



Hebrew Roots®



Issue 20-2; Vol. 25, No. 1

Exploring the Hebrew Roots of the Faith Once Delivered
Iyar/Sivan/Tammuz/Av, 5780

May/August, 2020

A View From Beit Shalom

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

Shalom Aleichem,

(Peace be unto you)

As we work on completing the writing of this issue of *Hebrew Roots*, the world is in turmoil. Of course things could be much improved by the time this issue reaches you, however, it is our guess that, by then, matters may be even worse.

~ The Beginning of Sorrows ~

It seems clear that the world has reached the very point *Y'shua* described as the signs of the "the end of the age:"

"Then Jesus [*Y'shua*] went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. ² And Jesus said to them,

"Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.'

"³ Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?'" (Matt. 24:1-3)

The stones of the Temple have been cast down since Titus destroyed that edifice in 70 CE. Thus, the beginning of the "end of the age" might well be calculated from that date. But there is much more to the prophecy:

"And Jesus [*Y'shua*] answered and said to them:

"Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ [*Messiah*],' and will deceive many.'" (Matt. 24:4-5)

This deception has also been going on for centuries. Many people have come saying that Jesus is the Christ, but some have brought with them false doctrines. In this manner, many have been deceived into believing that two-thirds of the Bible has been "done away." Certainly a major deception.

But the prophecy continues:

"And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.'" (Matt. 24:6-7)

Ever since *Y'shua* spoke these words there have been "wars and rumors of wars." Warfare has never ceased in all that time -- as man's hatred for his fellow man has increased through the centuries. Neither has the world lacked famines, pestilences, and earthquakes. Nevertheless:

"All these are the beginning of sorrows.'" (Matt. 24:8)

It is only going to get worse as time moves on. Recently, there has been a marked increase in "rumors of wars." North Korea is once again militarily threatening South Korea. Now, China and India are having serious border

disputes which could lead to open warfare. Then, of course, there is the continual threat of war in the Middle East, between Israel and her next door neighbors (prophesied in *Psalms* 83) -- a war Israel is prophesied to win.

~ Something Different ~

Despite the fact that many of these signs have been ongoing for centuries, something seems to be different today from what it was even a few months ago. Perhaps it is the heavy duty media coverage of all the world's troubles as they try to make a case against President

Trump to get him removed from office. But then again, perhaps world conditions have really taken a turn for the worse, and we are nearing the "end of this age."

~ More Signs ~

So, what should we be looking for next?

"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. ¹⁰ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.'" (Matt. 24:9-10)

There are two sides to the current interpretation of this prophecy. First of all, those of us in America can say that being Believers in *Y'shua* has not yet caused us to be delivered up to be killed. On the other hand, that is not the case in some third world countries -- especially in the Middle East, Africa,

~ Featured Inside ~

The Purpose of Plagues.....	3
"Comfort My People".....	14
Back to Relationships.....	17
Exchanging Freedom for Safety.....	20
Days of Awe.....	23
Prophetic Perspectives:	
Three Conflicts.....	26
Front Line News.....	27
Iron Sharpens Iron.....	30
Endnotes.....	32

and China. Certainly, we are seeing a marked increase in discrimination against Christians in this country, and even more so in Europe.

Taking all of this together, it is no wonder that recent polls show the citizens of the United States are more unhappy today that they have been for nearly 60 years. That takes us back to the 1960's, the Vietnam War, and the Hippie Movement.

Above all things, do not bury your head in the sand and pretend that all is well -- when it is not. Keep watching world events and be prepared to take action if and when God gives the word to look for the *Place of Safety*:

"So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. . . .

³⁴ But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. ³⁵ For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

³⁶ Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before

the Son of Man [in the Wedding Chamber].'" (Luke 21:31-32, 34-36)

~ Make Ready Now ~

Let us all pledge to prepare ourselves for our coming wedding to our Betrothed Husband, the Messiah Y'shua:

"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints." (Rev. 19:7-8)

~ Sukkot 2020 ~

Please be informed that the *Season of Our Joy Sukkot* celebration (along with many others) will not be held this year. Due to the Covid-19 outbreak, many may have to keep the Feast locally or even alone. Whatever one's situation, let us all keep the *Feast* in spirit and in truth, with like minded Believers, if at all possible.

~ International Mail ~

At this time we are unable to send mail to foreign countries (with the exception of Canada). Therefore, we plan to update our website (www.hebrewroots.net) with the most recent issues of *Hebrew Roots* so they can be referenced there as needed.

~ Current Issue ~

The lead article in this issue, *The Purpose of Plagues*, addresses the recent problem the world is facing with the Covid-19 "pandemic." It shows how God may use plagues and pestilence to serve as a means of His dealing with the nations and people of the world.

Plagues bring much grief and anguish to people. In "*Comfort My People*," we show how God has promised that He will protect and comfort those whom He has called to be a part of his family.

Steve and Shirley Rees contribute the next two articles. *Back to Relationships* shows that we must not forsake building loving relationships with other

Believers without forsaking *Torah*. Shirley's article, *Exchanging Freedom for Safety*, warns against abandoning our calling to speak out concerning God's Word because of fear.

~ Current Offers ~

Two previously recorded CDs are in the process of being re-recorded into DVD format. The first is: *The Binding of Isaac* (R3) from the *Roots of Our Faith Series*. The second is: *Repentance and Return* (RNR) from the *Festival Series*. Orders will be mailed as soon as these new recordings are ready.

Included with this issue is the new *Weekly Torah Reading Schedule for 2020-21*. If you need extra copies, please use the enclosed *Offer Form* and indicate the quantity needed.

The *Wedding of the Messiah* teaching is always timely, no matter what the season. If you have not yet studied our three booklets on that most important subject, now is a good time to do so. *Wedding of the Messiah I, II, and III* are all available for your enjoyment and edification, as are eight recorded teachings (W1 through W8).

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
Dean & Susan Wheelock

~~~~~

Unless otherwise indicated the Scripture quotes used in this publication are from *The New King James Version (NKJV)*, copyright 1982, published by Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, Tennessee.

Used by permission.

*Hebrew Roots*® is published by Dean & Susan Wheelock and supported entirely by the prayers and freewill donations of its subscribers. Subscriptions are free (based on availability of funds) to anyone who sincerely desires to "...grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ [Y'shua HaMashiach] ..." (II Pet. 3:18)

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

*Hebrew Roots*®

PO Box 400  
Lakewood, WI 54138  
1-715-757-2775

E-mail: Contact@HebrewRoots.net  
Website: HebrewRoots.net

Copyright © August, 2020  
All rights reserved.

# The Purpose of Plagues

For all day long I have been plagued,  
And chastened every morning.  
*Psalm 73:14*



In the midst of the Covid-19 virus pandemic many are asking: Was this viral affliction sent by God to afflict mankind or is it merely a natural phenomena with no supernatural basis? Or is it (as the conspiracy theorists claim) all a hoax, devised by the government in order to gain more control over the people? Perhaps the virus escaped through the breeding and eating of unclean creatures from a Wuhan, China market -- or maybe it was developed as a biological weapon in a lab? However, now that it is here, does it really matter where it originated?

The main problem is that the threat of Covid-19 exists in the minds of a large number of people worldwide, and that makes it a threat to all, because of the way people are reacting to it. Each one of us must decide what our reaction will be to this threat (real or imagined) and then move forward in Faith and Trust.

Before attempting to answer these and many other similar questions, remember that *Y'shua* said sometimes tragedies befall men randomly. Therefore, when bad things happen, one should not automatically assume that those who suffer, as a result of them, are the most wicked among us and are being punished by God:

"There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> And Jesus [*Y'shua*] answered and said to them,

'Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? <sup>3</sup> I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

**"<sup>4</sup> 'Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem?**

**<sup>5</sup> I tell you, no; . . ."**

(Luke 13:1-5a)

~ Make No Assumptions ~

According to *Y'shua*, we must not assume that those who have died from the Covid-19 complications were taken out because they were the chief sinners among us -- for we are all on track to perish one day because of our sinful nature:

**"<sup>1</sup> . . . but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."** (Luke 13:5b)

**"As it is written: 'There is none righteous, no, not one; . . . for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, . . .'"** (Rom. 3:10, 23)

It is only after death when our blessed hope comes:

**"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)

All of this leads to other questions such as: If, indeed, this virus has been sent by God, what then, will He accomplish through it? What is the purpose of sending a virus plague at this time in mankind's history and what should be our response to it? If, on the other hand, it is just a natural viral occurrence, what kind of response is appropriate to combat it?

These are all difficult questions, and many of them cannot be answered definitively -- only speculatively. However, they do beg for answers so

that we might discern what, at least in part, is God's will in this matter and to determine how we should conduct our lives during this time and event.

~ Hebrew Word Studies ~

Before discussing how God uses Plagues (in Scripture) it would be beneficial to understand the Hebrew words translated as "plague" and "pestilence." Let's begin with the English definitions:

**Plague:** "an epidemic disease causing a high rate of mortality," or "a disastrous evil or affliction."

**Plagued:** "cause continual trouble."

**Pestilence:** "a contagious or infectious epidemic disease that is virulent and devastating."

One of the primary Hebrew words translated as "plague," in our English Bibles is:

**5061 נָגַף** *nega'* {neh'-gah}

**Meaning:** 1) stroke, plague, disease, mark, plague spot 1a) stroke, wound 1b) stroke (metaphorical of disease) 1c) mark (of leprosy)

**Origin:** from 05060; TWOT\* - 1293a; n m

**Usage:** AV - plague 65, sore 5, stroke 4, stripes 2, stricken 1, wound 1; 78.

*Nega* is derived from the primitive root word:

**5060 נָגַח** *naga'* {naw'-gah}

**Meaning:** 1) to touch, reach, strike ... 1a4) to be stricken 1a4a) stricken (participle) 1b) (Niphal) to be stricken, be defeated

**Origin:** a primitive root; TWOT - 1293; v

**Usage:** AV - touch 92, came 18, reach 11, bring 4, near 4, smite 4, nigh 3, plagued 3, happeneth 2, strike 2, beaten 1, cast 1, reach up 1, brought down 1, join 1, laid 1, get up; 150.

Since *nega* (5061 - *plague*) is derived from the primitive root *naga* (5060 - which primarily means "to touch"), a more personal meaning is

\*TWOT = *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* by Harris, Archer, and Waltke.

added to the English word *plague*. This enables one to see that a plague may be passed to a person, or persons, when they are "touched" -- either by God or (in the physical sense) by someone else who is already afflicted. That "touching" can be light or heavy -- as in "striking."

The idea of "being touched," by a plague, is apparent in the passage about God "touching" or "striking" Pharaoh's house with a "plague" because he brought Sarai, Avram's wife, into his palace with the probable intent of "touching" her sexually:

**"But the LORD [YHVH] plagued [naga - 5060 = touched] Pharaoh and his house with great plagues [nega - 5061 - stroke, plague, disease, or mark] because of Sarai, Abram's wife."**

(Gen. 12:17)

In Scripture, the word *nega* (5061) is usually used as a descriptor of people who were "touched" (or "afflicted") with the ancient Biblical disease of leprosy. It could well have been a form of leprosy which God used to afflict (plague) Pharaoh and his house in the above example:

**"When a man has on the skin of his body a swelling, a scab, or a bright spot, and it becomes on the skin of his body like a leprous [tza-ra'ah] sore [nega = plague], then he shall be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests."**

(Lev. 13:2)

The Rabbis teach that during the time the children of Israel were in the Land, the "plague" of "leprosy" was a divine punishment inflicted on individuals because they had spoken *Lashon Hara* (Lah-shone' Hah-rah' = the evil tongue) about others. This general Rabbinic conclusion was probably reached because Aaron and Miriam spoke *Lashon Hara* against Moshe and, as a result, Miriam became leprosy:

**"Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman. . . .<sup>9</sup> So the anger of the LORD [YHVH] was aroused against them, and He departed. And when the cloud departed from above the**

**tabernacle, suddenly Miriam became leprous, as white as snow."**

(Num. 12:1, 9-10)

The *Torah* remedy for containing leprosy from spreading in the community was to temporarily quarantine (lock down) the afflicted individual while keeping them under close examination by a Priest:

**"But if the bright spot is white on the skin of his body, and does not appear to be deeper than the skin, and its hair has not turned white, then the priest shall isolate the one who has the sore [nega - 5061] seven days."**

(Lev. 13:4)

Another question arises here: Was this quarantine for the purpose of preventing physical contact with others to prevent the spread of the disease? Or was it to keep the individual from spreading more *Lashon Hara* (the evil tongue) about others, as he/she had done in the past, and what may have been the reason for their leprosy in the first place?

#### ~ Another Word Study ~

All of this leads to another family of Hebrew words which are central to understanding the English word "plague." The primitive root of this family of words is:

**5062 נָגַף** *nagaph* {naw-gaf}

**Meaning:** 1) to strike, smite 1a) (Qal) to strike, smite 1b) (Niphal) to be stricken, be smitten 1c) (Hithpael) to stumble

**Origin:** a primitive root; TWOT - 1294; v

**Usage:** AV - smite 27, put to the worse 5, smitten down 3, plague 3, hurt 2, slain 2, struck 2, stumble 2, beaten 1, dash 1, surely 1; 49

The basic meaning here is "to smite" (KJV) or "to strike" (NKJV), in contrast to being merely lightly "touched."

**"For the LORD [YHVH] will pass through to strike [negaph] the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD [YHVH] will pass over the door and not allow the**

**destroyer to come into your houses to strike [negaph] you."** (Ex. 12:23)

There are two spin off words to the primitive root word *nagaph*. The first is:

**5063 נִגֵּף** *negeph* {neh'-ghef}

**Meaning:** 1) blow, striking, plague 1a) blow, plague (fatal) 1b) striking

**Origin:** from 05062; TWOT - 1294a; n m

**Usage:** AV - plague 6, stumbling 1; 7.

**"And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and his sons from among the children of Israel, to do the work for the children of Israel in the tabernacle of meeting, and to make atonement for the children of Israel, that there be no plague [negeph or "striking"] among the children of Israel when the children of Israel come near the sanctuary."**

(Num. 8:19)

The other spin off word from *nagaph* is:

**4046 מִגֵּפָה** *maggephah*

{mag-gay-faw'}

**Meaning:** 1) blow, slaughter, plague, pestilence, strike, smite 1a) blow (fatal stroke) 1b) slaughter (of battle) 1c) plague, pestilence (divine judgment)

**Origin:** from 05062; TWOT - 1294b; n f

**Usage:** AV - plague 21; slaughter 3, plagued 1, stroke 1; 26

**"Now the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation complain against him by bringing a bad report of the land,<sup>37</sup> those very men who brought the evil report about the land, died by the plague [maggephah = "blow" or "slaughter"] before the LORD [YHVH]."**

(Num. 14:36-37)

Finally there is the word:

**4347 מַכָּה** *makkah* {mak-kaw'}

**Meaning:** 1) blow, wound, slaughter 1a) blow, stripe 1b) beating, scourging 1c) wound 1d) slaughter 1e) defeat, conquest 1f) plague

**Origin:** from 05221; TWOT - 1364d; n f p

**Usage:** AV - wound 14, slaughter 14, plague 11, beaten 1, stripes 2, stroke 2, blow 1, smote 1, sores 1, wounded 1; 48.

"Then, if you walk contrary to Me, and are not willing to obey Me, I will bring on you seven times more plagues [makkah = "wounds" or "slaughter"], according to your sins." (Lev. 26:21)

~ Pestilence ~

Pestilence is yet another English word that is used to denote a virulent type of plague. It is primarily translated from the Hebrew word:

1698 דִּבְרָה *deber* {deh'-ber}

**Meaning:** 1) pestilence, plague 2) murrain, cattle disease, cattle-plague

**Origin:** from 01696 (in the sense of destroying); TWOT - 399b; n m

**Usage:** AV - pestilence 47, plagues 1, murrain 1; 49.

"So they said, 'The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please, let us go three days' journey into the desert and sacrifice to the LORD [YHVH] our God, lest He fall upon us with pestilence [*deber*] or with the sword.'" (Ex. 5:3)

~ Greek Words ~

The English word plague also appears in the New Testament and originates from one of four Greek words. The most frequently used New Testament word for "plague" is:

4127 πλῆγῃ *plege* {play-gay}

**Meaning:** 1) a blow, stripe, a wound 2) a public calamity, heavy affliction, plague,

**Origin:** from 4141; n f

**Usage:** AV - plague 12, stripe 5, wound 4; 21.

This is the Greek word which most Bible readers would associate with the English word *plague* as a future event:

"Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues [*plege*], for in them the wrath of God is complete." (Rev. 15:1)

Of lesser usage is the word:

3148 μάστιξ *mastix* {mas'-tix}

**Meaning:** 1) a whip, scourge 2) metaph. a scourge, plague 2a) a calamity, misfortune, esp. sent by God to discipline or punish

**Origin:** probably from the base of 3145 (through the idea of contact); TDNT - 4:518,571; n f

**Usage:** AV - plague 4, scourging 2; 6.

*Mastix* identifies any "affliction" or "scourge" that has been administered by either God, man, or chance:

"For He [Y'shua] healed many, so that as many as had afflictions [*mastix*] pressed about Him to touch Him." (Mark 3:10)

Companion words include:

3146 μαστιγόω *mastigoo* {mas-tig-o'-o}

**Meaning:** 1) to scourge

**Origin:** from 3148; TDNT - 4:515,571; v

**Usage:** AV - scourge 7; 7.

"But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge [*mastigoo*] you in their synagogues." (Matt. 10:17)

3147 μαστίζω *mastizo* {mas-tid'-zo}

**Meaning:** 1) to whip, flog, scourge

**Origin:** from 3149; TDNT - 4:515,571; v

**Usage:** AV - to scourge 1; 1.

*Mastizo* is used only one time:

"And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who stood by, 'Is it lawful for you to scourge [*mastizo*] a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?'" (Acts 22:25)

Finally we come to the Greek form of the English word "pestilence:"

3061 λοιμός *loimos* {loy'-mos}

**Meaning:** 1) pestilence 2) a pestilent fellow, pest, plague

**Origin:** of uncertain affinity; n m

**Usage:** AV - pestilence 2, pestilent 1; 3.

Pestilence is used as a descriptor of the plagues which can be expected prior to the beginning of the coming time period known as the *Wrath of God*:

"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences [*loimos*], and earthquakes in various places." (Matt. 24:7)

~ Curse ~

A related English word is "curse." It is defined as: "an appeal to a supernatural power to harm someone or something, a cause of harm or misery."

A curse may be applied against an individual, a group of people, or even creation itself. A curse does not necessarily mean the application of a "plague" or "pestilence" -- it might mean placing an individual in a negative situation for a period of time (even for life). For example:

"And He said, 'What have you [Cain] done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. <sup>11</sup> So now you are cursed [*arar* - 0779] from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. <sup>12</sup> When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.'" (Gen. 4:10-12)

Believers are warned repeatedly not to place a curse upon others -- especially other Believers. Rather, we are to turn the other cheek, even to our enemies, and bless them instead:

"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. <sup>17</sup> Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.

<sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written,

'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord." (Rom. 12:14-19)

~ Old Testament Examples ~

The Old Testament is full of examples about both individuals and groups of people who were afflicted by pestilence or plagues at one time or another. We will examine a few of them to see if they may help answer some of our questions.

According to Joel C. Rosenberg, in his *www.JoshuaFund* article *What Does the Bible Teach about Pestilence, Plagues and Global Pandemics?* God has three purposes for using plagues or pestilence against men. They are:

- ♦ To *Awaken* (from spiritual slumber or rebellion) those who do not presently have a personal relationship with God.
- ♦ To send a *Divine Warning* (to repent) for those who do know God, but are not following His way of life.
- ♦ To execute *Divine Judgment* (for sins already committed) against those people who have gone beyond God's limit of endurance.

~ The Plagues of Egypt ~

The clearest example of all three purposes being activated by a single event were the plagues God inflicted upon Egypt because their leader (the Pharaoh) did not know God and, therefore, would not listen to His command (given to him through *Moshe* and *Aaron*) to release the children of Israel from harsh slavery and let them leave Egypt to offer sacrifice.

A *Divine Warning* was communicated before the execution of each plague, in an attempt to convince Pharaoh that it was indeed *YHVH*, the all powerful God, who was making this demand; and that it would be to Pharaoh's, and his people's, advantage to let the children of Israel go. However, Pharaoh repeatedly ignored the *Warnings*, as well as each plague itself -- once it was rescinded.

*Moshe* and *Aaron* began with a simple sign:

**"So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and they did so, just as the LORD [YHVH] commanded. And**

**Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent."** (Ex. 7:10)

Pharaoh was not impressed with this initial *Awakening Sign* because his magicians were able to duplicate the feat. His rejection then led to the first of nine increasingly more severe *Warning* plagues (and one *Divine Judgment* plague) which affected the entire nation. The first was turning the waters of the River of Egypt into blood:

**"And Moses and Aaron did so, just as the LORD [YHVH] commanded. So he lifted up the rod and struck the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants. And all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. <sup>21</sup> The fish that were in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink the water of the river. So there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt."** (Ex. 7:20-21)

This *Divine Awakening/Warning Plague* also affected the children of Israel. For them it was definitely a *Divine Awakening* and *Warning* rather than a *Divine Judgment*. However, for the Egyptians the Plagues of Egypt progressed on into *Divine Judgments* -- in addition to just being *Diving Warnings*.

We will not recount all ten plagues of *Divine Warning and Judgment* against Pharaoh and his people here. However, beginning with the fifth plague (the disease inflicted upon the Egyptian's livestock) they no longer affected the children of Israel. They were living in *Goshen* (separate from the Egyptians) and God made it clear there was a big difference between them and the Egyptians (who followed Pharaoh and kept the Israelites in bondage).

Each subsequent plague increased in harshness until the climax came -- which was the *Divine Judgment* of the *Slaying of the Firstborn*. This last plague was preceded by a further *Divine Awakening* for the Israelites, through the institution of the *Festival of Pesach* (Passover), when each family of the children of Israel was commanded

to offer a Lamb as a substitute sacrifice for their own firstborn and thereby receive protection:

**"Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying:**

**""On the tenth day of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. ...**

**<sup>15</sup> "Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup> Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. <sup>7</sup> And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. <sup>8</sup> Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.""** (Ex. 12:3, 5-8)

This *Awakening* to obedience by the children of Israel paid off -- for all of the firstborn who resided within houses that had the blood of the Lamb painted on the doorposts and lintel were spared, while the Egyptian firstborn were slain:

**"And it came to pass at midnight that the LORD [YHVH] struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock."** (Ex. 12:29)

God used the *Ten Plagues* as a *Warning* to both the Israelites and the Egyptians, as well as a *Divine Judgment* against Pharaoh and the Egyptians for refusing to let the children of Israel leave. For the children of Israel it was also a time of *Awakening* to God's great power.

~ Judgments Against Israel ~

There were, however, other times when God's *Divine Judgment* was laid directly upon the children of Israel. One of those cases was when the people listened to *Korach* (a Levite who wanted power) take issue with the

leadership roles which God had assigned to *Moshe* and *Aaron*:

"Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took *men*; <sup>2</sup> and they rose up before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown. <sup>3</sup> They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them,

"*You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the LORD [YHVH] is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD [YHVH]?*" (Num. 16:1-3)

The situation deteriorated to the point where all of the men of Israel took up *Korach's* position to some degree. For this reason, God brought a plague of *Divine Judgment* against the entire nation:

"And Korah gathered all the congregation against them at the door of the tabernacle of meeting." (Num. 16:19)

The *Divine Judgment* punishment for this sin took different forms, depending upon the severity of the involvement of certain individual groups of men. *Korach* (the perpetrator) and those of his followers who stuck close by him, suffered a most terrifying death when they were swallowed up by the earth:

". . . the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all *their* goods. <sup>33</sup> So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly."

(Num. 16:32-33)

Next the 250 men who offered unauthorized incense were taken out by fire:

"And a fire came out from the LORD [YHVH] and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering incense." (Num. 16:35)

But the *Divine Judgment* was still not complete. God then sent a plague throughout the entire body of the children of Israel because they all had listened to the words of *Korach's* rebellion and apparently were sympathetic to the idea to some degree:

"Then Moses and Aaron came before the tabernacle of meeting. <sup>44</sup>And the LORD [YHVH] spoke to Moses, saying,

"<sup>45</sup> 'Get away from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment.' And they fell on their faces.

"<sup>46</sup> So Moses said to Aaron, 'Take a censer and put fire in it from the altar, put incense *on it*, and take it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them; for wrath has gone out from the LORD [YHVH]. The plague [*negeph*] has begun.'

"<sup>47</sup> Then Aaron took *it* as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the assembly; and already the plague [*negeph*] had begun among the people. So he put in the incense and made atonement for the people. <sup>48</sup> And he stood between the dead and the living; so the plague [*maggephah*] was stopped. <sup>49</sup> Now those who died in the plague [*maggephah*] were fourteen thousand seven hundred, besides those who died in the Korah incident.

"<sup>50</sup> So Aaron returned to Moses at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, for the plague [*maggephah*] had stopped." (Num. 16:43-50)

Thus was *Divine Judgment* executed among the children of Israel. It was also a *Divine Warning* not to be tempted, in the future, to rebel against the leadership roles of *Moshe* and *Aaron*; roles that had been given to them directly by God, to lead the children of Israel into the *Promised Land*.

~ Another Corporate Judgment ~

Yet another *Divine Judgment* against the children of Israel, took place while they were dwelling at a place called *Acacia Grove*:

"Now Israel remained in *Acacia Grove* [*Shittim in Hebrew*], and the

people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. <sup>2</sup> They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. <sup>3</sup> So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD [YHVH] was aroused against Israel."

(Num. 25:1-3)

God told *Moshe* that the offenders should be put to death:

"Then the LORD [YHVH] said to Moses,

"Take all the leaders of the people and hang the offenders before the LORD [YHVH], out in the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD [YHVH] may turn away from Israel."

"<sup>5</sup> So Moses said to the judges of Israel, 'Every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal of Peor.'"

(Num. 25:4-5)

Once again it was the righteous anger of one of the *Cohenim* (priests) whose quick and decisive action caused God to leave off the annihilation of a much larger group of Israelites:

"And indeed, one of the children of Israel came and presented to his brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who *were* weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

"<sup>7</sup> Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw *it*, he rose from among the congregation and took a javelin in his hand; <sup>8</sup> and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague [*maggephah*] was stopped among the children of Israel."

(Num. 25:6-8)

Nevertheless, 24,000 men of the children of Israel (based upon census figures it is believed most were from the tribe of *Simeon*) died before the plague was stopped:

"And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand."

(Num. 25:9)

Thus we see that the righteous act of a single man can indeed avail much:

"Then the LORD [YHVH] spoke to Moses, saying:

"<sup>11</sup> 'Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal'" (Num. 25:10-11)

This brings to mind a New Testament Scripture:

"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. . . .

"<sup>19</sup> Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, <sup>20</sup> let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins." (James 5:16, 19-20)

~ The Wicked Spies ~

At times, God issued a *Divine Judgment* death sentence against an individual or small group of men while, in addition, placing a less harsh *Divine Judgment* upon the entire congregation. Such was the case with the bad report of the Ten Spies whom *Moshe* sent to reconnoiter the *Promised Land*:

"Then Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said to them,

"Go up this way into the South, and go up to the mountains, <sup>18</sup> and see what the land is like: whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, few or many; <sup>19</sup> whether the land they dwell in is good or bad; whether the cities they inhabit are like camps or strongholds; <sup>20</sup> whether the land is rich or poor; and whether there are forests there or not. Be of good courage." (Num. 13:17-20)

Two of the spies (*Joshua* and *Caleb*) came back with a positive report, saying that with God's strong arm leading them they could easily conquer the land. But the other ten came back depressed. They saw a land full of giants who, they believed, would devour them if they tried to attack. The

children of Israel chose to believe the pessimistic (majority) report:

"So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. <sup>2</sup> And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them,

"If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! <sup>3</sup> Why has the LORD [YHVH] brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?"

"<sup>4</sup> So they said to one another, 'Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.'" (Num. 14:1-4)

At that time God was ready to destroy the entire corporate body of Israel and start all over again with *Moshe* as the progenitor of His people. However, *Moshe* beseeched God on behalf of the people and He relented of bringing total destruction.

As a result of this rebellion, God did bring immediate and severe *Divine Judgment* upon the ten wicked spies. Scripture does not indicate what form of plague was used to destroy them:

"Now the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation complain against him by bringing a bad report of the land, <sup>37</sup> those very men who brought the evil report about the land, died by the plague [*maggephah*] before the LORD [YHVH].

"<sup>38</sup> But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive, of the men who went to spy out the land." (Num. 14:36-38)

However, the rest of the children of Israel who complained did not totally escape. Instead, they received a less immediate *Divine Judgment* which stipulated that all of the men (above the age of 20) who complained would die in the *Wilderness* and not live to see the *Promised Land*:

"Say to them, "As I live," says the LORD [YHVH], "just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: <sup>29</sup> The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in

this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above.

"<sup>30</sup> Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in. <sup>31</sup> But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised.

"<sup>32</sup> But as for you, your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness. <sup>33</sup> And your sons shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years, and bear the brunt of your infidelity, until your carcasses are consumed in the wilderness. <sup>34</sup> According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years, and you shall know My rejection." (Num. 14:28-34)

~ Other Nations ~

Plagues were also directed against specific nations other than Israel. A prime example was that of the *Philistines*, when they captured the *Ark of the Covenant*. First came a *Warning Sign*:

"Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. <sup>2</sup> When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the temple of Dagon and set it by Dagon.

"<sup>3</sup> And when the people of Ashdod arose early in the morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face to the earth before the ark of the LORD [YHVH]. So they took Dagon and set it in its place again.

"<sup>4</sup> And when they arose early the next morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face to the ground before the ark of the LORD [YHVH]. The head of Dagon and both the palms of its hands were broken off on the threshold; only Dagon's torso was left of it." (I Sam. 5:1-4)

The *Philistines* did not heed this *Warning Sign* and return the *Ark*, so God increased the pressure:

"But the hand of the LORD [YHVH] was heavy on the people of

Ashdod, and He ravaged them and struck [*nakah* - 5221] them with tumors [*techor* - 2914], both Ashdod and its territory." (I Sam. 5:6)

In this case the plague of tumors was a bad case of hemorrhoids. The Hebrew word *techor* (#2914) is defined as:

2914 **טָחַר** *techor* {tekh-ore'}

**Meaning:** 1) tumours, haemor-  
rhoids

**Origin:** from an unused root meaning to burn; TWOT - 803a; n m pl

**Usage:** AV - emerods 8; 8.

It took a little more time, but the *Philistines* eventually learned that they were not to have any contact whatsoever with the *Ark of the Covenant*. Not only did they suffer from hemorrhoids, a plague of death was also inflicted upon them:

"And it was so, that, after they had carried it about, the hand of the LORD [YHVH] was against the city with a very great destruction: and he smote the men of the city, both small and great, and they had emerods [*techor*] in their secret parts.

"<sup>10</sup> Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron." (I Sam. 5:9-10 KJV)

Finally, in desperation, the *Philistines* contacted the *Israelites* and sent the *Ark* back to them where it belonged:

"<sup>11</sup> So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the *Philistines*, and said, 'Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go again to his own place, that it slay us not, and our people:' for there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there.

"<sup>12</sup> And the men that died not were smitten with the emerods: and the cry of the city went up to heaven." (I Sam. 5:11-12 KJV)

#### ~ Divine Warnings ~

God is especially concerned that His *Chosen* people, the children of Israel, walk a righteous path. Therefore, much of prophecy consists of *Warnings* given to both the *House of Israel* and the *House of Judah*

concerning their need to be obedient children by following the commandments of the *Written Torah*:

"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD [YHVH] your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD [YHVH] your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. . .  
<sup>9</sup> The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD [YHVH] your God and walk in His ways." (Deut. 28:1, 9)

It must be remembered that just because a prophetic *Warning* is given, the prophesied plague does not have to occur if the people truly repent. Recall the story of ancient Nineveh:

"But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. <sup>9</sup> Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?"

"<sup>10</sup> Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it." (Jonah 3:8-10)

What God desires is repentance and obedience, not punishment:

"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)

However human beings are susceptible to the pulls of the flesh and the wiles of the *Adversary*. Therefore, the children of Israel were constantly back sliding into sinful attitudes, habits, and practices. Therefore, God kept sending *Prophets* to issue *Warnings* as to what

would happen if they continued down their sinful path. For example:

"Hear this word that the LORD [YHVH] has spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying:

"<sup>2</sup> You only have I known of all the families of the earth;  
Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities." (Amos 3:1-2)

God chastens those whom He loves:

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. <sup>20</sup> Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me." (Rev. 3:19-20)

God is fair. He gives adequate warning concerning what He is going to do if the people do not change for the better:

"Surely the Lord GOD [Adonai YHVH] does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets." (Amos 3:7)

Today is no different. If the people of God (Believers in *Messiah Y'shua*) refuse to hear the *Prophets* and do what is commanded, they will end up paying the penalty of whatever plague or pestilence God chooses to bring against them:

"I sent among you a plague [*deber* - 1698] after the manner of Egypt;  
Your young men I killed with a sword,  
Along with your captive horses;  
I made the stench of your camps come up into your nostrils;  
Yet you have not returned to Me,"

Says the LORD [YHVH].

<sup>11</sup> I overthrew some of you, As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah,  
And you were like a firebrand plucked from the burning;  
Yet you have not returned to Me,"  
Says the LORD [YHVH].

**<sup>12</sup> Therefore thus will I do to you,  
O Israel;  
Because I will do this to you,  
Prepare to meet your God,  
O Israel!"** (Amos 4:10-12)

Of course, one of the mighty tools which God uses to show the people their sins is that of *Pestilence* and *Plague*:

**"God came from Teman,  
The Holy One from Mount  
Paran. Selah  
His glory covered the heavens,  
And the earth was full of His  
praise.**

**<sup>4</sup> His brightness was like  
the light;  
He had rays flashing from  
His hand,  
And there His power was hidden.**

**<sup>5</sup> Before Him went pestilence,  
And fever followed at His feet. . .**

**<sup>12</sup> You marched through the land  
in indignation;  
You trampled the nations  
in anger.**

**<sup>13</sup> You went forth for the  
salvation of Your people,  
For salvation with Your  
Anointed." (Hab. 3:3-5, 12-13)**

~ Prophecies for Modern Israel ~

There are two specific *Torah* passages (*Leviticus 26* and *Deuteronomy 28*) which address the *Blessings* and the *Cursings* which the children of Israel can expect depending on whether or not they follow the commandments of God.

Today, most Bible teachers claim that these prophecies only apply to the *House of Judah* (the Jewish people who are currently known as Israel), since the northern ten tribes of the *House of Israel* were taken captive in 722 BCE and are no longer easily identifiable among the nations of the world.

We disagree with this view -- for if one looks carefully, the *House of Israel* can be found, in significant numbers, among the nations of the British Isles, Northwestern Europe, North America, Australia, and other former colonies of the British Empire -- as well as scattered among all the Gentile nations.

This is why so many prophecy teachers say that America cannot be

found in prophecy. They conclude that America will be destroyed, prior to the time when the written prophecies take effect, and therefore she will be taken out of the prophetic picture before the endtime prophecies begin to come to pass.

The problem is, these teachers do not know about the modern day whereabouts of the *House of Israel*, so they miss the prophecies which apply to America and the other Israelite nations who are not Jewish, nor part of modern day Israel.

~ The Blessings ~

As mentioned, one must look carefully at two main passages of Scripture (*Leviticus 26* and *Deuteronomy 28*) to see what God told *Moshe* would happen to the House of Israel and the House of Judah as a result of their behavior. First there will be blessings if they are obedient:

**"If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, <sup>4</sup> then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. <sup>5</sup> Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.**

**"<sup>16</sup> I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make you afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, and the sword will not go through your land. <sup>7</sup> You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you. . . . <sup>12</sup> I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people."**

(Lev. 26:3-7, 12)

**"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD [YHVH] your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD [YHVH] your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. <sup>2</sup> And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD [YHVH] your God:**

**<sup>13</sup> Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. . . . <sup>8</sup> The LORD [YHVH] will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD [YHVH] your God is giving you. <sup>9</sup> The LORD [YHVH] will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD [YHVH] your God and walk in His ways."**

(Deut. 28:1-3, 8-9)

From a physical standpoint the most blessed of all modern nations are the former colonies of the British Commonwealth -- which includes the United States of America. Their great prosperity was prophesied by none other than *Ya'acov* (aka *Israel*) on his death bed. These are the modern descendants (both physical and spiritual) of Joseph:

**"Joseph is a fruitful bough,**

**A fruitful bough by a well;  
His branches run over the wall.**

**<sup>23</sup> The archers have bitterly  
grieved him,**

**Shot at him and hated him.**

**<sup>24</sup> But his bow remained in  
strength,**

**And the arms of his hands were  
made strong**

**By the hands of the Mighty  
God of Jacob**

**(From there is the Shepherd, the  
Stone of Israel),**

**<sup>25</sup> By the God of your father who  
will help you,**

**And by the Almighty who will  
bless you**

**With blessings of heaven above,  
Blessings of the deep that lies  
beneath,**

**Blessings of the breasts and of  
the womb.**

**<sup>26</sup> The blessings of your father  
Have excelled the blessings of my  
ancestors,**

**Up to the utmost bound of the  
everlasting hills.**

**They shall be on the head of  
Joseph,**

**And on the crown of the head of  
him who was separate from  
his brothers."**

(Gen. 49:22-26)

(Note: for more complete information on the *Lost Tribes of Israel* write for our booklets and many recording teachings on that subject.)

### ~ The Curses ~

However, if the *House of Israel* and the *House of Judah* do not obey the commandments found in the *Written Torah*, then a series of curses are prophesied to come upon them:

**"But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, <sup>15</sup> and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, <sup>16</sup> I also will do this to you:**

**"I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it."** (Lev. 26:14-16)

Additional warnings, via plagues and distress, will occur to the children of Israel if they do not accept God's message and repent of their sins:

**"And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. <sup>19</sup> I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze."**

(Lev. 26:18-19)

The list of curses is much longer in *Deuteronomy 28*. Here is a brief sample:

**"But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD [YHVH] your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:**

**<sup>116</sup> 'Cursed [arar - 0779] shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country. <sup>17</sup> Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. <sup>18</sup> Cursed shall be the fruit of your body and the produce of your land, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. <sup>19</sup> Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.**

**<sup>120</sup> 'The LORD [YHVH] will send on you cursing, confusion, and rebuke in all that you set your hand to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, because of the wickedness of your doings in which you have forsaken Me. <sup>21</sup> The LORD [YHVH] will make the plague [deber = pestilence - 1698] cling to you until He has consumed you from the land which you are going to possess."** (Deut. 28:15-21)

If 21st century Israel and Judah do not, as corporate bodies, repent of their sins, the end result will be terrifying:

**"If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, THE LORD [YHVH] YOUR GOD [Elohim], <sup>59</sup> then the LORD [YHVH] will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues [makah - 4347] -- great and prolonged plagues [makah] -- and serious and prolonged sicknesses.**

**<sup>60</sup> 'Moreover He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you. <sup>61</sup> Also every sickness and every plague [makah], which is not written in this Book of the Law, will the LORD [YHVH] bring upon you until you are destroyed.**

**<sup>62</sup> 'You shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the stars of heaven in multitude, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD [YHVH] your God."**

(Deut. 28:58-62)

If, indeed, we are the *House of Israel*, things do not look good for our nations and our peoples.

### ~ Future Plagues ~

Perhaps the clearest indication that future Biblical plagues and pestilences will not be confined strictly to the children of Israel are the prophecies found in the *Book of Revelation* where, it is clear that all of the people left from all the nations of the world (both Israel and the Gentiles) will experience great suffering and very many will die:

**"So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat**

**on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth."** (Rev. 6:8 NKJV)

The best known of all future plagues are the *Seven Last Plagues*, which complete the *Wrath of God* against the evil works of the nations of what is left of *Satan's* world:

**"Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues [plege], for in them the wrath of God is complete."** (Rev. 15:1)

**"And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. <sup>7</sup> Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever.**

**<sup>18</sup> The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues [plege] of the seven angels were completed."** (Rev. 15:6-8)

### ~ Plague One ~

Loathsome Sores:

**"So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image."** (Rev. 16:2)

### ~ Plague Two ~

Seas Become Blood:

**"Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died."** (Rev. 16:3)

### ~ Plague Three ~

Fresh Waters Become Blood:

**"Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. <sup>5</sup> And**

I heard the angel of the waters saying:

'You are righteous, O Lord,  
The One who is and who was  
and who is to be,  
Because You have judged these  
things.

<sup>6</sup> For they have shed the blood of  
saints and prophets,  
And You have given them blood  
to drink.  
For it is their just due.'

<sup>7</sup> And I heard another from the  
altar saying,

'Even so, Lord God Almighty,  
true and righteous are Your  
judgments.' (Rev. 16:4-7)

~ Plague Four ~

Scorching Heat:

"Then the fourth angel poured  
out his bowl on the sun, and power  
was given to him to scorch men with  
fire. <sup>9</sup> And men were scorched with  
great heat, and they blasphemed the  
name of God who has power over  
these plagues [*plege*]; and they did  
not repent and give Him glory."  
(Rev. 16:8-9)

~ Plague Five ~

Darkness and Pain:

"Then the fifth angel poured out  
his bowl on the throne of the beast,  
and his kingdom became full of  
darkness; and they gnawed their  
tongues because of the pain. <sup>11</sup> They  
blasphemed the God of heaven  
because of their pains and their  
sores, and did not repent of their  
deeds."  
(Rev. 16:10-11)

~ Plague Six ~

Euphrates Dried Up -- Three  
Unclean Spirits Come Forth:

"Then the sixth angel poured out  
his bowl on the great river  
Euphrates, and its water was dried  
up, so that the way of the kings from  
the east might be prepared.

<sup>13</sup> And I saw three unclean  
spirits like frogs coming out of the  
mouth of the dragon, out of the  
mouth of the beast, and out of the  
mouth of the false prophet. <sup>14</sup> For  
they are spirits of demons,

performing signs, *which* go out to the  
kings of the earth and of the whole  
world, to gather them to the battle of  
that great day of God Almighty.

<sup>15</sup> 'Behold, I am coming as a  
thief. Blessed is he who watches, and  
keeps his garments, lest he walk  
naked and they see his shame.'

<sup>16</sup> And they gathered them  
together to the place called in  
Hebrew, Armageddon."

(Rev. 16:12-16)

~ Plague Seven ~

Babylon Falls:

"Then the seventh angel poured  
out his bowl into the air, and a loud  
voice came out of the temple of  
heaven, from the throne, saying,

'It is done!'

<sup>18</sup> And there were noises and  
thunderings and lightnings; and  
there was a great earthquake, such a  
mighty and great earthquake as had  
not occurred since men were on the  
earth.

<sup>19</sup> Now the great city was  
divided into three parts, and the  
cities of the nations fell. And great  
Babylon was remembered before  
God, to give her the cup of the wine  
of the fierceness of His wrath.

<sup>20</sup> Then every island fled away,  
and the mountains were not found.

<sup>21</sup> And great hail from heaven  
fell upon men, *each hailstone* about  
the weight of a talent. [*70 pounds*]  
Men blasphemed God because of the  
plague [*plege*] of the hail, since that  
plague [*plege*] was exceedingly  
great."  
(Rev. 16:17-21)

~ The Divine Warning ~

A *Divine Warning*, to the entire  
world, has been given through these  
prophecies found in the *Book of Revela-  
tion*. The world has access to what to  
expect, if they will only open their  
Bibles and *Awaken* to it's words, accept  
the *Warnings*, and heed the messages.  
Many have been listening and watching  
all along. Many more are beginning to  
listen, and even more to come will  
listen and heed the call to accept *Y'shua  
HaMashiach* (Jesus the Messiah) as  
their Lord and Savior and will be  
allowed to escape all these things:

"But take heed to yourselves,  
lest your hearts be weighed down  
with carousing, drunkenness, and  
cares of this life, and that Day come  
on you unexpectedly. <sup>35</sup> For it will  
come as a snare on all those who  
dwell on the face of the whole earth.

<sup>36</sup> 'Watch therefore, and pray  
always that you may be counted  
worthy to escape all these things that  
will come to pass, and to stand before  
the Son of Man.'" (Luke 21:34-36)

*Y'shua* Himself gave us the  
*Warning Signs* we need to look for and  
the path we need to follow:

"But when you see Jerusalem  
surrounded by armies, then know  
that its desolation is near. <sup>21</sup> Then let  
those who are in Judea flee to the  
mountains, let those who are in the  
midst of her depart, and let not those  
who are in the country enter her.  
<sup>22</sup> For these are the days of vengeance,  
that all things which are written may  
be fulfilled." (Luke 21:20-22)

We do not need to wait for Jerusa-  
lem to be surrounded by armies to  
begin preparing ourselves for what is to  
come. We can begin that journey right  
now:

"And there will be signs in the  
sun, in the moon, and in the stars;  
and on the earth distress of nations,  
with perplexity, the sea and the  
waves roaring; <sup>26</sup> men's hearts failing  
them from fear and the expectation  
of those things which are coming on  
the earth, for the powers of heaven  
will be shaken.

<sup>27</sup> 'Then they will see the Son of  
Man coming in a cloud with power  
and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these  
things begin to happen, look up and  
lift up your heads, because your  
redemption draws near.'" (Luke 21:25-28)

~ Covid-19 Awakening/Warning ~

So we come back to the question:  
Is Covid-19 a plague sent from God? If  
so, is it a *Divine Warning*, a *Divine  
Awakening*, or a *Divine Judgment*?

The answer, for each one of us  
personally, may be the manner in which  
we individually interpret current events.  
Reports abound that many are taking

current conditions seriously and are beginning to look into the Bible for answers. We heard of one person who went looking to purchase a Bible at a Walmart store and could not find one because they were sold out. We hear about people wanting to return to Church -- if and when the authorities allow the Churches to reopen.

But how long will these positive reactions last? The same type of mini-revival occurred after the 9-11 World Trade Center attack, however it did not last long. Once the virus scare is past, will people continue seeking God and His will? Some will, but many will probably drop back into their old ways and forget about what is coming down the road.

Now is the time to draw close to God, and to remain close to Him. Now is the time to reach out to others who are seeing the signs of the times and are frightened.

The future looks bright to those who know *Y'shua* as their Lord and Savior:

**"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ [*Y'shua HaMashiach*], <sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself."** (Phil. 3:20-21)

However, the future looks bleak indeed, to those who have no hope in God and in His only begotten Son *Y'shua*:

**"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ [*Y'shua*]**

***HaMashiach*], who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ [*Y'shua HaMashiach*] from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."**

(I Pet. 1:3-5)

#### ~ In Conclusion ~

God uses *Plagues* in a number of ways for any number of purposes. The three main purposes are:

- ◆ *Divine Awakening*
- ◆ *Divine Warning*
- ◆ *Divine Judgment*

A *Plague* or *Pestilence* does not have to be sent directly by God to be effective in changing the behavior of people. Even a chance happening, if it is frightening enough, can bring people back to Faith in the Creator of the Universe, if it effects them personally in some significant way.

Even if the whole Covid-19 thing turns out to be a fraud (as some claim) it still behooves us to treat it as a *Divine Warning*, since so many people are caught up in its grip of fear and are negatively affected by it.

Now is not the time for carousing -- now is a time for introspection and repentance as *Y'shua* said:

**"So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near."**

<sup>32</sup> 'Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

<sup>34</sup> 'But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. <sup>35</sup> For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.'" (Luke 21:31-35)

Keep watching and praying:

**"Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man [*in the Marriage Chuppah*]."** (Luke 21:36)

(Note: write for our booklets *Wedding of the Messiah I, II, & III* for more information on *Y'shua* taking His Bride to the *Chuppah* in heaven.)

Shalom,

DEW & SAW

~~~~~

~ Sources ~

- BibleWorks 8.0*, CD-ROM Edition, BibleWorks, Norfolk, VA, 2009.
- Rosenberg, Joel C., *What Does the Bible Teach About Pestilence, Plagues and Global Pandemics?* www.JoshuaFund.com
- The Open Bible*, The New King James Version (NKJV), Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, 1985.
- Strong, James, S.T.D., LL.D., *Strong's New Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, World Bible Publishers, Inc., Iowa Falls, 1986.
- Veith, Gene, *The Bible on Plagues and Pestilence*, www.Patheos.com
- Wigram, George V., *The Englishman's Hebrew and Chaldean Concordance of the Old Testament*, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1980.
- Wigram-Green, Jay P., *The New Englishman's Greek Concordance and Lexicon*, Hendrickson Publishers, Peabody, MA., 1982.

~~~~~

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God;  
And everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.  
He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.  
In this the love of God was manifested toward us,  
That God has sent His only begotten Son into the world,  
That we might live through Him.  
In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us  
And sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

*I John 4:7-10*

# "Comfort My People"

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;  
For You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.  
*Psalm 23:4*



There are many passages of Scripture specifically designed to give aid and comfort to the Believer in *Y'shua* by imparting the understanding that God's protection is with us 24/7. That protection is always available, if one stays in the center of His Will with a renewed mind:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service*. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God*." (Rom. 12:1-2)

However, it must be remembered that, despite being members of God's family, and pledged to the "renewing of our minds," we still must fight a great battle in this life, because we are living in *HaSatan's* world -- for he is the god of this age. That is why the *Gospel* message (about the soon coming *Kingdom of Heaven* to this earth) is so important to understand and communicate to others. However, today that message is often veiled to the average person -- who, instead, takes delight in the pleasures and ways of this age:

"But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, <sup>4</sup> whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ [*Messiah*], who is the image of God, should shine on them.

<sup>15</sup> For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus [*Messiah Y'shua*] the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' [*Y'shua's*] sake." (II Cor. 4:3-5)

Nevertheless, as God's very own children, His love surrounds Believers at all times, whether in hope or in trials:

**"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.**

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure." (I John 3:1-3)

## ~ A Fallen World ~

Although we live in a fallen world, God has given us a free will to choose the path we wish to travel -- God's *One Way* or man's many false ways. Mankind continues attempting to govern the world through human "wisdom" and "strength" -- rather than accepting, and following, the Wisdom of our Righteous Creator God.

Because mankind is prone to sin, we need God's continual protection and comfort as we watch the efforts of humankind prove fruitless. Because of man's continual failed attempts to rule effectively, mankind not only needs God's rule to set things straight, but also His warm comfort when things do go bad -- with complete assurance that, in the end, all will be well. Such comforting words have been delivered by the *Prophets* and *Teachers* of ages past -- by those who were commanded to speak words of comfort to God's people following periods of severe trial and chastening:

**"Comfort, yes, comfort My people!"**

Says your God.

<sup>2</sup> **Speak comfort to Jerusalem,**  
and cry out to her,

**That her warfare is ended,  
That her iniquity is pardoned;  
For she has received from the  
LORD'S [*YHVH's*] hand  
Double for all her sins."**

(Isa. 40:1-2)

Once God completes a chastisement, there follows His comforting love. Chastening is never comforting while it is occurring and can take many forms, such as wars, pestilence, plague, personal problems, sinful acts, and wrong thoughts, to name just a few. However, no matter the source of one's trial, there is always comfort in knowing that God does protect us from being overwhelmed by our sins, as well as the temptations of the world:

**"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."** (I Cor. 10:13)

Never forget, God chastens His children because He is a loving Father and wants His children to become perfected:

**""For whom the LORD [*YHVH*]  
loves He chastens,  
And scourges every son whom  
He receives."**

<sup>17</sup> **If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?"** (Heb. 12:6-7)

God will deliver us from the trials of temptation and sin, through the blood of *Y'shua HaMashiach*, if we will ask for and accept His forgiveness -- and agree to follow the straight and narrow path of righteousness. Heed carefully these words of *Y'shua*:

**""Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. <sup>14</sup> Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it,"** (Matt. 7:13-14)

As the *Psalmist* stated:

**"This is my comfort in my affliction,  
For Your word has given me life."** (Psalm 119:50)

~ The Disease of Fear ~

Fear is perhaps the most counter productive of all emotions. When trouble comes (and it will come on a regular basis as we live out our human life) -- as God's children, we can always take comfort in the fact that we need never be afraid -- for God Himself is in complete control and He will deliver us from all evil. Therefore:

**"Fear not, for I am with you;  
Be not dismayed, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you,  
Yes, I will help you,  
I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."**

(Isa. 41:10)

Even when our very lives are in danger, we can still state with assurance that the following *Psalm* applied not only to King David -- it also applies to each one of us today:

**"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;  
For You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."** (Psalm 23:4)

**"And in that day you will say:  
'O LORD, I will praise You;  
Though You were angry with me,  
Your anger is turned away, and  
You comfort me.'"** (Isa. 12:1)

~ Punishment ~

Our nation is currently under heavy attack from the Adversary. He has brought legitimate charges against us as a people because of our sins:

**"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."** (I Pet. 5:8)

We can expect that conditions will only get worse. Yet, we can take comfort knowing that, although the *House of Judah* was long ago turned

away from the *Promised Land* and taken captive for nearly 2000 years, God has now restored her to the *Land* and to a place of honor among the nations of the earth. God comforts His people in the long run:

**"I remembered Your judgments of old, O LORD [YHVH],  
And have comforted myself."**  
(Psalm 119:52)

**"Sing, O heavens!  
Be joyful, O earth!  
And break out in singing,  
O mountains!  
For the LORD [YHVH] has comforted His people,  
And will have mercy on His afflicted."** (Isa. 49:13)

~ Psalm 91 ~

While many of the *Psalms* extend comfort to the weary and the fearful, perhaps *Psalm 91* heads the list. Even though it indicates that a pestilential battle is imminent, the promise is made that God will always be on our side in the long run. Therefore, we will be protected and delivered out of our troubles safely, if we are dwelling in God's secret place:

**"He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High  
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.  
<sup>2</sup> I will say of the LORD [YHVH],  
'He is my refuge and my fortress;  
My God, in Him I will trust.'  
<sup>3</sup> Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
And from the perilous pestilence [deber]."**  
(Psalm 91:1-3)

Just as a mother hen protects her young chicks from predators by taking them under her wings, so does God protect us under His "wings:"

**<sup>4</sup> He shall cover you with His feathers,  
And under His wings you shall take refuge;  
His truth shall be your shield and buckler.  
<sup>5</sup> You shall not be afraid of the terror by night,  
Nor of the arrow that flies by day,**

**<sup>6</sup> Nor of the pestilence [deber] that walks in darkness,  
Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday."**  
(Psalm 91:4-6)

Here, the word "wings" is a metaphor for a *Tallit* or *Prayer Shawl*. God's *Tallit* (His Blessings) provide a covering for us day and night. Even though the battle might be fierce (i.e. against an army, or a plague, or a heavy duty personal problem), God will protect His people one way or another, for God's Holy Angels watch over His children at all times, but especially in times of trials and temptations:

**<sup>7</sup> A thousand may fall at your side,  
And ten thousand at your right hand;  
But it shall not come near you.  
<sup>8</sup> Only with your eyes shall you look,  
And see the reward of the wicked.  
<sup>9</sup> Because you have made the LORD [YHVH], who is my refuge,  
Even the Most High, your dwelling place,  
<sup>10</sup> No evil shall befall you,  
Nor shall any plague [nega] come near your dwelling; . . .**  
(Psalm 91:7-10)

The next passage of *Psalm 91* is the one *HaSatan* quoted to *Y'shua*, during His temptation in the Wilderness -- when the *Adversary* tried to entice *Y'shua* to tempt the Father by jumping off the Temple Mount to prove that God would send angels to His rescue:

**"Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> and said to Him,  
'If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written:  
"He shall give His angels charge over you," and,  
"In their hands they shall bear you up,  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone. [Psalm 91:11-12]"**  
(Matt. 4:5-6)

*Y'shua* refused to take the bait. His refusal taught a very important lesson. Despite God's firm promises of safe keeping, we are not to take Him for granted to the point where we purposely do something rash which will require Him to rescue us when it would not otherwise have been necessary. In other words, we must not "tempt" God to save us from our own folly, even though Angels can be sent forth:

**"Are they [the Angels] not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?"** (Heb. 1:14)

God has placed His Angels around us for protection and guidance. They are available to help us in times of real need:

- <sup>11</sup> **For He shall give His angels charge over you,  
To keep you in all your ways.**
- <sup>12</sup> **In their hands they shall bear you up,  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.**
- <sup>13</sup> **You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra,  
The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot."** (Psalm 91:11-13)

When we find ourselves in a dire situation, God promises to be there to rescue us, because we love Him and wish to do our best to please Him by keeping His commandments while loving one another:

- <sup>14</sup> **Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him;  
I will set him on high, because he has known My name.**
- <sup>15</sup> **He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him;  
I will be with him in trouble;  
I will deliver him and honor him.**
- <sup>16</sup> **With long life I will satisfy him,  
And show him My salvation."** (Psalm 91:14-16)

As can be seen, Believers have firm promises, from the Creator of the Universe, that He will watch over us and protect us at all times. However, we should still take prudent physical precautions as well -- for there is an old proverb which states:

*"God helps those who help themselves."*

In other words, we still need to do everything that is within our personal power to avoid war, pestilence, and sin -- as though it were entirely up to us to fight the battle. At the same time, we need to have full Trust and Confidence (Faith) that God will help us through those trials which are beyond our personal power to resist, avoid, or overcome.

#### ~ The Ultimate Comfort ~

Even if we fall victim to death (the natural end of life), God is continually watching over us in the grave. While we sleep the sleep of death, He continues to uphold the universe, waiting for events to reach their climax. At that time He will resurrect Believers, who have fallen asleep, to eternal life in His Kingdom:

**"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus [*Y'shua*] died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus [*Y'shua*]."**

**"<sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ [Messiah] will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.**

**"<sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words."** (I Thess. 4:13-18)

#### ~ Finally ~

Because *Abba* comforts us when we most need His love and assistance, we should, in turn, comfort and assist others when we see them struggling with trials in this life:

**"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ [*Y'shua***

*HaMashiach*], the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup>who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." (II Cor. 1:3-4)

To top it all off, *Y'shua* promised to send *Another Comforter* (in addition to all the other promises mentioned in Scripture), once He had risen from the grave and returned to heaven to sit at the right hand of God the Father:

**"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; <sup>17</sup> Even the Spirit [the *Ruach HaKodesh*] of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."**

(John 14:16-17 KJV)

**"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth."** (John 16:13 KJV)

Praise God for the gift of the *Ruach HaKodesh* (the Holy Spirit), given to indwell all Believers and guide them every step of the way -- to live lives that are pleasing to Him.

Shalom,

DEW & SAW

~~~~~

~ Sources ~

- Bible Study Tools Staff,
Bible Verses About Protection,
BibleWorks 8.0, CD-ROM Edition,
BibleWorks,
Norfolk, VA, 2009.
- The Open Bible*,
The New King James Version (NKJV),
Thomas Nelson Publishers,
Nashville, 1985.
- Strong, James, S.T.D., LL.D.,
Strong's New Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible,
World Bible Publishers, Inc.,
Iowa Falls, 1986.
- Wellman, Jack,
Psalm 91: Commentary,
www.whatchristianswantoknow.com

~~~~~

*Blessed are those who mourn,  
For they shall be comforted.  
Matthew 5:4*

# Back to Relationships

Create in me a clean heart,  
O God; and renew a right spirit within me.  
Psalm 51:10

by Steve Rees

**I**n preparation for our America's 7000 Summer Tour I went to get our propane bottles for our trailer filled. As Bobby was filling my tanks, we began to talk. Our conversation quickly turned to our Heavenly Father and how He sees what is going on around us in our nation. Bobby has an amazing relationship with his Redeemer, and it pervades his conversation and his business. As we talked, he began to tell me of an experience he had about 4 years ago.

At the time, he owned a nursery business and one day he was loading some large pots onto a trailer when he began to feel some chest and jaw pain. As he began to notice the advancing symptoms, he decided he had better get some medical help. Soon, he was in a hospital bed awaiting open heart surgery the next morning. His son is an anesthesiologist and came to be with him that evening and began to ask him if he realized that this was a serious surgery and that he could die during it. He asked his dad if that worried him.

Bobby told him that it didn't worry him. He had confidence in his Redeemer and whatever took place was okay with him. If he died, then he was with the Lord. If he survived, he would

be with his son and wife and family. Either way it wasn't a bad deal! He slept peacefully that night, and obviously came through with flying colors. His son would go on to post on his Facebook page how much his father's calm assurance was such an inspiration to him:

**"Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."** (II Cor. 5:6-8 KJV)

~ Relationship With God ~

I don't know what religion Bobby is. I don't know what church he goes to or if he even goes to a specific church. I don't know if he understands the *Torah* or keeps the *Sabbath* or the feasts of *YHVH*. What I do know is that he has an incredible relationship with *Yashua*, and he doesn't go around with a burden of guilt and sin on his shoulders. He doesn't seem to be going around checking off boxes to make sure he has done everything *Torah* requires. He has allowed *Yashua* to set him free:

**"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."**

(John 8:36 KJV)

Before I continue, I want to make it clear that I love the *Shabbat* and the feasts and studying *Torah*. But I will also say that I love the rest of the Bible that seems to get short shrift among many *Torah* fellowships that I have visited. I love to celebrate the feasts of *YHVH* but I also love to meet with my fellow believers in *Yashua* that don't understand them, and maybe help them to understand them through my eyes. I love to fellowship on *Shabbat*, but I also love to meet with some of my brothers and sisters that are gathering on Sunday. I believe that we are to be bridge builders instead of wall builders!

I think back to the days when I didn't understand the *Torah* as I do today; when I was a member of a worship group who lead praise and worship on Sunday morning; when I was still eating shrimp; when I didn't understand or even know about the feasts of *YHVH*. In the middle of all that, I had a relationship with my *Abba* that continues today. That relationship has developed over time in understanding and experience, but it was no less a genuine relationship with my Redeemer.

I meet so many people today that used to have that relationship in their previous fellowships but now somehow, they have let that first love go in preference to gaining knowledge within the *Torah* Hebraic understanding. I wonder if this is not what Paul is addressing in Galatians:

**"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ [Messiah] unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ [Messiah]. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."** (Gal. 1:6-9 KJV)

~ Neo-Gnosticism ~

I want to address this topic that has grown to cause me great concern over the past years. My wife and I have

*Steve and Shirley Rees are the tellers of Scripture stories. They follow in the steps of the Peregrinnatti (the ancient Celtic missionaries) who spread the Gospel throughout the ancient world. Shirley, as the storyteller, brings alive the stories of the Bible. Steve is a musician who plays the Celtic folk harp in accompaniment to the stories. He also performs solo, composing many of the pieces he plays as a form of worship music from the Psalms of David.*

*And so, the Peregrinnatti follow their ancient brothers. Why? Because faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of YHVH.*

Steve and Shirley Rees

707-373-0976

[www.calmingharp.com](http://www.calmingharp.com)

[www.HarpandStory.com](http://www.HarpandStory.com)

[www.GodsPowerLines.com](http://www.GodsPowerLines.com)

been traveling full time in ministry around the USA and Internationally now for the past 15 years and have been exposed to varying degrees of what I call "neo-gnosticism." I will define that term as "the worship of knowledge" and add the prefix "neo" onto it to denote that it is a new form or resurgence of what we find Paul and John were up against with the *Nicolaitans* that John mentions by name in Revelation 2:6. Paul doesn't name them specifically but he is warning against their practices in *Colossians* 3.

I am using the word in the context of many people I encounter that are so intent on learning knowledge but don't have any time or energy to establish and maintain a relationship with *Yashua* our *Redeemer*. There also is no time or interest in engaging the *Holy Spirit* for guidance or as *Yashua* said, "To guide us into all truth." They seem to think that if they can just get the correct knowledge, they will achieve the entrance into the messianic kingdom. As I look on, I observe that this "salvation" seems to be focused on how well they can perform the *Torah* and the more guidance they have into the specifics of that performance the better.

Author R.V. Young, in his book, "*Harold Bloom: The Critic as Gnostic*," summarizes Gnostic teachings this way:

"The Gnostics' teaching places the origin of evil, of pain and suffering, in the conditions of the material creation; salvation involves overcoming ignorance and escaping these external conditions by finding divinity within. . . . The Gnostic finds the beginning of the path to salvation in the realization that the world is a great imposture, a prison of pain and frustration. His escape lies in recovering the intrinsic good within himself, the principle of illumination that he shares with other enlightened spirits. . . . What makes it possible for the self and God to commune so freely is that the self already is of God."

How sad it must be to have to place so much emphasis on how well one performs in order to secure this salvation through one's own efforts. There

is no place for a *Redeemer*; no recognition of the yoke that *Yashua* offers us that is easy and light. No rest unto our souls.

In *Jeremiah* it talks about finding the ancient paths and walking in them and they would bring rest:

**"Thus saith the LORD [YHVH], stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, we will not walk therein."**

(Jer. 6:16 KJV)

That last sentence is so sad and is where I find so many people today. "We will NOT walk therein." How sad that so many are depending on their own efforts and their own knowledge to "make it." *Yashua* came to give us rest; He showed us the way; He is *The Way*! If we need knowledge/wisdom, *James* tells us to ask our Heavenly Father and He will give it. We don't need to search out other sources. We don't need to rely on sects and teachers that claim to have special knowledge that we must have or we won't make it or properly understand it!

~ Restoration ~

I was in correspondence with a person one time that kept trying to convince me that I wasn't performing the *Torah* correctly. He kept pointing out things that I wasn't following that were counter to his book (which wasn't the Bible) and as the notes continued to fly, he became more serious that I was not living correctly. My responses were based on my relationship with *Yashua* as my *Redeemer* and eventually he began to attack *Yashua* as a false prophet because He taught counter to his special book of knowledge that he was trying to get me to follow. I kept coming back to the Bible and the direction of the *Holy Spirit* as my guide into understanding the truths of scripture and finally one day he told me that I wasn't able to understand the *Torah* unless I had a proper instructor that understood the original language. Eventually he became frustrated with me and stopped communicating. To me it was a sad chapter because I could sense such bondage coming from his life. He did not have rest.

I believe that this emphasis on our performance and having all the right knowledge is a contributing factor if not the main reason for all the splits and fights among many of the *Believers* that I encounter. Think about it, if you have to have the correct knowledge and make the correct performance: as you understand it, then if someone else has a different knowledge or performance, then you must automatically either convince them to change to your understanding or shed them and have nothing to do with them any further.

As you think about Israel at the foot of Mount Sinai, when *Elohim* spoke, they said, "All that You have said, we will do." They knew exactly what He had said, and they intended to do it, but almost immediately they told Moses that he was going to have to go listen to what *Elohim* said and then come back and tell them what He said. They said they didn't want to listen to Him directly because they thought they would die.

If you think about it, *YHVH's* original plan was to have direct communication with His people that He was making a nation out of. He wanted to enter into a relationship with them. He wanted to restore them and get Egypt out of them and give them a land in which He could establish a kingdom in which He would be their king and they would be a kingdom of priests.

We are told that in the *Garden of Eden*, before the fall, Adam and Eve would sit down with *YHVH* in the cool of the evening (which can also mean in the presence of His *Ruach* or wind) and they would have conversations. What do you think *Abba* and they would be talking about? My guess is that He would have been instructing them in what would later become the *Torah* which is basically how to live a blessed life free from curses and death.

Ever since the fall of Adam and Eve from the garden, *Abba* has been working at restoring us back to that relationship. I believe that His giving of the *Torah* on Mt. Sinai was part of that plan for restoration – to bring Israel as a nation back into that place where they could sit in the cool of the evening and have conversations about how to live a blessed life, free from curses and

death. But they would not enter into that relationship. Their history as revealed throughout the pages of scripture show us that they failed miserably to live according to the *Word* written with the finger of YHVH. Without His empowering presence, they could not activate those *Words* in their lives.

### ~ Living the Word ~

*Yashua* is that *Word* revealed on *Mt. Sinai* and in the *Garden of Eden* and to us today! But we cannot activate living that *Word* by checking off boxes or having sufficient knowledge. It can only be activated in a vital relationship with Him and He tells us that that is through the empowering presence of the *Holy Spirit/Ruach HaKodesh* in our lives to act as our guide:

**"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."**(John 14:26 KJV)

We were in a *Torah* study with a group one *Shabbat* and as we were discussing the reading, one of the members of the group made a shocking statement. He said, "Well, Israel didn't keep the *Torah* because they were stubborn. But we can keep the *Torah* perfectly now because we have their experiences to refer to and avoid their pitfalls. We can keep *Torah* perfectly now if we want to."

I say I was shocked because here this man was stating that our own actions were enough to bring us into the *Messianic Kingdom*. He was proclaiming that there was no need for a *Savior* or redemption. The sad thing is; a year later, when we were visiting our friends that were a part of that group, this man and his wife were no longer coming to the group and had now proclaimed that *Yashua* was not divine or able to make a sacrifice for our sins – he was just a man.

Sadly, that experience has been repeated too many times. I have sat for hours with numerous people who have been convinced by so called "really smart people who understand the original language" that *Yashua* was just a man, possibly a good teacher, but

certainly not the *Lamb of God* to take away the sins of the world. How Sad!

Friends let me say this as plainly as I can. Knowledge will never bring you into the kingdom of *Yashua*. When we read the parable of the 10 virgins, we note that 5 had oil and went into the wedding feast with the *Groom (Yashua)* and 5 did not have oil. They had to try and to find some oil from someone else. While they were trying to find the oil, the *Groom* came and entered into the wedding feast and the door was shut.

I believe that the oil represents our relationship with our *Groom – Yashua*. The reason I believe that is because when the other 5 come to the door, *Yashua* answers the door and tells them He doesn't even recognize them – they don't have a relationship with Him. He says he doesn't know them using a word that means intimate knowledge – relationship.

Another reason I believe that the oil represents relationship is because the first 5 virgins say they actually can't give their oil. Relationships cannot be given away. I often say that God does not have any grandchildren. He only has children. You can only have a relationship with *Abba*. Nobody else can have one for you!

### ~ Why Torah? ~

So, you may ask, why does YHVH give us the *Torah* to study if it's all based on relationship? If it's all about relationship, what is the value of studying and gaining knowledge anyway. Some may even ask if I'm trying to say that it doesn't matter what you do as long as you are in relationship.

Relationship is how we understand what we read. I love Francis Schaeffer's penetrating question, "How then shall we live." As we read the *Torah* and the rest of scripture, we should be constantly asking the *Holy Spirit* that question. The *Ruach HaKodesh* is the one whom *Yashua* said would be our guide. When we read a passage and want clarification on it, we ask the *Ruach*. When we want to live what we just read, we ask the *Holy Spirit* for His empowering presence to actually be able to live it out. When we see our lives not matching up to what the scriptures reveal, we ask the *Ruach* to

transform us and give us the mind of *Mashiach*.

Paul says that the *Torah* is like a mirror – it reflects back to us what we look like so we can fix it. But it takes the *Holy Spirit* in us to actually be able to fix it:

**"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."** (II Cor. 3:18).

One other note from Paul:

**"Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ [Messiah]."** (Gal. 4:1-7 KJV)

*Yashua* has set us free from the bondage of the world as Paul states here. When Paul uses the phrase, "We are therefore no longer under the law," he is using the context of no longer under the law of the flesh as opposed to the Law of the Spirit. But Paul was just as concerned about those who were under the trap of fulfilling the *Torah* through the achievements of their own flesh – that is another way to be under the bondage of the law of the flesh.

In *Psalms 51*, David asks YHVH to CREATE a clean heart within him. He knew that it was going to take the creative forces of *Abba* to make it possible for him to be able to be what he eventually became – A Man after God's Own Heart! May that be the cry of each of our own hearts today –

**"CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART OH YHVH!"**

~~~~~

Exchanging Freedom for Safety

Create in me a clean heart,
O God; and renew a right spirit within me.
Psalms 51:10

by Shirley Rees



I read this quote recently in a *NewsWithViews.com* article by Kelleigh Nelson:

"As democracy is perfected, the office of the President represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of the people. On some great and glorious day, the plain folks of the land will reach their heart's desire at last and the White House will be occupied by a downright fool and complete narcissistic moron." — H.L. Mencken, the *Baltimore Evening Sun*, July 26, 1920,

H.L. Mencken (born 1880 – died 1956) was a journalist, satirist, critic and registered Democrat.

The following description is found in another article published on *NewsWithViews.com* by Edwin Vieira, JD, Ph.D.,

"When Will 'Enough Is Enough' Become 'This Is Too Much'?" June 12, 2020

As of right now, though, with respect to "covid-19" Mr. Trump seems akin to a tennis ball, being hit back and forth across the net by players drawn from different departments of the Deep State. With a stroke of a racket on one side of the net he flies off on a trajectory marginally favorable to the interests of the Deplorables, whereas the stroke of a racket on the other side impels him on a trajectory distinctly unfavorable to their interests. And being only a ball in someone else's play, all his bounces, to and fro, remain squarely within the Deep State's court.

Scholar and philosopher Steven Yates Ph.D. has written an article also

published by *NewsWithViews.com*, June 8, 2020, titled "12 Unpleasant Truths" the first unpleasant truth being: Most of the human race couldn't care less about freedom. Quoting from H.L. Mencken in *Notes on Democracy* (orig. 1926) that

"... the common man doesn't want to be free. He simply wants to be safe."

~ Controlling the Masses ~

The masses are easily controlled with fear. Hermann Goering's statement from prison during the Nuremberg Trials is oft-quoted:

"Why, of course the people don't want war. Why would some poor slob on a farm want to risk his life in a war when the best that he can get out of it is to come back to his farm in one piece? Naturally, the common people don't want war; neither in Russia nor in England nor in America, nor for that matter in Germany. ... But ... it's the leaders of a country who determine policy, and it's always a simple matter to drag the people along whether it's a democracy, a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. ... All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same way in any country."

I'm sorry America, but you are not going to be free or safe for much longer if the present trajectory continues. It is especially troubling to me when people say, "life hasn't changed for me, no issues here, going about my business same as usual." That may be true for you --- for now. But you too will,

eventually, suffer under the heavy heel of oppressive technocracy.

I want to believe a remnant will rise up and hold back the forces of darkness. I want to believe that a remnant will keep the snarling, vicious dogs of China, Southern Europe and the Middle East chained. I want to believe that America will be great again. I want to believe in mankind rousing him/herself from his/her slumber and fighting for freedom. I want to believe, but the only thing I know I believe for certain is that my Redeemer lives!

My Redeemer Lives by Nicole C. Mullen:

I know my redeemer lives
All of creation testifies
This life within me cries
I know my redeemer lives

~ For the Sake of Security ~

For security the ancient Israelites traded the cloud above them by day and the pillar of fire by night for a golden calf. For security the Israelites of the prophet Samuel's day begged for a king like all the nations around them. For security the remnant of Judeans fled to Egypt instead of listening to the prophet Jeremiah. Each one of these examples was met with tragedy.

How much freedom did we give up after the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001? How much freedom have we given up under "COVID 19" restrictions? We are told that we can't fly unless we wear a mask, (providing even that there is a plane flying where we want to go). We are prohibited from entering certain stores if we aren't wearing a mask. We can't be with our loved ones in a hospital or nursing home. We are publicly excoriated (and in some places even fined) if we hug or shake hands or walk closer than 6' apart. And to make our lives come more under the thumb of absolute control, "Contact Tracing" is being rolled out in all 50 states. How many are giving up being the physical manifestation of *Yeshua* to our fellow human beings for safety. "I'll talk on the phone, I'll send you a cute emoji text, I'll write a cheery email letting you know how much you are missed and loved, but don't ask me to meet with you!" Please don't be afraid of me.

Where are the Patrick Henry's to declare, "Give me liberty or give me death!"

~ Y'shua's Disciples ~

Let us remember what *Yeshua* said on the night of His arrest: The world will know you are my disciples by the love you have for one another. Have we gotten to the place where our "love" is now displayed through electronic formats?

Dr. Jim Wilder of Life Model Works has said that he is very concerned that people are losing the ability to be relational. As electronics take over more and more of people's time and energy we become less and less relational. Eye to eye, face to face communication builds relational links in the brain; looking and talking to someone through a blue screen does not. It does take courage to be relational!

The definition of **Virtual** --

"Existing or resulting in essence or effect though not in actual fact, form, or name: 2. Existing in the mind, especially as a product of the imagination."

"I love you so much and miss you even more," sent electronically to a person in trauma will not elicit the same response as meeting their need with arms open wide offering a hug and shoulder to cry on and a listening ear. The freedom to be REAL and in the moment meeting the needs of fellow sojourners is the commission *Yeshua* gave us:

"But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give." (Matt. 10:6-8)

~ Hands On ~

This is hands on ministry, nothing virtual about it!

Freedom is an inalienable right Do we know what that word means? **INALIENABLE** --

"Unable to be taken away from or given away by the

possessor: 'freedom of religion, the most inalienable of all human rights.'"

Our country's Declaration of Independence says:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain **unalienable** Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

But we don't seem to understand these words for we continue to exchange our inalienable rights for safety and security. Oh GOD, forgive us!

~ The Historical Cycles ~

Human history is story after story of cycles of elation, awakening, decay and crisis. It is in the crisis that God reveals Himself in unmistakable ways.

We are in CRISIS! Therefore, we can expect God to reveal Himself in the midst of this violently, crashing storm. From Steven Yates article *12 Unpleasant Truths*:

"Ages of decadence characterized by frivolity, materialism, greed, and a weakening sense of transcendent values, division and increased hostility, an unhealthy obsession with sex, general depravity — and worsening fiscal irresponsibility as a parasite class gathers not at the bottom but at the top"

-- inevitably lead to this:

"Therefore, as I live, declares the

Lord **GOD**, surely, because you have defiled my sanctuary with all your detestable things and with all your abominations, therefore I will withdraw. My eye will not spare, and I will have no pity. A third part of you shall die of pestilence and be

consumed with famine in your midst; a third part shall fall by the sword all around you; and a third part I will scatter to all the winds and will unsheathe the sword after them.

"Thus, shall my anger spend itself, and I will vent my fury upon them and satisfy myself. And they shall know that I am the LORD [YHVH] -- that I have spoken in my jealousy -- when I spend my fury upon them." (Ezek. 5:11-13 ESV)

In the midst of the crisis we have this promise:

"He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action."

(Dan. 11:3)

~ Spirit and Truth ~

Revelation 11 is about the two witnesses which I am going to refer to as Spirit and Truth. These two "prophets" had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth. (Refer to the Steven Yates segment quoted above for why these two are so despised.) Could it be that the people who know their GOD, who live and walk in SPIRIT and TRUTH are the two witnesses of Revelation? And what is the purpose of these two witnesses? Could it be that they are to reestablish FEAR of YHVH? This is what they are given authority to do upon the earth:

"And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth. . . . And if anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed. They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire." (Rev. 11:3, 5-6 ESV)

Yeshua warned us at every turn to fear God, not men, but our chief sin is that we:

"... have no fear of God at all" (Romans 3:18)

We are told to:

"Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matt. 10:28)

Do you fear government more than GOD? If so, I'll pass along a bit of advice, REPENT, and FEAR GOD!

On that day which one of these scenarios will The LORD say to you?

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'"

(Matt. 25:34-36)

OR

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'"

(Matt. 25:41-43)

FREEDOM or Security --- your choice:

"And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face.

³⁶Like as I pleaded with your fathers

in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD.

³⁷And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant: ³⁸And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD [YHVH].

³⁹As for you, O house of Israel, thus saith the Lord GOD; Go ye, serve ye every one his idols, and hereafter also, if ye will not hearken unto me: but pollute ye my holy name no more with your gifts, and with your idols. ⁴⁰For in mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things.

⁴¹I will accept you with your sweet savour, when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been

scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before the heathen. ⁴²And ye shall know that I am the LORD [YHVH], when I shall bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to your fathers. ⁴³And there shall ye remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and ye shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that ye have committed. ⁴⁴And ye shall know that I am the LORD [YHVH], when I have wrought with you for my name's sake, not according to your wicked ways, nor according to your corrupt doings, O ye house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.'" (Ezek. 20:35-44 KJV)

Where are the 7000 that have not bowed their knee to the Baal's of this world? (1 Kings 19:18)

Shirley Rees
June 13, 2020

www.HarpandStory.com
email: HarpandStory@yahoo.com

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Not Under the Law:

Paul and the Truth

by Kent and Jodi Smith

This book shows, in a concise commonsense manner, what Paul meant (and could not have meant) by the phrase, "not under the law." You may want to share it with all of your Christian friends and family.

This book has a direct but gracious tone, and is packed with Scripture. It quickly and thoroughly covers all the essential points of contention: Paul's intent, *Y'shua's* view of the law, the "end" of the law, the schoolmaster, consistency of interpretation, unclean meats, the decision in Acts 15, and many other relevant questions.

For information on how to obtain this book contact:

Jodi Smith
30504 CSAH 25
Grove City, MN 56243
www.RockFoundationRanch.com

The Days of Awe

Let all the earth fear the LORD:
Let all the inhabitants of the world
Stand in awe of him.
Psalm 33:8



Each year, during the *Fall Festival* season, Orthodox Jews rehearse an endtime scenario of *Teshuvah* (repentance and return) to God's ways. It begins on *Rosh HaShannah*, the first day of judgment. Those who are deemed "totally righteous" on that day, are given a place in the *Book of Life* for the coming year.

For those whose names did not attain entry into the "Book of Life" on *Rosh HaShannah*, a second period of time is given for repentance. It is known as *Yamin Nora'im*, (Yah-meem' Noh-rah-eem') the "awesome days" or the "days of trouble." In Orthodox Judaism, this is considered to be a sinful person's last opportunity for repentance.

Yamin Nora'im (the Days of Awe) are the ten day period which begins on *Rosh HaShannah* and ends at the conclusion of *Yom Kippur* (Day of Atonement). During this time, the *Gates of Heaven* are said to be open to those with a heart to repent and return to God's way of life. As long as the *Gates of Heaven* remain open, access to God is available to all who desire to have their names written in the *Book of Life*.

One thing is sure, after the complete and final fulfillment of *Yom Kippur* takes place (and this will not be until after the one thousand year millennial reign of the Messiah), everyone will have their name written in either the *Book of Life* or the *Book of Death*.

As Believers, we know that it is only through the atoning sacrifice of *Y'shua* that our names can be entered into the *Book of Life*, but it is also imperative that each person come to true repentance for their sins. The *Days*

of *Awe* are symbolic of the final days during which repentance is possible.

~ Standing in Judgment ~

In our view, on *Rosh HaShannah* the entire world stands in judgment before God and deserves to be found guilty. Only those whose sins have been forgiven, through their acceptance of the sacrificial blood of *Y'shua HaMashiach*, are worthy to be found not guilty. This acquittal is not rendered because of their own righteousness or works, but because the righteousness of *Y'shua* has been applied to them:

**"But we are all like an unclean thing,
And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; ..."**
(Isa. 64:6)

Therefore we must "seek the LORD" while He may still be found:

**"Seek ye the LORD [YHVH] while he may be found,
Call ye upon him while he is near:
Let the wicked forsake his way,
And the unrighteous man his thoughts:
And let him return unto the LORD [YHVH],
And he will have mercy upon him;
And to our God,
For he will abundantly pardon."**
(Isa. 55:6-7)

While we, in our natural carnal state, are totally unrighteous, God's righteousness is eternal:

**"For law will proceed from Me,
And I will make My justice rest As a light of the peoples.
My righteousness is near,
My salvation has gone forth,
And My arms will judge the peoples;
The coastlands will wait upon Me,
And on My arm they will trust.**

**⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
And look on the earth beneath.
For the heavens will vanish away like smoke,
The earth will grow old like a garment,
And those who dwell in it will die in like manner;
But My salvation will be forever,
And My righteousness will not be abolished.'" (Isa. 51:4-6)**

God's righteousness is available for all:

"For the goal at which the *Torah* aims is the Messiah, who offers righteousness to everyone who trusts."
(Rom. 10:4 CJB)

According to S.Y. Agnon in his Nobel prize winning book, *Days of Awe*, p.110;

"The ten days between *Rosh HaShannah* and *Yom Kippur* were set aside for prayer and supplication, because all earthly life is judged on *Rosh HaShannah*, and he who returns to God is forgiven on *Yom Kippur*..."

~ A Midrash ~

There is a very interesting *Midrash* told in I Samuel that relates to this season. It is the story of Nabal. (Heb = *Nah-vahl'* the "b" sounds as a "v"):

"Then Samuel died; and the Israelites gathered together and lamented for him, and buried him at his home in Ramah. And David arose and went down to the Wilderness of Paran. ² Now there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel, and the man was very rich. He had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. And he was shearing his sheep in Carmel. ³ The name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. And she was a woman of good understanding and beautiful appearance; but the man was harsh and evil in his doings. And he was of the house of Caleb."
(I Sam. 25:1-3)

The word *Naval* in Hebrew means: "*stupid; wicked* (espec. *impious*): - fool, vile person." God calls them as He sees them.

Note: This article is a condensed version of one found in our special booklet: *The High Holydays* (SPFHH).

David and his men were on the run from King *Shaul* (Saul). They were in need of support from the people of the land who knew that David had been anointed to be king over Israel. So David sent his men to *Naval* and asked for food:

"... 'Peace be to you, peace to your house, and peace to all that you have! ... Therefore let my young men find favor in your eyes, for we come on [or near] a feast day. Please give whatever comes to your hand to your servants and to your son David.'"

(I Sam. 25:6, 8)

"Then Nabal answered David's servants, and said, 'Who is David, and who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants nowadays who break away each one from his master. ¹¹ Shall I then take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers, and give it to men when I do not know where they are from?'" (I Sam. 25:10-11)

When David heard what had happened he took four hundred of his men and went to attack *Naval*:

"Now one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, 'Look, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master; and he reviled them. . . . ¹⁷ Now therefore, know and consider what you will do, for harm is determined against our master and against all his household. For he is such a scoundrel that one cannot speak to him.'"

(I Sam. 25:14, 17)

Naval was a man who had received protection for his laborers by having David's men in the vicinity of where they were working. When David needed a favor in return (food for the upcoming feast day) there was none forthcoming. *Naval* refused to acknowledge the blessings he had received by having the anointed king of Israel near to him.

The fool's wife, however, was full of wisdom. She took steps to save her household:

"Then Abigail made haste and took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five sheep already dressed, five seahs of roasted grain, one hundred clusters of raisins, and

two hundred cakes of figs, and loaded them on donkeys. ¹⁹ And she said to her servants, 'Go on before me; see, I am coming after you.' But she did not tell her husband Nabal. ²⁰ So it was, as she rode on the donkey, that she went down under cover of the hill; and there were David and his men, coming down toward her, and she met them." (I Sam. 25:18-20)

Abigail pleaded with David to accept her petition and to spare her household and to remember her. Abigail's supplication is a beautiful example of prayer on behalf of another, even one who does not deserve it. David, as a type of Messiah, heard her supplication and answered her with blessings:

"Then David said to Abigail: 'Blessed is the LORD [YHVH] God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! ³³ And blessed is your advice and blessed are you, because you have kept me this day from coming to bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hand.' ... ³⁵ So David received from her hand what she had brought him, and said to her, 'Go up in peace to your house. See, I have heeded your voice and respected your person.'" (I Sam. 25:32-33, 35)

Now we come to a most remarkable part of the story. *Naval* held a feast in his house. It is said to have been like the feast of a king. This gives us a hint as to the day on which it was being held -- none other than *Rosh HaShannah*, the day of the crowning of kings:

"Now Abigail went to Nabal, and there he was, holding a feast in his house, like the feast of a king. And Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunk; therefore she told him nothing, little or much, until morning light.

³⁷ So it was, in the morning, when the wine had gone from Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became like a stone. ³⁸ Then it came about, after about ten days, that the LORD [YHVH] struck Nabal, and he died." (I Sam. 25:36-38)

Here was a man, a fool, who was given an opportunity to be a part of the

coming kingdom of Israel under David -- a type of the Kingdom of God under *Y'shua*. He refused to acknowledge the mercy, kindness and protection that he had already received from that yet future kingdom. In other words, he refused to repent, to turn, to do *Teshuvah*. Then he threw himself a big *Rosh HaShannah* feast party as though he were already inscribed in the *Book of Life*. When Abigail told him that she had made amends, rather than admitting his error and repenting (during the *Days of Awe*) *Naval* hardened his heart. Ten days later, on *Yom Kippur*, when the final judgment was made and the gates of heaven were closed, *Naval* found himself on the outside looking in, and he died.

This story is a reminder of those people in the end time who see the destruction happening during the Day of the Lord, but refuse to turn from their sin and seek God:

"Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. ¹¹ They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds. (Rev. 16:10-11)

~ Free Will ~

It is a principle of scripture that every person is given a free will. Therefore, each one of us is able to choose the path we wish to take. *Naval* chose not to repent even after he realized that his wife, Abigail, had saved his life. He made his decision and it was the wrong one.

When the children of Israel were finally permitted to go into the land that God was giving them, Moses issued an admonition, which is recorded in the *Book of Deuteronomy*. In chapter 28 God laid out the blessings the children of Israel would receive if they obeyed the marriage covenant that He had made with them, and the curses they would experience if they rebelled. This passage concludes with an appeal to "choose life:"

"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death,

blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; ²⁰ that you may love the LORD [YHVH] your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD [YHVH] swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

(Duet. 30:19-20)

We all need to learn how to exercise right choices. The *Yamin Nora'im* (*Days of Awe*) are the perfect time to meditate on the choices we have made in the past and the choices that we are making right now, today. Free will is a wonderful thing, but with it comes great responsibility. We must learn to make daily decisions based on the Scriptures, following the instructions and guidelines they give us.

~ *Teshuvah* and the Days of Awe ~

Teshuvah (repentance and return to God) occurs when a sinner forsakes his sin, asks God to remove it through the blood of *Y'shua* and decides in his heart not to do it again. However, not only must one seek forgiveness for sins that involve an act; such as theft, adultery, gossip, etc., but one must also repent and seek forgiveness for sins of the mind and heart; such as anger, lust, jealousy and covetousness. *Y'shua* was emphatic about this, in the Sermon on the Mount, when he said we must not only refrain from adultery and murder but from lust and hatred as well:

"But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, "Raca!" [*empty headed man*] shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire."
(Matt. 5:22-24)

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not commit adultery." ²⁸ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."
(Matt. 5:27-28)

**"Let the wicked forsake his way,
And the unrighteous man his
thoughts;
Let him return to the
LORD [YHVH],
And He will have mercy on him;
And to our God,
For He will abundantly pardon.**
(Isa. 55:7)

It is an evil deed to remind a person who has done *Teshuvah* about his past sins. We must learn to forget the sins of others as well as to forgive them. The person who can do this, truly has the mind of God:

**"As far as the east is from
the west,
So far has He removed our
transgressions from us."**
(Psalm 103:12)

A common blessing people offer one another during this period is:

*"May your judgment in the Book of
Life be completed and sealed for
your good."*

It is also a custom to do good deeds and acts of charity during the *Days of Awe*. This is considered to be 'active *Teshuvah*.'

The Sabbath between *Rosh HaShannah* and *Yom Kippur* is known as the 'Sabbath of Return.' The Scripture reading for this day includes:

**"Return, O Israel, to the
LORD [YHVH] Your God,
For you have fallen because of
your sin.
Take words with you
And return to the
LORD [YHVH]."**

(Hos. 14:2-3 TNK)

According to the *Mishnah*, (Oral Torah):

"The sign of complete *Teshuvah* is when the same transgression comes to the hand of the transgressor in the same place where he first committed it, and he avoids it."
(Yoma 86b).

~ Summary ~

The *Days of Awe* represent man's last opportunity to become reconciled with God and with his fellow man. During this time the Gates of the

Temple were kept open symbolizing that the path to God was still open. That path is the path of *Teshuvah*, of repentance and return to the ways of God. It is not a simple feeling of guilt and subsequent apology. It is a profound change in one's life direction. It means earnestly desiring to live righteously before God; to follow the standard which God established to guide the behavior of His people -- the *Written Torah* commands.

At the close of *Yom Kippur* the *Great Shofar* was sounded and the gates to the Temple were closed, symbolizing the path to God was also closed. For this reason, it is important that we repent now, while there is still time:

**"Sow for yourselves
righteousness;
Reap in mercy;
Break up your fallow ground,
For it is time to seek the
LORD [YHVH],
Till He comes and rains
righteousness on you.
¹³ You have plowed wickedness;
You have reaped iniquity.
You have eaten the fruit of lies,
Because you trusted in your
own way,
In the multitude of your
mighty men."**
(Hosea 10:12-13)

Shalom,

DEW & SAW

~~~~~

~ Sources ~

- Agnon, S.Y.,  
Days of Awe,  
Schocken Books, New York, 1975.
- Bloch, Abraham, P.,  
The Biblical and Historical Background  
of Jewish Customs and Ceremonies,  
Ktav Publishing House, Inc.,  
New York, 1980.
- BibleWorks 8.0, CD-ROM Edition,  
BibleWorks,  
Norfolk, VA, 2009.
- Goodman, Philip,  
The Rosh Hashannah Anthology,  
The Jewish Publication Society,  
Philadelphia, 1973.
- Waskow, Arthur,  
Seasons of Our Joy,  
Beacon Press, Boston, 1982.

~~~~~

Prophetic Perspectives: Three Conflicts

But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars,
Do not be troubled; for *such things* must happen,
But the end is not yet.

For nation will rise against nation,
And kingdom against kingdom.

Mark 13:7-8



Current events, being what the are, have convinced many prophecy teachers that the world is right on the verge of a *Pre-Trib Rapture* and the *Gog of Magog War* prophesied in *Ezekiel 38-39*. However, there are some other factors which are being ignored under this common scenario.

Pastor Bill Hoganson, of *Calvary Chapel Anaheim* draws attention to three major conflicts that will take place in the "Last Days" prior to the return of *Y'shua HaMashiach* to take control of the governments of this world. Hoganson's article, *Israel's Three "Last Days" Major Conflicts* is published by *Prophecy News Watch* and is based upon a book entitled *Israelestine* by Bill Salus.

Editor's Note: *Prophetic Perspectives* is not intended to be *Hebrew Roots* final opinion on the meaning of any specific prophecy. It is intended to be an exploration of different view points, of which the reader may not have been aware, so they can reach their own conclusions.

~ Last Days Major Conflicts ~

In the last days, Israel will be engaged in three major conflicts which will impact the entire world. They are similar to one another in that the nation of Israel (*House of Judah*) is involved in all three. However, they are different in duration, the "people group" spearheading the event, and the ultimate "victor" of each.

Here is a brief outline of each event as understood by Salus and Hoganson.

First Major Conflict -- is spearheaded by ten people groups who are living within, or contiguous to, Israel's borders:

"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. Selah" (Psalm 83:5-8)

"Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem."

(Zech. 12:2)

The duration of this conflict is very long. It began in 1948 at the founding of the nation of Israel and is still ongoing.

The final "*Psalm 83 War*" will culminate in the total defeat of these surrounding people groups at the hand of *Judah's* military might (the IDF):

"⁸ In that day the LORD [YHVH] will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the LORD [YHVH] before them."

(Zech. 12:8)

Second Major Conflict -- is spearheaded by people groups who are noncontiguous to Israel's borders:

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

"¹² Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, ³and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD:

"Behold, I *am* against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. . . . ⁵ Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; ⁶ Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops -- many people are with you.'"

(Ezek. 38:1-3, 5-6)

There is no specific time period given for this war but it can be assumed to be rather short.

This time the military "victor" will be the *LORD God* Himself. Israel does not assist in this victory:

"And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. ²³Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I *am* the LORD [YHVH]."

(Ezek. 38:22-23)

Third Major Conflict -- The third and final conflict will bring "all peoples," both far and near, against Israel:

"And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army." (Rev. 19:19)

This final battle comes during the final 3 1/2 years of the *Great Tribulation* (a.k.a. *The Wrath of God*). It is also known as the *Battle of Armageddon*:

"And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon."

"¹⁷ Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, 'It is done!'"

(Rev. 16:16-17)

This conflict takes place when *Y'shua HaMashiach* returns to earth

with His *Warrior Bride* to take control of all the governments of the world:

"Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. . . .

"¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, [the Bride] followed Him on white horses.

"¹⁵ 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. 19:11, 14-15)

~ Summary ~

This is a very brief summary setting forth the outline of Israel's three major conflicts in the "last days." Currently, Israel is in the midst of the 1st Conflict -- a prolonged terrorist war with her immediate neighbors. This ongoing conflict will culminate in an all out attack on Israel by these adjoining neighbors and internal enemies.

For more information, see the book *Israelestine*, by Bill Salus, published by *High Way*, 2008.

DEW

~~~~~

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



How quickly times change.

In 2019 if a person walked into a store and saw a man wearing a mask they might have been afraid. In 2020 if a person walks into a store and sees a man not wearing a mask they might be afraid.

~ Misinformation ~

There is so much misinformation circulating on the News and Social Media, that it is becoming nearly impossible to discern truth from falsehood. While, lies, rumors, and

distortions about the coronavirus abound, the false information is not limited to just that subject. Many politicians use questionable information to attack their political enemies. Some companies make false claims that their products will magically bring good health and happiness.

Facebook's CEO, Mark Zuckerberg reports that their "fact-checkers" removed hundreds of thousands of pieces of misinformation in March alone. Not only that, they issued warnings on 40 million posts during the same month. No doubt, some of the information they deleted contained portions that might be true. (So much for freedom of speech.)

The bottom line is that the only place one can obtain totally reliable information is from the *Holy Scriptures*:

**"For the word of the LORD [YHVH] is right, And all His work is done in truth."** (Psalm 33:4)

**"The words of the LORD [YHVH] are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times.**

**<sup>7</sup> You shall keep them, O LORD [YHVH], You shall preserve them from this generation forever,"** (Psalm 12:6-7)

**"Jesus [Y'shua] said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" (John 14:6)**

**"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."** (John 8:32)

Let us put aside the misinformation of this world and drink deeply of the *Word of Truth* -- the *Holy Scriptures*.

~ The Deal ~

God made a promise to Abraham that He would bless those people and nations who bless Abraham and his descendants:

**"I will make you a great nation; I will bless you**

**And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.**

**<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you;**

**And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."**

(Gen. 12:2-3)

The *Promised Land* extends over a vast area of the Middle East:

**"On the same day the LORD [YHVH] made a covenant with Abram, saying:**

**'To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates. . .'" (Gen. 15:18)**

This promise was reiterated to Abraham's son Isaac:

**"Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father."** (Gen. 26:3)

Since God gave the *Promised Land* to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, it is not their prerogative to give any portion of it away. Yet, that is precisely what President Trump's *Deal of The Century* proposes to do. Is it possible that the President's current political problems: (the Covid-19 pandemic, riots in the cities, an economy that is tanking, extreme natural weather events, and a campaign that is faltering) are, in part, because of his proposal to divide the *Promised Land*?

~ Continuing to Rise ~

Anti-Semitism continues to rise around the world. Although it is irrational for people to blame the Jews whenever world conditions worsen, that is precisely what many people do. Here are just a few of the latest incidents:

-- Coronavirus has triggered a number of Jew-hatred events throughout the world. These originate mainly from Muslim sources, but some also come from the right-wing/neo-Nazi types, who claim the virus was introduced into society by Israel (not China).

-- Violent anti-Semitic attacks rose 18% in 2019 over the year 2018. This includes personal attacks as well as attacks on synagogues, community centers, and schools.

-- Because of rising discrimination, 41% of European Jews are hoping to immigrate to Israel within the next year.

-- Online anti-Semitism is becoming increasingly dangerous. The Internet is the primary tool used to stir up Jew-hatred (anti-Semitism).

*Y'shua* warned His Disciples that the time would come when His followers would be persecuted:

""These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. <sup>2</sup> They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. <sup>3</sup> And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me."" (John 16:1-3)

While current anti-Semitic events are primarily directed against those of Jewish descent (whether they are Believers in *Y'shua* or not), it will not be long before they come out just as strongly against Christians. This is already happening in many countries and beginning to gain a foothold in Europe and America as well.

#### ~ Locust Plagues ~

Millions of people (especially in Africa) are on the brink of famine due to the multi-billions of voracious desert locusts which are devouring crops over a wide range of the earth.

Some of these swarms are said to be the size of major cities. They can travel up to 150 kilometers (93 miles) per day. When they descend on a farm they eat everything there -- sometimes in as little as 30 seconds.

Mass starvation is coming to those areas by the end of 2020. How long it will be before the locusts arrive in the Western Hemisphere is a question that cannot be answered at this time:

""And you [*the Houses of Israel and Judah*] shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all nations where the LORD

[*YHVH*] will drive you. <sup>38</sup> You shall carry much seed out to the field but gather little in, for the locust shall consume it.

...  
""<sup>42</sup> 'Locusts shall consume all your trees and the produce of your land.'" (Deut. 28:37-38, 42)

#### ~ Economic Reset ~

For many years powerful people have been planning for the day when the entire earth will be gathered under a *One World Government*. A major step in that direction lies in developing a new standard of currency, the medium with which the world does business -- one controlled by this new *World Government*. (Right now the standard used is the American dollar.)

The economic breakdown resulting from the *Covid-19* plague offers the globalists an opportunity to take a major step towards achieving that goal. In May, 2020 the *World Economic Forum* officially announced the *Great Reset* initiative as part of their *Covid Action Platform*. A summit meeting is scheduled for January 2021 to discuss the plans more fully and openly with the world at large.

According to *Activist Post*, changes may include a 'solution' which includes; "... medical tyranny, immunity passports, martial law, a global economic system based on a cashless digital society in which privacy in trade is erased, and then slowly but surely form a faceless multilateral global government which answers to no one and does whatever it pleases."

Whether all of these goals can be achieved at the January meeting seems pretty far fetched, but it will depend on the economic conditions prevalent at that time. (Source: *Prophecy in the News*)

#### ~ Ring of Fire ~

As the economies of the nations of the world experience a great shaking, there is another great physical shaking taking place on earth -- that being the large earthquakes which have struck the *Ring of Fire* (the outer rim of the Pacific Ocean):

""For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> All these are the beginning of sorrows.""

(Matt. 24:7-8)

But it is not just on the *Ring of Fire* where quakes are occurring. The *National Earthquake Information Center* records an average of 20,000 earthquakes every year (that is about 50 per day). Many other quakes occur which are too weak to be recorded.

Some scientists are predicting an increase in activity and intensity in the near future. It will eventually culminate in the *Great Earthquake*:

"Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, 'It is done!'

""<sup>18</sup> And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth." (Rev. 16:17-18)

#### ~ Signs of the Times ~

Michael Snyder, in his Internet site entitled *End of the American Dream*, identifies nine signs of the end times which are unfolding right in front of our eyes. He states:

"Global events are beginning to spiral out of control, and this has created a resurgence in interest in what the Bible has to say about 'the last days.' Throughout the Scriptures, we are warned about apocalyptic events that will precede the second coming of Jesus Christ [*Y'shua HaMashiach*], and a lot of people are wondering if that period of time is now upon us. ...

"Jesus (*Y'shua*) had quite a bit to say about the time just before His return, and He specifically instructed His followers to watch for certain signs. He wanted us to understand that He knew about all of these things in advance, that He has a plan, and that He is in control.

"So there is no need to fear. In fact, Jesus (*Y'shua*) told us these things so that we would not be afraid."

There are three New Testament chapters where *Y'shua* spoke of these future events: *Matthew 24*, *Mark 13*, and *Luke 21*:

**"But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately."**

**"<sup>10</sup> Then He said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. <sup>11</sup> And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.'"** (Luke 21:9-11)

Here is Synder's current list with comments:

#### #1.) Wars and Rumors of Wars.

As indicated in the *Three Conflicts* portion of this article, there is a prophesied war coming soon to the Middle East. It is sometimes called the *Psalms 83 War* and has been covered in past issues of *Hebrew Roots®* (including Issue 20-1) and could erupt anytime soon.

In addition, there are several other "hot spots" around the globe.

#### #2.) Earthquakes.

"Our planet continues to become increasing unstable, ... It is just a matter of time before 'the Big One' hits California."

#### #3.) Volcanoes.

"Mt. Popocatepeti near Mexico City ... has roared to life once again. ... it is reported that it was shooting hot ash 20,000 feet into the air Wednesday [in June].

"Of course Mt. Popocatepeti is far from alone. According to *Volcano Discovery*, 24 volcanoes around the globe are erupting right now, and dozens more are showing signs of unrest."

#### #4.) Crazy Weather Patterns.

"We are seeing record setting droughts in some parts of the world, in other areas we are witnessing

unprecedented flooding, and global food production has been greatly disrupted by one unforeseen event after another."

#### #5.) Armies of Locusts.

"Billions of locusts have been traveling in giant swarms the size of major cities across large portions of Africa, the Middle East, and Asia."

#### #6.) African Swine Fever.

"Before COVID-19 came along, African Swine Fever was the most serious pestilence affecting the planet. There is no vaccine, there is no cure, and it is killing pigs all over the globe at a staggering rate. In fact, approximately half the pigs in China and approximately one-fourth of all the pigs in the entire world have already been wiped out by this disease.

"Needless to say, this is having a tremendous impact on the global food supply, because much of the world relies on pig meat as a primary source of protein."

#### #7.) Famines and Food Riots.

"The head of the UN World Food Program, David Beasley, is publicly warning that we are heading into 'the worst humanitarian crisis since World War Two,' and he is telling us that we could soon see approximately 300,000 people literally starve to death every single day."

#### #8.) Economic Collapse.

"Countries all over the world have locked down their economies in 2020 due to fear of COVID-19, and that has plunged the entire global economy into a deep depression."

#### #9.) The Coronavirus Plague.

"This is the greatest public health crisis in a hundred years, and it looks like this pandemic is going to be with us for many months to come. . . .

"Jesus (*Y'shua*) specifically warned us that there would be 'pestilence' during the time before His return, ..."

what we are really seeing is preparation for the return of *Y'shua HaMashiach* to this earth as King of kings and Lord of lords -- something which Believers have been praying would occur every-day for centuries:

**"In this manner, therefore, pray:**

**""Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. <sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.'"**

(Matt. 6:9-10)

While awaiting *Messiah's* return, we must also pray that the *Father* will provide us with our daily needs:

**"Give us this day our daily bread."** (Matt. 6:11)

We also need to ask daily for forgiveness for our sins and to seek forgiveness from any one we may have offended. Likewise, we must be willing to forgive any offense that has been committed against us by others, so that we can, in like manner, be forgiven by God:

**"And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors."**

(Matt. 6:12)

We also pray for protection from the evil buried within own human nature -- and from the adversary (*HaSatan*) and his demons:

**"And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one."**

(Matt. 6:13)

Last, but not least, comes our affirmation of total trust in God the *Father* and His *Son*, *Y'shua HaMashiach*, to deliver us safely into His Kingdom:

**"For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."**

(Matt. 6:13)

May He come quickly and in our time!

Shalom,

DEW

~~~~~

~ The Real Message ~

While reading through these "Signs of the Times," it is easy to become depressed. However, keep in mind that

Iron Sharpens Iron

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

It 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.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
~ Thank You ~

Dear Dean and Susan,

I don't know how to thank you enough for all you have done. You have opened my eyes over the years. You have taught me to look for Y,H,V,H and where to find Him. You showed me how His Spirit is at work. You showed me how to understand the Holy Days and Shabbats.

Most of all you showed me of Messiah *Yeshua's* care and love and the proof of all that has been promised.

Your brother in Messiah *Y'shua*,

BM

~ ~

Shalom Aleichem BM,

Your letter is an abundant blessing to us and "Thank you" is more than enough. Just remember that what you have learned is from the Father, not from us. We are just a vehicle sending the message. He is the one who "turns the switch" in our mind and heart, so that we can understand.

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

DEW & SAW

~ ~ ~

~ Next Issue ~

Dear Hebrew Roots,

I want to thank you for all your material you have supplied me. My Messianic walk with YHVH is growing daily. Thank you for all you do for inmates in prison.

I gave my order form to another Messianic Believer so that he could receive your materials. I was wondering if you could send me the Hebrew Roots May/August, 2020 [Issue 20-2]. I did not receive it. It has really helped me in learning more about YHVH.

Shalom,

AW

~ ~

Shalom Aleichem AW,

The reason you had not received Issue 20-2 when you wrote this note to us is because it had not yet been written. Unlike secular publications which always date their magazines and newsletters to be a month ahead of when they are produced, we date our publication for the time period in which it is being written and produced. Therefore, this May/August, 2020 issue is scheduled to be mailed in August.

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

DEW & SAW

~ ~ ~

~ Persecutions ~

Hebrew Roots,

I was so blessed by the materials you sent. Thank you so much. I totally agree with the *Quiet Revival*.

I have a question. Jesus talks about the persecution believers will face. We see the persecutions increasing today so do you think that Christianity in

America will be a hate crime when we speak truth before Christ comes? Or will the persecutions be upon those after the rapture? What is the Jewish teaching about the rapture? I know the term is not in the Bible but refers to the passage in Thessalonians.

What I am seeing [in prison] is the subtle "shutting down" of the gospel and obedience through "tolerance." Also, Believers who are staff, and who attempt to be faithful servants in their capacity, are being transferred and/or removed due to lies from inmates.

If you have any material in these areas please help.

Thank you,

LS

~ ~

Shalom Aleichem LS,

First of all, there is no "rapture" teaching in Judaism. They teach that the Messiah will come and establish the Kingdom here on this earth. We concur with this teaching.

However, there seems to be a period of time just prior to the "Wrath of God" (beginning with the Third Angel in Rev. 14) when the Bride of Messiah is removed from the earth. She is apparently taken to heaven, to the Wedding Chamber (Chuppah), to be with her Husband Y'shua who has come to take her to His Father's house for the consummation of the marriage:

"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."

"¹⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints."

(Rev. 19:7-8)

If you wish to use the non-biblical term "rapture" this could be called the Pre-Wrath Rapture.

Great Tribulation precedes God's period of Wrath, which is essentially wrath against the wicked who remain. Prior to the "Wrath Period," the Bride of Messiah will be present on earth and will have to endure great tribulation:

"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. ¹⁰ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

¹¹ "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹² And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But he who endures to the end shall be saved." (Matt. 24:9-13)

This is a massive subject which requires an entire book to explain in detail. Please see the articles in this publication for more information.

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

DEW & SAW

~ ~ ~

~ Textual Issues ~

Shalom Mr. & Mrs. Wheelock,

Thank you for continuing to get your publication out to those of us serving time. So many ministries have had to go on a hiatus, due to this pandemic, it has left many of us without supplement for study at a time when, we have limited or no movement all days. The _____ Unit has been on medical lockdown since April 6 with no end in sight given people continue to get sick daily. TDCJ has a lot to deal with so religious rights has moved off the radar completely. Publications such as yours have become a lifeline.

Could you possibly address why *Hebrew Roots®* adheres to the NKJV [New King James Version]. The reason I ask is because the authentic word is not a whimsical matter, yet with so many versions available, Scripture itself is not certain. For example, *Exodus 21:22* which was quoted on page 6 of Issue 20-1 states different in the *Complete Jewish Study Bible*. The verse there reads:

"If people are fighting with each other and happen to hurt a pregnant woman so badly that her unborn child dies, then, even if no other harm follows, he must be fined. ..."

(Ex. 21:22 CJB)

Both the versions can't be correct! How is someone to actually know the authentic instruction? How is someone supposed to be able to go about interpreting Scripture if the Scripture itself is not correct?

This has always been a frustration and it would be helpful to know how *Hebrew Roots®* decided on the NKJV.

Thank you in advance.

Respectfully,

VC

~ ~

Shalom Aleichem VC,

Thank you for your perceptive question. There is a whole field of study called Textual Criticism which deals with issues of this kind, so you are certainly not alone in your confusion.

Let us begin by quoting the way the passage is translated in the NKJV:

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

(Ex. 21:22 NKJV)

Here it does not say "that her unborn child dies," as in the CJB, but "so that she gives birth prematurely." Obviously a much different meaning than that found in CJB. Does the issue involve only a premature birth or must it include the death of the newborn?

Let us explore a little further with some other translations. Here is how *Young's Literal Translation (YLT)* puts it:

"And when men strive, and have smitten a pregnant woman, and her children have come out, and there is no mischief, . . ."

(Ex. 21:22 YLT)

This translation is about as close to a literal rendering as can be found, and it is indeed unclear here as well.

Most English translations use a form of translation for this verse similar to YLT and NKJV. Another example is from the New American Standard Version (NASV):

"If men struggle with each other and strike a woman with child so that she gives birth prematurely, yet there is no injury, . . ." (Ex. 21:22 NASV)

However, another exception is the translation found in the Bible in Basic English (BBE):

"If men, while fighting, do damage to a woman with child, causing the loss of the child, but no other evil comes to her, . . ."

(Ex. 21:22 BBE)

Both the CJB and the BBE are paraphrased versions and do not claim to be literal translations. However, both translators felt that the passage was referring to the "loss of the child."

The key word that seems to be causing much of the confusion is:

3206 יָלַד yeled {yeh'-led}

Meaning: 1) one born, a son, boy, offspring, youth 1a) child, son, boy 1b) child, children 1c) descendants 1d) youth 1e) apostate Israelites (fig.)

Origin: from 03205; TWOT - 867b; n m

Usage: AV - child 72, young man 7, young ones 3, sons 3, boy 2, fruit 1, variant 1; 89

The bottom line is that, in a Torah keeping nation, the Judges would have to make the final determination in each case.

Why then do we use the NKJV in *Hebrew Roots®*? Because its language is a "cleaned up" rendering of the so-called Authorized Version -- the KJV with which many people are familiar. However, on occasion, an alternate version may seem to better clarify the intent of the passage. There are cases, however, when a paraphrased version (while giving another insight to the passage) seems to confuse more than clarify. Then we will go with the more familiar NKJV translation.

Thank you for your input and--

*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.
1 Peter 4:7

~ Calendar ~

Yom Teruah* (Rosh HaShannah)
(1 Tishri) September 19, 2020

Yom Kippur* (Day of Atonement)
(10 Tishri) September 28, 2020

Sukkot* (Feast of Tabernacles)
(15 -21 Tishri) October 3-9, 2020

Shemini Atzeret* (Eighth Day)
(22 Tishri) October 10, 2020

Hanukkah (Feast of Dedication)
(25 Kislev - 2 Tevet)
December 11-18, 2020

Purim (14 Adar) February 26, 2021

Passover* (Day of the Sacrifice)
(14 Aviv) March 27, 2021

Hag HaMatzot*
(Feast of Unleavened Bread)
(15 -21 Aviv) Mar. 28 - Apr. 3, 2021
(Note: 15 and 21 Aviv are Holydays)
(March 28 and April 3)

Omer Wave Offering**
(Wave Sheaf Offering)
(22 Aviv)** April 4, 2021

Shavu'ot* (Pentecost)
(12 Sivan)*** May 23, 2021

Tisha B'Av (Ninth of Av)
(9 Av) July 18, 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.

*** Next year the Pharisaic Shavu'ot is celebrated on 6 & 7 Sivan, -- May 17 & 18, 2021.

(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).

~ Microplastics ~

One of mankind's major inventions of the 20th century is the material called plastic. Since that time plastic seems to have taken over the world. Now a new study has found that 98% of 339 dust samples from 11 national parks contain tiny fragments of plastic. There is no "nook or cranny" on earth that does not have these particles in the dust of the air.

(Source: *The Week*)

~ Infant Deaths Decrease ~

A recent analysis, of US mortality data, shows that the "weekly number of deaths among infants during the pandemic lockdown dropped by about 30%." The "unexpected survival" of 200 babies per week precisely corresponds with a drop in vaccinations.

(Source: *Need to Know*)

~ Persian Period Find ~

A newly discovered seal bears witness to the Jewish presence in Jerusalem after the destruction of Solomon's Temple and the city in 586 BCE. This new discovery of a "bullae" and a "seal impression" are from the Persian period c. 536 to 333 BCE.

This find indicates that, despite the vast destruction inflicted on Judah by the Babylonians, efforts were made to restore the administrative functions to normal.

(Source: *Biblical Archaeology Review*)

~ Western Drought ~

The most severe drought in the western United States in two decades is said to be "as bad or worse than any dry spell in the past 1,200 years. It is "intensifying wildfire seasons and depleting reservoirs."

(Source: *The Week*)

~ Thought Crimes ~

Up until now, only God and Y'shua had the power to read a person's mind:

"But when Jesus [Y'shua] perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, 'Why are

you reasoning in your hearts?'"

(Luke 5:22)

However, now *Facebook* is said to have successfully transcribed thoughts instantly into speech. This is a giant stop towards pre-crime arrests becoming a reality.

(Source: *News Image*)

~ Mini Ice-Age? ~

Along with all the discussion about *Global Warming* comes a new warning that the earth could be hit by a *Mini Ice-Age*.

Sunspot activity on the sun's surface goes in 11 year cycles -- with the activity rising and falling. This creates periods of solar-maximums and then solar-minimums. Two years ago the sun moved into a solar-minimum and one expert is warning that the sun may also enter a period of "hibernation" this year, in what is known as a *Grand Solar Minimum*. This could mean wetter and colder summers. A *Grand Solar Minimum* occurs roughly every 400 years. The last one lasted from 1650 to 1710.

(Source: *Need to Know*)

~ Censoring Speech ~

Americans have always cherished their right to engage in free speech. However, because of the misuse of this constitutional right, many Americans (51% in one survey) want themselves, others, and the media censored by the government.

(Source: *News Image*)

~~~~~

*Pray For the Peace  
Of Jerusalem*

~~~~~

~ Shalom ~

תת

(Aleph-Tav)

The Beginning and the End

~~~~~