



THE
SACRED NAME
BROADCASTER

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Our Cover:



SNB photo

The remnants of a collapsed cave has formed a natural bridge in northern Israel. The beauty of Yahweh's creation is all around us; our Maker has made all of these things.

"For this is as the waters of Noah to me; for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah shall no more go over the earth, so have I sworn that I will not be angry with you, nor rebuke you. For the mountains may depart, and the hills be removed; but my lovingkindness shall not depart from you, neither shall my covenant of peace be removed, says Yahweh that has mercy on you." (Isaiah 54:9-10).



Vital Visions

of the Future

Many people drift aimlessly through life, completely engrossed in their mundane personal existence, without ever seeing in full scope the reason for their lives. We might compare such a situation to the old proverb, "One can't see the forest for the trees." People become absorbed with their personal petty problems and their immediate surroundings to the point that they do not expand

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their vision to include the far and distant future, for example, their eternal salvation.

In Proverbs 29:18 we read, ***"Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint; But***

he that keeps the law, happy is he." This passage of Scripture brings to our attention that we should always take into account the **BIG PICTURE**, rather than just drifting along aimlessly in our lives from day to day. We should have fixed a goal, or destination, for ourselves. Instead of allowing surrounding events to govern us, we should be in complete charge of

our lives, directing the way we go. Remember the writer of Proverbs said, "Where there is no vision, the people perish. . . ." Undoubtedly you have come to recognize in the Western world, and especially in our very own country, that there is very little attention being paid to the far-reaching consequences of the decisions that are implemented in secular governments, in ecclesiastical affairs, and in the personal lives of most people. We live for the moment and are unconcerned about what lies ahead.

Yahshua the Messiah described the situation perfectly when He said in Matthew 7:13-14, ***"Enter you in by the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and many are they that enter in through it. For narrow is the gate, and straitened the way, that leads to life, and few are they that find it."*** It was the intention of Yahshua the Messiah to show that there are two distinct, separate ways that an individual can travel through life. The easy way, the broad way, will eventually lead to destruction; the narrow way is the more difficult way, but it will eventually lead to life everlasting. One must exercise a certain amount of perception (vision) in order to determine the end of each one of these pathways. We must raise our sight above the immediate surroundings in which we find ourselves and look far into the future to see the end destination of the way we are following. We must look forward in time to see the consequences of every action that we take each day. We must regulate our lives, so that we can look into the future and make certain that the end result of those actions will be delightful at the end, rather than unpleasant.

One of the most vital visions of the future that we must remember to include in the **BIG PICTURE** of our personal situation is our hope to enter into the Kingdom of Yah-



weh. That Kingdom of Yahweh is His government that is manifested for us through the structure of the constitution that He has given us in the Bible, in His Covenant Law. You will remember that the writer of Proverbs included mention of the Law of Yahweh in association with the word "vision." Realizing that the scriptural Law depicts the righteous government rule by Yahweh when Yahshua the Messiah establishes the Kingdom on this earth will give us a better understanding of how His Kingdom will be structured.

Obedying the Law of Yahweh during our human lives will bring us into direct contact with the Kingdom of Yahweh and will allow us to glimpse the beauties of Yahweh's Kingdom through spiritual eyes. Thereby, we can see how life will be lived throughout the earth when Yahshua returns. The joy and glory of Yahweh's Kingdom can already be ours as we obey the Laws of Yahweh. This will assist in clarifying our vision of things to come, so that we can see the reason why Almighty Yahweh gave

us these commandments. We can see how all of the problems will simply dissolve and disappear if we obey Almighty Yahweh, allowing Him to rule over our lives through His righteous government. We can literally become a part of that vision of the age to come which Almighty Yahweh has given us in His book of the Law and in His prophetic writings. We can see how the people who obeyed Almighty Yahweh benefited by receiving His blessings, and we can learn how those who disobeyed received the curse and the punishment for sin.

Have you seen the joy that awaits the believer who has obeyed the commandments of Yahweh and has had his sin washed away in Yahshua's blood? Already we may have a partial view of the changes that the Kingdom of Yahweh will bring to pass when it takes over the rule of this earth. Blessings of peace, prosperity, productivity, and harmony among the people who are living in that Kingdom may already be realized, because they are promised in the Bible to every obedient believer.

The vision of the Kingdom of Yahweh will guide us through the great tribulation era that stands between this very moment and the establishment of the Kingdom of Yahweh. The vision of that Heavenly Kingdom coming to this earth will strengthen us in times of trouble, during times of testing and trial in our human lives. We must have the vision of the Kingdom so imprinted upon our minds and hearts that we are willing to sacrifice everything to achieve—a place in that Kingdom. In addition to His government being established on this earth, remember that the Kingdom of Yahweh means that we can one day enter into the very family of the Most High Heavenly Father through being adopted as one of His children. We may finally achieve this greatest blessing at the Second Coming of Yahshua and the resurrection to immortality, if we are faithful to the Word of Yahweh.

Let us remember that the prophet Daniel said that in the latter days knowledge should be increased, and the message of the Bible will be unsealed (Daniel 12:4, 9, 10). The signs of the times clearly indicate that we are definitely in the last days at the close of the age of man. Consequently, if you are interested in understanding the Bible, the Holy Spirit of Yahweh is given to open your understanding and to reveal the deep things that are hidden in the Word. Let us never forget that the Kingdom of Yahweh has, as one of its central doctrines, the importance of the Name of the One Who rules over that Kingdom. This indicates the Name of the Heavenly Father, whose Name has been revealed as Yahweh, and the Name of the Savior and Redeemer Yahshua the Messiah, the King who will rule over this earth. If you have never seen these great messages from the Word of Yahweh, why not begin now to study His Word and to understand what He has planned for the human family?

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Basic Truths of Bible Doctrine



The Blood of the Covenant

The Assemblies of Yahweh strives for a balanced approach in teaching a harmony of Bible doctrine. Not only do we teach the necessity for using the Sacred Name of our Heavenly Father and His Son, the Messiah, to give us salvation, but we also proclaim all of the other doctrines that are taught by the inspired Scriptures.

Occasionally, someone who receives our literature for the first time will comment that we seem to be stressing only one specific doctrine. They assume that we are a “one-

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doctrine organization”—teaching only that particular doctrine—because they have seen only a limited amount of the literature that we publish. This keyhole view (tunnel vision) of the Assemblies of Yahweh tends to mislead, because it shows only a glimpse of our overall doctrinal stance.

Frequently, people say that we do not give enough emphasis to the

blood of Yahshua the Messiah in our teachings. However, that is erroneous. The Assemblies of Yahweh teaches and believes in the atoning power of the blood of Yahshua to cleanse us from our sins.

One of the points of the Assemblies of Yahweh **Statement of Doctrine** reads,

We affirm that in order to be free from sin, a person must accept the shed blood of Yahshua the Messiah as his atonement and live in submission to the will of our Heavenly Father by

keeping His laws, Micah 6:5-8; 1 John 1:7; 1 John 2:2; Hebrews 10:26-31; Ephesians 1:6-7. **Yahweh has extended grace (unmerited kindness or mercy) to all who keep His law, Romans 3:31. Grace is not license to do as you please, Judah 4.**

It is obvious that we accept the atoning power of the blood of the Messiah and teach the correct relationship between the keeping of the commandments, grace, and the blood. (A free copy of our **Statement of Doctrine** is available upon request. Be sure to write for it immediately.)

Promise of Messiah

Yahweh had created a beautiful environment for Adam and Eve. His new creation was bursting with potential. Adam's right to oversee the Garden of Eden (and eventually the earth) was unrestricted.

Yahweh is the author of peace and not confusion, 1 Corinthians 14:33. When progress is made toward a goal, Satan enters the picture, trying to interfere. Such was the case in Genesis 3. When one obeys the commandments of Yahweh, he is blessed. When one disobeys, he is cursed. Satan sought to subvert the plans of Yahweh by cleverly influencing Eve to sin. When the woman and her husband sinned, the punishment of Yahweh fell.

Notice in studying the context of the chapter that immediately upon the discovery of the sin of Satan, Yahweh pronounced a curse upon him. Then Yahweh made a promise to the human race: ***“And Yahweh Elohim took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.”*** Genesis 15. Apparently, Adam and Eve trusted in this promise that the seed of the woman (the Messiah) would destroy Satan.

For believing this promise, Yahweh made the first animal sacrifice right there to cover the sins of our forefathers. ***“And Yahweh Elohim made for Adam and for his wife***

coats of skins, and clothed them,” v. 21. In order to get the hides of the animals, the beasts had to be slain. Yahweh must have explained to Adam and Eve that when someone sins, a life must be taken. As the first humans gazed in horror upon the dead carcasses of those sacrificial animals, perhaps beasts that they

It is obvious that we accept the atoning power of the blood of the Messiah and teach the correct relationship between the keeping of the commandments, grace, and the blood.

had come to love very dearly, it must have made an indelible impression upon them to be obedient.

Their nakedness of sin had been covered by the evidence of death which they were forced to wear upon their bodies to remind them continually of their error. This sacrificial blood pointed toward the Messiah's perfect offering to atone for their sin.

Liberal Theology Discredits Blood

The liberal theology that made its appearance on the ecclesiastical spectrum during the 19th and 20th centuries has cast a doubt in the minds of some in Christianity on the necessity for the death of Yahshua the Messiah. Nevertheless, Yahshua died for our sins, according to 1 Corinthians 15:3. The Apostle Paul explains this as the primary doctrine of the glad tidings. The “Scripture” to which he refers is the

Old Testament texts. Consequently, if we believe the prophecy of the Messiah in the Old Testament, we must trust in His atoning blood.

The Lamb of Yahweh

When John the Baptist observed Yahshua approaching to request baptism, he immediately recognized Him as the designated sacrificial offering Almighty Yahweh had prepared for the sins of His people. John said, ***“Behold, the Lamb of Yahweh, that takes away the sin of the world,”*** John 1:29. Apparently there was special significance attached to this statement.

Upon turning to John chapter 19, which bears the record of Yahshua's impalement, we discover that John quoted several Old Testament passages clearly demonstrating that Yahshua the Messiah was recognized by the apostles as Yahweh's Passover Lamb. In John 19:36 we find a quotation from Exodus 12:46, the Law governing the passover: ***“A bone of Him shall not be broken.”***

Then John offers another Old Testament quotation in verse 37, ***“And again another Scripture says, They shall look on him whom they pierced.”*** This is a direct citation of Zechariah 12:10. Both of these passages of Scripture underscore that the Messiah was manifested to die for the sins of His people.

A later New Testament writer, Paul, says in 1 Corinthians 5:7, ***“For our Passover also has been sacrificed, even the Messiah.”*** It is quite clear that the leaders of the apostolic Assembly recognized Yahshua's fulfillment of the ritual and ceremonial Law with His death upon the tree of Calvary. They related the Scriptures applying to Yahweh's sacrifice for Israel during the Passover in Egypt to the Messiah.

The Passover Blood

The Passover that Israel observed in Egypt was quite significant,

because it was prophetic of the spiritual exodus from sin of the obedient believer. In Hebrews 11:25-27, the writer clearly understood Egypt to be symbolic of sin.

Now, notice how Moses explains the Passover ordinance and what Israel was to do to obtain their release from slavery.

“And you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month; and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at evening. And they shall take of the blood, and put it on the two side posts and on the lintel, upon the houses in which they shall eat it. And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; with bitter herbs they shall eat it.” Exodus 12:6-8.

Messiah’s Fulfillment

Yahshua the Messiah was impaled on the same day (Abib 14) on which the Israelites slew the Passover lambs. Upon His death, the blood of Yahshua the Messiah was symbolically offered before Yahweh as the atonement for the sins of His people. It is explained as follows: ***“And he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world,”*** 1 John 2:2.

The crucial word, *propitiation*, means *a blood covering or an atonement*. The blood of Yahshua the Messiah, the Passover Lamb of Yahweh, atoned for, or covered over, the sins of the world so that they could be forgiven by Almighty Yahweh. Yahweh’s punishment of the sinner had been administered to a substitute, His Son Yahshua; the price of reconciliation was paid.

Abraham’s Experience

Do you recall the account recorded in Genesis 22 when Yahweh proved Abraham? The patriarch was told to take his only son, Isaac, whom he dearly loved, and offer him for a

sacrifice upon Mt. Moriah. Abraham came to Mt. Moriah with Isaac, built an altar, and prepared the wood to offer the sacrifice. He bound his son upon the altar and took a knife to slay him. The angel of Yahweh called from heaven, restraining him. Abraham was told that he had proved himself faithful in all things.

The blood of Yahshua the Messiah, the Passover Lamb of Yahweh, atoned for, or covered over, the sins of the world so that they could be forgiven by Almighty Yahweh.

Thereafter, Isaac was released (passed over), and a ram (a sacrifice from Yahweh) was found nearby with his horns caught in the thicket. This substitute sacrifice was placed on that altar and slain in recognition of Yahweh’s passing over, or exempting, Isaac.

Here was a type of the Passover. It was the blood of Yahshua the Messiah. The repentant True Worshiper is passed over, or exempted, from eternal death through the sacrifice of Yahweh’s Passover Lamb, Yahshua the Messiah.

The Funeral Mound

In ancient times, worship of the Most High was offered upon a high place. Noah sacrificed on the mountains of Ararat, Genesis 8:20.

Other high places were used for sacrifice during scriptural times. Furthermore, throughout the centuries, pagans were especially noted for using high places. But there is

more to this custom than meets the eye.

Let us examine the construction of the altar of Yahweh as it is described in Exodus 27:1-8. Notice that the brass altar was to be constructed hollow. Yahweh’s instructions to Israel concerning the building of His dedicated altar included an earthen base. Undoubtedly, earth was heaped up inside so that the altar would remain stationary. The grating built midway up the sides allowed the blood of the sacrificial animal to be dashed against the altar, flowing inside over the built-up mound of dirt which resembled a grave. On top of the altar, the body of the animal was burned as a sacrifice to Yahweh.

The sacrificial system of ancient Israel was most significant, because it demonstrated that a substitute was provided for the worshiper. When the worshiper approached the altar with his animal, he laid his hands upon the head of his chosen beast, placing upon it his own sins. The sacrificial animal was then slain by the one who brought it and offered upon the altar as a holocaust.

The altar represented a symbolic funeral or grave mound. The significance of the biblical sacrificial system meant that the animal was being put to death as a substitute for the human being who offered it. The sinner **should** have been in the symbolic grave under the altar. The blood of the sacrificial victim stood between the judgment of Yahweh and the death of the sinner. Almighty Yahweh had provided a way for the sinner to select a substitute animal to die in his place. It was only this animal that stood between him and Yahweh’s judgment. In our age, it is the death of the Messiah that provides a perfect sacrifice.

The Blood of the Covenant

The writer of Hebrews had an excellent understanding of the sacrificial system of the Old Testament. This is evident from the latter half

of his book. He explains in Hebrews 9:16-22 that the old Covenant (or testament) was ratified (made binding) by the shedding of blood.

“For where a testament is, there must of necessity be the death of him that made it, For a testament is of force where there has been death: for it does never avail while he that made it lives. Therefore even the first covenant has not been dedicated without blood. For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of the calves and of the goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, This is the blood of the covenant which Yahweh commanded toward you. Moreover the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry he sprinkled in like manner with the blood. And according to the law, I may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and apart from shedding of blood there is no remission.”

Exodus 24:1-9 contains the background Scripture from which several of the previous verses are quoted. The writer of Hebrews sought to demonstrate that the blood of Yahshua the Messiah seals the new Covenant, as opposed to the blood of animals which was the sealing agent of the old.

“But the Messiah having come a high priest of the good things to come, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation, nor yet through the blood of goats and calves, but through his own blood, entered in once and for all into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling them that have been defiled, sanctify to the cleanness of the flesh: how much more shall the blood of the Messiah, who through the eternal Spirit of

fered himself without blemish to Yahweh, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living Elohim?” Hebrews 9:11-14.

Life Blood Atones for Sin

Let us concentrate upon the thought of verse 22 (Hebrews 9):

When a sacrificial animal was slain and offered to Almighty Yahweh as a substitute for a sinner, it was intended that the person offering it should understand that the animal took his place in death.

“Apart from shedding of blood there is no remission.” This verse refers us back to several Old Testament passages which clearly explain the importance of the sacrificial blood in the religion of Israel.

For example, this is clearly stated in Leviticus 17:10-14,

“And whatever man there is of the house of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among them, that eats any manner of blood, I will set my face against that soul that eats blood, and will cut him off from among his people. For the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that makes atonement by reason of the life. Therefore I said to the children of Israel, No soul of you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger that sojourns among you eat blood. And what man there is of the

children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among them, who takes in hunting any beast or bird that may be eaten: he shall pour out the blood of it, and cover it with dust.

“For as to the life of all flesh, the blood of it is all one with the life of it: therefore I said to the children of Israel, You shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh; for the life of all flesh is the blood of it: whoever eats it shall be cut off.”

A literal translation of verse 11 should read, “The *nephesh* (Hebrew for *soul*) of the flesh is in the blood.” When a sacrificial animal was slain and offered to Almighty Yahweh as a substitute for a sinner, it was intended that the person offering it should understand that the animal took his place in death. Blood alone could atone for sin; another life had to be poured out to save that of the repentant worshiper.

A Sin Offering Without Shedding Blood

There is only one instance in the Bible where Yahweh promises forgiveness for sin without shedding blood. This passage is found in Leviticus 5:11-13.

“But if he cannot afford two turtle-doves, or two young pigeons, then he shall bring his oblation for that in which he has sinned, the tenth part of an ephah of fine flour for a sin-offering: he shall put no oil on it, neither shall he put any frankincense thereon; for it is a sin-offering. And he shall bring it to the priest, and the priest shall take his handful of it as the memorial of it, and burn it on the altar, on the offerings of Yahweh made by fire: it is a sin-offering. And the priest shall make atonement for him as touching his sin that he has sinned in any of these things, and he shall be forgiven: and the remnant shall be the priest’s, as the meal-offering.”

If a person was so poor that he was unable to bring a sacrifice of even two turtledoves, or two young pigeons, he was allowed to offer only a small meal offering. It had to be a meal offering that was pure, without additives. A small portion of this meal was then burned on the altar by the priest to make an atonement for the sins of this individual.

What a thoughtful Mighty One we serve, who in His mercy accepted a grain offering from His poverty-stricken child. Nevertheless, the acceptable sin offering sacrifice to Yahweh is a life.

What Is a Covenant?

To comprehend the full significance and importance of the sacrificial blood in relation to Yahweh's forgiveness of sin, one must come to a good understanding of the Covenant.

The Hebrew word *berith* means *an agreement that is made between two parties*. The Greek word is *diatheke* in the New Testament and signifies the same. Both words are translated either *covenant* or *testament* in the Authorized Version.

The Abrahamic Covenant

In Genesis chapter 15 is found the historical account of how Yahweh entered into a Covenant with Abraham. Abraham was instructed to take several sacrificial animals and slay them; they included a heifer, a female goat, a ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon. After killing them, he divided the animals in half, but left the birds intact. The sacrificial animals numbered five—the number of grace. There were eight pieces; the number eight indicates a new beginning, or resurrection.

The animals were cut into pieces; paradoxically, the Bible always uses the term ***cut a covenant***. The word "cut" could relate to cutting up the sacrificial animals to bind the agreement, or it could designate how the

words of the document were cut into stone.

Abraham was told to lay the pieces of the sacrificial animals toward one another, signifying that two parties are joining in the agreement. In ancient times, custom demanded that when a covenant was consummated between two people, they

When we walk in the light of the Truth of Yahweh and confess our sins (turning from them in repentance and conversion), fellowship between Yahweh and the repentant sinner is restored.

must walk up and down in a path of blood between the sacrificial animals. Together they agreed that the one who broke the covenant would have to die like these sacrificial animals. Then salt was scattered over the dead animals, signifying preservation.

Yahweh perceived the sincerity of obedient Abraham and consented to enter into a Covenant with him. Yahweh was faithful in fulfilling the terms of that Covenant. Abraham obeyed His conditions, but his descendants sinned and broke the agreement. They broke the commandments of Yahweh that Abraham faithfully kept. ***"Because Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws."*** Genesis 26:5.

Yahshua Died for the Sinners

The wages of sin is death, Romans 6:23. Death has been the

penalty for sin throughout scriptural times. Whoever broke the Covenant agreement by sinning was to be executed. However, rather than destroy all of the sinful people of Israel (the descendants of Abraham), Almighty Yahweh sent His only begotten Son to be their Savior. Yahshua died for them in their place, taking upon Himself the just punishment for their sins. Now all of those who accept His shed blood as their sacrifice and manifest their determined faith in that blood by living a life of obedience will be cleansed from all sin.

This is easily understood from 1 John 1:6-10.

"If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in the darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Yahshua his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

Obedience a Prerequisite

Notice that we must walk in the light of the Truth of Yahweh. Yahshua defined the word *Truth* for us. It is *the Word of Yahweh*, John 17:17. Psalm 119:142 confirms this. ***"Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And your law is truth."***

When we walk in the light of the Truth of Yahweh and confess our sins (turning from them in repentance and conversion), fellowship between Yahweh and the repentant sinner is restored. The blood of Yahshua the Messiah, His Son, will cleanse us from all sin. We have redemption through the blood of Yahshua the Messiah,

which means the forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:14).

Paul explains this even more clearly in verse 20. ***“And through him to reconcile all things to himself, having made peace through the blood of his torture stake; through him, I say, whether things upon the earth, or things in the heavens.”*** Peace between Yahweh and mankind may be restored, and our relationship may be brought into perfect harmony by the blood of Messiah’s sacrifice.

The one who sins (transgresses the Law of Yahweh, 1 John 3:4) erects a barrier between Almighty Yahweh and himself. This is positively proved from Isaiah 59:2. ***“But your iniquities have separated between you and your Elohim, and your sins have hid his face from you, so that he will not hear.”*** There is only one way to effect a reconciliation and that is for a death to occur. Yahshua the Messiah fulfilled the role of the restoration sacrifice—the Passover, the sin offering, the atonement sacrifice, and the peace offering.

Forgiveness for Sins in Messiah’s Blood

Our sins can be forgiven when we have faith in the atoning power of the blood of Yahshua the Messiah, the Son of Yahweh. He was our substitute sacrifice. It was He who made the Covenant with Abraham in Genesis 15 and Who eventually died to save His people Israel from destruction because of their sins.

In Romans 5:9, Paul proclaims the justification we have by Yahshua’s blood. ***“Much more then, being now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from the wrath of Elohim through him.”*** We get a much clearer understanding of this verse after we define the word *justified*. We must remember that the word is derived from the word *justice*. To

be *justified* means to be declared *innocent or acquitted* in a judicial trial. We are justified by the grace (unmerited kindness, forgiveness, or mercy) of our Heavenly Father through the shed blood of His Son, which He offered as the atonement for sins. How marvelous is this perfect plan of salvation.

Do you merit this great sacrifice, or are you treading underfoot the blood of Messiah by disobedience?

Revelation 1:5 points this out quite clearly: ***“And from Yahshua the Messiah, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. TO HIM THAT LOVES US, AND LOOSED US FROM OUR SINS BY HIS BLOOD.”*** Repentant True Worshipers have been washed and cleansed from their sins. The sincere, obedient believers have ***“washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb,”*** Revelation 7:14.

Who Merits Messiah’s Sacrifice?

To merit the shed blood of Yahshua the Messiah, one must **first repent of his sins**. *Repentance* means to be sorry for the transgressions which have been committed against the Covenant commandments given by our Almighty Heavenly Father.

All have sinned and come short of the glory of Yahweh, Romans 3:23. It

is our obligation to repent of those sins, to come to a state of remorse for breaking Yahweh’s Laws, if we hope to have a reconciliation with the Most High.

When one has repented of his sins and accepted the sacrifice of the shed blood of Yahshua the Messiah to cover over or atone for those sins, Almighty Yahweh will bestow upon him a new spiritual life. He enters the water of baptism as a sinful creature. Upon emerging from that ritual cleansing ceremony, he becomes a new creature in Yahshua the Messiah. He will then embark upon a pathway leading to conversion. He will always seek to do the Will of Almighty Yahweh by obeying His commandments. He can ultimately be transformed from a sinful human being into a member of the family of Elohim.

In Old Testament times it was animal blood that served as the substitute sacrifice for the sinful believer. Those who offered animals understood that they were not doing it to purchase forgiveness for their sins, but to accept the grace of Almighty Yahweh. Their sins were being rolled back to await Messiah’s perfect sacrifice according to Yahweh’s plan. The sins of the whole world were laid upon Him. He took our chastisement. He was a righteous man who did no sin (1 Peter 2:22); therefore, His death could atone for the sins of the repentant ones of all ages.

The Law (meaning the sacrificial Law) was the “schoolmaster to bring us to the Messiah,” Galatians 3:24. When we comprehend the full significance of the Old Testament sacrificial system as it pointed toward the death of the Messiah, Yahweh’s plan for the ages unfolds with new vision. Do you merit this great sacrifice, or are you treading underfoot the blood of Messiah by disobedience? Why not show Yahweh that you accept His free gift of salvation by obeying Him? Then the blood of Yahshua will cleanse you from all sin. SNB

PROPHETIC TRENDS

today's news in prophecy



GRIEVOUS TIMES SHALL COME

“For the wrath of Yahweh is revealed from heaven against all lawlessness and unrighteousness of men, who hinder the truth in unrighteousness; because that which is known of Yahweh is manifest in them; for Yahweh manifested it to them. For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, even his everlasting power and majesty; that they may be without excuse: because that, knowing Yahweh, they did not glorify him as Elohim, neither gave thanks; but became vain in their reasonings, and their senseless heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible Elohim for the likeness of an image of corruptible man, and of birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.

“For this reason Elohim gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to uncleanness, that their bodies should be dishonored among themselves: for that they exchanged the truth of Yahweh for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. . . .

“And even as they refused to have Elohim in their knowledge, Elohim gave them up to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, hateful to Elohim, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, unmerciful: who, knowing the ordinances of Yahweh, that they that practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but also consent with them that practice them.” (Romans 1:18-25, 28-32).

“But know this, that in the last days grievous times shall come. For men shall be self-lovers, lovers of money, boastful, haughty, railers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, no lovers of good, traitors, headstrong, puffed up, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of Yahweh; holding a form of righteousness, but having denied the power of it: from these also turn away. . . . ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (2 Timothy 3:1-5, 7).

Hamas/Israel War

For about a week in late November, Israel and Hamas fought a short war, which we feared might escalate into a major Middle East war. Following the killing of Ahmed Jabari, chief of the Gaza military wing of Hamas, by Israel, Hamas retaliated by sending hundreds of rockets into Israel. With each one of these skirmishes, Hamas obtains more sophisticated rockets. This time, rockets landed near Tel Aviv, and Jerusalem as well. A direct hit on an apartment building in Kiryat Malachi, on November 15, 2012, took the lives of three Jewish residents

of the town. Known as the “Pillar of Cloud,” Israeli Defense forces had grown weary of rockets being fired from Gaza into Israel, terrorizing civilians. Israel’s Iron Dome missile defense system reportedly intercepted over 400 rockets. Following a cease-fire brokered by Egypt and the United States, Hamas immediately began to rearm and resupply its rockets, many of which are smuggled into Gaza from Egypt. One of these skirmishes between Hamas, or Hezbollah, will escalate into a major Mideast war involving nuclear weapons. With Iran developing nuclear bombs and missiles with which to deliver them, the possibility of a limited nuclear war in the Middle East is very real.

Following the vote in the UN General Assembly to upgrade the status of the Palestinian mission to that of non-member observer state, the Palestinian Authority is changing its official name to Palestine. The new name will appear in the letterhead of official forms and documents and on all government websites. The Palestinian Communications Ministry will also reportedly petition the International Telecommunication Union for broadcast frequencies and the Universal Postal Union for country codes, in a further attempt to capitalize on what the Palestinian Authority views as a de facto recognition of statehood by the international community. The Palestinian Authority delegation to the European Union has been upgraded to a diplomatic mission and its representative elevated to the status of Ambassador.

Following the UN vote, Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas promised that the Palestinian Authority flag would someday fly over

“Jerusalem, eternal capital of the state of Palestine.” Following his triumphant return from the United Nations, where the General assembly granted the Palestinian Authority upgraded status as a non-member observer state, Abbas promised, *“One day, a young Palestinian will raise the Palestinian flag over Jerusalem, the eternal capital of the state of Palestine!”* Upgrading the status of the Palestinian Authority to a nonmember observer state is of great significance in the Mideast peace debacle. Granting statehood recognition gives the Palestinians traction in the world political scene. Many speculated whether or not they will pursue human rights violation charges against Israel in the World Court and mount pressure against Israel in the United Nations to eliminate the blockade of Gaza that prevents weapons from entering the Gaza Strip.

Death Pathways

Sick children and disabled newborn babies are being starved to death according to a report in the **Daily Mail**. The innocent children are being put on controversial “death pathways” and allowed to die slowly at home, or in hospices. The Liverpool Care Pathway (LCP), an organization that facilitates end-of-life treatment, wherein the process of withdrawing food and fluid by tube is being used on the young patients, as well as severely disabled newborn babies. One doctor, acting as a whistleblower, admitted to starving and dehydrating 10 babies to death in the neonatal unit of one hospital, a leading medical journal reported. The doctor describes it as a 10-day process, during which the baby becomes “smaller and shrunken.” Nearly 130,000 elderly and terminally ill patients have reportedly died as the result of the Liverpool Care Pathway, or “death pathway.”

According to **The Daily Mail**, critics say it is a “form of euthanasia, used to clear hospital beds and save the NHS money.” Writing in the **British Medical Journal**, the doctor wrote of

the pain of watching the slow, forced deaths of newborn babies placed on the “death pathway,” because of a lengthy list of unexpected congenital anomalies. He wrote, *“the voice on the other end of the phone describes a newborn baby and a lengthy list of unexpected congenital anomalies. I have a growing sense of dread as I listen. The parents want ‘nothing done’ because they feel that these anomalies are not consistent with a basic human experience. I know that once decisions are made, life support will be withdrawn. Assuming this baby survives, we will be unable to give feed, and the parents will not want us to use artificial means to do so. Regrettably, my predictions are correct. I realize as I go to meet the parents that this will be the tenth child for whom I have cared after a decision has been made to forgo medically provided feeding. Like other parents in this predicament, they are now plagued with a terrible type of wishful thinking that they could never have imagined. They wish for their child to die quickly once the feeding and fluids are stopped. They wish for pneumonia. They wish for no suffering. They wish for no visible changes to their precious baby. Their wishes, however, are not consistent with my experience. Survival is often much longer than most physicians think; reflecting on my previous patients, the median time from withdrawal of hydration to death was 10 days.”* ... *Parents have to agree to their child going on the death pathway, often being told by doctors it is in the child’s ‘best interests’ because their survival is ‘futile’.* **The Daily Mail** reports.

Obviously, not everyone agrees. Bernadette Lloyd, a hospice pediatric nurse, wrote to the Cabinet Office and the Department of Health, *“the parents feel coerced, at a very traumatic time, into agreeing that this is correct for their child, whom they are told by doctors has only a few days to live,”* she wrote. *“It is very difficult to predict death. I have seen a reasonable number of children recover after being taken off the pathway. I have also seen children die in terrible thirst because fluids are withdrawn from them until*

they die... I witnessed a 14-year-old boy with cancer die with his tongue stuck to the roof of his mouth when doctors refused to give him liquids by tube. His death was agonizing for him, and for us nurses to watch. This is euthanasia by the backdoor.”

How quickly the world has forgotten the Nazi T-4 euthanasia program, wherein tens of thousands of disabled children and adults were gassed, or were given lethal injections and then cremated. Within a generation, this world has come full circle, and we are back again to “mercy killings.” This generation has forgotten that the T-4 (Tiergartenstrasse 4) euthanasia program ultimately led to the “final solution,” wherein more than 12 million people were murdered. “Never forget!” was the battle cry of the Holocaust survivors, who made it their life goal to remind the world that we shall never return to those pathways of horror. Sadly, those who forget history will doubtless see it repeated again, but this time it will be worse. The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.

Accelerated Deaths

France should allow doctors to “accelerate the coming of death” for terminally ill patients, according to a report from France24. President Francois Hollande referred a report to a national council on medical ethics, which will examine the precise circumstances under which such steps could be authorized with the view to producing draft legislation by June 2013. *“The report said physicians should be allowed to authorize interventions that ensure quicker deaths for terminally ill patients in three specific sets of circumstances. In the first case, the patient involved would be capable of making an explicit request to that effect or have issued advance instructions in the event of him or her becoming incapable of expressing an opinion. The second scenario envisages medical teams withdrawing treatment and/or nourishment on the basis of*

a request by the family of a dying patient who is no longer conscious and has not made any instructions. The third would apply to cases where treatment is served only to sustain life artificially.”

Youth Euthanasia

“Belgium looks at euthanasia for minors; Alzheimer’s sufferers,” a headline from France24 declared. “Belgium is considering a significant change to its decade-old euthanasia law that would allow minors and Alzheimer’s sufferers to seek permission to die. The proposed changes to the law were submitted to Parliament Tuesday by the Socialist party and are likely to be approved by other parties, although no date has been put forward for a parliamentary debate.... The draft legislation calls for the law to be extended to minors if they are capable of discernment or affected by an incurable illness or suffering that we cannot alleviate. Belgium is the second country in the world after the Netherlands to legalize euthanasia in 2002, but it applies only to people over the age of 18. Socialist Senator Philippe Mahoux, who helped draft the proposed changes, said there had been cases of adolescents who had the capability to decide their future. He said parliamentarians would also consider extended mercy-killing to people suffering from Alzheimer’s-type illnesses. Euthanasia was allowed to an Alzheimer’s patient for the first time in the Netherlands last year. In Belgium, some 1,133 cases—mostly for terminal cancer—were recorded in 2011, about 1 percent of all deaths in the country, according to official figures.”

Unclean Pork

Pork bought from grocery stores and supermarkets in the United

States is highly contaminated, a new **Consumer Reports** study showed. The study found that pork samples contained high levels of bacteria that cause food poisoning and many were resistant to antibiotics. Researchers looked at 148 samples of pork chops and 50 samples of ground pork from a number of stores in six cities, said the **Los Angeles Times**. The bacterium, *Yersinia enterocolitica*, was found in 69 percent of the samples. The bacteria affects more than 100,000 Americans per year, a figure that is likely much higher given the number of cases. Salmonella and listeria are found in three and four percent of samples. The study also found that ground pork was much more prone to deadly bacteria than pork chops. The report said that a majority of the samples found bacteria that were resistant to antibiotics, likely due to the amount of antibiotics given to the animals while they were raised. “Meat that is properly cooked will kill most (sic) of the bacteria,” the report included.

Rather than worry about whether or not the pork is contaminated, why not adhere to the commandments of Yahweh concerning the food that we may eat, as found in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14? Yahweh forbids the consumption of swine and has legislated against **even touching this unclean thing**. Have we forgotten the fact that trichinosis is also found in pork? This is also a life-threatening malady that could lead to death, as well. (Have you read the article written by Elder Jacob O. Meyer on the subject of clean and unclean food titled “Have Swine Changed?” Why not receive your free copy of this timely exposé?) Incidentally, news reports surfaced recently that an elderly man disappeared after going to feed his hogs. Only a small portion of his body was found in his pigsty. Officials speculated that he was knocked down by the aggressive swine and eaten. I hope that they did not send

those hogs to market! Have swine changed? Absolutely not!

Time to Repent

The Ugandan news site, New Vision, reports that President Yoweri Museveni celebrated Uganda’s 50th anniversary of independence from Britain at a national jubilee prayers event by publicly repenting of his personal sin and the sins of the nation. “I stand here today to close the evil past, and especially in the last 50 years of our national leadership history and at the threshold of a new dispensation in the life of this nation. I stand here on my own behalf and on behalf of my predecessors to repent. We ask your forgiveness,” Museveni prayed.

“We confess the sins, which have greatly hampered our national cohesion and delayed our political, social and economic transformation. We confess sins of idolatry and witchcraft which are rampant in our land. We confess sins of shedding innocent blood, sins of political hypocrisy, dishonesty, intrigue and betrayal,” Museveni said. “Forgive us of sins of pride, tribalism and sectarianism; sins of laziness, indifference and irresponsibility; sins of corruption and bribery that have eroded our national resources; sins of sexual immorality, drunkenness and debauchery; sins of unforgiveness, bitterness, hatred and revenge; sins of injustice, oppression and exploitation; sins of rebellion, insubordination, strife and conflict, he prayed. Uganda won its independence from Britain on October 8, 1962.

“And I set my face to Yahweh Elohim, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. And I prayed to Yahweh my Elohim, and made confession, and said, Oh, Sovereign, the great and dreadful El, who keeps covenant and lovingkindness with them that love him and keep his com-

mandments, we have sinned, and have dealt perversely, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even turning aside from your precepts and from your ordinances; neither have we listened to your servants the prophets, that spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. O Yahweh, righteousness belongs to you, but to us confusion of face, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries where you have driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against you. O Yahweh, to us belongs confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you. To Yahweh our Elohim belong mercies and forgiveness; for we have rebelled against him; neither have we obeyed the voice of Yahweh our Elohim, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets. Yes, all Israel have transgressed your law, even turning aside, that they should not obey your voice: therefore has the curse been poured out upon us, and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of Elohim; for we have sinned against him. And he has confirmed his words, which he spoke against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil; for under the whole heaven has not been done as has been done upon Jerusalem. As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil has come upon us: yet have we not entreated the favor of Yahweh our Elohim, that we should turn from our iniquities, and have discernment in your truth. Therefore has Yahweh watched over the evil, and brought it upon us; for Yahweh

our Elohim is righteous in all his works which he does, and we have not obeyed his voice. And now, O Yahweh our Elohim, that have brought your people forth out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and have gotten for yourself renown, as at this day; we have sinned, we have done wickedly. O Yahweh, according to all your righteousness, let your anger and your wrath, I pray you, be turned away from your city Jerusalem, your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and your people have become a reproach to all that are all around us. Now therefore, O our Elohim, listen to the prayer of your servant, and to his supplications, and cause your face to shine upon your sanctuary that is desolate, for Yahweh's sake. O my Elohim, incline your ear, and hear; open your eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by your name: for we do not present our supplications before you for our righteousnesses, but for your great mercies' sake. O Yahweh, hear; O Yahweh, forgive; O Yahweh, listen and do; defer not, for your own sake, O my Elohim, because your city and your people are called by your name.” (Daniel 9:3-19).

Now is the time for all men everywhere to repent, the time for all men to seek Yahweh with singleness of heart. “...but now he commands men that they should all everywhere repent: because he has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he has ordained...” (Acts 17:30b-31a). Repentance in the Bible symbolizes genuine sorrow for sin. Conversion means to be changed from an attitude of rebellion and opposition to Almighty Yahweh and His Laws to an attitude of humble submission to His authority. Are

you hoping to please Yahweh, to be one of His people? Your life must be brought into conformity with His Laws.

“If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

“But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that anything be written to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of Yahweh so comes as a thief in the night. When they are saying, Peace and safety, then suddenly destruction comes upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall in no wise escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief; for you are all sons of light, and sons of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep, as do the rest, but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night: and they that are drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, since we are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation. For Yahweh appointed us not to wrath, but to the obtaining of salvation through our Savior Yahshua the Messiah, who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.” (1 Thessalonians 5:1-10).

Will you be ready when Yahshua the Messiah returns? Are you preparing to be accepted into the Kingdom of Yahweh? Strive to live as closely as possible to His Word each day. At the Second Coming of Yahshua the Messiah, we will be found acceptable in His sight if we endure to the end, faithful in all things, having lived an overcoming life. Begin to serve Him today! [S_NB](#)

Basic Truths of Bible Doctrine



A correct understanding of the doctrine of grace may be obtained only by harmonizing all passages of Scripture dealing with the subject. People too frequently appeal only to the New Testament, and, especially, to the writings of Paul, to explain the doctrine expressed by the word *grace*.

We must never forget what the Apostle Peter said of Paul's writings in 2 Peter 3:15-16, "***And account that the long-suffering of our Master is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote to you; as also in all his***

by
Elder Jacob O. Meyer

letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to be understood, which the ignorant and unlearned wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, to their own destruction.

The teaching of the no-Law doctrine has taken firm root in the minds of people today. When they encounter nebulous and obscure passages in the Bible that appear to do away with the Law of Yahweh,

doubts immediately enter their mind. The no-Law doctrine has monopolized Christian theology for so long that these doubts readily take root. All too frequently the no-Law advocates hasten to quote from the book of Galatians. Paul's letter to the Assembly of Yahweh at Galatia in no way annuls the Law of Yahweh. Conversely, when correctly understood, it places great emphasis upon keeping the commandments of Yahweh instead of obeying doctrines and commandments of men.

When one shows obedience to the Heavenly Father by keeping His

commandments, he is ridiculed as if he depends on works for his salvation. Usually those who believe in grace alone recite Ephesians 2:8-9 to prove that there is no longer any need to keep any commandments for salvation. This passage reads, **“For by grace have you been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of Yahweh; not of works, that no man should glory.”**

Salvation— A Free Gift of Life

Let us analyze this passage more thoroughly. First, we learn that we are saved by grace. Through faith in Yahweh’s Word, we receive this blessing. Faith is believing and trusting. Salvation does not come through human effort—it is a gift from Yahweh. It cannot be earned by works. No human can **purchase** his salvation by **anything** he can do.

What is life? Is life something we as humans can originate? Of course not! **It is a gift** bestowed by Yahweh. He alone gives life to us, and eventually, when He takes it back, the human being dies. Everlasting life in a spiritual existence in the Kingdom of Yahweh has the same source—it is a gift from the Almighty. When Yahweh’s people are given their spiritual body, it will be a gift that can come only from Yahweh.

A much better translation of Ephesians 2:8-10 is found in the **New English Bible**. **“For by grace have you been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of Yahweh; not of works, that no man should glory. For we are his workmanship, created in the Messiah Yahshua for good works, which Yahweh previously prepared that we should walk in them.”**

Works Required

Notice the **King James** translation of verse 10. **“For we are His**

workmanship, created in Messiah Yahshua unto good works, which Yahweh hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Paul does not hesitate to inform his readers that we are the work of Yahweh’s hands, created in

**Almighty
Yahweh will
not bestow
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salvation
upon the
disobedient.**

Messiah Yahshua to do good works, which He established beforehand, before the new Covenant era. We must do the works that Yahweh has established and commanded in the Scriptures. The definition of works is active faith, or obedience, in Yahweh.

Obviously, this passage does not convey what many religious groups today believe. Ephesians 2:8-10 does not abolish the Law that Yahweh gave to man. Rather, it serves as a reminder to True Believers that we cannot save ourselves.

Salvation is a free gift through the grace of Yahweh. It was put into effect so that no one can boast that he had saved himself.

But Almighty Yahweh will not bestow this gift of salvation upon the disobedient. He will not confer any gift of the Holy Spirit upon a person unless he repents and meets established conditions. Acts 5:32 makes this quite plain. **“And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, which Yahweh has given to them that**

obey him.” No one can be certain that he has received the Holy Spirit of Yahweh unless he has fulfilled these requirements. He must not submit to sin (1 John 3:4), but must be humbly submissive to the commandments of Yahweh.

Defining Grace

Have you checked the meaning of the word *grace* in the more prominent reference works? If we were to seek a theological definition, the one that is found in the **Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Bible** is appropriate. “That gratuitous gift of [Yahweh] to man.” The **Hasting’s Dictionary of the Bible** says *grace* comes from the Latin *gratia* and means *favor, either received from, or shown to, another*.

The **Webster’s New World Dictionary, Second Collegiate Edition** defines *grace* as *pleasing quality, favor, thanks*. This well-known authority continues, **“a) the unmerited love and favor of [Yahweh] toward man b) divine influence acting in man to make him pure and morally strong c) the condition of a person thus influenced d) a special virtue given to a person by [Yahweh].”**

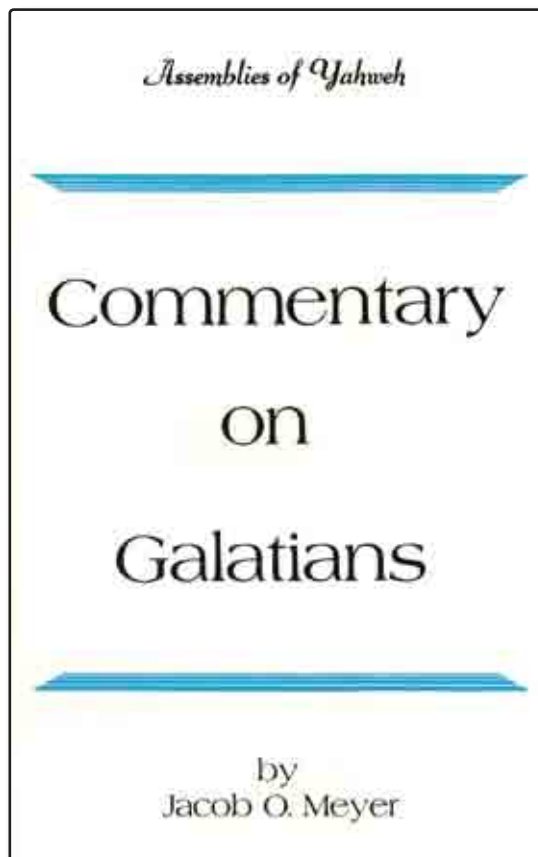
The definition given in letter (a) above is the most applicable to this study. Grace is the love and favor of Yahweh given to undeserving man. Notice that nowhere in those definitions is there any indication that, at some future date, the Law of Yahweh would be annulled, or done away with. Rather, they show that *grace* means *mankind would receive a special recognition, favor, love, or kindness from our Heavenly Father*.

Grace Defined in Biblical Languages

Instead of speculating on the meaning of the word *grace*, however, let us go to the languages in which the Bible was originally written and transmitted to us to discover the truth of this doctrine. There are

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several words in the Old Testament that have been translated *grace* or *graciousness*.

The first is *chen*. It has been translated in the Old Testament as *favor, grace or graciousness, pleasant, precious, well favored*.

Another word that appears in the Old Testament is *chanan*. It is taken from the same verbal root of the word **chen**. It means to “*bend, or stoop in kindness to an inferior; to favor, or bestow something upon that person.*” It has been translated in various ways similar to the word *chen*. These definitions appear in the **Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary of Strong's Concordance** and the **Holliday Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament**. The **Brown, Driver, and Briggs Hebrew Lexicon** translates the verb *chanan* as *show favor, be gracious*. The cognate Semitic languages yield the definitions *be merciful, compassionate, favorable, inclined towards*.

Another word used in the Hebrew text of the Old Testament and translated *grace* or *lovingkindness* is the word *chesed*. It means *goodness, kindness, or to do and show kindness toward another person*. The root is *chasad*, meaning *to be good or kind*. This word means also *to do things in a righteous manner*.

In the Greek text of the New Testament, the word translated *grace* is *charis*. It means *favor, grace, gracious care or help, good will*. In a practical application of good will, it means “*a gracious deed or gift, benefaction.*” This is the definition that we find in the **Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament** by Walter Bauer, as translated by Arndt and Gingrich.

Interestingly, the **Strong's Concordance Greek Dictionary of the New Testament** defines the word *charis* as *graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act (abstractly or concerning lit., fig. or spiritual: especially the divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in the life; including gratitude)*. Dr.

Bullinger in the **Companion Bible** translates the word *charis* as *free and undeserved kindness*.

Grace—An Active Force

Notice again that the word *charis* denotes an active force. This active force **moves** upon the heart and influences, or dictates the conduct of, one's life. Nowhere have we found in any of these definitions even the slightest indication that, through grace, the Law of Yahweh was abolished when the Savior died upon the tree of Calvary. Conversely, grace is shown to be something moving (acting) upon the heart of a sincere, humble person to cause him to alter (change, convert) his conduct.

Grace Is Not Licentiousness

Would you believe that grace in the Bible means exactly opposite of what Christianity thinks? Turn to Judah, verse 4, for proof: "*For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, wicked men, turning the grace of our Mighty One into lasciviousness, and denying the only Yahweh Elohim, and our Master Yahshua the Messiah.*"

An analysis of this verse will confirm that it is wicked people who are guilty of turning (changing) the grace (unmerited mercy, kindness, favor) of the Almighty into lasciviousness. This last word means *wantonness, tending to execute lustful desire, licentious*. Consequently, it could easily be translated *license to do as you please*.

That is an amazing declaration by the writer Judah! Isn't this exactly what Christianity ultimately teaches—that the Law of Yahweh was done away with, and everyone can do what he, himself, thinks is right?

A more modern translation of this verse, found in the **New English Bible**, clarifies considerably. To get a complete context, we must include verse 3 also.

"My friends, I was fully engaged in writing to you about our salvation—which is yours no less than ours—when it became urgently necessary to write at once and appeal to you to join the struggle in defense

Those who turn the grace of Yahweh into license to do as they please have obviously denied Yahshua, because they continue to transgress Yahweh's Law.

of the faith, the faith which Yahweh entrusted to His people once and for all. It is in danger from certain persons who have wormed their way in, the very men whom Scripture long ago marked down for the doom they have incurred. They are the enemies of religion. They pervert the free favor of our Mighty One into licentiousness, disowning Yahshua Messiah, our only master and ruler."

Especially noteworthy is the statement that **those who turn the grace of Yahweh into licentiousness are guilty of denying Yahshua the Messiah and the salvation of Yahweh Elohim**. How is this possible, if Yahshua the Messiah came to repeal, or annul, the Law of Yahweh and bestow upon us unlimited mercy or grace? The Christian definition of grace makes it appear as if man could make his own rules for life.

The scriptural definition of grace rejects licentiousness in favor of obedience to Yahweh's commandments.

Sin is the transgression of Yahweh's Law, 1 John 3:4. Those who reject the Law of Yahweh, and implement a system of licentiousness, are guilty of denying the sacrifice of Yahshua the Messiah, who offered Himself as our substitute sacrifice, shedding His blood that we might have remission of sins. Those who turn the grace of Yahweh into license to do as they please have obviously denied Yahshua, because they continue to transgress Yahweh's Law. They live in rebellion to the way of life our Heavenly Father wishes us to live. Paradoxically, already in apostolic times, false teachers were teaching that Yahweh's commandments were annulled to implement grace, an obviously false doctrine.

Dispensation—Not an Age

The term "dispensation of grace" is heard frequently in Christianity. What can it mean? This term is used only once in the entire Bible, in Ephesians 3:2.

"If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of [Yahweh] which is given me to you-ward." That is an awkward translation in the 17th century English of the **King James Version**, but it gives some indication of the meaning of *dispensation*. In the **New English Bible**, this verse is translated, "**For surely you have heard how Yahweh has assigned the gift of His grace to me for your benefit.**" No mention is made of *dispensation* here, prompting us to pursue a further analysis of the verse.

The word *dispensation* is used also in 1 Corinthians 9:17. We find there, "**For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward: but if not of my own will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me.**"

The Greek word used in both instances is derived from *oikonomos*. It means a *stewardship* or *administration* and indicates the distributing of small quantities of

Assemblies of Yahweh

Statement of Doctrine

6 We affirm that as obedient children it is necessary to keep all of the commandments, statutes, and judgments (except the ritual and animal sacrifice Laws) which the Heavenly Father gave to Israel to make them a separate people, Leviticus 20:7-8; Deuteronomy 6:6-9, 25; Deuteronomy 7:6-11; Matthew 5:17-20; Romans 7:12. It is now possible through the Holy Spirit to keep these commandments by faith for our salvation, Ephesians 2:8-10; Jacob 2:17-20. We now keep a spiritual sacrifice rather than animal sacrifices, meal, and drink offerings, Hebrews 13:15-16; 1 Peter 2:5; Romans 12:1; Philippians 4:18.

7 We affirm that sin is the transgression of the Law of Yahweh, Leviticus 4:2, 13, 27; 1 John 3:4.

material, which is the responsibility of a steward or manager.

The meaning is comparable to the function of a paper cup dispenser. It dispenses, or gives out, one paper cup at a time. Out of a large quantity of cups inserted into the dispenser, we receive one cup as the need arises.

The dispensation of grace operates in a similar way. Whenever someone needs Yahweh's favor, mercy, kindness, or forgiveness, he is granted a small portion to pardon the sin he has committed. In this way, the penalty for sin—death (Romans 6:23)—is forgiven, and the offender is spared from awesome judgment.

An entire false doctrine has been constructed upon the premise of dispensationalism. Some theologians have erroneously conceived of dispensationalism as periods of time. For example, they designate the time

of Adam as a no-Law dispensation. They designate the polity of Israel as the dispensation of Law. They claim that we are now living in the dispensation of grace.

We should understand that the time in which we are living is the age when grace is being dispensed, and not another biblical “dispensational age.” Nevertheless, some theologians divide the Bible into a number of dispensations—three, five, and even seven—when they have no biblical grounds to do this. Nowhere in the Bible do we encounter terms like “dispensation of no law and dispensation of Law.” Therefore, we are given no liberty to use them.

The Biblical Origin of Grace

The first time an offer for grace is given to man is in Genesis 3, the

account of the sin of Adam and Eve. They had allowed Satan to influence them and manipulate them into breaking the commandments of Yahweh. The just punishment for that sin was pronounced in the second chapter. “*And Yahweh Elohim commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of knowing the good and [knowing the] evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.*” (Genesis 2:16-17). The wages of sin is death, Romans 6:23. From the beginning, death was the penalty, and it shall always be so.

When Almighty Yahweh learned what had occurred when Eve took of the fruit of the tree and had given some to her husband to eat, He knew that punishment for sin had to be automatic. Yahweh knew that the man and woman would have to die, but He passed over (exempted) them in judgment. He gave them grace and allowed them centuries more to live, although limiting them to a one-thousand-year prophetic day.

Forgiveness of sin did not annul every penalty for that sin. Adam and Eve died. They encountered difficult times. Man was required thereafter to earn his bread by sweat. The earth, which had been benevolent, turned hostile, producing thorns and thistles.

The woman's rate of conception was multiplied, as well as her sorrow and pain in giving birth to children. She was always, from that point on, to be in submission to her husband.

Substitute Sacrifice

But Yahweh made coats of the skins of animals for Adam and Eve. Grace had been offered. A substitute life of an animal was taken. Yahweh visibly impressed upon them that sin brings death, and a life must be taken to pay for that sin, by killing right before their eyes one of the animals they must have loved. Adam and Eve continued to live after accepting the

sacrifice, but the penalty of sin was passed on to their descendants.

Almighty Yahweh's grace is described so beautifully and perfectly in Exodus 34:6-7. ***“And Yahweh passed by before him, and proclaimed, Yahweh, Yahweh, an El merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in goodness and truth; keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin; and that will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.”***

Yahweh describes this attitude toward man as filled with mercy, graciousness, patience, and is abundant in goodness and Truth. He describes Himself as a Mighty One who is merciful to thousands by forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin. All of these qualities are clearly manifest in the doctrine of grace. Forgiveness and pardon for sin may be received when someone repents. Sin is the transgression of Yahweh's Law (1 John 3:4), and repentance of disobedience will merit Yahweh's mercy.

David's Experience

After David had committed adultery with Bathsheba, he tried to cover his sin by committing a worse sin—murdering Bathsheba's husband, Uriah. Yahweh sent His prophet to David to point out the error of his way. David immediately confessed, ***“I have sinned against Yahweh.”*** Nathan the prophet replied, ***“Yahweh also has put away your sin; you shall not die. However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of Yahweh to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die,”*** 2 Samuel 12:13-14.

Conscience stricken, David wrote a very moving Psalm. He said, ***“Have mercy upon me, O Elohim, according to your lovingkindness: According to the multitude of***

your tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin,” Psalm 51:1-2. This passage of Scripture clearly reveals that *grace* means *forgiveness* and *mercy for sins*. Grace is understood as blotting out transgressions. David did not continue to commit sin. Rather, he poured out his heart before Almighty Yahweh, confessing his sins and repenting of them, then changing his personal conduct. He promised that he would never again commit such sin.

Grace Does Not Cover Willful Sin

Paul shows us that we must not continue to sin after we receive the grace of Yahweh. ***“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? By no means. We who died to sin, how shall we any longer live in it?”*** Romans 6:1-2.

Remember, sin is the transgression of Yahweh's Law, 1 John 3:4. We cannot continue to transgress His Law, so that grace may be all encompassing and cover all. We must obey the Law of Yahweh to merit the kindness and mercy of the love of our Heavenly Father. When someone has come to a knowledge of the Truth and continues to sin, there remains no more sacrifice for that sin.

Paul explained grace in Romans 3. He says in verse 20, ***“Because by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified in his sight; for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.”*** Obviously, those who keep Yahweh's Law cannot bequeath life to themselves. No one can be justified by the deeds of the Law. The word *justified* means *to be judged innocent or declared innocent of wrongdoing*. Only Yahweh can forgive sin, and He has extended a blanket pardon called “justification” to those who sinned in ignorance. When the repentant believer comes to realize his sins through reading

the Word of Yahweh, all his past sins are forgiven. But if he continues to sin, he will be refused further grace.

Then Paul further says that the righteousness of Yahweh is manifested, because ***it is witnessed in the Law and the prophets***. Paul shows that all have sinned and “come short of the glory of Yahweh,” but we are justified (judged innocent) freely by Yahweh's grace through Yahshua's redemption. Yahshua the Messiah gave Himself as a sacrifice to obtain for us forgiveness of our sins. This is a free gift to the human race. All people who receive this free gift and turn in obedience to our Heavenly Father will receive salvation. Those who spurn Yahweh's mercy will perish in the lake of fire.

Notice what the Apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians 6:1. ***“And working together with him we entreat also that you receive not the grace of Yahweh in vain.”***

How can someone receive the grace of Yahweh in vain, or unprofitably?

The answer is found in Hebrews 10. Let us read verses 26 to 31.

“For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and a fierceness of fire which shall devour the adversaries. A man that has violated Moses' law dies without compassion on the word of two or three witnesses: of how more severe punishment, think you, shall he be judged worthy, who has trodden underfoot the Son of Yahweh, and has counted the blood of the covenant with which he was sanctified an unholy thing, and has done despite to the Spirit of grace? For we know him that said, Vengeance belongs to me, I will repay. And again, Yahweh shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living Elohim.”

The spirit of grace is rejected by those who despise the blood of the Covenant. After one understands the

Truth, but continues to sin, grace is withdrawn (Hebrews 6:4-8).

The Termination of Grace

Bible students tend to think of the age of grace as never ending. However, there are several Scriptures that predict an end to the general mercy of Yahweh. Obviously, an end to the proffered grace to a generation that spurns it will mean universal judgment.

Zechariah the Prophet predicted an end to grace in chapter 11 of his book. The declaration says, ***“For I will no more pity the inhabitants of the land [Hebrew—earth], says Yahweh; but, lo, I will deliver the men every one into his neighbor’s hand, and into the hand of his king; and they shall strike the land, and out of their hand I will not deliver them,”*** v. 6. This prophetic utterance describes a withdrawal of grace. Apparently, conflict between nations will ensue. Yahweh will no longer withhold judgment from His disobedient people. Zechariah continues by saying that he took two shepherd’s crooks, or clubs, which he named Beauty (Hebrew—*graciousness*) and Bands (*ropes or bonds*), to feed the poor of the flock (downtrodden believers).

After feeding the persecuted flock, Zechariah explained, ***“And I took my staff Beauty, and cut it apart, that I might break my covenant which I had made with all the peoples. And it was broken in that day; and thus the poor of the flock that gave heed to me knew that it was the word of Yahweh,”*** Zechariah 11:10-11.

When the patience of Yahweh wears thin in dealing with His erring people, He will do what any father would do to a rebellious child. Mercy ends when outright defiance is evident. Then punishment is the only remaining course of action.

When Yahweh acts, it will be to manifest what was already a fact—that the Covenant between Himself and humankind had been broken. A

covenant is based upon mutual loyalty, trust, and faith of the endorsers. When one party breaks the agreement, the other should continue to keep his promise as a witness against the unfaithful. Yahweh has done this. He has maintained His fidelity even

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though Israel has continued to refuse His efforts to reform them. Eventually His patience will be exhausted, and Yahweh will break His Covenant by pouring out punishment.

For those who are awaiting the eleventh hour to repent of their sins and establish a personal relationship with the Heavenly Father, caution should be exercised. The mercy of Yahweh will suddenly be terminated when sinners least expect it. As the great tribulation reaches a climax, Yahweh will no longer heed the prayers of those who have delayed. Notice this warning from the pen of the Apostle John. ***“And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of Yahweh, and from his power; and none was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels should be finished,”*** Revelation 15:8.

Can you detect the relationship expressed between these two passages of Scripture? Yahweh will turn His back on His sinful creation and will not heed their pleas for mercy.

The fault is their own. They could have acted while grace was in force. Like the five foolish virgins who had neglected to fill their lamps and vessels with adequate oil, those who plead for grace while punishment is in progress will find the door to Yahweh’s presence closed—shut.

An example of one who had adequately prepared himself to avoid the judgment of Yahweh during a time of widespread wickedness was Noah. He withstood the influence of his contemporaries and, thereby, found grace in the eyes of Yahweh (Genesis 6:8). We are living in an era similar to the one in which Noah built the ark. There is safety in serving Yahweh. Those who are wise shall be able to find protection during the tribulation, but there is no time to lose. Soon the judgment of Yahweh will fall upon this evil worldly system.

We have seen that *grace* is defined as *unmerited kindness, mercy, forgiveness, and pardon* for sin. But we have also observed that if someone hopes to partake of Yahweh’s grace, he must bring his life into obedience to the commandments of our Heavenly Father.

We cannot continue to sin if grace is to be used as a covering for wickedness. The grace of Yahweh will not be turned into license to do as you please. Grace is favor bestowed upon the human creation of Yahweh through His love to pardon the sins of the past.

When someone oversteps Yahweh’s commandments, they receive pardon at His hand if they have not transgressed maliciously, or if they have not premeditated their sin. Grace is given only to those who remain humble and merit forgiveness. Sin will not be condoned with impunity by Yahweh. He will give grace to the humble who recognize their human frailties. They know they will receive pardon if they strive to serve Almighty Yahweh to the best of their ability. Those who deliberately transgress the commandments are punished. SNB

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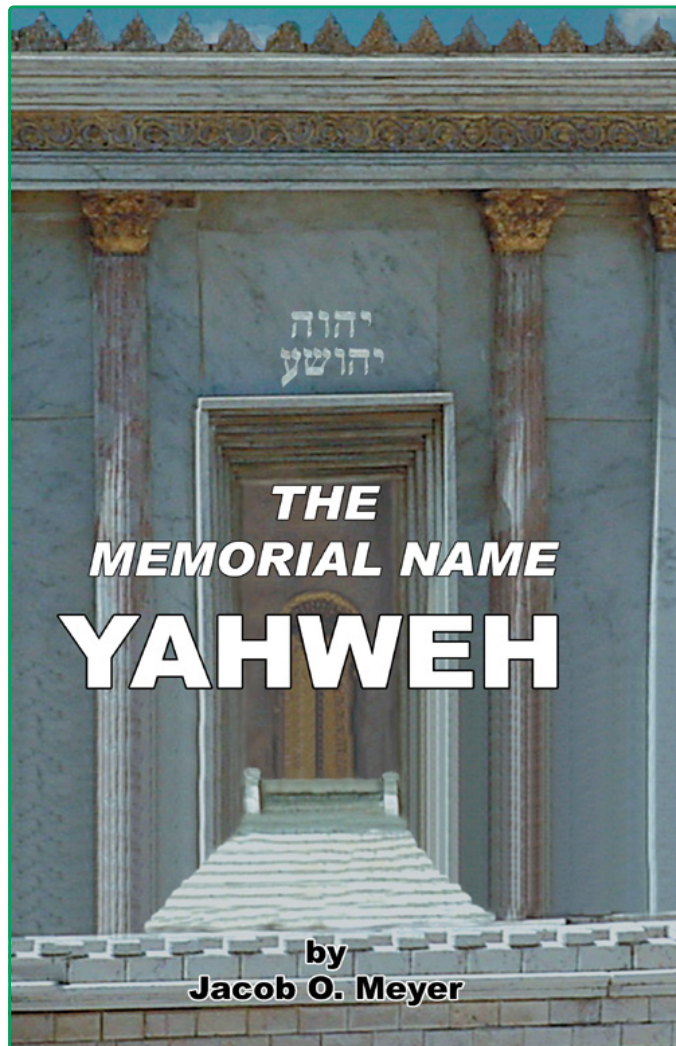
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