your faith has made you well [soza]; go in peace.'"**  
(Luke 8:48 ESV)

Here, the word "well" is translated from the Greek word *soza* (Strong's 4892) which means "to save, keep safe, to rescue from danger ..." This connection between "salvation" and "healing" is clearly established in Jeremiah's prayer for deliverance:

**"Heal [rapha] me, O LORD [YHVH], and I shall be healed; save [yasha] me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise."** (Jer. 17:14 ESV)

In this passage, the Hebrew word for "heal" is *rapha* and the Hebrew word for "save" is *yasha*, the word from which we get the name *Yeshua*. Because of this connection between salvation and healing, we oftentimes see the word *rapha* applied not only to the "healing" of the people, but also to the healing of nations, specifically

Israel – a nation that was split and is still in need of being "sewn back together."

### ~ The Purpose for Healing ~

Going back to our original question – "Why don't we see healings today like they did in Biblical times?" – we have to admit that the healings we are most aware of are those of Yeshua. It is clear from the gospel accounts that they helped prove to the masses that Yeshua was the promised Messiah. Based on that belief, when we have a friend or loved one whom we know will die without miraculous intervention, we sometimes appeal to God based on His glory. If that person is somewhat well known, either personally or through family connections, we make the argument that His glory and power would be revealed to many if He were to provide the healing. But is God's glory the main reason for Biblical healings?

Though we have not discussed the numerous other miracles that were performed in the Bible – those that may be labeled as "signs and wonders," when we include them in our study, you will find that for the most part, they occurred at four different time periods: the times of Moses, the times just after Solomon's kingdom was divided, the times of Yeshua, and the beginning of the ministry of the apostles.

The miracles performed in Moses' day were for the purpose of convincing Pharaoh and the Israelites that YHVH was greater than all the other presumed "gods."<sup>4</sup> Speaking to the second generation of Israelites, those who did not die in the wilderness, Moses said:

**"... 'has any god ever attempted to go and take a nation for himself from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, and by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great deeds of terror, all of which the LORD [YHVH] your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?'**<sup>5</sup> To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD [YHVH] is God; there is no other besides him."

(Deut. 4:34-35 ESV)

Though YHVH was waging a war with the King of Egypt via signs and

wonders, God's true purpose for those "signs and wonders" was to convince the Israelites that He alone was God.

After that time, there were relatively few miracles or healings for the next 400 years, but after the kingdom of Israel split and the northern kingdom of Israel continued in its downward spiral into idolatry, God sent the prophets Elijah and Elisha to the northern kingdom to direct the kings of Israel and to make it known to the nations surrounding Israel that God was directing the affairs of Israel.

Though we are all aware of how, in the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal, Elijah somewhat mockingly showed the ineptness of the "god" called Baal, however, many are not that familiar with the story of Elisha and the Syrian commander Naaman.

While Jehoram the son of Ahab was king of Israel, Naaman, the commander of the Syrian army got word that Elisha, Israel's prophet, could heal Naaman's leprosy. Naaman requested permission from the King of Syria to travel to Samaria for the purpose of the healing. The King of Syria subsequently sent a letter to Jehoram, the King of Israel stating that Naaman was headed that way to be healed. Jehoram threw a fit and rent his clothes fearing a Syrian conspiracy. Word got to Elisha the prophet that the king had rent his clothes, then responded by saying:

**"Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel."** (II Kings 5:8 ESV)

Elisha ultimately "healed" Naaman's leprosy, but not in the glamorous way Naaman expected, and he, as well as King Johoram, did come to see that there was indeed – a prophet in Israel. So here, just as it was in the time of Moses and in the time of Elijah, a healing took place so that the leaders would know that God – through the prophets,<sup>5</sup> directs the affairs of Israel.

When we get to Yeshua's day we find that His signs, wonders, and

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<sup>4</sup> See [https://www.amiyisrael.org/articles/ByFaithMoses/By\\_Faith\\_Moses.html](https://www.amiyisrael.org/articles/ByFaithMoses/By_Faith_Moses.html) for information on the Egyptian gods of Moses' day.

<sup>5</sup> Moses was considered a prophet – Deut. 34:10.

specifically His healings were for the purpose of convincing His disciples, as well as the crowds that were drawn by His healings, that He was the long-expected Messiah. Practically everywhere He spoke, He also healed the sick:

**"And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.<sup>24</sup> So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them.<sup>25</sup> And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan."** (Matt. 4:23-25 ESV)

One example of how His healings drew a crowd was when Peter's mother-in-law was healed. On a particular Sabbath, Yeshua was teaching in the synagogue when He was challenged by a man with an demonic spirit. After casting out the spirit, the people were amazed and immediately began to spread the word about this new teacher. Later that day, Yeshua went to Peter's house and healed his mother-in-law. Word of this apparently got around as well, and as the scripture says:

**"Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them."** (Luke 4:40 ESV)

This happened over and over again. Yeshua would show up in town to proclaim His "kingdom" message, a crowd would gather expecting to be healed, and Yeshua would heal them ...causing more crowds to gather the next time. Matthew summarizes His ministry by saying:

**"And Jesus [Y'shua] went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction."** (Matt. 9:35 ESV)

Yeshua taught the people the prophecies of the "coming" Messiah, proclaimed the message of the restoration of the Kingdom, then healed the people – which, of course, was what the prophets said the Messiah would do. The people came to see that Yeshua had already fulfilled the role of the "healing Messiah" and when some were asked, by those who still doubted, they responded:

**"... 'When the Christ [Messiah] appears, will He do more signs than this man has done?'"** (John 7:31 ESV)

Though many of the Jewish people had come to believe that Yeshua was indeed the promised Messiah, Yeshua's focus was really on His disciples. He knew that His ministry would be rather short, and that the majority of the work of proclaiming the message of the Kingdom would be borne by His disciples. Thus it was imperative that they clearly understood who He was. He knew that when He died, they would stumble for a moment, but as they recalled all that He had done, they would rebound and do the job that He had trained them to do. Therefore, as the end of His ministry drew near, He focused on giving them evidence that would support their faith, and one of the most convincing pieces of evidence would be the resurrection of Lazarus.<sup>6</sup>

Yeshua and His disciples were in Judea on the eastern side of the Jordan when Yeshua received word that Lazarus was deathly ill, but instead of leaving immediately to make the day's journey to Lazarus' home, Yeshua stayed put for two days. Knowing that Lazarus had already been dead for over two days, Yeshua finally decided to leave for Bethany. On the way, He said:

**"... 'Lazarus has died,<sup>15</sup> and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe . . .'"**

(John 11:14-15 ESV)

By the time Yeshua and His disciples arrived, Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days. Though Yeshua, as well as Elijah and Elisha had each

resurrected persons from the dead, not one of those persons had been dead for more than a few hours. Knowing this – and knowing that those standing around Him knew this – Yeshua instructed them to remove the stone from the tomb, and He prayed:

**"Father, I thank you that you have heard me.<sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me."** (John 11:41-42 ESV)

As we know, while still wrapped in grave clothes, Lazarus walked out of the tomb unassisted. Yeshua had shown His disciples that – like the prophet had said - He had power over the grave.<sup>7</sup>

As we can see, the role of healing in Yeshua's ministry was so that He could draw a crowd, teach the crowd the prophecies of the Kingdom, then convince them that He was the prophesied Messiah through His words that were backed up by signs and the healings.

Though the resurrection of Lazarus was one of Yeshua's last miraculous healings, it was not the end of healing in the New Testament. The work of the disciples would also require signs and wonders so that they could draw a crowd as well. Therefore Yeshua taught them how to use that power very early in their training. After calling them to be His disciples, He said to them:

**"... 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans,<sup>6</sup> but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.<sup>7</sup> And proclaim as you go, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand."<sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons.'**

(Matt. 10:5-8 ESV)

Yeshua wanted them to follow the same pattern that had worked for Himself, Moses, and the prophets – proclaim the message then back up your words with signs and wonders. After Yeshua was resurrected and had ascended to His Father, Mark writes:

**"And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the**

<sup>6</sup> See more on the resurrection of Lazarus at: [http://www.amiyisrael.org/articles/Sukkot\\_to\\_Passover.htm](http://www.amiyisrael.org/articles/Sukkot_to_Passover.htm).

<sup>7</sup> Deuteronomy 32:39.

**message by accompanying signs."**  
(Mark 16:20 ESV)

### ~ The Disciples ~

The first recorded sign of the disciples was when Peter and John were entering the gates of the Temple and found a 40+ year old man sitting at the corner of one of the Temple gates. The man was lame from birth and had been taken there to beg every morning for years. It is very likely the disciples knew he would be there and used this opportunity to "kick off" their ministry.

As they approached the gate, the lame man asked them for alms, but instead of giving him money, they said to him "**Rise up and walk.**" (Acts 3:6). This brought instant notoriety to the disciples, after all, the Temple gates were very crowded being that this was the time of the morning sacrifice (3:1) and those who would be passing through would be expecting to see the lame man as they passed by. That morning they were in for a surprise as they saw the man literally leap up off the floor. It was clear that this man had been instantly healed.

As Peter and John made their way on the Temple grounds to the place called "Solomon's Porch" the formerly lame man stayed with them and the curious crowds began to follow him, growing as they went. It was there that Peter was able to speak the message of the prophets to the crowds.<sup>8</sup>

Here again, it was a healing that drew the crowds so that the message could be proclaimed.

This event led to Peter and John being arrested, but because the Jewish leaders could find nothing for which to charge them, they were released the next day. After reuniting with the other disciples, Peter prayed saying:

**"And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness,<sup>30</sup> while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus [Y'shua]."**

(Acts 4:29-30 ESV)

So we see that the miraculous healings we find throughout the Bible were for the most part intended to bring

notoriety to the one through whom the healing was performed so that he could draw a crowd and proclaim a message. But how often did that happen? When we think about miraculous healings in "Biblical" times, we somehow have the idea that healings were a common occurrence. But is that really the case? Let's examine:

### ~ The Frequency of Healings ~ ~ In the Bible ~

When you exclude the three corporate plagues placed on Israel<sup>9</sup> and the women for whom God opened their wombs, there are only eight instances of miraculous healing in the *Tanakh*. They are:

1. King Jeroboam of Israel whose hand became withered, then restored (I Kings 13:4-6)
2. Elijah raised the widow of Zarephath's son from the dead (I Kings 17:17-22)
3. Elisha raised the Shunammite woman's son (II Kings 4:20-37)
4. Naaman was healed from leprosy after following Elisha's instructions (II Kings 5:1-14)
5. A dead man came back to life after coming in contact with Elisha's bones II King 13:20-21)
6. Hezekiah was healed and his life was extended 15 years (II Kings 20:1-11)
7. Job was healed after praying for his friends (Job 42:10)
8. Nebuchadnezzar was healed (Daniel 4:34)

All of these events took place within a roughly 500 year period, making the frequency of recorded healings approximately one every 63 years. This is not very often. On the other hand, there were numerous recorded healings in the first century CE. The healings performed by Yeshua include:

1. Healing the nobleman's son (John 4:46-52)
2. Peter's mother-in-law healed (Luke 4:38-39)

<sup>8</sup> Acts 3:12-26.

<sup>9</sup> Aaron carrying incense throughout the camp (Num. 16:46-48), Moses' fiery serpent (Num. 21:8-9), David purchasing the threshingfloor of Araunah the Jebusite (II Sam. 24:24).

3. Many sick brought to Him the same night he healed Peter's mother-in-law (Luke 4:40)

4. A leper healed (Luke 5:12)

5. A man sick with a palsy (Luke 5:18)

6. The man infirm for 38 years at the Pool of Bethsaida (John 5:5-9)

7. The man with the withered right hand (Luke 6:6-10)

8. Large group from Judea and NW Samaria came to be healed (Luke 6:17-19)

9. Centurion's servant healed (Luke 7:1-10)

10. The widow's dead son resurrected in Nain (Luke 7:11-15)

11. The blind and deaf man healed (Luke 11:14)

12. Jairus's twelve year old daughter raised from the dead (Luke 8:41-42; 49-46)

13. Woman with the issue of blood (Luke 8:43-48)

14. Two blind men (Matt 9:27-31)

15. A dumb man healed (Matt. 9:32-33)

16. Many sick by the Sea of Galilee (Matt. 14:34-36)

17. The man who was deaf and could not speak clearly (Mark 7:32-37)

18. The Bethsaida man who was blind (a two-part healing) (Mark 8:22:25)

19. The woman bent forward for 18 years (Luke 13:11-13)

20. Man with dropsy (Luke 14:1-4)

21. Lazarus raised from the dead (John 11:1-45)

22. Ten lepers healed (Luke 17:12-18)

23. Blind man in Jericho (Luke 18:35-43)

24. High Priest's servant's ear restored (Luke 22:49-51)

There were at least 24 recorded instances where Yeshua healed an individual, or a group of individuals. This does not include the times He cast out demons, or the healings that were performed by His disciples while He was still alive. In His 42 month ministry, He averaged about 1 healing every 7 weeks.

After Yeshua's resurrection, the disciples continued to perform miraculous healings. Luke records those healings beginning with the ones

performed by Peter, then those of Paul. They include:

1. A lame beggar was healed by Peter and John at the Temple (Acts 3:8)

2. Infirm people were brought out into the street waiting for Peter's shadow to pass over them (Acts. 5:14-15)

3. People were brought to Jerusalem from neighboring towns to be healed (Acts. 5:16)

4. Philip healed those who were lame or with palsies (Acts 8:5-8)

5. Aeneas was healed of an 8-year palsy by Peter (Acts 9:32-34)

6. Dorcus (the seamstress) was resurrected from the dead by Peter (Acts 9:36-41)

7. Paul healed the man who had never walked (Acts 14:8-10)

8. Eutychus was resurrected by Paul after falling out of a loft (Acts 20:7-12)

9. Publius's father was healed of a fever and infection (Acts 28:7-9)

It is believed that the book of Acts covers a time period beginning in the spring of 29 CE and continuing for 35 years. If that is correct, there was one recorded healing approximately every four years.

From what we see, the frequency of miraculous healings is relatively few and far between. Obviously, they were not spaced out evenly, in fact the healings found in the book of Acts probably all took place within the first few years of the respective apostle's calling. Nevertheless, they were not an everyday occurrence. In regards to resurrecting people from the dead, it happened three times in the days of the prophets, three times by Yeshua, and twice by the apostles (Peter and Paul) ... that is eight times in roughly 4000 years -- again, not a common occurrence.

With that understanding, let us begin to answer the question "Why don't we see miraculous healings today like there were in Biblical times?"

### ~ Miraculous Healings Today ~

As we just saw, healings and resurrections from the dead were not a common occurrence in the Bible, and for a good reason – when things become commonplace, they lose their

notoriety. Take for instance, the four minute mile. Up until 1954, no competitive runner had been able to run a mile in four minutes or less, but that year a British runner named Roger Bannister broke that barrier with a mile run of 3 minutes and 59 seconds. Just weeks later, that record was broken by another runner and today, the ability to run a four minute mile has become the benchmark for competitive runners and no longer makes the headlines.

Since miraculous healings appear to be the preferred way by which Yeshua and the disciples brought recognition to their mission and ministry -- if they were to become commonplace, they would lose their effectiveness. Therefore, it is my opinion that God has chosen to avoid public healings until the time comes when He will again need to bring recognition to His people.

Does that mean that God is not healing today? Not at all! It is quite likely that there are numerous "miraculous healings" happening every day, it is just that He is not having it broadcast to the world. You will recall that Yeshua did the same thing. He would quite often tell the beneficiary of a miraculous healing to not tell anyone what He had done.<sup>10</sup> It apparently was not the right time.

God does heal today ... it is one of His names! Just three days after Israel walked between two towering walls of water and then saw those same walls of water crashing down on their enemy, they themselves ran out of water to drink. They arrived at a pool of water, but the water was not fit to drink. So they did the typical Israelite thing -- they began to complain. At that point, the text says that YHVH showed Moses a tree, but the Hebrew could also be read "YHVH tossed him a stick." Then Moses cast the stick into the water, and the water was made good to drink.

Think about that for a moment. The people think they are in dire straits, but God just tosses Moses a stick and says "just throw that in the water and it will fix the problem." I look at that as God saying to Moses - and to us -- "Hey, look how easy it is for Me to turn

<sup>10</sup> Matt 8:4, 9:30; Mark 7:36; Luke 5:14, 8:56.

<sup>11</sup> II Kings 13:14.

a bad situation into a good one." God then made them a promise. He said:

"... If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD [YHVH] your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD [YHVH], your healer."

(Ex. 15:26 esv)

In essence, God said to Israel "My name is YHVH *Raphecha* – the one who stitches you up;" and just as Yeshua, in his last act of healing, stitched the ear back on the head of the High Priest's servant (figuratively speaking), God can take out his needle and thread and fix us up just like our mom's were able to fix our dolls and teddy bears making them as good as new.

We should continue to turn to God to get fixed, using any tools He has made available, but if it appears that He is not going to heal, we don't need to blame ourselves. Even Elisha – a prophet who had both healed and raised people from the dead, eventually died from an illness.<sup>11</sup>

Let us go forward in our walk, remembering the words of the apostle John, the disciple that Yeshua loved:

"Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul."

(III John 1:2 esv)

To be continued --

Shalom Aleichem

Tim Kelley

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Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons.
Mark 1:34

Miraculous Healing - Part II

Effective Prayer for Healing

Confess your trespasses to one another,
And pray for one another,
That you may be healed.

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
James 5:16

by Tim Kelley

Why don't we see healings today like they did in "Biblical times?" is a question that we began to answer in Part One of this message. In that part, we saw that when you exclude the three places where healing took place on a "corporate" level (i.e. – after a plague brought on the people because of murmuring or lawlessness) and the number of places where a barren woman was able to have children, there were relatively few "miraculous healings" in Old Testament times.

On the other hand, we found that there were many more "miraculous healings" in New Testament times. Those healings were performed for the purpose of bringing attention to Yeshua and His disciples in order to substantiate their message, which of course was that Yeshua was the promised Messiah, which the prophets had shown, would bring healing in His "wings."

But are their miraculous healings today? Many believe there are not, especially since we are living in a time when a person can post the need for a specific healing on the Internet and within minutes have hundreds, or maybe even thousands of people praying for the person to be healed, only to see the person eventually die.

After pondering this question for the past couple of months, I have begun to wonder if maybe we are focusing on the wrong thing. Maybe we are

focusing too much on getting a large number of people praying for the sick person, instead of focusing on having a few people praying effective prayers. Could it be that we should work more on the quality of our prayers than on the quantity of prayers. Maybe we need to do as Yeshua's disciples did and ask Him to "teach us to pray"¹ so that our prayers are more effective in reaching God's ears.

Unfortunately, we do not have that direct contact with Yeshua as they did, but I do believe He has provided guidelines within the scripture that will help us in our petitions to God for healing.

In this message, I will offer a number of suggestions on how to have effective prayer for those who are desperately in need of healing. Though I am focusing on healing, these suggestions might also help your overall prayer life.

~ All Healing Comes From God ~

Before we go into some of the mechanics of how to have effective prayer for healing, I think it is important that we understand what we are praying about.

As was mentioned in Part One, of this teaching, God is our healer. In Exodus 15:26 God calls Himself "YHVH Rophecha," -- "YHVH your healer." Like I said before, the Hebrew word for "heal" is *rasha* רָפֵא (Strong's 7495) which literally means "to stitch together." So when God heals us, it is as if he simply sewed us back together like a shirt that has been ripped at the sleeve and then the sleeve was sewn back on. It might have a scar, but it works like new.

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People seldom consider the fact that when you cut the tip of your finger with a knife, the body immediately begins to start the healing process. You do not have to call a doctor or even pray about it, it just happens. That is because God has made our bodies so that they attempt to heal themselves.

Sometimes the body needs a little assistance, so we clean the wound, put ointment on it, and attach a Band-Aid to stop the bleeding. By doing so, we did not heal the cut, but we did become our own "doctor." Then there are times the cut is so deep that it requires a stitch to hold it together while the healing takes place. In these cases, we simply go to a more highly trained doctor.

No matter how deep the cut is, once the skin has closed up, and there is nothing left but a little scar, we say to ourselves "it's all healed up!" In neither of these cases did we heal the wound, the wound healed itself, but only because God designed our bodies to do so.

So from a very early age, we understand that healing comes from God and that, in most cases, God "automatically" heals us. We do not doubt that it will heal; we do not pray that God will heal it; we simply believe that it will heal. Why? Because it has always done it before.

~ Compelled to Pray ~

In most cases, the only time we feel compelled to pray about healing is when we are faced with a situation where – despite all the assistance we or a doctor can give, the body does not appear to be healing itself. In that case, we want God to personally step in and take over the otherwise "automatic" healing process. It is not a question of "if can God heal," but rather "will God heal," and our goal in prayer is to convince God to do so.

Convincing God to intervene on our behalf might seem to be an overwhelming task, but it does happen. Take the case of King Hezekiah, a man who was so sick, he was about to die:

"In those days Hezekiah became sick and was at the point of death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him and said to him,

¹ Luke 11:1

"Thus says the LORD [YHVH], "Set your house in order, for you shall die; you shall not recover."

"¹² Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD [YHVH], saying, ³ 'Now, O LORD [YHVH], please remember how I have walked before you in faithfulness and with a whole heart, and have done what is good in your sight.'

"And Hezekiah wept bitterly. ⁴ And before Isaiah had gone out of the middle court, the word of the LORD [YHVH] came to him:

"⁵ 'Turn back, and say to Hezekiah the leader of my people, Thus says the LORD [YHVH] the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Behold, I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD [YHVH], ⁶ and I will add fifteen years to your life ...'" (II Kings 20:1-6 ESV)

Based on the text, it does not appear that Hezekiah prayed about healing at the onslaught of His illness. Only when he realized that he was dying did he reach out to God, and as a result of his prayer, God healed him within minutes.

Since we know that God can be convinced to heal us, let's begin to see what we can do to make our prayer for healing as effective as King Hezekiah's.

~ Preparation for Prayer ~

Once we have decided that we are going to attempt to convince God to step into our crisis, it is important that we prepare to pray. One might think that prayer is something you can do anytime, anywhere -- no preparation needed, and that is true; but what we

are talking about here is effective prayers, prayers for those who really need intervention; prayers where we really need God to consider our case. If we want our prayers to be effective, we need to prepare.

At the *Season of Our Joy* Feast of Tabernacle in 2002, a young boy attended who was confined to a wheelchair. Nevertheless, the boy was always happy and upbeat and made many friends. Toward the end of the festival, about 20 men got together as a group to ask prayer for the boy, but as we were gathering, one of the men asked "Is everyone prepared to pray?" Not knowing what he was really asking, we all looked at him with dumb looks on our faces while he opened his Bible to Matthew 5:21:

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.'

"²² 'But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment ... ²³ Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.'" (Matt. 5:21-24 NKJ)

What the man was trying to get across was that if we want our prayer to be heard, we need to do some house-cleaning first. In the Matthew passage, Yeshua was indicating that we need to work out our problems with our neighbors before entering into prayer. Does that mean we have to resolve all our problems with everyone before we pray? Not necessarily. What He said is

that if we are angry with a brother, but have no cause to be angry, then we should work that out first. We should go to that brother and attempt to work on the issue that is causing the anger.

*Have mercy on me, O LORD,
For I am weak;
O LORD, heal me,
For my bones are troubled.*

Psalm 6:2

Besides working out your issues with your brother, you should also work out any problems you may have with your spouse. In his letter to the believers in Asia Minor, Peter said:

"Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives ... ⁷ Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered." (I Peter 3:1 NKJ)

These issues between brothers and mates can apparently hinder your relationship with God so that He cannot hear. Peter's statement is supported by the prophet Isaiah.

"Behold, the LORD's [YHVH's] hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; ² but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear." (Isa. 59:1-2 ESV)

Though we might think that husband and wife spats might not reach the point of being called an "iniquity," it is interesting to note that a man being jealous of his wife (Numbers 5:31) or a woman making an improper vow (Numbers 30:15) are both considered to be iniquities.

The point is, how can we expect God to do some great work on our behalf if we are not willing to work out the problem we have with our brother. Working out these problems helps bring us in right standing with God – which is righteousness. James sums it up this way:

"... confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." (James 5:16 NIV)

~ Go to Your Closet ~

Once you have done what you can do to remove anything that might block God from hearing you, go to your closet.

When praying to God to step in and save your life or the life of a friend or loved one, you need to have all your focus on Him, after all, you are wanting the King of the Universe to stop what He is doing to pay attention to your requests. This is not the time for distractions like answering your phone, letting the cat out, or even going to the bathroom. Nor is it the time to let inhibitions hold you back or let pride get in the way of being frank with God. Therefore Yeshua said to go to your closet when you pray:

"But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you." (Matt. 6:6 ESV)

I believe that private prayer is the most effective prayer, and there are a number of reasons why I believe that way:

- ◆ In private prayer you can avoid distractions. You can lock the door, turn off the phone, and close the blinds so that only you and God are in the room.
- ◆ Your prayer is between you and God alone. You do not have to be concerned about what others might think.
- ◆ In private prayer you can remind God of your good works without fear of appearing to be boastful.
- ◆ In private prayer you can do things that would cause you to draw attention to yourself if they were done in public. For instance, you can prostrate yourself before God and cry out to Him.

We have an example of such in the scripture where Yeshua, though not in a private room, but being some distance from His disciples, did just that:

"And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled." ³⁸ Then he said to them, 'My soul is very

sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.'

³⁹ And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed . "

(Matt. 26:37-39 ESV)

There are also other things you can do in private that might enhance your prayers for the sick. David, as he laments to God about those who repay him evil for good, says:

"But I, when they were sick -- I wore sackcloth; I afflicted myself with fasting; I prayed with head bowed on my chest." (Psalm 35:13 ESV)

Obviously, fasting is a great tool in bringing you closer to God, but praying to God wearing nothing but sackcloth and with ashes on your head appears to

*Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And forget not all His benefits:
Who forgives all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases,
Who redeems your life from destruction,
Who crowns you with lovingkindness
And tender mercies,*
Psalm 103:2-4

be another effective way of reaching God. It was widely mentioned in the Old Testament. Daniel gives us a good example when he prayed to God for understanding in regards to the prophecies of Judah's return to the land:

"... in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the LORD [YHVH] to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

² "What the plaintiff in a lawsuit asks of the court -- for example, monetary damages, an injunction to make the defendant stop a certain activity, or both. The plaintiff usually makes a 'special prayer' for specific relief (for example, a monetary amount to recover for an injury), and then follows with an unspecified 'general prayer' to recover any additional amount not specified that a court decides is appropriate."

³Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. ⁴ I prayed to the LORD [YHVH] my God and made confession ." (Dan. 9:2-4 ESV)

In this example, Daniel received his answer just as he was ending his prayer.

Much more could be said about private prayer, but suffice it to say that since there is so little (if anything) said in the Scripture about public prayer, it appear that God prefers for us to pray as much as possible in private.

~ Make Your Case ~

In the judicial system, a "prayer" is what the plaintiff in a lawsuit asks of the court;² it is your specific requests for relief when you believe you have been harmed by another person or entity. Our prayers to God are much the same. We take our requests to the supreme Judge of the Universe, present our case – our reasons why the judge should rule in our favor – and await the judge's decision. Our role in prayer is to act as the attorney. We take the law, in this case, the Torah, and combine it with various reasons why God should rule on our behalf. And like an attorney, we need to be prepared to make our case BEFORE we approach the judge.

If you are praying on another person's behalf, it is important that you have done your "homework" so that you can present a convincing case to God. You might explain to God the family's situation and how the loss of a mate would cause tremendous harm to the family. You could tell Him about the sick person's responsibilities in the fellowship, and how some programs would cease unless the person is healed. Remind God what the person has done in the past to promote God's Kingdom work. And remind God that the person has always striven to walk in God's way.

Going back to Hezekiah's prayer, he said:

"Please, O LORD [YHVH], remember how I have walked before you in faithfulness and with a whole heart, and have done what is good in your sight'..." (Isa. 38:3 ESV)

You might also read God's words back to Him, reminding God of the promises He has made -- but be specific and make sure they fit the situation. This passage might be applicable:

"If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD [YHVH] your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD [YHVH], your healer."

(Ex. 15:26 ESV)

God is expecting you to make a case, so think out what you are going to say, write down your points, and deliver them in a convincing manner.

~ Pray According to God's Will ~

The woman with the issue of blood believed that if indeed Yeshua was the Messiah, she could be healed by simply touching the hem of His garment. Why? Because she believed the prophecies about Him and that it would be God's desire for her to take advantage of the prophecy. The prophecy she believed was:

"For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD [YHVH] of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings." (Mal. 4:1-2 ESV)

So when she realized Yeshua was coming into town, she positioned herself so that she could intercept Him as He was walking with the crowd:

"For she said, 'If I touch even his garments, I will be made well.'" (Mark 5:28 ESV)

If Yeshua was going to be able to convince His disciples that he was indeed the promised Messiah, He was

going to have to show them that He was the one who could fulfill the prophesies about the Messiah. Therefore, He needed sick people to come up to Him and touch the hem of His garment. By knowing God's will, and by being willing to be a part of it, the woman with the issue of blood helped fulfill God's will.

~ Be Persistent ~

Finally, we need to be persistent with our prayers. Though we do not clearly understand the mind of God, Yeshua seemed to indicate that one might change God's mind by simply flooding Him with the same petition. He gave this parable:

"And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ² He said,

"In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. ³ And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'

"⁶ And the Lord said, 'Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷ And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them?'"

(Luke 18:1-7 ESV)

~ Miraculous Healing ~

In this parable, Yeshua is not promoting the idea of having a large number of individuals praying for the same thing. Rather, He is talking about the same person bringing the same petition, but adding to it each time.

In court, you do not win the case by making the same argument over and over, you win by providing more and more evidence to support your case. Do you think the woman in this parable came back to the judge repeating the same words each time, or is it more likely that she came back with additional reasons why the judge should act on her behalf? I believe it is the latter – she came with more evidence.

I believe that when we come to God for healing, we should restate our case each time, but adding more and better reasons why He should act on our behalf. For example -- maybe you heard a story of how the sick person had done something kind for another person; maybe you found another scripture by which you can remind God of His promises; maybe the sick person's condition has become more desperate.

The point is, come to God often, each time building a bigger and better case.

~ Seek Godly People to Pray ~

I have given five points that can help us to have effective prayers, but this last point has more to do with who

Praise the LORD!

*For it is good to sing praises to our God;
For it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.*

*The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
He gathers together the outcasts of Israel.*

*He heals the brokenhearted
And binds up their wounds.*

*He counts the number of the stars;
He calls them all by name.*

*Great is our Lord, and mighty in power;
His understanding is infinite.*

Psalm 147:1-5

you ask to pray for you than it does "how to pray."

I started out talking about how in today's "information age" we are able to communicate a person's health situation and their need for prayers to hundreds or thousands of people in a matter of a few minutes. Today it takes very little effort to solicit help in a time of need. But it has not always been that way. When the Shunammitite woman's son died, she did not simply send out a text to everyone on her contact list asking them to pray, instead she saddled her donkey and went to Elisha, the man of God.

In many examples of Biblical healing, we find that the person who needed healing sought out the healer. Such was the case with the Shunammitite woman, Naaman the Syrian leper, Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue, the Centurion, and many others. All of these people went to, or sent someone to the healer and asked Him to come heal their loved one.

James, the brother of Yeshua, believed that this was protocol that should be followed when someone is sick, for he said:

"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

(James 5:14-15 ESV)

The New Testament is replete with examples of people being actively involved in the healing of their sick. For instance people living in the area of the Galilee would actually pick up the beds of those whose sickness cause them to be bedridden, and they would carry them to the place where they knew Yeshua would be in hope that they might touch the hem of His garment as He walked by (Matt. 14:34).

Later, people would do the same for their bedridden sick, taking them out into the street so that the shadow of Peter might fall on them (Acts 5:15). Years later, persons would go to Paul, seeking a piece of his clothing with the hope that by touching their sick loved

one with that clothing, he might be healed (Acts 19:12).

In each of the examples, the people who needed healing went to the "man of God." Though we do not necessarily have anyone today who might fill that role, we do have "godly men" who we can go to. When we recognize someone as a "godly man" or a "godly woman," that usually implies that we have a relationship with them, and they are somewhat close to you. These are the persons who would likely know the person needing prayer, would be more familiar with the situation, and would be more likely to pray earnestly for that person than would a person you only know on Facebook.

When you take the effort to have verbal communication with that person and personally ask him or her to pray on your behalf, that means a lot more than just being a recipient of an e-mail that was sent out to hundreds of people.

Unfortunately, the information age has caused many to be ignorant in regards to social graces and personal communication, and people have lost the realization that it means a lot more to a person when you go to them and speak face-to-face than it does to send a letter, text, or even make a phone call. That is why we "visit" grandma on Thanksgiving instead of just giving her a call.

The prayers of a few close, godly friends and relatives are, in my opinion, more likely to move God to act on our behalf than thousands of prayers where the name of the infirm person is mixed in with many others that are on a person's prayer list. When it comes to personally asking a godly person to pray for you, Peter says this:

"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer ..."

(I Peter 3:12 ESV)

I am going to close by reiterating what I said at the close of the previous message. Though it is not widespread nor is it in the headlines, I believe God [YHVH] still performs miraculous healings. I believe there are people being healed today as a result of the prayers of their godly friends, family members, and acquaintances.

The time is coming when God will again do a great work on earth. As He begins to call his people back, they will be coming from the four corners of the earth. They will bring with them the "diseases of Egypt" that were put on them because of their rebellion against God and His way of life. At that time, there will be a great need for people who can pray for them that their diseases will be removed. Hopefully those people will have reached out to God and asked Him – "Lord, teach us how to pray," so that they – like the disciples of Yeshua -- can perform miraculous public healings.

May that time come quickly and in our day!

Shalom Aleichem

Tim Kelley

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*To everything there is a season,  
A time for every purpose under heaven:*

*A time to be born,  
And a time to die;  
A time to plant,  
And a time to pluck what is planted;  
A time to kill,  
And a time to heal;  
A time to break down,  
And a time to build up;  
A time to weep,  
And a time to laugh;  
A time to mourn,  
And a time to dance;*  
*Ecclesiastes 3:1-4*

# Purim Fest 1946

Then Esther said,  
"If it pleases the king,  
Let it be granted to the Jews who are in Shushan  
To do again tomorrow according to today's decree,  
And let Haman's ten sons be hanged on the gallows."  
So the king commanded this to be done.  
*Esther 9:13-14*

**T**here is an ancient proverb which states: "What goes around comes around," that has its origins in Scripture:

**"That which has been is what will be,  
That which is done is what will be done,  
And there is nothing new under the sun."** (Eccl. 1:9)

The festival of *Purim* (described in the book of *Esther*) is a timeless story, and the lessons it teaches continue to be relevant for today.

Briefly, the book of *Esther* tells the story about a beautiful young Jewish woman who married King *Ahasuerus* of *Persia*. The king did not know that *Queen Esther* was Jewish, so when his evil advisor *Haman* became angry with *Mordecai* the Jew (*Esther's* uncle and protector), a persecution against the Jewish people of *Persia* was initiated with the permission of the king.

*Haman* developed an intense hatred for the Jews, especially *Mordecai* -- because he (*Mordecai*) refused to bow down to him, as the king's chief advisor. Thus, *Haman* convinced the king to allow him to begin a pogrom to have all the Jews, who dwelt in the *Persian Empire*, eliminated:

"Then *Haman* said to King *Ahasuerus*, 'There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from all other people's, and they do not keep the king's laws. Therefore it is not fitting for the king to let them remain. <sup>9</sup> If it pleases the king, let a decree be written that they be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the

hands of those who do the work, to bring it into the king's treasuries.'

<sup>10</sup> So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to *Haman*, the son of *Hammedatha* the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews." (Esther 3:8-10)

*Mordecai* learned of the plot and spoke to *Queen Esther* about the matter. *Queen Esther* determined that her "moment of testing and truth" had come and she needed to try to intervene with the king even though, if he did not accept her overtures to meet with him without invitation, it could result in her death. *Queen Esther* requested that her uncle *Mordecai* direct all the Jews of *Persia* to fast for three days (seeking direction from God) and she would do likewise:

"Now it happened on the third day [of fasting] that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, across from the king's house, while the king sat on his royal throne in the royal house, facing the entrance of the house. <sup>2</sup> So it was, when the king saw *Queen Esther* standing in the court, that she found favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther went near and touched the top of the scepter.

<sup>3</sup> And the king said to her, 'What do you wish, *Queen Esther*? What is your request? It shall be given to you -- up to half the kingdom!'" (Esther 5:1-3)

*Queen Esther*, however, had a plan:

"So Esther answered, 'If it pleases the king, let the king and *Haman* come today to the banquet that I have prepared for him!'" (Esther 5:4)

These special banquets occurred three times. It was on the occasion of the third banquet that *Queen Esther* was ready to press her case. Two things happened during the interim; 1.) *Haman* had a gallows constructed on which to hang *Mordechai* and 2.) the king could not sleep the night before the last banquet:

**"That night the king could not sleep. So one was commanded to bring the book of the records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king. <sup>2</sup> And it was found written that *Mordechai* had told of *Bigthana* and *Teresh*, two of the king's eunuchs, the doorkeepers who had sought to lay hands on King *Ahasuerus*.**

<sup>3</sup> Then the king said, 'What honor or dignity has been bestowed on *Mordechai* for this?' And the king's servants who attended him said, 'Nothing has been done for him.'" (Esther 6:1-3)

The king decided to honor *Mordechai* for his service in thwarting the assassination attempt. So he asked *Haman* what should be done to a man whom the king wished to give honor. *Haman*, in his vanity, thought the king meant to honor him:

**"And *Haman* answered the king, 'For the man whom the king delights to honor, <sup>8</sup> let a royal robe be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden, which has a royal crest placed on its head. <sup>9</sup> Then let this robe and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that he may array the man whom the king delights to honor. Then parade him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him: "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!"'" (Esther 6:7-9)**

Imagine *Haman's* reaction when he learned that the king wished to honor his hated enemy *Mordechai* the Jew and not *Haman* himself:

**"Then the king said to *Haman*, 'Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do so for *Mordechai* the Jew who sits within the king's gate! Leave nothing undone of**

**all that you have spoken."**

(Esther 6:10)

Then *Haman* was summoned to come to *Queen Esther's* final banquet with the king. It was there that she "spilled the beans" on *Haman*:

**"For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. Had we been sold as male and female slaves, I would have held my tongue, although the enemy could never compensate for the king's loss.'**

**"<sup>5</sup> So King Ahasuerus answered and said to Queen Esther, 'Who is he, and where is he, who would dare presume in his heart to do such a thing?'**

**"<sup>6</sup> And Esther said, 'The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman!'**

(Esther 7:4-6)

The king was furious with *Haman*:

**"So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided."**

(Esther 7:10)

But the story does not end there. *Mordecai* was appointed as the king's chief advisor in place of *Haman* and the king decreed (at the suggestion of *Queen Esther*) that *Haman's* ten sons be hanged on the gallows as well:

**"Then Esther said, 'If it pleases the king, let it be granted to the Jews who are in Shushan to do again tomorrow according to today's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged on the gallows.'**

**"<sup>14</sup> So the king commanded this to be done; the decree was issued in Shushan, and they hanged Haman's ten sons."**

(Esther 9:13-14)

### ~ A Modern Fulfillment? ~

Scripture tells us that *Haman* was an *Agagite* and therefore a descendent of the *Amalekite* king *Agag* whom *King Shaul* failed to kill when instructed to do so by God. (See I Sam. 15:9) The *Amalekites* have been the bitter enemies of Israel ever since the *Exodus*, when they attacked the rear ranks of the Israelites as they left Egypt:

**"Because the LORD [YHVH] has sworn: the LORD [YHVH] will have**

**war with Amalek from generation to generation."**

(Ex. 17:16)

Since *Haman's* ten sons were descendants of *Amalek*, Israel's most bitter enemy, they too were hung on the gallows that *Haman* had made on which to hang *Mordechai*.

Flash forward to the end of World War II. The Nazis (who, if not literal descendants of *Amalek*, were certainly operating in the spirit of *Amalek*), for they wanted to eliminate all the Jews of Europe.

In the book of *Esther*, the names of four of *Haman's* sons each contain a small Hebrew letter. According to the sages, when there is a variation in the size of letters in a word it bears a significant meaning. These four letters numerically represent the number 5707. On the traditional Hebrew calendar, the year 5707 began on September 26, 1946 (*Rosh HaShannah* -- the Jewish New Year).

During the early 1940's a terrible holocaust took place in eastern Europe. Over six million people died in Hitler's death camps -- the vast majority of them Jewish. After the war, the victorious Allies (United States, Great Britain, France, and the USSR) set up a military tribunal to bring the surviving Nazi leaders to justice for the war crimes they had committed. These trials took place in Nuremberg, Germany (during 1945-46), and have become known as the *Nuremberg Trials*.

The main trial was conducted for twenty-two of the Nazi German leaders. On September 30, 1946 (during the Days of Awe, between *Rosh HaShannah* and *Yom Kippur*), twelve of the defendants were sentenced to death. One of them, Martin Bormann had escaped and was tried in absentia. Another, Hermann Goering, committed suicide in his cell by swallowing a capsule of poison. That left ten Nazi leaders who were scheduled to be executed: Joachim von Ribbentrop, Wilhelm Keitel, Ernst Kaltenbrunner, Alfred Rosenberg, Hans Frank, Wilhelm Frick, Julius Streicher, Walther Funk, Fritz Sauckel and Alfred Jodl.

Execution was scheduled for the early morning hours of October 16, 1946 -- during the night portion of the

last day of *Succoth* (Feast of Tabernacles). This day is also known as *Hoshana Rabbah*, the "Great Day of the Feast:"

**"On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"**

(John 7:37-38)

The remaining ten men -- the same number as *Haman's* sons -- were hanged on Oct. 16, 1946. It is also important to note that *Hoshana Rabbah* is known as the "Day of the Beating of the Willows."

Dr. Moshe Katz points out: "Since the trial was conducted by a military tribunal, the sentence handed down should have been death by firing squad, or by electric chair as practiced in the USA. However, the court specifically prescribed hanging, exactly as in *Queen Esther's* original request ... let *Haman's* ten sons be hanged..."

(Esther 9:14)

At least one of the condemned men made a direct connection with what was taking place to the festival of *Purim* and the book of *Esther*. Julius Streicher (the most virulent Jew hater of the lot) had to be dragged out of his cell kicking and screaming. They brought him up the thirteen steps to the gallows and placed the noose around his neck. He refused to give his name and shouted at the executioner, Sergeant John Woods from Texas; "The Bolsheviks will hang you one day!"

As they placed the black shroud over his head he cried out: "**Purim Fest 1946!**" Then the trapdoor was opened and he dropped to his death. Thus, the ten wicked henchmen of Hitler were hanged on the gallows, just as the ten wicked sons of *Haman* had been, some 2500 years earlier.

(For more information on *Purim* write for our booklet: *The Traditional Festivals*.)

Shalom!

DEW & SAW

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Prophetic Perspectives:

Psalm 83 Revisited

Your enemies make a tumult;
 And those who hate You have lifted up their head.
 They have taken crafty counsel against Your people,
 And consulted together against Your sheltered ones.
 For they have consulted together with one consent;
 They form a confederacy against You.
Psalm 83:2-5

 Conditions continue to deteriorate in the Middle East as the war in Syria takes new turns -- with, among other developments, the nation of Turkey now entering the struggle by attacking Syrian forces in the northern sector of that country. Then there is Iran, which continues to make nasty threats against the state of Israel -- vowing to totally eliminate the Jewish nation. Of course, there also continues to be the terrorist organizations (*Hamas* in Gaza and *Hezbollah* in Lebanon) scaling up their threatening rhetoric and regular attacks on the Jewish state, while the *Palestinian Authority* (PA) continues its war of words against Israel.

It is our belief the day is coming when a full scale war (possibly nuclear) will erupt in the Middle East. It may begin with an attack on Israel (or a preemptive strike by Israel similar to the one they launched in June, 1967 when they were threatened with invasion) and will involve most of the surrounding Muslim nations as they make yet another attempt to destroy the

Editor's Note: Portions of this article were previously published in Hebrew Roots® Issues 14-1 and 17-1. (Some updates have been made to those original articles.)

Given the current conditions, which exist between Israel and its neighbors, it now appears as though the Psalm 83 War is very near and will be the next major prophecy which must be fulfilled prior to the war of "Gog, of the land of Magog" and the return of Messiah.

Jewish state. When that war erupts, it will have global impact and may seriously effect the world economy -- which largely runs on oil, much of which comes from the Islamic Middle East. Of course, no matter how it comes down, Israel will be blamed for the conflict; and if the world economy crashes (as a result of the war), sadly many will say the Jews were to blame.

~ The Last Prophesied War ~

Most prophecy pundits predict that the next (and last) Middle East war, involving Israel, will be the *Gog/Magog War* described by *Ezekiel* in chapters 38 and 39. That war will culminate in the return of *Messiah*:

"Now the word of the LORD [YHVH] came to me, saying,

'Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, and say, "Thus says the Lord GOD [YHVH]: 'Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.'"

"Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, Thus says the Lord GOD:

"On that day when My people Israel dwell safely, will you not know it? Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army. You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes."

(Ezek. 38:1-3, 14-16)

Now, however, a small and growing group of prophecy teachers are making a strong case that the next Middle East war will be a precursor to the *Gog/Magog War* of *Ezekiel* 38; the one prophesied in *Psalm 83*:

"Do not keep silent, O God!"

Do not hold Your peace,

And do not be still, O God!"

² For behold,

Your enemies make a tumult;
And those who hate You have
lifted up their head.

³ They have taken crafty counsel
against Your people,
And consulted together against
Your sheltered ones.

⁴ They have said,
'Come, and let us cut them off
from being a nation,
That the name of Israel may be
remembered no more."

(Psalm 83:1-4)

Still others teach that the prophecy found in *Psalm 83* ties directly to the *Gog/Magog War*, because both passages name ten Middle East nations as protagonists (even though the attacking nation lists are far from identical). Nevertheless, they interpret those nations to be the final ten nation conglomerate which are expected to give their power to the *Beast* -- as depicted in *Revelation* 17:

"The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. ¹³ These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast."

(Rev. 17:12-13)

However, as we just read, the major nations involved in the *Gog/Magog War* come from the "far north" (v. 15) -- while the nations of *Psalm 83* all reside nearby -- most of them on Israel's borders. In addition, the *Gog/Magog* armies come against an Israel which "dwells safely" (v. 14). That is certainly not the case today as Israel is under constant threat. Therefore, conditions will have to change before the final *Gog/Magog War* can occur:

"For they have consulted together with one consent;

They form a confederacy against You:

6 The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites;

Moab and the Hagrites;

7 Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek;

Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;

8 Assyria also has joined with them;

They have helped the children of Lot [Moab and Ammon]."

(Psalm 83:5-8)

~ A Major Difference ~

One major difference between these two prophesied wars against Israel is that the *Psalm 83 War* will be won by the military forces of Judah -- the IDF -- (with God's backing and protection but without His direct intervention), while the *Gog/Magog War* will not end until *Messiah* returns and intervenes directly (as seen below):

"Then I will knock the bow out of your left hand, and cause the arrows to fall out of your right hand.

4 You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. **5 You shall fall on the open field; for I have spoken,' says the Lord [Adonai] GOD [YHVH].**

"And I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in security in the coastlands. Then they shall know that I am the LORD [YHVH].

7 So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I am the LORD [YHVH], the Holy One in Israel."

(Ezek. 39:3-7)

~ Judah Goes First ~

The modern state of Israel is the current governing body over the House of Judah -- which was prophesied to return to the *Promised Land* first, prior to the return of the Northern Kingdom -- the *House of Israel*:

"The LORD [YHVH] will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and the

glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall not become greater than that of Judah." (Zech. 12:7)

Because God has already brought the *House of Judah* back to the *Promised Land*, His hand has been apparent in many of Judah's (i.e. Israel's) modern military successes, but not on a full supernatural level as revealed in *Ezekiel 38-39*.

Nevertheless, God is still displeased with *Judah*, because Israel too often wants to be like the other nations -- instead of totally relying on Him. This is the same spirit which, thousands of years ago, caused the children of Israel to desire a king -- with the end result being that most of them were bad rulers:

"Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, 'No, but we will have a king over us,²⁰ that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.' (I Sam. 8:19-20)

God wants *Judah* (i.e. modern *Israel*) to rely on Him for their military guidance and strength.

~ Two Big Wars to Come ~

The final *Gog/Magog War* will be supernaturally won when *Y'shua HaMashiach* returns with His *Saints* as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish the *Kingdom of Heaven* on earth:

"And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."

(Rev. 19:14-15)

Before this final pre-Millennial war (*Gog/Magog*) is prophesied to take place, we believe the *Psalm 83 War* will be fought and won by the nation of Israel -- for the prophecy goes on to direct *Judah* to:

"Deal with them as with Midian, As with Sisera,

As with Jabin at the Brook Kishon,

¹⁰ Who perished at En Dor, Who became as refuse on the earth.

¹¹ Make their nobles like Oreb and like Zeeb,

Yes, all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,

¹² Who said, 'Let us take for ourselves

The pastures of God for a possession.'" (Psalm 83:9-12)

Even though God placed fear of Him into the hearts of ancient Israel's enemies, they still had to do the fighting in order to defeat their opponents. None of those battles required supernatural fire from heaven or the direct intervention of God's hand in the conflict. They were all won through the efforts of Israeli men fighting the battles while being supported, instructed, and protected by God. God did not directly intervene, in those wars, as He is prophesied to do in the war of *Gog/Magog*.

The previous wars mentioned, in *Psalm 83*, mainly deal with two events in Israel's history during the time of the *Judges*. The first was when *Gideon's* three hundred men (armed with *shofars* and pitchers) defeated the *Midianites* by frightening them -- causing them to turn on one another:

"So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outpost of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch; and they blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers that were in their hands." (Judges 7:19)

The cleanup work was then performed by members of other tribes of Israel:

"And the men of Israel gathered together from Naphtali, Asher, and all Manasseh, and pursued the Midianites. . . .²⁵ And they captured two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb. They killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and Zeeb they killed at the winepress of Zeeb. They pursued Midian and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side of the Jordan." (Judges 7:23, 25)

The other event mentioned in *Psalm 83* was when the *Prophetess Deborah* dealt with *Sisera* and *Jabin*. *Sisera* (the commander of king *Jabin's* army) was done in by another brave woman named *Yael*, when she drove a tent peg through his skull while asleep in her tent. (*Judges 4:17-21*) Meanwhile, king *Jabin* met his demise some time later:

"So on that day God subdued Jabin king of Canaan in the presence of the children of Israel.²⁴ And the hand of the children of Israel grew stronger and stronger against Jabin king of Canaan, until they had destroyed Jabin king of Canaan."

(*Judges 4:23-24*)

Notice how both of these events were accomplished at the hands of Israel's army (with support -- but not direct intervention) from God.

~ Nations Gather and Realign ~

Today, what we are seeing, within the Islamic world, are a number of conflicts occurring between the two major sects -- the *Sunnis* and the *Shiites*. There is major jockeying and fighting going on between them to determine which group will dominate Islam and lead the Muslims in their effort to eliminate Israel and then (they believe) conquer the world at large. The *Sunni* sect (centered in the Arab Muslim world) is the most numerous Islamic sect -- however the *Shiites* (primarily located in Persian Iran and among some of the terrorist groups) are more militant about destroying Israel and America. According to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*:

"The Sunnites recognize the first four caliphs as Muhammad's rightful successors, whereas the Shiites believe that Muslim leadership belonged to Muhammad's son-in-law, Ali, and his descendants alone." (CD Rom Version)

In other words, the current *Sunni/Shiite* conflict is over political power, not over religious belief -- for they both share the *Koran* as their holy book and seek the destruction of Israel, and eventual world domination under the banner of *Allah*, as their ultimate

goal. All of the various Islamic civil wars, taking place today, are part of this struggle, to dominate the Muslim region and religion as a whole. The winning sect, they believe, will be the one which carries the leadership war banner to Israel, then to America, and then to the world -- unless God intervenes.

~ Who Is Involved? ~

According to the *Psalm 83* prophecy, there will emerge ten Islamic nations who will forge an alliance to make war on Israel. Who are these Muslim countries making up the ten? In this passage, the Psalmist uses their ancient Biblical names. However, we can pretty much know who they might be today by attempting to identify the modern nations currently dwelling in those ancient territories:

**"Surely the Lord GOD [YHVH] does nothing,
Unless He reveals His secret to
His servants the prophets."**

(*Amos 3:7*)

David Dolan is a well known Middle East correspondent who lived in Israel for over 25 years. He once worked for the CBS television network as their man in the Middle East. In his book, *Israel in Crisis: What Lies Ahead?* (written a number of years ago), Dolan identified the nations of *Psalm 83* as found below. All of Dolan's quotes are from Tim McHyde's book *Know the Future* pp. 73-74:

- ◆ *Edom* and the *Ishmaelites* -- "have also become synonymous today with the entire Arab-Muslim world. This is because both peoples are thought to have migrated further south into the Arabian peninsula -- the seat of Islam."
- ◆ *Moab* -- "was situated due east of the Dead Sea, with *Edom* to its south and *Ammon* to its north. The other listed eastern tribes -- the *Hagrites*, *Gebal* and *Amalek* -- mingled in this area."
- ◆ *Tyre* -- "in biblical days was the leading city of *Phoenicia*. That area is now part of the battle-scarred country of *Lebanon*."

◆ *Philistines* -- were centered around a coastal city called *Gaza*. Today, the terrorist group *Hamas* operates out of *Gaza*.

◆ *Assyria* -- "The great empire stretched over the territory of several modern countries, including western *Iran*, parts of *Turkey*, most of *Syria* and even very briefly along Egypt's Nile river. But it was centered in what is today *Iraq*, with its capital, *Nineveh*, situated on the banks of the *Tigris* river."

A more recent attempt at identifying the ten nations of *Psalm 83*, has been researched by a prophecy teacher named Bill Salus. His conclusions are:

- ◆ Tents of *Edom* -- Palestinians and South Jordan.
- ◆ *Ishmaelites* -- Saudi Arabia.
- ◆ *Moab* -- Palestinians and Central Jordan.
- ◆ *Hagarenes* -- Egyptians.
- ◆ *Gebal* -- Hezbollah and North Lebanon.
- ◆ *Ammon* -- Palestinians and North Jordan.
- ◆ *Amalek* -- Sinai.
- ◆ *Philistia* -- Hamas of Gaza.
- ◆ *Tyre* -- Hezbollah and South Lebanon.
- ◆ *Assyria* -- Syria and North Iraq.

In these two lists, the similarities are more striking than the differences. It is likely that at least some portion of the following modern nations -- Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and possibly Turkey -- along with the terrorist groups *Hamas*, *Hezbollah*, and the *Muslim Brotherhood* -- will unite with the Palestinians in attacking Israel.

Whether Iran will be a part of this war effort is unclear. Historically, the Iranians (being Persian Muslim, not Arab Muslim) have stayed out of the Arab/Israeli conflicts. However, Iran is the major *Shiite* player, in the current Islamic power struggle, and today is one of the most vociferous voices of hate speech directed against both Israel and America.

~ Saudi Arabia ~

Currently, there seems to be a problem with one major player which is found on the *Psalm 83* enemies lists of both teachers. That major nation is the *Sunni* nation of Saudi Arabia. In recent months, Saudi Arabia and Israel have established diplomatic relations for the first time ever, since Israel became a nation in 1948. This is a direct result of *Israel's* ongoing struggle with *Iran*, the major *Shiite* nation of Islam and bitter enemy of Saudi Arabia.

If both of the above prophecy teachers have correctly identified the *Ishmalites* as being Saudi Arabia, then Saudi Arabia is indeed going to be a part of the *Psalm 83 War* against Israel. However, their current close relationship with Israel will have to once again deteriorate, before that war begins.

~ The New Caliphate ~

A further development to watch, is the role which Turkey will play in all of this. Most all prophecy teachers include Turkey as one of the nations that will rise up against Israel as a protagonist in the *Gog/Magog War*, allied with Russia and Iran. However, it is not clear if they will be one of the attacking nations of the *Psalm 83 War*. (Dolan includes parts of Turkey as being *Assyria*, while Salus does not include Turkey at all in his list.)

For a few years it looked as though a new *Caliphate* was being formed under the auspices of the *Islamic State of Iraq and Syria* (ISIS). It was at the beginning of *Ramadan* (June 29, 2014), when ISIS declared itself the leader of a revived Islamic *Caliphate*.

A *Caliphate* is a political-religious state that comprises the territory held by Islam which is under the control of a leader known as a *Caliph* (leader). The first *Caliph* took power after the "prophet" Mohammed died in 632 CE. That original *Caliphate* continued to exist until 1258 CE when the Mongols destroyed Baghdad.

However, in many ways the *Ottoman Empire*, which ruled the entire region from their headquarters in Turkey (beginning in the 15th century until 1917), was also a *Caliphate*. In

both cases, Islam was the dominate force, not only in the Middle East, but also over a large portion of Europe.

A few years ago, *ISIS* looked as though it might be the Muslim force that was needed to conquer and unify Islam under a new, self-proclaimed, *Caliphate*. However, currently *ISIS* is on the run in both Syria and Iraq and has been eliminated from much of their original territory. Therefore, it looks as though there may be a prolonged power struggle within Islam for overall control of the movement, before a coordinated *Psalm 83* attack can be made on Israel. Perhaps Turkey will now move in to fill the leadership power gap in the Islamic world.

Time will tell -- so we all need to keep watching:

²⁸ **'And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. ²⁷ And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory'**

(Luke 21:28, 27 KJV)

~ The Outcome ~

When reading the last verses of *Psalm 83*, it appears as though the outcome of that war will be a great victory for Israel -- at least that is the expressed desire of the Psalmist:

**"O my God, make them like the whirling dust,
Like the chaff before the wind!
¹⁴ As the fire burns the woods,
And as the flame sets the mountains on fire,
¹⁵ So pursue them with Your tempest,
And frighten them with Your storm.
¹⁶ Fill their faces with shame,
That they may seek Your name,
O LORD [YHVH].
¹⁷ Let them be confounded and dismayed forever;
Yes, let them be put to shame and perish,
¹⁸ That they may know that You, whose name alone is the LORD [YHVH],
Are the Most High over all the earth."** (Psalm 83:13-18)

~ The Nuclear Option ~

It is entirely possible that, in this upcoming war, Israel may have to resort to using nuclear weapons to keep from being totally destroyed. There is a prophecy, concerning the Syrian city of *Damascus*, that may indicate a nuclear strike will be carried out against it by someone:

**"The burden against Damascus.
'Behold, Damascus will cease
from being a city,
And it will be a ruinous heap.'**"

(Isa. 17:1)

If that happens, the world will go mad with hatred for Israel, setting the stage for the next big war -- *Gog/Magog* -- and the return of *Y'shua HaMashiach* to rule the earth with a rod of iron:

". . . He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."

(Rev. 19:15)

This is our current *Prophetic Perspective*. However, things have a way of changing and developing. Therefore -- stay tuned and keep watching and praying always for Messiah's return.

Shalom!

DEW & SAW

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~ Front Line News ~
(from a sin-sick world.)

~ Just a Thought ~

Prophecy teachers continue to debate the identity of the ten nations which become the core of the Beast power's rule during his reign over the earth:

"The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast."

(Rev. 17:12)

One very popular theory holds these ten nations to be part of a "Revived Holy Roman Empire." Speculation continues as to which ten of the 20 some European Union members will be a part of that confederacy. However, the point is, those countries already exist as separate nations and, therefore, each one already has a type of "king" over it.

Is it possible, since the Scripture says these ten horns (kings) "... have received no kingdom as yet..." that they are not currently territorial nations, but major financial "power brokers" who exercise great control over all of the economies of all the world's nations, but not as leaders (kings or rulers) of physical territories? Is it possible they might instead be ten of the major financial institutions, which currently control the world from behind the scenes, and seek to increase their power?

A financial newsletter (which recently came our way) lists the top 25 "capitalist super-entities" that "run the world." The list consists entirely of major financial institutions (with the exception of Walmart). No manufacturing companies are part of the list.

We have selected a few of these better known financial institutions for the list below (along with their current power ranking): 1.) Barclays PLC, 6.) JP Morgan Chase & Co., 10.) Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc., 18.) Goldman Sachs Group Inc., 21.) Morgan Stanley, and 25.) Bank of America Corp. All of them have major holdings throughout all the nations of the world:

"These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.¹⁴ These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."

(Rev. 17:13-14)

Just a thought!

~ Deal of the Century ~

President Trump has released his version of a "Peace Plan" for the Middle East. Like all previous plans, this one calls for a two state solution -- granting a separate state to the Palestinians in exchange for peace with Israel -- thus "rewarding" them for their decades of terrorist attacks.

Along with their new state, the Palestinians would also receive \$50 billion to develop their new state into "a Middle East Switzerland." In addition, Egypt would get \$9 billion, Jordan \$7 billion, and Lebanon \$6.3 billion. In this new plan the Palestinians would get (among other things): an independent state that would include 70% of the West Bank and all of Gaza.

Meanwhile, Israel would get the 30% of the West Bank, which contains current Jewish settlements, along with the entire Jordan Valley to give them a buffer zone on the east. The deal would also prohibit the return of the Palestinian "refugees" currently living in foreign countries.

Obligations for the Palestinians include recognizing Israel as a Jewish state and Jerusalem as its capital. The Temple Mount would continue under the control of Jordan but all faiths would be allowed to pray there.

There is much more to the deal than what is listed above; but it probably does not matter since the Palestinians have since severed all ties with the United States and are calling President Trump "A dog, son of a dog."

It appears that this deal, like all others to date, is destined to fail. However, a "divided up" land of Israel is prophesied:

"For behold, in those days and at that time,

**When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,
2 I will also gather all nations,
And bring them down to the
Valley of Jehoshaphat;
And I will enter into judgment
with them there
On account of My people,
My heritage Israel,
Whom they have scattered
among the nations;
They have also divided up
My land."**

(Joel 3:1-2)

~ Archaeological Finds ~

Archaeologists continue to uncover proofs that the Bible contains the true history of the ancient Middle East. Some recent finds include:

1.) An ancient structure, at *Tel Motza* near Jerusalem, resembles the design of the *First Temple*. It is believed to have existed in the late 10th to early 9th century BCE. It is the only one of its kind that has been found to date. Excavations are on going.

2.) A 3,000 year old Hebrew inscription uncovered at *Tel Abel Bath Macaah* from the time of King *Ahab*. The inscription reads "*Ibnayo: belonging to Benaiyo*." *Benaiyo* was an Israelite name indicating that *Abel Beth Macaah* was an Israelite city.

3.) A *Beka* weight (also c. 3,000 years old) found in soil that came from the Western Wall foundation, north of the City of David, at the foot of Robinson's Arch. A *beka* was the weight used to weigh the half-shekel donation that each person brought for the maintenance of the Temple:

"... a bekah for each man (that is, half a shekel, according to the shekel of the sanctuary), for everyone included in the numbering from twenty years old and above..."

(Ex. 38:26)

It is always exciting to hear about these ancient finds. They offer major proof that the Bible is historically accurate and can be trusted.

~ 5G ~

There is a lot of information floating around concerning the implementation of the new 5G next-generation of

mobile networks. (5G stands for "Fifth Generation.") It offers a new form of industrial revolution, human connectivity, and even a new reality.

However, according to many scientists, the health risks of 5G have not been adequately assessed. The questionable health concerns, that need to be addressed, before complete implementation of 5G takes place, include the effects of MMWs on skin, eyes, heart, immune system, cell growth, and plant health (among others).

If and when it is fully implemented, there will millions of additional transmitting stations located (some believe) on nearly every lamppost in the world. 5G uses millimeter waves (MMWs) which have much shorter wave lengths and cannot travel far. In addition, they do not travel well through buildings and can also be absorbed by rain and plants. Thus, a proliferation of wireless antennas will be necessary in order to cover the entire country.

~ 5G and Covid-19 ~

One of the more sensational claims, currently circulating, is that the recent Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak is really a result of 5G implementation, which is being used as a cover up for the health effects of that experimentation. The following quote is from the *Need to Know* email letter:

"There is a huge collection of articles, scientific studies, videos, and quotes relating to the Coronavirus. All together, the evidence strongly supports the conclusion that Coronavirus is no more dangerous than a common cold -- perhaps even less so. There may be thousands of deaths from something, but not the virus. The data points to 5G electromagnetic exposure."

The *BioInitiative Report*, prepared by 29 authors from ten countries (all with advanced degrees) warns: "...that evidence for risks to health has substantially increased since 2007 from electromagnetic fields and wireless technologies (radio frequency radiation). The Report reviews over 1800 new scientific studies. ... Health topics include damage to DNA and genes, effects on memory, learning, behavior, attention, sleep disruption,

cancer, and neurological diseases like Alzheimer's disease."

Whether there is any truth to these claims is unknown at this point, but many people are buying into the theory. It would behoove our nation to require more medical testing before proceeding any further. Nevertheless we have the assurance that our God will watch over everyone who is found written in the book of Life:

**"At that time Michael shall stand up,
The great prince who stands
watch over the sons of your
people;
And there shall be a time of
trouble,
Such as never was since there
was a nation,
Even to that time.
And at that time your people
shall be delivered,
Every one who is found written
in the book."** (Dan. 12:1)

~ Anti-Christian Attacks

Anti-Christian attacks in Europe reached an all time high in 2019. Both Christian symbols and churches were attacked on a daily basis. According to the *Gladstone Institute* "... research shows that roughly 3,000 Christian churches, schools, cemeteries, and monuments were vandalized, looted or defaced in Europe during 2019."

France wins the dishonor of having the most widespread violence against Christians. Meanwhile, in Germany, attacks are proceeding at the rate of two per day. Attacks are also commonplace in Belgium, Britain, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, and Spain.

Most of the attacks are against Roman Catholic sites and symbols -- although Germany also shows a substantial number of Protestant churches being targeted.

In France as well as Germany the rise in anti-Christian attacks has occurred along with the rise in mass immigration from the Muslim world. In Spain, on the other hand, most attacks are carried out by anarchists, radical feminists, and other far left types.

Jerome Fourquet, in his book *French Archipelago*, shows how France is going through a period of

de-Christianization as the Muslim population increases. Less than 5% of French people currently attend Church on Sundays. Fourquet writes: "There is a growing de-Christianization, which is leading to the 'terminal phase' of the Christian religion. ... For hundreds of years the Christian religion profoundly structured the collective conscience of French society. Today this society is the shadow of what it once was. A great civilizational change is underway."

~ Anti-Semitism ~

What is the root cause of anti-Semitism? It is because of who the Semitic people are. They are the main body of people who can still be identified as "God's Chosen People:"

"For you are a holy people to the LORD [YHVH] your God; the LORD [YHVH] your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth." (Deut. 7:6)

Anti-Semitism continues to expand around the world; especially in Europe. It must be remembered that it was the heart of Europe which the Nazis reigned over; beginning in the 1930s. Now, 80 some years later, hatred of the Jews is back on the rise in that region. Why is that so? The world hates the Jews because a vast segment of the population hates God.

It was through the children of Israel that God brought forth the Patriarchs, the Prophets, and the Temple. After the House of Israel was taken away captive, the House of Judah remained to carry on the calling, and they have been faithful in preserving the integrity of the Scriptures:

"What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? ² Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles [Scriptures] of God." (Rom. 3:1-2)

Keep praying for both our Christian and our Jewish brethren.

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# Iron Sharpens Iron

Iron sharpeneth iron;  
So shall a man sharpeneth  
The countenance of his friend.  
*Proverbs 27:17*

**I**t is our policy not to divulge the names of those who write us, unless requested by the writer. *Hebrew Roots* reserves the right to condense letters to save space. Every effort will be made to retain the essence of the communication. Responses to the letters may be for clarification, or for the general edification of our readership and are not necessarily directed toward the person writing the letter.

Although we are unable to answer all of the letters which we receive, we do read them and appreciate your input.

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~ Christian Holidays ~

Dear Dean & Susan,

Thank you for "The Origin of Christian Holidays" in the latest issue of *Hebrew Roots*. Many others have written and taught these things, but it is important to cover this topic again from time to time for the sake of people who are new to the Messianic faith.

Unfortunately, there is a growing tendency among some Messianic teachers to dismiss all the pagan origins of Christian holidays. These teachers claim that Christian leaders did *not* borrow these customs from pagan idolatry, even though Roman Catholic leaders admit they did.

Some Messianic teachers ridicule Alexander Hislop's work *The Two Babylons*. Some years ago when I asked why, I was told that Hislop's sources were unreliable and that Hislop therefore has been "debunked." I was not given an explanation of why Hislop's sources were considered unreliable. As you know, Hislop painstakingly documented his sources in great detail.

About a year ago I published an article in *Gates of Eden* about "Bede Bashing." [Bede -- known as Saint

Bede -- was a seventh century English Benedictine monk.] Some Messianics reject Bede's claim that the English word *Easter* was derived from the name of the Anglo-Saxon fertility goddess *Eastre*, even though Bede lived 1300 years closer to the introduction of the word *Easter* into the English language than we do. Encyclopedias and history books state that Bede's standards of scholarship were unmatched, that he verified and cited his sources, that he was very concerned about the veracity of his sources: (*New World Encyclopedia*) . . .

We should not bash Christians in a mean-spirited way, but we have to continue to speak the truth in love. Watering down the truth might make it easier for people to swallow, but they will be swallowing some untruths along with it. Thank you for speaking the truth in love.

Daniel Botkin
Gates of Eden

~~

Shalom Aleichem Daniel,

Thank you for your letter. It is encouraging to have reinforcement from respected colleagues when treading into controversial ground.

When we prepared this particular article the thought came that people were either going to love it or hate it. As can be seen below, that turned out to be the case. No one likes to have someone tread on their cherished religious traditions by pointing out that they just might have pagan origins -- something expressly forbidden over and over by the Old Testament Scriptures.

We are pleased to have colleagues like you who share these important points of view.

*May the peace of God
be with you always,*

DEW & SAW

~~~

## ~ Another View ~

Dear Hebrew Roots:

Grace and Truth unto you in the Dominion of Mashiach Ruah. You've taught me a great amount over the years.

The open comments of Issue 19-3, Vol. 24, No. 2 about "Wars and Fights among the Brethren must cease -- for they are strangling the Messianic Movement. . . ." The Life Blood is that of Y'shua's, given by grace, for us to share the Love of the Father in peace with the lost world.

If you would note your comment in question from pg. 11 "...why would one want to ever appear to be worshipping the sun? ..." on Easter morning?

Look at the rising Morning Star in your heart that Christ has placed in your new man. We are meant to adjust and be pliable to the customs of the lands we're sent into, to influence the Most High YHVH Ruah Essence fill the Land.

Provocative religious stances, with disregarding where people are coming from, to get them to receive a Hebrew world view would/can be helpful with wars and fighting to cease.

Let it also be considered when receiving Lev. 23:10-11 as a prophecy about what heavenly host are doing in heaven towards us, when we worship with the Ekklesia on Sunday fulfilling the prophecy that is the progression of where we're at in the times awaiting the return of the Lord Holy One:

**"Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: "When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. " He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD [YHVH], to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it."**

(Lev. 23:10-11)

Your limited narrow view is restraining you from knowing there are anointed Judeo Christians which have only the apostate church to relate to, as a source of tasting the Shakinah Glory for a moment of seeding the divine life we all have within us.

Your constant ridicule of the Roman Catholic Church, never leaves room to remember, the Francis who fought against them, and NOW -- today. A 3rd order out of Ft. Wayne, Indiana sent me a beautiful Bible, and money on my commissary to buy a new pair of boots for my old feet to be comforted in.

I found renewal in the Holy Catholic Church among the Roman Catholic religious mess that you could learn a lesson from stipulating the do's and don'ts of your movement that is strangling itself on a noose it built for your religious Haman.

Reflect the image and likeness of Y'shua, note:

in Christ's Love,

TA

~ ~

*Shalom Aleichem TA,*

*Thank you for your input, although it is difficult to follow your logic at certain points.*

*First of all, let us establish that we do not discriminate against Roman Catholics in any way, shape, or form. If you knew Dean's background, and the many good Catholic family and friends who influenced his life, you would not make that suggestion. We live in a heavily Catholic area and do not ask anyone, when meeting them, what their religion is, or if they even hold to a religion.*

*You spoke about receiving a Bible and money from a Catholic organization. That is most commendable on their part and an example we could all learn from. However, that does not excuse a lack of Scriptural understanding as found in the Written Word of the Most High (the beautiful Bible you now possess).*

*It is clear from Scripture that we must live according to every word of God. Our Master, Y'shua, made that very clear:*

**"But He [Y'shua] answered and said, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."'"** (Matt. 4:4)

*This passage refers directly to the Old Testament Law (the Torah) thereby showing that we must go to the Old*

*Testament and learn "every word" in order to live a life that is pleasing to God:*

**"So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD [YHVH]."**

(Deut. 8:3)

*It is very clear that one thing we are NOT to do is practice any kind of idolatry -- a precept so important it is included among the "Top Ten:"*

**"You shall have no other gods before Me. <sup>4</sup> You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; <sup>5</sup> you shall not bow down to them nor serve them..."** (Ex. 20:3-5)

*By observing the ancient pagan holidays (dressed up in "Christian" trappings) we are, in effect, "bowing down to them and serving them."*

*As we see it, there are two extreme ditches that Believers in Messiah Y'shua tend to fall into. First is such super strict adherence to one's perception of what the Law teaches that one comes to "hate" those who do not see it the way they see it. The second is the "greasy grace" position which teaches that since Christ died for our sins we can no longer sin. Thereby people continue to crucify Him all over again. What Y'shua expressly asked for, were men and woman who would have love for one another, and keep the commandments:*

**"By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.**

**"<sup>10</sup> 'If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. <sup>12</sup> This is My commandment, that you love**

**one another as I have loved you.'"**

(John 15:8-12)

*Love and Written Torah observance (not the Oral Traditions of the Pharisees) go hand in hand and together make the complete "one new man."*

**"For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,<sup>15</sup> having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances [dogma = man's oral traditions], so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,<sup>16</sup> and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity."** (Eph. 2:14-16)

*There is so much more we could say but if you have been studying Hebrew Roots® for any length of time you will find a consistent teaching therein: "Love God, love your fellow man -- keep the commandments of God."*

*May the peace of God  
be with you always,*

*DEW & SAW*

~ ~ ~

*~ Question ~*

*Thank You,*

*You have made a big difference in my Bible study. It is a lot more informative now that I am understanding the Bible more.*

*I use the New American Standard Bible [NASB]. Is there a better one -- let me know?*

*JA*

~ ~

*Shalom Aleichem JA,*

*We are pleased to have made a positive difference in your Bible study. The NASB version is one of the more literal translations of the Scriptures and is quite good. There are dozens of translations out there -- it is important to find one that you are comfortable with.*

*May the peace of God  
be with you always,*

*DEW & SAW*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

# Endnotes

But the end of all things is at hand;  
Therefore be serious and watchful  
In your prayers.  
*I Peter 4:7*

## ~ Calendar ~

|                                         |                        |                      |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Shavu'ot*</b> (Pentecost)            | (8 Sivan)***           | May 31, 2020         |
| <b>Tisha B'Av</b> (Ninth of Av)         | (9 Av)                 | July 30, 2020        |
| <b>Yom Teruah*</b> (Rosh HaShannah)     | (1 Tishri)             | September 19, 2020   |
| <b>Yom Kippur*</b> (Day of Atonement)   | (10 Tishri)            | September 28, 2020   |
| <b>Sukkot*</b> (Feast of Tabernacles)   | (15 -21 Tishri)        | October 3-9, 2020    |
| <b>Shemini Atzeret*</b> (Eighth Day)    | (22 Tishri)            | October 10, 2020     |
| <b>Hanukkah</b> (Feast of Dedication)   | (25 Kislev - 2 Tevet)  | December 11-18, 2020 |
| <b>Purim</b> (14 Adar)                  |                        | February 26, 2021    |
| <b>Passover*</b> (Day of the Sacrifice) | (14 Aviv)              | March 27, 2021       |
| <b>Hag HaMatzot*</b>                    |                        |                      |
| (Feast of Unleavened Bread)             |                        |                      |
| (15 -21 Aviv)                           | Mar. 28 - Apr. 3, 2021 |                      |
| (Note: 15 and 21 Aviv are Holydays)     |                        |                      |
| (March 28 and April 3)                  |                        |                      |
| <b>Omer Wave Offering**</b>             |                        |                      |
| (Wave Sheaf Offering)                   |                        |                      |
| (22 Aviv)**                             |                        | April 4, 2021        |

All dates are based on the *Traditional Hebrew Calendar*. All festivals begin the prior evening at sundown. The calendar, in its entirety, is printed in our *Weekly Torah Reading Schedule*, which may be obtained by simply requesting a copy.

\* Biblically Commanded Festival. (See Leviticus 23)

\*\* Next year the Pharisaic *Omer Wave Offering* is celebrated on 16 Aviv -- March 29, 2021.

\*\*\* This year the Pharisaic *Shavu'ot* is celebrated on 6 & 7 Sivan, -- May 29 & 30, 2020.

(Note: See Special Publication *Shavu'ot: The Feast of Weeks* (SPSFW) for the Scriptural reasons why we observe a first day of the week *Shavu'ot* (Pentecost) and why the *Omer Wave Offering* falls outside the *Days of Unleavened Bread* in 2021).

## ~ Stupid Food ~

Nutrition experts warn that eating a Western diet (even for a week) can harm brain function and encourage overeating. Junk food has an especially harmful effect on the hippocampus -- the part of the brain that is associated with memory and appetite control. The main culprits in the Western diet appear to be high amounts of saturated fat and added sugar.

(Source: *The Week*)

## ~ Watch How You Dress ~

America (like Europe) is also home to an increase in anti-Semitic activity. It has increased to the point where fully 85% of American Jews are now afraid to show any public evidence of their Jewishness. The most obvious sign is the wearing of a *Kippa* (the traditional Jewish head covering for men). 47% have reported that their synagogue has been attacked or threatened and 25% are avoiding Jewish events and sites.

(Source: *Isaiah 40*)

## ~ Earth Signs ~

There have always been earthquakes -- since the beginning of recorded history. Now there seems to be an increase in volcanic activity as well, to the point where it seems that our planet is becoming increasingly unstable and that the shaking is going to get worse.

(Source: *End of the American Dream*)

## ~ Good News ~

Despite all of the negative news, there is also good news to report. Here are a few headlines:

-Austrian Parliament Unanimously Passes Anti-BDS Resolution.

-West Virginia governor Signs "Born Alive" bill Protecting Children Who Survive Abortions.

-Coronavirus Breakthrough? Israeli Researchers Make Discovery That Could Lead to Vaccine.

-1,300 Housing Units to be Approved in Judea and Samaria.

(Source: *Isaiah 40*)

## ~ Birds Vanish ~

"The number of wild birds in the US and Canada has dropped by nearly one-third over the past 50 years, with some 2.9 billion birds disappearing, ... The population of warblers has dropped by 617 million since 1970 and black-birds by 440 million."

Researchers believe the drop is due to habitat destruction and the use of pesticides.

(Source: *The Week*)

## ~ Locust's Swarm ~

Meanwhile, millions of locusts are on the move in Africa. This year has seen the worst outbreak of desert locusts in Kenya in 70 years. Hundreds of millions of the bugs are swarming into East Africa eating everything in their path. Once the rains arrive in March, bringing new vegetation, the numbers could grow by 500 times over their current dry weather population.

(Source: *APNewsminute*)

**"Bless the LORD [YHVH],  
O my soul,  
And forget not all His benefits:  
³ Who forgives all your iniquities,  
Who heals all your diseases,  
⁴ Who redeems your life from  
destruction,  
Who crowns you with  
lovingkindness and  
tender mercies,  
⁵ Who satisfies your mouth with  
good things,  
So that your youth is renewed  
like the eagle's."**

(Psalm 103:2-5)

~~~~~

*Pray For the Peace
Of Jerusalem*

~~~

~ Shalom ~



(Aleph-Tav)

**The Beginning and the End**

~~~~~