



# THE SACRED NAME BROADCASTER

5/2025



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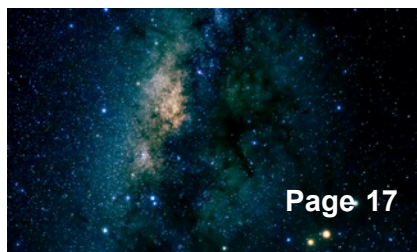
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Founder and Author: Elder Jacob O. Meyer

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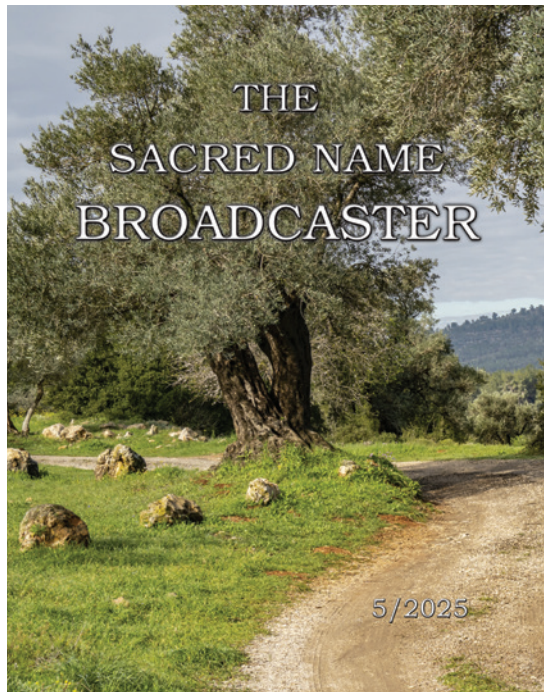
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Almighty Yahweh created four classes of beings to serve Him. Let us make certain that we never falter in our dedication, as did some others.

## Our Cover:

*"And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also does not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper."* (Psalm 1:3).

The olive tree is the focal point of the cover photo this month. The olive tree was an essential crop for Israel down through the ages, providing oil for cooking and for light, as well as for eating.



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The olive tree does not drop its leaves each fall, as do other deciduous trees—remaining green always. *"But as for me, I am like a green olive tree in the house of Elohim: I trust in the lovingkindness of Elohim for ever and ever."* (Psalm 52:8).

The olive tree does not begin to produce until it is about 40 years old, and remains bearing good fruit for 1,000 years or more. We want to emulate the olive tree—bearing fruit into old age.

The Sabbath Psalm, Psalm 92, speaks to our desire to be a productive member of True Worship—like the patriarchs and prophets of old—still bearing fruits of righteousness for decades. *"They are planted in the house of Yahweh; they shall flourish in the courts of our Elohim. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap and green: To show that Yahweh is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him."* (Psalm 92:13-15).





# GRADUATION Caps <sup>AND</sup> Gowns

King Solomon, in the strongest terms, urged the True Worshiper to seek wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.

*“The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: to know wisdom and instruction; to discern the words of understanding; to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteous-*

*ness and justice and equity; to give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion: that the wise man may hear, and increase in learning; and that the man of understanding may attain to sound counsels: to understand a proverb, and a figure, the words of the wise, and*

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by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

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*their dark sayings. The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of knowledge; but the foolish despise wisdom and instruction.”* (Proverbs 1:1-7).

Solomon strengthens this exhor-





***The sacred laurel  
(portrayed in a wreath or circle)  
is held aloft by Nike, the winged  
victory, to crown Zeus as the victor.***

tation to heed the Word of Yahweh in the second chapter of Proverbs.

***“My son, if you will receive my words, and lay up my commandments with you; so as to incline your ear to wisdom. And apply your heart to understanding; for, if you cry after discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding; if you seek her as silver; and search for her as for hid treasures: then shall you understand the fear of Yahweh. And find the knowledge of Elohim. For Yahweh gives wisdom; out of his mouth comes knowledge and understanding: he lays up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to them that walk in integrity; that he may guard the paths of justice, and preserve the way of his saints.***

***Then shall you understand righteousness and justice, and equity, yes, every good path. For wisdom shall enter into your heart, and knowledge shall be pleasant to your soul; discretion shall watch over you; understanding shall keep you: to deliver you from the way of evil, from the men that speak perverse things; who forsake the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness; who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the perverseness of evil; who are crooked in their ways, and wayward in their paths: to deliver you from the strange woman, even from the foreigner that flatters with her words; that forsakes the friend of her youth, and forgets the covenant of her Elohim.”*** (Prov-

erbs 2:1-17).

The Assemblies of Yahweh has always encouraged the search for wisdom and knowledge. We believe that biblical wisdom builds the spiritual house of the believer. Education in biblical teaching develops a sturdy spiritual structure resting upon seven pillars of understanding, Proverbs 9:1. It is interesting to note that the book of Proverbs appears to be divided into seven sections. Perhaps, in this way, Solomon sought to underscore the importance of what he taught.

Nevertheless, from our years of close observation, it becomes obvious that the wisdom of Yahweh contained in the inspired Scriptures by far transcends the wisdom of this world. For example, the world has established an edu-



cational system, apparently at variance with what Almighty Yahweh has clearly outlined in the Scriptures. In many ways, the scholarly world has followed the search for wisdom outlined by Almighty Yahweh. However, in other ways, the educational system of the world appears to maintain the traditions of ancient paganism. Surely, few people of the world follow the principles of study outlined in Proverbs 1 and Psalm 1.

When a student, in a worldly educational institution, has fulfilled certain matriculation requirements, he reaches a higher degree regardless of his actual level of knowledge. The Sacred Scriptures do not support the concept of simply striving for the credit of degrees, but that our reward for diligent Bible study will, ultimately, be acceptance into the family of the Most High at the Second Coming of Yahshua the Messiah. While the world confers upon the student various academic degrees to recognize his level of intellectual advancement, history reveals that such a system is based primarily upon ancient pagan traditions.

One of the milestone levels created by the worldly educational system occurs in the graduation, or commencement, exercise. To mark the passing of a designated degree of learning accomplishment, solemn ceremonies are conducted which take the form of a pageant.

Prominent in the ceremony of graduation, or commencement, is the processional WITH THE PARTICIPANTS WEARING THE ACADEMIC ROBES; the graduates—usually dressed in CAPS AND GOWNS. The average individual unquestioningly accepts these pageants and does not seem to comprehend the dangerous pagan customs that are

latent beneath these customary ceremonies. Too frequently, the student's anticipation of achievement in participating in such a ceremony outweighs his desire to serve Almighty Yahweh and avoid the contamination of this worldly system.

Let us take a close look at the graduation ceremonies and understand where they originated. Then, after having examined the facts which have been unearthed from scholarly research, each one must arrive at his own conclusion and apply the knowledge according to his own ability to obey.

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### Bachelor and Baccalaureate

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When we scrutinize one of the terms assigned to academic degrees, some amazing facts emerge. The first full degree that is granted by a secondary educational institution is called the "Bachelor Degree." One usually thinks of a bachelor as an unmarried man with few responsibilities—the primary definition in some dictionaries. The question now arises concerning the reason why this term should be used to designate an academic degree.

**Webster's New World Dictionary, Second College Edition**, directs the inquirer to the word "baccalaureate" for further consideration. The etymology of this word is said to trace to "laurel berry" from the Middle Latin word *baccalaureatus*. However, they suggest that it traces to the Middle Latin term meaning "vassal farmer, a young nobleman seeking to become a knight (*baccalaris*). They suggest the Gaulish term *bakalagos*, a staff bearer, or shepherd, which they hypothesize traces to the Latin root *baculum*—staff."

However, a very amazing thing is evident through taking an overview of the associative field of words in the **Oxford English Dictionary**. For the word *bacchanal*, variant spellings include *bacca* and *baca* as prefixes. The word *bacchanal* (a place devoted to Bacchus) forms the basis of the word *Bacchanalia*—the festival of *Bacchus*.

To nail down this etymology more firmly, included with this article is an ancient representation of this pagan Greek and Roman mighty one of alcoholic merriment. Obviously, one can recognize that the deity, himself, as well as his devotees portrayed with him, as wearing laurel wreaths like crowns around their heads—the laurel of Bacchus (baccalaureate).

Interestingly, the sacred laurel (portrayed in a wreath, or circle) is held aloft by Nike, the winged victory, to crown Zeus as the victor (refer to Nicolaitanes, Revelation 2:6, 15). In the book, **Two Babylons**, authored by Alexander Hislop, he traces the name Bacchus to Dionysus and, ultimately,

**Roman relief depicting Bacchus or Dionysus, the g-d of wine.**





to Zeus (p. 72). Hislop explains that Bacchus, or Dionysus, meant the *sin-bearing one* as an appellation of *Zeus Soter* (Savior). Many trophies still depict Nike with wings, holding the wreath aloft to crown the victor.

There is more here than readily meets the eye. Close relationships of terms become evident through reflection. Bacchus was not merely a mighty one whose worship consisted of drunken orgies and revelry (as at the New Orleans Mardi Gras). His worship is interwoven into major Christian celebrations, Christmas, as well as Easter, since, sometimes, he is depicted with a headband (note reference to the tippet later in this article) on which was embroidered many crosses. (Yahshua the Messiah was not put to death on a cross, but on a tree, or torture stake. Have you read our article on this subject? It is free for the asking.)

Perhaps this is the reason why heavy drinking frequently accompanies the final days of a student's collegiate life, just before he graduates. Is there a relationship here to the ancient worship of Bacchus and the drunken celebrations for having won the academic victory? One can only speculate.

Why is it necessary to attend a religious service when a senior class graduates from high school, or college? Does it not seem strange that such a baccalaureate service is conducted when no such description of a service appears, or is commanded to be observed, in the Sacred Scriptures? The worship of Almighty Yahweh clearly stands apart from the worship of the nations. See Judges 2:1-15. With the common Christian practice of sanctifying local pagan traditions and merging them into the practices and doctrines of Christianity, should we not become

suspicious of a religious service that so closely resembles ancient heathen rites? Is there more than merely a coincidental resemblance to the practices of the worship of Bacchus?

It would appear so! What about the required garb for baccalaureate and graduation ceremonies? Did this practice also originate with ancient pagans?

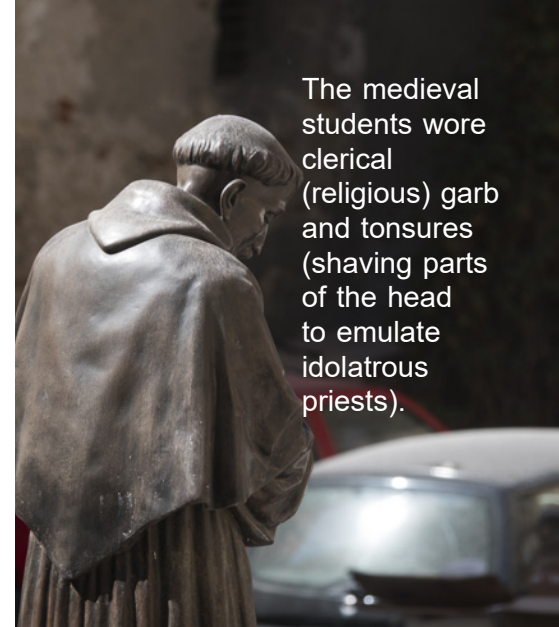
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### Graduation Rites Unbiblical

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Quite a revealing statement is found in the **Encyclopedia Britannica**, *Eleventh Edition*, Vol. 23, p. 413, under the topic of "Robes." Let us understand where the use of these special robes originated.

*"No thorough study has so far been made of early English academic costume as compared with that of the continental universities—a study that ought to throw much light on the subject. A vexed question is that of how far academic dress is derived from the ecclesiastical. Anthony Wood's view, that it is derived from the tunica talaris and cucullus of the Benedictines, would not now meet with much support; but many writers seem to be unnecessarily anxious to trace each item of academic robes to some definite ecclesiastical garment. The medieval scholar was, of course, a clerk, and had to wear the clerkly gown and the tonsure. But, the fact that this was the case makes it more difficult to distinguish between academical and ecclesiastical robes, notably in the case of brasses and other monuments of university graduates and dignitaries who were also priests. Another source of difficulty is the variety of names by which the different parts of the academic costume are called in the university statutes and elsewhere, resulting sometimes in inextricable*



The medieval students wore clerical (religious) garb and tonsures (shaving parts of the head to emulate idolatrous priests).

*confusion."*

As we can see, it has been strongly suggested that the **ACADEMIC ROBES CLOSELY RESEMBLED ECCLESIASTICAL ROBES**. We shall more thoroughly pursue this direction in our investigation. If the medieval students wore clerical (religious) garb and tonsures (shaving parts of the head to emulate idolatrous priests, prohibited in Leviticus 21:5, **NIV**), there must be some relationship between academia and ecclesia.

Additionally, it must be noted that this encyclopedia article further points out that the academic robes in the British educational system trace only to the second half of the 14th century (the 1300s). From there, they appear to be traced to the University of Paris. Nevertheless, it is impossible to trace the secular history of the academic gowns much further than the 13th century C.E.

It is also interesting to note that the different academic costumes represent various degrees of educational advancement. Each particular gown, hood, cap, and cape represents various specific universities, in addition to the wearer's advancement in the different disciplines.

Currently, the University of New York maintains the protocol explaining the accepted academic



robes for each degree of educational progress. According to the noted research works, if any institution wishes to stage an academic processional, they should contact this university for specific robing requirements which are universally accepted.

### Biblical Robes Different from Secular

It is not widely recognized, but the Bible describes distinct differences between robes worn by the priests of Yahweh and the priests of Baal. The specific regulation of ceremonial attire for the priests of Yahweh is clearly described in Exodus 28 and 29.

The priests of Yahweh were directed to wear very specific holy garments. The Hebrew terms are translated as follows. Exodus 28:4 reads: ***“And these are the garments which they shall make: a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a coat of checker work, a mitre, and a girdle: and they shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother; and his sons, that he may minister to me in the priest’s office.”*** These garments were considered sacred attire, and they were described in the Scriptures as being very colorful and comprised a required uniform for service.

The *ephod* (Strong’s #646) was a short garment designed to contain two onyx stones on the shoulders on which were engraved the names of the tribes of Israel. These stones were mounted in a setting and fastened on the shoulders of this outer garment as a memorial before Yahweh. Braids or chains of gold were to be attached to the settings and dropping down from the shoulders toward the armpits like modern

military uniforms. The ephod was made of fine linen, white in color.

The breastplate (Hebrew—*choshen mishpat*) was to be worn over the ephod, and this was to contain the precious stones of Urim and Thummim. The settings of stones in the breastplate were intended to represent each of the tribes of Israel individually.

A robe (*me’il*, Strong’s #4598) was worn under the ephod. It was made of blue fabric with decorations. Under the robe was to be worn a tunic (*ketoneth*, Strong’s #3801) of fine linen. A turban was the head dress. Linen, in bibli-

It is obvious that when the priests of Yahweh ministered in the office of Yahweh’s earthly religious representative, they would dress in a white outer garment, the *ephod* covering the robe. This colorful garb would have probably set them off from the rest of the worshiping congregation. Additionally, the younger priests did their work in a white *ketoneth* (tunic) only.

The priests of Baal also wore distinctive garments. You find them described in Zephaniah 1:4. ***“And I will stretch out my hand upon Judah, and upon all the***



**William Cecil presiding over the Court of Wards**  
The statutes of Queen Elizabeth strictly enforced the wearing of cap and gown by all, and hoods and habits by those entitled to wear them.

cal terminology, means “a white, undyed fabric.” Additionally, linen britches were to be worn as an undergarment so that when Aaron, or his descendants, performed the service of sacrifice on the ledge of the altar, their private parts would not be exposed before the congregation.

***inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off the remnant of Baal from this place, and the name of the Chemarim with the priests.”*** The remnant of Baal was called *chemarim* (Strong’s #3649), since this was the title of their presiding priests. Various background etymologies to the



***Should  
the True  
Worshiper  
wear one of  
these, or  
should he  
reject this  
traditional  
hat as rank  
paganism even  
though he may  
not be allowed  
to participate  
in graduation  
ceremonies?***

root word *kamar* suggest that it means “black robed, cassocked.” This term is also used in 2 Kings 23:5 and Hosea 10:5. Yahweh’s priests were called *kohenim*.

Consequently, those ministers, academics, or government functionaries who presently clothe themselves in long, black cassocks are not following the biblical religious traditions in the instructions given by Almighty Yahweh for His priests. They are perpetuating the practices of the Baal priesthood!

The priests of Baal were ultimately priests of sun worship. We will see in our continuing study that sun worship forms the foundational background for the religious customs and traditions of this universal Babylonish system. These are strong assertions, but, nevertheless, provable from the noted research works that are

commonly and widely used in the educational system of our time.

As we have already seen, academic robes apparently have some intrinsic relationship to ecclesiastical robes. This is easily explained. In medieval times, as well as in ancient Egypt and Babylon, it was the priests who were the learned, educated men.

For example, the priests of Aesculapius served as the early physicians. Therefore, the relationship between these two fields (religion and education), in ancient history, is virtually inseparable and indistinguishable. This is how their dress came to be inter-related. To some extent, the same is true today.

### **The Academic Headdress**

By reading through Exodus chapters 28 and 29, it becomes apparent that the priests of Yahweh were to be supplied with a white turban embroidered with decorations. The modern-day academic system employs its various ritual headdresses worn to distinguish

the different degrees. A different hood, or cap, reflects each degree.

The **Encyclopedia Britanica**, *Eleventh Edition* (same bibliography as before) has the following to say about the different headdresses: “*The hood was originally worn by all scholars, as by everybody, and had evidently no academic significance. Sometimes a cap was also worn, the hood being thrown back (Chaucers Clerk of Oxenford in the Elsmere manuscript illumination, wears a red skull cap, and a third tippet and hood, with the hood falling rather back though not on his shoulders) but the undergraduate hood had gone out of use by the end of the 16th century Bachelors hoods were to be lined throughout with fur, which we learn from the statute de admissione ad pelluram (1432) to have been budge. Masters and noblemen might use miniver, or silk in summer. There were evidently hoods of at least two kinds for masters It is not settled when the modern colorings of hoods arose, they probably followed those of the gowns of the faculties, but about these we are equally un-*



**Those ministers, academics, or government functionaries who presently clothe themselves in long, black cassocks are not following the biblical religious traditions in the instructions given by Almighty Yahweh for His priests.**



certain. *The Oxford Proctor still wears a miniver hood. The modern Cambridge hood has preserved the original shape more closely than the Oxford one, being a hood and tippet combined, the hood having square corners. The tippet, which appears as part of the early costume of certain doctors, was probably, like the judge's tippet, originally the shoulder cape forming part of the same garment as the hood. Clark and others would derive it from the almuce, but do not seem to show any definite ground for so doing. Its place seems to have been taken by the scarf worn by D.D.'s, etc., probably developed from the hood with long liripipe as worn turban-wise on the head or as a scarf around the shoulders. It seems rather far-fetched to derive the scarf from the two pendants of the almuce.*"

Additionally interesting is the following observation from the **Encyclopedia Britannica**, same article. "*Academic dress underwent much inquiry and some revision at the time of the Reformation, chiefly in the direction of sobriety and uniformity, excess of apparel being repressed as severely as ever but not with much effect. Burleighs letter to the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University (1585) and the statutes of Queen Elizabeth strictly enforced the wearing of cap and gown by all, and hoods and habits by those entitled to wear them, and similar regulations were made for Oxford by Laud's statutes of 1633, further details being dealt with by a decree of 1770.*"

It is obvious from this last quote, that, originally, there was some disagreement concerning academic garb, but the government later standardized the regulations. Apparently, Queen Elizabeth took the lead in making these distinctions. The cap and gown were required in academic processions,

just as they are today with the need to wear them on such occasions made mandatory.

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### The Mortarboard

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A most enlightening quote from the **Encyclopedia Britannica** reads as follows: "*GLORY, in works of art, is a general term for any radiance of light appearing around the body of a holy person, such as a nimbus, halo, aureole, mandorla, or vesica piscis. Its purpose is to represent spiritual character through the symbolism of light. The sun disk was used in ancient Egypt to symbolize a divine being's specific relation to the sun. In Hellenistic and Roman art the sun-[diety] and emperors appear with a crown of rays. Because of its pagan origin, this form was avoided in early Christian art. By the 5th century, however, a disk-shaped form behind the head, called a nimbus or halo, was fully accepted. Originally reserved for [Messiah] and the virgin, the nimbus was soon used for the saints also. A cross within a round nimbus became identified with representations of [Messiah] in the Middle Ages. The triangular nimbus symbolized the Trinity. For some time, in the 5th century LIVING PERSONS OF EMINENCE WERE EQUIPPED WITH A SQUARE NIMBUS; THE MEMORY OF THIS CUSTOM IS PRESERVED IN THE ACADEMIC MORTARBOARD.*"

*"The nimbus, as well as the aureole, is also found in the Buddhist art of India. Their earliest date of appearance is the late 3rd century B.C.E., and it is likely that these ideas were originally brought to India by the Greek invaders."*

The currently popular mortarboard headgear worn during graduation ceremonies is obviously



St. Benedict depicted with halo.

derived from ancient paganism. It appears as though the four corners were meant to represent the points of the cross. Should the True Worshiper wear one of these, or should he reject this traditional hat as rank paganism even though he may not be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies? This highly regarded research work, **Encyclopedia Britannica**, has clearly spoken. The academic mortarboard cap came down to us from paganism—from sun worship. The final decision is now yours to make.

The mortarboard also has some significance in Free Masonry, because the **Encyclopedia of Free Masonry** indicates that the mortarboard is used for ceremonial construction purposes. This encyclopedia attributes to Nimrod the status of being one of the original Masons. According to them, Nimrod employed 40,000 masons to build Babylon (the tower) and Nineveh. Recall in Genesis 10:8-12 that Nimrod was the prime mover in opposition to





**Representations of Aristotle depicting him as wearing the hat of a Greek educated man, which appears to be something like a yarmulke presently worn by the Jews.**

Yahweh, and he was the founder of Babylon and Nineveh.

Representations of Plato and Aristotle depict them as wearing the hat of a Greek educated man, which appears to be something like a yarmulke presently worn by the Jews. It is significant to note that in the historical apocryphal book of 2 Maccabees 4:11, we find the following quote: *“He set aside the royal ordinances especially favoring the Jews, secured through John, the father of Eupolemus, who went on the mission to the Romans to establish friendly relations and an alliance with them, and abrogating the lawful ways of living, HE INTRODUCED NEW CUSTOMS CONTRARY TO THE LAW. For he willingly established a gymnasium right under the citadel, and HE MADE THE FINEST*

*OF THE YOUNG MEN WEAR THE GREEK HAT. And to such a pitch did the cultivation of Greek fashions and the coming in of foreign customs rise, because of the excessive wickedness of this [sinful] Jason, who was no high priest at all, that the priests were no longer earnest about the services of the altar, but disdaining the sanctuary and neglecting the sacrifices, they hurried to take part in the unlawful exercises in the wrestling school, after the summons to the discus throwing, regarding as worthless the things their forefathers valued, and thinking Greek standards the finest.” (The Bible, An American Translation, Smith-Goodspeed version).*

Modern-day Judaism seeks to explain, in many different ways, the headcovering they use for their worship. It has been the opinion of the author that the only reasonable explanation for this headdress, currently in use, harks back to the Maccabean era when the scriptural practices of the Jewish people were heavily influenced by the Greek occupational army under Antiochus Epiphanes. There is no record that Yahshua the Messiah covered His head for worship when He was here on this

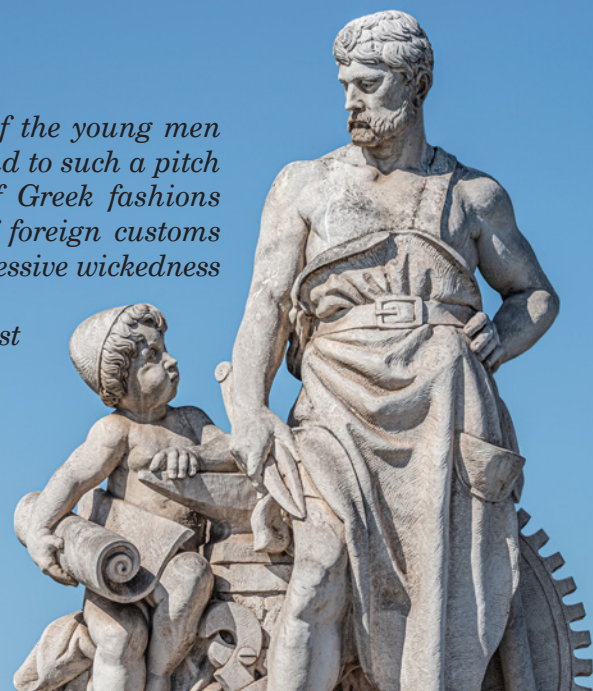
earth. The Apostle Paul strongly contends that a MAN must have his head UNCOVERED for worship, while the WOMAN'S head is COVERED, because man and woman reflect the spiritual headship (1 Corinthians 11:2-16). Have you read our free article entitled **Headship?** If not, write in for it immediately. Most knowledgeable rabbis will confirm that there is no biblical commandment for a man to keep his head covered for worship—that it is only a tradition.

As you have already seen from the **Encyclopedia Britannica**, the four-cornered mortarboard type of academic hat traces to representations of the halo. People of prominence, who were believed to hold a close relationship with the sun deity, were represented as having a halo around their heads. Idolatrous Canaanite priests represented their association with the sun through the tonsure, shaving their heads to leave a round tuft of hair.

As the **Encyclopedia Britannica** pointed out, the square halo, or nimbus, has been retained today in the academic mortarboard. An enlightening study to prove this can be found by perusing the **Oxford English Dictionary** under

*“He made the finest of the young men wear the greek hat. And to such a pitch did the cultivation of Greek fashions and the coming in of foreign customs rise, because of the excessive wickedness of this [sinful] Jason, who was no high priest at all....”*

Apocrypha  
2 Maccabees 4:11  
Apocrypha





the subject of “cap.” The section on “cap” directs us to the word *cater*. The word has its root origin in the word *quatre*, *quarter*, or *four*. It is also said to mean *diagonal*.

The term *catercap* refers to the four-cornered mortarboard top plus the cap to which it is affixed, describing the square cap worn by academics at a diagonal angle, one point forward. The wearer of such a cap is recognized as a university man.

Historical etymology brings out the following literary references: (1588) “*You presbyter, John Catercap, are some man in the land;*” (1589) “*They [Sir Peter and Sir Paul] were none of these catercaps, graduates, nor doctors;*” (1691) “*He feareth neither proud priest, anti-Christian pope, Tyrannous Prelid, nor [sinful] catercap.*” Additionally, the term *cater-capt* (wearing a *catercap*, *academic*) was used thusly in 1669: “*A proud prelate... and a most pragmatistical malignant against the parliament, as all his cater-capt companions also are.*”

The *catercap*, therefore, signifies an academic and harks back to ancient pagan rituals wherein the sun was worshiped. It is plainly stated that early art in our common era did not depict people wearing a halo, because this is PAGAN in origin, but, after the growing apostasy, a halo was represented by the priestly garb and academic mortarboard.

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### **Zephaniah Warns Against Paganism**

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The prophet Zephaniah, in the first chapter of his prophecy, clearly brings out the judgment of Almighty Yahweh against pagan apostate worship. Yahweh says, “***I will consume man and beast; I will consume the birds of the heavens, and the fishes of the***

## ***Yahshua tells us that we must be perfect in our dedicated service to the Most High.***

***'You therefore shall be perfect, as  
your heavenly Father is perfect.'***

MATTHEW 5:48

***sea, and the stumblingblocks  
with the wicked; and I will  
cut off man from off the face  
of the ground, says Yahweh.***  
(Zephaniah 1:3).

Attached to nominal Christianity are a host of pagan traditions reflecting ancient sun worship. Sunday worship is the usual day that is set aside for public worship. Representations of the sun, through the profuse use of the circle as a symbol and in religious art betray their origin. The cross is a distinct sign of sun worship used widely in ancient heathenism. Even the word “church” has been traced by Dr. Bullinger in **The Companion Bible** to the Hebrew word *kikkar* (a circle or a disc), obviously referring to the solar sphere. All of these representations trace to ancient Egyptian and Babylonian worship and, probably, ultimately, to the antediluvian apostasy of Cain.

When the author realized these SHOCKING TRUTHS for the first time, he was amazed that Almighty Yahweh had not used His mighty power to totally eliminate this foul, pagan corruption from off the earth. However, the thought was immediately impressed upon him that in the end times Almighty Yahweh is calling out a people for His Name. These people are slowly being brought into a knowledge of His pure, eternal Truth. Yahweh’s ministers

are preaching the strong meat of the Word in an effort to cleanse this select group of people from their past pagan practices, so that they may offer pure worship to Almighty Yahweh.

You will notice that the significance of the selection of remnant True Worshipers comes out very clearly in the passage just quoted in the book of Zephaniah, as well as chapter 3, verses 9 and 10. “***For then will I change to the peoples a pure language, that they may call upon the name of Yahweh, to serve him with one consent. From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, even the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring my offering.... The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.***” (Zephaniah 3:9-10, 13). It is our hope that every reader will become an obedient True Worshiper.

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### **Yahweh Judges Apostate Baal Worship**

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The prophet explains the reason for Yahweh’s judgment. “***And I will stretch out my hand upon***

*Continued on page 13.*



THE

Messiah

IN THE OLD  
TESTAMENT

How do you know that you have received the atonement for your sins in the blood of Yahshua the Messiah? You may say that you have the New Testament and that the New Testament reveals that Yahshua the Messiah came to this earth, that He died for our sins, and shed His blood on Calvary's tree that we might be redeemed from our sins. That is absolutely correct, and, if you sincerely affirm this truth, you would be correct. Nevertheless,

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by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

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where do you find that Yahshua the Messiah would have to die for the sins of mankind, and how do you know that mankind is even a sinful creature?

These are good questions, when you sit down and consider them. The reason that I am asking these

questions and presenting them to you is to stimulate your thinking.

Do you know that many people today wish to separate, or divide between, the Old and New Testaments? Do you know that they are unjustified in doing so? The people who divide the Bible between the Old and New Testament are doing so without justification. Do you realize that there can be found no Scripture in the Bible that indicates we must ever separate between the Old and New Testa-



ments, or that we are allowed to do so?

Certainly, man is a sinful creature. Every one of the people of the human race, who has been born since Adam and Eve, are declared to be sinners. How do you know that they are sinners? What is sin? Sin is the transgression of Yahweh's Law (1 John 3:4). When someone sins and transgresses (violates) the Law of Yahweh, then he falls under the penalty for sin. If sin is the transgression of Yahweh's Law, then he must die for his sin, because death (execution) is the penalty for sin (Romans 6:23).

Almighty Yahweh, in the Garden of Eden episode, sacrificed some animals when He made coats for Adam and Eve. He shed the blood of innocent animals for a substitute sacrifice and clothed Adam and Eve with their skins. This was a prefigure of Yahshua the Messiah and His sacrifice. As a matter of fact, even before the Almighty sacrificed those animals, He made the prophecy to Adam and Eve that eventually the seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent. That seed of the woman referred specifically to Yahshua the Messiah. It pointed directly toward the sacrifice of Yahshua upon the tree of Calvary.

We take the Bible too lightly so many times! The Bible contains the answers to our questions. All we need to do to develop faith is to dig out the answers. Almighty Yahweh inspired His prophets in the Old Testament Scriptures to set down some of these predictions. He inspired the prophets to write their prophetic books so that we could prepare ourselves against the evil time to come at the end of the age. He inspired them so that we

could be assured that, when He sent the Messiah to this earth, the correct individual would be recognized as the Messiah and would be accepted by His people.

Yes, Yahshua the Messiah is the True, anointed King of Yahweh. Nevertheless, how many people have actually accepted His sacrifice? They desire a bloodless religion, but, conversely, the Bible speaks about a bloody religion. Either the individual dies for his own sins, or it requires the death of a substitute. Yahshua the Messiah was intended to be that substitute sacrifice for mankind.

Let us read from Isaiah chapter 53, where a candid description of Yahshua the Messiah appears. This is a prophecy that is usually neglected by the religious commentators. I have been told by various Jews that this passage is never read in a synagogue service. However, it clearly reveals that Yahshua is our Messiah, and it prophesies that He would come to die for the sins of His people.

Isaiah 53 begins, ***"Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of Yahweh been revealed?"*** This passage of Scripture in verse 1 was quoted at various places in the New Testament. For instance, it was quoted in John 12:38 and Romans 10:16. Both the Apostle John and the Apostle Paul quoted this verse in the New Testament.

Incidentally, if you have never realized it, there are approximately 287 quotes in the New Testament that are directly quoted from the Old Testament. They were quoted verbatim in the New Testament. There are many more Old Testament passages that are alluded to in the text of the New Testament. This is quite a revelation when you think about it, because the New Testament writers were not writing a new book. They are merely

writing an **extension** to the Old Testament Scriptures.

Do you know where the New Covenant is first found in the Bible? The New Covenant is actually found in the Old Testament in Jeremiah 31:31-34. Just because

***Yahshua was  
a root out of  
the dry ground  
of the Davidic  
dynasty. He  
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His message  
would speak for  
Him. He was a  
man of sorrows  
and acquainted  
with grief, and  
the people hid  
their faces  
from Him.***

the New Covenant is called "New," does not mean that it was not first mentioned in the Old Testament. Remember, the terms "Old and New Testaments" are actually problematical and subjective.

The prophecy of Isaiah chapter



53 begins, ***“Who has believed our message?”*** How many people actually do?

Continuing with verse 2, ***“For he grew up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he has no form nor comeliness; and when we see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised, and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and as one from whom men hide their face he was despised; and we esteemed him not.”***

Exactly as this passage describes, Yahshua fulfilled these prophecies when He walked the earth. During the time when He was teaching Israel and when He had made His appearance, He was bringing the Word of Yahweh to the attention of His listeners. Yes, He did not have a beautiful physique; He was not handsome—a movie actor type. He was a typical Jew when He walked the earth. He looked exactly like the Judean people. He was a root out of the dry ground of the Davidic dynasty. He did not have any handsome features that would naturally attract people. His message would speak for Him. He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, and the people hid their faces from Him.

So, many of the prominent religionists of His day did not accept Him. They rejected Him, because they did not understand these prophecies that He was fulfilling right before their very eyes. How many people today perceive that they are standing almost on the very verge of the Tribulation and they are not worried, or concerned? They do not comprehend the prophecies that are there in the Bible relating to what lies ahead. The

time ahead will be a time of great wickedness, of upheaval and tribulation at the end of the age.

Undoubtedly, a lot of people in nominal Christianity would say, “Well, if I would have been living back there in Yahshua’s time, I would have accepted Him. I would have been one of His disciples. I would have followed Him anywhere.” But that would hardly be the case, since those very people are not even obeying His message today! They seemingly wish to have their cake and eat it too. They want a knowledge of the Messiah, but they do not wish to give Him the credit for the message that He actually preached. They have a zeal for Yahweh, but not according to knowledge, as we read in Romans 3:2.

Let us continue reading with Isaiah 53:4, ***“Surely he has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, struck of Elohim, and afflicted.”*** Here in the passage, we arrive at a substantial portion of knowledge. The Word tells us that it was Yahweh Himself who gave the Son to be struck and afflicted. He could have just eliminated the human race in judgment for their sins and begun with another strain of people, but He decided not to take this direction. He gave lost mankind an opportunity to be saved by sending His Son to be the Savior of the world. See 1 John 4:14.

What love Yahweh expressed to humankind! ***“For Yahweh so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes on him should not perish, but have eternal life. For Yahweh sent not the Son into the world to judge the world; but that the world should be saved through***

***him.”*** (John 3:16-17).

Notice verse 5, ***“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”*** The term *wounded* here means to pierce. In Hebrew, it is *mecholal*, and it means *to thrust through*.

In the book of the prophet Zechariah, chapter 12, verse 10, we read, ***“And they shall look to me whom they have pierced; and they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for his only son....”*** These are two passages of Scripture (two prophecies) directed toward the death of Yahshua the Messiah, who would be given as the sacrificial Lamb of Yahweh to save the world from its sins. His death redeemed us from our lost state, and His shed blood atoned for our sins.

Let us read the verse again ***“But he was wounded [pierced] for our transgressions....”*** The word *transgression* here means *revolt, or rebellion*. ***“He was bruised for our iniquities.”*** The term *iniquities* means *to be bent, or crooked*. Consequently, we might translate this passage as follows: “He was wounded for our revolt or rebellion, He was bruised for our bent, or crookedness.” ***“The chastisement [beating, or punishment] of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed.”***

Yes, Yahshua, the Son of Yahweh, took upon Himself our chastisement and gave Himself as Yahweh’s sacrificial Lamb that takes away the sin of the world.

In verses 7 and 8 we read, ***“He was oppressed, yet when he was afflicted he opened not his mouth; as a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep that before***



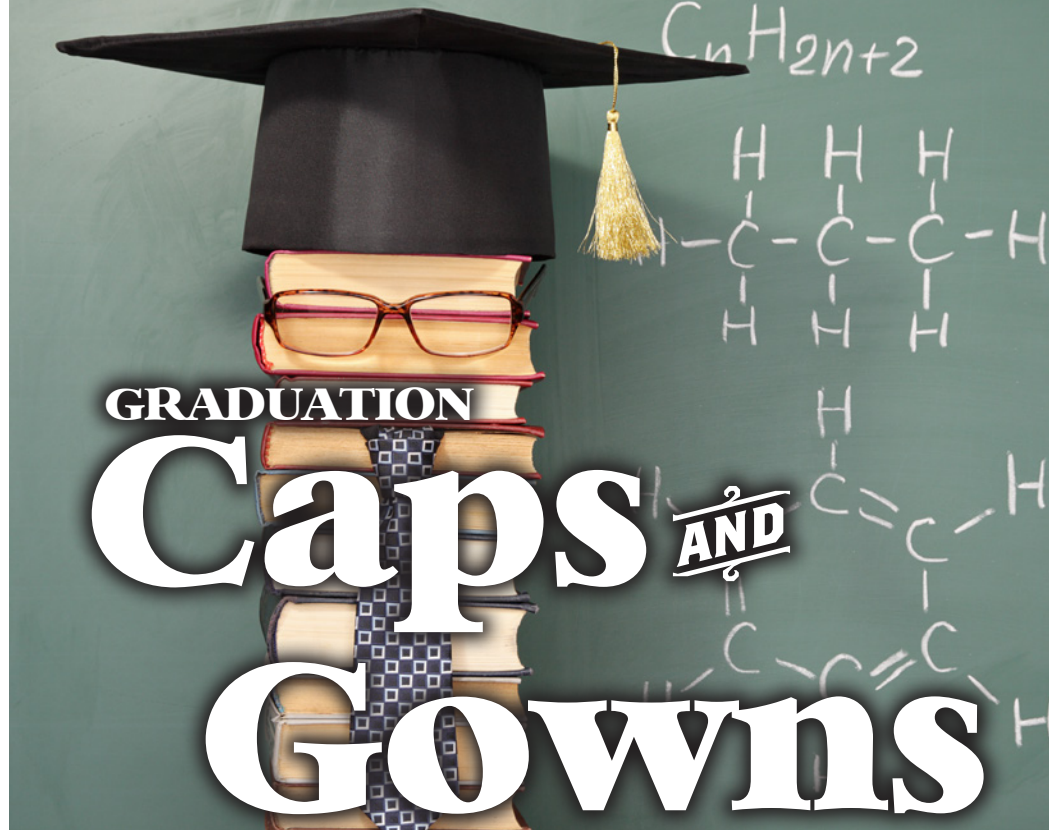
*its shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who among them considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people to whom the stroke was due?"* Yahshua gave Himself as the sacrificial offering, the Lamb upon the tree of Calvary. The stroke of judgment, or punishment, was our due as sinners. The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). However, Yahshua the Messiah took our penalty upon Himself.

In verse 9 we read, ***"And they made his grave with the wicked, and with a rich man in his death; although he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth."*** The prophecy confirms He would have no sin, and, yet, He was destroyed because of the sins of His people. He was placed in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, a very rich man, and He fulfilled that prophecy also. Then, He rose again from death and the grave on the third day, so that we might also have a faith and a hope in a resurrection. Do you have this faith and hope in a resurrection?

We want to help you attain to that faith and hope in a resurrection and in a future everlasting life in the Kingdom of Yahweh.

We invite you to write for some of our free literature on the impalement of the Messiah and on the sign of His Messiahship, the three days and three nights when He was entombed. Write to Assemblies of Yahweh, PO Box C, Bethel, PA 19507.

Why not communicate regularly with the Assemblies of Yahweh? We would like to give you the gift of knowledge freely, just as Yahweh has given this blessing to us. <sup>SNB</sup>



# GRADUATION Caps <sup>AND</sup> Gowns

*Continued from page 9.*

***Judah, and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off the remnant of Baal from this place, and the name of the Chemarim with the priests."*** (Zephaniah 1:4).

As we have already seen, Jerusalem, the center of the pure worship of Yahweh for this whole earth, had become corrupted in King Solomon's time. Solomon had introduced pagan worship







Greek Orthodox priest in Jerusalem, at Ch-rch of the Holy Sepulchre.

into Jerusalem through the religions of his multitude of wives and concubines.

It appears as though each one of these women brought her own favorite personal worship with her, 1 Kings 11:1-10. A shrine was built in the valley of Hinnom for each one of these foreign women. Each idolatrous temple was supervised by an imported, pagan priest. Apparently, some of these priests were capable philosophers, because it appears as though they somehow convinced King Solomon that all the world was worshipping the same Mighty One—only in different ways. This may have been the reason why Solomon weakened in his determination to serve Almighty Yahweh exclusively, until, finally, at the end of his life, Yahweh became angry with him for his apostasy.

Almighty Yahweh strongly declares that He will eliminate the pagan idolatrous priests and the remnant of Baal from Jerusalem.

After His great day of judgment at the end of the age, the pure worship of Yahweh will be restored in Jerusalem. For this reason, Almighty Yahweh, today, is preparing His remnant of spiritual children for the purpose of teaching the people of this world the restored, pure worship of the True Mighty One of Israel, Almighty Yahweh, and His Son, Yahshua the Messiah.

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### Idolatrous Customs Assimilated by Israel

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The prophet Zephaniah describes some of the abominable customs of these idolatrous priests of Baal. ***“And them that worship the host of heaven upon the housetops; and them that worship, that swear to Yahweh and swear by Malcam; and them that are turned back from following Yahweh; and those that have not sought Yahweh,***

***nor inquired after him.***

***“Hold your peace at the presence of the Sovereign Yahweh; for the day of Yahweh is at hand: for Yahweh has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. And it shall come to pass in the day of Yahweh’s sacrifice, that I will punish the princes, and the king’s sons, and all such as are clothed with foreign apparel. And in that day I will punish all those that leap over the threshold, that fill their master’s house with violence and deceit. And in that day, says Yahweh, there shall be the noise of a cry from the fish gate, and a wailing from the second quarter; and a great crashing from the hills. Wail, you inhabitants of Maktesh; for all the people of Canaan are undone; all they that were loaded with silver are cut off. And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with lamps; and I will punish the men that are settled on their lees, that say in their heart, Yahweh will not do good, neither will he do evil. And their wealth shall become a plunder; and their houses a desolation: also, they shall build houses, but shall not inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, but shall not drink the wine of them.”*** (Zephaniah 1:5-13).

We might identify those who bow down on the housetops and worship the starry hosts as those who engage in astrology, a throwback to a popular practice at the tower of Babel. Almighty Yahweh warns that people cannot straddle the fence in their religious opinions, or jump back and forth from one religion to another, or one religious doctrine to another, as did Israel in 1 Kings 18. They must make a firm decision between





**Black robes and other pagan vestments worn by idolatrous priests.**

Yahweh and Baal (represented by Molech). Yahweh will punish those who dress in foreign attire (perhaps a reference to the Babylonish garment of Yahshua (Joshua) 7:21, or the garb of the pagan *Kemarim*). That foreign attire relates to the black robes and other pagan vestments worn by idolatrous priests. Why should the Israelite man Achan desire such paganism?

Have you ever seen anyone avoid stepping on a threshold? This refers to the worship of Dagon (1 Samuel 5). The priests of Dagon avoided stepping on the thresholds when entering houses of worship. Their idolatry has been responsible for filling this earth with violence. Almighty Yahweh says we must eliminate that which

is displeasing to Him. The author was once offered a reward of \$100 for a picture of a Catholic priest stepping on a threshold.

The *catercap* may be represented in verse 10 of Zephaniah 1, where the **New Interna-**

**tional Version** translates “New Quarter.” Perhaps the association emerges also in verse 11, where the term MORTAR is found in the Hebrew. Some commentators believe that the term relates to the mortar and pestle used to prepare various substances. Perhaps it relates to the geographical shape of the area. But it could also refer to the ancient mortar board currently used in various construction occupations and also employed in various modern-day academic ceremonies.

Yahweh’s judgment is clearly demonstrated in Zephaniah 1:18. ***“Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of Yahweh’s wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he will make an end, yes, a terrible end, of all them that dwell in the land.”***

From these biblical prophetic passages that we have scrutinized, it becomes clearly apparent that Almighty Yahweh very strongly condemns those calling themselves True Worshipers while following pagan idolatrous customs. Yahshua tells us that we must be perfect in our dedicated service to the Most High, Matthew 5:48. We must apply this scriptural knowledge to ourselves and live it. We must also understand that it is incumbent upon us to restore the old paths wherein is the good way and walk therein, Jeremiah

6:16. We cannot receive blessings from the Most High until we demonstrate humble obedience to Him and His Laws.

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### **Yahweh’s Eternal Wisdom Rejected by the World**

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The Apostolic Assembly, of the book of Acts, demonstrated their knowledge and understanding of the Word of Yahweh. Yahshua the Messiah had taught His disciples for three-and-a-half years and conveyed to them the knowledge of eternity that transcends human concepts and understanding. It is far superior to the knowledge of the world. Knowledge held by the world will include and assimilate some of Yahweh’s wisdom, but, in the final analysis, the Holy Spirit will reveal much deeper understanding than worldly education teaches, whereupon the wisdom of the wise will become as foolishness (1 Corinthians 3:18-20).

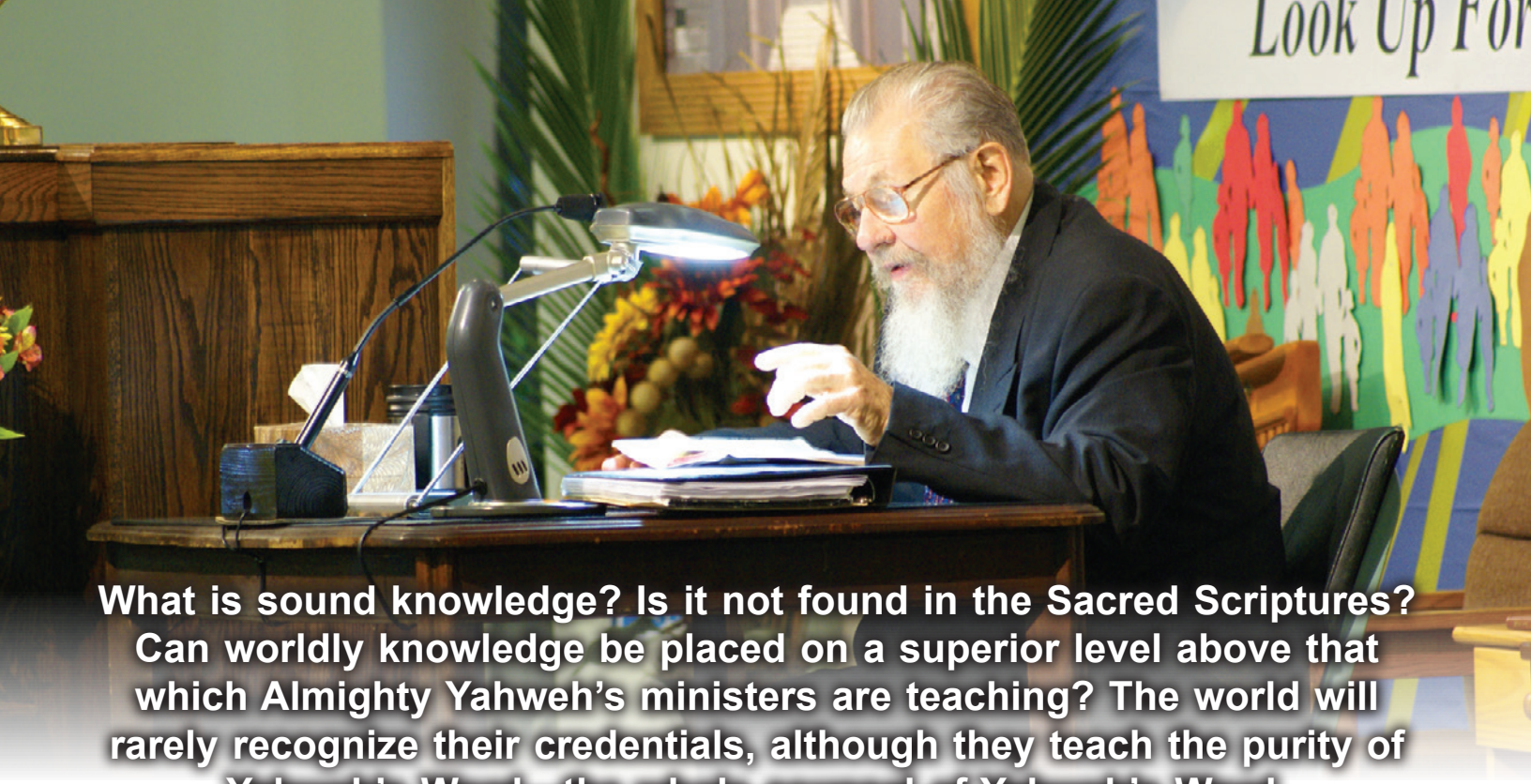
This is quite clearly demonstrated in Acts 4:13. ***“Now when they beheld the boldness of Peter and John, and had perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Yahshua.”***

Yahshua’s disciples were called ignorant and unlearned men. Already the religious establishment of Judaism had assimilated many heathen concepts into their ecclesiastical system. Yahshua the Messiah came to eliminate corrupted human knowledge and customs, urging its replacement with the true, sound, Holy Spirit-taught wisdom, knowledge, and understanding that is found in the Sacred Scriptures, as taught by Almighty Yahweh, our Heavenly Father. Yahshua is the greatest

**Plasterer with mortarboard.**







**What is sound knowledge? Is it not found in the Sacred Scriptures? Can worldly knowledge be placed on a superior level above that which Almighty Yahweh's ministers are teaching? The world will rarely recognize their credentials, although they teach the purity of Yahweh's Word—the whole counsel of Yahweh's Word.**

teacher ever to walk this earth. He is known as a Jewish Rabbi, but not affiliated with the noted Yeshivoth (academies) of Hillel and Shemai.

What is sound knowledge? Is it not found in the Sacred Scriptures? Can worldly knowledge be placed on a superior level above that which Almighty Yahweh's ministers are teaching? The world will rarely recognize their credentials, although they teach the purity of Yahweh's Word—the whole counsel of Yahweh's Word.

Peter and John were no exception. They were rejected by the Sanhedrin. They were called ignorant and uneducated men. Nevertheless, their wisdom was far advanced above the ecclesiastical teachings of their time. This was clearly demonstrated by the answers they gave to their questioners. Should you spurn what the Holy Spirit is revealing today through Yahweh's true ministers? Yahshua is the Head of the Body and is teaching His spokesmen the wisdom that confounds the worldly wise (Luke

2:41-52).

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### Conclusion

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In this research article, the editor has set forth some of the reasons why members of the Assemblies of Yahweh do not garb themselves in ceremonial academic dress when participating in ceremonies in the secular educational field. The information we have presented comes from some of the most highly regarded research material in the scholarly world—the **Encyclopedia Britannica** and the **Oxford English Dictionary**. The Assemblies of Yahweh places great value on education, and some of this education, at present, is available in the educational system of the world. However, we must clearly reject that knowledge taught by the worldly system which is contrary to the Word of Yahweh. We must reject the practices that are traceable to ancient pagan practices. All of what we believe and practice must be in complete harmony with the Word of Yahweh. Therefore, the Assem-


blies of Yahweh has established its own educational institutions to teach a purified doctrine.

With this startling information we have presented, the reader is challenged to prove to himself the veracity of the conclusions we have drawn. You must make your own decision. You must personally stand before the judgment seat of the Messiah to answer for what you have done during your human life.

***"And if it seems evil to you to serve Yahweh, choose this day whom you will serve; whether the elohim which your fathers served that were beyond the River, or the elohim of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve Yahweh."*** (Yahshua 24:15).

Just like Yahshua, the members of the Assemblies of Yahweh have voluntarily chosen to serve Almighty Yahweh, and Him alone. May you develop a similar personal conviction. We must serve Yahweh rather than men (Acts 5:29). <sup>SNB</sup>





# *Yahweh's* CREATED BEINGS

## PART 7

In our pursuit to reach the Kingdom of Yahweh, it is imperative that we daily learn the deep truths that are contained in the Sacred Scriptures. Consequently, the Sacred Name programs are designed as Bible study programs, not entertainment programs. Today, religion has become predominantly an entertainment industry. The reason this has happened is because people love to be entertained. They prefer the lively music and the superficial doctrines that don't require them to change from their sinful ways. However, the Sacred Name programs are not entertainment programs and have been designed so that, after

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**by Elder Jacob O. Meyer**

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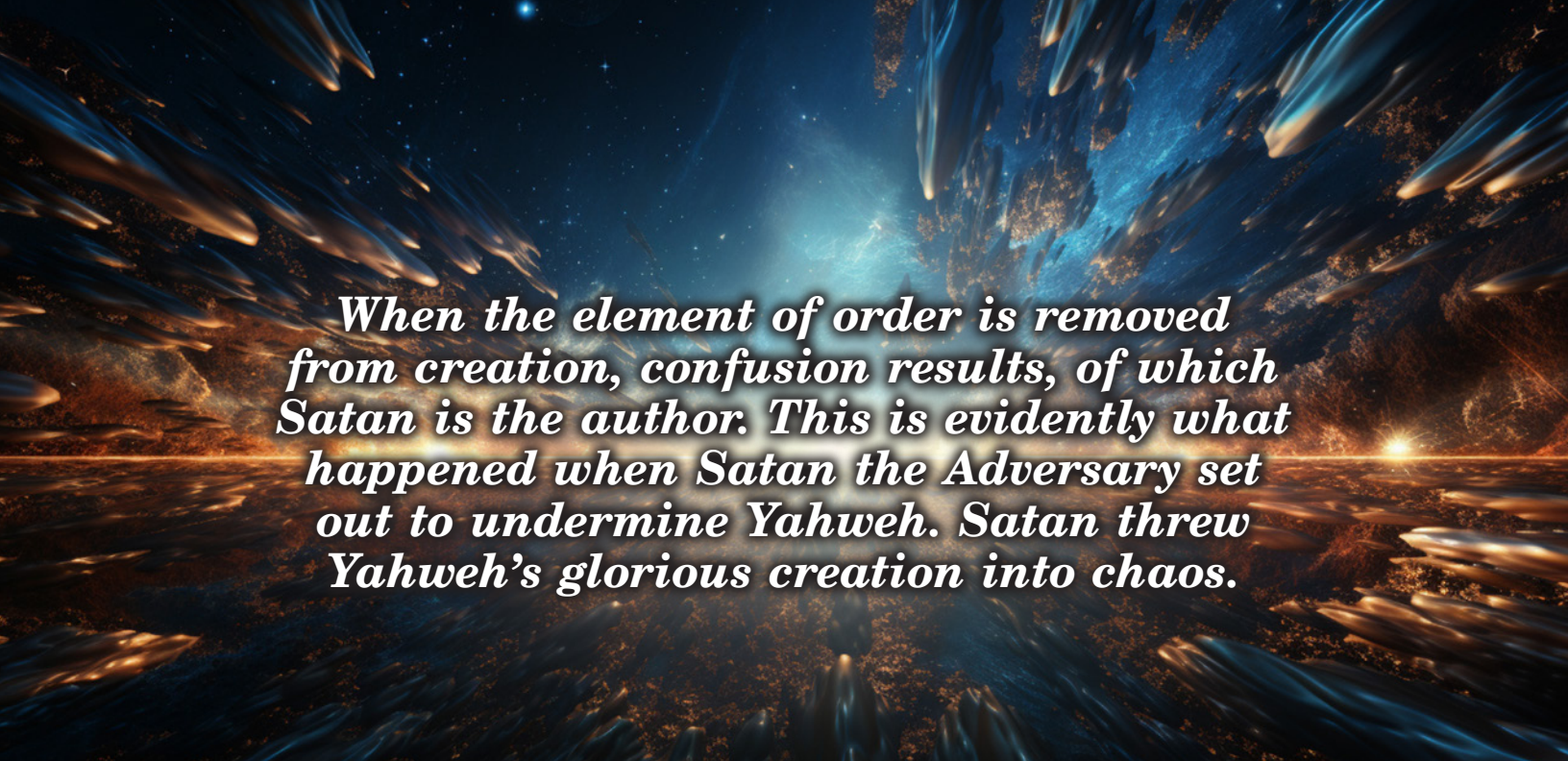
hearing the lesson, you can say that you have learned something about the Bible, allowing you to grow in Yahweh's Holy Spirit and Truth.

Have you ever considered the subject of the Sabbath? I was not raised as a Sabbath keeper, but, as I studied, I had to confront the facts and do an analysis of this important subject in the Sacred Scriptures. Is the Sabbath on the seventh day of the week, or has it been changed so that

True Worshipers may worship on the first day of the week? Was it transferred from the seventh day to the first day of the week when the Messiah died? I had to prove all of these questions for myself, and I hope that you will also do that. I learned in the Bible that, to gain salvation, I must determine to live by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh. If you have never proven some of these things, I would like to help you prove the sound doctrines of the Word of Yahweh.

Yahshua the Messiah never annulled the Law when He died. You can prove this to





***When the element of order is removed from creation, confusion results, of which Satan is the author. This is evidently what happened when Satan the Adversary set out to undermine Yahweh. Satan threw Yahweh's glorious creation into chaos.***

yourself from Matthew 5:17-20, Yahshua's Sermon on the Mount. ***"Think not that I came to destroy the law or the prophets: I came not to destroy, but to fulfil. For truly I say to you, Till heaven and earth pass away, one yotse or one tittle shall in no wise pass away from the law, till all things be accomplished. Whoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven: but whoever shall do and teach them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven."***

Yahshua came and, through His righteous life, established the Law, giving us an example of how we must live to be pleasing to our heavenly Father Yahweh. All of the doctrines of the Sacred Scriptures must be obeyed and applied to our daily lives.

We have been discussing the

four classes of created beings that Almighty Yahweh created to be His servants. The classes we have discussed so far are the cherubim, the seraphim, and the malachim. I would like to turn our attention to the last class of created beings—the human race, that is, Adam. This last class is *homo sapiens*, human beings. In the Hebrew Bible, the word Adam is used as the generic term for mankind. The term Adam relates to the Hebrew word for soil or ground, which is *adamah*, and implies the red clay (terra rosa) soil together and, molding it, He formed a human being. Into the nostrils of this created human being, He breathed the breath of life. I like to refer to it as Yahweh giving Adam the first recorded artificial resuscitation. Elohim filled his lungs with air, and Adam began breathing, becoming a living soul. After He created Adam, He then saw a need to create a help-meet for the man

and created Eve. ***"And Yahweh Elohim said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him."*** (Genesis 2:18). Notice that the term is NOT HELP MATE, but a HELPER SUITABLE FOR MAN.

To set the tone for this study, I would like to have us read Psalm 8:4. ***"What is man, that you are mindful of him? And the son of man [The ben adam, the word ben means son in Hebrew], that you visit him? For you have made him but little lower than Elohim [this term is also translated as angels in some of the versions]..."*** Elohim is spirit. He is composed of invisible spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in Truth. Angels were also created to be slightly lower than Elohim, but angels are still above us (humankind), because they have more power than humans do. ***"And crown him with glory and honor..."***

What greater honor do we have than to be known as the children of the Most High and some day to be changed into



spirit at the resurrection of the just? What greater honor could Yahweh offer to a human being than that? ***“You make him to have dominion over the works of your hands; You have put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, And the beasts of the field, The birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, Whatever passes through the paths of the seas. O Yahweh, our Sovereign, How excellent is your name in all the earth!”***

I would like to concentrate for several programs on the question, ***“What is man?”*** and seek to answer that question by looking deeply into Yahweh’s Word. When we turn to the first chapter of the book of Genesis, we find there the creation of mankind. Yahweh made the heavens and the earth. I am not a believer in evolution. We are dealing here with an eternal Being, who is not bound by time. Almighty Yahweh’s Name is defined as *eternity, self existence, to exist forever*. The root of the Name Yahweh is the Hebrew verb of existence. Because Yahweh has existed forever, He is not affected by the time element.

Yahweh tells us in His Word that in seven days He created the heavens and the earth. Before that, matter already existed, and we are led to believe (from Isaiah 45 and other passages) that Satan the Adversary evidently discovered the method Yahweh used to hold this creation together. So, he interfered with Yahweh’s natural Laws. He destroyed some of Yahweh’s laws of creation, and the order of things went into what is known in Hebrew as the *thelhome*, or the *abyss*, the churning of the elements. When the element of

order is removed from creation, confusion results, of which Satan is the author. This is evidently what happened when Satan the Adversary set out to undermine Yahweh. Satan threw Yahweh’s glorious creation into chaos.

Then Yahweh had to re-create the heavens and the earth. How do we know this? ***“Bereshith bara elohim eth hashamaim weeth haaretz,”*** reads the first verse of the book of Genesis quoted directly from the Hebrew text. ***“In the [absolute] beginning Elohim created the heavens and the earth.”*** Then the chapter continues, ***“And the earth had become waste and void [“tohu wa vohu”—the words tohu and vohu have virtually the same meaning, which is waste, void, and confusion]; and darkness was upon the face of the deep [thelhome, the abyss]; and the Spirit of Elohim moved [merechepheth-hovered, moved, brooded] upon the face of the waters [maim-liquid or waters].”***

Elohim then began His re-creation. He first closely examined the chaos and destruction that had been caused by the Adversary. He took action against the confusion and began to re-create, to bring the elements together again and turn them into something that could be useful. After that, he stocked the earth with vegetation and all manner of growing things, and, then, He created the animal Kingdom.

Finally, in Genesis 1:26, ***“And Elohim said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”***

The term for cattle that is used

in the Hebrew text is actually *behemah* in Hebrew, and means *the larger animals*. Man was assigned to his task on earth to help make it as productive as possible.

***“And Elohim created man in his own image....”*** Liberal theology wants you to believe that Elohim created man only with Yahweh’s thinking capability, thereby removing that physical form of relationship that man has with Yahweh. You can’t say that Yahweh has a physical body, but the word *employed* means *a resemblance in form*. In theology, one encounters the term *anthropomorphisms*. *Anthropomorphism* means *to give the Almighty a likeness of human form*. This is what is described in Ezekiel 1:26, where the Almighty is described. ***“And upon the likeness of the throne was a likeness as the appearance of a man upon it above.”*** Yes, the Almighty does have fingers, a nose, eyes, and ears. Mankind resembles Yahweh, but He is not flesh and blood as we are. He is composed of a spirit energy of some kind. We really can’t identify what the Holy Spirit is, because human eyes cannot see spirit. We can only experience the spirit realm with our heart and mind. We can clearly see the effects of Yahweh’s Spirit around us though when Yahweh removes various obstacles before us through His miracles, or answered prayers.

I believe in miracles! I can give a truthful testimony today of one such miracle. My wife was healed after over 60 years of living with a defective heart valve. Two different cardiologists have proven that she has a new valve in the heart that is functioning perfectly! These doctors have



told me the heart healed itself. I have to disagree. The heart did not heal itself, since the human body degenerates and does not improve with time. However, a miracle occurred because of her faith and because of the wonderful power of Almighty Yahweh's spirit to act on behalf of human beings and to set aside the natural order of things. Therefore, I mentioned in a cardiologist's office one time that I believe in miracles. What did I encounter? Complete silence! People don't want to hear this.

Yes indeed, Elohim created man in His own image. Remember again, the Hebrew term *Elohim* is derived from the Hebrew term *uhl* or *eel*, which means *the powerful one*. There is nothing too damaged, or out of place, for Yahweh to heal when we have the faith as our forefathers did in biblical times.

Elohim is our strong one. He is the one who is stronger than we are, and He can dictate what we shall do; therefore, we must obey Him. In Genesis 1, the word *Elohim* is used; however, by the beginning of chapter 2, the Name Yahweh appears. I believe there is no discrepancy here, but it is a lesson that we must learn. There are no two documents (the J and the E documents) that were combined to produce our Bible. That is all the figment of the imagination of German rationalist scholars. The Sacred Scriptures forms one complete unit. I have done exhaustive research on this subject and then incorporated the evidence in an article on the subject. If you would like, you can write in and request this booklet entitled, **Defending Textual Authenticity**. I have proven there the fallacies of the Graf-Welhausen two-document

hypothesis and the importance of recognizing that the Bible comprises one complete unit. The booklet is free for the asking. Request it by writing to Assemblies of Yahweh, PO Box C, Bethel, PA 19507. Request it today!

Let us continue in Genesis 1:27, ***“And Elohim created man [Adam] in his own image, in the image of Elohim created he him [the form, or resemblance, of Elohim is what we bear]; male and female created he them....”*** It is not “created He him male and female” (*zecher unacheva*), but rather He created them, two beings, one of them male and the other female. ***“And Elohim blessed them: and Elohim said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth....”*** The word *replenish* is *ma’ale* in Hebrew, meaning *to fill up*. When I go to Israel and pull into a filling station, I will say *ma’ale* (fill it up). Yahweh declared that man was to “fill up the earth.”

***“And subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth. And Elohim said, Behold, I have given you every herb yielding seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for food: and to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the heavens, and to every thing that creeps upon the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food: and it was so. And Elohim saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And there***

***was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.”***

Now, one of the things that doesn't appear in the English language translation is the *Jussive sense*. Elohim made man, but the Hebrew text indicates that He had to encourage Himself to create man. Why? Although free choice is given to every person (every human being) on earth, Yahweh knows beforehand what is going to happen; nevertheless, He doesn't interfere with man's free will. Each human is required to make his or her choices. For example, He needed a Pharaoh, so he had a very arrogant King come to rule in Egypt during the time of Israel's enslavement. When Israel cried out against Pharaoh's oppression, Yahweh sent Moses to bring His people out of Egypt. Pharaoh had 10 opportunities to repent, to change, and yield himself to Yahweh's will; however, he chose not to do so. When man exercises his free will in the wrong way and turns his back on Yahweh's way, you can be assured his destruction will follow.

Isn't this a fascinating book? Yes, indeed! I am just so thrilled every time I study and teach with all the things that are contained in this marvelous book called the Bible. Today we are mining the Bible for the valuable gems of knowledge that have been hidden there for too long.

Won't you continue to study Yahweh's Word with us and seek to draw close to His Assembly in the end times? We have so much free literature that is available for you to use in your studies as you seek to become a true servant of Yahweh, His obedient child. Write to Assemblies of Yahweh, PO Box C, Bethel, Pennsylvania 19507. <sup>SNB</sup>





## *Recent Ministerial Trip by Deacon Nathaniel A. Meyer to Philippines, Myanmar, and India*





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