



THE  
SACRED NAME  
BROADCASTER

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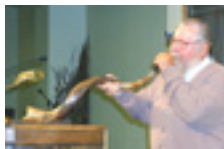
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All quotes in **The Sacred Name Broadcaster** are from **The Sacred Scriptures, Bethel Edition**, 1981, Assemblies of Yahweh, Bethel, PA 19507, unless otherwise stated. All translations of the Bible quoted herein have been corrected to be consistent with the oldest available manuscripts. Copies of **The Sacred Scriptures, Bethel Edition**, are available. For information about purchasing your copy, write to Assemblies of Yahweh.

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



## Our Cover:

***“The righteous shall flourish like the palm-tree: He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.”*** (Psalm 92:12).

*The righteous, who are obedient to the commandments of Almighty Yahweh (Deuteronomy 6:25), shall flourish like a well-watered date palm tree. These date palms near the Dead Sea show how the desert can be productive with a little bit of water.*

*With the water of sound doctrine, you also can be productive, bearing the abundant fruits of righteousness. Are you bringing forth good fruit, or thorns and thistles?*



# Interrogatories ELUCIDATED

by *Elder Jacob O. Meyer*

For those who are unfamiliar with the antecedents of this ministry, you may be unaware that the Assemblies of Yahweh, non-profit religious organization, resulted from a radio broadcast begun by the editor in 1966. The first radio broadcast was heard over Radio WBMD, Baltimore, Maryland, on February 5, 1966. Immediately, listener interest developed and soon a mounting volume of letters came from people who wished to receive plain answers to their Bible questions, which were not being answered in their churches.

To broaden the effectiveness of each reply, questions of general interest were published in this periodical after its inauguration in 1968. In this issue we have reproduced some of the more pertinent questions and answers which we have consolidated and updated from

various back issues of the **Sacred Name Broadcaster**. We hope they will prove to be interesting and informative to you.

As you will note, the answers to many of these questions do not conform to the customary replies you might receive from organizations in christianity. However, they constitute the Truth clearly taught in the Word of Yahweh, the Sacred Scriptures. We stand ready to prove the statements we have made in these answers.

In-depth Bible research and constant study sharply separate the Assemblies of Yahweh from groups in christianity and other groups using the Sacred Names of Yahweh and Yahshua. Not only do we research and study to determine the Will of Yahweh, but we implement in our daily lives what we learn. The Assemblies of Yahweh strives

to restore the True Israelite Faith which was recorded for us in the Sacred Scriptures. Following this direction has produced a reconstitution of the Apostolic Assembly of the Book of Acts, which had fallen into chaos and false doctrine after the era of the Apostles.

You will find that answers to some of these questions might sound rather strange to you. But don't dismiss them out of hand. Check for yourself, and you will find them supported by the encyclopedias and scriptural versions readily available in many libraries.

Should you have additional questions not covered by this publication, write to the Headquarters of the Assemblies of Yahweh, PO Box C, Bethel, PA 19507. We will be happy to help you achieve a better understanding of Yahweh's Word. May we hear from you soon?

# Answers to Questions About—

## **Q: What do the different letters on food labels mean?—Pennsylvania**

A: For anyone who may not already be aware of the different designations to be found on most labels of foodstuffs, usually a letter or letters circumscribed with a circle, the following information is offered:

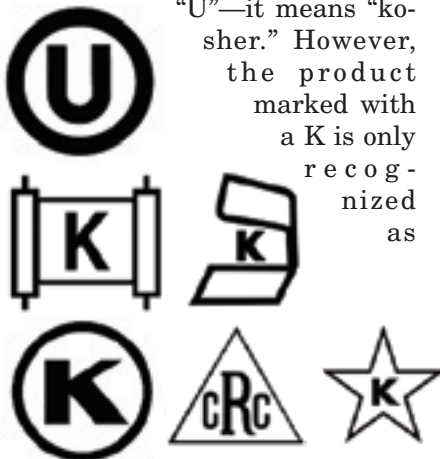
If you see a circled “R,” this means “registered” (in this case with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office) and refers to the trademark. This means that the name of the product, or the manufacturing company, has reserved exclusive rights to its name against imitations or imitators.

A circled “C” stands for “copyright” and usually refers to the design, or content, of the label itself. Such copyrights are on file in the Library of Congress to reserve exclusive rights to certain graphics.

The letters “TM” (normally not circled) means that the trademark is not yet registered, but is protected by having an application on file. It may be thought of as being similar in meaning to the term “patent pending.”

A circled “U” conveys the information that the contents were prepared under rabbinical supervision and approved by the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations.

A circled “K” is similar to the “U”—it means “kosher.” However, the product marked with a K is only recognized as



being prepared with a Kosher-acceptable process. The ingredients may not always meet the scriptural dietary standards.

A circled “U”*d* symbol means that the product is processed with the same care as a “U” product, but that it has no meat ingredients of any kind. Products marked this way do have dairy products in them; therefore, the “*d*”.

The True Worshiper must be careful—although the “U” and “K” symbols indicate an absence of pork, there may be ingredients in the container that are not approved by the Bible. For example, the Jewish rabbis who regulate the Kosher manufacturing process are generally not as careful as are Assemblies of Yahweh elders about the origins of gelatin and the enzymes used in cheesemaking. Also, something marked “Kosher for Passover” may contain baking soda, which the Assemblies of Yahweh considers as also being leaven.

The word Pareve means that the food product in that package was prepared under rabbinic supervision and contains no meat or dairy derivatives of any kind.

These foods are completely composed of vegetables, but the consumer must still beware of the possible presence of mushrooms. You should check with the manufacturer to be sure any cheese used in this food is not made with pork enzymes.

## **Q: Please show from Scripture whether it is all right, or not, to eat food with blood in it, or to take blood transfusions. —Illinois**

A: The basic dietary laws regarding what foods are clean and unclean in the Bible are found in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14. Leviticus 3:17 says that we should not eat

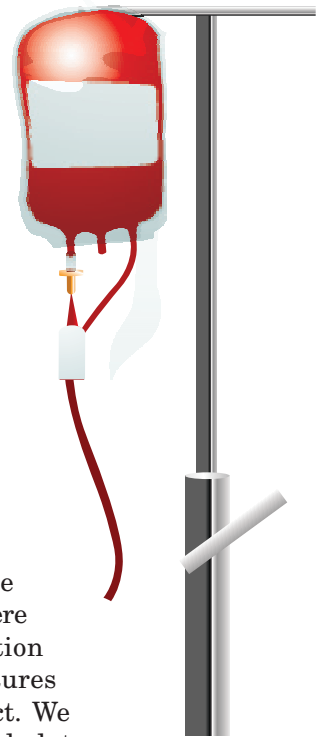
fat or blood.

***“It shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwellings, that you shall eat neither fat nor blood.”***

Please see also Leviticus 17:10-16.

Insofar as blood transfusions are concerned, there is no legislation in the Scriptures on this subject. We are commanded to abstain from blood, Acts 15:20. ***“But that we write to them, that they abstain from the pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from what is strangled, and from blood.”*** It is an established fact that, each year, many blood transfusions are fatal to the recipient. Increasing amounts of information are being accumulated regarding the dangers of contracting Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) from blood transfusions. Other diseases, such as hepatitis, can be transmitted through blood transfusions.

New techniques are currently available for use in times of emergency—all of which should be tried before accepting a transfusion. The first thing to do in an emergency, however, is to pray and trust Yahweh to move on your behalf. We have grave reservations about taking blood transfusions, because of both the scriptural and the physical implications.



## **Q:** Do the Scriptures forbid the eating of meat? —Ohio

A: The Assemblies of Yahweh does not require its members to eat meat as a prerequisite to membership. We base that decision upon Romans 14. However, if a vegetarian asked for scriptural teaching on the subject, we would have to reply by asking that if one believed that all meats are forbidden, why then did Yahweh set down specific Laws stating which meats can be eaten and which meats cannot? Why in the parable of the prodigal son did the father, symbolic of the Heavenly Father, kill the fatted calf? Why in Genesis 18:7 did Abraham kill a calf, tender and good, set it before the heavenly messengers, and they ate?

1 Timothy 4:1-4 clearly states that in the latter times (the very times in which we are now living) some shall depart from the Faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons. And then in verse 3 we find that one of these doctrines is commanding to abstain from meats. ***“But the Spirit says expressly, that in the latter times some shall fall away from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons, through the hypocrisy of men that speak lies, branded in their own conscience as with a hot***

***iron; forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which Yahweh created to be received with thanksgiving by them that believe and know the truth.”*** (1 Timothy 4:1-4). (We acknowledge that the term in Greek is *Bromaton* meaning *food*, but meat is a food, and how many people forbid the eating of vegetables or fruits? The answer is—not many.)

On the other hand, Romans 14:1-2 tells the Body of True Worshipers to receive vegetarians into fellowship, **BUT NOT TO DOUBTFUL DISPUTATIONS!** Verses 2 and 3 tell us that we are not to despise such weaker brethren (weaker physically from not receiving the nutrients of meat, and who are weaker spiritually because they have not advanced to the meat of spiritual Truth which would give them the freedom that the rest of us enjoy.) ***“But receive him that is weak in faith, yet not for decision of scruples. One man has faith to eat all things: but he that is weak eats herbs. Do not let him that eats despise him that does not eat: and do not let him that does not eat judge him that eats: for Yahweh has received him.”*** Romans 14:1-3.

**Q:** Please prove to me that it is allowed according to Scripture to eat in the church basement, or fellowship room. Some have shown me in 1 Corinthians 11 where it says to eat at home. Please help me understand whether or not we can eat in a church building. —Illinois

A: There is no such thing in Scripture as a “church

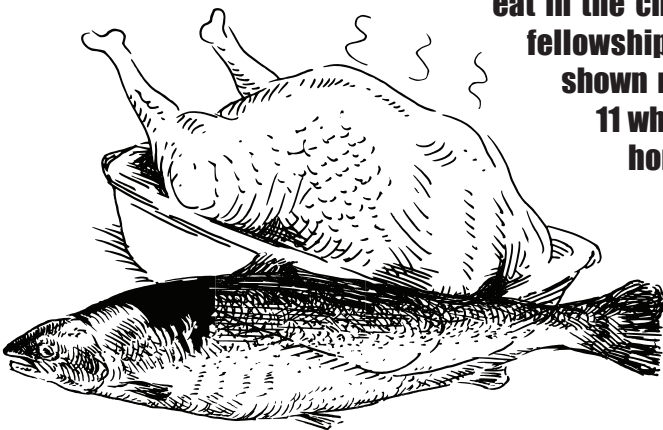
building,” unless you are referring to a house of Baal. In the book of Acts and other New Testament books, the True Believers met in homes and upper chambers of homes. It is very clear that the True Worshipers themselves constitute the Assembly, and there is no such thing as a “church” per se. If you have not yet studied our article, **Church or Assembly?** write in and request your copy. It is free, as are all of our study articles. Write to: Assemblies of Yahweh, PO Box C, Bethel, PA 19507.

Have you ever checked the etymology of the English word *church*? Dictionaries indicate that it is derived from paganism and means *the L-rd’s house*. **The Companion Bible** contends that ultimately it refers to the pagan Greek mighty one Circe.

However, there were love feasts in the Scriptures when the True Worshipers ate together. See Judah 12, 2 Peter 2:13, Acts 2:48 and 20:7, 11. Fellowship while eating, as we do on Yahweh’s feast days, always enhances the family relationship of the Assemblies of Yahweh. However, the True Worship can never be a social club where feasting is the primary purpose, Philippians 3:19.

Note that the term usually translated *fellowship* in the Sacred Scriptures is *Koinonia* in Greek and means *an association or fellowship in partnership*, meaning a fraternal association in Yahweh’s Covenant. The common fellowshiping session, like the “coffee klatch,” is unscriptural.

The meaning of 1 Corinthians 11:22 is not to make a meal and eat it with the Passover Memorial supper commemorating Yahshua’s death. The Memorial Supper is a very solemn occasion, not to be marred by possible levity.



# Answers to Questions About—



**Q: Please show from Scripture that it is permissible to have musical instruments in Assembly services. —Illinois**

**A:** Psalm 150:1-6 should be adequate to prove from an inspired commandment that musical instruments should be used to praise Almighty Yahweh, our Heavenly Father. *“HalleluYAH! Praise El in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with trumpet sound: praise him with psaltery and harp. Praise him with timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and pipe. Praise him with loud cymbals: praise him with high sounding cymbals. Let every thing that has breath praise Yah. HalleluYAH.”* Psalm 150:1-6.

The Jewish synagogue made the decision not to use instrumental music after the destruction of the Temple. However, no one can deny that musical instruments were used in the Temple, and no commandment

can be found to support an objection against their use.

**Q: Can one be a Rosicrucian and also believe what the Assemblies of Yahweh believes? Some say the Rosicrucians are a work of Satan. —South Carolina**

**A:** We believe in accordance with the admonition that each individual must work out his own salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12). It is the individual’s responsibility to compare all doctrines taught with the Scriptures, to determine whether they are indeed the Truth. The Assemblies of Yahweh adheres strictly to the Bible to set their doctrines. Can the Rosicrucians meet that standard? The word *Rosicrucian* means *a person who adheres to the mystical teachings of the rosy (red) cross*. We will rest our case with the admonition of the Messiah in Matthew 6:24, *“No man can serve two masters.”* In addition, we do not follow secret societies.

**Q: How should we end our prayers? Should we use “Amen” or “HalleluYah”? —Kansas**

**A:** *“Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your Name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, as in heaven, so on earth. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil.”* Matthew 6:9-15.

Neither one of these closing remarks would be wrong to use. *Amen* is a Hebrew word and means *let it be, true, or truly*, and is a sobering closing. It is used in the Hebrew text in such places as Deuteronomy 27. Yahshua the Messiah employed it

when saying, *“Verily, verily,”* as in John 13:21. (The Sacred Scriptures translates *“Truly, truly.”* The cognate Hebrew noun *Ameth* means *faithfulness*. Contrary to the contention of some, there is no relationship of the names of the Egyptian mighty one *Amen Ra*, which should have been rendered *Ammon Ra*.

*HalleluYah*, on the other hand, ends the prayer on a jubilant note of praising the Heavenly Father. In the Assemblies of Yahweh it has been our custom to close our prayers with *HalleluYah*.

**Q: Why, in the light of 1 Corinthians 12:13-20, do you refer to Yahweh’s Assembly as the Assemblies (plural) of Yahweh? —Kansas**

**A:** The Assemblies of Yahweh today is indeed one Body united in spirit and purpose. The plurality in the name merely denotes the ever increasing number of local congregations of True Members of that Body which are meeting locally around the world. You will find that this same thing was true in apostolic days, for we read in Revelation 2 and 3 of seven different Assemblies that, when taken together, constituted the True Assembly in Asia. This is why in 1 Corinthians 11:16, just prior to the Scriptures you quoted, Paul refers to the “Assemblies (plural) of Yahweh.” Please note that Yahshua Himself in Revelation 2 and 3 closes each mini-epistle with the plural “Assemblies.” Note also Revelation 1:20. *“The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands. The seven stars are the seven angels of the seven assemblies; and the seven lampstands are the seven assemblies.”*

# Worship

**Q: Isn't the name "Assemblies of Yahweh" presumptuous? Other religious groups, including the Roman Catholics, use the Name Yahweh also. —Pennsylvania**

**A:** As stated in the Assemblies of Yahweh **Statement of Doctrine Preamble**, when this organization was founded, it was as a result of the confusion and false doctrines found throughout nominal religion. Even among the families that did espouse the necessity of using the Sacred Names (commonly called the Sacred Name Movement), there was no unity, and very little agreement on even the basic doctrines of the Bible. Therefore, to promote unity and progress, it was necessary to form an organization that taught and enforced True doctrines.

An organization needs a name for identification, and it is best, of course, to select a name with scriptural precedent. There are several possible names found in the sacred Scriptures that we could have used. We have selected the name we feel is best qualified to represent our understanding of the Body of True Worshipers—"Assemblies of Yahweh." This is the identifying name of the organization. The headquarters for the various scat-

tered Assemblies and individuals who join this effort is registered in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other states, as well as many foreign countries.

This headquarters does not presume to represent all who use, or who even teach exclusive use of, Yahweh's Name. It is the Headquarters for those who have voluntarily joined this organization, believing that here is the place where Yahweh's Word is being taught in the end of the age. We are striving diligently to qualify to be the Body of the Messiah that is prophesied to be raised up before the Second Coming of Yahshua at the end of the age. We hope to meet Yahshua Messiah in the air when He returns.

**Q: Didn't the Law of tithing pertain only to Levites? What makes you think it is still applicable today? —California**

**A:** Please consider Malachi 4:4, which is an admonition to those of us who will be living just prior to the Day of Yahweh. "**Remember the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded to him in Horeb for all Israel, even statutes and ordinances.**" Then, turning back to Deuteronomy 12, we note the statutes and judgments introduced. As we read through them, we come to Deuteronomy 14:22-29, which is the tithing Law. "**You shall surely tithe all the increase of your seed, that which comes forth from the field year by year. And you shall eat before Yahweh your Elohim, in the**

**place which he shall choose, to cause his name to dwell there, the tithe of your grain, of your new wine, and of your oil, and the firstlings of your herd, and of your flock; that you may learn to fear Yahweh your Elohim always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry it, because the place is too far from you, which Yahweh your Elohim shall choose, to set his name there, when Yahweh your Elohim shall bless you; then shall you turn it into money, and bind up the money in your hand, and shall go to the place which Yahweh your Elohim shall choose: and you shall use the money for whatever your soul desires, for oxen, for sheep, for wine, for strong drink, or for whatever your soul asks of you: and you shall eat there before Yahweh your Elohim, and you**

***We are striving diligently to qualify to be the Body of the Messiah that is prophesied to be raised up before the Second Coming of Yahshua at the end of the age. We hope to meet Yahshua Messiah in the air when He returns.***



# Answers to Questions About—

*shall rejoice, you and your household. And the Levite that is within your gates, you shall not forsake him; for he has no portion nor inheritance with you. At the end of every three years you shall bring forth all the tithe of your increase in the same year, and shall lay it up within your gates: and the Levite, because he has no portion nor inheritance with you, and the sojourner, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are within your gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that Yahweh your Elohim may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.”* (Deuteronomy 14:22-29).

So, we see that tithing is one of the statutes which we are admonished in Malachi 4:4 to remember. Please see the following Scriptures which prove that tithing antedates the Levitical priesthood: Genesis 14:20, 28:22 and Hebrews 7:9-10.

## **Q:** How do we transliterate and use Yahweh's Name in our language?

**A:** Since the Assemblies of Yahweh literature goes into a multitude of foreign countries (at last count 53 foreign lands), this question is increasingly asked by many readers. In addition, the radio messages, now heard over an enlarged network on an international scope through our shortwave radio station, allow more people to learn the vital dynamic Sacred Name doctrine.

When Paul, in Acts 26:14-15, described his conversion, he explained, *“And when we had all fallen down to the earth, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard*

*for you to kick against the [ox] goad. And I said, Who are you, Master? And the Master said, I am Yahshua who you persecute.”*

Notice that Yahshua did not choose to speak to Paul in any language except Hebrew. In addition, Yahshua made no allowance whatsoever for the possibility that Paul may have known other languages. He plainly stated that His



Name was Yahshua, and He chose the Hebrew language to speak to a bilingual person. This came directly from the lips of our Savior, not the suppositions of theologians. Yahshua clearly stated His Name to Paul, in the Hebrew language. Consequently, Yahshua didn't say “Jes-s Chr-st,” did He? Of course not! That's Greek. Yahshua clearly stated His Name in Hebrew. Why don't all people use the Messiah's True revealed personal Name in Hebrew, because He, Himself, supported that?

Incidentally, the Savior's Name cannot be accurately transliterated into English through the Greek from the Hebrew.

We are clearly told in Acts 4:12 that there is salvation in no other Name. If we honestly believe that the Bible is Yahweh's inspired Word, then we must literally accept that there is only one Name that can

bring us salvation, not a multitude of names in many different languages. To receive a thorough explanation of transliteration immediately, obtain a copy of **The Memorial Name** book. Write for current pricing information to the Assemblies of Yahweh, P.O.Box C, Bethel, PA 19507.

However, to explain briefly, transliteration means “to carry across from one language to another the exact sounds of words.” Therefore, no matter what country or area you might live in, you should be able to recognize the names of Yahweh and Yahshua in the local dialects, because those are the correct biblical Names. They should be transliterated properly.

This is accomplished by using letters or symbols in different languages which correspond to the sounds in the original Hebrew which comprise the sacred Names in the sacred Scriptures. As one translates the Word of Yahweh into the words of local dialects, transliteration preserves the same sounds of the Names Yahweh and Yahshua. That is how they were actually spoken in Hebrew, and this can be verified by a multitude of historical sources.

Here we might mention the general rule of translation—that proper nouns are always transliterated, not translated. Why not then also transliterate the proper, revealed, personal Name of Almighty Yahweh and His Messiah Yahshua? Why substitute the names of the pagan idols of the nations?

The common Christian, theological approach to the sacred Names is to simply substitute a name familiar to the local dialect. Why should this be? There is no scriptural authority to do so. Therefore, the names of pagan mighty ones from the past are simply “removed out



# Worship

of their pagan contexts, and used in Christian worship.” Then, whom do you worship? That summary explains the customary theological approach regarding the Name of Yahweh. However, this practice is completely alien, repulsive, and an abomination to Yahweh as we find in Exodus 22:20. **“He that sacrifices to any elohim, except to Yahweh only, shall be utterly destroyed.”**

Yahweh has a very severe penalty for someone who sacrifices to a pagan mighty one. Death! (Which is eternal separation from His life-giving power.) No matter how illogically you argue, no one can justify using the name of a pagan mighty one in our True Worship. As you examine the worship of contemporary religion, notice that virtually all of the names are borrowed from pagan religion as sources. Satan has perpetrated a terrible deception upon this world so people will lose their salvation! This is one way he attempts to thwart Yahweh’s plan of salvation. By using a name for the Most High and His Messiah that they never sanctioned, that individual is perpetrating a satanic lie, of which Satan is the father, John 8:44.

Those who argue against the necessity of using the Sacred Names in favor of using the contaminated pagan names of the idolatrous surrounding nations, are ignoring a dynamic verse found in Exodus 23:13. **“Make no mention of the name of other elohim, neither let it be heard out of your mouth.”** This verse allows no evasion; it allows no substitution of pagan names for the True biblical ones—Yahweh and Yahshua. We are also told very strongly in Joel 2:32, **“And it shall come to pass that whoever shall call on the name of Yahweh shall be delivered; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be**

**those that escape, as Yahweh has said, and among the remnant those who Yahweh does call.”**

Please note also the context of Romans 10:12-17.

**“For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek: for the same Master is Sovereign of all, and is rich to all that call on him: for, whoever shall call on the name of Yahweh shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? Even as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that bring glad tidings of good things! But they did not all listen to the glad tidings. For Isaiah says, Yahweh, who has believed our report? So belief comes of hearing, and hearing**

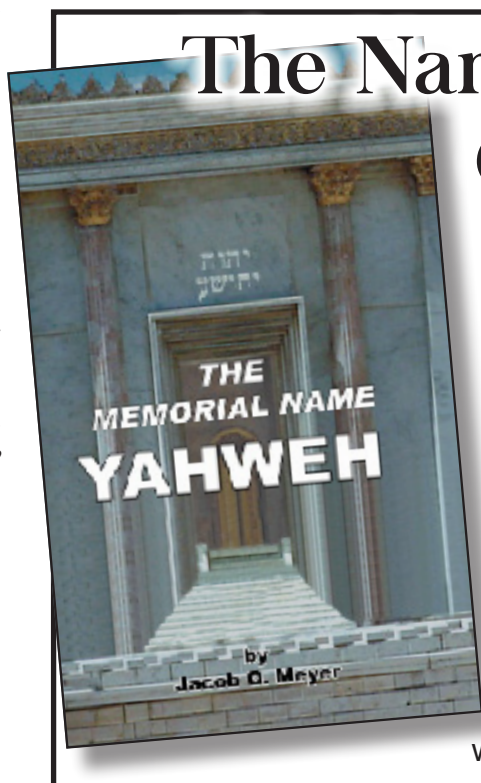
**by the word of Yahweh.”**

In the sacred Scriptures, the case is very clearly decided against the substitution in our worship of any use of pagan names from idolatrous sources. We must use Yahweh’s Name as He spoke and explained it to Moses and Israel. We must relate this conclusion to Yahweh’s own. You probably should review John 17 to understand how thoroughly Yahshua also taught Yahweh’s Name. Let us never forget that all True Worshipers will use and call upon the Name of Yahweh.

**“Therefore my people shall know my name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that does speak; behold, it is I.”** Isaiah 52:6.

**“I am Yahweh, that is my name; and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to carved images.”** Isaiah 42:8.

**“Sing to Elohim, sing praises to his name: cast up a highway**



## The Name The Ages Can't Efface!

Join noted Bible scholar, author, and broadcast minister, Jacob O. Meyer, on this exciting 244-page scholarly journey in search of one of the Bible's most sacred truths.

**The Memorial Name YAHWEH** is the culmination of years of exhaustive research and reflection. Request pricing information on how you can obtain your copy. Be sure to request a list of free literature available. Write today! Don't delay in obtaining your copy! Write to:

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# Answers to Questions About—

*for him that rides through the deserts; His name is Yah; and exult before him.” Psalm 68:4.*

## **Q: Shall we baptize each other? —Pennsylvania**

A: With every case in Scripture where baptisms are described, they were performed by an ordained elder of Yahshua’s True Assembly. Never were baptisms performed by anyone who was not an ordained minister. A heavy responsibility lies upon anyone involved in any baptism. Paul admonishes the elders of Corinth in 1 Corinthians 3, that they are responsible for building the Temple of Yahweh with GOOD building materials and not with wood, hay, or stubble, which will be consumed by fire.

Therefore, because sound scriptural precedent exists for baptisms only by ordained elders, only elders ordained by the Assemblies of Yahweh perform baptisms. The Assemblies of Yahweh organization recognizes only baptisms performed

by elders who are ordained and who remain in good standing with Yahshua’s True Assembly in these last days.

The elders of the Assemblies of Yahweh make regular ministerial journeys all over the world to perform immersions. The elders also baptize people of proven good will who attend Yahweh’s feast day observances. Those who have undertaken to change their life and bear fruits to repentance and have proven themselves worthy of immersion into Yahshua’s Name may be baptized in water into the Name of Yahshua the Messiah and receive the Holy Spirit. The proven fruits the elders seek is unquestioning obedience to Yahweh’s Covenant Law.

*“But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruit worthy of repentance: And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father; for I say to you, that*

*Elohim is able of these stones to raise up children to Abraham. And even now the axe lies at the root of the trees: every tree therefore that brings not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. I indeed baptize you in water to repentance: but he that comes after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in fire: whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly cleanse his threshing-floor; and he will gather his wheat into the garner, but the chaff he will burn up with unquenchable fire.”*  
Matthew 3:17-22.

Those who request baptism will bear some of the good fruits when they follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-24). Therefore, the elders will recognize those who have totally submitted their lives to Yahshua the Messiah. (More information on baptism can be obtained by writing to the Home Offices and requesting it.)

*The Scriptures are explicit that baptism is a central part of the plan of salvation. Do you have a good understanding of this critical doctrine, or is it a clouded issue to you? For an indepth study on the subject of baptism, write to:*

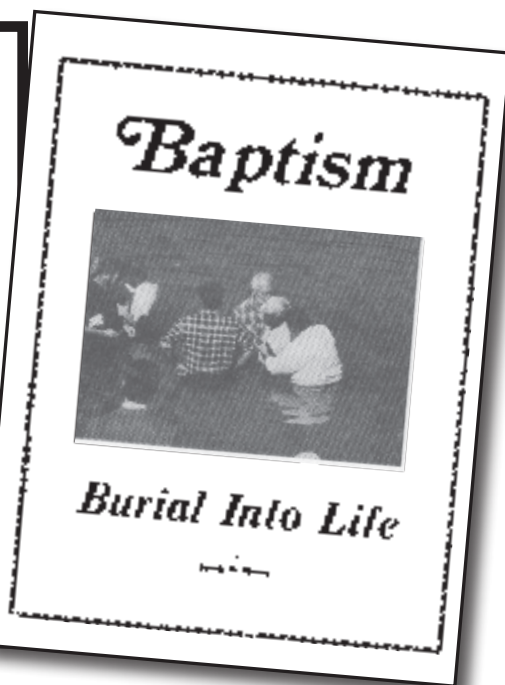
**Assemblies of Yahweh**

**PO Box C**

**Bethel, PA 19507**

**(717) 933-4518**

**[www.assembliesofyahweh.com](http://www.assembliesofyahweh.com)**



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# Sabbath

**Q:** In Exodus 35:3, We are told not to kindle a fire on the Sabbath in our homes. Does this mean that I cannot have a fire in the fireplace for the purpose of warmth?  
Virginia



**A:** The question you asked, quoted from Exodus 35:3, reads, “*You shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations on the sabbath day.*” The word kindle in Hebrew is *tebaaru* (*thebarau*, Piel, 2 m.p., imperfect), and, in this instance with the accusative, it means *to kindle a fire*. Without a question, Israel had fires for warmth on the Sabbath days. The Sabbath shall be a delight to the people of Yahweh (Isaiah 58:13). One would hardly think that it would be a delight to serve Yahweh in a cold house on the Sabbath. Undoubtedly, you and your family would soon be shivering uncontrollably, and all would become ill. This is certainly not logical or consistent with Isaiah 58:13.

The prohibition that Yahweh has placed on the Sabbath observance relates to work. Undoubtedly, it was a cold day when the man went out to gather sticks on the Sabbath day, Numbers 15:32-36. The man had gone outside the camp to gather sticks to build a fire so that he could be comfortable. However, Yahweh regards this as work not allowed on the specified day of rest, just as Yahweh considered it work to gather the daily supply of manna on the Sabbath. Yahweh had told Israel to gather their provisions for the Sabbath on the preparation day, the day that precedes the day of rest. Those

who went out to gather manna on the Sabbath day found none, and they were instructed by Yahweh to remain in their place on the Sabbath day (Exodus 16:27). This does not mean that one cannot go out of his house to worship in holy convocation on the Sabbath, because Yahshua Himself did, Luke 4:16.

Yahweh intends that we shall not go out to work on the Sabbath. Gathering sticks on the Sabbath is prohibited, just as is the gathering of manna, because it is work. However, we must remember that Israel was directed to gather manna on the preparation day; so, naturally, this is also the day when fuel for the fire must be brought into the house.

When we observe this Truth, it is not difficult to see the righteousness of the Law of Yahweh. We shall bring our fuel into the house, and then get the fire prepared before sundown if the day is cool. We can surely keep the fire burning throughout the Sabbath night and into the following day with the fuel we have gathered in advance, so that we may rest in comfort from a week of labor. Yahweh wishes us to prepare on the **PREPARATION DAY** for the keeping of the Sabbath, so that we will have all of our necessities at hand before His holy day begins.

**Q:** Does the Scripture allow us to go out to a restaurant to eat our meals on Sabbaths or holy days?  
Wisconsin

**A:** Exodus 16 quite plainly tells us to make all preparations for the Sabbath day ahead of time and to prepare in advance all of the food we eat on this day. Additionally, the Law of Yahweh is quite candidly interpreted for us in the book of Nehemiah.

The remnant of the two southern tribes had just returned from Babylonian captivity. They endeavored to re-establish True Worship and Yahweh’s righteous government amidst the desolation done by the conquering Babylonian armies. Please turn to Nehemiah chapter 10.

You will find that those who returned took upon themselves the obligation to keep the commandments of Yahweh, verse 29. In verse 31 we read, “*And if the peoples of the land bring wares or any grain on the sabbath day to sell, that we would not buy of them on the sabbath, or on a holy day; and that we would forego the seventh year, and the exaction of every debt.*” It is quite plain that the remnant of the two southern tribes that returned understood the commandment of Yahweh concerning the Sabbath day to mean that no buying or selling, even of food, was to be done on that day.

In chapter 13, Nehemiah encounters some frustrating difficulty in enforcing this righteous policy. Let us read verses 15-18. “*In those days I saw in Judah some men treading winepresses on the sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and loading asses with them; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all manner of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on*

*Continued on page 14.*

# **PROPHETIC TRENDS**



## **THE DAY OF YAHWEH APPROACHES!**

*“The word of Yahweh which came to Zephaniah the son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah. I will utterly consume all things from off the face of the ground, says Yahweh. I will consume man and beast; I will consume the birds of the heavens, and the fishes of the sea, and the stumblingblocks with the wicked; and I will cut off man from off the face of the ground, says Yahweh. And I will stretch out my hand upon Judah, and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off the remnant of Baal from this place, and the name of the Chemarim with the priests; and them that worship the host of heaven upon the housetops; and them that worship, that swear to Yahweh and swear by Malcam; and THEM THAT ARE TURNED BACK FROM FOLLOWING YAHWEH; AND THOSE THAT HAVE NOT SOUGHT YAHWEH, NOR INQUIRED AFTER HIM.”* (Zephaniah 1:2-6).

*“And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with lamps; and I will punish the men that are settled on their lees, THAT SAY IN THEIR HEART, YAHWEH WILL NOT DO GOOD, NEITHER WILL HE DO EVIL. And their wealth shall be-*

*come a plunder, and their houses a desolation: also, they shall build houses, but shall not inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, but shall not drink the wine of them. The great day of Yahweh is near, it is near and hastes greatly, even the voice of the day of Yahweh; the mighty man cries there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of waste and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of the trumpet and alarm, against the fortified cities, and against the high battlements. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against Yahweh; and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as dung. NEITHER THEIR SILVER NOR THEIR GOLD SHALL BE ABLE TO DELIVER THEM IN THE DAY OF YAHWEH’S WRATH; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he will make an end, yes, a terrible end, of all them that dwell in the land.”* (Zephaniah 1:12-18).

For nearly 50 years, the warning has gone out with the voice of Yahweh’s watchman. Yahweh has warned the wicked turn from their wickedness, so that they will not die in their iniquity. How many have heeded this warning? How many have listened to

the warning from Almighty Yahweh? *“But the house of Israel will not listen to you; for they will not listen to me: for all the house of Israel are of a hard forehead and of a stiff heart.”* (Ezekiel 3:7).

*“He that has ears to hear, let him hear;”* was the call from Yahshua the Messiah to those of His generation. Of course we have ears! But why do we not hear the call from Almighty Yahweh to repent? Why is it that so few turn from ways of wickedness, turning back to ways of righteousness? *“...In this manner says the Sovereign Yahweh; whether they will hear, or whether they will refuse.”* (Ezekiel 3:11b). *“But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you shall say to them, In this manner says the Sovereign Yahweh: He that hears, let him hear; and he who refuses, let him refuse: for they are a rebellious house.”* (Ezekiel 3:27).

Zephaniah prophesied judgments against Baal worship, the Chemarim (black robed ones), *“...and them that are turned back from following Yahweh; and those that have not sought Yahweh, nor inquired after him.”* (Zephaniah 1:6). The searchlight of Truth illuminates the hearts of mankind. *“... And I will punish the men that are settled on their lees, that say in their heart, Yahweh will not do good, neither will he do evil.”* (Zephaniah 1:12b).

Again, we have ears; yet, why do we not hear? Have we been poisoned by false doctrine so that we cannot discern between good and evil? Have we allowed our conscience to be seared as with a hot iron? Has the mockery of this generation cast doubt into our hearts that Yahweh will not judge for sin?

***“This is now, beloved, the second letter that I write to you; and in both of them I stir up your sincere mind by putting you in remembrance; that you should remember the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and the commandment of the Master and Savior through your apostles: knowing this first, that IN THE LAST DAYS MOCKERS SHALL COME WITH MOCKERY, WALKING AFTER THEIR OWN LUSTS, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For, from the day that the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”*** (2 Peter 3:1-4).

We must never willfully forget that Yahweh’s Day of Judgment is coming—the destruction of lawless men. Instead, Yahweh is calling us to repentance so that we may prepare for our appearance at the judgment seat of His Judge, Yahshua the Messiah. Yahweh, however, is not slack concerning His promises. He is long-suffering toward us so that we would come to repentance and not perish. The Day of Yahweh will come as a thief, however; consequently, we must prepare ourselves to stand before the Judge. We must give great diligence to be found in peace; blameless in the sight of Yahweh (without spot or wrinkle) when Yahshua returns.

***“Gather yourselves together, even gather together, O nation that has no shame; before the decree brings forth, before the day passes as the chaff, before the fierce anger of Yahweh comes upon you, before the day of Yahweh’s anger comes upon you. SEEK YAHWEH, ALL YOU MEEK OF THE EARTH, that have kept his ordinances; seek righteous-***

***ness, seek meekness: it may be you will be hid in the day of Yahweh’s anger.”*** (Zephaniah 2:1-3).

***“He that dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of Yahweh, He is my refuge and my fortress; My Elohim, in whom I trust. For HE WILL DELIVER YOU from the snare of the fowler, and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings shall you take refuge: His truth is a shield and a buckler. YOU SHALL NOT BE AFRAID for the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flies by day; for the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor for the destruction that wastes at noonday. A thousand shall fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you. Only with your eyes shall you behold, and see the reward of the wicked. For you, O Yahweh, are my refuge! You have made the Most High your habitation....”*** (Psalm 91:1-9).

If we are obedient to Almighty Yahweh and make Him our refuge and fortress (trusting in Him), then we will not be afraid of the terror by night, or the arrow that flies by day. If we dwell in the secret place of the Most High (through prayer, for example), then Yahweh promised protection for us during this time of great trouble.

### ***Terror Grows***

In recent months, a new terror group, more insidious than Al Qaeda, has formed in Syria and Iraq. Known as ISIS, ISIL, or simply Islamic State, they have seized vast portions of Syria and Iraq. Using social media, they have recruited young radicals from around the Muslim world. Quite shocking is the fact that they are drawing fighters from Western countries such as United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and the United States. This is of great concern, since they can freely move in and out of Western countries because of their status as citizens. The fear exists

that these radicalized young men will return back to their countries of origin after having been trained in ways of terror by ISIS/ISIL.

In recent weeks, two Americans and a British man were beheaded by ISIS. Their gruesome execution was recorded by video and uploaded to social media sites. This was of great concern for the British government since the executioner had a distinct British accent. Prime Minister Cameron has denounced this evil act of barbarism, launching an investigation into the identity of this evil executioner. Using voice print technology and facial recognition programs (although his face was covered except for his eyes), the British authorities believe they have identified the perpetrator of this heinous crime.

The prime objective of this terror group is to terrorize European nations (who have a substantial Muslim population), as well as the United States and Canada. They have professed a desire to destroy Israel, as well as the nations of the West. In fact, ISIL means Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant. The Levant refers to Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and a part of southern Turkey. It is a French word which means *rising*, referring to the area of the eastern Mediterranean—countries that were at one time part of the Islamic caliphate of the Ottoman Empire. Every time we hear reference to ISIL we should remember that their intention is to reclaim all lands (including Israel) that were ruled by Muslims in centuries past and bring them under Sharia law.

### ***Pestilences and Plagues***

The Ebola virus has claimed the lives of more than 3,000 in the West African countries of Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea. Fear has taken hold on many West Africans as the disease continues to spread, and although international efforts have tried to curtail its growth, with nearly 60 percent fatality rate, it is sad to see those stricken with the disease wasting away in just a matter of days. The World Health Organization has

predicted that tens of thousands will succumb to the virus, while the Centers for Disease Control has predicted that millions might die.

It should be noted, however, that the origins of the human infection always seem to be rooted in the consumption of unclean meat. Previous Ebola outbreaks were the result of eating contaminated monkey meat, and this outbreak has been traced to infected bats. If only mankind would adhere to the Law of Almighty Yahweh which commands: **“Of their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch; they are unclean to you.”** (Leviticus 11:8). **“For you are a holy people to Yahweh your Elohim, and Yahweh has chosen you to be a people for his own possession, above all peoples that are on the face of the earth. You shall not eat any abominable thing.”** (Deuteronomy 14:2-3).

A recent report out of Cambodia announced that a unique harvest is underway in that Asian nation. Tens of thousands of wild rats are being trapped alive each day to feed a growing export market for rat meat. With the monsoon rains, the rodents are forced to higher ground where they are caught and exported to Vietnam. How many diseases that are spread about throughout the human race have originated in the consumption of unclean meat? **“And every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth is an abomination; it shall not be eaten. Whatever goes upon the belly, and whatever goes upon all fours, or whatever has many feet, even all creeping things that creep on the earth, them you shall not eat; for they are an abomination. You shall not make yourselves abominable with any creeping thing that creeps, neither shall you make yourselves unclean with them, that you should be defiled by it. For I am Yahweh your Elohim: sanctify yourselves therefore, and be holy; for I am holy: neither**

**shall you defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that moves upon the earth. For I am Yahweh that brought you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your Elohim: you shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.”** (Leviticus 11:41-45).

**“I am inquired of by them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, to a nation that was not called by my name. I have spread out my hands all the day to a rebellious people, that walk in a way that is not good, after their own thoughts; a people that provoke me to my face continually, sacrificing in gardens, and burning incense upon bricks; that sit among the graves, and lodge in the secret places; that eat swine’s flesh, and broth of abominable things is in their vessels....”** (Isaiah 65:1-4).

**“They that sanctify themselves and purify themselves to go to the gardens, behind one in the middle, eating swine’s flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, they shall come to an end together, says Yahweh.”** (Isaiah 66:17).

The consumption of unclean meats, which are an abomination to Yahweh, is one of the reasons why Yahweh executes judgments upon mankind. Yet, so many people disregard the commandments of Almighty Yahweh and consume any variety of *treifa* meats, even arrogantly declaring that they are now acceptable to be eaten in this New Testament era. Nothing could be further from the Truth! **“For I, Yahweh, change not; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.”** (Malachi 3:6).

### **Mystery Virus**

Beginning in late August, a mystery illness suddenly spread across the United States. With many schoolchildren returning to school, the illness spread rapidly, causing

hospital emergency rooms to be filled to overflowing.

Known as Enterovirus 68, this uncommon respiratory illness is one of more than 100 non-polio enteroviruses. Though most who were struck with the virus responded well to the treatment, thousands required hospitalization.

In Colorado, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), as well as state and local health officials, are investigating 10 cases of “acute neurologic illness,” where the children suffered with muscle weakness, or paralysis.

The severe respiratory illness affected the patient’s ability to take in oxygen and was especially severe for those who suffer from asthma. Jim Allard, Director of Pediatric Services at Medical City Children’s Hospital in Dallas, told WFAA that **“it is taking us three to four times longer to break the wheezing.”**

With the sudden appearance of illnesses such as this, we wonder, “Is this germ warfare?” With the prophecies of pandemics that will occur during the Tribulation, we look to Yahweh Rapha, the Great Physician, as our healer and protector.

**“... 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 15:26).

**“There shall no evil happen to you, neither shall any plague come near your tent. For he will give his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. They shall bear you up in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone. You shall tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the serpent shall you trample under foot. Because he has set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he has**

*known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble: I will deliver him, and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.*" (Psalm 91:10-16).

### **Financial Judgment Looms**

On September 6, 2014, at the end of the Day of Atonement (Yom Kipper), the Sabbatical Year began. The Sabbatical Year is to be a year of release, a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land. We are commanded to let the land rest and allow the land to lie fallow. We are prevented from sowing our field and pruning our vineyard. Furthermore, all debts must be forgiven. ***"At the end of every seven years you shall make a release. And this is the manner of the release: every creditor shall release that which he has lent to his neighbor; he shall not exact it of his neighbor and his brother; because Yahweh's release has been proclaimed."*** (Deuteronomy 15:1-2).

Failure to keep the Sabbatical Year will result in curses being brought upon us, rather than a blessing for obedience to Yahweh's Law. ***"...if only you diligently listen to the voice of Yahweh your Elohim, to observe to do all this commandment which I command you this day. For Yahweh your Elohim will bless you, as he promised you: and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow; and you shall rule over many nations, but they shall not rule over you."*** (Deuteronomy 15:5-6). Financial security is one of these blessings; be a lender, instead of a borrower, a financial powerhouse instead of being a debtor nation. ***"Yahweh will open to you his good treasure the heavens, to give the rain of your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand: and you shall lend to many nations,***

***and you shall not borrow. I And Yahweh will make you the head, and not the tail; and you shall be above only, and you shall not be beneath; if you shall listen to the commandments of Yahweh your Elohim, which I command you this day, to observe and to do them, and shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other elohim to serve them."*** (Deuteronomy 28:12-14).

The 16th Annual Geneva Report, commissioned by the International Centre for Monetary and Banking Studies, warned recently that a "poisonous combination" of record debt and slowing growth suggests that the global economy could be heading for another crisis. It warned of a *"poisonous combination of high and rising global debt and slowing nominal GDP (gross domestic product), driven by both slowing real growth and falling inflation."* The total burden of world debt, private and public, has risen from 160 percent of national income in 2001 to almost 215 percent in 2013.

John Horvat II in a recent op-ed piece claimed, *"There is a major financial storm brewing on the horizon."* Citing concerns from the latest annual report issued by the **Bank of International Settlements**, which claimed that the climate is more fragile and volatile in the buildup to crash of 2007, *"What makes this storm different,"* Horvat warned, *"is that it is not only the developed countries that are out of balance. But emerging nations have joined the party. Debt ratios in the developed countries have now risen to as much as 275 percent of gross national product, while the emerging economies of China, Brazil, Turkey and others are gorging themselves on private credit booms of their own, increasing their debt ratios significantly. Indeed, this might be the big one,"* he concluded.

The dark storm clouds of financial doom can be seen gathering on the

horizon. We know that a downturn is looming, but when it will occur is the question. Will it occur during this Sabbatical Year, or after the Sabbatical Year ends—as it did in 1987 and 2008?

### **Returning Remnant**

***"But I will leave in the middle of you an afflicted and poor people, and they shall take refuge in the name of Yahweh. The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid."*** (Zephaniah 3:12-13).

***"Yahweh has taken away your judgments, he has cast out your enemy: the King of Israel, even Yahweh, is in the middle of you; you shall not fear evil any more. In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear not; O Zion, let not your hands be slack. Yahweh your Elohim is in the middle of you, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with joy; he will rest in his love; he will rejoice over you with singing. I will gather them that sorrow for the solemn assembly, who were of you; to whom the burden upon her was a reproach."*** (Zephaniah 3:15-18).

Yahweh has promised forgiveness will be extended to us if we sincerely repent. He has no pleasure in our death, but, rather, that we repent and live. The good news of the coming Kingdom of Yahweh is that our sins can be forgiven, if only we change our ways. Those who transgress the Law of Yahweh, however, will not be granted entrance into the Kingdom of Yahweh. Since we greatly desire the Kingdom of Yahweh, then we must repent and be converted to the Kingdom way of life now in preparation for the Second Coming of Yahshua the Messiah. There is no time to waste! **5ND**

# Answers to Questions About—

*Continued from page 9.*

***the sabbath day; and I testified against them in the day in which they sold food. There dwelt men of Tyre also in it, who brought in fish, and all manner of wares, and sold on the sabbath to the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem. Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said to them, What evil thing is this that you do, and profane the sabbath day? Did not your fathers thus, and did not our Elohim bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? Yet you bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the sabbath.***” Please refer to Jeremiah 17:19-27 for the historical reference.

The character of the people was no different in the days of Nehemiah than it is today. People tend to want to follow their own inclinations and do as they please. They want to fulfill their own desires. Sabbath breaking was one of the sins that led

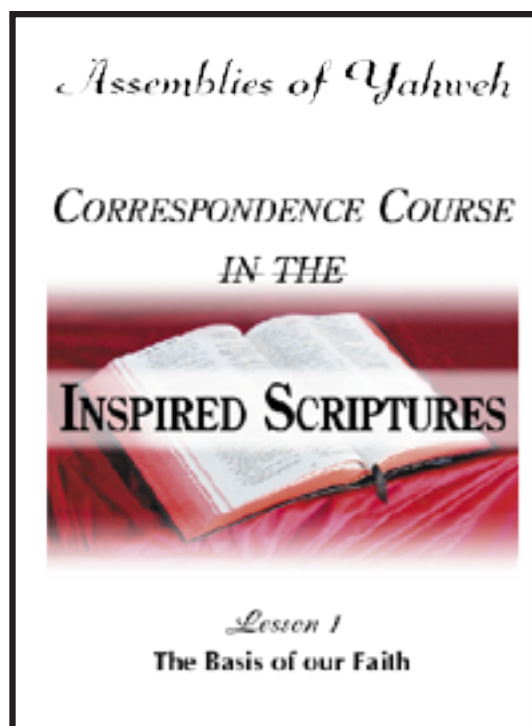
both Israel and Judah into captivity at the hands of enemy nations. Doing any work on the Sabbath and buying food to eat was judged by Nehemiah to be contrary to the commandments of Yahweh.

Please read the remainder of the chapter to see how Nehemiah acted to correct the situation, by appointing dedicated Levites to stand guard at the gates of Jerusalem, which were closed at sundown, and, finally, by threatening to imprison the merchants if they did not close their shops on the Sabbath.

In Nehemiah chapter 8 appears the recorded account of how Ezra the priest (and scribe) began on the first day of the seventh month to teach the people of Yahweh the commandments and Laws they should keep. As Ezra read the Hebrew text, the Levitical priests, who were with him upon the platform, translated and explained what was read into the vernacular. They came to the

section of the Law which instructs the people of Yahweh to keep the Feast of Trumpets. The people immediately realized that they were at that very moment assembled on one of Yahweh’s holy days. They began to weep as they realized that there had been a lack of preparation for a holy day observance. Let us read the Scripture describing what happened.

***“And they read in the book, in the law of Elohim, distinctly; and they gave the sense, so that they understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said to all the people, This day is holy to Yahweh your Elohim; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, AND SEND PORTIONS***



## Want to learn more?

**The Assemblies of Yahweh Correspondence Course in the Inspired Scriptures provides a study of the Bible, Yahweh’s sacred Word, without explaining away, or falsely rationalizing, texts that clearly instruct the individual in obedience to Yahweh’s Covenant.**



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# Sabbath

**TO HIM FOR WHOM NOTHING IS PREPARED; for this day is HOLY TO OUR SOVEREIGN: neither be you grieved; for the joy of Yahweh is your strength.**" (Nehemiah 8:8-10).

The elders teaching these unprepared people did not advise them to purchase their noon meal during this Holy Day, on the Feast of Trumpets. Rather, they directed that all who had made provision should SHARE with their neighbors who had not prepared for this festival. The people did as they were instructed. **"And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and TO SEND PORTIONS, and to make great mirth** [joyfulness or gladness is a more accurate translation of the word *simchah*], **because they had understood the words that were declared to them.**" (Nehemiah 8:12).

Preparation must be done ahead

of time to provide food for both the weekly and annual sabbaths. If no such preparation is made, we are breaking the spirit of the Law of Yahweh that these days are holy time, reserved for His worship in joy and gladness. Were we to buy and sell on the Sabbath, we would be cursing ourselves just as did ancient Israel and Judah, and, thereby would incur the penalty for sin.

Remember Yahweh's commandment by Moses which tells us what to do on the preparation day. **"And he said to them, This is what Yahweh has spoken, tomorrow is a solemn rest, a holy Sabbath, to Yahweh: bake what you will bake, and boil what you will boil; and all that remains over save it to be kept until the morning. And they saved it until the morning, as Moses commanded: and it did not become foul, neither was there any worm in it. And**

**Moses said, Eat that today; for today is a Sabbath to Yahweh: today you shall not find it in the field. Six days shall you gather it; but on the seventh day is the Sabbath, in it there shall be none.**" (Exodus 16:23-26).

There can be no cooking or baking (food preparation) on Yahweh's holy day. All cooking and baking must be done before the Sabbath day arrives at sundown on Friday evening. We cannot eat food cooked or baked on the Sabbath.

Just one final word to all Sunday keepers who declare that they are keeping that day for the Sabbath. If you are indeed doing so, why do you buy and sell on that day, or engage in sporting events? If that day is truly the Sabbath, you should keep it holy as Yahweh commanded. Obviously, it is not the seventh-day Sabbath. The people do not prepare for it, nor keep it holy.

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## Lesson subjects:

- The Basis of Our Faith
- The Great First Cause
- The Doctrine of the Messiah
- The Sacred Name
- The Holy Spirit
- The Scriptural Law
- The Annual Sabbaths
- The Seventh Day Sabbath
- The Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread
- The Feast of Weeks
- The Feast of Tabernacles
- The Feast of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement
- Scriptural Giving
- Yahweh's Calendar
- The Kingdom of Yahweh
- The Lake of Fire
- Baptism
- The Dietary Law

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# Answers to Questions About—

**Q:** Where should one go today to observe Yahweh's feast days? Where on the face of the earth today has Yahweh placed His Name? Virginia

**A:** The Assemblies of Yahweh gather in obedience to the commands of Leviticus 23 each year. Information is available for anyone desiring to attend Sabbath services or feast days.

You will find in 1 Kings 8:43 that Yahweh placed His Name in His Temple. Inasmuch as we are His Temple, wherever two or three of us gather together in His Name, His Name is there—and that means He is there with us. Notice how Yahshua the Messiah answered the Samaritan woman in John 4, *“Our fathers worshiped in this mountain; and you say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Yahshua says to her, Woman, believe me, the hour comes, when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem,*

*shall you worship the Father. You worship that which you know not: we worship that which we know; for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth: for such does the Father seek to be His worshippers. Yahweh is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in Spirit and in Truth.”* John 4:20-24.

**Q:** How do you celebrate the feasts? What do you do for each festival? New Hampshire

**A:** The True Messianic Israelites celebrate Yahweh's feasts by gathering together in holy convocation to worship Him at the place where He has placed His Name. Yahshua told us that where two or three are gathered together in His Name that He would meet with us. We believe that we should also meet with Him at the **PRECISE TIME** that He has set for the sacred appointment. Otherwise, it would be like trying to keep an appointment with your

dentist when he is out playing golf. If you gather at the wrong time—Yahweh won't be there!

During the spring and fall festivals (Unleavened Bread and Tabernacles), we meet together for a full eight days. We usually have preaching services (a spiritual feast) once or twice a day and a special Bible Study, a song service, or a sing-a-long. During the fall festival, we encourage the brethren to stay in temporary dwellings (booths). We do not have animal sacrifices, since these were all fulfilled in Yahshua the Messiah.

*“Through him therefore let us offer up a sacrifice of praise to Yahweh continually, that is, the fruit of the lips which make confession to his name. But do not forget to do good and communicate: for with such sacrifices Yahweh is well pleased.”* Hebrews 13:15-16.

*“Take with you words, and return to Yahweh: say to him, Take away all iniquity, and accept that which is good; so will we render as bullocks the offering of our lips.”* Hosea 14:2.

But we do partake of delicious

*The annual holy days of Almighty Yahweh that are outlined in the Scriptures provide us with a foretaste of things to come. Are you aware of the vital importance that these special days play in Yahweh's plan of redemption for mankind? Do not delay in requesting your copy of the article **How to Keep Yahweh's Holy Days**. It is free of charge and without obligation. Write today to:*

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# Feast Days



meals on all of the feast days except the Day of Atonement, which is a day of complete fasting (without food or water from sunset to sunset).

During the Feast of Weeks, the Assemblies of Yahweh conducts a two-day festival (weekly Sabbath and Holy Day) with preaching services and fellowship meals. This is because the weekly Sabbath and this annual Sabbath always fall consecutively, comprising what amounts to a 48-hour Sabbath.

It is not the custom of the Assemblies of Yahweh to pass a collection plate, or take any offerings in services, during the weekly services throughout the year. However, our Creator tells us that we are not to appear before Him empty on Yahweh's seven annual holy days. These funds are used in the work of proclaiming the glad tidings of the Kingdom of Yahweh to all nations as a witness via the radio waves and printed page. A full, in-depth scriptural explanation of why and how we keep each of the annual festivals is available in our **Correspondence Course of the Bible**, commencing with Lesson 9. Be sure to enroll if you are not already receiving these lessons.

In addition, we have available a free reprint article on the subject of **How to Keep Yahweh's Holy Days**. Write to Assemblies of Yahweh, PO Box C, Bethel, PA 19507, and request it.

**Q:** Since I observe the feasts of Yahweh, I was wondering why Assemblies of Yahweh sometimes publishes different dates on their calendar for observing the annual feast days than what are generally found on Jewish calendars. Can you enlighten me on this question? New York

**A:** In the Assemblies of Yahweh we try to adhere to the teachings of the Bible as strictly as we possibly can. We find that Almighty Yahweh has given us directions regarding how we shall determine the feast days and when they should be observed. Please note that Exodus 12:1-2 tells us that the start of the year is in the spring—the time when the Passover must be observed.

Some groups use a complex and complicated system dependant upon finding the vernal equinox and then setting the Passover by the new moon which occurs nearest to this date. However, this system is totally unscriptural, since NO directive involving the vernal equinox is to be found in the Bible. The Bible itself tells us when to begin our year and when to end it. Usually the calculation systems are based upon an unscriptural premise.

The literal translation of Deuteronomy 16:1 is our guide regarding when to begin our year. **“Observe**

*the month of Abib, and keep the passover to Yahweh your Elohim. . . .”* The Hebrew word for *observe* is from the root meaning *to watch for or view*.

The Hebrew word for *month* is *new moon (chodesh)* and means a *renewing of light*. This directive means that we must watch for a new moon which is visible. The moon is given to establish the sacred seasons, Psalm 104:19. **“He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knows his going down.”**

This rebuilding moon, the first new crescent of a rebuilding moon, must be visible at the time when there are green ears in the field. The holy days must be observed at the same season when Israel came forth from Egypt, Deuteronomy 16:6.

The green ears (Hebrew—*Ha Abib*), which the Bible teaches, refer to the green ears of barley. Barley was one crop destroyed by the plague of hail before Israel's Egyptian Passover in Exodus 9:31. Now we have seen that Almighty Yahweh has given us adequate instruction concerning the definite time to keep the feast days and when we are to begin our year. We must watch for the new moon crescent after the first green heads of barley have appeared in the spring.

Relative to the feasts, which are set by the Jewish calendar today, research informs us that centuries ago, in order to keep all of the Jews of the dispersion together in the observance of the feasts, the rabbis set the holy days by advance calculations. This practice was evidently derived from Judah's captivity in Babylon where studies of astronomy flourished.

Today the feasts of the first month and the seventh month are set arbitrarily by the Jews so that the holy days will fall either on a weekly Sabbath, a Tuesday, or

# Answers to Questions About—

Thursday. They never deviate, and the Feast of Weeks, according to their calculation, varies according to the first holy day of Unleavened Bread. During the days of Yahshua the Messiah, however, history records that the new moons were still sanctified visually. (It is enlightening to check a Jewish calendar to see what days they set for the feasts and to learn that Orthodox Judaism always keeps two days holy for each holy day directed by the Scriptures, except the Day of Atonement fast.) This is done so that they will always observe the correct holy day, even though the days are set by calculation. Since the Assemblies of Yahweh observes only the scripturally appointed holy days, only one day is set. Therefore, we make a special effort to know which day Yahweh has chosen.

We have an article which may interest you that explains this subject in greater depth. It is called **Yahweh's Calendar in the Heavens**. It will be sent free upon your request. Why not request our scriptural calendar also when you write?

**Q: I have heard that the American Thanksgiving, as observed in the month of November, is derived from false worship. Can you prove this from the Bible? —Louisiana**

A. The American Thanksgiving, which has become so traditional, is supposedly traced to the observance of a period of thanksgiving to the Almighty for a plentiful harvest by the early Pilgrim fathers of Massachusetts. Amazingly, when the antecedents of this observance are researched, it can be learned that the Pilgrims did not celebrate their thanksgiving in November, but in early October. Some authorities give October 3rd to 9th as the dates, and

this would coincide with the time which was scripturally set for the observance of the scriptural Feast of Tabernacles. This date appeared in one of my children's history books in school. You may also research the thanksgiving date in encyclopedias at the library.

The pilgrim fathers were diligent Bible scholars, especially of the Old Testament. A **Reader's Digest**, article which appeared in 1965, described them as Hebrew scholars. In fact, in an article which appeared in the July 1966 **United Israel Bulletin**, the editor, Mr. David Horowitz, presents information that the New England colonists had become so hostile to the British government prior to the Revolutionary War that a popular movement among them was seriously considering changing their native language to Hebrew!

These founding fathers of our country were indeed dedicated Bible students and tried their best to live what they found in the Bible. For this reason, they were called Puritans, since they were attempting to re-establish the pure religion described in the Bible. These colonists refused to celebrate either Christmas or Easter, since they found no scriptural basis for those observances. At least some of them, however, did observe the scriptural Sabbath and the feast days of Yahweh, until succeeding groups of settlers re-introduced the corruption of false doctrine.

Thanksgiving days have been observed at various times since the founding of our country, but the present Thanksgiving Day was first set aside by the proclamation of President Lincoln in 1864 and has been proclaimed as a national holiday by each succeeding President. Reference books inform us that it is set by tradition for the last Thursday of November. Now we might inquire

where such a tradition originated, and, to our surprise, **we learn that it can be found in the Bible!**

As I stated previously, the Feast of Tabernacles is the time of rejoicing and thanksgiving to Yahweh, which He has Himself commanded in His Word that His people should observe. Please read Exodus 34:22 and Deuteronomy 16:13-14. Man, of his own volition, cannot sanctify a substitute day which our Heavenly Father does not recognize.

However, we find that the first king of the ten northern tribes of the house of Israel did exactly that, 1 Kings 12:32-33. Since our Heavenly Father had commanded that worship must be offered at His house, the Temple in Jerusalem, Jeroboam, fearing that if his people returned there three times each year to worship as the Law of Yahweh prescribed, the priests would again seek to reunite the kingdom under the Davidic dynasty. To forestall such an eventuality, Jeroboam had to devise a new system of worship to keep his people within his own territory.

Jeroboam knew that his people, the ten tribes of Israel, were not particularly anxious to make the long journey to Jerusalem each autumn. Some of them, especially in the highlands, perhaps had not completed their harvest before the feast. Consequently, he must have concluded that a king who relieved the religious burdens imposed upon them by the ruling class in Judah, would always be regarded as a benevolent benefactor.

Consequently, you find that the Scripture records that he declared a feast in the eighth month, in the month which he had devised of his own heart (Hebrew says here, by himself). Jeroboam himself led Israel down the pathway of disobedience by offering upon the altar to the golden

# Feast Days

*...the Feast of Tabernacles is the time of rejoicing and thanksgiving to Yahweh, which He has Himself commanded in His Word that His people should observe....Man of his own volition cannot sanctify a substitute day which our Heavenly Father does not recognize.*



calf located in Bethel and burning incense (1 Kings 12:3) to an idol.

Since few people, except diligent Bible students, realize that the scriptural months are set according to the new moon crescent, they do not know the implications which are presented here. Speaking simply, Jeroboam merely moved back the dates of the Feast of Tabernacles, the scriptural Thanksgiving time, by one month. Usually the Feast of Tabernacles is observed in early October. (In 2015, the dates are expected to be September 29 to October 6.) One month later would make the observance fall on October

29 to November 5, and this would correspond with the feast which Jeroboam had devised for himself.

During the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt, he moved ahead the Thanksgiving observance to the third Thursday of November instead of the fourth, so that the merchants could have more opportunity to promote Christmas holiday shopping during the Depression. When this holiday was moved ahead, it sometimes fell within the time period of the 15th to the 22nd of the eighth scriptural month. We found that in 1967, the American national Thanksgiving fell around

the end of the Feast of Tabernacles, if it had been observed in the eighth month, and the same situation occurred again in 1978.

When the editor learned these remarkable facts in my study of the Bible, I had to make a choice between the days which I had to keep. If my life was to be pleasing in the sight of Yahweh, I had to begin to keep HIS holy days, including the Feast of Tabernacles. I concluded I must reject the holiday, which was devised or invented by an idolatrous king to lead Israel astray.

In the Assemblies of Yahweh, families sometimes serve a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings during the harvest festival, the Feast of Tabernacles, but the national Thanksgiving Day becomes merely another working day for us.

# Answers to Questions About—

**Q: Concerning healing, do we make an error when someone is sick and we take them to a doctor? —Texas**

**A:** Our first thoughts upon contracting an illness should be to fall to our knees and pray that Almighty Yahweh will heal the sick person. We all know that there is no doctor on this earth who can heal unless Almighty Yahweh gives that blessing to the individual.

Yahweh alone can heal, as most doctors will affirm, and they only can give remedies that will aid in getting a person's body back in harmony with Yahweh's system. Just remember, if we obey the commandments, statutes, and judgments of Almighty Yahweh, He has promised to remove all sickness from us and to become our physician (Hebrew—*rapha*), Exodus 15:25-26. ***“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 statute 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 these diseases upon you, which I have put on the Egyptians: for I am Yahweh who heals you.”***

Physicians are mentioned in the Bible at a number of places. Yahshua the Messiah Himself said, ***“... They that are whole have no need of a physician, but they that are sick,”*** Matthew 9:12. Evidently He recognized the need of a physician at times in a person's life. Please see also Luke 4:23. Luke was himself a physician. If we keep these things in perspective, we must conclude that seeking the advice of an individual

who is educated in anatomy and physiology in times of illness will assist us in restoring the body to health.

However, it is the teaching of the Assemblies of Yahweh that we establish a program of preventive body building. We should not sin against our bodies by abusing them with lack of rest or improper diet. We urge people to live as naturally as possible, with natural foods unadulterated with chemical additives. Natural food supplements also are important in today's world with its often depleted soil. If we take preventative measures and abide by our program, we will only rarely need the advice or treatment of physicians, especially when we keep the Law of Yahweh. Physicians have told us that they are indeed cautious about administering some of the chemical medicines currently on the market, and one doctor made the statement that they must always weigh the benefits of the medicines against the damage they will do. This is why we urge all people to rely first on Yahweh and on natural living rather than to depend completely on a “miraculous cure” that might be administered by a physician.

**Q: What would you propose that society and the “church” do with homosexuals? In your opinion, can a homosexual change by making up his mind to change? —Tennessee**

**A:** The answer is to enforce the sodomy laws already on the books. Read Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13. Then read what the New Testament has to say about such people who are perverted. (1 Corinthians 5:13; 6:9-11, Colossians 3:5-10; and Romans 1:18-32). ***“For the wrath of Yahweh is revealed from heaven against all lawlessness and un-***

***righteousness of men, who hinder the truth in unrighteousness; because that which is known of Yahweh is manifest in them; for Yahweh manifested it to them. For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, even his everlasting power and majesty; that they may be without excuse: because that, knowing Yahweh, they did not glorify him as Elohim, neither gave thanks; but became vain in their reasonings, and their senseless heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible Elohim for the likeness of an image of corruptible man, and of birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. For this reason Elohim gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to uncleanness, that their bodies should be dishonored among themselves: for that they exchanged the truth of Yahweh for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this cause Yahweh gave them up to passions of dishonor: for their women changed the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust toward one another, men with men working indecency, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was due. And even as they refused to have Elohim in their knowledge, Elohim gave them up to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full***

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# Miscellaneous

*of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, hateful to Elohim, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, unmerciful: who, knowing the ordinances of Yahweh, that they that practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but also consent with them that practice them,”* Romans 1:18-32.

## **Q: What about the practice of birth control, as far as the Bible is concerned? —Michigan**

**A:** We have never spoken to any physician who has not expressed honest concern about the physical effects of some of the modern birth control methods. They usually affirm that most popular methods of birth control bring some risk to the user. To the best of our knowledge, the Scriptures do not speak out strongly in favor of birth control; but, conversely, they do speak out in a commandment against it. The first commandment given to man in the Scriptures is found in Genesis 1:28, given as soon as man and woman were created. *“And Elohim blessed them: and Elohim said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”*

There are secular organizations which affirm that if the more natural methods of raising children were reinstated, such as the mothers breastfeeding their offspring, this would act, in many cases, as a natural method of birth control. If a mother were to breastfeed her offspring as long as it was done in

the Scriptures, children would usually be spaced about 4-5 years apart.

Primarily, outside of marriage, we are to deaden, or mortify, inordinate affection (passion or lust, sexual appetite) and evil concupiscence (evil desire) according to the teachings of Paul in Colossians 3:5. We cannot be adulterers or fornicators. Much concern about birth control devices among worldly people is to avoid being caught for their sins.

We would not hesitate to point out in conjunction with this subject that the population explosion in our country (the United States) is grossly overexaggerated. In recent years, for instance, schools and colleges have noted a downturn in numbers of students being admitted. Every recent census reveals that the population growth is not as great as had been anticipated. Presently, Americans are not multiplying themselves. A great deal of our population increase comes from liberalized immigration laws. It would appear as though someone wishes the United States to commit national suicide by urging and demanding mandatory birth control, even to the point of legislating and encouraging abortions, which is on an exact par with murder in the eyes of Yahweh, our Almighty Heavenly Father. Jeremiah 2:34, *“Also in your skirts is found the blood of the souls of the innocent poor: you did not find them breaking in; but it is because of all these things.”* The Law of Yahweh says, *“You shall not murder,”* Exodus 20:13.

Abortion, as a birth control device, is on the same level as the holocaust of Nazi Germany in the 1940s and is a horrendous national sin in the eyes of Yahweh.

## **Q: I notice the use of the words YAHWEH NISSI on some of the car**

## **bumpers of the Assemblies of Yahweh. Could, or would, you tell me what NISSI means, and how do you pronounce it? Where in the Scripture is the term used? —Arkansas**

**A:** Exodus 17:15: *“And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Yahweh-nissi....”* The Companion Bible states that this means *Yahweh [is] my banner*, and that is one of Yahweh’s titles. The Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance confirms this definition. The pronunciation suggested by Strong’s is *Nis-see*. (Technically, the Hebrew word has a short “I” following the “N” and a long “I” [as in machine] following the “S.”) It means a standard (flag) about which Israel will gather in our conflict against the forces of evil.

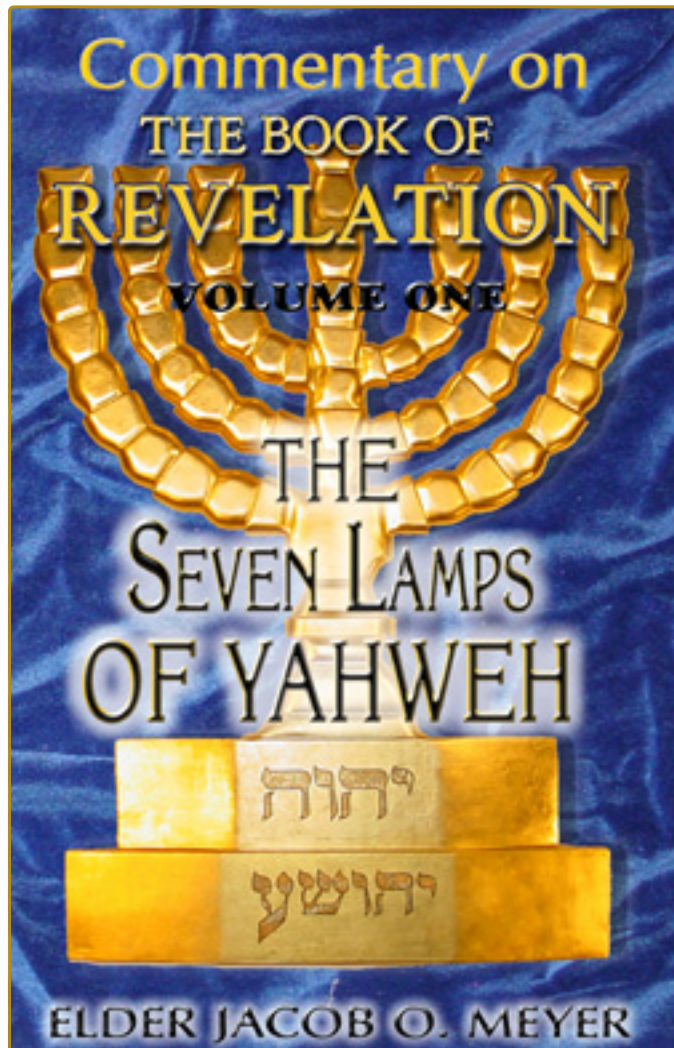
## **Q: Is it all right to wear jewelry? My parents gave me a beautiful item of jewelry, and I feel they would be offended if I did not wear it occasionally. —Arizona**

**A:** In the sense that you are referring to wearing it in moderation to honor your parents, it would certainly be all right. In this case, it would not violate the principle of modesty, nor would it be worn seductively, as we are cautioned against in Isaiah 3:16-26 and 1 Peter 3:3-4. In fact, we see in Isaiah 61:10 that it was customary for a bride to adorn herself with jewels on that most memorable occasion of her lifetime.

The Assemblies of Yahweh follows scriptural policy in seeking the simple life and stressing the inner person (the hidden man of the heart, 1 Peter 3:3-4), rather than outward adornment. Nevertheless, the Bible does not prohibit wearing a few items of jewelry if worn in good taste and not overdone. **SHD**

# The Seven Lamps of Yahweh

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer



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