



THE
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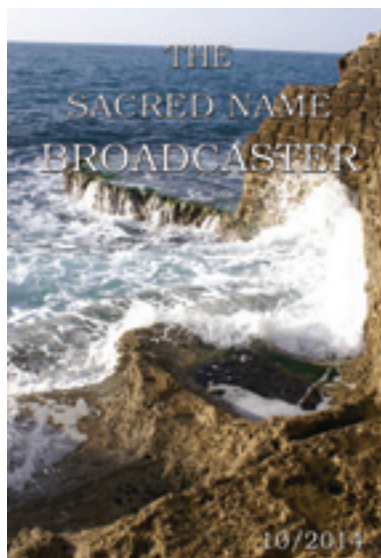
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Founder and Author: Elder Jacob O. Meyer



Our Cover:

“You rule the pride of the sea: when the waves of it arise, you still them.” (Psalm 89:9). Our cover this month shows the waves of the Mediterranean Sea crashing upon the coastal cliffs of Israel.

If the winds and the waves obey Yahweh, as they did Yahshua the Messiah, why cannot mankind obey their Maker? When the storms of life come upon us, we should remember Psalm 107:28-29. “Then they cry to Yahweh in their trouble, and he brings them out of their distresses. He makes the storm a calm, so that the waves of it are still.”

Thanksgiving

During the month of November, many people begin looking forward eagerly to the Thanksgiving Day celebration held annually near the end of this month. Children taking art classes in school are asked to draw representations of Pilgrims carrying a blunderbuss walking through the snow, or turkeys, or pumpkins, items usually featured at the Thanksgiving season. People look forward to having a sumptuous feast (calling it Turkey Day) when they invite relatives to enjoy the day with them. However, only infrequently do people attend religious services on that day.

The President of the United States each year makes a proclamation establishing the national holiday of Thanksgiving Day. Joining him in this proclamation are state governors, mayors of cities, and leaders of municipalities. Sometimes these proclamations are published in the daily newspapers for the public to read.

However, most people never question the authenticity or origin of the American Thanksgiving Day observance. Since most consider it such a joyful occasion, they seldom question if it should actually be observed, or why it was established for this particular time of year. The true Bible student will be sincerely interested in the facts regarding the observance of this holiday so that he can regulate his life by obedience to the commandments of Almighty Yahweh. Read this article carefully,

Is the American Thanksgiving Scriptural?

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

because it explains many things concerning this holiday you may never have realized.

A Brief History of Thanksgiving Observance

One of the better accounts of the history of Thanksgiving observance appears in the book **The Customs of Mankind**, published in 1924 by Doubleday, Page, and Company; Garden City, New York; a work authored by Lillian Eichler. We find on pages 440-449 the product of the author's research into the subject of our national Thanksgiving Day.

Thanksgiving observance is not new. She says, "*The Israelites appear to have been among the earliest to observe a special day*

[sic] of Thanksgiving. They observed faithfully, with great rejoicing and solemn ceremonies, their Feast of Tabernacles, a day [sic] of thanks not only for the bounties of the land, but for the escape from Egypt. "Thou shalt observe the feast of tabernacles seven days, after that thou hast gathered in thy corn and thy wine," Deuteronomy 16:13."

Obviously, those who know the Bible realize that the Feast of Tabernacles (as Almighty Yahweh legislated its observance in Leviticus 23:33-44) outlines a feast of seven days with an added eighth day called the Last Great Day of the Feast. Therefore, the cumulative observance of the Feast of Tabernacles is an eight-day festival, beginning



The original celebration of thanks held by the Pilgrims and their Indian guests is a popular subject by early American artists. Sadly, these popular paintings are often replete with error, such as portraying the preacher with a head covering. Huguenot men wore head coverings in worship—Pilgrims did not.

on the evening of the fifteenth day of the seventh month (at sundown, which begins the day) until, and including, the twenty-second day of this same seventh month (not one day).

Few people in the world understand very much about the observance of the biblical holy days of Leviticus 23. They observe worldly holidays rather than the sanctified holy days Almighty Yahweh has legislated in His Word.

The paradox is shocking! Why not observe the sacred seasons Almighty Yahweh in His Word, the inspired Scriptures, has legislated? Why celebrate holidays for which there is no biblical support whatsoever?

It is obvious that the Feast of Tabernacles, at the end of the agricultural year, is Yahweh's thanksgiving harvest festival. It is

a time when Almighty Yahweh commands His people to gather together to worship Him and to rejoice before Him in their blessings. This observance occurs in late September, or during the month of October.

The Feast of Tabernacles represents a time of happiness and joy which can only be realized in the Millennium when the Kingdom of Yahweh is established on this earth. Therefore, when the people of Yahweh worship during the Feast of Tabernacles, we already, in this life, enjoy a time when the atmosphere and attitude of the people reflect the Kingdom of Yahweh ruling on this earth. We faithfully observe in solemn worship the holy days on which no work is done (the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles, the weekly Sabbath that falls within this period, and the eighth day of the

feast). During the remainder of the week—the intermediate days—we live together doing our necessary chores as will the people in the Millennium, ruled by an attitude of love and joy.

It is clear from comparing the biblical message with the secular reference above and what appears in other noted reference works such as the **Encyclopedia Britannica**, the **World Book Encyclopedia**, and **Collier's Encyclopedia**, that when someone does not observe the thanksgiving feast legislated in the Bible, he is not observing Yahweh's original thanksgiving. To substitute another day is contrary to the Will of Yahweh. It is a sin not to observe His legislated holy days, and it is a sin to substitute different days.

The First American Thanksgiving

Few people realize that the first American Thanksgiving observed by the Pilgrims was not held at the end of November. When the Pilgrim fathers set foot on the soil of the New World in 1620, they found it very difficult to establish themselves. More than half their number died that first winter. At one time, only six or seven of the Pilgrims were not sick at the same time. Enemies could easily have destroyed the entire colony.

After planting and harvesting a crop sufficient to maintain them for the winter—under the direction of friendly Indians named Samoset, Squanto, and the great Chief Massasoit—Governor William Bradford sent out a number of men to shoot game so that a thanksgiving observance could be held. When the Indians heard of this thanksgiving feast, they brought five deer and joined the festivities. A sumptuous feast was held over a period of several days. This may have emulated the harvest home festival observed in England, but some students believe that it was held during the Feast of Tabernacles.

Few people realize that the first thanksgiving was not held at the end of November as it is today. The reference work mentioned previously suggests that it was observed December 13, 1621. Other reference works such as the **Encyclopedia Britannica** and **World Book Encyclopedia** indicate that the original thanksgiving observance at Plymouth, Massachusetts, was observed October 3-6, 1621. It was observed soon after the harvest had

been put away. If the earlier date is accurate, it is clear that some association was indeed intended between the biblical Feast of Tabernacles and this Thanksgiving observance. Although there is no record that a religious service was held, the history could be incomplete.

Governor Bradford remarked about that first Thanksgiving that the feast was prepared to include “*as much fowle as with a little helpe beside, serve the company almost a weeke.*”

There is later record of 20 additional Thanksgiving festivals being observed over the next 50 years.

In 1789, the Congress of the United States recommended that a universal Thanksgiving Day be established. President George Washington appointed Thursday, November 26, as the national American Thanksgiving Day. After a while, however, various states began observing different days. Until just before the Civil War, each one observed Thanksgiving Day on a different day, but all of these were in November. It is a fact interesting to note.

Lillian Eichler draws a correlation between the Chr-stmas celebration and the reason for keeping a Thanksgiving. She says, “*It seems to be a common notion among writers on this subject that ‘to the mind of the Puritan, Chr-stmas smelled to heaven of idolatry.’ They believe that the Puritans abolished Chr-stmas as a hateful relic of popery and that they established Thanksgiving as a purely Puritan festival to take its place.*

“*The distaste for Chr-stmas among the Puritans may very possibly have helped to establish*

Thanksgiving as a national festival. There are even today certain people who regard Chr-stmas as a strictly heathen holiday. But, we can be absolutely certain that Thanksgiving had its true inception in 1621 when 55 grateful men and women, surrounded by 90 painted Indians, gave thanks for the corn and the fowl upon which they feasted.” (Ibid.)

The current establishment of Thanksgiving Day dates from the year 1863. It was then that Mrs. Sarah J. Hale, the editor of **Ladies’ Magazine**, wrote President Abraham Lincoln regarding establishing a day of thanksgiving for the entire nation. On October 3, 1863, he issued the first national Thanksgiving proclamation, setting apart the last Thursday in November to be observed. It has been so specified by succeeding Presidents. President Roosevelt in 1939 set the Thanksgiving celebration forward to the third Thursday of November in order to assist the merchants by extending the Chr-stmas shopping period (traditionally the Chr-stmas shopping time begins the day after Thanksgiving Day). However, a Congressional joint resolution, approved by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on December 26, 1941, fixed a permanent date for Thanksgiving Day on the fourth Thursday of November. It is observed in every state of the union and in the District of Columbia on that day.

It is interesting that the Canadian Thanksgiving each year is held the second Monday of October, a time that frequently corresponds with the Feast of Tabernacles held in the biblical seventh month.

The Feast of Tabernacles represents a time of happiness and joy which can only be realized in the Millennium when the Kingdom of Yahweh is established on this earth.

Biblical Reference for Celebrating Thanksgiving in November

Almighty Yahweh legislated that His people faithfully observe as a time of worship the period of time from the fifteenth to the twenty-second of the seventh biblical month. What Almighty Yahweh has sanctified we cannot change or eliminate. Let us submit to His directions and humble ourselves before His commandments.

Here your Bible steps into the picture. Observing a time in the month following Yahweh's Feast of Tabernacles as a time of thanksgiving actually dates from the declaration by King Jeroboam of the northern nation called Israel. When the 10 northern tribes seceded from the Davidic monarchy, the faithful Israelites continued to worship Yahweh at the Temple in Jerusalem that had been built by Solomon a generation earlier. Here is what the writer of Kings says: ***“And Jeroboam said in his heart, now will the kingdom return to the house of David: if this people go up to***

offer sacrifices in the house of Yahweh at Jerusalem, then will the heart of this people turn again to their sovereign, even to Rehoboam king of Judah; and they will kill me, and return to Rehoboam king of Judah. And the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold; and he said to them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem; behold your elohim, O Israel, which brought you up out of the land of Egypt. And he set the one in Beth-el, and the other he put in Dan. And this thing became a sin; for the people went to worship before the one, even to Dan. And he made houses of high places, and made priests from among all the people, that were not of the sons of Levi. And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like the feast that is in Judah, and he went up to the altar; so he did in Beth-el, sacrificing to the calves that he had made: and he placed in Beth-el the priests of the high places that he had made. And he went up to the altar which he had made in Beth-el on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart: and he ordained a feast for the children of Israel, and went up to the altar, to burn incense.” (1 Kings 12:26-33).

Let us analyze this passage more closely.

Jereboam observed that when his subjects returned to worship at Yahweh's Temple in Jerusalem, they would come under the heavy influence of a teaching priesthood that was loyal to the Davidic dynasty. Therefore, he plotted to forestall his own possible deposition from the throne of the House of Israel. It was already obvious in

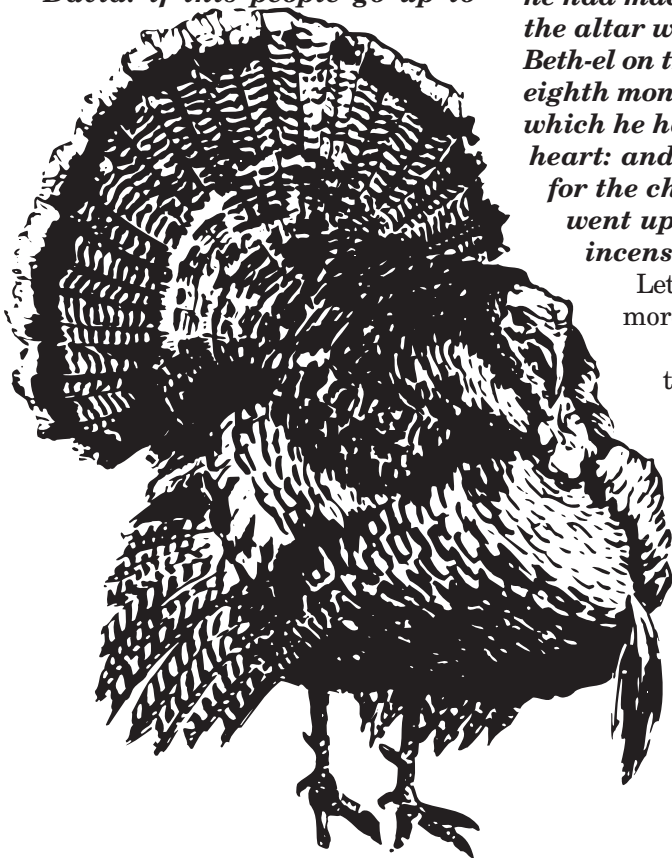
verse 25 that problems developed between Jereboam and his subjects, since he *went out of* Shechem in the area of Ephraim and built Penuel, a city in Transjordan, as his capital. The term in Hebrew means *to be driven out*, so perhaps some Israelites raised a rebellion against him.

By setting up the shrines in Bethel and Dan, he hoped to have his people gravitate toward a worship he, himself, was devising. Josephus quotes Jereboam at the dedication of the shrine in Bethel as saying, *“A man built that Temple in Jerusalem and a man built this Temple in Bethel.”* Just like other monarchs of the ancient Middle East, Jereboam believed that a unified national religion would unite his nation in other ways.

Have you seen the real meaning of Jeremiah 31:21, which points out the importance of the name *Bethel* in the preaching of end-time sound doctrine as a sign to the people of modern Israel? The way that Israel departed from Yahweh they must again return. Whereas Jereboam took Israel into false doctrine at Bethel, the sound doctrines of the Bible are today being preached from Bethel as a sign to modern Israel and the rest of the world, recalling them to the worship of Yahweh.

Since the Feast of Tabernacles is a pilgrim feast when all Israelites (especially the males of the congregation) are required to attend (please see Deuteronomy 16:13-16), the faithful Israelites would depart from the kingdom of northern Israel each fall and assemble at Jerusalem. By building the competing shrine at Bethel, located on the Israelite national road approximately 12 miles north of Jerusalem near the border of his kingdom, Jereboam was hoping to intercept his people on their journey southward. Then, by establishing through government decree a feast in the eighth month rather than in the seventh, his influence over his people would preclude their going to Jerusalem at all.

Who can resist the injunctions of the government? When Jereboam




announced that he would observe the fifteenth day of the eighth month as the national thanksgiving day rather than the seventh month, those who were not faithfully committed to the worship of Almighty Yahweh followed this governmental declaration. The people of the 10 northern tribes began staying away from the Temple worship in Jerusalem in droves. It became a sin and, eventually, became a prime contributing factor to the disintegration of the House of Israel.

The Eighth Month, 1992


In 1992, the American Thanksgiving Day was observed on Thursday, November 26. Let us see how this date corresponds very closely to Jereboam's eighth-month feast.

The Feast of Tabernacles was observed October 12-19, 1992. October 12 was the fifteenth day of the seventh month. October 19 was the twenty-second day of the seventh month. Both of these days were holy convocations for the Assemblies of Yahweh. The new moon of the eighth scriptural month this year was visible on October 27. Therefore, the fifteenth day of the eighth month would be November 10. The eighth day of the Feast of Tabernacles (if it is observed as Jereboam's thanksgiving was observed), in competition with Yahweh's holy days, would be November 18 this year. How shocking to learn that this is day before the third Thursday of November! The current American Thanksgiving Day was observed one week later, however.

The year 1978 contains a perfect illustration of how the American thanksgiving fell within the eight-day pseudo-festival devised by Jereboam out of his own heart to counter Yahweh's true holy days. The seventh month of the year 1978 (when reckoned with the visible new moon) saw the Feast of Tabernacles observed from October 17-24. That year the American Thanksgiving, observed on the fourth Thursday of the month of November, was held on November 23. This day fell



Those who keep the American Thanksgiving Day are actually keeping a modern-day form of Jereboam's substitute Feast of Tabernacles!



precisely on what would have been the twenty-second day in the eighth biblical month, the eighth day of the Feast of Tabernacles if observed one month late. You can check a calendar for yourself, if you please.

The Assemblies of Yahweh observes the holy days of Leviticus 23 which were legislated by our Heavenly Father. We strive to eliminate all vestiges of erroneous doctrines from our worship. Jereboam sought some way to undermine the True Worship of Almighty Yahweh and, thereby, fell into error. It is obvious to us that the American Thanksgiving Day held on the fourth Thursday of November deceptively masquerades as a thanksgiving day acceptable to Almighty Yahweh. But it was never sanctioned by Almighty Yahweh. Those who keep the American Thanksgiving Day are actually keeping a modern-day form of Jereboam's substitute Feast of Tabernacles!

You must make the decision of which holy days you will keep. When you begin studying your Bible, you must decide if you will obey Almighty Yahweh, or obey the decrees and laws of men. The President of the United States proclaims the fourth Thursday of the month of November to be the American Thanksgiving. Almighty Yahweh proclaims His acceptable

thanksgiving to be during the seventh scriptural month of the year, the fifteenth to the twenty-second day of that month.

The American President each year declares this day to be a time of thanksgiving to G-D for the blessings we have received from him. Almighty Yahweh commands us to honor HIM by keeping the days He legislated. Please read Hosea 2, especially in the Bible published by the Assemblies of Yahweh, **The Sacred Scriptures**, Bethel Edition. You will see there how people offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to Baal for the produce of the land, while believing that they are giving honor to Yahweh, but, in fact, are conferring this thanksgiving to Baal (the L-rd).

“For she did not know that I gave her the grain, and the new wine, and the oil, and multiplied to her silver and gold, which they used for Baal. Therefore will I take back my grain in the time of it, and my new wine in the season of it, and will pluck away my wool and my flax which should have covered her nakedness. And now will I uncover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and none shall deliver her out of my hand. I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her

Continued on page 16.

The Feasts of the

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

In Malachi 4:5-6 we read these words: ***“Behold, I will send you EliYah the prophet before the great and terrible day of Yahweh comes. And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers; lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”*** People who read this passage of Scripture rarely comprehend the importance of these verses. This passage means that just prior to the coming of the Day of Yahweh (meaning the day of His judgment and then the day of His reign as He sets up His Kingdom upon this earth) a group of people would be on this earth who would be teaching the same message which was taught by EliYah the prophet in 1 Kings 18. The message which this prophet of old was teaching in Israel can be found in the meaning of his own name. *El* in the Hebrew means *the Almighty or Mighty One*; the *“i”* means *my*; and the *Yah* is the abbreviated form of the revealed, personal Name of our Heavenly Father. The entire name *EliYah* means *My Mighty One is Yahweh*. However, this group of people will be teaching something additional besides the True Name of our Heavenly Father. They will be teaching sound doctrine and pure worship, just as did EliYah in the days of ancient Israel.

In our world today there are many different religious bodies. If

you wish to believe some doctrine about the Bible because of a personal conviction, you can probably find some group with which to form a relationship. But there are few religious bodies on the face of this earth today who allow the Scriptures to correct them without bringing any personal convictions along to cloud the issues, or forging personal doctrines into an axe to grind. The Assemblies of Yahweh seek to fulfill the description of the True Worshipers. In addition to teaching the revealed, personal Name of our Heavenly Father which He inspired to be written in His Word, our aim is to restore sound doctrine as a basis for our Faith.

If you have been listening to the **Sacred Name Broadcast** over an extended period of time, you will have come to realize that the Assemblies of Yahweh observe different holy days than do the average Christian churches. The Assemblies of Yahweh observe all of the feast days of Leviticus 23, beginning with the weekly Sabbath, Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles. These are the only days which our Heavenly Father commanded to be observed anywhere in the Bible. Sunday, Halloween, Christmas, Easter, etc., are not commanded to be observed anywhere in His Word. They are traditional days which were never observed for at least the first 400 years of the early Apostolic Assembly after the Day of Pentecost. It was

only after the Council of Nicea that Sunday worship was commanded by the Roman Emperor Constantine, who, at the time that he presided over this council, had not yet been baptized. How about that! Here was an avowed pagan sun-worshiper presiding over a council of supposedly True Worshipers! You may find this information in your own encyclopedia. Did you know that during the Millennium everyone will again be forced to worship on the scriptural seventh-day Sabbath? Certainly! You'll find this explained in Isaiah 66:22-23, ***“For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, says Yahweh, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another and from one sabbath to another; shall all flesh come to worship before me, says Yahweh.”*** Anyway, have you ever tried to find the word Sunday in the Bible? It's just not there! If the Savior had been raised from the tomb on this day, it should have been found in the New Testament.

Another restoration which we, of the Assemblies of Yahweh, are already returning to this earth is worship on the days in which our Heavenly Father has commanded that we present ourselves before Him. No, we do not sacrifice animals, since we read in both Old and New Testaments that Yahweh, our Heavenly Father, would bring to pass a day when this shedding blood of animals would be unacceptable to

Seventh Month

Him as a sin offering. We rely on the shed blood of our Savior, Yahshua the Messiah, the true Passover Lamb, for our sacrifice. We present our bodies a living sacrifice, and, on the holy days, we present to Yahweh the sacrifices of the praises of our lips, giving thanks to His Name. These are sacrifices pleasing to Him.

Each one of the holy days, which are commanded to be observed in Leviticus 23, has a definite meaning in the plan of salvation. However, let us concentrate upon an explanation of the importance of the holy days at the end of the scriptural year, in the seventh month: Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles.

The Feast of Trumpets, on the first day of the seventh month, is to be a memorial, as we read in Leviticus 23:24, and begins a time of 10 days of penitence. The blowing of the trumpets, which ushers in this day, represents much more than meets the eye. In Numbers chapter 10, we find just what this symbol means. The trumpets were blown as a signal for assembly to the camps of Israel. They were the voices by which the people of Yahweh were called together. This is typical of the events which are to transpire in the last days. As Yahweh's people are being called together for worship, these same trumpets will be sounding to assemble the people of this world to war. The calling to war of all national armies will culminate finally in the battle of Armageddon. The people of Yahweh will be receiving protection while keeping His

feast, but the people of the world will be outside of the ark of safety and will be receiving the judgments of Yahweh for their sins.

From close scrutiny of various Scriptures, it is obvious that the Feast of Trumpets depicts the Second Coming of our Savior. We know from 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and 1 Corinthians 15:52 that the Second Coming of our Savior will take place at the sounding of a trumpet—the last trump—which would compare to the seventh trumpet of Revelation 11:15. Could the Second Coming of our Savior be on a feast day? It certainly could! All of the important events of our Savior's life took place on one of the holy days, including His birth and death. The most important event which will take place since His ascension into Heaven would certainly take place on a day when Yahweh's people will be looking for it to happen and have gathered for worship.

The next holy day is perhaps the most holy of all in the sacred calendar. The Day of Atonement occurs on the 10th day of the seventh month. On this day, no work of any kind is to take place, not even to set out food, since Yahweh's people are commanded to fast in honor of our Savior's sacrifice. When Yahshua Messiah died on the tree of Calvary and shed His blood, His sacrifice was the fulfillment of both Passover and Atonement sacrifices. You may read this in Hebrews chapter 9 and 1 Corinthians 5:6-8. The Hebrew word *Yom Kippur* means *a day of*

covering, and it traces to a root which means, *to be at one*. What a beautiful thought! At one with Yahweh, our sins covered by the blood of His Son Yahshua whom He gave for the salvation of mankind. I have always felt that this holy day could very well be identified with the marriage supper of the Lamb, when we have been born again of the Spirit and have become one in national marriage to our King, Yahshua Messiah. In Psalm 91:4, the Psalmist says, ***“He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings shall you take refuge....”*** This unity with Yahweh takes place as the last plagues of judgment are poured out upon sinful mankind. When this unity with Yahweh occurs, we shall be even more thankful than we ever could be in this life for the sacrifice which was made by our Heavenly Father Yahweh in sending the atonement offering sacrifice for us in the form of Yahshua the Messiah. It is Yahshua, our sin offering, which we remember annually on the Day of Atonement.

At the end of Atonement in each jubilee year, the trumpets were blown and all the captives were released. Each man who sold a part of his land was allowed to return and repossess his inheritance. All debts were cancelled. You may read this in Leviticus 25:8-14. With the sound of the trumpet, ten days of penitence were begun, and, with the sound of the trumpet, the ten days are ended! An era has ended! All preparations have been made.

A new era begins for this earth and the people remaining.

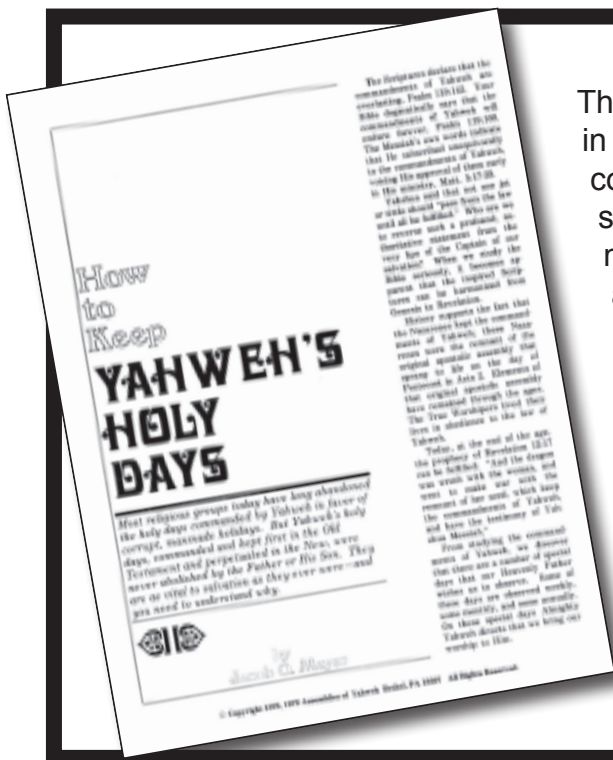
The Feast of Tabernacles begins on the 15th day of the seventh scriptural month. This time of rejoicing and feasting depicts the Kingdom of Yahweh. All of the True Worshipers who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb are united as a family for a week. Bible preaching of sound doctrine is the order of each day. Yahweh's people take up temporary dwellings, as did ancient Israel when they came out of Egypt, so that they may be reminded that they are to set their sights on the Kingdom of Yahweh which will rule this earth in righteousness, rather than to continue to live just for today. The Feast of Tabernacles depicts the time when all of the people of this earth will reap plentiful harvests, when universal happiness and brotherly love will drive away all thoughts of grief. During this time, we are commanded to rejoice, but how could we help not being happy when Yahweh has given us all of these abundant blessings for which we return thanks? This is the scriptural Thanksgiving! The Feast of Tabernacles has been given to us to make us understand

Each one of the holy days, which are commanded to be observed in Leviticus 23, has a definite meaning in the plan of salvation.

that there is an era immediately ahead in which this world will be changed completely, so that it may finally reach the potential for which it was created.

After seven days of rejoicing and worship, we arrive at the eighth day. This is actually a separate feast day which points toward an era yet in the future. In John chapter 8, we read that on this day Yahshua the Messiah stood up and preached a sermon in the Temple. He proclaimed that the Holy Spirit would be within all men after that

time. Actually, this Last Great Day refers to something about which we know very little. The number 8 in scriptural numerology indicates a new beginning. Consequently, we must conclude that this special day is meant to show us that the beauty of the Feast of Tabernacles will continue on into the great beyond. The Bible says little of what has transpired prior to this age of man and says little about what will occur after it. What is the destiny of men who have been made spirit in the second birth? ***"...Things which eye saw not, and ear heard not, and which entered not into the heart of man, whatever things Yahweh prepared for them that love him. But to us Yahweh revealed them through the Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of Yahweh."*** (1 Corinthians 2:9-10). In these last days, at the close of this age, our Heavenly Father is calling you! Have you yielded your life to Him in absolute obedience so that you may share those things which He has prepared especially for you? You are His child if you show Him that you desire to live for Him through obedience. SND



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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Pilgrims for Yahweh

Far away from friends and loved ones,
As with weary steps we roam,
Through this troubled, sinful world,
Toward our bright and shining home.

May our hearts be bright and cheerful,
As we bow to Yah today,
As we look to Him for guidance,
That our footsteps may not stray.

Down this rough and rugged pathway,
Through our lives of work and toil,
May we win someone to Yahshua,
Let us Satan's planning spoil.

Onward, this united army,
Yahweh's people, "Forward, Ho!"
To the work that's set before us!
Enduring since we love Him so.

Onward, upward, ever growing
In this great campaign for life.
Help us Yah, our Heavenly Father,
Ne'er to weary in the strife.

Weary sinner, won't you join us?
Cast aside your load of sin!
Take new life into your bosom;
Let the Holy Spirit in.

Then we all will come rejoicing
To the New Jerusalem,
Bringing in the sheaves with shouting!
"Victory's assured through Yahweh's Name!"

There we'll see our great Creator,
Almighty Yahweh, Yahshua too.
Then to join with all the chosen,
Praising Yahweh all ages through.

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer
Originally published June 1968



PROPHETIC **TRENDS**



TIMES OF TROUBLE

*“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince who stands over the children of your people; and **THERE SHALL BE A TIME OF TROUBLE**, such as never was since there was a nation even to the same time: and at that time your people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that are wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. But you, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”* (Daniel 12:1-4).

*“Hear the word of Yahweh, you children of Israel; for Yahweh has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor goodness, nor knowledge of Elohim in the land. **There is nothing but swearing and breaking faith, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery; they break out, and blood touches blood. Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwells in it shall languish, with the beasts of the field and the birds of the heavens; yes, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away. Yet let no man quarrel, neither let***

*any man reprove; for your people are as they that quarrel with the priest. And you shall stumble in the day, and the prophet also shall stumble with you in the night; and I will destroy your mother. **MY PEOPLE ARE DESTROYED FOR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE: because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you, that you shall be no priest to me: seeing you have forgotten the law of your Elohim, I also will forget your children. As they were multiplied, so they sinned against me: I will change their glory into shame. They feed on the sin of my people, and set their heart on their iniquity. And it shall be, like people, like priest; and I will punish them for their ways, and will requite them their doings. And they shall eat, and not have enough; they shall play the harlot, and shall not increase; because they have left off taking heed to Yahweh.”*** (Hosea 4:1-10).

In the waning months of this Sabbatical cycle, we have seen an increase in evil. Many people have turned away from Almighty Yahweh, seeking the pleasures of the flesh instead. Rather than heed the call to return back to ways of righteousness, this generation is rejecting Yahweh's call to repentance. One imagines an automobile that is heading toward a precipice; however, instead of applying the brakes, the occupants shake their fists at Yahweh and press more firmly upon the accelerator!

We live in a time when, each day,

news reports are filled with stories of vile sin, the transgression of Yahweh's Law. Refusing to hear Yahweh's call to repentance, this generation has rejected the knowledge of Yahweh. *“**Hear the word of Yahweh... because there is no truth, nor goodness, nor knowledge of Elohim in the land.**”* (Hosea 4:1).

*“**There is nothing but swearing and breaking faith, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery; they break out, and blood touches blood.**”* (Hosea 4:2). The fruits of disobedience abound as the commandments of Yahweh are spurned. Rushing headlong down the broad way that leads to destruction, we marvel that they cannot see that death and mayhem lay just ahead. Refusing to heed Yahweh and His knowledge, certain destruction awaits.

*“**My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you, that you shall be no priest to me: seeing you have forgotten the law of your Elohim, I also will forget your children.**”* (Hosea 4:6). Where is Truth held in high esteem as it was decades ago? Where is common sense? Why is it that most people would rather believe a lie than to follow what is true? Where is goodness today, when news reports from Northeast Pennsylvania report the murder of a 90 year-old woman at the hands of a 10-year-old boy?

Killing, stealing, and sexual immorality abound! Blood touches blood!

In recent weeks, several serial killers have been discovered, and a manhunt continues in the Pocono Mountains region of Pennsylvania for a man who laid in wait with a high-powered rifle to execute Pennsylvania State troopers as they exited their barracks at the beginning of their shift. These are the troublous and grievous times prophesied by Yahshua the Messiah and His Apostles.

“O Israel, return to Yahweh your Elohim; for you have fallen by your iniquity. 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 14:1-2).

“Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap according to kindness, break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek Yahweh, till he comes and rains righteousness upon you.” (Hosea 10:12).

For over 48 years, a call for repentance has gone forth from Yahweh’s end-time watchmen. Repentance and remission of sin are being preached in the Name of Yahshua, just as Yahshua the Messiah prophesied that it would. Will you heed this warning message? ***“I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me earnestly.”*** (Hosea 5:15).

We must carefully listen to the call to repentance from Almighty Yahweh, rejecting Satan and his fatally destructive way.

“Therefore have I hewed them by the prophets; I have killed them by the words of my mouth: and your judgments are as the light that goes forth. FOR I DESIRE GOODNESS, AND NOT SACRIFICE; AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF ELOHIM MORE THAN BURNT-OFFERINGS.” (Hosea 6:5-6).

“In this manner says Yahweh, Stand in the ways and see, and

ask for the old paths, where is the good way; and walk in it, and you shall find rest for your souls: but they said, We will not walk in it. And I set watchmen over you, saying, Listen to the sound of the trumpet; but they said, We will not listen. Therefore hear, you nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not listened to my words; and as for my law, they have rejected it.” (Jeremiah 6:16-19).

We must carefully listen to the call to repentance from Almighty Yahweh, rejecting Satan and his fatally destructive way. Those who refuse to hear Yahweh and reject His Law will receive judgment from On High. Instead, we must ask for the old paths, seeking the good and narrow Way.

“For I spoke not to your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt-offerings or sacrifices: but this thing I commanded them, saying, Listen to my voice, and I will be your Elohim, and you shall be my people; and walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you. But they listened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in their own counsels and

in the stubbornness of their evil heart, and went backward and not forward. Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt to this day, I have sent to you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them: YET THEY LISTENED NOT TO ME, NOR INCLINED THEIR EAR, but made their neck stiff: they did worse than their fathers.

And you shall speak all these words to them; but they will not listen to you: you shall also call to them; but they will not answer you. And you shall say to them, This is the nation that has not listened to the voice of Yahweh their Elohim, nor received instruction: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth.” (Jeremiah 7:22-28).



Ebola Spreads

In late September, Thomas Eric Duncan, a Liberian, traveled to Dallas, Texas, where he had family and acquaintances. Shortly after his arrival, he began showing the symptoms of Ebola infection, beginning with fever. He sought medical care at the hospital, but was not admitted. He was sent home with antibiotics, but his condition worsened. When he returned to the hospital, he was gravely ill. Following the confirmation that he was infected with the Ebola virus, he was isolated for treatment. Over the next week, his condition worsened, and he subsequently died. Then, in a matter of weeks, two nurses who cared for him came down with this illness. As a result of the first Ebola cases in the United States, hundreds of people have been placed at risk of this disease, especially after one of the nurses flew to Cleveland, Ohio, to plan her wedding.

In West Africa, the disease continues to ravage Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. Nearly 10,000 people had been infected with this plague, with more than half of the victims succumbing to disease. Pictures of the dead and dying certainly tug at the

heartstrings as our hearts go out to these suffering people. Hospitals are overwhelmed as those who become sick are often unable to receive medical care. Suspicions abound among the populace, and some who were infected with Ebola refuse to be quarantined, even breaking out of quarantine. Many believe that the disease is being spread by the healthcare workers. Chlorinated wash stations abound in an attempt to stop its spread; yet, the disease continues to spread.

“If you will not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and fearful name, Yahweh your Elohim; then Yahweh will make your plagues fearful, and the plagues of your seed, EVEN GREAT PLAGUES, and of long duration, and sicknesses, and of long duration. And he will bring upon you again all the diseases of Egypt, which you were afraid of; and they shall cling to you. Also EVERY SICKNESS, AND EVERY PLAGUE, WHICH IS NOT WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THIS LAW, THEM WILL YAHWEH BRING UPON YOU, UNTIL YOU BE DESTROYED. And you shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because you did not listen to the voice of Yahweh your Elohim.” (Deuteronomy 28:58-62).

This is a sobering prophecy from the Prophet Moses. Yahweh has promised, however, that if we are obedient, listening diligently to His voice, doing that which is right in His eyes, giving ear to His commandments, that He will put none of these diseases on us, but will heal us. Read Psalm 103:2-4: ***“Bless Yahweh, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgives all your iniquities; WHO HEALS ALL YOUR DISEASES; who redeems your life from destruction; who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies.”***

Bear Market Emerges

As soon as the Sabbatical Year began on September 6, 2014, at the end of the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), the stock market began to settle back from its euphoric highs. Then, in the weeks following the Feast of Tabernacles, the Dow began to swing



wildly on news of terror attacks, Ebola concerns, and indicators that the world's economy has begun to slow. What has been a cause of great concern, however, are the wild swings in market indices. The New York Stock Exchange had movement of over 400 points in either direction.

In an op-ed by John Crudele, he raised grave concerns regarding stock market manipulation. *“Mysterious forces were trying their best, but they couldn't keep the stock market from swooning Wednesday. They failed in the morning, despite massive purchases of stock index futures contracts. Within minutes of the market's opening, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 350 points. Later in the day—after a lot of shocking ebb and flow—the Dow bottomed out with a decline of 460 points. It was only in the last hour of trading that the market saviors managed to trim the Dow loss to just 173 points. And they succeeded only after Janet Yellen's private, upbeat remarks about the economy were leaked.*

“Welcome to a new kind of stock market—one that the average investor should refuse to be invested in. Anyone whose investments tightly track the major indices is now losing money since the beginning of 2014. The Dow is down 1.1 percent on the year... Just for the record, I've been telling you for years the stock mar-

ket was in a bubble and that you should enjoy it while it lasts because bubbles always pop.



Of course, if you could time the end of the bubble, you'd be doing quite well. Miss the end and you're back to where you started. Or worse off in terms of confidence and finances. I obviously don't know whether we are now seeing the end

of the current stock market bubble, during which the S&P index has risen 102 percent since October 2008. I already brought up the sensitive issue of a market crash in the column on October 9 that began: ‘Is this the month the stock market will crash?’

“October is historically a spooky month for stocks, and in that column I rattle off the crashes and major price corrections of 1929, 1978, 1979, 1987, 1989 and 2008 to prove it. Will 2014 soon be added to that list? But let me explain about the unknown forces in the market these days. Call it by a nickname—the Plunge Protection Team. Or call it the President's Working Group on Financial Markets, the official name given to the group when it was formed by President Ronald Reagan after the market turbulence of 1989. THESE FORCES MAY BE WORKING FROM A SCRIPT IN THE ‘DOOMSDAY BOOK,’ WHICH THE US GOVERNMENT RECENTLY FOUGHT TO KEEP SECRET when it was brought up last week during the AIG trial in Washington.

“Here's the bottom line: Someone tried to rescue the market last Wednesday. And it's becoming a regular occurrence. The details of last Wednesday morning are these: at the same time the Dow was off 350 points, the S&P index was down 43.80 points. That was an enormous decline in just 11 minutes of trad-

ing, and it was an indication that Wall Street was not having a good day. Then, someone (or something) started buying S&P futures contracts en masse. Twenty-one minutes later, the S&P index had gained 30 of those lost points and was back in 1,861.

“Maybe you’ll believe there was some manipulation going on, if you knew that a guy named Robert Heller, who was a member of the Federal Reserve’s Board of Governors until 1989, proposed such a rigging as soon as he left the Fed. Look it up. October 27, 1989 **Wall Street Journal** headline: ‘Have Fed Support Stock Market Too?’ by Robert Heller. ‘It would be inappropriate for the government or the central bank to buy or sell IBM or General Motors shares,’ Heller wrote. ‘Instead, the Fed could buy the broad market composites in the futures market.’ In case you don’t know the lingo, Heller is **PROPOSING THAT THE FED (OR GOVERNMENT) PURCHASE STOCK FUTURES CONTRACTS** that track —and can influence—the major indices. These contracts are cheap, and the government can turn the whole stock market around quickly—but probably not permanently.

“Wow! Doesn’t that seem a lot like what happened Wednesday at 9:41 a.m., when S&P futures contracts were **SUDDENLY AND MYSTERIOUSLY** scooped up? Let me allow Heller to finish his thought, because it’s important to anyone who believes in free and fair markets. ‘The Fed’s stock market role ought not to be very ambitious. It should seek only to maintain the functioning of the markets—not to prop the Dow Jones or the New York Stock Exchange averages at a particular level,’ he continued. But times change, and so does thinking. In recent weeks, we’ve discovered that the CME group, the exchange in Chicago, has an incentive program under which foreign central banks could buy stock market derivatives like the S&P contracts at a discount. It’s not that these foreign banks need a break on the price of

their trading. But it does show that there is a backdoor way—through foreign emissaries—**FOR THE FED AND THE US GOVERNMENT TO PROP UP STOCKS** like Heller suggested, and—maybe —not get caught.”

This bombshell revelation is exactly what Elder Jacob O. Meyer saw in the stock market beginning in the 1980s, when suddenly and mysteriously someone would begin buying into the stock market when the stock market was in deep decline. The red flag of stock market manipulation has been raised countless times since then. The question remains, however, who profits from this manipulation? The Fed—which is not audited by Congressional oversight? Or government bureaucrats?

Terrorism Spreads

Following the formation of a coalition to fight against ISIS in Iraq and Syria, the terror group reacted by beheading two American and British hostages and one French hostage. They threatened retribution against these coalition countries by beheading more hostages. They also threatened the families of military personnel of the coalition nations that are fighting against ISIS, calling for “lone-wolf attacks” from their sympathizers.

Then, in Moore, Oklahoma, outside of Oklahoma City, a recent convert to Islam was disciplined by his employer because of his aggressive religious views. In a rage, he entered the office, beheading one woman, and attempting to behead a second, when he was wounded by the company’s chief executive officer, who is also an honorary sheriff’s deputy. Rather than call this terrorism, however, this heinous crime was classified as “workplace violence.”

Pride of Power Broken

Yahweh has warned us in Leviticus 26:18-20: **“And if you will not yet for these things listen to me, then I will punish you**

seven times more for your sins. And I WILL BREAK THE PRIDE OF YOUR POWER: and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as bronze; and your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruit.” Yahweh will punish us seven times more (a Sabbatical cycle) for not observing His Laws if this nation, and the other nations of the world, continue to walk contrary to Yahweh—not listening to Him. This is exactly what has happened when the Chinese economy is poised to imminently overtake the United States economy. No longer the world’s dominant economy, we have suffered this loss because of our arrogant rejection of Yahweh’s commandments.

Yahweh’s Kingdom Come

The events which are predicted to occur over the forthcoming years will usher us into a time when the Kingdom of Yahweh will take over the rulership of this world. Between now and then, however, there will be a time of worldwide trouble such as mankind has never yet experienced since the creation of this earth. Yahweh is preparing His people for that time of trouble to come.

Observing the deterioration of our modern world, many people have turned in the direction of diligently studying their Bibles. In order to be granted entrance into the Kingdom of Yahweh, we must begin to follow after the spiritual way of life, no longer allowing ourselves to be dragged down by the carnal pursuits with which the people of this age amuse themselves.

Are you prepared for the glorious Kingdom of Yahweh, when there will be no more sorrow or grief, no more suffering and pain. Have you turned your back on the world and begun serving Almighty Yahweh? Why not begin to do so now, while there is still time remaining? Tomorrow may be too late!

✠

The Eleventh Hour of Life

How Do We Spend It?

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

The days and years seem to fly rapidly by. It appears that, as one becomes older, this truism becomes ever more pronounced. How swiftly the minutes, hours, days, months, and years disappear! Where do they go?

The moment that perhaps had the most impact on my life was when I passed the 35-year milestone of my life. It was a time of special introspection and evaluation, since the Scriptures give the promise of living only 70 years (80, or even more, if good health is enjoyed). See Psalm 90:10. I came to realize that half of my life was over. Where had it gone? The remaining half of my life would undoubtedly rush by more rapidly than had the first half. There is no stopping the river of time.

Questions that came with breathtaking impact were: What have I done with half of my life? Have I been working hard enough for our Heavenly Father? Could more be

done to proclaim His Truth? Has time been wasted on inessentials? Have I been concerned enough about my health so that, if Yahshua delays His coming, I can be of continued service for the Most High?

All of these questions demanded an answer and were instrumental in reorienting goals and directions in his life.

Most people today want instant gratification. At the moment of temptation, their usual attitude is one of not caring about the consequences. When someone is engaged in immorality, for example, and his sin is pointed out to him, he usually justifies his actions by saying, "I don't care what happens in a hereafter, if there even is a hereafter. I'm living for the moment. The present is all I'm interested in. I don't care if I'm denied everlasting life."

But as such people advance toward the twilight of life, their thinking begins to change. As the moment of death approaches, they develop a different attitude. Whether this could be called repentance, and whether it is genuine or not, only Yahweh knows.

Some people endeavor to appease the Almighty, who holds the judgment of their lives in His hands. Suddenly, consideration of life in the hereafter becomes important. Eternity is something they wish to spend in life rather than death. Trying to make amends to the Almighty for having disobeyed Him for so long, some begin doing different things they hope will please Him.

What is your attitude as you read

each issue of **The Sacred Name Broadcaster**? Do you simply shrug off the convicting herald of warning that is contained therein, or do you allow it to penetrate your mind and heart? Do you allow the Bible message to correct and change you? Do you desire to become obedient to what you read?

The message of the Bible is not merely for someone who is elderly and conscience-stricken about his past. The Bible was meant also for the young person who needs direction in making the important decisions of his life.

King Solomon of ancient Israel had lived on both sides. He knew what it meant to be obedient and to receive direct communication (this happened twice) from the Most High. But later in his life, he somehow rejected faithful obedience to our Heavenly Father. He even went so far as to worship in the pagan temples he had allowed his wives to erect in the environs of Jerusalem. It is possible that he justified his actions with some kind of theological exegetics. But engaging in idolatry is a sin and an abomination to our Heavenly Father.

At the end of his life, Solomon realized he had made a serious mistake. The book of Ecclesiastes makes this very plain. He urges his readers to **"Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come, and the years draw near, when you shall say, I have no pleasure in them...."** (Ecclesiastes 12:1). Notice later in this passage (verses 2-8) the allusion

If you had to be accountable before the judgment seat of Yahshua the Messiah right now, would your actions be the same as they are now?

to the body growing old. Solomon indicates that it is better to serve the Almighty and remember Him in our youth, when a good spiritual foundation supporting our lives can be constructed, than to depend upon a death-bed conversion with a genuineness that could be suspect.

Solomon had already alluded in chapter 8 to the desirability of living righteously all the days of our lives. He said in verses 11-14 of the chapter: ***“Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and prolongs his days, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear Elohim, that fear before him: but it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he fears not before Elohim. There is a vanity which is done upon the earth, that there are righteous men to whom it happens according to the work of the wicked; again, there are wicked men to whom it happens according to the work of the righteous: I said that this also is vanity.”***

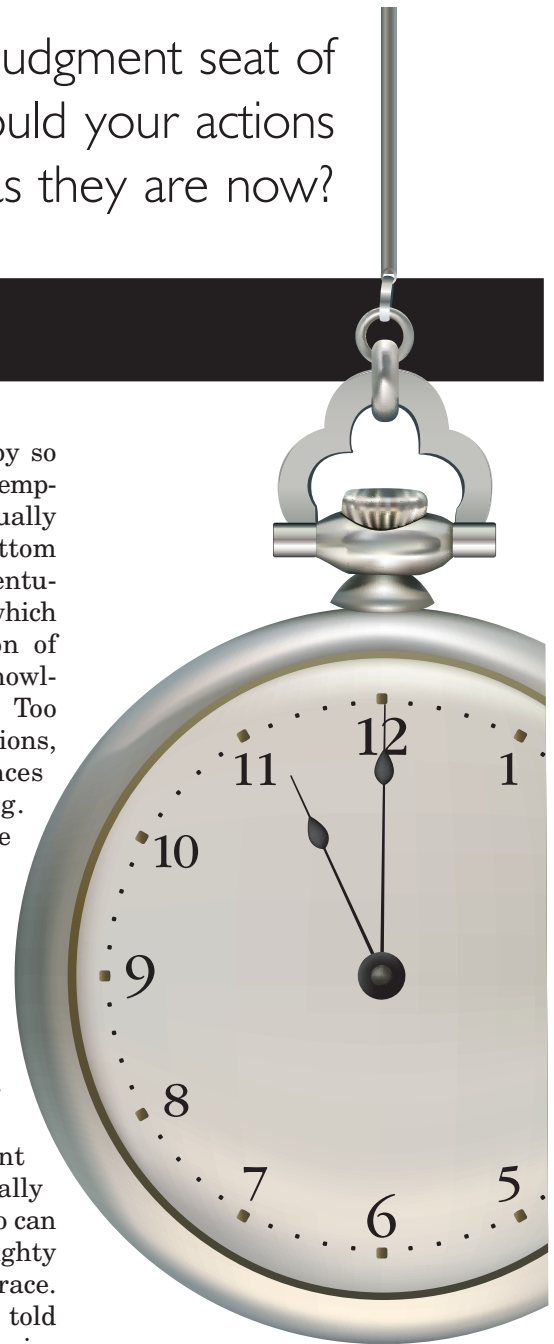
Truly, it shall not be well with the wicked person, nor will he prolong his days; but the one who fears Almighty Yahweh will surely be blessed. Although some wicked people appear to prosper and some righteous ones have problems and difficulties, there is ultimate justice with Yahweh.

The fact that is forgotten by so many people at the moment of temptation is that there will eventually be a final reckoning—the bottom line, to use the vernacular. Eventually, there will be a judgment, which means a careful examination of what we have done with the knowledge placed at our disposal. Too many people justify their actions, trying to ease their consciences when they are doing wrong. They may even use Scripture to support their misconduct. But, in the final analysis, it is the respect that we have for the Word of Yahweh and His Truth—viewing it in a straightforward manner—that means the difference between either our eternal life, or our eternal death.

Although there is judgment now when people sin, it is usually postponed by the Almighty, who can truly be characterized as a Mighty One of lovingkindness and grace. Almighty Yahweh has plainly told His people that He does not desire the death of the wicked, but, rather, that they turn from their evil way and live (Ezekiel 18:23). He says in verses 30-32: ***“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.”

The Holy Spirit is convicting people in the world today. Perhaps it is convicting you. It is changing lives so that True Worshipers are coming out of this Babylonish system in which we find ourselves. These people are sincerely seeking to serve our Heavenly Father in spirit and in Truth. They have forever committed their lives to the Most High. They seek to live faithfully by every



word proceeding from the mouth of our Heavenly Father. They are not waiting until the eleventh hour of their lives to serve their Creator.

Therefore, if you are young and presently in a moment of temptation, think carefully about what your attitude will undoubtedly be when you are at the moment of death. If you had to be accountable before the judgment seat of Yahshua the Messiah right now, would your actions be the same as they are now? Will the sin you are committing be equal in value to eternal separation from Almighty Yahweh? Why not serve Him at all times, in every moment of your life! Repent and live a life of obedience in anticipation of the Kingdom to come. Receive the blessings He has promised you for obedience to His Word. Let the blood of Messiah cleanse you from all sin, and allow His Holy Spirit to lead you in paths of righteousness. ⁴ND

Continued from page 5.

feasts, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn assemblies. And I will lay waste her vines and her fig-trees, of which she has said, These are my hire that my lovers have given me; and I will make them a forest, and the beasts of the field shall eat them. And I will visit upon her the days of the Baalim, to which she burned incense, when she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and went after her lovers, and forgot me, says Yahweh.

“Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably to her. And I will give her her vineyards from there, and

the valley of Achor for a door of hope; and she shall make answer there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt. And it shall be at that day, says Yahweh, that you shall call me Ishi, and shall call me no more Baali. For I will take away the names of the Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be mentioned by their name.” (Hosea 2:8-17).

It is imperative that we eliminate from our religious practice all things that are displeasing to Almighty Yahweh. One of those things is the observance of days that He has not commanded. Let us determine to obey Him and keep His commandments, as did Ezra and Nehemiah (Nehemiah 10:28-35). ⁴ND

**“Sanctify them
in the truth:
your word
is truth.”**

(John 17:17)

*Yahweh’s pure Word of Truth has the power to cut through distortions and put things into their proper perspective. The seventh printing of **The Sacred Scriptures, Bethel Edition**, is available for distribution.*

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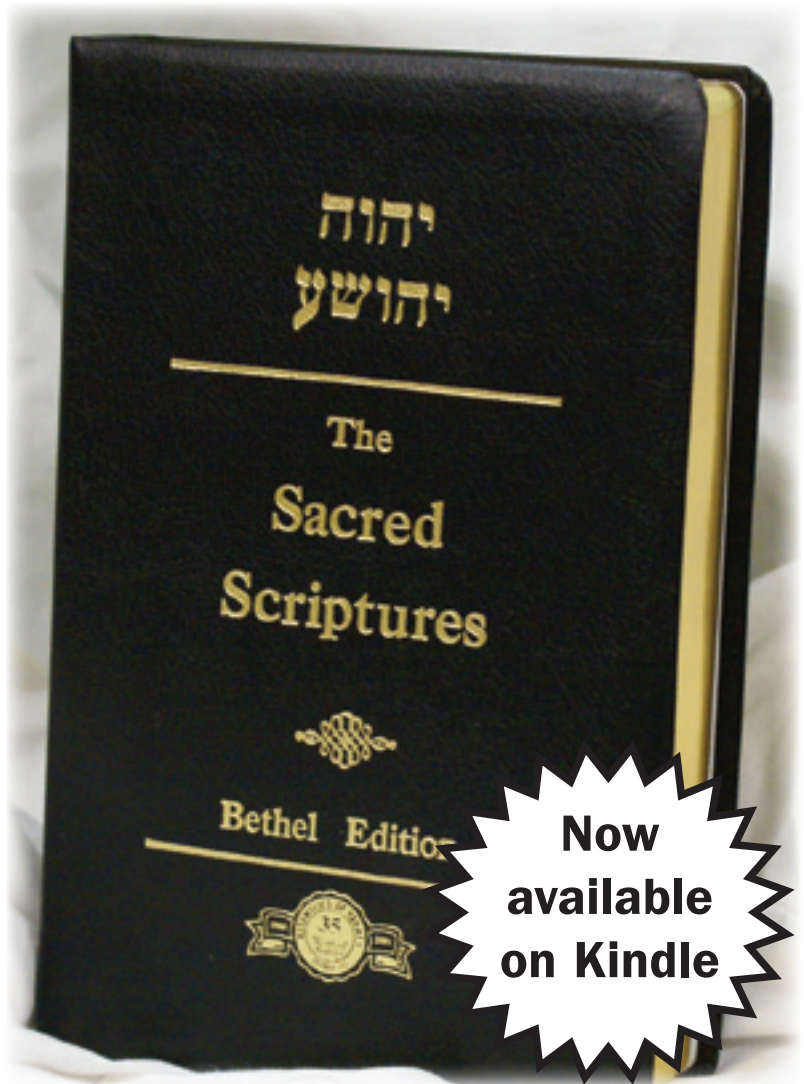
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Sitting Ducks

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

In a conversation with an incoming member of the Assemblies of Yahweh, he indicated that, since having come to know the Assemblies of Yahweh organization with its Headquarters at Bethel, Pennsylvania, he recognized that it was quite different in character compared with the way various religious organizations are presenting us. He suggested that I write an editorial in **The Sacred Name Broadcaster** magazine to counter “the 20 biggest lies” that are being told about the Assemblies of Yahweh. Over the course of time, I contemplated possibly writing such a commentary since, occasionally, individuals ask questions regarding the Assemblies of Yahweh organization that reveal their skepticism about us.

What finally prompted me to write the article was a comment that appeared in the feature section of our local Sunday newspaper recently. Here is the quote: “*All sitting presidents are sitting ducks.*” The comment comprised an observation regarding how presidents usually become the butt of the jokes of comedians.

Something similar also happened to King David! “*They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head: they that would cut me off, being my enemies wrongfully, are mighty: that which I took not away I have to restore....I have become a stranger to my*

brethren, and an alien to my mother’s children. For the zeal of your house has eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproach you have fallen upon me. When I wept, and chastened my soul with fasting, that was to my reproach. When I made sackcloth my clothing, I became a byword to them. They that sit in the gate talk of me; and I am the song of the drunkards. But as for me, my prayer is to you, O Yahweh, in an acceptable time: O Elohim, in the abundance of your lovingkindness, answer me in the truth of your salvation.” (Psalm 69:4, 8-13).

Undoubtedly, presidents are not the only individuals who suffer like sitting ducks! The leader of any group, or movement, is customarily maligned with little opportunity afforded him to counter the critical comments that are launched against him, since such personal opinions are usually voiced out of his earshot. In my youth, I was quite an idealist. I believed that when facts were proven, people would accept such proof and change their opinions accordingly. However, events of the past 40 years have altered my belief in the inherent goodness of man. It seems that when someone intends to

think badly about another person, any kind of truthful assertion will either be thrust aside, or twisted to mean something quite different. Perhaps this is one of the signs of the times. Nevertheless, it is certainly an evident and frequent occurrence. Furthermore, once an opinion is formed by people, it becomes difficult to reverse.

There have been many such trying incidents that have occurred during my ministry. Many inquirers have written in, telephoned, or personally asked questions about the doctrines being taught by the Assemblies of Yahweh. I have not hesitated to answer each one as truthfully and as forthrightly as possible, using the sacred Scriptures. Many times, however, if an individual just simply does not agree with what the Bible teaches (even though the evidence is presented therefrom), he will simply go on his way and do as he pleases. Occasionally, when someone wishes to liberalize their lifestyle, they will attack the leadership of the Assemblies of Yahweh and try to pull us down to their level. This has happened to the editor far too many times!

Without a doubt, those who are in a leadership position will always be more closely scrutinized than will an average member, or a common person in society. Essentially, it is our responsibility as leaders to live unhyprocritically, forthrightly, and to obey and practice what we

teach. We have tried very hard to do this throughout the years. Yahshua the Messiah brought an accusation against the Pharisees of His day when He defined hypocrisy as: ***“The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat: all things therefore whatever they bid you, these do and observe; but do not you after their works; for they say, and do not.”*** (Matthew 23:2-3).

Let me give you some illustrations of the falsehoods and prevarications that I have had to endure over the past decades of labor in Yahweh’s harvest field.

One individual reported to me that the assertion had been made that Elder Jacob O. Meyer is motivated by numerology. “How?” he asked. The response was that Elder Jacob O. Meyer prays exactly 12 minutes before each sermon. Consequently, since the first person did not accept such assertions without proof, he timed the prayers on some of the cassette sermon tapes for himself. After checking the length of the prayers of five or six different sermons, he verified that this accusation was simply a lie. Therefore, he responded to the second individual, but, apparently, he would not accept clear evidence, since he only intended to pick fault and criticize.

Too frequently, people today are swayed by emotion, or by falsehood, rather than motivated toward Truth after weighing the actual evidence. One of the indications proving this assertion is the turmoil surrounding the office of a prosecutor. “Let’s get the evidence, and then make a decision.” Many people have supported that approach, but scandal mongers and talk-show hosts have continually generated controversy, perhaps in fear that their shows would die without it.

Another individual came to visit us here at Bethel to verify the position of the Assemblies of Yahweh

in regard to various assertions he had been told by malicious critics. Some of the accusations had made him suspicious that they might, in fact, be untrue. One held that Elder Jacob O. Meyer would not baptize anyone into Yahshua’s Name except they would move to Bethel. This family happened to visit Bethel during an annual feast convocation, one of Yahweh’s major pilgrim feasts. As he and his family interacted with the assembled people, they soon realized that an outrageous prevarication had been launched against Elder Jacob O. Meyer. Here at Bethel, at the holy convocation, he met baptized True Worshipers from 20 states and various foreign countries. Obviously, these individuals continued to live in their own localities, but they had come to Bethel to attend Yahweh’s annual feast convocation.

An individual once told me that various detractors were insisting that Elder Jacob O. Meyer exclusively handled every aspect of the Assemblies of Yahweh services. After sitting through one service, he concluded that obviously this was a transparent prevarication, since Elder Meyer’s assistants helped him carry the load of conducting services and organizing the feast.

Frequently, we encounter people who believe that Elder Jacob O. Meyer serves as a dictator in the Assemblies of Yahweh. I cannot find where that term ever appears in the Bible, or is even implied, but my position has been one of directing the organization (similar to a superintendent, which is one of the definitions of the word *bishop*, **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible** #1984, #1985, *episkopos*). The Bible indicates that the leader of True Worship serves as a judge, which we saw previously: ***“The scribes and Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat.”*** (Matthew 23:2). Who would sit on Moses’ seat today? What was

Moses’ seat? The answer can be found in the eighteenth chapter of Exodus where Moses sat “to judge the people.” What is the responsibility of a judge? Some people might call him a dictator, but the honest, sincere, and forthright judge will be serving as an absolute authority (making decisions) **WITHIN THE LAW**. Some people do not like that when they are law breakers (sinners); therefore, they want “rule by committee” so they can play politics. Elder Jacob O. Meyer [served] as the judge and superintendent of the Assemblies of Yahweh.

For decades, various religious organizations have claimed I had been one of their members in my younger days. People have told me that the Jehovah’s Witness organization has claimed that Mrs. Meyer and I were once members of that organization. However, this is untrue. As Mrs. Meyer and I were studying the sacred Scriptures to learn True Worship, we did indeed speak to representatives of the Jehovah’s Witnesses who came to our door. Also, a number of our acquaintances were members of the sect, and we conversed with them occasionally. (As a matter of fact, one of Mrs. Meyer’s good friends in school was a member of Jehovah’s Witnesses.) However, to the best of our recollection, we only ever attended two or three of their meetings, and we certainly did not join their organization. We could not compromise the Sacred Name and the biblical titles of the great Majesty on High and His Son, our Messiah and Savior—Yahweh Elohim and Yahshua the Messiah—by using surrogate terms for their True Names. Therefore, we could not affiliate ourselves with that group.

Additionally, they were not keeping the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week, nor do they keep Yahweh’s annual holy days, which the sacred Scriptures indicate are

very necessary. If you have never seen this for yourself, why not write for our free article entitled, **The Fourth Commandment Enigma, Which Day to Keep, and Yahweh's Sacred Appointments**. Especially read the first seven verses of Isaiah chapter 56. This passage will tell you that all True Worshipers, even gentiles, must keep the Sabbath as a sign of their Covenant commitment with Yahweh. Zechariah 14:16-20 commands everyone to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Periodically, we hear that Seventh-Day Adventists also claim that Mrs. Meyer and I were once members of that group. However,

did visit Pasadena, California, and toured through the headquarters campus. While there, I spoke to a number of their ministers that held prominent positions in the organizations, but I never requested membership in the World Wide Church of God. Again, the reason is because they rejected the Sacred Name doctrine, which I know to be factual. Additionally, other doctrines were espoused by that group which I found to be in error.

An interesting incident occurred between myself and several prominent ministers of one of the Churches of God, Seventh-Day organizations. They requested me to have a discussion with them one evening,

After 15 or 20 minutes listening to an individual present their beliefs and doctrines, we can usually find the flaws in their teachings. However, you are unique, because in your teachings you are absolutely consistent from Genesis to Revelation." As I chuckled, I remarked, "Well, then. When are you ready to be baptized into the Assemblies of Yahweh?" "Not so fast," came back the response, "We are also consistent, but from a different perspective." My rejoinder was, "How can you be consistent, and I be consistent, and we are not together?" The answer was that "...the scriptural passages that you believe must be interpreted

Too frequently, people today are swayed by emotion, or by falsehood, rather than motivated toward Truth after weighing the actual evidence.

again we must present the truth. To the best of our recollection, we only ever attended two or three Seventh-Day Adventists services but never joined the organization. We could not compromise our conscience and neglect to worship in the Sacred Name and use it exclusively, nor give up Yahweh's feast days. Furthermore, we could not prove that Ellen G. White was a true prophet, as many of their members believe.

The Seventh Day Church of God and the World Wide Church of God of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong have also claimed that we were once members. One of these groups, as a matter of fact, claimed that I had been rejected for baptism because of my rigid stand on the Sacred Name doctrine. The truth of the matter is that I never requested baptism of them at any time. I

which I did attend. During the course of our conversation, they indicated they would like to ordain me as one of their ministers. I could use the Sacred Name, but not exclusively, they said. I could even mention the Name of Yahshua, but could not use it exclusively. My response was, "That is out of the question!" That seemed to end the discussion, and it was my last interaction with any leaders of that group.

In 1984, I was invited to attend a conference with the leadership of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Tacoma Park, Maryland. Three of my assistants accompanied me. After presenting Assemblies of Yahweh doctrines for somewhat over an hour, the leadership of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church sat there in silence. One of them remarked, "You are certainly unique.

literally are to our concept only conditional." "Give me an example," I urged. "Zechariah 14:16-20," was the response. "You keep the Feast of Tabernacles, but that is only conditional for this era," they insisted. I questioned, "How can that be conditional when there is no term *if* to be found in that passage." Of course, they could not respond and an uneasy silence ensued. (They never did join the Assemblies of Yahweh, which I greatly regret.)

Sometimes we get questions concerning the prophetic nature of the Assemblies of Asia, mentioned in Revelation 2 and 3. Some groups declare that each one of those Assemblies are Yahshua's True Assemblies, and therefore, even though the Assemblies of Yahweh may claim that we are striving to be Philadelphia, that they also have a part in the True Assembly.

Some groups even claim they are Laodicea, seeking to point out that this one is the last Assembly prophetic period before the Second Coming of Yahshua. (I certainly would not desire to be a part of Laodicea, because those individuals are lukewarm and will certainly be rejected by Yahshua the Messiah unless they repent. If Laodicea does indeed repent, they cannot remain Laodiceans—then where do they go? Obviously, Philadelphia!)

Recently, I preached a sermon that will counter the assertion that there is more than one True Assembly. The seven-branched lampstand (the menorah of Tabernacle and Temple times) symbolizes the seven Assemblies of Revelation 2 and 3. (See Revelation 1:20.) However, when the Bible student restudies the Old Testament description of the menorah, he (or she) will

notice that there is only one True Assembly. That Assembly, the one that receives commendation would constitute the center stem of the menorah. The seven-branched lampstand is usually depicted with the center stem slightly elevated above the others, and the Scriptures instruct that the lamps are to be turned so they will be shining toward the front of the menorah. Consequently, the side branches will be lighting the way for the people seeking Truth to go to Philadelphia! If you have never considered some of these facts, perhaps you should.

While, indeed, the leader of True Worship has been frequently maligned behind his back—and called a cultist to his face—the fact of the matter is that we can certainly prove that the Assemblies of Yahweh today is the only

religious organization preaching Yahweh's pure doctrinal Truth, and practicing it. People do what they want to do. If they determine to follow the teachings of the sacred Scriptures, they will do so and find their way into the Assemblies of Yahweh organization. If they intend to be independent, or liberal, they will find a way to remain outside of True Worship and stay lukewarm, even if it means justifying themselves with false and malicious criticism.

What will be your decision? If you have in the past been swayed by gossip or falsehood to remain outside the Assemblies of Yahweh, why not ask us for the truth? We have nothing to hide! Perhaps you will even wish to join with the Assemblies of Yahweh in True Worship! We hope so!

5ND

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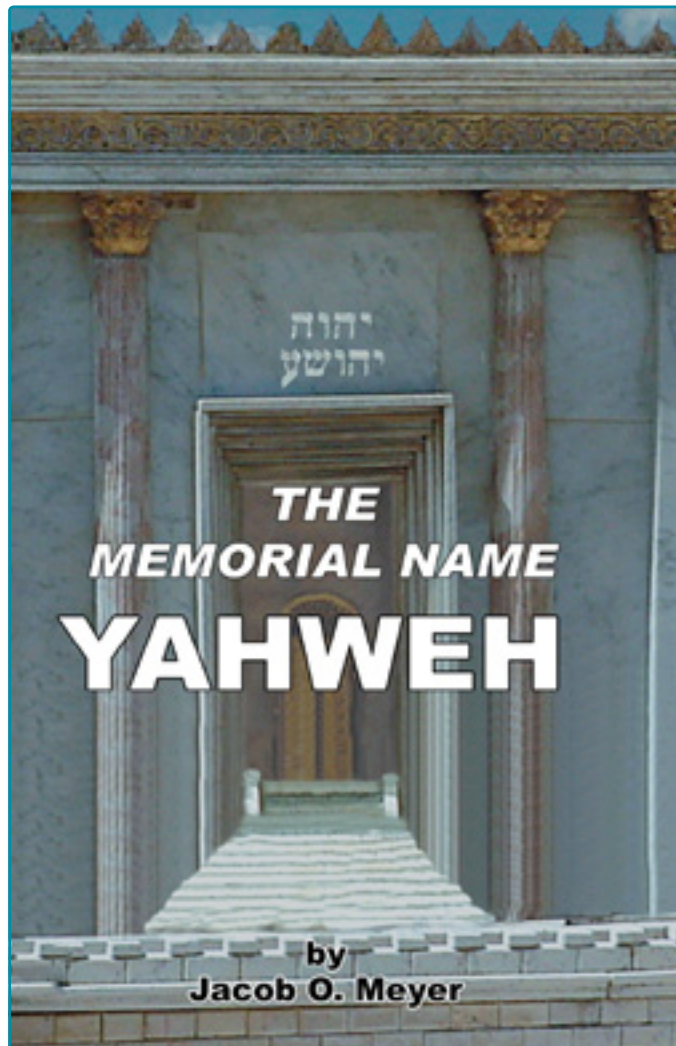
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