



THE  
SACRED NAME  
BROADCASTER

11/2013



# THE SACRED NAME BROADCASTER

An *Assemblies of Yahweh* publication.  
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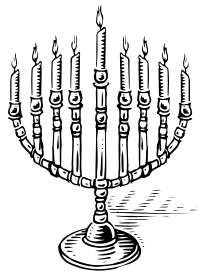
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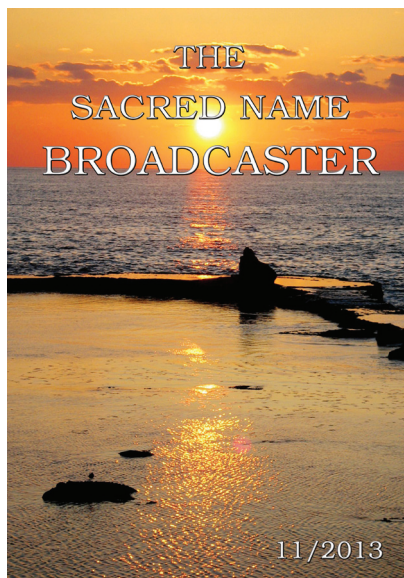
*Those who have repented and have been baptized into the Name of Yahshua by one of Yahweh's ministers and have received the down payment of the Holy Spirit have not been born again. They have been begotten anew to walk in newness of life.*

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



11/2013

## Our Cover:

The Mediterranean shoreline of Israel is a reminder of the promise that Yahweh made to Abraham in Genesis 22.

Yahweh promised that He would multiply the seed of Abraham "as the sand of the seashore...because you have obeyed my voice." Genesis 22:17-18.

Through Yahshua the Messiah we can receive this blessing. "There can be neither Jew nor Greek, there can be neither bond nor free, there can be no male and female; for you are all one in the Messiah Yahshua. And if you are the Messiah's, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:28-29.

# Why Has Worldly Religion

# Sanctified a Pagan Holiday?



*When the Bible student can clearly prove from the inspired sacred Scriptures that the observance of December 25 as the Messiah's birthday is totally impossible, why does the world continue to keep it?*

By Elder Jacob O. Meyer

Every time we discuss the winter holidays with anyone who acknowledges their interest in Truth, we immediately tell them that the Messiah's birthday could not have been on December 25. Many of the people freely acknowledge that we are treating the Scriptures with great accuracy, just as we do with all Assemblies of Yahweh doctrines. We strive to be most meticulous with our interpretation of the sacred Scriptures.

The author was once able to present this scriptural exegetical interpretation to a Bible study group affiliated with a well-known denomination in our area. Sitting in the group was the pastor of the church. Indeed he revealed his skepticism when, at the end of my discussion, he remarked, "Well, we simply don't see things this way." The author had introduced his presentation with Daniel 12:4, insisting that knowledge had been increased in practically every field

of human endeavor and reason over the past century, but religion continued to maintain their status quo of spiritual blindness acquired in medieval times.

You may ask how we can prove that the Messiah was not born on December 25. The evidence concerning this conclusion forthrightly appears in Luke chapters 1 and 2. Zachariah, the husband of Elizabeth, was a member of the priestly course of Abijah. Customarily, few people ever take the time, or have the interest, in defining these terms. The interested Bible student can easily scan 1 Chronicles chapter 24 and learn much about the assignments of service for the priestly responsibilities in the Tabernacle and Temple. You can also prove when Yahshua was really born by using these courses of service. The annunciation of impending parenthood and the birth of their son Yahanan (John) was made during Zachariah's order of service in his course. The course

of Abijah meant that he belonged to the eighth priestly course. Beginning to serve, course after course, following the annual holy days; each course served for one week. Therefore, the first service of the year of the course of Abijah occurred just after the observance of the feast of Pentecost (*Shavuoth* in Hebrew). By perusing an Assemblies of Yahweh calendar which notes the annual holidays, the interested individual can easily begin to count the time. Zechariah completed his service on the weekly Sabbath, then it took him another several days to return to his home which was located in the hill country of Judah. See Luke 1:39. Thereafter, Elizabeth, his wife, became pregnant.

Now, count off six months and the scriptural account continues with the angel Gabriel being sent to Nazareth to announce to the virgin Miriam that she was blessed to bear the Messiah. This occurred in the month which the world commonly



calls December.

The author, along with his family, once visited an elderly lady who had been a Catholic, but had become genuinely interested in the Assemblies of Yahweh ministry. As Mrs. Meyer and I sat at her dining room table studying the sacred Scriptures, I explained that the Messiah's birth could not have been on December 25. I took her calendar and superimposed upon it Yahweh's annual holidays for that year. The study, as it will, revealed that the Messiah was actually conceived in early December. The date of His conception, as we were plotting it on the calendar, fell on the Catholic feast of the Immaculate Conception. This lady became quite agitated and horror stricken. How could the Messiah be conceived and then born two weeks after His conception? This would be impossible, she realized. I injected that some of the Catholic authorities specify the "immaculate conception" as being that of the virgin Miriam, but there is no indication anywhere in the sacred Scriptures that this is possible. However, as you continue counting from the date specified in Luke chapter 1, specifying the Messiah's conception, you will end with Yahweh's Feast of Tabernacles in the seventh scriptural month the following fall.

Sometimes it appears as though people wish to identify the sixth month in Luke 1:26 to be the sixth month of the year. However, the

sacred Scriptures plainly tells us in verse 24 that Elizabeth hid herself five months, and then, in the SIXTH MONTH, the angel Gabriel made the annunciation to Miriam. Then, we clearly read in verse 36, "*...she also has conceived a son in her old age; and this is the sixth month with her that was called barren.*" Context, therefore, eliminates the identification of the sixth month as the sixth month of the year and demands that we understand it as the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy.

Occasionally, people ask, "Could we not start with John the Baptist's conception in wintertime and go from that source?" Actually, such an interpretation is also prohibited when we consider John 1:14. "*And the Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us (and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth.*"

Consequently, it is clearly proven from the Bible, without any question at all, that the Messiah was not born on December 25, but, rather, His conception took place around the beginning of December (the Hebrew month—Chisleu). Why was December 25 selected anyway to be the date for the Messiah's birth? From the Babylonian mysteries and other pagan religions comes the observance of the winter solstice as the birthday of the new son (make that SUN!). For example, in Semitic languages, the word *yald* means a child. The term *yule*, dropping the

*daleth* (Semitic letter "d") means *child's day*. When the yule log is burned by various cultures to this very day, they are symbolically burning the old year, burning the old solar being, and getting prepared to install the child, or the new year, *sol invictus* (the unconquerable sun).

Ancient pagan religions glorified nature worship. Even to this day, some ethnic peoples are still motivated by the worship of nature. The pagan people could readily view the sun moving away from them and the temperatures becoming colder, while the weather became more threatening in the fall and winter. The days became increasingly shorter as the sun set earlier while it traveled toward the southern hemisphere. Then, suddenly they noticed that the sun stood still in its southward departure. After several days, they could notice that the day had now become several minutes longer as the sun continued to move north day by day. Therefore, a wild celebration took place during which they praised the Almighty for the birth of the new son (actually identified with "SUN").

From the Babylonian mystery religions, we learn that Nimrod, the great-grandson of Noah, had become very wicked. Nimrod was leading people away from Yahweh





doctrinally. His great-uncle, Shem, the brother of his grandfather, Ham, finally brought him to justice and had him executed for apostasy from the true Faith.

However, in the meantime, his wife, Semiramis, had become pregnant. She began to spread the rumor that Nimrod had been reincarnated as the child in her womb. When her child was born at the winter solstice, she named him Tammuz and presented him as a reincarnation of her husband, Nimrod. Thereafter, some of the legend becomes confused, and there is a question: Was Nimrod the child of his wife, who was his mother, or was Nimrod married to Semiramis, who was his mother when she gave birth to Tammuz? Similar confusion of persons can be detected today in the Christian religion.

In the Babylonian religion, the death of Nimrod was depicted as a tree cut down. Around the dead stump curls the serpent of Aesculapius, the ancient physician mighty one. Next to the portrayal of the dead tree stump sprouts a new little evergreen tree, which symbolized the birth of the new son, or Tammuz. The new son could readily be portrayed by the new solar year at the winter solstice. Therefore, the burning of the yule log each year depicts the dead Nimrod, and the so-called Christmas tree depicts the birth of Tammuz, his new son (sun).

The setting up of a Christmas tree has actually been strictly prohibited by the sacred Scriptures. In Ezekiel chapter 20 we find, ***“For when I had brought them into the land, which I swore to give to them, then they saw every high hill, and every thick tree, and they offered there their sacrifices, and there they presented the provocation of their offering; there also they made their sweet savor, and they poured out there their drink-offerings.... And when you offer your gifts, when you make your sons to pass through the fire, do you pollute yourselves with all your idols to this day?”***

***And shall I be inquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live, says the Sovereign Yahweh, I will not be inquired of by you; and that which comes into your mind shall not be at all, in that you say, We will be as the nations, as the families of the countries, to serve wood and stone,”*** (Ezekiel 20:28, 31-32).

Why does Christianity seemingly worship Christmas trees every year at the winter solstice? All of this tradition comes directly from paganism. There is no Scripture to encourage, or, for that matter, command, that an evergreen tree be brought into a house dedicated to worship and be set up.

Furthermore, many churches, pastors, and lay members place round Christmas wreaths on their front door every year. Why are these wreaths round? The answer is because they depict the solar disc, the sun beginning its new journey northward, the beginning of a new year, and they portray the revival, or rebirth, of the unconquerable sun.

Jeremiah the prophet clearly describes modern-day Christmas trees in Jeremiah 10:2-5. ***“Thus says Yahweh, Learn not the way of the nations, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the nations are dismayed at them. For the customs of the peoples are vanity; for one cuts a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it moves not. They are like a palm tree, of turned work, and speak not: they must necessarily be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good.”***



Historically, the Christmas tree popularity in our modern time is said to trace to the time when Queen Victoria married Prince Albert of Germany. Albert was said to have brought with him the tradition of a Christmas tree, which was then adopted by English culture and religion. Thereafter, historians note that the custom was transferred to the United States of America. This would make the Christmas tree fad only about 150 years old. However, we must remind the reader that both

ancient Babylonian and Egyptian religion incorporated the worship of trees at the winter solstice.

While we are discussing vegetation, we should also remember that the mistletoe, to which so many people take delight at Christmas time, is a parasitic plant. It is poisonous if eaten, as are poinsettias, the red flower of the winter holiday season. It was the Druids who taught the acceptance of the mistletoe and perpetuated many of its traditions today, for example, kissing under the mistletoe.

The Roman soldiers, the army of Imperial Rome, had a great deal to do with circulating these customs throughout the known world. The popular religion of the Roman armies was the religion of Mithra. The term *Mithra*, as seen through Semitic philology, might mean *death of the ruler*, and that is what Mithra depicted. The mighty one would sit astride a bull and thrust a knife into his neck severing the jugular vein. From the flowing blood of the bull, the fertility for the crops in the following year could be derived. Mithra worship also depicted many

traditional relationships to the worship of the sun.

The Chr-stmas observance surely presents the thinking Bible student with a paradox when we find so many doctrinal relationships between Chr-stianity and the ancient pagan worship of the sun. For example, Yahweh declares His day of rest and worship to be the seventh-day Sabbath, commonly called Saturday, but Chr-stianity has transferred the sanctity of this holy day to the first day of the week, Sunday. Chr-stianity claims that the Messiah was born at the winter solstice, when, in fact, he was born at the Feast of Tabernacles (and circumcised on the eighth day of that holy season). (You can get some very strange looks from friends and

The Saturnalia was a time of great feasting and abandon. People took precautions to bathe before the festivities began in the morning, so they could spend the entire day eating and drinking. Slaves were given liberty during that time and were often served by their masters at the feast. Public affairs were generally suspended. Courts did not sit, schools were closed, commercial and all military activity were suspended. At the Saturnalia, among the dishes most prominently served for breakfast and supper was boar's head, stuck with rosemary and an apple or orange in its mouth, accompanied by plum porridge and minced pies. All of these traditions were intended to honor a pagan mighty one.

only later that December 25 became prominent as a holiday, sanctioned by the government and religion here in the United States.

The great-grandmother of the author used to explain that when she was young, people did not observe Chr-stmas as the traditions later developed. She clearly said that the schools remained open during Chr-stmas week.

When we can prove all of these facts from the Bible and history, why do people continue to observe what is clearly a pagan holiday and contrary to the teachings of the sacred Scriptures? Using these traditions as a springboard toward a spirit that is not the Holy Spirit of Yahweh, the observance of this holiday, although

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relatives when you tell them, “We remembered the Messiah’s birth during the Feast of Tabernacles.”) With the death of the Messiah on Passover day as prescribed in the sacred Scriptures, ch-rchianity has transferred the worship of that time to the resurrection day, which they specify to have been on a Sunday. In fact, there are no seventy-two hours possible between Friday afternoon and Sunday morning, although Yahshua the Messiah declared this to be the only sign of His Messiahship. See Matthew 12:40. You can notice how so many of the practices of ch-rchianity revolve around days on which the ancient people worshiped the sun.

So many of the Chr-stmas traditions that are observed today are derived from the ancient Roman observance of the Saturnalia. Saturnalia was observed around the time of the winter solstice each year.

Why was December 25 selected as the birthday of the Messiah when so many authorities acknowledge that He was not born at that time? It was the historian Julius Sextus Africanus, a historian of Alexandria, Egypt, who composed a chronicle of events of the world to 221 C. E. Therefore, it took historians two and a quarter centuries after the Messiah’s birth, actually to decide that His birth date was at the winter solstice, December 25.

Yet, many of the fundamentalist Bible students continue to reject December 25 as the Messiah’s birthday. Furthermore, the Pilgrim fathers went so far as to declare that the Messiah’s birthday should not be observed like that of a Roman emperor. In the book, **History of the Plymouth Plantation**, the Pilgrim fathers are reported to have worked on December 25 as just another day of labor during the week. It was

pagan in origin, is hyped with materialism and merchandising. It is obvious that most people get their Chr-stmas spirit from a bottle! That spirit causes much grief and many heartaches each year.

Why not make the decision this year to drop out of the system? Worship Almighty Yahweh, obey His holy days, reject the worldly holidays that have no meaning where your salvation is concerned. Rely upon the promises of Almighty Yahweh to save you through His only begotten Son, Yahshua the Messiah, who was born at the Feast of Tabernacles and circumcised on the eighth day. Receive His Holy Spirit, which comes from obedience to His Word (Acts 5:32). Join the remnant Assembly of the Messiah that keeps the commandments of Yahweh and has the Faith of Yahshua the Messiah (Revelation 12:14 and 14:12). SNB

# Questions to Bethel



**Q.** *Where should one go today to observe Yahweh's feast days? Where on this earth today has Yahweh placed His Name? ~Virginia*

**A.** The Assemblies of Yahweh members gather three times each year for the three pilgrim feasts in obedience to the command in Leviticus 23. Complete information is available for anyone desiring to attend Yahweh's holy 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 spiritual Temple, wherever two or three of us gather together in His Name, His Name is there—and that means He is there with us (Matthew 18:20).

This is supported by the words of Yahshua the Messiah, *"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 worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit*

*and truth: for such does the Father seek to be his worshipers. Yahweh is Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth,"* (John 4:20-24).

Just as when Israel, while in the wilderness, worshiped Almighty Yahweh at the Tabernacle, which was moveable, during the journey from Egypt to the Promised Land, the Assemblies of Yahweh leadership selects the site to which all Israel is called for the united worship of Yahweh. Additionally, at all times, the membership recognizes the Headquarters at Bethel, because at all times His Name is here!

**Q.** *Didn't the law of tithing pertain only to Levites? What makes you think it is still applicable today? ~California*

**A.** Consider carefully the passage of 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 the Law of Yahweh, we come to Leviticus 27:30-33, which is the tithing Law. *"And all the tithe of the land whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is Yahweh's: it is holy to Yahweh. And if a man*

*will redeem any of his tithe, he shall add to it the fifth part of it. And all the tithe of the herd or the flock whatever passes under the rod, the tenth shall be holy to Yahweh. He shall not search whether it is good or bad, neither shall he change it: and that for which it is changed shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed."*

The Levites received the tithes in the era of sacrifices. See Numbers 18. Before that, Melchizedek was the priest of Yahweh. See Genesis 14:18-20. After the sacrifices ended, the Levites were set aside, and the Melchizedek priesthood was restored. See Malachi 2:9 and

Hebrews 6:18-7:28. Yahshua the Messiah is the Great Melchizedek High Priest today, and His Body functions under His leadership. The Laws of both the Melchizedek and Levitical priesthood are virtually the same, except for the line of succession. The Levitical succession was through parentage (genealogy); the people of the Melchizedek priesthood are succeeded through Yahshua's personal selection.

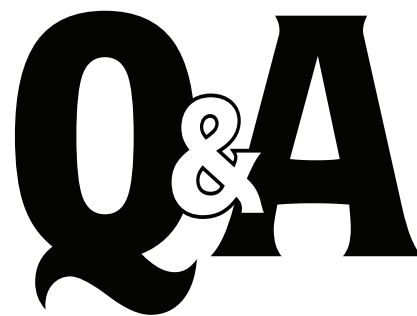
During the Kingdom Age, the Levitical priesthood will be restored to function as Melchizedek priests under the King Yahshua. See Ezekiel 44:15-31.



**Q.** *I notice the use of the words YAHWEH NISSI on some of the car bumpers of the Assemblies of Yahweh members. Would you explain what Nissi means, and how do you pronounce it? Where in the Scriptures is the term used? ~Arkansas*

**A.** The term appears in Exodus 17:15, which reads, “*And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Yahweh-nissi....*” The Companion Bible states that this term means *Yahweh [is] my banner* and comprises one of Yahweh’s titles. The Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible confirms this definition. The

pronunciation suggested by the Strong’s Concordance 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 or banner)*. Yahweh has promised to engage in war against Israel’s enemies for all generations, under His title connected to His Name—Yahweh Nissi. We faithfully trust in this promise.



**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, this organization was founded to confront the confusion and false doctrines that were found throughout the nominal Sacred Name Movement. Even among those people who espoused the necessity of using the Sacred Names, there was very little evident doctrinal unity, very little agreement on even the basic doctrines of the Bible. Yet, the True Worshipers must be unified (Ephesians 4:3, 13; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Romans 12:5; etc.). Therefore, to promote effective unity and progress, it was necessary to form an organization that teaches and enforces true doctrines. We had to come out of organizations that are not in sound doctrine, even though they may indeed occasionally use the Sacred Name.

An organization needs a name

for identification, and it is most important, of course, to select a name with a scriptural basis. There are several possible names found in the sacred Scriptures that we could have used. We have selected the name (we believe) that 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 International Headquarters for the various scattered Assemblies and individuals who join this effort is registered in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Service mark registrations have been retained in other states, as well as many foreign countries.

The Assemblies of Yahweh Headquarters does not presume to represent all who use, or even all who teach the exclusive use of Yahweh’s Name, nor do we interfere with their worship. It is the

Headquarters for those who have VOLUNTARILY JOINED THIS ORGANIZATION, since they have proven that here is the place where the whole counsel of Yahweh’s Word is being taught at the end of the age. We are striving diligently to qualify as 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 are striving for the perfection required to meet Yahshua the Messiah in the air when He returns. We clearly recognize that we cannot remain in organizations that do not try to fulfill Yahweh’s Covenant as perfectly as possible. “*And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come forth, my people, out of her, that you have no fellowship with her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues,*” (Revelation 18:4).

**Q.** *Why do the men of the Assemblies of Yahweh all wear beards? ~Maryland*

**A.** The command for men to wear beards is found in Leviticus 19:27 and 21:5. These two verses clearly show that a man should not be clean shaven. They also indicate that men should not trim their beards.

Even in mourning, one is not allowed to trim, or shave, his beard. See Leviticus 19:27-28 in context; also review Leviticus 21:5 in context.

Some of the other passages that confirm that men who worship our Heavenly Father should wear beards are Ezra 9:3, Ezekiel 5:1, and Psalm

133:2. See also Jeremiah 9:27 in the more modern translations (**Revised Standard Version**, for example).

Therefore, the men of the Assemblies of Yahweh wear beards in order to conform to the biblical commandments.



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# QUESTIONS TO BETHEL

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**Q.** *How does one receive the Holy Spirit? ~Pennsylvania*

**A.** The Holy Spirit is given to those who are obedient to Yahweh's Word, as we find in Acts 5:32. ***"And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, which Yahweh has given to them that obey him."*** Paul asked in 2 Corinthians 6:14, ***"Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers: for what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity? Or what communion has light with darkness?"*** We are the temple of Yahweh, and His Spirit cannot dwell in that temple unless it is cleansed and sanctified to receive the Holy Spirit of Yahweh and Yahshua from On High. The Messiah predicated the conferment of the Holy Spirit upon seeing the fruit of righteousness and obedience of the recipient person, as we can understand from John 14:14-17. ***"If you shall ask anything in my name, that will I do. If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that it may be with you forever; even***

***the Spirit of truth: that the world cannot receive; for it beholds it not, neither knows it: you know it; for it remains with you, and shall be in you."***

But, first, one must qualify by being baptized into the Name of Yahshua the Messiah. No other name will do! ***"And in none other is there salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, in which we must be saved,"*** (Acts 4:12). ***"And Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Yahshua the Messiah to the remission of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For to you is the promise, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as Yahweh our Elohim shall call to him."***

Throughout the inspired Word, a consistent explanation appears proving that Yahweh's Holy Spirit is His Word producing a supernatural force, a spiritual quality, a dynamic life given by Yahweh to make us like

Him, like the spiritual Elohim family, and less carnal in our natures and attitudes. See John 6:63.

We find that this power is conferred by the laying on of hands, by a qualified elder. In Acts 8:14-21, the Apostles were called from Jerusalem to Samaria by Philip to lay hands on those who had been baptized so that they could receive the Holy Spirit.

When Simon Magus was baptized, he also desired this gift. Upon asking the Apostles if he could buy this awesome gift of the Holy Spirit with money, he was straightforwardly informed that he could not receive this priceless blessing, because his heart was ***"not right before Yahweh."*** (Acts 8:21).

After immersion, each qualified and cleansed new member has hands laid upon him by the elders who are present. They pray to Almighty Yahweh in Yahshua's Name that he may receive the Holy Spirit and mature into a viable member who becomes a credit to Yahweh's Assembly.

**Q.** *Do you have any information on those writings known as "the lost books of the Bible?" ~Iowa*

**A.** Over the centuries, there have been many writings that a few modern Bible students have asserted should have been included in the book that we call the Bible. However, it must be noted, first of all, that there is absolutely no evidence that any of these letters, essays, and other documents were ever considered as inspired at the time of their writing.

There are many questions concerning the authenticity and authorship of the writings known

as "the lost books of the Bible." Most of these documents came into existence in the years following the writings of the Apostles and other New Testament authors. However, there is no evidence that they were considered as inspired by their contemporaries, or by the generation that lived immediately after they were written.

Additionally, these documents frequently contain statements which are not in harmony with the sound doctrines and with the sacred Scriptures themselves. Since the

Assemblies of Yahweh accepts the fact that the Bible represents the Word of Yahweh, we look to that Word for our guidance. Whenever a document differs doctrinally from the Bible, it must be rejected as not being inspired by Almighty Yahweh if we accept the fact that He changes not (Malachi 3:6).

These so-called lost books of the Bible fail many necessary tests of authenticity and are rejected by responsible Bible scholars as having little validity except, in some cases, for historical purposes.

# Hanukkah

**Q.** **Should we observe Hanukkah as the Jews do today?** *-A reader from Florida*

**A.** The term Hanukkah means dedication and is mentioned in the New Testament in John 10:22. The date of the occasion represents the time when the Maccabees regained control of the Temple in Jerusalem from the pollution introduced by Antiochus Epiphanes. The Temple was thereafter rededicated to the worship of Almighty Yahweh. Although the Feast of Dedication is not mentioned in Leviticus 23 as a commanded convocation, the Assemblies of Yahweh each year remembers the occasion. However, we do not celebrate Hanukkah as a substitute for Christmas as the Jews do. We do remember the Feast of Tabernacles during that time, as we light the lamps each night.

The Feast of Hanukkah (the feast of lights) is said to relate to the inter-testamental era of Judah Maccabeus. It was his valiant effort as a freedom fighter and guerrilla commander of the Jewish resistance forces that succeeded in driving out the Syrian army during the reign of the pagan Antiochus Epiphanes. After Antiochus initiated the apex of insults against the Temple worship in an effort to stamp out the Israelite Faith by sacrificing a young sow on the altar and erecting a statue of himself in the Temple, the Maccabees fought to drive out the pagan army and cleanse the Temple for the restoration of pure worship. After three years, the Jews were once

again in control of Jerusalem and the Temple was cleansed. During the eight days of cleansing, tradition says that a small flask of oil (the only one available) maintained the menorah light.

The account of this period in the history of the Jews can be found in the apocryphal books of Maccabees. The following quotes will give you some idea of the gravity of the situation they faced.

## 2 MACCABEES 6:1-11

*“Not long after, the king sent an old Athenian to force the Jews to forsake the laws of their forefathers and cease to live ac-*

*ording to the laws of Yahweh, but to pollute the temple in Jerusalem and to call it that of the OLYMPIAN ZEUS, and to call the one in Gerizim that of ZEUS the Hospitable, in keeping with the character of those who lived there. This harshly and most grievously intensified the evil. For the heathen filled the temple with profligacy and revelry, amusing themselves with prostitutes and lying with women within the sacred precincts, and bringing into it things that were forbidden. The altar was covered with abominable offerings, which the laws forbade. A man could not keep the sabbath or celebrate*



*the festivals of his forefathers, or admit he was a Jew at all. On the monthly celebration of the king's birthday, they were taken by bitter necessity to taste the sacrifices, and when the festival of Dionysus was celebrated, they were compelled to wear wreaths of ivy and march in procession in his honor. At Ptolemy's suggestion a decree was issued to the neighboring Greek towns, that they should adopt the same policy toward the Jews and make them taste the sacrifices, and that they should slay any who would not agree to adopt Greek customs. So anyone could see how their misery was intensified. For two women were brought in for circumcising their children, and they led them publicly about the city with their babies hanging at their breasts, and then threw them down from the top of the wall-. Others who had gathered in caves near by, to keep the seventh day in secret, were betrayed to Philip and all burned together, because they had scruples about defending themselves, in their respect for the dignity of that most holy day."*

**1 MACCABEES 1:41-64**

*"Then the king wrote to his whole kingdom that they should all become one people, and everyone should give up his particular practices. And all the heathen assented to the command of the king. And many from Israel agreed to his kind of worship and offered sacrifice to idols and broke the sabbath. And the king sent word by messengers to Jerusalem and the towns of Judah to follow practices foreign to the country and put a stop to whole burnt offerings and sacrifices and drink offerings at the sanctuary, and to break the sabbaths and profane the feasts and pollute sanctuary and sanctified; to build altars and sacred precincts and idol*

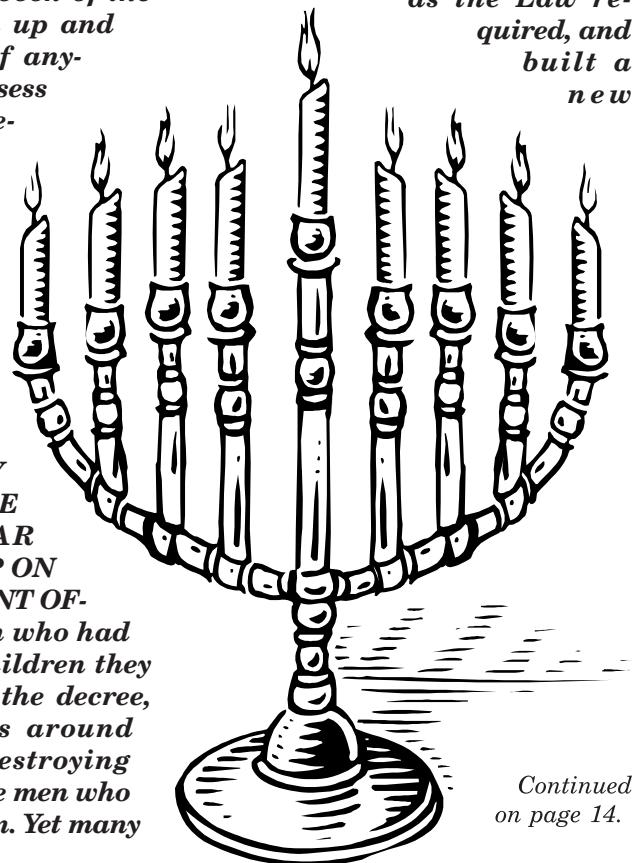
*temples and SACRIFICE HOGS and UNCLEAN CATTLE; and to leave their sons uncircumcised and defile themselves with every unclean and profane practice, so that they might forget the Law and change all their religious ordinances; and anyone who did not obey the command of the king should die. He wrote to his whole kingdom, to this effect, and he appointed inspectors over all the people, and he ordered the towns of Judah every one of them to offer sacrifice. And many of the people and everyone who was ready to forsake the Law joined with them and they did wrong in the land, and forced Israel to hide in every hiding-place they had.*

*"ON THE FIFTEENTH DAY OF CHISLEU, in the one hundred and forty-fifth year, he erected a dreadful desecration upon the altar, and in the towns of Judah round about they built altars, and at the doors of their houses and in the squares they burned incense, and wherever they found the book of the Law, they tore them up and burned them, and if anyone was found to possess a book of the agreement or respected the Law, the king's decree condemned him to death. The Israelites who appeared from month to month in the towns they treated with force. ON THE TWENTY-FIFTH OF THE MONTH THEY OFFERED SACRIFICE UPON THE ALTAR WHICH WAS SET UP ON THE ALTAR OF BURNT OFFERING. The women who had circumcised their children they put to death under the decree, hanging the babies around their necks, and destroying their families and the men who had circumcised them. Yet many*

*in Israel stood firm and resolved in their hearts not to eat what was unclean; they preferred death to being polluted with food or profaning the sacred agreement, and so they died. And Israel suffered intensely."*

**1 MACCABEES 4:42-60**

*"And he appointed priests that were without blemish and adherents of the Law, and they purified the sanctuary and carried out the stones that had defiled it to an unclean place. And they deliberated as to what they should do about the altar of burnt offering, which had been polluted. And a good idea occurred to them—to take it down, so that it might never be thrown up to them that the heathen had polluted it; so they took down the altar, and deposited the stones in the temple mountain, in a suitable place, until a prophet should come and declare what should be done with them. And they took whole stones, as the Law required, and built a new*



*Continued on page 14.*

# The Birth of the Messiah

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>15</b><br><small>Ezekiel 31-33</small> | <b>16</b> <i>Day of Atonement</i><br><small>Ezekiel 34-36</small> | <b>17</b><br><small>Ezekiel 37-39</small> | <b>18</b><br><small>Ezekiel 40-42</small> | <b>19</b><br><small>Ezekiel 43-45</small> | <b>20</b><br><small>Ezekiel 46-48</small> | <b>21</b> <i>First High Sabbath</i><br><i>Feast of Tabernacles</i><br><small>Daniel 1-4</small> |
| <b>22</b><br><small>Daniel 5-8</small>    | <b>23</b><br><small>Daniel 9-12</small>                           | <b>24</b><br><small>Hosea 1-3</small>     | <b>25</b><br><small>Hosea 4-6</small>     | <b>26</b><br><small>Hosea 7-9</small>     | <b>27</b><br><small>Hosea 10-12</small>   | <b>28</b> <i>Last Great Day</i><br><i>Feast of Tabernacles</i><br><small>Hosea 13-14</small>    |

## On Which Day Was the Savior Born?

It appears strange to note how many people are disillusioned each year while celebrating Chr-stmas with the universal materialism which seems to dampen the Chr-stmas spirit. Concerned ministers and Sunday School teachers frequently repeat the exhortation to restore the scriptural story of the Savior's birth to the Chr-stmas observance. This urging goes largely unheeded, however, as the story of our Savior's birth is relegated to second position behind the more popular Santa Claus myth. It should be obvious to all who question the trend of the Chr-stmas celebrations over recent years that nothing anyone can say, or do, will reverse the course of this materialistic observance. The people of our contemporary society seem to delight in celebrating these worldly annual holidays. It is only a relative few who are sufficiently diligent to investigate the facts which are pertinent to understanding the drift of society which has taken place (especially in recent

by

**Elder Jacob O. Meyer**

years). If you have an open mind, let us carefully examine these facts to learn whether we really should observe the birthday of our Savior, as do most people, on December 25th each year.

In nominal Chr-stianity we find that all of the doctrines and practices on which the average church member bases his worship appear to be traced to the Bible. Something is wrong, however, since we find that there is little agreement among various denominations on how the Bible message should be applied. In fact, some fundamentalist groups in existence today do not celebrate Chr-stmas simply because they cannot find it to be commanded in the Scriptures. These groups are few and far between, however, and their witness is almost completely inundated by the determined resistance of the majority of people against departing from inherited tradition.

At the outset of our study it is important that we establish biblical authority to observe birthdays, if we can. The traditional, popular observance of birthdays with the customary cake, candles, and gifts is associated closely with the Chr-stmas observance. First, we should ask ourselves if such an observance is anywhere commanded in the Word. The answer, upon checking a good concordance, is obvious. Birthdays are mentioned only twice in the Bible, with a possible third occurrence which has been veiled under an awkward translation. None of these instances are connected to any biblical command to do so. Conversely, the evidence of what occurred on each of these occasions compels us to conclude that the birthday observance has a rather unpleasant, dubious reputation. On each of these recorded scriptural birthday occasions violent death occurred, as we may see from reading the context of each of the following passages: Genesis 40:20, Matthew



14:6, and Job 1:4 (“his day” in the Hebrew alludes to the birthday).

History reveals that ancient people celebrated birthdays with great pomp and ceremony, as is also recorded in the sacred Scriptures. However, Almighty Yahweh has actually legislated against the observance of birthdays. He has declared in Isaiah 65:11-12, **“But you that forsake Yahweh, that forget my holy mountain [His governmental rule], that prepare a table for Fortune, and that fill up mingled wine to Destiny [Hebrew is mene]; I will destine [Hebrew is manithi from the name of the deity meni] you to the sword, and you shall all bow down to the slaughter; because when I called, you did not answer; when I spoke, you did not hear; but you did that which was evil in my eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not.”**

There was actually an ancient Assyrian Mighty One who was called *Manu (Mene)*. He was worshiped with drink offerings on birthdays and other anniversaries. Undoubtedly, the worship of *Mene* was the occasion for the account in Daniel chapter 5, and the hand which wrote on the wall used an allusion to this worship to predict the end of Belshazzar’s kingdom when it wrote, **“Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin.”**

To summarize, we must conclude that there is no scriptural commandment to observe birthdays, but, in fact, it is displeasing to Almighty Yahweh when someone observes them. Incidentally, the usual cake and candles are also derived from pagan worship. Cakes or cookies were offered in worship to the “queen of heaven,” Jeremiah 7:17-19. Candles appear to have been symbols of phallic worship and used on special occasions. The lamps of Yahweh’s menorah were fueled with oil.

Was the birth date of our Savior actually on December 25? Your own Bible, and also history, reveals that it was not. When Yahshua the Messiah was born the shepherds were in the fields keeping watch over their

***Never realizing the importance of understanding the basics of Bible study which are to be found in the Old Testament, the average person reads over some of the most obvious clues which would indicate with certainty on which day our Savior was born.***

flocks by night, Luke 2:8. During the winter months in Palestine (the Land of Israel), the weather often becomes very severe. When the rainy season arrives, several weeks after the Feast of Tabernacles (generally in October or November), the flocks and herds are brought in for the night, since it would not be pleasant for shepherds or animals to sleep on the cold, wet ground. Actually, December 25th corresponds to the Feast of Dedication of John 10:22, which occurred in winter, a time when no shepherds would venture away from their homes and spend a night in the fields. The Apostle John tells us forthrightly that the Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah) is in winter.

A second fact, which should convince even the most skeptical person, is the taxation which took Joseph and Miriam to Bethlehem, Luke 2:1-5. Yahshua the Messiah was born only about 170 years after

the War of the Maccabees. This era was a time of great patriotism among the Jews. They had defeated the determined efforts of Antiochus Epiphanes to Hellenize them. Their obstinate patriotism at about this same time forced the mighty Roman army to furl and lower its banners before entering Jerusalem. If Rome had ordered a tax census in the middle of winter, they would have been faced with a bitter insurrection and violent rebellion among their Jewish subjects. Simple logic will lead the thinking person to realize that such a tax census could best be conducted with the least amount of disturbance around one of their religious holidays, when people are on the move anyway to attend the rites of worship. In addition, the fall of the year, when the crops have just been harvested and the surplus sold, is when money would certainly be more plentiful to pay the taxes than it would be in the dead of winter.

Never realizing the importance of understanding the basics of Bible study which are to be found in the Old Testament, the average person reads over some of the most obvious clues which would indicate with certainty on which day our Savior was born. This day can be pinpointed with accuracy on the scriptural calendar and it occurs each year on this special day, although it will not be recognized on the Roman calendar which is in common use today.

In order to find the actual birth date of the Messiah, we must begin to read the chronology which is offered by Luke chapter 1. Our first and most important clue is to be found in verse 5. Zachariah, the father of John the Baptist, was a priest of the course of Abia (AbiYAH). This means that he was a member of the priestly family of Abiyah, a descendant of Aaron. When King David made his thorough preparations for the building of the temple, in addition to acquiring the building materials, he also arranged for the orderly conduct of the sacrificial and worship services in the completed sanctuary. He arranged to divide the

labor among the designated people in the tribe of Levi. Among his assignments was the performance of the priestly duties which he divided among the 16 heads of the families of Eleazar, and the 8 heads of the families of Ithamar. This is recorded in 1 Chronicles 24. After the division of the priestly families had been completed, David selected, by lot, the one family who was to be in charge of the temple worship one week during the spring and summer months, and one week in the fall and winter months of the year. Consequently, the remaining priests were relieved of duty at all other times, with the exception of their commanded attendance at each one of the three major feasts of Yahweh—Passover and Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, and Tabernacles, when all males of Israel are obligated to appear, Exodus 23:15-17, etc. These are called the “pilgrim feasts” because, for most people, travel is involved. You may wish to read additional information which is offered by the historian Josephus in **Antiquities of the Jews**, Book 7, Chapter 14, Sec. 7, in which he describes how each division or course of priests began their service each Sabbath, and continued to serve for eight days until the end of the following Sabbath, when the next course or group had arrived. (Therefore, two groups were in the Temple to serve on each Sabbath day.)

Now that we have found a starting point, we may begin to count toward the birth date of our Savior. We must begin by counting the week following the days of Unleavened Bread, beginning with the weekly Sabbath. Counting through 7 weeks, we reach the 8th week when the course of Abiyah served. Zachariah would have been serving with this group of priests, the family of AbiYah. If you are counting this with me on a scriptural calendar, you will find that Zachariah’s ministering in Jerusalem would take place from around the 12th to the 19th day of the third scriptural month, called

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to 20th of our  
Roman calendar.***

Sivan. This was the time when the angel of Yahweh predicted to Zachariah that he would become the father of a son and, as a sign of assurance, he would become dumb, unable to speak until after the child was born, Luke 1:8-22. After the time of his service was over, he returned to his own home in the hill country of Judah, Luke 1:39. Since he was aged we must allow several days travel for this trip and so, we can conclude, that the conception of John took place after the 21st of the month.

Now that we have established the time when John the Baptist was conceived, from this point of departure it will be easy to locate the birthday of the Messiah. Reading further in Luke chapter 1, we find that Elizabeth, John’s mother, hid herself five months and, in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel made a visit to Miriam (rather than Mary), the mother of the Messiah, to announce His birth, Luke 1:24-38. Note again that this was the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy. Apparently, Miriam intended to stay three or four months with John’s mother, most likely as a housekeeper

during the latter part of Elizabeth’s pregnancy and at the birth of the child, Luke 1:56. The virgin Miriam’s remaining five or six months until the birth of Yahshua were spent in her own home in Nazareth.

Since it was in the sixth month of the pregnancy of Elizabeth when the birth of the Messiah was announced to Miriam, the begettal of the Messiah would have taken place just about exactly six months after the begettal of John. This would assign His begettal to about the first day of the month of Tebeth, or around December 10th to 20th of our Roman calendar. The normal gestation period of a human is 280 days, bringing the birth date of the Messiah to exactly the 15th day of the seventh scriptural month. Bible chronologists have set this date variously from September 28th to October 3rd on our Roman calendar. Regardless which day one may select on the Roman calendar, the day established on the scriptural calendar is the 15th day of the seventh scriptural month, the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles. Furthermore, the circumcision of Yahshua the Messiah would have occurred on the Last Great Day of the Feast, the eighth day.

Although I may be faced with the charge of working out this chronology on assumptions, the indicator which has been left by the Apostle John can hardly be called insignificant. It is found in John 1:14, where we read, ***“And the Word became flesh, and tabernacled [the Greek word here is translated erroneously as dwelt] among us (and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth.”*** John could have chosen different terms to present his thought had he wished to indicate “dwelt,” so it certainly seems of uppermost significance that the word “tabernacled” was chosen, especially since the waymarkers lead us to this holy, commanded annual observance of Yahweh.

In Colossians 2:16 we learn that the Holy Days are shadows of things



to come. Since a Hebrew baby was to be circumcised at the age of eight days, Genesis 17:9-14, this day of entering into the Covenant would correspond exactly to the Last Great Day of the Feast, John 7:37 and Leviticus 23:36. This Last Great Day is an extra special day on the scriptural calendar. It is called a solemn assembly in Numbers 29:35, leading to the definition of the Hebrew root *Awtzar* as *restraint*. It is the day when our Savior revealed that all men would have access to the Holy Spirit (John 7:37-39), when all men (who so desire) will be living in righteousness, the symbol of circumcision, Galatians 6:15 and Romans 2:25-29. The sacrificial law of the Feast of Tabernacles, as found in Numbers 29:12-34, reveals that diminishing sacrifices were offered each day of the Feast until, finally, on the Last Great Day, only minimal sacrifices were presented, revealing that when someone had reached that last day, he should have achieved a type of spiritual perfection.

The question is often asked, "In which year was the Savior born?" History reveals that He must have been born earlier than 4 B.C.E., since this was the year that King Herod died. Various conclusions can be reached concerning which year His birth actually occurred, from 7 to 5 B.C.E. Again, allow me to reiterate that it is not imperative that we know the exact year since we are not commanded to observe His birthday.

Each year at the Christmas season, the masses of contemporary society frantically observe a phantom holiday. The holiday which they are observing is not the birthday of the genuine Messiah, but the celebration of the Roman Saturnalia and Brumalia, the day of *natalis solis invicti* (birthday of the unconquerable sun). Since we can prove that the Messiah was not born at the winter solstice, should we continue to live a lie and observe a day which has come down to us through paganism? Should we merge pagan customs, such as decorating a tree, the Santa Claus myth, the yule log,

with scriptural Truth? I trust that you will join me in a resounding cry of rejection of these pagan customs as we witness this hidden Truth with power to a lost and deceived world. (Concerning the decoration of trees, have you ever considered the passage in Jeremiah 10:2-11?)

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SNB

## —ANNOUNCEMENT—

And she shall bring forth a son;  
and you shall call his name

Y ahshua;

for he shall save his people from their sins.

MATTHEW 1:21

And behold, you shall conceive in your  
womb, and bring forth a son,  
and shall call his name

Y ahshua.

LUKE 1:31

And when eight days were fulfilled for  
circumcising him, his name was called

Y ahshua,

which was so called by the angel before  
he was conceived in the womb.

LUKE 2:21

And the Word became flesh,  
and tabernacled among us...

JOHN 1:14

Continued from page 9

*altar like the former one. And they built the sanctuary and the interior of the temple and consecrated the courts. And they made new holy dishes and they brought the lampstand and the altar of incense and the table into the temple. And they burned incense on the altar, and lighted the lamps on the lampstand, and they lighted the temple. And they put the loaves of bread on the table and hung up the curtains, and completed all the work they had undertaken.*

*“And they arose early on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month, that is, the month of Chislev, in the one hundred and forty-eighth year, and offered sacrifice according to the Law upon the new altar of burnt offering which they had made. At the time and on the day the heathen had polluted it, it was rededicated with songs and harps and lutes and cymbals. And all the people fell on their faces and blessed heaven which*

*had prospered them. And they celebrated the rededication of the altar for eight days and offered burnt offerings with joy, and offered a sacrifice of deliverance and praise. And they decorated the front of the temple with gold crowns and small shields and rededicated the gates and the priests’ quarters, and fitted them with doors. And there was very great joy among the people, and the reproach the heathen had cast upon them was wiped out. And Judas and his brothers and all the congregation of Israel decreed that the days of the rededication of the altar should be observed at their season, every year, for eight days, beginning with the twenty-fifth of the month of Chislev, with gladness and joy.”*

The rededication of the Temple was a memorable occasion. It is observed today as a strictly Jewish festival. Yahshua the Messiah also attended an observance at Jerusalem, John 10:22-24.

However, this observance was not

commanded by Almighty Yahweh in His list of Holy Days in Leviticus 23. Yahshua the Messiah kept those annual feast days of Yahweh, especially the seven-day observance of the Feast of Tabernacles and the eighth, Last Great Day (John 7).

Today, even the Jewish authorities express concern about the commercialization of Hanukkah. Orthodox and Conservative rabbis in New York inveigh against the obvious paganism of the decorations and the lavish gifts. Nevertheless, the customs of the Christmas celebration continue to infiltrate Hanukkah.

The True Worshiper seeks with all his heart and soul to exit from the Babylonish system, Revelation 18:4. We keep the commandments of Almighty Yahweh and cling closely to the Faith of Yahshua the Messiah, Revelation 12:17 and 14:12. Keeping the commandments of Yahweh includes keeping holy His sacred time of Leviticus 23. Because of the evident pagan contamination of all the winter holidays—both Christian and Jewish—we avoid observing them. <sup>SNB</sup>

**“Sanctify them in the truth:  
your word is truth.”  
(John 17:17)**

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## *The Sacred Name Broadcast*

# RADIO MESSAGE

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

# The Creator's Name in Layman's Terms

## **The Saving Name, An Anchor Like a Solid Rock**

*“And Elohim said to Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, In this manner shall you say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.”* (Exodus 3:14).

I wonder how many of the listeners to this broadcast have ever given any thought to the numerous passages in which the term *name* appears in the Scriptures. It seems that almost any place where you may care to open your Bible you will soon encounter a reference to the revealed, personal Name of the Almighty. Many readers, theologians included, must customarily skip right across these frequent, very conspicuous, references without fully realizing the importance of the terms.

Yet this one doctrine is probably the most conspicuous and outstanding of any with which the sacred Scriptures deals. It appears like a unique thread that actually runs from the beginning to the end of the Bible. This doctrinal thread in the sacred Scriptures states that although man has followed the wrong course of Satan, man may come back to the True Creator if he is willing and repentant. However, only Yahweh's great Name will save

that sinner and give him everlasting life through the Name of His only begotten Son, Yahshua, the Messiah of Israel. The repentant individual must have faith in the mighty Being who alone can save. The sign whereby we can know that He will save is contained in the authenticity of the majestic and exclusive Name which Yahweh, our Heavenly Father, calls Himself. This message is one of a series of messages that I have entitled, “The Sacred Name and the Sacred Titles.” In the beginning of this series, I sought to bring to you, the average layman, the importance and the meaning of this significant Name. It was my intention to do this by employing the simple language of our day, rather than in technical terms which might confuse those unacquainted with them.

When we speak of the Sacred Name, we refer to the four letters comprising this Name as they appear 6,823 times in the Old Testament Hebrew Bible. We must appeal to the Hebrew Scriptures for our precedent. These sacred Scriptures constitute the basis of our Faith. The original autographs (as closely as we can return to them), and the documents in which they were handed down to us, appear in the language that the Almighty spoke while communicating with His people Israel.

### **PART THREE**

*This is the third in a series of radio messages on the Sacred Name originally broadcast in 1966 and 1967 and published July 1987.*

Paul exhorts the young minister Timothy in his second epistle (2 Timothy 4:2) with the following message: **“Preach the word.”** The only “word” that this young man was to preach was the Word of the Almighty Father in heaven, which means the Old Testament Hebrew texts. This “word” is actually Yahweh's instructions to regulate mankind's life, given to Israel from their Mighty One. This Word is the Law that will govern the entire earth when the Kingdom of the Heavens will be established here, just a few short years from now.

Also in 2 Timothy 3:14-15 we read, **“But remain in the things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing of whom you have learned them; and that from a babe you have known the sacred writings which are able to make you wise to salvation through faith which is in the Messiah Yahshua.”**

Here, again, we see that the reference to the holy Scriptures points directly toward the Old Testament Hebrew Scriptures. The books that comprise the volume that we know today as the New Testament Scriptures were only then being written, but the holy Scriptures (sacred writings), which the Apostle Paul explained would be able to make Timothy wise unto salvation, were known by him since he was a child.

Timothy had learned them from his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice, who were ethnic Jews. The liturgical language of the Jews is Hebrew!

It is imperative that we return to the Hebrew Scriptures for precedent when we seek the instructions to lead us to salvation. Nowhere does any written Scripture tell us that the Almighty spoke to His people in any language except Hebrew, or that He revealed Himself to any people except Israel. As a matter of fact, we learn the following in Psalm 147:19-20, ***“He shows his word to Jacob, His statutes and his ordinances to Israel, He has not dealt so with any nation: And as for his ordinances they have not known them. HalleluYah!”*** We also read in Psalm 135:3-4. ***“HalleluYah! For Yahweh is good: sing praises to his name; for it is pleasant. For Yah has chosen Jacob to himself and Israel for his own possession.”*** Those Israelite peoples spoke Hebrew. They could understand Him when His emissaries (the prophets) spoke His great words to them. They heard His Name in the Hebrew tongue, just as the Apostle Paul recorded the Name of the Savior in Acts 26:14, when he was converted in the experience he had on the Damascus Road. It may interest you to know that all of the earth will again return to speaking this holy language of Hebrew when Almighty Yahweh returns to the people a pure lip, or language, that they may all call upon the Name of Yahweh to serve Him with one consent. We read this prophecy in Zephaniah 3:9. Why not check this passage in your own Bibles?

The prophet Zechariah tells us that Yahweh will be King over all the earth. In that day, there shall be one Yahweh and His Name one, Zechariah 14:9. No longer will many names be used to call upon the Almighty as is the worldly custom today. There will no longer be any worship in a name which men choose to revere. The common, popular names for the Almighty actually rob

the True Mighty One, Yahweh, of His rightful reverence. All men will call upon the True, revealed Name of the One to whom they must give devotion as the King of the universe when He sits in their midst in the world-ruling city of Jerusalem.

I can readily show you this Sacred Name as it has been recorded in the Hebrew text for us. The recorded letters in the Hebrew Scriptures are called the Tetragrammaton (meaning a four-letter word) by modern scholars. In the Hebrew text we find that it is composed of four letters: *yod*, *hay*, *waw*, and, again, *hay*. It is interesting to note

EH.” Pronounce it rapidly and it sounds—YAHWEH.

Also, little marks appear with which the modern Hebrew text of the Bible clarifies its pronunciation. However, in the case of the Sacred Name we must disregard these diacritical marks, or vowel points. In the case of the Sacred Name, it was given the vowel points of the term *Adonai* to cause people who read the Tetragrammaton to use this word instead of the letters accurately written Yahweh. This grammatical technicality is called *kethiv-qere*, meaning in Hebrew that it is written one way, but pronounced another.

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## ***The common, popular names for the Almighty actually rob the True Mighty One, Yahweh, of His rightful reverence.***

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that Almighty Yahweh begins His Name with the smallest of the letters in the Hebrew alphabet—the *yod*. The Savior speaks of this *yod* (which in the Sephardic Hebrew should be pronounced *yothe*) in Matthew 5:18, ***“Truly I say to you, Till heaven and earth pass away one yothe or one tittle shall in no wise pass away from the law, till all things be accomplished.”*** The *yothe* (*yod*) is the smallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet, and the *tittle* is a small ornament which is attached to a letter.

This word *yod*, *hay*, *waw*, and *hay*, which comprises the Sacred Name of the Almighty, can be accurately transliterated into the English language, or into any language which we may speak. The English equivalent of the letters are a “y” for the *yod*, an “h” for the *hay* having the sound of “ah,” a “w” for the *waw* with the sound of the double “u”, and, again, the *hay* at the end of the word with the sound of “eh”, because of the masculinity of the subject. All these letters put together would sound “EE AH OO

Since the days of Alexander the Great, who is said to have visited the Temple of Jerusalem, the rabbis of Israel have taught that it was a violation of the third commandment to speak the authentic name of the holy One of Israel and that a substitute should be employed. Their motive appeared plausible; however, the end results of this tampering with the Word of Almighty Yahweh were disastrous, because knowledge of the Sacred Name was almost obliterated from the face of this earth. However, the third commandment on which their belief was based reads this way in a literal word-for-word translation: ***“You shall not make wrong use of the Name of Yahweh your Elohim; for Yahweh will not leave unpunished the man who misuses His Name.”*** The word *loshaw*, which is translated *vanity*, actually means *to bring to nothing or destroy*. Our Father in heaven does not want us to utter this great name for vanity, or for a vain oath to desecrate it. The Scripture demands that we revere the One who bears





# An Answer to a Question About the *Born Again* Doctrine

By Elder Jacob O. Meyer

## Question: What does it mean to be "born again"? When are we born again?

~New York

The born-again doctrine to which you refer is very prominently taught in evangelical Christianity today. Widespread interest in this doctrine has grown and spread subsequent to the expansion of religious fundamentalism and its widespread popularity. Evangelical Christians believe that one is born again when he has repented, has been baptized, and has received the Holy Spirit. They insist that they are born again at that very moment even though they continue to exist in their fleshly bodies. Evangelical fundamentalism teaches that this born-again experience makes one a child of the Most High immediately and that all of the requirements for salvation have been completed with nothing remaining to be accomplished by the individual.

The passage of Scripture that is

used as a foundational text to prove this doctrine is John, chapter 3. Let us examine this passage carefully to determine what it actually says; then, let us compare it to other related Scriptures which set forth the explanation given by the Bible and harmonize all of them so that we may acquire a broader, more accurate, perspective.

In John 3:3, Yahshua the Messiah explained to Nicodemus, "...*Truly, truly, I say to you, Except one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of Yahweh.*"

You will notice here in this verse that two words are crucial to our complete understanding of the text. The first word is the Greek term *gennethe*. It is the third singular, first aorist, subjunctive passive form of the Greek verb *gennao*.

The second term that is crucial to our understanding of the text is the Greek word *anthen*. This word specifically means *from above*, although it has been rendered by some translators as *anew* or *again* (as in the **Authorized Version**). The **Arndt and Gingrich Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament** informs us that the word has the primary meaning of *from above*, but offers as a secondary consideration the adjunct nuance of meaning, *anew*. The root of this word has been traced to the word *ano*, meaning *above* or *upwards*.

Are you beginning to comprehend a little more clearly the concept that Yahshua the Messiah tried to convey to Nicodemus? He was telling Nicodemus that he would be born from above [anew from above]. Interestingly, this same word *anthen* is used in verse 31 of John chapter 3, and there it has been translated as *from above*. We must take these variations in translation into careful consideration to broaden our perspective.

Again, please take special note of this fact, because it is most crucial to our understanding and reveals another occasional inconsistency that crept into the **King James** translation. Therefore, occasionally a more modern version of the Bible is to be preferred.

Perhaps one of the best renderings of this verse into the English language has been accomplished in the **Charles B. Williams** translation, "[Yahshua] answered him, *I most surely say to you, no one can ever see the Kingdom of [Yahweh], unless he is born from above.*" Consequently, it is easy to perceive that the new birth is from above, from the Almighty Heavenly Father, from the very heavens.

Let us continue on now with remainder of John chapter 3. Undoubtedly the same question may enter your mind that Nicodemus expressed in verse 4, "**How can a**

*man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb, and be born?"* Yahshua answered the question in verse 5 when He explained, "... **Truly, truly, I say to you, Except one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of Yahweh.**" Please note the omission of the indefinite articles (a, an) as we read from the correct English translation, since they do not appear in Greek. The Aramaic version, however, does attest to the term spirit with the attached definite article.

Here, then, we learn an immediate lesson. In order to be born from above, we will need to fulfill some requirements. First of all, we must repent of our previous sins and be immersed in a symbolic act of cleansing into the Name of Yahshua the Messiah (Acts 2:38). Then, we will receive the down payment (a small portion, *arrabon* in Greek, which is actually a Hebrew or Aramaic loan word) of the Holy Spirit. "**Who has sealed us, and gave us the earnest** [down payment (Greek—*arrabona*)] **of the spirit in our hearts,**" (2 Corinthians 1:22). Please see also 2 Corinthians 5:5. However, the new birth does not occur the moment we are baptized. It actually occurs much later, as we shall see.

We might also consider the fact that we cannot enter into the Kingdom of Yahweh (meaning, also, His family), except we are initially born in human birth and, then, later are born from above by the Spirit of Yahweh. Almighty Yahweh has outlined a way for us to enter His family. It is through an adoption process, being born as

a human being and then following our education and development of spiritual character throughout our lives, learning to be like the Most High Heavenly Father Yahweh, to be changed into the likeness of our resurrected Messiah.

Yahshua the Messiah continues by explaining just exactly what He means in John 3:6-7. "**That which is born of the flesh IS flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit IS spirit. Marvel not that I said to you, You must be born anew** [from above]."

Yahshua the Messiah continues to explain that when someone is born as a human, that is what he is. He is a human being, **nothing more**. Flesh reproduced in its own likeness is flesh. However, when someone is born from above, when he is born of the Spirit, he becomes **spirit**. He receives a spirit body at that time. (See 1 Corinthians 15:44.) You and I are not spirit. Nowhere in the entire Bible do we find that a human being is spirit. He has been given the breath of life (*neshamah*), which is sometimes called spirit; however, to be born of the spirit means to be given a spirit body, to take on the change from flesh to spirit, at the resurrection.

Presently, we are flesh and blood, a created being with inherent limitations. We have received only the earnest, or the down payment (pledge), of the fullness of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. We have not been changed into spirit bodies. The change into the spiritual body will occur at the resurrection. Please notice the time sequence in which this will occur. "**In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet: for the trumpet**

**shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then the saying shall come to pass that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. Oh death, where is your victory? Oh death, where is your sting?"** (1 Corinthians 15:52-55).

Clearly, we are taught that we are not born again when we are baptized and receive the Holy Spirit as a gift into our hearts. We are given merely a small portion of the Holy Spirit that must be thenceforth nurtured and edified. We are born from above at the resurrection of the dead, born to eternal life. Then, Yahshua the Messiah goes on to explain this procedure even more thoroughly in John 3:8. "**The wind blows where it will, and you hear the voice of it, but know not from where it comes, and to where it goes: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.**" The description given by Yahshua the Messiah is of a person who has been born from above and given a spiritual body. He becomes like the wind. One cannot see the wind, but you can hear it. You can feel it passing by as it caresses your cheek, or see its effects when it blows in strength. You can hear the murmur of the breeze through the trees, but you cannot see a physical appearance. The wind is invisible. You can perceive the effects of strong wind, a storm, but you cannot actually see the wind itself. Yahshua the Messiah explains that

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everyone who is born of the Spirit (meaning born from above) will be like the wind.

It is obvious that all human beings are flesh and blood. We humans have a physical form visible to the eyes of another person. We are NOT INVISIBLE to the human eye. You can find an illustration of spirit creatures in 2 Kings 6:15-17. Please see also Hebrews 1:7. Although SPIRIT BEINGS CANNOT BE SEEN BY HUMAN EYES, they exist nonetheless. The difference between angelic beings who are spirit and those who are born from above is that the angels are created, while HUMANS ARE ADOPTED into the family of the Most High.

Now let us consider several other important points. First of all, when we search the sacred Scriptures, we can note the account of one human being who was born anew from above. That individual was Yahshua the Messiah. The Apostle Paul makes this quite clear in 1 Corinthians 15:20-22, "***But now has the Messiah been raised from the dead, the first fruits of them that are asleep. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in the Messiah shall all be made alive.***" Consequently, the Apostle Paul shows us the great difference between the physical Adam and the resurrected Yahshua the Messiah.

He explains this aspect more thoroughly in 1 Corinthians 15:45-49, "***So it is also written, The first man Adam became a living soul. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However; that is not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; then that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is of the heavens. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.***"



The root of the Hebrew name *Adam* is defined as *red clay* or *earth*.

Note especially verses 47 and 48. The root of the Hebrew name *Adam* is defined as *red clay* or *earth*. He and his descendants were created to have physical bodies made from the dust of the earth. We have exactly this physical appearance. We are flesh and blood. Interestingly, the word blood in Hebrew (*dahm*) is a cognate to the name Adam.

Yahshua the Messiah also followed this pathway to a new birth. He was made in the likeness of a physical Adam, as a flesh and blood human being. However, He was different from Adam in that He did not sin when He was tempted by Satan the Devil. His character was flawless. He faithfully followed the way of Yahweh's righteous commandments; therefore, He could offer His life as an atonement sacrifice to cleanse the human family from their sins. He fulfilled this mission by dying upon the tree of Calvary. He was buried, but He rose again the third day. Forty days later He ascended On High to sit at the right hand of Yahweh in a glorified

condition.

Now let us notice carefully what Paul taught in Colossians 1:15, a passage which refers to Yahshua the Messiah. "***...Who is the image of the invisible Yahweh, the first-born of all creation....***" Yahshua the Messiah was the firstborn from the dead. He is the One who leads the way for His Assembly to enter into the very family of the Most High. He was the first member of the human family to be born anew, from above. Yahweh the Father in heaven, a spirit Being, is invisible; therefore, to be given resurrection, life from above will also make invisible those who receive it.

Let us notice also what was recorded by the Apostle John in Revelation 1:5. "***And from Yahshua the Messiah, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him that loves us, and loosed us from our sins by his blood.***" A comparison of Colossians 1:18 and Revelation 1:5 will prove that the



Greek word *prototokos* appears in both verses. It **should not have been** translated begotten, but, rather, firstborn. Yahshua the Messiah is indeed the firstborn from the dead. We can notice this confirmed by Romans 8:29, **“For whom he foreknew, he also foreordained to be conformed to the image of His Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”** Again, the word *prototokos* has been correctly translated *firstborn* in this passage. The same word (Greek—*proto, first; tokos, born*) is also employed in Hebrews 1:6. Clearly, then, Yahshua the Messiah is the only Being in this universe who has received a second birth from above. He was born first as flesh and blood, of a human mother; whereas later, He was resurrected from the dead and given a new life, a spiritual body from above by the Heavenly Father.

The Bible even has a description of the person who has been born the second time. This person has received the spiritual body. He has been changed by a resurrection from the dead. He has been given immortality. Yahshua the Messiah is the only human who was born anew, from above. Let us read together from Revelation 1:12-18 in the **Benjamin Wilson** translation found in the **The Emphatic Diaglott**. *“And I turned to see the voice which was speaking with me; and having turned I saw seven golden Lampstands, and in the Midst of the Lampstands one like to a Son of Man, invested with a garment to the foot, and girded about at the breasts with a golden Girdle; and His head and hairs White as white wool, as snow; and His eyes as a Flame of Fire; and His feet like to fine Brass glowing with fire, as in a Furnace; and His voice as the Voice of many Waters; and having in His Right Hand seven Stars; and out of His mouth proceeding a sharp two-edged broad Sword; and His appearance as the sun shines in his strength. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead; but He placed His right*

*hand on me, saying, “Fear not; I am the first and the last, and the living one; I was even dead, but, behold, I am living for the ages of the ages; and I have the keys of death and of Hades.”*

The description of Yahshua the Messiah is of a Being who holds great power. Such a Body is glorious to behold. It demonstrates the superiority of the spiritual body over the physical. Yahshua was the first individual who has had two births: the first as a human being, and the second birth to be made into the spiritual body that will exist forever, which is the blessing from the Most High. If we are faithful, we shall receive this changed body from above also, when the Messiah returns to establish the Kingdom of Yahweh and the resurrection of the just takes place. He will bring with Him this spiritual body (2 Corinthians 5:2).

**“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of Elohim; and we are. For this cause the world knows us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now we are children of Elohim, and it is not yet made manifest what we shall be. We know that, if he shall be manifested, we shall be like him; for we shall see him even as he is. And everyone that has this hope set on him purifies himself, even as he is pure,”** (1 John 3:1-3).

Obviously, then, those who have repented have been baptized in the water of cleansing and have received the down payment of the

Holy Spirit, **HAVE NOT BEEN BORN AGAIN**. They have been **BEGOTTEN** again—not yet born from above. A period of growth in character development is necessary. This growth comprises the education of the mind and the development of a righteous character similar to that of the Most High, our Heavenly Father. Our earthly education continues on until the time of our death (or the Second Coming), which becomes a necessary transition from the physical to the spiritual body. Our natural body is planted in the grave, or should we be alive when Yahshua returns, it will be supernaturally changed. All of those chosen ones who are in the grave will rise again with a marvelous, powerfully magnificent, spiritual body, while those who are alive will be changed instantaneously and will also rise to meet Yahshua the Messiah in the air. Those people will then be adopted, taken into the Kingdom, or the family, of the Most High. They will be sealed with His Name. They will at that time receive the family Name of the Most High Heavenly Father to use as their own, forever and ever. Remember, the Name Yahweh is derived from the Hebrew verb of existence, in its present and future (tense), which means that those who are granted the right to use it will become immortal.

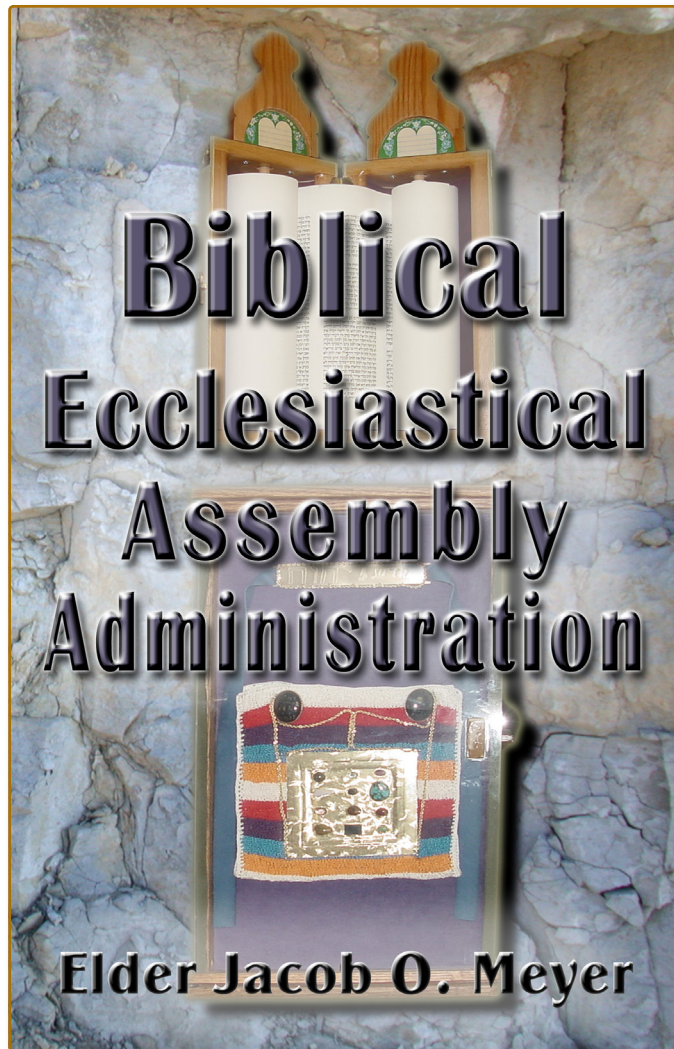
Are you planning for that marvelous experience of being resurrected, to become a part of the family of spirit creatures who will rule this universe? It is a free gift from the Most High, but you must qualify to receive it. Begin now to learn! <sup>SNB</sup>

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***If we are faithful, we shall receive this changed body from above also, when the Messiah returns to establish the Kingdom of Yahweh and the resurrection of the just takes place.***

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by Elder Jacob O. Meyer



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