



THE  
SACRED NAME  
BROADCASTER

7/2021

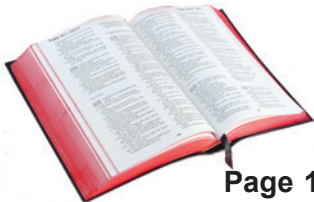


# THE SACRED NAME BROADCASTER

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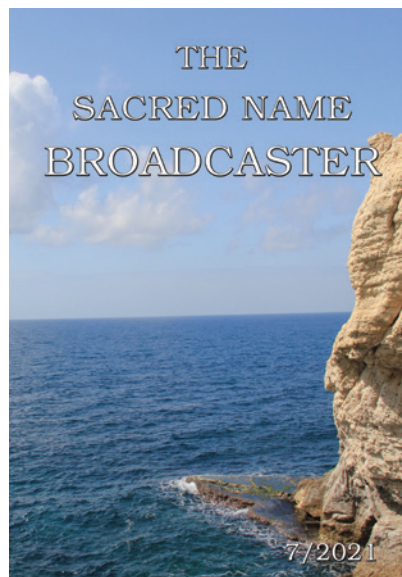
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**Founder and Author: Elder Jacob O. Meyer**

## Our Cover:



*"Cast your bread upon the waters; for you shall find it after many days." (Ecclesiastes 11:1).*

*This month's cover portrays the Mediterranean Sea in the northwest tip of Israel at Rosh HaNikra.*

*The nation of Israel was placed by Yahweh in a strategic location along the trading routes that linked the superpowers of the ancient times—Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon. Israel was to be a positive influence on the surrounding nations—a witness for Yahweh.*

*Likewise, the Assemblies of Yahweh is to be a witness to the world in these last days. Standing between the great religions of the West, the Assemblies of Yahweh has been tasked by Yahshua the Messiah to go and teach all nations. The Great Commission will soon be fulfilled when every nation, tribe, tongue, and people will receive the Good News of the coming Kingdom of Yahweh. Will you respond by making your calling and election sure?*

# Circumcision:

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by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

## THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM

*“Stand firm, then, and refuse to be tied to the yoke of slavery again.” Galatians 5:1 (NEB)*

With this stirring command Paul continues his exhortation to the Galatian brethren in the fifth chapter of his letter to them. Do not fall victim to slavery all over again, to be entangled with a yoke of bondage! As we have already seen, the Bible defines the yoke of bondage as **sin**. The keeping of the Law of Yahweh means liberty.

Israel was enslaved in Egypt, a type of sin, Hebrews 11:25. Yahweh released them through miraculous acts and brought this nation into the righteous way of life found in His covenant. His law is liberty. Psalm 119:45, **“And I shall walk at liberty; For I have sought your precepts.”** Jacob (James) 1:25, **“But he that looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and continues, being not a hearer that forgets but a doer that works, this man shall be blessed in his doing.”**

Keeping the law of Yahweh brings us liberty from eternal death. It breaks the yoke of bondage that sin holds on us, Lamentations 1:14.

Yahshua also has a yoke. His burden is light and easy, Matthew 11:28-30. To be fastened in the yoke of bondage is to recognize that sin can hold a death dealing dominion or authority over our

minds and bodies. Yielding ourselves to Yahweh’s government will place us under the authority that releases us from death and gives us eternal life.

Under the Old Testament system, when someone recognized any possibility of atonement in circumcision and sacrifice, he acknowledged that he would need a continuing sin offering. The sacrifice of Yahshua the Messiah atoned once for all time, and completely cleansed the sinner from all sins that are past, Romans 3:25. In the water of baptism we have buried the old man and the weak fleshly tendency to sin. The old man, the lower carnal nature, is replaced with the dynamic new man, regenerated by the power of the Holy Spirit of Yahweh. A person who does not continue to commit sin needs no further sacrifice.

We are living in the era of

grace when Almighty Yahweh mercifully pardons those who accidentally break His commandments without premeditation of sin, Hebrews 10:26-31.

Consequently, what Paul meant becomes obvious. As long as the True Worshipers obey Yahweh and seek to live righteously, free from sin (transgression of the law of Yahweh), they have no further need of sacrifice. Sacrifice is only necessary to atone for sins. Yahshua has already perfected that sacrifice.

The Galatians had the assurance of forgiveness of past sins in Yahshua’s blood. While they continued to serve Yahweh they could now live free from an archaic ceremonial structure of worship that annually demanded certain ritual sacrifices. That oppressive system did not forgive sin, but only acknowledged it with a sin offering of repentance

pointing toward the Messiah, the perfect sacrificial lamb of Yahweh.

*“Stand firm, then, and refuse to be tied to the yoke of slavery again. Mark my words: I, Paul, say to you that IF YOU RECEIVE CIRCUMCISION Messiah will do you no good at all. Once again, you can take it from me that every man who receives CIRCUMCISION is under obligation to keep the entire law. When you seek to be justified by way of law, your relation with Messiah is completely severed: you have fallen out of the domain of Yahshua’s grace. For to us, our hope of attaining that righteousness which we eagerly await is the work of the Spirit through faith. If we were in union with Yahshua Messiah CIRCUMCISION makes no difference at all, nor does the want of it; the only thing that counts is faith active in love.” Galatians 5:1-6, NEB (Emphasis ours)*

**Circumcision** is the core concern of the book of Galatians, as this passage clearly proves. All of the various arguments Paul employed up to this point are directed toward proving that if any baptized member of the Galatian assemblies of Yahweh was to yield to the pressures of the Jewish pharisaical legalists, he would deny the sacrifice of the Messiah. Their interpretation allowed no room for the atoning death of Messiah.

The question of circumcision (as was pointed out previously in this commentary) occupied a great concern among the Galatian brethren. The Messiah (and His purpose for coming to this earth as the lamb of Yahweh) is rejected when one rebuilds a structure of worship that relies

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Brokenhearted,  
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to forgive him.*

upon our human capability to somehow make atonement for our personal sins. If we reject the Messiah and His blood through trusting in **our human blood** shed at the time of circumcision (as the seal and sign of the covenant), we have fallen from grace.

In this regard all biblical sound doctrines regarding salvation are integrated into the spiritual experience of the believer. Grace, faith, and the blood of the Messiah stand in close interrelationship performing the work of Yahweh to raise us from sin into a state of sonship. Since the sin that separated us is now banished from our lives, we are reunited with our Heavenly Father through obedience to His commandments. Now we receive His unmerited pardon (grace) for the sins of the past. A new life, a spiritual life for eternity is now ours.

Paul raises the question of a

return to keeping the whole law. By checking verse 14, you will note the same term used in many translations. But, the Greek text informs us that although the word **nomos** (law) is used in both instances, two different words are employed for “whole.”

In this instance (verse 3) the word definitely means the whole of the law. This indicates that if one wishes to return to a personal shedding of blood in the ceremony of circumcision, he will be obliged to return to keeping the whole law, meaning the entire corpus of ritual ceremonial sacrifices along with Talmudic interpretations. This can be proven by Hebrews 9:9-10.

We must maintain the context so that a true understanding may be secured. Paul pointedly refers to the rabbinical interpretation of circumcision here, asserting that the rite served as a personal atonement for the sins of the individual. As pointed out previously, an eight day old baby would have no sins, neither could he repent. No provision in the law was made for a female baby’s circumcision; therefore, could she ever be forgiven of her sins or could she even be saved under the old system?

It is not the **act** of circumcision that bears significance. But, each person’s life, his daily walk with the framework of obedience is critical.

Paul has plainly stated that circumcision or uncircumcision meant nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of Yahweh (means everything), 1 Corinthians 7:19 (also Galatians 5:6). If someone breaks the commandments of Yahweh (His moral law), then he will be considered uncircumcised by Yahweh. Those who keep the commandments of Yahweh will find their uncircum-



cision accepted as circumcision by our Heavenly Father, just as was the case with Abraham when he was called a righteous man some 15 years before his circumcision.

Consequently, we must conclude that the designation “whole law” does not mean the keeping of Yahweh’s covenant law, but it designates the sacrifices and the rituals connected with it, along with the system of traditional Jewish interpretation known as the law of Moses (the Oral Law), but which in reality was originated by the Rabbis without biblical foundation in many cases.

Paul next turns to consider the concept of being justified by law. Justification is another “religious” term that many people use, but **few** seem to understand. It is surprising how many nominal Christians only parrot words which they do not fully understand but which sound spiritual. These words have been completely removed from their definitions, so the term sounds lofty but it is devoid of conveying understanding. Let us not be guilty of such pseudo-intellectual error.

Justification means to be **declared or judged innocent** of breaking the law of Yahweh. We cannot be declared **innocent** of past wrong-doing by a later rehabilitation. Our past record of doing evil continues to stand as a glaring testimony against us unless something or someone can erase that sin. Nothing will erase sin completely except grace, meaning total pardon and forgiveness by Almighty Yahweh who recognizes the atoning blood of Yahshua the Messiah as it is applied to our lives. It is obvious that when we choose to be justified by WORKS of the law,

*The repentant person promises to live in harmony with the way of life that has been laid down for the human family in the Word of Yahweh. With the help of the Holy Spirit the repentant person is successful.*

like doing penance (meaning circumcision and animal sacrifices), the original plan of salvation centered upon Messiah Yahshua as early as Genesis 3:15 cannot fulfill its purpose.

The logic of Yahshua’s sacrifice becomes very plain and clear as Paul explains to the Galatian brethren that there is a difference between the moral law and the sacrificial law. Our relationship to the Messiah is based entirely upon living as He did, living free from sin, so that we can merit His atonement. Nevertheless, we cannot depend on any righteousness that we may do by way of ritual, physical observances, or we will be rejecting the purpose of the Messiah who came to replace the ritual sacrifices with His own blood. To be like Yahshua we must never sin (1 Peter 2:22), or His death will avail nothing to cleanse us of righteousness, 1 John 1:5-9.

Let us never forget that “grace”

in the Bible represents a **gift** from Yahweh. It is unmerited kindness or mercy. When a superior (a judge, perhaps) bestows forgiveness upon a guilty party through giving a full pardon, and then additionally reinstates him to his former position, mercy or grace is activated.

The Holy Spirit of Yahweh places conviction upon the heart of the believer, bringing him to repentance. Brokenhearted, he asks the Heavenly Father to forgive him. The sinner does not try to evade just punishment, but he throws himself on the mercy of the heavenly judicial system. Almighty Yahweh has every right to demand the full penalty for law breaking—the death sentence. But in boundless great mercy for His children, He pardons the offender who must promise in the future never to sin again. The repentant person promises to live in harmony with the way of life that has been laid down for the human family in the Word of Yahweh. With the help of the Holy Spirit the repentant person is successful.

The action of the Holy Spirit upon the heart of the sinner begins with conviction. The individual subsequently begins to acquire faith in the Word of Yahweh and in His plan of salvation through the mercy of the Almighty so he can merit His grace.

Paul explains all this to mean that physical circumcision makes no spiritual difference, since each individual must come before the Heavenly Father to ask forgiveness for a sinful life. Our faith in the plan of salvation is perfected by our love for Yahweh. His great love for His people is recorded in the Scriptures and manifested to the world.

And what great love that is,

that He would send His own son to this earth to provide the redemptive sacrifice for those who are truly repentant! The act of grace is a free gift from Almighty Yahweh that cannot be earned in any way. It is freely bestowed upon all who request. It totally erases the past sinful life of the repentant sinner. Almighty Yahweh gives grace and pardon to the one who has sincerely repented, but will not forgive the person who continues to sin, break His laws, 1 John 3:4. Certain judgment awaits the unrepentant!

Let us focus for just a moment on the concept of love and how this quality is manifested in the life of the believer. When one has learned of the serious nature of the offenses that we have committed against the Most High Heavenly Father during our past life and how He would be totally justified in carrying out the full death sentence against us, our hearts are just flooded with love for Him and His plan of salvation, Yahweh manifests love in all He does. Throughout the Bible He says, "You did Me wrong, you have taken the pathway of death, but I am giving you a new opportunity to heal the division between us that you have caused. You can make a change in life and come back to me through the way provided for you in the shed blood of the Messiah Yahshua, My Son. The reason why I am doing this is because I love you as one of My beloved created human beings and I want to give you every possible opportunity to rise to the exalted position of being one of the members of My very family."

To direct your thoughts toward the subject of love and what our Heavenly Father has done for the human family, turn to the book

of 1 John and read chapters 2-5.

After such a genuine demonstration of love from our Heavenly Father for a wayward, prodigal child, we cannot help but love Him in gratitude for what He has done for us. We owe Him something for His benevolence toward us. From henceforth we must please Him in all we do by obeying His commandments. We turn our backs on the world (which habitually breaks the commandments). We make our exit from a degenerate Babylonish system by turning toward Yahweh who has offered us these magnificent blessings in such abundance.

### ***The Tree— A Stumbling Block***

***"You were running well; who was it that hindered you from following the truth? Whatever persuasion he used, it did not come from Yahweh who is calling you; 'a little leaven,' remember, 'leavens all the dough.' United with you in Yahweh, I am confident that you will not take the wrong view; but the man who is unsettling your minds, whoever he may be, must bear Yahweh's judgment And I, my friends, if I am still advocating circumcision, why is it I am still persecuted? In that case, my preaching of the tree is a stumbling-block no more. As for these agitators, they had better go the whole way and make eunuchs of themselves!" Galatians 5:7-12 (NEB)***

In this section Paul firms up his stand against the false doctrines that crept into Yahshua's assemblies in Galatia. He insists that if even a little false doctrine is introduced into a group it will eventually leaven the entire as-

sembly and corrupt it.

How perfectly true is this summary! It may be seen on many occasions that false doctrine works as does leaven, in the end a great upheaval will result until the corruption is somehow eliminated.

One might observe that in Yahshua's Apostolic Assembly (of which those in Galatia formed a part), there was a deep difference of opinion. Not all was smooth sailing for that fledgling assembly. With joy the people had accepted the doctrine of the Messiah and His kingdom to come. They had begun to work out their personal salvation in fear and trembling.

Then false doctrine appeared and it was allowed to infiltrate the assembly. The false doctrine had come from Jewish rabbinical legalists who were taking devious interpretations out of the Scriptures, as has been shown previously. Now Paul calls for the judgment of Yahweh upon the erring individuals. He strongly hints that if one wishes to follow Jewish rituals that are in error, why not also follow the rites of popular, worldly Cybelle worship in ancient times, which was self-mutilation?

Sound doctrine will bring about persecution. Don't you believe this? Yahshua said, ***"Blessed are they that have been persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men shall reproach you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be very glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets that were before you," Matthew 5:10-12.***

Paul said, ***"But you did fol-***

*low my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, long suffering, love, patience, persecutions, sufferings; what things befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: and out of them all Yahweh delivered me. Yes, and all that would live holy in the Messiah Yahshua shall suffer persecution,”*

**2 Timothy 3:10-12.**

The name

Paul in the Hebrew means “a worker, or to be worked over,” and Paul was truly a sponge for persecution! He suffered terribly for the doctrine of the Messiah! Few

people have ever suffered as he did. If you would like to learn what happened to him, turn to 2 Corinthians 11:23-30.

Yahshua understood what it meant to stand unflinchingly for sound doctrine—and receive great persecution for His conviction. He ultimately experienced the wrath of the religious establishment that did not adhere strictly to the Bible but depended upon religious tradition.

Paul likewise experienced persecution for his stand on the Messianic doctrine, a doctrine that will truly harmonize the sacred Scriptures. Paul preached the atoning death of Yahshua the Messiah that will wash away the sins of those who claim the grace of Yahweh. If we live by faith, Yahweh will forgive our sins when we worship Him and humbly keep His commandments. Therefore, it becomes obvious that faith and circumcision are at opposite poles.

Paul preached the death of the Messiah upon the tree, a perfect

sacrifice that will work this atoning miracle. Works of men are then rejected as having the power or the ability to expiate. Our works cannot atone for us.

Here the true message of salvation was brought into direct confrontation with rabbinical

All of the  
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word **love** (agape).

If we have agape in our hearts we will  
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Yahweh and we will wish to serve  
our fellow men.

Judaism and their carnal interpretation of the law of Yahweh. Those who have received atonement for their sins in the death of the perfect sinless man will seek to live as perfectly as He did. Paul suffered for his conviction and for the message that he preached since it was not a popular doctrine.

We today also suffer for our stand in understanding scriptural doctrine and we say as did Paul in his day, “Yahweh be the judge and decide between what we teach and the ideas of those who oppose sound doctrine.”

### **Freedom From Sin**

***“You, my friends, were called to be free men; only do not turn your freedom into license for your lower nature, but be servants to one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in a single commandment: ‘Love***

*your neighbor as yourself.’ But if you go on fighting one another, tooth and nail, all you can expect is mutual destruction.” Galatians 5:13-15 (NEB)*

Freedom from doing penance or performing some other physical act, does not release us from obeying Yahweh’s commandments. Our lower carnal (fleshly) nature would direct us toward anarchy because this is the way of Satan. We have been called to be free men, free from sin and its certain death penalty.

We are free from the constant ritual sacrificial system because we seek to live in harmony with the will of Almighty Yahweh. Therefore, we need no continuing sacrifice, but the shed blood of Yahshua the Messiah is sufficient to pay the price once and for all. We are freed from the tentacles of eternal death, having been placed on the pathway of liberty and everlasting life taking us toward the Kingdom of Yahweh. Meditate carefully on this concept and you will gain a whole dimension of understanding.

Let us analyze the term “whole law” that appears in the **Authorized Version** and in other translations. In verse 3 we find the Greek words **holon ton nomon**. This is to be translated “the whole of the law.” As explained previously, this term would signify a return to animal sacrifices if one were to look to circumcision as an atonement for sins, because the sacrifice of the Messiah would consequently be



rejected. It also refers to the oral law which we have already seen to be explained by the Rabbis as a superior adjustment to the written Law.

In verse 14 the Greek text reads, **ho gar pas nomos**. Translated this would be, “for every (all) law.” You will notice that different words are related to the word law (**nomos**) and thus a different meaning is intended. In verse 3, Paul wishes to indicate all or the entirety of the law of Yahweh, which would designate the sacrificial commandments.

In verse 14 the word **pas** means **every** law. This includes all of the written law of Yahweh. All of the commandments of Yahweh can be summarized by the word **love** (agape). If we have agape in our hearts we will wish to keep the commandments of Yahweh and we will wish to serve our fellow men.

Yahshua taught exactly the same thing in His ministry. Turn to Matthew 22:34-40. ***“But the Pharisees, when they heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, gathered themselves together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, trying him: Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? And he said to him, You shall love Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second like unto it is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments the whole law hangs, and the prophets.”***

We note that Paul was teaching the same message that Yahshua had taught. Summarizing the law of Yahweh in

complete brevity can be done by one word—LOVE! The law of Yahweh specifies how we should love our Heavenly Father. Love is indeed THE way of life! When brethren of the Assemblies of Yahweh have a difference of opinion they will always find a solution in a spirit of love for each other and the truth of Yahweh. Brethren will **solve** problems rather than run away from them because they have the Holy Spirit of Yahweh.

John has shown in his first epistle how we should express our love to Yahweh. His explanation follows in close harmony with what Yahshua the Messiah taught in His earthly ministry and what Paul wrote on several occasions, including this passage in Galatians.

1 John 5:1-3, ***“Whoever believes that Yahshua is the Messiah is begotten of Yahweh: and whoever loves him that begat loves him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of Elohim, when we love Yahweh and do his commandments. For this is the love of Yahweh, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”***

To come into contact with Yahweh is to become immersed in His love. It envelops our heart and life until it must reflect outward from us toward our fellow men. We show Yahweh that we love Him because we keep His commandments. We should show our love to our brethren and to our fellow man by doing nothing that would encroach upon their rights as specified in the law of Yahweh. So we find that love is indeed the fulfilling of the law of Yahweh.

Notice how perfectly Paul ex-

presses this in Romans 13:8-10. ***“Owe no man anything, save to love one another: for he that loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. For this, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not covet, and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this word, namely, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love works no ill to his neighbor: love therefore is the fulfillment of the law.”***

We might also observe that the only way we can truly complete the purpose for which the law of Yahweh was given is to show love toward Yahweh and toward our fellow men. Love summarizes the law of Yahweh and it completes the intention for which it was given. No internal conflict can ever develop in the Assemblies of Yahweh when love prevails and reigns supreme. It is the force to bind Yahweh’s people together in a unified body.

### ***Spirit Motivated People***

***“That nature sets its desires against the Spirit, while the Spirit fights against it. They are in conflict with one another so that what you will to do you cannot do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.” Galatians 5:17-18 (NEB)***

Read again the last sentence of this passage. This is exactly how the Greek text reads (with no article before the word **law**). In the **King James Version** a word has been added that should not be there.

If we are led by the Spirit of Yahweh we are not under law, meaning its penalty. It is the Spirit of Yahweh that is implanted within our hearts and minds at baptism that will make





## Understanding the Book of Galatians

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us victorious in battle against our lower carnal nature. When we follow the Spirit of Yahweh to do His commandments, we will not yield to our fleshly nature but we will thereby demonstrate our love to Yahweh. We will serve Almighty Yahweh in reverent worship and not be under, or incur the penalty for, disobedience.

Sacrifice for sin then becomes unnecessary because we will try to live a sinless life. Our hearts will be circumcised (Deuteronomy 30:6-8) to love and serve Yahweh and the blood of Messiah cleanses us from all sin. Almighty Yahweh will then give us His approval just before we enter into the promised land (the coming Kingdom of Yahweh). The circumcision not made with hands, putting off fleshly lusts, is Yahweh's gift through Yahshua the Messiah.

The type of Joshua 5 will be fulfilled in the anti-type, as in 1 Corinthians 15:35-38. Our lower nature, which would seek to do some act of penance rather than live in strict obedience to the law of Yahweh, can indeed be conquered. The Holy Spirit of Yahweh will do the work in our lives if we will follow its guidance, since it is a spirit of **power**. It requires faith to believe that Yahweh will approve of us if we live a sinless life, without the necessity for doing penance.

***“But if you bear the name of a Jew, and rest upon the law, and glory in Yahweh, and know his will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law, and are confident that you yourself are a guide of the blind, a light of them that are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish, a teacher***

***of babes, having in the law the form of knowledge and of the truth; you therefore that teach another, do you not teach yourself? You that preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? You that say a man should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You that hate idols, do you rob temples? You who glory in the law, do you through your transgression of the law dishonor Yahweh? For the name of Yahweh in blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you, even as it is written. For circumcision is indeed profitable, if you are a doer of the law: but if you are a transgressor of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. If therefore the uncircumcision keep the ordinances of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be***

*reckoned for circumcision? And shall not the uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfill the law, judge you, who with the letter and circumcision are a transgressor of the law? For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision which is outward in the flesh: but he is a Jew which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, not the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of Yahweh.”* (Romans 2:17-29)

Reread this passage, noting how Yahweh approves of the uncircumcised, repentant believer who keeps His laws, while rejecting the circumcised person who breaks the law.

### ***The Works of the Flesh***

***“Anyone can see the kind of behavior that belongs to the lower nature: fornication, impurity, and indecency; idolatry and sorcery; quarrels, a contentious temper, envy, fits of rage, selfish ambitions, dissensions, party intrigues, and jealousies; drinking bouts, orgies, and the like. I WARN YOU, AS I WARNED YOU BEFORE, THAT THOSE WHO BEHAVE IN SUCH WAYS WILL NEVER INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF YAHWEH.”*** Galatians 5:19-21, NEB (*Emphasis ours*)

It becomes obvious to those who are living in the spirit which kind of fruit is borne by those in the Messiah’s body. We have received the gift of discernment. Whatever emerges in a person’s everyday behavior if he yields to the flesh will be visible to the converted people. Those who have wicked hearts will bear fruit characteristic of an unrepentant,

unconverted person.

Fornication means premarital or incestuous sex; impurity and indecency would be indicative of evil thoughts that constantly come to an unconverted person’s mind and he allows them to reside in his heart. Idolatry and sorcery would focus on a person’s desire to continue in pagan religion rather than serve Almighty Yahweh and be a True Worshiper. One who serves the one and only true Mighty One will wish to avoid any pagan worship. Quarrels and a contentious temper are almost the total converse of peacefulness that comes when the Holy Spirit resides in our hearts, as would be envy, fits of rage, selfish ambitions, dissensions, party intrigues, and jealousies.

If you read over the 13th chapter of 1 Corinthians (especially in a modern translation) you will note that true, Holy Spirit-begotten love is totally different from wicked activities of purely fleshly behavior. In the life of the True Worshiper, patience, love, and a meek and quiet spirit will be manifest. In Yahweh’s true assembly the Holy Spirit will be active among His ordained elders. Each member is obligated to produce fruits of the Holy Spirit in his personal life.

Paul calls our attention to the inheritance of the True Worshiper in the Kingdom of Yahweh. He explains that those people who are motivated by the flesh **WILL NOT** be permitted into the Kingdom of Yahweh.

Kingdom means government. It means organization. It represents the antithesis of confusion. This fact is clear from what Yahshua taught His disciples to use as a model for their prayers. Matthew 6:10 reads, ***“Your kingdom come. Your will be done,***

***as in heaven, so on earth.”***

Do we truly comprehend the deep meaning underlying this petition? We are asking our Heavenly Father to send His government to this earth so that His will may direct the affairs of this earth just as His will is supreme in the Heavens. The orbits of the heavenly bodies reveal Yahweh’s order, the organization of His government. In His true assembly such organization also exists.

The Hebrew word **Shalom** (Peace) means to be complete, to be unfragmented or unified. Consequently, it becomes clear to us why Paul says in 1 Corinthians 14:33, ***“For Yahweh is not an Elohim of confusion, but of peace, AS IN ALL THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE SAINTS.”***

The government of Yahweh will produce peace. When His people humbly submit to the government of Yahweh embodied in His commandments, total unity, total peace, and absolute harmony in the assembly will result. Conversely, the works of the flesh will produce disintegration, fragmentation, discord, and this kind of spirit is from Satan—not from Yahweh!

Satan influences the weak, fleshly human nature of the human being. The Holy Spirit of Yahweh promotes the Kingdom of Yahweh government, causing it to prevail—within the life of the True Worshiper, in the assemblies of the saints of Yahweh.

Where Yahweh’s government is ruling there will be no room for works of the flesh. Just remember, the Kingdom of Yahweh is to be found in a family relationship, all of His creation working together in **unity** toward one goal and purpose. The effects of the government of Yahweh will be manifest to all. They will be



desired by all those who eagerly look for the millennial reign of the Messiah upon this earth to restore this earth to the potential for which it was originally created.

### ***The Fruit of the Spirit***

***“But the harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, fidelity, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law dealing with such things as these. And those who belong to Yahshua Messiah have [impaled] the lower nature with its passions and desires. If the Spirit is the source of our life, let the Spirit also direct our course. We must not be conceited, challenging one another to rivalry, jealous of one another.” Galatians 5:22-26 (NEB)***

Do you recall Yahshua’s discourse about the good and bad fruit that a tree will bear? In Matthew 7:15-20, ***“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. By their fruits you shall know them. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so, every good tree always brings forth good fruit; but the corrupt tree brings forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that brings not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you shall know them.”***

We have already seen the warning Paul gave to those people who engage in behavior that is indicative of a carnal unrepentant attitude. They will not inherit the Kingdom of Yahweh.

They will be excluded from the plan of salvation that Yahweh has designed. They will be cut down and wither, to be burned in the lake of fire.

On the other hand, those who strive for the spirit-filled life will bear much fruit. They will be like a tree planted by rivers of running water, Psalm 1:3. We are fruit inspectors; others will know us by fruit that we bear. We will show the fruit of love if Yahweh’s Kingdom government has first place within our lives.

To bear this kind of fruit will require first taking some drastic action to correct our personal lives. It demands that we **MORTIFY, IMPALE, PUT TO DEATH**, our old natures. Undoubtedly, pruning is quite painful to the tree. It is painful for the heart to be circumcised. It is also painful for a human being to make deep-seated changes in his life, to cut himself off from Satan’s wicked world and to have his heart and mind converted into the spiritual likeness of Yahshua the Messiah.

In the end, good fruit will result and a new creation will appear, a creation of Yahweh that will personify true happiness and joy. We submit ourselves completely to the will of Yahweh and to the guidance of His Spirit. We no longer capitulate to the degenerating passions and lusts that characterized our unconverted life. The Spirit will guide us day by day, living over again the sinless life of the Messiah in our lives so that we can merit His sacrifice for us.

Paul shows clearly that **NO LAW** is needed to regulate **AGAINST** any one of the good works produced by the Holy Spirit. Have you noticed how Paul brings the **law of Yahweh** squarely into this section dealing

with the harvest of the Spirit? The law of Yahweh legislates **AGAINST** what **evil** men will do. If no evil deed is committed the law has been observed, kept unbroken. The individual lives above the law! The law of Yahweh directs the True Worshiper toward good conduct through the love it expresses. Law does not regulate **good** conduct, is Paul’s argument.

Conversely, there is a law that legislates against improper behavior. This law still legislates against the deeds of the flesh and it will condemn the sinner. One who lives according to the principles of the law of Yahweh will stand innocent in the day of judgment, but the law breaker will be punished. Yahweh will protect in times of trouble, Psalm 91:14-16. The True Worshiper, who is innocent of wrong living, will be spared from the Great Tribulation, Revelation 3:10. He will be included in the Kingdom of Yahweh to inherit the promises made to righteous Abraham as a son of Yahweh.

The book of Galatians therefore maintains the concept of obedience to the law of Yahweh. It stands for righteous living as the visible sign declaring that one is a True Worshiper. Rather than doing away with Yahweh’s law, this dynamic letter to True Worshipers lends complete support to the **way of life** found in the commandments of Yahweh.

Obedience will lead the individual back to the marvelous beauty of the Garden of Eden age that was lost by a sinful Adam and Eve. It is the only way to heal the breach of separation between Yahweh and His people, Isaiah 59:2. What is your decision?

<sup>SNB</sup>

# PROPHETIC TRENDS



## LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT

*“For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of Yahweh so comes as a thief in the night.” (1 Thessalonians 5:2).*

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

*one another, and build each other up, even as also you do.” (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11).*

The Apostle Paul warned the Assembly of Yahweh in Thessalonica, that the day of Yahweh comes as a thief in the night. However, we must be reminded of what the Scriptures teach concerning the times and seasons, and the time of trouble that lies ahead. When they are saying, **“Peace and safety, then suddenly the destruction comes upon them....”**

Have you been awakened out of sleep knowing that the return of Yahshua the Messiah is imminent? Hopefully, you are not in darkness, so that that day should overtake you as a thief. We should be as “sons of light and sons of the day,” walking in the LIGHT OF TRUTH and the light of the Law and Word of Almighty Yahweh. We should not be asleep, as so many people are today, but watching for the imminent return of our Savior.

We must not be drunk with the spirit of this world. Neither can we be DRUNK with the spirit of Babylon; however, we must be sober and watchful—preparing ourselves for the coming of our Savior by putting on the whole armor of Yahweh, and standing firm during this evil time and the evil time to come.

*“Say to them, As I live, says the Sovereign Yahweh, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn, turn you from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?” (Ezekiel 33:11).*

Paul cautioned the Thessalonians that Yahweh did not appoint us to be recipients of His wrath and judgment that is soon to fall upon this earth. Instead, Yahweh appointed us to the obtaining of salvation through Yahshua the Messiah. The salvation of Yahweh is granted to all those who ENDURE FAITHFULLY to the end, obeying His Word, and following in the footsteps of His only begotten Son, our Savior and soon-coming King, Yahshua the Messiah. Therefore, we must live together (in unity) with Him and with Yahshua the Messiah.

**“Watch therefore: for you know not on what day your Master comes. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what watch the thief was coming, he would have watched, and would not have permitted his house to be broken through. THEREFORE BE YOU ALSO READY; for in an hour that you think not the Son of man comes.” (Matthew 24:42-44).**

Yahshua the Messiah warned



us that we must watch, because we do not know on what day He (the Master) comes. ARE YOU PREPARING YOURSELF FOR THE IMMINENT RETURN OF YAHSHUA THE MESSIAH? Will you be ready when He returns? On many occasions Yahshua warned His disciples—and we are disciples of Yahshua the Messiah—to watch and pray and be ready for His return.

***“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his Master has set over his household, to give them their food in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his Master when he comes shall find so doing. Truly I say to you, that he will set him over all that he has. But if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My Master tarries; and shall begin to beat his fellow-servants, and shall eat and drink with the drunken: the Master of that servant shall come in a day when he expects not, and in an hour when he knows not, and shall severely scourge him, and appoint his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.”*** (Matthew 24:45-51).

Blessings and curses are proclaimed upon us by Yahshua the Messiah. The faithful and wise servant will be obedient to the Word of Yahweh and will walk in the footsteps of Yahshua the Messiah. The evil servant, however, will receive a curse and judgment from the great Judge Yahshua upon His second coming. We cannot be like that evil servant, who eats and drinks with the drunken, and who is drunk with the intoxicating spirit of this Babylonish world.

***“Watch therefore, for you know not the day nor the hour.”*** (Matthew 25:13).

***“Even so you also, when you see these things coming to pass, know you that he is nigh, even at the doors. Truly I say to you, This generation shall not pass away, until all these things be accomplished. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. But of that DAY OR THAT HOUR KNOWS NO ONE, not even the angels in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take heed, watch and pray: for you know not when the time is. It is as when a man, sojourning in another country, having left his house, and given authority to his servants, to each one his work, commanded also the porter to watch. WATCH THEREFORE: for you know not when the master of the house comes, whether at evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrowing, or in the morning; lest coming suddenly he should find you sleeping. And what I say to you I say to all, Watch.”*** (Mark 13:29-37).

***“Let your loins be girded about, and your lamps burning; and be you yourselves like to men LOOKING FOR THEIR MASTER, when he shall return from the marriage feast; that, when he comes and knocks, they may straightway open to him. Blessed are those servants, whom the Master when he comes shall find watching: truly I say to you, that he shall gird himself, and make them sit down to meat, and shall come and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, and if in the third, and find them so, blessed are those servants. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what hour the thief was coming, he would have***

***watched, and not have left his house to be broken through. Be you also ready: for in an hour that you think not the Son of man comes.”*** (Luke 12:35-40).

The majority of people today, it seems, fulfill the prophecy of the Apostle Peter in 2 Peter 3:1-4. ***“This is now, beloved, the second letter that I write to you; and in both of them I stir up your sincere mind by putting you in remembrance; that you should remember the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and the commandment of the Master and Savior through your apostles: knowing this first, that in the last days mockers shall come with mockery, WALKING AFTER THEIR OWN LUSTS, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For, from the day that the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”*** Therefore, we must stir up a sincere mind and remember what the Word of Yahweh has instructed us. Have you forgotten what the Scriptures teach regarding how evil the times will be before the return of Yahshua the Messiah? It is imperative for us, then, to remember what the Scriptures teach regarding the end of the age, and that in the last days there will be mockers who mock the Sacred Scriptures and the Kingdom Way of Life. Have you noticed how this has been occurring with increasing intensity and frequency in recent days, weeks, and years?

Perhaps this Laodicean lethargy has WORN DOWN YOUR RESOLVE and caused you to become DULL OF HEARING! The key to reversing this lukewarm trend in your life must be to follow the words of Yahshua

the Messiah to the Laodicean assembly—***“Be zealous therefore, and repent!”***

***“Remember therefore how you have received and did hear; and keep it, and repent. If therefore you shall not watch, I will come as a thief, and you shall not know what hour I will come upon you.”*** (Revelation 3:3).

***“(Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.)”*** (Revelation 16:15).

The elect Assembly will be Yahweh’s faithful, end-time Assembly that will follow the Lamb wherever He goes. The Elect will wash their garments, and they will keep them pure, unspotted, and wrinkle free. The bride will make herself ready with spiritual garments that are bright and pure—the righteous acts (obedience to the Law of Yahweh, Deuteronomy 6:25) of the Saints.

### ***Rain in Due Season?***

Recent storms that have struck Germany, Turkey, and China, have caused us to question: Is this judgment from Yahweh? Yahweh can also judge with a flood just as He can with a drought. If we are faithful to Yahweh, He will give us our rain in due season, so that we will be able to receive an abundant harvest. How many times are our harvests destroyed by floods, or by scarcity of rain?

***“And it shall come to pass, if you shall listen diligently to my commandments which I command you this day, to love Yahweh your Elohim, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, that I will give the rain of your land in its season, the earlier rain and the later rain,***

***that you may gather in your grain, and your new wine, and your oil. And I will give grass in your fields for your cattle, and you shall eat and be full. Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart becomes deceived, and you turn aside, and serve other elohim, and worship them; and the anger of Yahweh is kindled against you, and he shuts up the heavens, so that there shall be no rain, and the land shall not yield its fruit; and you perish quickly from off the good land which Yahweh gives you.”*** (Deuteronomy 11:13-17).

Certain locations around the world are in severe drought, even more devastating than it was during the Dust Bowl era. A recent article in **Discover** magazine warned that much of the United States is in dry, or drought, conditions. ***“BY ONE MEASURE, ALMOST 100% OF THE WEST IS NOW IN DROUGHT AND THAT SETS AN ALL-TIME 122-YEAR-RECORD...that measure, called the Palmer Drought Index, takes into account both moisture and temperature to provide a good view of long-term drought....***

***“Using another measure, the kind you may be accustomed to, is the Standard US Drought Monitor. About 90% of the West is experiencing some level of drought, with 57% in extreme to exceptional drought, the two worst categories. This week marked a milestone in that this is the highest percent area of drought in the western United States since the drought monitor started in 2000.***

***“Western farmers and ranchers are facing a brutal growing season as drought conditions drastically reduce water deliveries,”*** says Dan Keppen, Executive

Director of the Family Farm Alliance, a non-profit water organization with members in seventeen Western states. ***“Many are being forced to make difficult decisions about their operations. NO WATER FOR A FARMER MEANS NO CROPS, NO FOOD, and a very limited ability to take care of his or her family,”*** Keppen says.

***“Also suffering are the water reservoirs in the West, such as Lake Mead and Lake Powell on the Colorado River, that are suffering at historic or near-historic low levels. The Colorado River—A source of water to 40 million people—is ‘tapped out.’ As a result, another form of history is about to be made: for the first time ever, this summer the federal government will declare an official shortage on the river.***

***“Many other reservoirs in the West are running short on water. California’s two largest lakes, lakes Shasta and Oroville, are at 46 and 37% of their historic averages respectively.... New Mexico’s largest reservoir, Elephant Butte, is currently in a shocking 7% of capacity.”***

Concern is also growing regarding the possibility that the electrical grid in the West will also come under stress because of low-water levels in rivers and reservoirs that is needed for the cooling water that is required





## ***We must be sober and watchful— preparing ourselves for the coming of our Savior by putting on the whole armor of Yahweh....***

in the production of electrical energy at coal and natural gas-fired plants, as well as nuclear plants. Low-water levels are also impacting hydroelectric power generation on the Colorado River. “Less water, often results in less water running through turbines and creating electricity,” said Tracy LeBeau who runs the U.S. Department of Energy’s Western Area Power Administration. “Right now, in many regions, power is in high demand because of the higher temperatures. So it’s a double whammy for us.”

### ***Food Prices Increase***

Inflation, it seems, has come to the dinner table as well as every other aspect of the economy. Some of this has been caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, supply-chain disruptions, as well as staffing issues due to quarantine protocols. Oil prices have doubled, and profit-taking is rampant. “**BUT WARNING BELLS ARE STARTING TO BE HEARD ABOUT OTHER IMPENDING SHORTAGES** of consumer goods and food staples as wholesale prices of certain raw materials used in a wide variety of food preparations have risen sharply over the past several weeks. This steady upward price pressure is coming at a time when many fragile economies around the world are not in a position to handle a **SHARP RISE IN THE COST OF FOOD** for their populations. Soaring raw material prices have brought repercussions for households and businesses, and threaten the world economy

*trying to recover from the damage of the coronavirus pandemic. They help fuel food inflation, bringing more pain for families that are already grappling with the financial pressure from the loss of jobs or incomes. For central banks, a spike in prices at the time of weak growth creates an unwelcome policy choice and could limit their ability to loosen policy. “There seems to be sort of a bullish force behind the prices internationally,”* Abdolreza Abbisian, senior economist at the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, said in an interview. “*The indications are that there is very little reason to believe prices would remain at these levels. It’s more likely that they will rise further. **HARDSHIP IS STILL AHEAD.**”*

“*Generally people see this inflation continuing,”* said Tosin Jack, an analyst at Mintec, which monitors commodity prices. “*The trend will continue for some time and it will translate into consumer goods.*”

“*Americans have been able to survive financially for the better part of a year due, to some degree, to a government-provided bubble. Various COVID-19 relief and stimulus programs, combined with such market-altering policies as eviction and foreclosure moratoriums have **SHELTERED** Americans from some of the **HARSHER FINANCIAL REALITIES** of the economic shutdown. But those costs are going to come due soon for many. It is beginning to look like a triple whammy is about to be visited*

*on American consumers—higher food costs, higher energy prices, and **A DAY OF RECKONING** in having to deal with financial pain that has only been delayed, not eliminated, resulting from the economic shutdown,”* in an article at **Red State.com**. “*It all boils down to something that **LOOKS LIKE AN AMERICAN COLLAPSE... it might be a really good time to lay in a few **EXTRA BAGS OF RICE, AND BEANS,** and chili powder to make it edible,**”* advised one blogger.

“***If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; if my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.***” (2 Chronicles 7:13-14).

### ***What, Me Worry?***

This was the response of satirical figure Alfred E. Newman from a half-century ago; yet, this seems to be the attitude of the majority of people today. Rather than prepare for troublous times to come, so many follow the ostrichs' response by sticking their heads into the sand. In an interesting article by Michael Lebowitz, “*In the beginning [Elohim] created the heavens and the earth. Later in the book of Genesis [Elohim], created cycles,*” quoting from Genesis 41:25-36. “*Eons later, famed mathematician Benoit Mandelbrot wrote on the similarity between naturally occurring cycles and market cycles. He used the term Joseph Effect and Noah Effect (a cataclysmic event) to define the good and the*



bad years, respectively. Despite the sharp decline last year, equity markets are back to record highs, and the Joseph Effect is running strong. But, while investors are enthusiastic, the odds are growing that the Noah Effect may come sooner than most investors fathom. The math is clear that returns over the next ten years will fail in comparison to the last.”

Using the term FOMO (Fear of Missing Out), he continued, “Financial markets often experience similar behavioral herding. Most investors **BLINDLY MIMIC** the behavior of other investors without seeking the rationality behind it. Investors get gripped by a fear of missing out in the extremes of bull markets, aka FOMO. Patient investors grow impatient watching neighbors and friends make ‘easy’ money. One by one, reluctant investors join the herd despite their concerns. Famed investors, Wall Street analysts, and the media prey on ill-equipped investors by justifying ever-higher prices. Their narrative is rationalizing, steep valuation premiums become widespread. Despite evidence to the contrary and historical precedence, investors always buy the hype. **‘THIS TIME IS DIFFERENT,’ SAY THE PROMOTERS.**

“Per a recent report, J.P. Morgan had the following to say on

bubbles: ‘both begin with a compelling narrative that eventually leads analysts to **DISCARD PREVIOUS VALUATION Y A R D - S T I C K S** because ‘this time is differ-

ent.’ Occasionally, times have changed, but often they haven’t. Markets fluctuate between periods where **GREED CAUSES MANY INVESTORS TO IGNORE OR BELITTLE FACTS AND HISTORY.** When markets are frothy and grossly overvalued, greed takes over, leading to lofty performance expectations and excessive risk stances.”

### ***This Too Shall Pass***

Where does it all end? In the near term, it ends in the Beast System which is soon to be implemented worldwide. Prophecies of the Beast government and the great tribulation are seemingly just around the corner and soon to be fulfilled. However, the Second Coming of Yahshua Messiah is imminent, and when He comes He will set up the Kingdom of Yahweh here on this earth. One thousand years of peace, harmony, and prosperity will follow Yahshua’s return. We must, however, prepare ourselves for His return.

**“Behold, I send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and Yahweh, whom you seek, will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, behold, he comes, says Yahweh of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming? and who shall**

**stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire, and like fullers’ soap: and he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi, and refine them as gold and silver; and they shall offer unto Yahweh offerings in righteousness. Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto Yahweh, as in the days of old, and as in ancient years. And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against the false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the sojourner from his right, and fear not me, says Yahweh of hosts.”** (Malachi 3:1-5).

**“And I heard a great voice out of the throne saying, Behold, the tabernacle of Yahweh is with men, and he shall tabernacle with them, and they shall be his peoples, and Yahweh himself shall be with them, and be their Elohim: and he shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death shall be no more; neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain, anymore: the first things are passed away. And he that sits on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he says, Write: for these words are faithful and true. And he said to me, They have come to pass. I am the Aleph and the Tau, the beginning and the end. I will give to him that is thirsty of the fountain of the water of life freely. He**

*Continued on page 20.*



# Back Under LAW?

A passage of Scripture that has confused many students who only study the Bible superficially appears in Galatians 4:21-27.

***“Tell me now, you who are so anxious to be under law, will you not listen to what the Law says? It is written there that Abraham had two sons, one by his slave and the other by his free-born wife. The slave-woman’s son was born in the course of nature, the free-woman’s through Yahweh’s promise. This is an allegory. The two women stand for two covenants. The one bearing children into slavery is the covenant that comes from Mount Sinai: that is Hagar. Sinai is a mountain in Arabia and it represents the Jerusalem of today, for she and her children are in slavery. But the heavenly Jerusalem is the free woman; she is our mother. For Scripture says, ‘Rejoice, O barren woman who never bore child; break into a shout of joy, you who never knew a mother’s pangs; for the deserted wife shall have more children than she who lives with the husband.’ ”*** (NEB)

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*by Elder Jacob O. Meyer*

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The points made here by Paul are based upon incidents recorded in Genesis chapters 16 and 21. He sees an allegory between what occurred in the Old Testament and what the Galatians are confronting in their Messianic spiritual walk.

A correct understanding of the Bible can be achieved by employing a grammatical—historical method of interpretation. We must watch the grammar of the original texts (as closely as we can return to them) quite carefully. Then we must take into account the life-setting in which the passage was written and the spectrum of historical interrelationships throughout the passage. We must always remember to harmonize the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. When we employ these necessary research tools, the correct meaning of the Inspired Scriptures will burst forth with new clarity and understanding.

As we begin our careful examination of this passage, a grammatical fact emerges that

has significant bearing on the correct interpretation of the passage. The Greek text presents no article before the first word **law** (*in the first line*). There is no indefinite article, “**a**,” in either the Hebrew or the Greek languages, as is the definite article, “**the**.” Therefore, we can justifiably insert the English indefinite article “**a**” before the word **law** in the first line, just as it can be sometimes deleted to bring us to a better understanding. Context and scriptural harmony must regulate such steps in every instance. The translators of the **New English Bible** have rendered the Greek text correctly here.

Repeatedly the Old Testament tells us that the law of Yahweh will continue forever (i.e. Psalm 111 and 119, for example). Paul could hardly advocate doing away with Yahweh’s covenant law and His commandments and remain a true minister. Remember Isaiah 8:20. ***“To the law and to the testimony! If they speak not according to this word, surely there is no morning for them.”*** Therefore, by translating verse 21 of Galatians chapter 4 as follows,

the true interpretation becomes immediately obvious. ***“Tell me now, you who are so anxious to be under a law...”*** It is not Yahweh’s law that Paul is condemning. By considering what he subsequently says, a clearer understanding will emerge. The law he indicates is the **added law**, which he says, would be set aside by the Messiah. The law he indicates is the added law which had superimposed itself over Yahweh’s commandments. It is the rabbinic oral law and Judaism’s erroneous interpretation of circumcision.

Paul illustrates his explanation by introducing an allegory. An allegory means a story in which people, things, and happenings have a meaning (other than the literal) that proves morally instructive. He calls forth the account of how Abraham and Sarah were so anxious to have an heir that they impatiently ran ahead of Yahweh’s plan.

Sarah concluded that Yahweh meant her husband would father a child perhaps by another woman since she was so elderly. Consequently, she gave her maid-servant Hagar to Abraham so he could procreate a child for Sarah by proxy. From this illicit union Ishmael was born. However, as we all know, the descendants of Ishmael have been a thorn in the flesh to the Israelites. How different history would be if Abraham and Sarah had waited patiently for Yahweh to complete His plan in His own time frame!

Afterwards, a miraculous conception took place in which Isaac was born to a very elderly Sarah and Abraham. When Isaac was weaned, Ishmael mocked the true heir and this infuriated Sarah who insisted that the improper heir be immediately evicted from their home. This was in the will

of Yahweh, but He had compassion on Hagar and Ishmael and blessed them because the child was Abraham’s progeny.

According to Paul, this incident relates to the two covenants. He illustrates by saying that Hagar and her child alludes to the covenant Yahweh made with Israel from Mt. Sinai, while Sarah and her child Isaac represent the heavenly Jerusalem. We must here remember a fact that we learned at the beginning of our study on the book of Galatians. The law of Yahweh is eternal, Psalm 119:160. **It did not originate** from Mt. Sinai, Genesis 26:5. ***“Because Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.”*** It is biblically recorded as being first given to Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, Genesis 2:16. The word **covenant** is also found seven times in Genesis 9 where Noah made His agreement with Yahweh, therefore Yahweh’s covenant law was already in existence, being passed down from generation to generation, but without a complete written record, or collection, or its codification appearing until Moses was given the entire covenant at Sinai.

We must also recall that Almighty Yahweh outlined the ceremonial and sacrificial law from Mt. Sinai, Leviticus 27:34. It is this law that leads to bondage and slavery. Ceremonial practices and sacrifices are continuing physical acts that remind one of sin. They can never make the sinner morally pure and righteous. Those who are forced to engage in these religious ceremonial rituals may begin to depend exclusively upon sacrifices to atone for their sins. They may forget it is only Al-

mighty Yahweh’s grace that has power to forgive sins. No one can buy His salvation with sacrifices, Micah 6:6-8, Isaiah 1:10-20.

### ***The New Covenant***

Do you recall the terms of the New Covenant as outlined in the Bible? Compare Jeremiah 31:31-34 with Hebrews 8:8-12.

***“The time is coming, says Yahweh, when I will make a new covenant with Israel and Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand and led them out of Egypt. Although they broke my covenant, I was patient with them, says Yahweh. But this is the covenant which I will make with Israel after those days, says Yahweh; I will set my law within them and write it on their hearts; I will become their Elohim and they shall become my people. No longer need they teach one another to know Yahweh; all of them, high and low alike, shall know me, says Yahweh, for I will forgive their wrongdoing and remember their sin no more.”*** Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NEB)

Do you realize what you have just read? This is what Paul sought to communicate to the Galatian brethren by his reference to the two covenants. Why is it that so few people know that the New Covenant is clearly stated in the Old Testament? The law of Yahweh is not a cold, traditional, ceremonial, physical observance as unconverted Israelites had viewed it in Old Testament times.

The New Covenant is Yahweh’s law written **on the hearts** of His people. It demands that the people of Yahweh recognize Him as their Mighty One and yield themselves to His will.



This means that they will recognize His supreme power and authority to direct their lives into spiritual channels. How can we know His will except through His commandments? When human beings live like the Elohim family by keeping His laws, they become His people (the Hebrew term **ami** identifies a near family relative).

The law of Yahweh will be written on the hearts of the people of Yahweh and no longer only set forth externally on tables of stone. For the law of Yahweh to be truly effective, it must be lived by every individual in his daily life. To complete the terms of Yahweh's covenant without the guidance of the Holy Spirit is virtually impossible. Merely to keep the law of Yahweh in a physical way demands adding to it numerous restrictions through human interpretations because the mind of a carnal person seeks to find avenues to circumvent keeping the law. Yahweh did not abrogate His law, however, by having the Messiah keep it for us and then doing away with it, as some groups teach.

Such a repressive system of added law becomes a yoke of bondage. Although Almighty Yahweh had patience with Israel when He brought them out of Egypt and into the Promised Land, they rarely were able to overcome their carnal human natures but continually they drifted back into the idolatrous religions of the people around them.

Notice how the weakness of the Old Covenant is accurately pinpointed in Hebrews 8:8. "**For finding fault with them...**" Almighty Yahweh did not find fault with His law and do away with it, He found fault with the people. The moral, covenant law each believer must keep is the

## ***The New Covenant is Yahweh's law written on the hearts of His people. It demands that the people of Yahweh recognize Him as their Mighty One and yield themselves to His will.***

equitable terms of the covenant found in Yahweh's commandments. **Israel** without the Holy Spirit was **weak through the flesh**, but the heart and determination of the New Covenant believer has been strengthened by the indwelling of the powerful Holy Spirit of Almighty Yahweh. These spiritual people are then able to keep Yahweh's commandments and live in harmony with His will by fulfilling the terms of the agreement.

Keeping the law of Yahweh in a spiritual way will naturally cause the converted person to take a new direction in life, away from sin and toward obedience. The repentant person will never depart from Yahweh. He will always try his best to be obedient to the Heavenly Father. When the law of Yahweh is written upon the tables of the hearts of people through the Holy Spirit, they are empowered to live in the way of Yahweh. The converted individual will never look for loopholes in the law, but will live what it says.

Jerusalem above (the Heavenly Jerusalem), represents the covenant of the Holy Spirit. Yahweh's Word is settled forever in heaven, Psalm 119:89. The Holy Spirit came from heaven to the Apostolic Assembly in the likeness of a rushing mighty wind and flames of fire dividing themselves upon the believers in Acts 2. The Messianic True Worshipers were all in one accord. They

were keeping Yahweh's annual holy day observance together. (Why don't more Pentecostals memorialize this annual feast of Yahweh? Leviticus 23:15-21.) Their worship was recognized by the miracle that occurred.

When ancient Israel ratified the covenant (Exodus 24:1-11), its legality was sealed by the sacrifice of animals. Bulls were slaughtered and their blood sprinkled upon the book of the covenant and upon the Israelites to bind the agreement.

In parallel, the Spirit-begotten people of Yahweh have had their hearts sprinkled with the atoning blood of Yahshua the Messiah. Their sins have been forgiven and their hearts cleansed to receive the Holy Spirit. Such a sacrifice is totally superior to the animal blood that was ineffective under the Old Covenant.

When someone accepts the shed blood of Yahshua the Messiah and turns away from his sins, the grace (mercy or loving-kindness) of Almighty Yahweh becomes active. All past sins are forgiven and those who live in harmony with the terms of the agreement then form a bond of close, personal communication with Almighty Yahweh.

When Yahshua the Messiah was here on this earth, He continually denounced the fleshly, sinful conduct of the religious establishment which was under the Old Covenant. The pharisaical regulations that had been

attached to the law were necessary to control and restrict those who were **carnal** and seeking some avenue to circumvent the commandments of Yahweh.

### ***The Slavery of Sacrifices***

Abraham and Sarah did not have faith to believe Yahweh's promises. In a human way they sought to bring about what Almighty Yahweh planned to do supernaturally with a miracle. Through sacrifices, circumcision, and the added law, the people under the Old Covenant in Paul's time were indeed in virtual bondage or slavery. The earthly Jerusalem of Paul's time represented the religious establishment that had been corrupted, tied to a corrupt system from the past.

Yahshua the Messiah came to expose this corruption; He came to restore the pure worship of our Heavenly Father through restoration of the basic covenant commandments. He cut away the empty ritualism by teaching the sound doctrines of the Bible. His atoning death annulled the sacrificial law, putting His spiritual believers on a level far above the carnal, physical attitude that envelops this present age of man.

While the Old Covenant was physical and temporal, without promise of the Holy Spirit to be given generally, and with the blood of animals to seal the contract, the New Covenant is completely different. Almighty Yahweh spoke His law and it was set down in a book for ready reference. Moses plainly explains that Yahweh's covenant was spoken from heaven, Deuteronomy 4:11-13. Notice what we read in Deuteronomy 4:35-36, "***To you it was showed, that you might know that Yahweh is Elohim; there is no other besides him.***

***OUT OF HEAVEN he made you to hear his voice, that he might instruct you: and upon earth he made you to see his great fire: and you heard his words out of the fire.***"

When Yahweh spoke the Old Covenant it was presented to a united nation. The New Covenant is presented to individuals who are called out of this Egypt and Babylon of sin to be naturalized by baptism and adopted into the nation of modern, spiritual Israelites through the seal of salvation. They keep the commandments of Yahweh through the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit as a requirement of their new citizenship. They are freed from the corrupted religions of the world and their philosophies that are as Hagar. Just as a new citizen must renounce the national laws of his prior citizenship, the Spirit-begotten people of Yahweh turn away from the broad pathway leading to destruction. They reject Satan's authority over them. They reject worldly attitudes and rules.

Those people bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit, beginning with love for their fellow man, manifested as outgoing, spontaneous concern for others. This means that their hearts are circumcised to keep the commandments of Yahweh, to love Yahweh and His human creation, Deuteronomy 30:6-8. Yahweh's people live by faith in His merciful grace, a faith that takes the form of obedience to our Heavenly Father, 1 John 5:3.

What is the purpose Paul intended when he used this allegory? Since the accurate methods of biblical interpretation have not been employed through the centuries, this passage has been terribly mutilated and misunderstood. It has been used as a

common vehicle to reject the commandments of Yahweh. Actually, Paul was teaching law-keeping in a broader sense. Let us see that clearly demonstrated.

Was not earthly Jerusalem of the Apostles' time held captive in a form of spiritual slavery? Certainly, we must conclude that they were under the very oppressive form of ritualistic worship then practiced in Temple worship. Sins were never fully forgiven, but had to be atoned for with animal sacrifices on a regular, continuing basis. The larger religious parties of the day, the Pharisees and Sadducees, had added to the law of Yahweh a multitude of traditional commandments and the additional interpretations to those commandments, which they designated "a fence around the Law." Not only were commandments added to Yahweh's commandments, but even those who kept the commandments of Yahweh were never fully accepted as True Worshipers. One of the religious parties actually refused to recognize the **am haaretz** (*people of the land*) because they feared that these country people were not strict enough in keeping the ritual, ceremonial cleansing laws.

Those religious leaders who followed an outward superficial worship rebuked Yahshua the Messiah for allowing His disciples to eat with unwashed hands, contrary to the traditions, and for eating with sinners, Matthew 15 and Luke 11:19.

There was never an uplifting spirit in Judaism, but conversely there is a very thrilling, inspiring spirit in True Worship, because through faith and the action of the Holy Spirit in control of our lives, we know we are pleasing Yahweh—not men.



Jewish traditional legalism crushed the adherent under a heavy yoke of bondage, rendering the individual never quite capable of pleasing the Almighty. The True Worshiper knows that he is a child of Yahweh because of the witness of the Holy Spirit that has been given to him at baptism. Knowing that his sins are forgiven, and that he has a personal relationship as a child of the Heavenly Father, causes the believer to be joyful in serving the Most High and keeping His commandments. This is the New Covenant written on our hearts, written not with pen and ink, but with the spirit of the living Mighty One, 2 Corinthians 8:2-3.

How different then are these two covenants? And yet their basic components are identical. It is the law of Yahweh that forms the basis for each of these covenants. However, the one is implemented and voluntarily kept with the help of the Holy Spirit of Almighty Yahweh, while the other must be enforced with **added regulations** because it served to regulate only fleshly, carnal hearts.

When we place this passage into its proper perspective, it does not do away with the law of Yahweh, but it actually reinforces its observance, doesn't it? The essential ingredient to a correct understanding of this passage is the **time** element. The answers to the objections raised by the no-law preachers are found in understanding the animal sacrifices and the method of keeping the covenant law through the traditions of Judaism before the Holy Spirit was given. The commandments of Yahweh were not originally given from Mt. Sinai. They were from antiquity, from everlasting, Psalm 93:50. Abraham kept those

same commandments, statutes, and judgments. In other words, he had entered into the everlasting covenant with Yahweh, Genesis 26:5. The charge means the commission. Do you perceive how intrinsically the Name of Yahweh enters into the concept of salvation?

The ritual worship of Judaism demanded constant sacrificing. The added restrictions that the religious leaders had placed on the law made it impossible for a person to live without breaking one of the commandments as the rabbinical authorities interpreted them. The Jewish religious establishment kept their people in fear through this system. It seemed that one was always guilty of some infraction.

But the prophet of old had already foretold of the Messianic age when animal sacrifices would end.

***“O Israel, return lo 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. Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses; neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, You are our elohim; for in you the fatherless finds mercy.”*** (Hosea 14:1-3)

Note also Psalm 40:6-10.

***“Sacrifice and offering you have no delight in; My ears have you opened: Burnt-offering and sin-offering have you not required. Then I said, Lo, I come; In the volume of the book it is written of me: I DELIGHT TO DO YOUR WILL, O MY ELOHIM: YES, YOUR LAW IS WITHIN MY HEART. I have proclaimed***

***glad tidings of righteousness in the great assembly; Lo, I will not refrain my lips. O Yahweh, you know. I have not hid your righteousness within my heart; I have declared your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your lovingkindness and your truth from the great assembly.”***

The law of Yahweh is a way of life, a path leading to everlasting life, as well as serving as our guide for daily living. Yahshua came to show the human race the way to salvation. He came to bring us the plan of salvation, to extend pardon for sin to those who live in humble accord with the commandments of Yahweh.

Then the Messiah died for us to seal the New Covenant in His own blood. Those who accept this plan of salvation will be given the Holy Spirit of power from heaven to assist them in keeping the law of Yahweh in the spiritual manner Yahweh intended. They are free from all condemnation and live in the spirit, bearing the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

### ***Evicting Carnal Man***

***“Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.***

***“And you, my brothers, like Isaac, are children of Yahweh’s promise. But just as in those days the natural-born son persecuted the spiritual son, so it is today. But what does Scripture say? ‘Drive out the slave-woman and her son, for the son of the slave shall not share the inheritance with the free woman’s son. You see, then, my brothers, we are no slave woman’s children; our***

***mother is the free woman.”***  
**Galatians 4:28-31 (NEB)**

Abraham ran ahead of Yahweh's plan by fathering a child by Hagar. This act was purely physical. It revealed Abraham's carnal nature and lack of trust in Yahweh. Trouble develops when someone does not faithfully follow Yahweh's plan, becoming impatient when Yahweh delays. Such was the case with Abraham and Sarah. When the unconverted personality of the young Ishmael emerged as one who resented and mocked his younger brother (the rightful heir), Yahweh told Abraham to send away Hagar and her illegitimate son.

The religion that was embodied in ritual Judaism, along with the traditional added laws, was purely physical. There was no joy in serving Yahweh because the Holy Spirit was lacking. For those fleshly Israelites, that system stabilized them as a nation, just as Ishmael's birth gave Abraham the hope of an heir.

But when Isaac was born an entirely new configuration of

the promises to Abraham became a reality. Isaac stands for an allegory or type of the Holy Spirit. He was the fulfillment of Yahweh's promise from heaven. The Name **Isaac** means *laughter*. The Holy Spirit comes to all who keep Yahweh's covenant to reach the responsibility of spiritual adulthood, and brings us joy in serving Yahweh.

The True Worshiper who enters into the agreement with Yahweh does not need a system of ceremonies, rituals, and traditional interpretations to help him keep the law, Hebrews 9:9-10. Those who have the Holy Spirit of Yahweh will develop to be like Him. They will seek to keep Yahweh's commandments in their fullest spiritual sense, rather than carnally. We joyfully try to do all that Yahweh directs so that we may demonstrate our love to Him and be obedient as sincere children. We love Him because He loved us.

Upon the birth of Isaac, entirely new promises to Abraham finally became a reality. Like him we turn our backs upon the

past. We endeavor to come out of spiritual slavery in Egypt and Babylon. In our new understanding, with a new promise for the future, we are not held captive by the sins of the past, but rather we concentrate upon living a righteous life in the future. A new age appears and the darkness before our eyes diminishes. Our earthly life is meant to be righteous so we can extend it throughout all eternity, released from the slavery of death to the liberty of life everlasting.

The True Worshipers enter the New Covenant with Yahweh, keeping His laws with a new spiritual purpose, accepting the sacrifice and the blood of Yahshua the Messiah to atone for our sins. Having repented of our sins we have embarked upon the road to conversion, and moved away from the physical to enter the area of the spiritual. We learn righteousness through the power of the Holy Spirit of Yahweh. We are free, living to serve our Heavenly Father Yahweh through following the head of the body, Yahshua the Messiah our Redeemer. <sup>SNB</sup>

## PROPHETIC TRENDS

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*Continued from page 14.*

***that overcomes shall inherit these things; and I will be his El, and he shall be my son. But for the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, their part shall be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone; which is the second death.”*** (Revelation 21:3-8).

***“He that is unrighteous, let him do unrighteousness still: and he that is filthy, let him be made filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him do right-***

***eousness still: and he that is holy, let him be made holy still. Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to render to each man according as his work is. I am the Aleph and the Tau, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in by the gates into the city.”*** (Revelation 22:11-14).

Yahshua is coming soon! Are you prepared for His return? Why not begin your preparations

today? Those who do will receive many blessings and benefits from Yahweh and Yahshua the Messiah. One of those blessings that will be granted is entrance into the Kingdom of Yahweh, ***“Then shall the King say to them on his right hand, Come, you blessed of my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world....”*** Nothing in this world today can compare to the glories of the coming Kingdom of Yahweh! <sup>SNB</sup>



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*“And these good tidings of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a testimony to all the nations; and then shall the end come.”*

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