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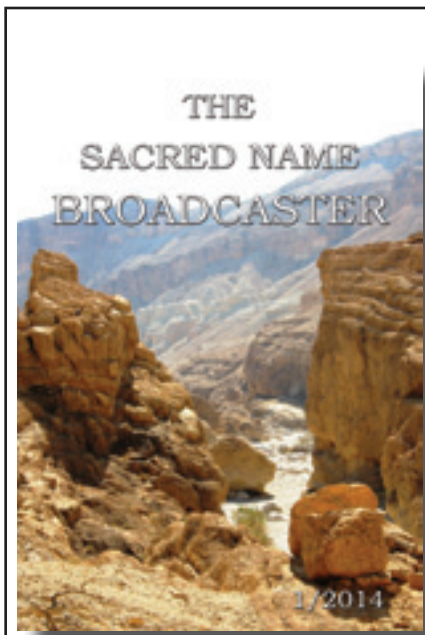
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**Founder and Author: Elder Jacob O. Meyer**

## Our Cover:



*"He split rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink abundantly as out of the depths. He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers. Yet they went on still to sin against him, to rebel against the Most High in the desert," Psalm 78:15-17.*

How would we react to a bleak, wilderness scene such as Israel faced after leaving Egypt? Would we trust in Yahweh with all of our heart, or would we also murmur against Yahweh?

The Apostle Paul warns: *"Therefore let him that thinks he stands watch out, lest he fall. There is no temptation taken you but such as man can bear: but Yahweh is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted above what you are able; but will with the temptation make also the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it," 1 Corinthians 10:12-13.*

And at evening, when the sun set, they brought to him all that were sick, and them that were possessed with demons. And all the city was gathered together at the door and he healed many that were sick with divers diseases, and cast out many demons; and he did not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

MARK 1:32-34



# Yahshua's Healing Ministry

The world today seems saturated with an increasing volume of sickness, pain, and suffering. Incurable diseases ravage the world's population with escalating pandemic dimensions. People are asking, "Why?" While science has given modern society many luxuries to make life more comfortable, it seems that we cannot depend upon science to insure good health. Cancer, heart disease, arthritis, and other debilitating, even incurable, diseases such as AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) and Herpes II remain unsolved physical problems, although some other diseases seem to have been eradicated.

It is an established biblical fact that healing is one significant aspect, a special segment, in the comprehensive plan of salvation. In the

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by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

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Old Testament, Yahweh's prophets performed healing miracles. Yahshua the Messiah, as the greatest prophet who ever lived, announced the Kingdom of Yahweh to come to this earth with a dynamic healing ministry. His Apostles continued to perform miraculous acts of healing following His ascension. Later, in various historical records describing the early Assembly, healings continued to be manifested. But for some reason, physical healing power parallel to, and in conjunction with, spiritual renewal remains largely ignored in the religious world of today.

In our time, we are rapidly approaching the Second Coming of Yahshua the Messiah, and as the

power of Almighty Yahweh again manifests itself in our midst, we are now again seeing healings and miraculous cures manifested among the True Worshipers.

Many people throughout this world are sick and dying—at a young age. They are crying out for relief from their pain and suffering. Recent obituary pages in our local newspaper carry reports of people dying in their 40s, 50s, and 60s. Many of them expire at a young age rather than attaining to the three-score and ten or more years, which we are promised if we maintain good health, as Psalm 90 has indicated. Frequently, we notice reports of people succumbing to cancer at the young ages of 10, 20, or 30 years. Should such deaths be necessary? Do these questions have answers

and solutions?

While scanning through the **International Standard Bible Encyclopedia** for their comments on the subject of healing, its editors set forth the conclusion that the healing of sickness is still, today, a very viable power and should constitute a vital part of the ministry of Truth. Authors in other publications support this conviction, while, conversely, groups espousing modern liberalism deny that such power will function in our time.

Let us look objectively at the Scriptures to understand more clearly what the Bible teaches on the subject of healing. That subject recently came under discussion in our membership publication magazine, **The Narrow Way**. There we showed that the ordained elders have not been as faithful in following this aspect of the Word as we should have been. Without doubt, Yahshua the Messiah commissioned His Assembly elders to heal, **“...they shall take up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall in no wise hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover,”** Mark 16:18. **“If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done to you,”** John 15:7. Upon the ordained elders has been conferred the responsibility of healing, or curing. The Apostle Jacob (James) has so directed, and his directions must be followed to the letter so healing will be accomplished.

In Matthew 10:7-8, we read how Yahshua sent out His 12 chosen disciples. Yahshua said, **“And as you go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons: freely you received, freely give.”**

This commission to heal, Almighty Yahweh, through Yahshua the Messiah, has certainly conferred upon all of His chosen servants and is valid throughout all annals of time. First, the 12 disciples received the commission to heal in Matthew

## ***Having healed the sick in His time, 2,000 years ago, Yahshua the Messiah, as Head of the Body, will also heal the sick again in our time, just as He promised.***

10. Then, in Luke 10, practically the same instructions are given to the 70 disciples when Yahshua sent out His expanded group of representatives to broaden His ministry. In Luke 10:18 we read, **“And he said to them, I beheld Satan fallen as lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall in any wise hurt you.”** Obviously, healing authority represents a sign that the Kingdom of Yahweh has drawn near. Those who preach the message of the Kingdom will do as Yahshua commanded, because they have received authority from Him to act. The reviving power of Yahweh’s Kingdom message will be confirmed among those who sincerely are preparing themselves to have a part in it.

We have seen that Yahshua conferred this commission first upon the 12 disciples and then upon the 70. Finally, He bestowed healing power upon His chosen messengers in the Body of His Assembly. In Mark 16:15-18 we read, **“And he said to them, Go you into all the world, and preach the good tidings to the whole creation. He that believes and is immersed shall be saved; but he that disbelieves shall be condemned. And these signs shall accompany them that believe: in my name shall they cast out demons; they shall**

***speak with new languages; they shall take up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall in no wise hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”***

Of course, we must believe what the sacred Word says. That healing constitutes a significant part of Yahshua’s end-time ministry must be forthrightly recognized and acknowledged. **“To all those that believe,”** means that within Yahweh’s select group of True Worshipers, those who actively practice their Faith will receive the blessing of healing manifested in their midst.

Having healed the sick in His time, 2,000 years ago, Yahshua the Messiah, as Head of the Body, will also heal the sick again in our time, just as He promised.

Yahshua the Messiah healed people on many occasions during His ministry. But let us take careful notice to something He customarily said at that time. Beginning in Matthew 9:20 and ending in verse 22, we shall look at two healings to ascertain His method.

**“And behold, a woman, who had an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: for she said within herself, If I do but touch his garment, I shall be made whole. But Yahshua turning and seeing her said, Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.”**

Yahshua mentioned FAITH in regard to this healing. To a large extent, healing depends upon faith. In this instance, Yahshua didn’t know that a sufferer was being healed. The woman had exercised her faith to come to Him. She slipped up behind Yahshua as the crowds were pressing upon Him, and she touched the hem (perhaps the fringes) of his garment. Yahshua exclaimed, **“Your faith has made you whole!”**

The next incident closely follows. When Yahshua came into the house of the ruler of the synagogue, He

found this little child already dead. When He pronounced the little girl to be only sleeping, those around the bier mocked Him. After He had put those doubters out of the room, He then took her by the hand. With His mighty resuscitating power, the little girl was immediately resurrected from the dead. Someone other than the deceased subject had exercised the necessary faith for her physical renewal.

Notice yet another healing described in verse 29.

### ***The Danger in Doubt***

All of us should clearly understand that those who claim Yahweh's healing **MUST** have the necessary faith to receive it. **"According to your faith be it done to you."** What happened after the blind men expressed their faith? Their eyes were opened! They had sufficient faith to petition the powerful Messiah, to request His prayer for them. Yahshua intervened on their behalf, and their eyes were opened!

In Matthew 17:20 we learn, **"And he says to them, Because of your little faith: for truly I say to you, If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, Remove from here to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible to you."**

Looking carefully at this passage, we note that when Yahshua's disciples were asked to cure the demented young man, they were unable to do so. The word *cure* in Greek has a different meaning than heal. The Greek work *therepeuo* (#2323) means *to relieve of disease*. This can be done by administering some kind of remedy, or, as Yahshua did, through a miraculous act. This Greek word forms the root of our English word *therapy*.

**"And Yahshua answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to me. And Yahshua rebuked him; and the demon went out of him: and the boy was cured from that hour;"** Matthew 17:17-18. Yahshua could cure, not merely by using a therapeutic remedy, but He could cure instantaneously and miraculously. We must understand this truth from this passage.

Anxiously, Yahshua's disciples asked their teacher why they had been unable to cast out this evil spirit. Yahshua said, **"Because of your little faith: for truly I say to you, If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, Remove from here to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible to you."**



**"If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, Remove from here to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible to you."**

MATTHEW 17:20

How large a volume of faith does one need to be able to heal? How much faith must the sick one have within his heart to be healed? What volume of faith can we determine to be equal in size to a grain of mustard

seed? Visibly, materially, a mustard seed comprises merely a small, minute substance almost equal to a grain of sand. Yahshua declared that our faith to accomplish great things need only be as sizeable as a small, minute mustard seed. With that dimension of faith, we can say to a mountain, **"Remove to some other place,"** and it will certainly be done, because matter will obey.

He says, **"...this kind goes not but save by prayer and fasting."** Some tenacious demons roaming the world will seize control of spiritually weak people, if possible. Yahshua, with His great power, was able to cast out such unclean spirits immediately. That very same hour it happened, as the inspired Word confirms. Perhaps Yahweh's people today do not have sufficient faith, and, if so, we also must resort to a program of prayer and fasting. It is imperative that we increase our faith in Yahweh and His power by maintaining close communication with Him.

Fasting symbolizes a release, as we can determine from Isaiah 58. Leviticus 25:9-10 also clearly shows that same concept, because on the Day of Atonement, Yahweh's annual fast day, people are released—allowed to return to their rightful possessions with all debts forgiven.

In Matthew 21:21 Yahshua again discourses on the subject of faith. **"And Yahshua answered and said to them, Truly I say to you, If you have faith, and doubt not, you shall not only do what is done to the fig tree, but even if you shall say to this mountain, Be you taken up and cast into the sea, it shall be done."**

**"If you have faith, and doubt not,"** Yahshua said. I would like to ask the question: **"Do we at all doubt Yahweh's power to heal when we ask for anointing or a prayer from the elders and the brotherhood? Do we**

really trust Yahweh, or is such a prayer request merely something we feel we must do—a formality?” We will not receive the blessing Yahshua has in store for us if we are doubtful. **“And all things, whatever you shall ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive,”** Matthew 21:22.

Those experiencing physical problems should, first of all, ask Yahweh to heal them, and they must demonstrate implicit faith in Him to heal them when they are sick. Many times, as seen in various biblical passages, Yahweh tells His people to do something for themselves in addition to prayer. Yahweh will bring such a necessary remedy to our attention if our bodies lack a certain necessary curative element. But, first of all, we must believe (without exhibiting a shadow of a doubt) that Yahweh will heal us. If one has faith and does not doubt, it will be done. But how many people pray, or ask for prayer, yet they doubt in mind and heart? It is not sufficient to have faith; no doubt may be entertained. How many people today even kneel down to ask Yahweh to heal them? Why are some people reticent to kneel to pray to Almighty Yahweh asking for healing, or to ask the elders and the brotherhood to intercede in prayer on their behalf?

### **Satan Responsible for Disease**

We must ask the question, “Who causes disease?” In Acts 10:38, the method of Yahshua the Messiah as He preached the Glad Tidings of the Kingdom is described. **“Even Yahshua of Nazareth, how Yahweh anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for Yahweh was with him.”** Sickness constitutes oppression of the devil, according to Luke, the author. Yahweh allows sickness too, but such sickness is designed to serve a purpose, as, for an example, the case of Job, where Satan was

responsible for that testing.

Consequently, the Scriptures inform us that it is Satan the Devil who causes disease. His rebellion against Yahweh’s government took the direction of weakening the human race and making them spiritually and physically sick. One of the curses for sin that Yahweh has placed upon man was that the earth would no longer yield its strengthening nourishment to humans (Genesis 3:17-19, 4:12). As the people of Yahweh who desire health, we must spurn Satan the Devil and rid ourselves of his degenerating oppression and influence. By returning to Yahweh and obediently keeping His commandments, we will receive His blessings and a restoration of health.

**“Because he considers, and turns away from all his transgressions that he has committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die. Yet says the house of Israel, The way of Yahweh is not equal. O house of Israel, are not my ways equal? Are not your ways unequal? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, says the Sovereign Yahweh. Return and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. Cast away from you all your transgressions, in which you have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dies, says the Sovereign Yahweh: therefore turn yourselves, and live,”** Ezekiel 18:28-32.

When Israel came out of Egypt, they had been overworked and undernourished. Yahweh instructed them to keep His Covenant faithfully so that if they should at some time fall sick, He would be their Physician and heal them.

**“And he cried to Yahweh; and Yahweh showed him a tree, and he threw it into the waters, and the waters were made sweet. There he made for them a stat-**

**ute and an ordinance, and there he proved them; and he said, If you will diligently listen to the voice of Yahweh your Elohim, and will do that which is right in his eyes, and will give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you, which I have put on the Egyptians: for I am Yahweh who heals you,”** Exodus 15:25-26.

Notice the title in this passage that Yahweh attaches to His Name, **“I am Yahweh Ropheka.”** The Hebrew word *rapha*’ (#7495 in **Strong’s Concordance**) is defined as a *physician*. **“I am Yahweh who is your physician.”** By what standard does Yahweh judge you worthy to be healed? If you will **“diligently listen to the voice of Yahweh your Elohim and do that which is right in His sight, and will give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes,”** Yahweh will hear your prayer and heal you.

How does Satan the Devil bring disease and oppression upon people? He finds a way to implant doubt in their minds. Just as he did to our progenitor, Eve, he implants doubt in human minds, so that we begin to doubt Yahweh. Doubting Yahweh, thereafter, we will weaken and liberalize the keeping of His Torah commandments. Those who doubt will soon reject a strict adherence to the Covenant, the keeping of Yahweh’s statutes, thereby renouncing His authority over their lives. Then they will sin by not keeping His commandments.

**“Do you not know, that to whom you present yourselves as servants to obedience, his servants you are whom you obey; whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness?”** Romans 6:16. It is sin that separates between Yahweh and the Adamic race. **“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,”** Isaiah 59:2. He says, **“I will put none**

*of the diseases on you, which I have put on the Egyptians: for I am Yahweh who heals you* [your physician —*ropheka*].” Remember that the term *rapha*’ in the Hebrew means *physician*—our doctor, healer, or curer. So here we find a clear directive from Almighty Yahweh explaining how we may be healed. Keep His commandments, statutes, judgments, obey Him completely, and He will cure our illnesses. He has promised to forgive our sins so that we may be healed. **“Who forgives all your iniquities; who**

*heals all your diseases...*” Psalm 103:3. Do you have sufficient faith to trust in His Word?

### ***The Medical Profession***

In Exodus 23:24, we learn that Yahweh has made the terms of His Covenant reciprocal. He does not lay upon us a variety of commandments constituting terms and conditions and then not do anything for us. He says in verse 24, **“You shall not bow down to their elohim, or serve them, or do after their**

***works; but you shall utterly overthrow them, and break in pieces their pillars.”***

Many doctors demand from their patients utmost subservience (classifying themselves almost like a mighty one—Elohim). Some doctors present themselves as holding an authority bordering on infallibility.

Many appear to want honor such as is accorded only to a mighty one. They will remark, “Don’t question me!” Doctor Robert Mendelsohn of Evanston, Illinois, author of **The People’s Doctor Newsletter** counsels us according to the following: *If you must consult a physician for some reason, ask them questions. If they become irritated, ask them even more penetrating questions. If you cannot get your questions answered, consult another doctor. If a doctor is ever going to treat me, the author wants to know exactly what he is doing to me. I will ask, “Why this particular treatment?” and all of the other related questions—and demand answers. This is my body they are treating, and I am not going to give someone else unlimited liberty to make decisions. I reserve the right to ask a lot of probing questions, and know definitely, absolutely, that he is doing the right thing. Currently, many reputable physicians even suggest that their patients obtain a second opinion to ensure peace of mind.*

The Hippocratic Oath, composed by Hippocrates (a physician of ancient times), forms a basis for the current doctor’s oath. Since Hippocrates was a pagan, he pledged his efforts to “Apollo the Physician, by Aesculapius, by Hygeia, Panacea, and all the g-ds and g-ddesses...” Did you know that? Even though most physicians today take the pledge called the “Declaration of Geneva, 1948,” some schools continue to use the Hippocratic Oath. But Yahweh *Rapha*’ is not mentioned, except to be included (as in Acts 17:23) under the general term “all the elohim.” Yahweh remains the Elohim unknown to the world!

It is no secret that in ancient

## *Ancient Hippocratic Oath*

I swear by Apollo the physician by Aesculapius, by Hygeia, Panacea, and all the g-ds and g-ddesses, that, according to my best ability and judgment, I will keep this oath and stipulation; to reckon him who taught me this art equally dear to me as my parents; to share my substance with him and relieve his necessities if required; to regard his offspring as on the same footing as my own brothers, and to teach them this art if they shall wish to learn it, without fee or stipulation, and that by precept, oral teaching, and every other mode of instruction, I will impart a knowledge of the art to my own sons and to those of my teachers, and to disciples bound by a stipulation and oath, according to the law of medicine, but to no others.

I will follow that method of treatment, which, according to my ability and judgment, I consider for the benefit of my patients, and abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous. I will give no deadly medicine to anyone if asked, nor suggest any such counsel; furthermore, I will not give to a woman an instrument to produce abortion.

With purity and with holiness I will pass my life and practice my art. I will not cut a person who is suffering with a stone, but will leave this to be done by practitioners of this work. Into whatever houses I enter I will go into them for the benefit of the sick and will abstain from every voluntary act of mischief and corruption, and further, from the seduction of females, or males, bond or free.

Whatever in connection with my professional practice, or not in connection with it, I may see or hear in the lives of men which ought not to be spoken abroad, I will not divulge, as reckoning that all such should be kept secret.

While I continue to keep this oath inviolate, may it be granted to me to enjoy life and the practice of my art, respected always by men, but should I trespass and violate this oath, may the reverse be my lot.

Greek Mythology the first physicians were the priests of Aesculapius. His symbol was a serpent (a snake), believe it or not! ***“You shall not bow down to their elohim, or serve them, or do after their works; but you shall utterly overthrow them, and break in pieces their pillars. And you shall serve Yahweh your Elohim, and he will bless your bread, and your water; and I will take sickness away from among you,”*** Exodus 23:24-25. Those are reliable promises for everyone who obeys Yahweh and serves Him, those who refuse to bow down to the elohim of the nations, whether humans or idols.

### ***The Blessings and Curses***

Yahweh says, ***“I will bless your bread and your water, and will take sickness away from the middle of you.”*** That is a promise! Now, do you have the faith to accept the promise and live by its requirements and thereupon receive the blessings?

### ***Obedience Required***

Yahweh faithfully promised us that when we worship Him and spurn the influence of the mighty ones of the nations around us, when we keep His Sabbaths, when we eat a biblically regulated diet, He will take sickness away from the midst of the people of His Assembly. What applied to ancient Israel also applies today to the Assemblies of Yahweh. There shall nothing cast their young, or be barren, in your land, and the number of

your days I will fulfill, He promises. Yahweh will bring His obedient people to their three-score and 10 years of age, and even beyond, because they will be healthy. I am trusting Yahweh to do this in my life. That is why I am faithfully keeping His commandments with the help and power of the Holy Spirit. His Word can be relied upon and trusted, but we must exercise a living faith and practice His way of life.

In Leviticus 26:14-39, we find listed the curses Yahweh pours out upon the disobedient. It is startling to read again the severity of the curses that Yahweh lays upon the disobedient. Note verse 16, ***“I also will do this to you: I will appoint terror over you, even consumption and fever, that shall consume the eyes, and consume the soul; and you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.”***

A little further along in the chapter in verse 25, He predicts, ***“And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall execute the vengeance of the covenant; and you shall be gathered together within your cities: and I will send the pestilence among you; and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.”***

The same message emerges, perhaps even more poignantly, in Deuteronomy 28, where we read in verse 21, ***“Yahweh will make the pestilence hold fast to you, until he has consumed you from off the land, which you go in to possess.”*** Also in verse 27, ***“Yahweh will afflict you with the boil of Egypt, and with the tumors, and with the scab, and with the itch, of which you cannot be healed.”***

Yahweh certainly has fulfilled His promised judgment with more plagues to come. In America today, many people are suffering the very

evidence of the cursing that Yahweh has promised to bring upon the human race.

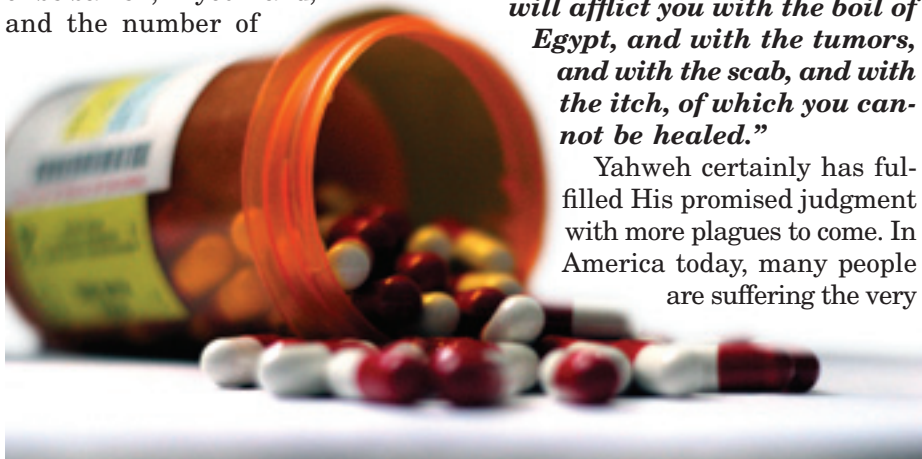
Look carefully again at that passage in Deuteronomy 28. Have not the two major incurable diseases—Herpes II and AIDS, fulfilled the description of Yahweh’s judgment? What do you see in the passage? These curses are pronounced upon a people who do not keep Yahweh’s commandments.

In verse 15, ***“But it shall come to pass, if you will not listen to the voice of Yahweh your Elohim, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command you this day, that all these curses shall come upon you, and overtake you.”*** Yahweh desires that the people of His Assembly be strong and healthy people. This will be a sign and an example to the people of the world regarding the omnipotent power He holds and will prove the veracity of His Laws.

Passages from the book of Psalms greatly encourage the True Worshiper as he reads them. One such passage is Psalm 105:37, ***“And he brought them forth with silver and gold; And there was not one feeble person among his tribes.”***

Now you may see more lucidly why we find the record which appears in Exodus 15:25-26. When Moses took the branch and threw it into the water, the leaves of the tree (natural remedies), along with Yahweh’s healing power, will heal those who are sick. Yahweh became Israel’s physician when they trusted Him and kept His Laws. Therefore, Israel became a physically strong people from that time so they could conquer the Holy Land. Yahweh was blessing them. By obedience to Him and His Word, Israel would prevail and would always be stronger than their enemies, regardless of the numbers of opponents that attacked Israel.

We now want to combine all of the preceding Scriptures. Satan causes people to doubt Yahweh. Satan influences people to rebel against the keeping of Yahweh’s commandments. If we obediently





keep His commandments, Yahweh has promised to be our physician. He will heal us if we occasionally become ill. He has faithfully promised to do that. One of the blessings for keeping Yahweh's Covenant is healing, removing sickness from the midst of His people, allowing all True Worshipers to live out our lives to full age.

### ***Pray First***

How many those who become ill be healed? Jacob, who succeeded Peter as the overseer of the Jerusalem Assembly, tells us what to do. Jacob (James) 5:13, ***“Is any among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise.”*** The term *suffering* in its root form (Strong's #2552) means to *suffer hardship, to suffer evil, to be strengthless*. (See also various **Greek Lexicons**.) Is any among you strengthless (suffering hardship or illness), let him pray. The first thing the True Worshiper must do when he encounters a physical problem is to pray! We are all physical; we're still very human, physical (carnal or fleshly), in a temporal sense. We have human mortal bodies that are inherently prone to disease. There is a possibility that we will get sick occasionally. The first thing we must do in such an event is to pray. Pray first! Don't run to the medicine cabinet first, and then later remember to pray to Yahweh for healing. First, get down on your knees and ask Yahweh to intervene and heal you.

Here is a personal experience. One night the author had developed a bad cold and had become very congested in his chest. He arose and knelt by the bed, praying to Yahweh for healing. Suddenly, in his mind, he thought, *“There is Vicks Vaporub in the closet. Put some on.”* So he did that, and, within a short time, his breathing returned practically to normal. He was able to sleep soundly, rest, and then go to work at the office the next morning. It was the power of Yahweh that healed. He brought to my attention that I

***The person who develops an illness should call for Assemblies of Yahweh elders to pray over and with that person. They will join their hearts in heart-rending petition to Yahweh together with the sick one.***

could use some of His creation to bring my body back into harmony with sound health.

In the following Scriptures we will observe that Yahweh's power indeed works hand in hand with His creation. When we separate between Yahweh's power and the healing substances that He created, people find themselves weak—strengthless. Let us remember that a human body cannot be healed unless Yahweh the healer Himself, performs this physical strengthening.

### ***Proper Healing Procedures***

Is any among you suffering (afflicted)? Jacob tells us to pray first in such a situation. Before we do anything else, we must ask Yahweh to heal us. ***“Is any among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the assembly; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of Yahweh,”*** Jacob 5:13-14. One of the most important concepts in regard to healing is that Yahweh conferred this power of healing upon the ordained elders of the Assembly. He has conferred that power upon those who preach His Word. ***“Let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of Yahweh.”*** The oil represents the Name of Yahweh, as we find the interpretation in the following passage: ***“Your oils have a good fragrance; your name is as oil poured forth; therefore do the virgins love you,”*** Song of Solomon 1:3.

The person who develops an illness should call for Assemblies of Yahweh elders to pray over and with that person. They will join their hearts in heart-rending petition to Yahweh together with the sick one. Such united prayer of several faithful individuals represents the request of more than one witness. If you pray personally and are not immediately healed, the next step one should take is to ask others to join you in prayer. The ordained elders will then join that sick person in praying, and they, in turn, may ask the congregation to join with them.

The elders are directed to anoint the sick person with oil in the Name of Yahweh. Why? Because Yahweh has given us His promises in His Word. He has attached His Name to the terms of His Covenant and, therefore, when someone fulfills the terms of that Covenant with Yahweh, we may expect blessings from Him. He said, ***“I will take sickness away from the middle of you,”*** Exodus 23:25. We must believe this promise of Yahweh's intervention in our physical lives.

The prayer of faith shall save the sick. Here is where the elders exercise great faith and put some of the oil, representing the Covenant Name Yahweh, on the head of the sick one while petitioning Yahweh for him. The Assemblies of Yahweh elders are to hold a living faith in their hearts. The anointing oil, representing Yahweh's Name (Song of Solomon 1:3), will remind Yahweh of the promises that He has declared. The sick one must accept that oil as a sign that he embraces the terms of Yahweh's Covenant and trusts implicitly in the Mighty One who

extended that Covenant to mankind.

## ***Sin, Forgiveness, and Obedience***

***“The prayer of faith shall save him that is sick, and Yahweh shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, it shall be forgiven him,”*** Jacob 5:15. Here, we must confess, the Assemblies of Yahweh elders have fallen short in times past. We have not always asked the sick person (reminded the person) to confess his sins to Yahweh before healing can take place. Sin, you will remember, is the transgression of Yahweh’s Law. We have inaugurated a policy of reading some of these very Scriptures to those people before we anoint them. We do not simply anoint people indiscriminately. We want to know if that person has first gotten down on his knees and prayed, forthrightly confessing his sins to Yahweh. Sometimes in the past, reports have reached us that people who were not healed blamed the elders, when, in actuality, it was the sick person’s own responsibility for the lack of healing. Yahweh will not come to the aid of a person who continues to commit sin.

Almighty Yahweh can, and does, heal sincere people. I believe that promise, and I trust Him for that healing. Notice Jacob 5:19 again. If some member has sinned against another in Yahweh’s Assembly, then he should go to that person and confess his faults. If you have sinned against Yahweh, you are required to confess your faults to Yahweh and repent so He will heal you.

We have already seen one of the passages coming clearly to our attention. ***“Behold, Yahweh’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear...”*** Isaiah 59:1.

Yahweh has not cut off His arm. He is still just as powerful as He always was. He has not plugged up His ears, nor is He sleeping! No, His arm and His hand is just as powerful and outstretched as it EVER was. His ear is not heavy; it will hear.

What is the problem then? ***“...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,”*** Isaiah 59:2. Let us never forget that penetrating thought! Sin separates between Yahweh and His people. Sin is the corruption of law breaking that will produce sickness, because Satan the Devil has then caused that person to doubt the necessity to maintain his obedience to the terms of Yahweh’s Covenant. He has caused the sinner to doubt the power of Yahweh to fulfill His Word. Satan can oppress such people, because Yahweh will withdraw His blessings from the sinners. They will then be under bondage to disobedience, sin, and death. One cannot turn back (backslide) with impunity from obedience to Yahweh’s Covenant. The doubter (unstable person, backslider) must know that he will not receive any good thing from Yahweh (Jacob 1:6-7).

***“Confess therefore your sins one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed. The supplication of a righteous man avails much in its working,”*** Jacob 5:16. That is why the elders ask the brotherhood to join us in prayer for those deserving ones who desire healing. For this reason we maintain a published prayer list. ***“The effectual, fervent prayer,”*** Jacob says. We must pray fervently—a deep, believing prayer—for the sick who confess their sins to Yahweh. We ourselves who pray must be righteous in Yahweh’s sight.

EliYah was a man subject to like passions as we are. He was not a giant, or some kind of “bionic man.” No, he was a human being just like we are. He was able to pray and stop the rain, producing an extended drought. Then, he prayed again, and the rains came after the 3 1/2 years of drought. EliYah was a man of faith. This is what Jacob wanted us to understand. We have access to the very same power that EliYah had received. All we have to do is attach ourselves to that vast, boundless Holy Spirit power by obedience to Yahweh’s commandments, Acts 5:32.

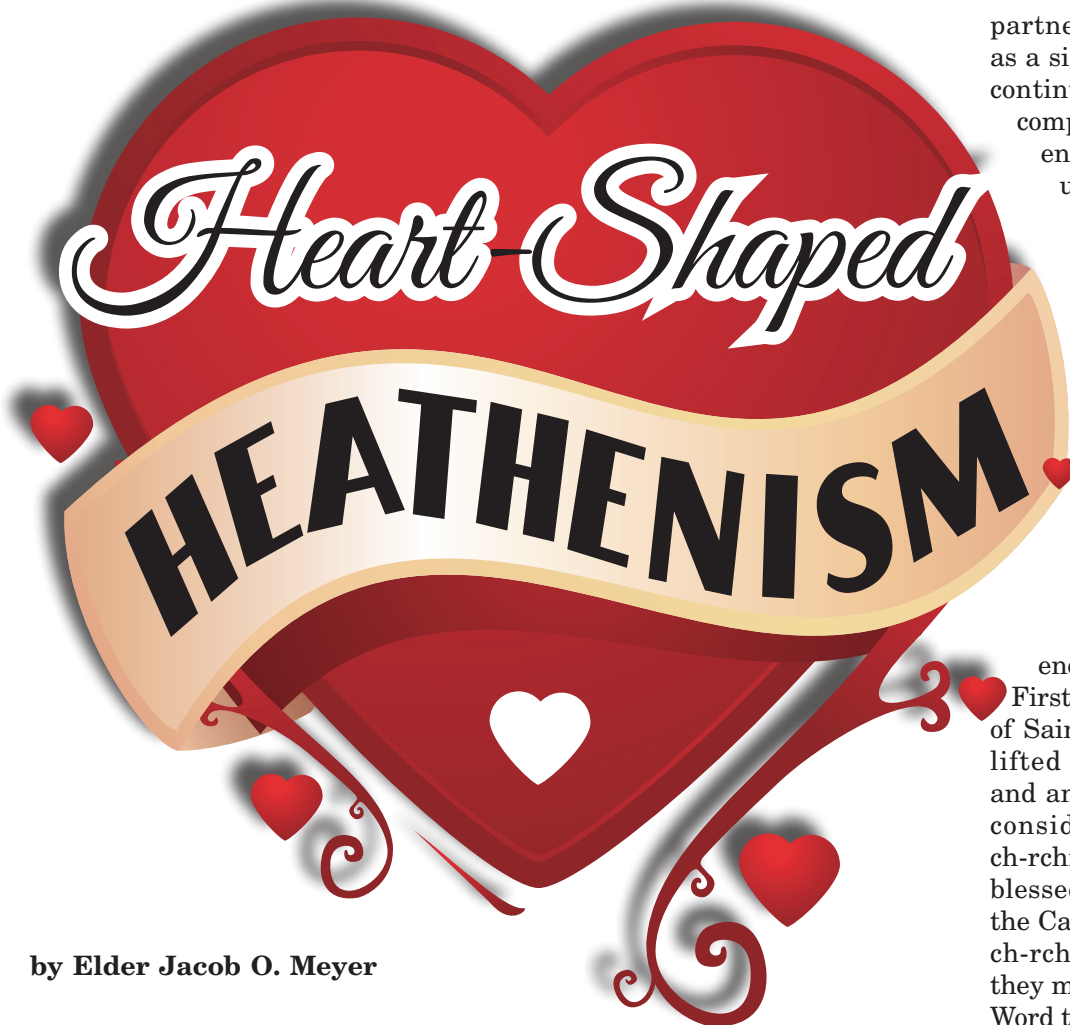
***“My brethren, if any among you err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know, that he who converts a sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall cover a multitude of sins,”*** Jacob 5:19. That is why he directs us to confess our faults, and, then, pray for one another. Yahshua the Messiah exercised Yahweh’s miraculous healing power available to us today. Yahshua’s healing power came from Yahweh, because He was obedient to Yahweh’s Covenant.

***“And all the multitude sought to touch him; for power came forth from him, and healed them all,”*** Luke 6:19. The Greek term for power is **Strong’s #1411—Dunamis**, defined as *force, spec. miraculous power*. The people came to Him as He was preaching, desiring to hear His messages and be healed of their diseases. Those who were vexed of unclean spirits were healed. The whole multitude sought to touch Him, and there went virtue (power) out of Him. That power is derived from Yahshua’s goodness and righteousness revealed in the dynamic power connected with them, because Yahshua was Yahweh’s obedient Son.

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***We must pray fervently—a deep, believing prayer—for the sick who confess their sins to Yahweh. We ourselves who pray must be righteous in Yahweh’s sight.***



by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

The observance of unscriptural holidays in this worldly system appears to be an almost universal practice. The members of the Assemblies of Yahweh frequently receive criticism from those who live around them for not participating in the seemingly harmless festivities of the worldly holidays. Invariably, those who ridicule these stalwart defenders of the scriptural Faith have themselves never searched out the origins of the holidays which they are advocating! If they had, they might be surprised!

Among these seemingly harmless holidays, which are widely observed by the world today, is Saint Valentine's Day. Where did this seemingly "innocent" observance of decorating with hearts, exchanging cards with loving messages, and holding parties for the children originate? Can we, as children of Yahweh, take part in this worldly holiday, or any of the

other common worldly observances? Let us take a closer look at Saint Valentine's Day, and we shall unearth the buried pagan roots behind the observance.

### ***Pagan Roots Discovered***

Centuries before the birth of Yahshua the Messiah, it is recorded that the Romans were observing a popular holiday called Lupercalia. The description of this ancient festival, as it appears in the **World Book Encyclopedia**, makes the astonishing assertion that this was an ancient pagan fertility rite which became Christianized in 496 Common Era, by Pope Gelasius.

The Romans celebrated the feast of Lupercalia to represent a lover's festival for young people. Young men and women chose partners for the festival by drawing names by chance from a box. Then, the

partners exchanged simple gifts as a sign of affection. They usually continued to enjoy one another's company long after the festival ended. Many such courtships ultimately ended in marriage.

After the spread of Christianity, the clergy sought to confer a Christian meaning upon this pagan festival. In 496, Pope Gelasius changed the Lupercalia festival of February 15 to Saint Valentine's Day on February 14. Nevertheless, the sentimental symbolism and meaning of the old festival has remained up to the present time.

What does this revealing encyclopedia reference tell us? First, the modern-day observance of Saint Valentine's Day has been lifted directly out of paganism and ancient idolatry, and it is now considered to be acceptable in Christianity, because it has been blessed by a past high priest of the Catholic Church. The Christians evidently imagine that they must somehow bend Yahweh's Word to convert the pagan, heathen peoples. Could that be a valid belief and can such practice be found legitimized in Yahweh's Word?

### ***Eschew Evil and Do Good***

***"Thus says Yahweh, Learn not the way of the nations..."*** (Jeremiah 10:2). Yahweh inspired Jeremiah to write this passage, wherein He commands us not to learn the way of the nations (heathen), meaning the unconverted people who live around us. Yet, it seems that many of the customs found in the pagan world of unconverted mankind are lifted directly out of heathen cultures and then sanctified by Christianity as biblically approved holidays.

Yahweh's response to idolatry and the pagan practices which the people have absorbed from their culture can be found in 1 Corinthians 10:14: ***"THEREFORE, MY BELOVED,***

*Continued on page 20.*

# Lazarus and the Rich Man

Objective Bible study is one of the most elusive qualities to achieve. When a person's interest is captured by the Bible, and he desires to know what it teaches, he is probably at his most objective point in life. The only way to become truly objective is to allow the Scriptures to harmonize throughout the Bible and to hold steadfastly to the doctrine which is taught. Any retention of former doctrines, or deliberately ignoring a Scripture that could bear upon the final product of our study, will taint what we are learning. We must never allow ourselves to circumvent a plain and concise Scripture, but such passages must form the bed-rock foundation of our doctrines. Scriptures that are vague in any way must harmonize with those that make definite statements.

Research has revealed a high incidence of translators' manipulations as they shaded certain meanings to conform with popular doctrine, when, in fact, the underlying original text harmonized precisely with other plain statements on the subject. As we can plainly see from a study of what happens after death, the Old Testament teaches that when a person dies, his dead body is placed in the grave and lies there in repose until the resurrection. No such concept as an immortal soul, or eternal burning in hell, is ever taught. It was only in later eras, after the demise of the Apostolic Assembly, that these popular Christian doctrines of our

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by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

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day emerged.

One of the most puzzling passages of the entire Bible, in regard to what happens after death, may be found in Luke 16. If the soul is body, or life (*nephesh*-Hebrew, *psuche*-Greek), then it is not immortal and does not immediately go to heaven at death. But there is a parable that seems to teach the concept of an immortal soul. Or does it?

Let's take a good hard look at this parable and see if answers will be forthcoming. The solution to this parable lies in the original languages—as closely as we can get to them—not in the English translation, which is indeed faulty. Please notice carefully how the definitions of the Greek words will lay bare the true meaning of this parable.

We begin in verse 20, with a description of the beggar Lazarus, covered with sores, lying at the gate of the rich man. The manner in which this account is usually presented in nominal Christianity would lead us to believe that it is necessary for all of us to become beggars and terribly diseased in order to be saved. In actual fact, however, this parable is given so that the members of the Assemblies of Yahweh will come to realize that Yahweh looks on hearts, and that which is highly esteemed to men is abomination to Yahweh, Luke

16:15. It is not wrong to be rich if riches are used righteously, because Abraham was a very rich man, and Yahweh was close to him, Genesis 13:2. It is not desirable to be poor as was Lazarus, but, since he had a physical disability, this was apparently unavoidable. Please see Proverbs 30:9. The question here, primarily, is related to the way the rich man used his wealth, and Yahshua was trying to show that occasionally the injustices of this human life will only be corrected in the Kingdom, Ecclesiastes 8:11-14. Also see Isaiah 35.

Since Lazarus was a very sick man, unable to work, he had stationed himself outside the gate of the rich man, hoping that some of the surplus food which was probably going to waste in the rich man's household would be given to him so that he would survive. This meager diet from the table of the rich man hardly sufficed for him, and, eventually, he became so diseased that he died, possibly from malnutrition. Now notice what happened to Lazarus. Yahshua says that he was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. Before we explain this phrase, let us notice, in addition, that the rich man also died and was buried. Can you see then just how this parable has been misunderstood? It is not in chronological order at this point, because Yahshua the Messiah wished to insert a new thought before he picked up another segment of the

story. The beggar Lazarus died and so did the rich man. Each one of these central characters in the account was buried. Both ending their physical life just as do all men; they died and then were buried. Please read Ecclesiastes 3:17-22 and 9:1-6. In death, there is no difference between men, but it reduces each human being to a common level, that of being an inanimate, dead corpse. All personality and remembrance is ended in the grave, Psalm 6:5 and Psalm 49, especially verse 14. He is then no different from a beast.

Subsequent to the death and burial of Lazarus and the rich man comes the resurrection, and we see that the angels come to carry Lazarus to the bosom of Abraham. This agrees with the account of the resurrection which Yahshua the Messiah Himself gave in Matthew 24:31. Yahshua the Messiah will send His angels to gather the elect from the four winds of the heavens, and the Kingdom of Yahweh will be established on this earth at the first resurrection—in which Lazarus will be included. In the Kingdom of Yahweh will appear Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, ruling under Yahshua the Messiah, Luke 13:28. Apparently, Lazarus will be one of the rulers under Abraham, and, perhaps, his favorite. A note in the **Companion Bible** indicates that *Abraham's bosom* can also be construed as meaning *death*, but a better explanation is the one which takes the events of the parable and places them in chronological order, in harmony with the remainder of the Bible.

We continue now to verse 23. Here we find that the rich man lifts up his eyes in hell. The word which has been translated *hell* by the **King James** translators is *hades* in the Greek. It means the *common grave*. The old Saxon word *hell* is derived from, or means, *hole*. It does not at all raise the slightest connotation that it would be *gehenna*, which is the lake of fire, or destruction, which awaits sinners. The rich man was buried, and, at the second resurrec-

tion, he awakened, and he was still in the grave.

The next phrase is the one which is truly thought to present difficulties, since it alludes to the torment that is supposed to accompany the mythological description of *gehenna*. However, several definitions are offered by the lexicons which will give us a much clearer understanding, and we will find that they will harmonize completely with the teachings of the entire Bible on life after death. The **Strong's Concordance Greek Lexicon** offers this definition for the Greek word *basanos*: *to go to the bottom, to touch stone, figuratively torment*. Immediately we receive a much clearer picture of the events of the parable. In *hades*, or the grave, the rich man lifted up his eyes, being in the bottom of the grave (he had awaited the resurrection). However, I feel that the **Young's Concordance**, in this instance, holds a much superior definition. Robert Young translates this word *basanos* as a *test, trial, inquisition, figuratively torment*. So you see, the rich man was raised in the second resurrection; as he was lifted from the grave, he was taken to the great white throne judgment trial, Revelation 20:11-15.

This will be a trial at which evidence will be given. Some people assume that they will be given the opportunity to argue the merits of their own case before the Great Judge, Yahshua the Messiah. In reality, the books will be opened and all of the evidence will be taken exclusively from the books which have been recorded by the angels of Yahweh, those who have observed the daily conduct of each person with special scrutiny during his entire life span. These books

will give accurate evidence of the person's basic character, deep down in his heart, at secret times in his life, and this knowledge of what a person is like indicates that Almighty Yahweh looks on the heart, 1 Samuel 16:7. There will be little desire for a wicked individual to speak when he confronts the stern Judge, the powerful Being who holds his destiny in his hands. In effect, this trial will be taking the form of an inquisition, especially when an incident such as the rich man's case comes up for litigation, and his life compares with the second category of Matthew 25:31-46. This separation of the two classes—the sheep from the goats—will be a time of remorse and sorrow for those who know that they will be denied life everlasting. Matthew 25:46.

The rich man fell into this excluded category and became so frightened at the thought of death for everlasting ages, eternal destruction in the lake of fire which he already saw burning in the distance, that he had a nervous reaction such as is described of criminals about to be executed for a crime. He sees the flame burning and knows that he will soon be joining the wicked people who have been separated from the righteous. This torment is more than he can bear, and so he requests just a drop or two of water to revive his senses. The term *tormented* in verse 24 is not the same as *basanos* above. The word is *odunaomai* and means *to be pained*. The rich man was pained in his heart and mind because he knew that he would be missing the blissful everlasting life in the Kingdom. This trial apparently will be held outside the capital

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***We must never allow ourselves to circumvent a plain and concise Scripture, but such passages must form the bedrock foundation of our doctrines.***

# THE Pathway



What must I do to be saved? As a human being travels along the pathway of life, somewhere along the way he is confronted with this mystery. We ask ourselves about the meaning of life, the short duration of time which we have to live, the fleeting years which slip by so rapidly—especially as we advance in age—the meaning of death, and the possibility of a life in the hereafter. We are puzzled by the lack of an answer to these questions in nature around us, although, there is a hint of renewal by the progression of each cycle of seasons. Nevertheless, there has been no tangible proof of an afterlife that physical man can comprehend, with one exception.

## **An Everlasting Agreement**

There is an assurance of an after-life, and you can prove it to yourself. In the inspired Scriptures we find portrayed an offer of everlasting life. **“And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from following them, to do them good; and I will put my fear in their hearts, that they may not depart from me,”** Jeremiah 32:40. If Almighty Yahweh makes an everlasting Covenant with you, it will necessitate that you receive immortality such as He possesses so that you can uphold your end of the agreement! **“That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which Yahweh swore to your fathers to give them, as the days of the heavens above the earth,”** Deuteronomy 11:21. The offer of living as the days of heaven, upon the earth, is a tremendous offer

which will give us immortality so that we can fulfill this prophecy. **“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give to them eternal life; and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand,”** John 10:27-28. This passage is reminiscent of Revelation 14:4, **“...these are they that follow the Lamb wherever he goes.”** A precedent has been established in the life, death, and resurrection of the Messiah. His life is our example, and by His resurrection we also shall be raised to immortality, which He now enjoys, if we have been faithful to the end, Romans 5:9-10.

## **Life After Death**

Yahshua the Messiah actually walked the earth over 1900 years ago. He lived a human life of righteousness. He died for our sins and then rose again. Paul says that all of this was done according to the Scriptures, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. You can prove His existence by reading the remainder of this chapter as it shows that our pathway to salvation must parallel His example. Did you grasp Paul’s reference to the witness of the 12 apostles and the 500 brethren? Paul is showing that, while living, those people could attest vocally to Yahshua’s life, death, and resurrection. Some were then asleep (Jacob, Stephen, and others), who had given their lives in martyrdom as a witness to the Truth which they had seen! We can believe their testimony and KNOW that we may enter into the New Covenant to live forever!

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## **Following Yahshua’s Example**

When once we have proved the Truth of life after death, what must we do to receive that priceless blessing? The answer is that we must follow the example of Yahshua the Messiah, following His life as a pattern laid down for us. The Apostle Cepha says in 1 Peter 2:21-22, **“For to this were you called: because the Messiah also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth....”** That is the example of our Savior, living a life free from sin and speaking no falsehood (false doctrine). Now, we are getting some tangible directions from the Author of the Bible, Almighty Yahweh. How many will heed them? Or will you thrust this Scripture behind you and merely follow the crowd to a certain elimination from the Covenant with Almighty Yahweh?

To explain this passage in 1 Peter 2:21, we must interpret the word *sin* directly from the Scriptures. 1 John 3:4 holds a major key to unlock an understanding of the knowledge of salvation—**“Everyone that commits sin also transgresses the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”**

How perfectly enlightening! When we sin, we are transgressing the Law of Almighty Yahweh, His commandments, statutes, and judgments. We are breaking His rules of life, disobeying His directions for living, and the wages of sin is death, Romans 6:23. By obeying the

scriptural Law we are following a course of life which will lead us to the stage of immortality, a gift from Almighty Yahweh for obedience.

### ***The Whole Man***

It is so simple, really, when you get right down to the root core of the Bible. King Solomon summarized the comprehensive message of the Bible when he wrote in Ecclesiastes 12:13, ***“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear [Elohim] and keep His commandments; for this is the whole duty of man.”*** The last phrase, from the **King James** translation, could read, *“this is the whole man,”* since the words *duty of* were added by the translators. The ingredient that will make the human being complete is keeping the commandments of Almighty Yahweh, obeying His wishes concerning how we should live.

### ***Repentance***

In the instance where the question was asked in the New Testament, ***“What shall we do?”*** (Acts 2:37), the Apostles answered promptly ***“Repent!”*** Please see Acts 2:38 and Acts 3:19. The word *repentance* means *to be broken up and sorry, regretful and remorseful*, for your disobedience to Almighty Yahweh and His commandments. Repentance will motivate action! You will desire to know what you are doing to dis-

please Almighty Yahweh, and you will read His Word each day in hungry eagerness to know how you can overcome this separation from the Heavenly Father. New knowledge on how to keep His commandments will produce fruits of a changed life, ***“Bring forth therefore fruit worthy of repentance...”*** Matthew 3:8. Acts 26:20, ***“that they should repent and turn to Yahweh, doing works worthy of repentance.”*** True repentance will cause you to want to do something! It will make you humble and sincere in obeying Almighty Yahweh. It will cause you to desire to keep His righteous Law of liberty, so that you will be free from the bondage of sin.

### ***A Fresh Start***

Then you will desire to be cleansed from the degeneracy of your past life. When you read Romans 6, it becomes obvious that repentance precedes baptism, which is an immersion into a symbolic death and burial of the old man with his sin-laden burden. The repentant sinner will rise from the water of baptism with a new life, a clean slate, a new start. He can live henceforth for Yahweh, or he can trample on the blood of Messiah and be rejected forever, Hebrews 10:28-29. He has embarked on the way to salvation and everlasting life. But he must endure to the end to be saved, Matthew 24:13.

### ***The Blood of the Messiah***

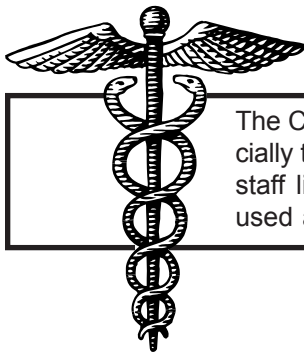
A most neglected scriptural concept, which is largely ignored in contemporary christianity, and totally in the structure of Judaism, is a blood sacrifice for our sins. Hebrews 9:22, ***“And according to the law, I may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and apart from shedding of blood there is no remission.”*** This New Testament Scripture is reiterating a basic Old Testament doctrine. ***“For the life (Hebrew-nephesh) of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls (Hebrew-nephesh); for it is the blood that makes atonement by reason of the life (Hebrew-nephesh),”*** Leviticus 17:11. The very obvious doctrine taught by the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, is a blood covering for sin. Without this token showing Almighty Yahweh that we accept the guilt for our sins, there is no acceptance from Him.

The animal sacrifices of the Old Testament were portrayals of the substitute sacrifice of the Messiah to come. Isaiah 53:5, ***“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”*** Verse 10

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# **TO Salvation**



The Caduceus, from the staff of an ancient herald, especially the winged staff carried by Mercury; an emblematic staff like this with one or two serpents coiled about it, used as a symbol of the medical profession.

*Continued from page 8*

We must sincerely and diligently serve Yahweh and obey His commandments, not minimizing any single one of His statutes and judgments. Do you minimize Yahweh's dietary Law? All kinds of food items that are not biblically clean are being cooked on restaurant stoves, making us quite cautious about what we order if eating out. The brethren of the Assemblies of Yahweh should faithfully follow the directions of Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14. Note carefully 2 Corinthians 6:18 where Paul tells us not to touch the unclean, a clear reference to the dietary Law, among other Laws of clean and unclean.

In Luke 8:45-46 and Mark 5:30 we note, again, that virtuous power went out from Yahshua and healed people. Those who hope to heal must themselves be virtuous, righteous, upright, pious people. Almighty Yahweh will heal those who are in need when the proper methods are used.

Today, the Assemblies of Yahweh stands on the verge of doing great miracles. ***“And in that day you shall ask me no question. Truly, truly, I say to you, If you shall ask anything of the Father, he will give it to you in my name. 24 Until now you have asked nothing in my name: ask, and you shall receive, that your joy may be made full,”*** John 16:23-24. ***“Truly, truly, I say to you, He that believes on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to the Father. And whatever you shall ask in***

***my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you shall ask anything in my name, that will I do. If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father; and he shall give you another Comforter; that it may be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth: that the world cannot receive; for it beholds it not, neither knows it: you know it; for it remains with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you desolate: I come to you,”*** John 14:12-18.

Not every sickness derives from sin, although there are passages such as Psalm 103:3 which imply that. Yahshua was asked whose sin was responsible for the blindness suffered by a certain young man, ***“And as he passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Rabbi, who sinned, this man, or his parents, that he should be born blind? Yahshua answered, Neither did this man sin, nor his parents: but that the works of Yahweh should be made manifest in him,”*** John 9:1-3.

But we must conclude that Yahweh has occasionally allowed sickness to fall upon His people because of sin. The glory of Yahweh is revealed in healing. Sickness can be caused by either a spiritual, or by a physical, sin against our own bodies. Not enough good food, or the wrong kind of food, or not enough quality rest, constitutes a sin against our physical bodies. Our bodies are Yahweh's creation, and we must carefully preserve them, because they are fallible.

Yahweh shortened the daylight hours during the winter months

for a reason: so that we would take more rest and not be as active when the weather is cold. As a young boy, while living on the farm, our family would go to bed at 9:00 or 9:30 p.m. each night during the winter time and be in bed until almost 7 in the morning. We often ate lots of onions (which provided us with a natural antibiotic) along with our usual breakfast of fried cornmeal mush. Electricity has been one of the greatest means to spread disease ever invented, because now we just keep working hard and stay up late winter and summer. Years ago, we would be getting a needed rest (when our bodily resistance was naturally lowered), because we didn't have electric lights. More rest gave us more resistance against disease. Perhaps this is one reason why so much influenza virus seems to be making its appearance. Now, television keeps us up until all hours of the night, and then we get up early to go to work.

Psalm 103:3, in context, reads, ***“Who forgives all your iniquities; who heals all your diseases...”*** When you take that in relationship with what Jacob says, this message comes through very clearly. Confess your faults and sins to Yahweh so He can heal you. Don't continue to separate yourself through your sins from the source of healing power. ***“Who redeems your life from destruction; who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies; who satisfies your desire with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle,”*** Psalm 103:4-5. This passage clearly declares that Yahweh will renew the youth of His obedient child like the eagles which soar to great heights. Yahweh wants us to have the blessing of good health so we can enjoy our use of His earth.

In Psalm 107:20, ***“He sends his word, and heals them, and delivers them from their destructions.”*** Yahweh sends out His Word. This surely means that He wished His Word to be obeyed. We can respect it, or spurn and reject it,



only to suffer for that thoughtless rejection. Satan tries to implant doubts in people's minds, that will influence them to reject the Word of Yahweh, thereby no blessing awaits the disobedient.

**"...I am Yahweh who heals you."** He promised this blessing in Exodus 15:25-26, where He directed that those who desire healing must obey His commandments. Yahweh heals repentant sinners.

### **The Role of Faith**

I would next like us to direct our scrutiny toward faith, the most necessary ingredient for healing. Notice the act of faith necessary for healing in 2 Kings 5. Naaman had traveled from Syria to Israel at the suggestion of his Hebrew slave girl, who had told him of the great prophet living there who could surely heal him.

He went to Israel to consult the prophet Elisha, who told Naaman to go wash himself seven times in the Jordan River. *Is your faith going to be strong enough to go to that river, Naaman, and wash seven times?* Elisha gave Naaman a physical act to perform. Rarely does Yahweh confer healing simply by a word. In this case with Naaman, it was the same. He had to DO something to receive the blessing. *"Why should I come over here to wash in the Jordan? There are many satisfactory rivers in Syria. I would have*

*thought that Elisha would have come out and merely waved his hand over the leprosy or called on the Name of Yahweh,"* Naaman ranted angrily. The servants urged reconsideration. *"If there is a possibility that you'll be healed then you'd better do it. Don't let Elisha's instructions anger you."* Thereupon, Naaman performed the physical act, demonstrating faith. Indeed, faith without works is dead (Jacob 2:26).

Naaman was healed, certainly, but he had to express sufficient faith in Elisha's instructions that took him to the Jordan for the special seven-fold bath. The Jordan River doesn't have miraculous healing powers different from that of other rivers. But Elisha chose to send Naaman there to test his faith. Also, Naaman had to wash again and again and again—repeating the physical act of cleansing seven times. How often do we persist in prayer when the healing doesn't take place the first time we ask? If we ask in prayer, or take a natural remedy, do we expect a miracle immediately, or do we repeat the process seven times (or even 77 times) if necessary? Yahweh will indeed reward our faith eventually.

In John chapter 9 is found a very interesting episode. Yahshua anointed the eyes of a man who was born blind, making a clay mixed from dust and spittle. **"...Go, wash in the pool of Siloam (which is by interpretation, Sent). He went away therefore, and washed, and**

**came seeing."** Yahshua directed the blind man to do some physical act to test his faith. He, like Naaman, also could have demurred. He could have concluded with these words *"Yahshua could have said the word and I would have been healed right here. Why journey somewhere else to receive a blessing?"* But Yahshua wanted to test the faith of the blind man, to determine how badly this man really wanted to see. Would he make one more journey without sight? The blind man meekly and humbly obeyed the Messiah's directions—and he was healed.

Years ago, I became acquainted with a lady living on the West Coast. At that time she was in the high 60s in age. She developed such a severe case of cancer that when the doctors operated on her, they closed her up again and told her that there was nothing they could do for her. *"Go home and die,"* they said. *"You can't live more than three weeks to a month."* She was so sick that she was unable to retain and digest any food. She prayed first and then asked the people of Yahweh to pray with her. While she was lying on her bed of affliction praying, she thought, *"I love life and think I can still be useful."* The thought then came to her to begin using grape juice. She obtained some, but at first, could only hold down about a tablespoonful! Nevertheless, she kept on taking it persistently. Soon she could consume more and shortly

### **Build your physical body, don't tear it down!**

The worldly people today have yielded their will power to satisfying their carnal nature. **"Do you not know that you are a temple of Yahweh, and that the spirit of Yahweh dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of Yahweh, Yahweh shall destroy him; for the temple of Yahweh is holy, and you are such."**

—1 Corinthians 3:16-17.



she passed fibrous tumors. She eventually had another operation for another physical reason, and the doctors were amazed to tell her that her stomach and intestines showed signs of great previous injury, a lot of scar tissue was in evidence. They expressed surprise that with such a severe cancer she hadn't died. *"Now you are totally healed from the cancer,"* they said, designating her as their miracle patient.

The point I want to make is that Yahshua, and also the prophets of the Old Testament, didn't simply snap their fingers and heal everyone. They told some of those in physical need to do something to test their faith. Elisha told Naaman to wash in the river Jordan. Yahshua told the blind man to wash in the pool of Siloam. Isaiah told those who nursed Hezekiah to put a fig cake on his boil. ***"And Isaiah said, Take a cake of figs. And they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered,"*** 2 Kings 20:7. Each one of these constitutes an act of faith.

Yahshua, on the Sabbath, healed a woman with a physical problem, because she needed a release from the bonds of Satan (Luke 13:10-17). Should not such a miracle occur on the Sabbath, since the Sabbath rep-

resents a day of release (from a week of labor)? In John 9, the blind man's eyes were also opened by Yahshua on the Sabbath. We hope for a release in the Kingdom of Yahweh, Yahweh's Millennial Sabbath Day, when the veil of blindness will be totally removed from the eyes of the people and when all the earth will see Yahshua. These healings actually served as signs to the people, because, during the Millennium, life will be completely different than it is in this Babylonish system. ***"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing; for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert,"*** Isaiah 35:5-6.

The Pharisees insisted that Yahshua could not be the Son of Yahweh, because they accused Him of breaking the Sabbath by His healings on that day. They insisted (and rightly so) that one who does not keep the Sabbath cannot heal. But Yahshua did keep the Sabbath correctly. The man healed of blindness was questioned intensely by those of the religious establishment.

In John 9:16 we read, ***"Some therefore of the Pharisees said, This man is not from Elohim, because he keeps not the sabbath. But others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such signs? And there was a division among them."*** The blind man said, ***"He is a prophet."*** But the Jews didn't believe that he had been blind until they called his parents

and questioned them regarding the conditions of his birth. The parents were afraid of the Jews, and, therefore, commented, ***"... ask him; he is of age; he shall speak for himself."*** The Jews had already proclaimed that if any man would confess that Yahshua was the Messiah, they should put him out of the synagogue. They called this man again and said, ***"Give glory to Yahweh: we know that this man is a sinner."*** The formerly blind man answered, ***"Whether he is a sinner, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see."***

Yahshua's power had actively intervened in the physical affliction of this man. He was born blind, but he had now been healed. Yahshua was no sinner, and Yahweh heard Him.

Let us consider a comment we find in both the Old and New Testaments. Mark 5 reads in verses 25-27, ***"And a woman, who had an issue of blood twelve years, and had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was not improved, but rather grew worse, having heard the things concerning Yahshua, came in the crowd behind, and touched his garment."***

Is this not that which people customarily do? They consult the physicians first, then when all else fails they turn to Yahshua. They take the reverse course to what the Apostle Jacob tells us to do. Yahshua was not preaching, however, at the time when the woman was spending all of her money on the physicians. This healing occurred near the beginning of His ministry. When she learned of Yahshua, she came immediately for healing. Today, Yahshua's dynamic message is here on this earth, and the Messiah can, will, and does heal. All He asks is that we believe—trust in Him and Yahweh's power—and act on our faith.

Don't go to consult the physicians first. Appeal first to Yahweh and Yahshua the Messiah. In 2



Milk is an ideal food. When Almighty Yahweh promised Israel the best of conditions in their new homeland, He constantly described it as a ***"land flowing with milk and honey,"*** Exodus 3:8, 17. Abraham provided a banquet for Yahweh and the angels that included butter and milk, Genesis 18:8. Milk is a delicious food. Try some soon! Yahweh loves it—you should too!

Chronicles 16:11-13, ***“And, behold, the acts of Asa, first and last, lo, they are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel. And in the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa was diseased in his feet; his disease was very great: yet in his disease he did not seek Yahweh, but the physicians. And Asa slept with his fathers, and died in the forty-first year of his reign.”*** A lot is left unsaid between verses 12 and 13. Asa sought the physicians; he did not seek Yahweh first. What would have happened, we wonder, if he had gone to Yahweh first? Yahweh heals; His power is omnipotent. Perhaps that lesson was not lost on his descendant Hezekiah.

When King Ahaziah fell from an upper story balustrade, he was injured so badly that his recuperation was very slow. In his anxiety about his physical condition, he sent messengers to inquire of the priests at the Philistine temple of Baalzebub in Ekron. But the angel of Yahweh instructed EliYah to confront the King’s messengers and tell them to return a message of doom to their monarch. ***“Is it because there is no Elohim in Israel, that you go to inquire of Baal-zebub, the mighty one of Ekron? Now therefore thus says Yahweh, You shall not come down from the bed where you have gone up, but shall surely die,”*** 2 Kings 1:3-4.

Yahweh wants to be consulted by those who are ill, since He is the Great Physician. This is why those who are ill must first consult the elders of the Assemblies of Yahweh for prayer and anointing. This must be the first step toward healing, as it was in the case of Hezekiah when Isaiah visited him. Ahaziah did not consult EliYah first—and he died, 2 Kings 2:17.

### ***The Tree of Life***

We read in Revelation 22:2, ***“...And on this side of the river and on that was the tree of life, bearing twelve manner of fruits, yielding its fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were***

***for the healing of the nations.”***

In eternity, the benefits of the tree of life are not withheld from those nations who are faithful. The fruit of this productive tree will adequately feed the nations. It yields its fruit every month, but the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ***“And by the river upon the bank of it, on this side and on that side, shall grow every tree for food, whose leaf shall not wither, neither shall the fruit of it fail: it shall bring forth new fruit every month, because the waters of it issue out of the sanctuary; and the fruit of it shall be for food, and the leaf of it for healing,”*** Ezekiel 47:12. (Notice the **King James Version** rendering—medicine, instead of healing.)

In the Scriptures, the leaves of the tree perform healing for the nations, and the fruit of the tree will nourish the people. In Isaiah 38:9, the prophet is responsible for the healing of Hezekiah. In verse 9, a song of praise for this healing is recorded to Yahweh. Then we are told the source of blessing behind this song of praise.

In verse 21, ***“Now Isaiah had said, Let them take a cake of figs, and lay it for a plaster upon the boil, and he shall recover.”*** Isaiah not only called upon Yahweh’s power, but he directed that the fruit of the tree be used to heal the king. Figs provide a very potent medicine, a natural medicine that Yahweh has created for that purpose. Hezekiah’s nurses made some type of ointment, or plaster of the figs, and it drew the poison out of Hezekiah’s body that had been backed up from the boil. He recovered, lived 15 more years, and during that time fathered a son to be heir to his throne.

Let us recall a remedy Yahshua Himself sanctioned in His parable of the Good Samaritan. When the Jewish man was severely injured by the thieves, and the despised Samaritan man came upon the victim of the robbery lying in the road, he realized that immediate measures had to be

taken. Yahshua the Messiah knew an excellent remedy for wounds, so He introduced this information into the parable. Yahshua says that the Samaritan benefactor immediately poured into the wounds oil and wine. Wine has antiseptic qualities, since it contains alcohol. Olive oil is quite medicinal in healing. Even today, the family of the author continues to use these excellent remedies mentioned by Yahshua the Messiah Himself. Could anyone go wrong by not following His recommendations? Don’t fail to recognize the accuracy of the teachings of the sacred Scriptures. Natural Kosher wine and olive oil can be preferred in the case of some injuries rather than some other remedies.

We must certainly conclude that Yahweh’s power, sincere prayer, trusting faith, herbs, and diet are vitally important for healing. Chemical medicines are sometimes suspect, according to Dr. Robertson Mendelsohn (**The People’s Doctor Newsletter**). I am very concerned about that, because I want to see Yahweh’s people strong and healthy. Health must be constructed by constant effort, like a notable edifice. The author once casually talked with a physician acquaintance about his profession. He was then a medical student, and the son of a doctor. As a young man, he was very candid in reply to my question, ***“What about these chemical medicines?”*** He explained, ***“These chemical medicines are harmful, to a lesser, or greater, extent, to some part of the body. A physician must make a decision when prescribing them for the patient, whether it will damage other parts of the body more than it will help to heal the diseased part of the body.”*** I asked about using natural foods for nutrition and healing. He agreed that diet is very important. But how many doctors are going to prescribe a healing diet for a patient when he is sick? Just recently, a U.S. Senator urged all people in the United States to employ better health practices so that hospital costs can be reduced. Giving credit

where credit is due, our local physician has prescribed a special diet to control a physical problem the author's wife had developed.

Currently, dietary research is allotted only 2 percent of the total annual spending allocation for all medical research. Various doctors have become concerned with that. If our bodies come from the ground, and we obtain our strength from there, it seems only proper that we can derive extra strength (to recover from an illness) from what we eat.

In Jeremiah 8:22, the prophet asks, ***“Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?”*** Gilead was known for its healing ointments. *“Is there no vitamin, is there no tea or juice, is there no natural ointment, is there no conscientious physician there?”* The physicians of Israel didn't prescribe dangerous chemicals. They prescribed natural remedies. Are the people today looking in the correct direction?

Chemical medicines invented in the last 30-50 years have not always aided the physical bodies of the patients. They have not solved the debilitating mysteries of diseases such as cancer, heart disease, etc. Too many physicians prefer to “practice” rather than HEAL. But we thank Yahweh that today more physicians are stressing healthful living rather than merely trying to repair the damage of unrighteous living.

Actually, physicians have told me that they cannot heal! They can only try to get peoples' bodies back in harmony with nature. Most honest physicians will affirm that it is Yahweh who heals because they have witnessed His miracles.

In Jeremiah 46:11 we read, ***“Go up into Gilead, and take balm, O virgin daughter of Egypt: in vain you use many medicines; there is no healing for you.”*** That prophecy directly relates to our time today. Go up, go to the place where the healing herbs are found, plants,

and minerals that concentrate nutrition to build strong bodies, instead of rushing to ingest doses of poisonous chemicals that tear down some part of the body. People today are using many medicines, but, all too frequently, are not being cured. Occasionally, we hear reports that adverse reactions occur from medicines because the body of the patient will not tolerate them. Cancers are taking a heavy toll. Many operations are being given, perhaps many of them needlessly (according to some authorities), simply because the medical profession does not make full use of Yahweh's power to heal and the natural substances from His creation that will nourish the body to engage its own healing mechanism to fight off disease.

***For a few moments, let us review. The steps of healing are as follows:***

1. Go to Yahweh in prayer first. Rely on His power to heal.
2. Faith (a vital element of praying a believing prayer).
3. Eating a good, nourishing diet.
4. Getting the proper amount of quality rest.
5. Using juices and vitamins.
6. Proper exercise.
7. Maintaining a good mental and spiritual attitude.
8. The fruit of the earth is certainly good food.



***“Beloved, I pray that in all things you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers,”*** 3 John 2. Our spiritual lives today have been strongly built up by Yahweh's Truth. He has revealed His Truth to us in these last days and has, thereby, blessed us tremendously. That is the message of Assemblies of Yahweh. I hope and desire all of us, Yahweh's people, to be in good health, both spiritually and physically. They go hand in hand. If our spiritual lives are prospering, our physical lives should also prosper so that we can present a dynamic witness to the world.

Yahweh's people don't have to die at a young age. We must all die, just as the biblical people who received Yahweh's promises died, because we are human—physical. We don't have to die in pain and agony, though. We can just expire as did Jacob at the great age of 147, after he had blessed his sons and prophesied to them. He gathered his feet onto the bed and, then, simply expired. No tortured death was experienced by the patriarchs who lived close to Yahweh. In the Kingdom age, there will be no sickness—sin will be eliminated. ***“And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell in it shall be forgiven their iniquity,”*** Isaiah 33:24.

Our healing was accomplished by Yahshua's sacrifice for us. Let us hear the prophet speak. ***“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed,”*** Isaiah 53:5. Our healing was completed at Calvary. This fact is confirmed by Peter's quote. ***“...who his own self bore our sins in his body upon the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness; by whose stripes you are healed,”*** 1 Peter 2:24. Let us claim that healing and live in harmony with Yahweh's Laws so that we will receive it! SND

## The Pathway to Salvation

*Continued from page 13*

says, **“Yet it pleased Yahweh to bruise him; he has put him to grief: when you shall make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of Yahweh shall prosper in his hand.”** The Hebrew word *asham* is defined as a trespass offering and denotes the atonement sacrifice which will cover our sins. Only the perfect sacrifice of Yahshua the Messiah could accomplish this objective. He was the suffering Messiah who was pierced by His own people, Zechariah 12:10. We must accept His blood and live in anticipation of the Second Coming when we will be accepted by Him, Hebrews 9:28.

### The Sacred Name

Another vital aspect of the Narrow Way to salvation is the Sacred Name. Acts 4:12, **“And in none other is there salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, in which we must be saved.”** We must be certain that we are calling upon that Name and calling ourselves by that Name. As Peter preached on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:38, **“Repent and be**

**baptized every one of you in the name of Yahshua the Messiah to the remission of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”** The Name of the Redeemer is YAHSHUA THE MESSIAH, which means YAHWEH IS SALVATION. This was the Name which He was given by the angel in Matthew 1:21. He was a Hebrew, an Israelite of the tribe of Judah, and would definitely have had a Hebrew Name. **“You worship that which you know not: we worship that which we know; for salvation is from the Jews,”** John 4:22. It is the Holy Spirit which is sent in the Savior’s Name and we should be certain that we call upon that Name. **“But the Comforter, even the Holy Spirit, which the Father will send in my name, it shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you,”** John 14:26.

### The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit, which we receive at baptism, will empower us to serve and obey Almighty Yahweh. This Holy Spirit is power from On High, Luke 24:49. It is the holy life, mind, character, and personality of the Heavenly Father which He gives us as He did the Messiah at

His baptism. The Savior used this Holy Spirit wisely and walked in His Father’s Will. It is important that we do nothing to disrupt the Holy Spirit because Almighty Yahweh gives His Spirit to those who obey Him, Acts 5:32.

### A New Way of Life

The pathway to salvation is a WAY OF LIFE. It is something which we must practice every day of our lives. We must do things just as they will be done in the Kingdom of Yahweh, living each moment just as though we were already immortal. **“Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, so that there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of Yahweh; and that he may send the Messiah who has been appointed for you, even Yahshua...”** Acts 3:19-20.

In this short article, I have given you key Scriptures which will point you toward the way to salvation. What are you going to do with them? Will you continue through this open door, or will you pass negligently by, to the broad way which leads to destruction? We would like to help you into a greater knowledge of the Truth of Yahweh if you will only allow us the opportunity to do so. SND

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### Lazarus and the Rich Man

*Continued from page 11*

city of the earth, Jerusalem, since we read at various places that the wicked cannot enter the city. Please read Matthew 22:13, and Revelation 21:8, 22:15. The angels will sever the righteous from the wicked as Yahshua renders judgment, and will burn the wicked people in the lake of fire which is the gulf fixed between the righteous and the wicked. Please see Matthew 13:41, 42, 49, 50. The rich man knew exactly what was to happen to him. He had not been faithful in the stewardship of his life. He had been warned by the prophets of Yahweh that judgment awaited the sinner and one who

had no compassion for his fellow man. At this precise moment, he became concerned for his brothers still behind (or so he thought, since in death there is no comprehension of the passage of time, and he still thought that they were alive). He petitioned Abraham to send back some prophets to preach to his brothers, but this plea was denied by Abraham who informed the rich man that our Heavenly Father had already sent many righteous men to call the world to repentance. The parable ends with a pointed allusion by the Messiah to His own impending death and resurrection.

Just what are we to learn from this parable, which could presently

benefit our own life on this earth? The lesson our Savior wishes us to learn is one of values. We should fix our goal at attaining everlasting life and not allow earthly riches to divert us. If we are faithful and learn the lessons of a repentant life, and we do not gain our wealth unjustly, nor use it for our own personal satisfaction, we have learned the lesson of life. The Pharisees of Yahshua’s day had not learned this lesson; consequently, Yahshua the Messiah was attempting to teach them through this parable. Please see Luke 16:14. Our goal in life should be to enter the Kingdom of Yahweh, even if this goal could impose upon us some discomforts as we learn the true values of everlasting life. SND

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### **FLEE FROM IDOLATRY!"**

We cannot become involved with obviously unscriptural practices that are promulgated by the world around us, because their foundation is not rooted in Scripture. Saint Valentine's Day is little more than a Christian-coated fertility rite, with sexual connotations and phallic symbols. We have seen from the sacred Scriptures how Yahweh discourages our participation in such abominable customs. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 makes the point that we should consider our bodies to symbolize the Temple of the Holy Spirit and, as a result, our body should be kept pure from spiritual, physical, and idolatrous practices of any kind. Can we, as followers of Almighty Yahweh and His beloved Son Yahshua, engage in something as flagrantly sinful as the observance of Saint Valentine's Day?

Yahweh's chosen people, who will be saved at Yahshua's Second Coming, are described in such passages as Revelation 12:17, 14:12, and 18:4. Yahshua the Messiah tells us that we must keep the commandments of Yahweh if we hope to enter the eternal Kingdom of Yahweh. Saint Valentine's Day (along with many of the other observances of Christianity) is neither commanded in the sacred Scriptures, nor can it be found contained in the Faith of Yahshua. We must eliminate all pagan, idolatrous Babylonish practices if we expect to be accepted as righteous and True members of the Body of the Messiah at His Second Coming.

### **Who Was Saint Valentine?**

For all the fanfare and notoriety given Saint Valentine's Day, we find that very few people even know who Saint Valentine was. Under the subject "Valentina" in the **Encyclopedia Britannica**, Eleventh

Edition, is found what is intended to represent the historical record of Saint Valentine. *"The name of a considerable number of saints. The most celebrated are the two martyrs whose festivals fall on the 14th of February—the one, a Roman priest, the other, bishop of Terni. The Passion of the former is part of the legends of Saints Marius and Martha and their companions; that of the latter has no better historical foundation: so that no argument can be drawn from either account to establish the differentiation of the two saints. It would appear from the*



Saint Valentine baptizing Saint Lucilla with cupids overhead. Painting by Jacopo Bassano, 1575.

*two accounts that both belonged to the same period, that both died on the same day; and that both were buried on the Via Flaminia. For the peculiar observances that used to be commonly connected with St. Valentine's Eve and Day, to which allusion is made by English writers, their appropriateness to the spring season is, in a general way perhaps, obvious enough, but the association of the lover festival with St. Valentine seems to be purely accidental."*

One definition of the term *saint* found in the **Webster's New World Dictionary** is as follows: *In certain Christian churches, a person officially recognized as having lived an exceptionally holy life, and thus as being in heaven and capable of interceding for sinners; canonized person.*

Can such a belief be substantiated in Scripture? The Assemblies of Yahweh has published material wherein we have fully explained the scriptural teaching concerning the impossibility of any person having an immortal, never-dying soul. Yahweh, alone, has immortality (1 Timothy 6:16). Read it! Also, there is no command recorded in the Bible that anyone should pray to the dead for the intercession of those living ones who sin. Would that not be necromancy, which is strongly condemned in Deuteronomy 18:9-14?

***"Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the plunder with the strong; because he poured out his soul to death, and was numbered with the transgressors: yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors,"*** (Isaiah 58:12). Yahshua the Messiah, alone, is our intercessor. We must build our Faith upon the instructions of the Bible, not upon the edicts of men. Romans 8:34 shows clearly that Yahshua is the one seated at the right hand of Yahweh, making intercession for the saints. The origin of praying to and for the dead traces to Babylonish paganism and has no basis whatsoever in the Scriptures. (See **Two Babylons**, by Alexander Hislop.)

From the historical accounts quoted, we find that the keeping of Saint Valentine's Day actually bears no relationship to the men (who are supposedly commemorated), nor to the manner in which this day is observed! Where, then, did the popular Saint Valentine's Day festivities originate?

As the historical authorities have acknowledged, St. Valentine's Day traditions bear many similarities to the ancient Roman observance called Lupercalia (luperus, Zupus = wolf). It was a fertility festival with licentious rites held on February 15 in honor of Lupercus, a pastoral [elohim] sometimes identified with Faunus. (Could this be the source of calling a male who chases women a wolf?)

### ***Symbols of Saint Valentine's Day***



**Cupid:** If most of the Valentine's Day symbolism originated in paganism, what should we think of the traditions associated with it? Cupid, the innocent-looking, little boy with the wings we find portrayed on the little red hearts of many of the cards exchanged by youngsters, is described in **Webster's New World Dictionary** as, *the [mighty one] of love, son of Venus; usually represented as a winged boy with bow and arrow and identified with the Greek [mighty one] Erosa, representation of Cupid as a naked, winged cherub, as on a valentine. "The boy [mighty one] came to be regarded as 'the [mighty one] of the heart'."* **Two Babylons**, pg. 189. The bow and arrow carried by Cupid can possibly be traced to Nimrod, the mighty hunter! He was the first man to create a humanly-ruled kingdom in direct opposition to Yahweh. Cupid, then, is proven to be a representation of the mighty hunter of love and passion as he goes about searching for willing hearts to pierce by shooting his arrows. Will they lose their decorum and act as he does?

**Hearts:** Are not those cute val-

entine cards children give to one another pagan? Is there even ONE thing about Saint Valentine's Day that is not derived from heathen origins? Think again, my friend! The etymology of the word for *heart* is traceable to the Chaldean language, where you find the word was *Bel* or *Bal*, which is actually a shortened form of the word Baal! (See **Two Babylons**, pg. 190.) The worship of Nimrod and Baal appears to be virtually identical! Our Bible tells us that the names of Baal (which are, incidentally, being employed in common worship by religion today) will be removed from the mouths and minds of Yahweh's people (Hosea 2:16-17). Must you wait until this act is done forcibly? Why not change now and voluntarily remove these unsanctified names of worship?

The shape of the human, physical heart does not bear much of a resemblance to the heart as it is portrayed on valentines and elsewhere during the year. History tells us that this popular-shaped heart of worldly design is the stylized representation of the female buttocks (Horrors!).

From this brief study, we notice that most aspects of the seemingly

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***...most aspects of the seemingly innocuous holidays and observances of the world are proven in reality to represent a carry over from ancient paganism.***




innocuous holidays and observances of the world are proven in reality to represent a carryover from ancient paganism. Nevertheless, people will defend these worldly observances and precepts of men, while vehemently opposing those days which Yahweh has sanctioned and commanded us to

keep holy. Why should anyone reject holy days commanded in the Word of Yahweh, while simultaneously keeping holidays that bear the unmistakable watermark of ancient, pagan, idolatrous observances?

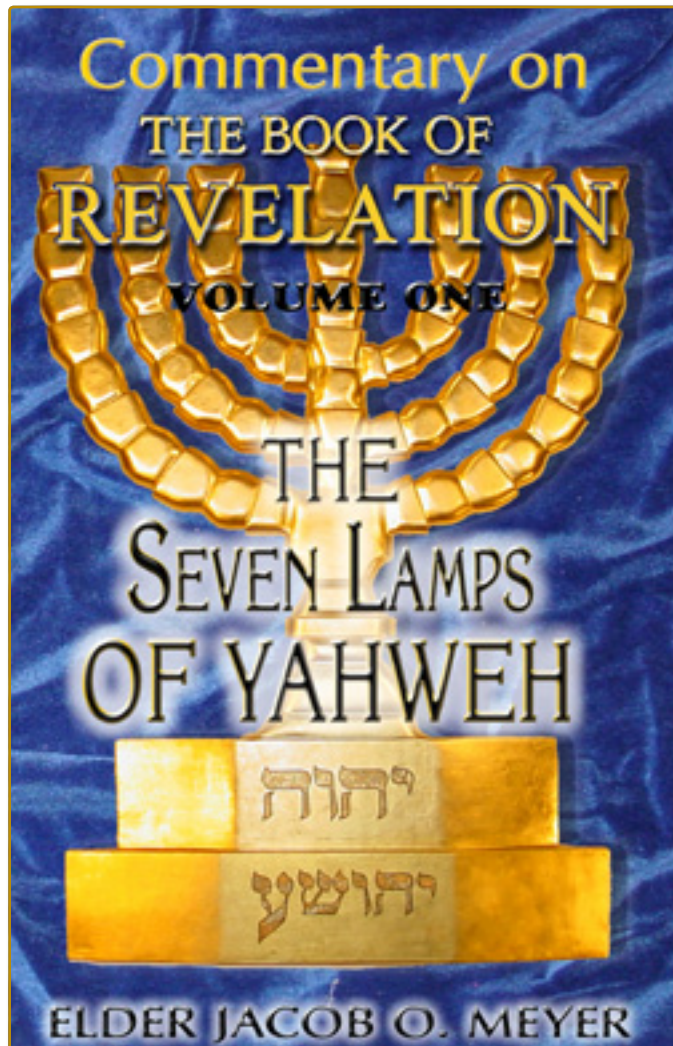
The Assemblies of Yahweh teaches that we must remain silent where the Bible is silent and speak strongly where the Bible speaks strongly. Nowhere in the Bible can one find commandments instructing us to set aside days to offer worship for (or to) dead men and women, much less does it command us to observe and keep fertility rites traceable to ancient, pagan observances.

Since Yahweh has prohibited us from allowing ourselves to fall into the pagan, heathen practices that characterize the elementary rules of life in the world around us, we should prove ALL things and HOLD FAST ONLY TO THAT WHICH IS GOOD (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

Will you seriously scrutinize the days which are kept by the people of the world and compare them to what appears in Yahweh's Word? Prove to yourself from the Bible that we must observe Yahweh's holy days as commanded in Leviticus 23 and then keep them INSTEAD OF HOLY DAYS THAT ARE NOT COMMANDED by the Most High Yahweh in His Word. Why not request our free literature wherein we analyze Yahweh's commanded holy days of Leviticus 23? The articles are entitled, **Yahweh's Sacred Appointments and How to Keep Yahweh's Holy Days**. The articles are free. Request them by writing to: Assemblies of Yahweh, PO Box C, Bethel, PA, 19507. 

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