

Lesson No. 114 - The Commissioners of Salvation, The Biblical Facts

Prepared by Donald Crosswell

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Tonight, we are discussing Lesson No 114 – The Commissioners of Salvation, The Biblical Facts.

Well, when the summer season is in full swing, many of us may be quite busy vacationing, enjoying the musical venues and other joys that modernity provides during these warm days. At the same time, one need only turn on the news or read the newspapers to see that for many, summer only brings about nightmares. While all of this is occurring, those who are of the Household of Faith, the Church of ELOHIM, are striving to hold on to their faith. Yet, believe it or not, even within the Household of Faith there exists in modernity certain uncertainties that we all must contend with. One such is, who and what is the Household of Faith?

Most who claim to be Christians generally follow a pastor, a teacher, or some form of church organization that they have become comfortable with. At the same time, if we are students of the Book that Christians also claim to follow, we must admit that something is not quite right. How can so many groups, pastors, and teachers be of the Household of Faith, the Church of ELOHIM, while teaching so many major doctrines that 1) do not agree with one another, and 2) in some cases doesn't exist in the Book?

How do we know we are of the Household of Faith, and following what ELOHIM desires of us? A thought came to me about this recently, and I considered something I have spoken of during various lessons.

- Act 26:1 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Thou art permitted to speak for thyself. Then Paul stretched forth the hand, and answered for himself:

- Act 26:2 I think myself happy, king Agrippa, because I shall answer for myself this day before thee touching all the things whereof I am accused of the Jews: Act 26:9 **I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.** Act 26:10 Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, **having received authority from the chief priests;** and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against *them*. Act 26:11 And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled *them* to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted *them* even unto strange cities. Act 26:12 Whereupon as **I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests,**

These verses tell of the Apostle Paul's testimony before King Agrippa regarding his persecution of the followers of YESHUA prior to his conversion. In verse 26, he says he did what he did with the authority and commission from the chief priests. I.e., the chief priests were the commissioners. They gave Paul his authority and commission to persecute those who followed the teachings of YESHUA.

Today in modernity, is it really any different? Most leaders and teachers today get their marching orders from those who seek to sit in the seat of the chief priests. The question for those who have been called-out and drawn to YESHUA should be, who are the commissioners that we should be following? Is it our pastors? Is it our individual churches? Is it the prophets or the apostles? Is it the apostles only? Is it the prophets only? How can we be sure?

From the beginning of time, mankind has been given various commissions that govern its existence. As such, I want to look at some Biblical basics we may be quite familiar with to remind myself, and hopefully each of you, what ELOHIM's WORD makes clear to us so that we can remain focused and fulfil whatever commissions we have been called to.

A commission is an instruction, command, or duty given to a person or group of people. A commission also is a group of people charged with providing instructions, commands, or duties to others. Well, that being the case, the first commission we must know and accept about the Bible is the following.

- Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Now, if we were to read nothing more than this verse, we would know that according to this Book, this earth and the heaven were created by what most Bible versions calls GOD. And without anyone else teaching us, we can each study this word to learn that in the Hebrew language, this is ELOHIM that “created the heaven and the earth”, right? And with additional study we can understand that this Hebrew word is a title of two or more beings in an omnipotent family called ELOHIM. A few verses down we read the following.

- Gen 1:26 And God 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 fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

This verse confirms the plural nature of the title ELOHIM. This body of beings created the heaven and the earth. As we read further, we understand that the entire first chapter of Genesis through the third verse in the second chapter provides us the details of the heaven and earth that ELOHIM created. Furthermore, there is this part of this creation that appears to have been given special attention by this spiritual family called ELOHIM.

- Gen 1:27 So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

On the 6th day of this creation, ELOHIM created man in HIS image, as male and female. We know that the male was created first, and then the female was taken from the male's rib and created.

Today, in modernity, this version of the creation of male and female is being threatened by men and women who are coercing mankind to accept that this is an outdated and inaccurate rendering of how human beings were created. However, these are the facts as presented in the Book. So, we now know that this group of beings are responsible for conceiving of and carrying out plans to create the heaven and the earth.

Well, guess what? This group of beings were also the first and original COMMISSION, known as ELOHIM. A little later in this Book, after the original outline of this creation was provided, we are given another piece of this puzzle.

- Gen 2:4 These *are* the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,

Now, we see the word LORD (all caps) associated with the family title ELOHIM. Again, through further study, we have satisfied to ourselves the fact that this word LORD is the Hebrew tetragrammaton YHWH. Further research confirms that this is a name with the primary spoken sound as YAHWEH. Some believe this to be YAHAHWAH. To me, the debate of which is more accurate is useless. So, we now have YAHWEH ELOHIM stated as the actual creator of the earth and the heavens.

Now remember, ELOHIM is a commission. And with all commissions, there must a meeting of the minds within the commission as to the direction of the commission and the assignment of responsibilities within the commission. Some of us are familiar with these words by the Prophet King David.

- Psa 55:11 Wickedness *is* in the midst thereof: deceit and guile depart not from her streets. Psa 55:12 For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him:

For most, these words by David are all about himself. Most do not recognize him as a prophet as well a king. Here, he writes that someone is the subject of wickedness and reproach, that had it been from an enemy, HE would have hidden HIMSELF from that enemy.

- Psa 55:13 But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. Psa 55:14 We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.

However, this reproach was from someone HIS equal, HIS guide, HIS acquaintance. HE had taken sweet counsel together with this equal, this guide and acquaintance. They had “walked together unto the House of ELOHIM”. It is obvious from the context of these words that HE who was reproached did not hide HIMSELF from the one who reproached HIM. Why? Because this was sweet counsel they both partook of. These words imply that there were two members involved in this counsel, this commission. The implication is that one of these subjected HIMSELF to one other who was HIS equal. Later, this Book would teach us this.

- Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God. Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.

We already have read for ourselves that one known as YAHWEH ELOHIM actually created the heavens and the earth.

Those words were given as a part of what has come to be designated as the Old Testament, or Covenant. The words we just read, written by the Apostle John (Yochanan) were provided as a type of the beginning of the New Testament, or Covenant. They speak of the WORD which is the Greek word Logos, which means the spoken word. In this instance, because the underlying assertion is that of a being, it must refer to the Spokesman. The word God here is the Greek word Theos, which simply means a deity, which is why you seldom hear me refer to it as such. We have already been told that the title for the deities of creation is ELOHIM, and that it was YAHWEH ELOHIM who did the actual creating.

Now, we are told that it was the WORD, the Spokesman, who was with ELOHIM in the beginning, and was ELOHIM, who made all things. So, if any church group is of the Household of Faith claiming to believe in this Book, it should be teaching that YAHWEH ELOHIM and the WORD must be one and the same. Why, because they had the same commission; to create all things in the heavens and the earth. As we read further from Yochanan, we see another development within this commission.

- Joh 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Now, we are confident that if we simply humble ourselves to the words we are reading, YAHWEH ELOHIM was made flesh and dwelt amongst mankind as the only begotten of FATHER ELOHIM.

- Joh 1:16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. Joh 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

We further learn that the law was given to Moses and grace and truth came by YESHUA MESSIAH. And then this.

- Joh 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*.

This testimony is given to us by Yochanan, the disciple and apostle of YEHSUA MESSIAH. We through study know that this “THEOS” that no man has seen at anytime is referring to the other member of the family of ELOHIM, with whom YAHWEH ELOHIM had taken sweet counsel with. The only begotten SON has declared the FATHER, meaning HE has spoken of HIM. This was HIS responsibility as a part of that first COMMISSION known as ELOHIM. Notice further confirmation of this.

- Joh 5:37 And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.

Not only has no man seen FATHER ELOHIM, neither have they heard HIS voice at any time.

- Joh 5:38 And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. Joh 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

The scripture is the written word, which at this time was the law and the prophets. These testified of YESHUA. And so, we now understand that, based on this Book we all claim to follow, this family of YAHWEH ELOHIM and FATHER ELOHIM developed this great plan of creation. Together, they are the first and ultimate COMMISSIONERS of Salvation. YESHUA said that the scriptures testify of HIM. HE said that mankind has never seen nor spoken to FATHER ELOHIM. Well, how did the scriptures testify of HIM? And, as we gain an understanding of HIM, we must also study whether or not there were and are other commissions ordained by ELOHIM to carry out this great plan of creation.

- Gen 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Here, in the beginning of mankind or what we call human beings, we have the male and the female both being blessed by the original COMMISSION, ELOHIM. And then they were told as a group to be fruitful, multiply and replenish the earth, subdue it and have dominion over the other created beings. This was the third commission given to mankind. We will see the first two commissions shortly. We through study now understand that a better translation of the Hebrew word translated replenish here would be to fill the earth, because mankind was never here before this creation by YAHWEH ELOHIM.

We also know that the lineage of the first male and female did not fulfil their commission as directed by ELOHIM, which led to the following.

- Gen 6:1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, Gen 6:2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they *were* fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. Gen 6:3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also *is* flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. Gen 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.* Gen 6:6 And *it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.* Gen 6:7 **And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.**

The first human commission failed and was revoked. We know that only three persons (Abel, Enoch and Noah) from this commission are listed in the Household of Faith (Hebrews 11th chapter). Of these, Noah was chosen to be the chief of a second human commission.

- Gen 6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.
- Gen 6:22 Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.
- Gen 7:1 And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. Gen 7:2 Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that *are* not clean by two, the male and his female. Gen 7:3 Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.

Noah was dutiful and faithful to carry out his commission from YAHWEH ELOHIM regarding the building of the ark and ensuring the required specified species were brought aboard. It was here, not with the commandments later given to the Children of Yisrael (COY), that the concept of clean and unclean meats was established. As we continue, Noah is a great example to us of what the Household of Faith should adhere to as it seeks to follow the COMMISSIONERS of what we believe to be the WORD of ELOHIM.

- Gen 9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. Gen 9:2 And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth *upon* the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. Gen 9:3 Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.

After carrying out the original commission given him, Noah and his sons became the second commission of humans. Their commission was to be fruitful, multiply and replenish the earth. We know that replenish is more appropriate here because mankind was created before the flood. We also see how that this commission was given authority over other animals, and this time, they were given to this commission as meat. Another coincidence of this commission was that mankind began to live much shorter lives than those before the flood, who were primarily vegetarians.

Now, before we go on, we need to recognize that while ELOHIM was establishing mankind's role in this plan, there were two other commissions created by ELOHIM that mankind seems to not fully grasp at times.

- Gen 1:29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which *is* upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which *is* the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

This verse to me is the first Biblical instance of the duality and the metaphors in ELOHIM's WORD, and has been terribly misunderstood by mankind. Adam was given every herb bearing seed and every tree that was the fruit of a tree yielding seed. This system of duality and metaphors would form an intricate part of ELOHIM's presentation of HIS plan to HIS prized creation, mankind. We will see this play out later in ELOHIM's WORD, beginning with the COY, and later when YAHWEH came in the flesh.

- Gen 2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

This was man's first commission, to dress and keep the garden. If we have eyes to see, this first commission has not changed.

- Gen 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

This was the second commission, to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This is where the duality and metaphor of the fruit-bearing trees began to confuse mankind, even until this time of modernity.

- Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? Gen 3:2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: Gen 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. Gen 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: Gen 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Now, I want us to take a step back for a moment to see what ELOHIM is teaching us. First, we see that the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field made by YAHWEH. Who were these beasts? Were they the animals Adam was commissioned to have dominion over? Whoever they were, this serpent was the most subtle, a Hebrew word “arum” meaning crafty and cunning. Notice in verse 2, the serpent knew the commission. The serpent then lied in verse 4. And before proceeding, we need to understand the metaphor of the fruit and this lie of the serpent.

- Hos 10:12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for *it is* time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

- Hos 10:13 Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men.

This is the fruit the woman was now eating from the serpent in the garden. The Household of Faith should clearly understand this.

Now, as we look at Genesis 3:5, there is something I want us to consider. The serpent told the woman that if she ate the fruit of the tree “then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil”. Was this duality? Were the woman’s eyes closed at this point to where she did not recognize that she was eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? There are several metaphoric possibilities here. Her eyes may truly have been physically closed. Or, maybe she had been veiled to not perceive of what she was eating. The serpent was created to be subtle for a reason.

- Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

After eating the forbidden fruit of lies, it was pleasant to the woman and she then fed her husband. How did she feed him?

- Gen 3:9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where *art* thou? Gen 3:10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I *was* naked; and I hid myself. Gen 3:11 And he said, Who told thee that thou *wast* naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

Now, do we believe what we are reading in ELOHIM’s WORD? After

being fed the fruit from his wife, the man knew he was naked.

Why didn't he know this prior to eating this fruit? And when he told YAHWEH ELOHIM this what was the first thing out of YAHWEH's mouth? "Who told you?" It is YAHWEH ELOHIM that equates this eating of the forbidden tree as being told something. By eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they were fed verbal lies to entice the man and woman to stray from the righteous commission given them by YAHWEH ELOHIM.

- Gen 3:12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. Gen 3:13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What *is* this *that* thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

The Household of Faith was later commissioned to study for approval. It sometimes may take reading ELOHIM's WORD hundreds of times before our eyes are opened. It takes some longer to see than others. The humbler we become, the more our eyes are opened. Some still believe and teach that the male was present as the serpent beguiled the woman. Yet, as the man told YAHWEH what happened, the woman confessed that "the serpent beguiled her, and she did eat". Why can't we simply accept what is written? This is the major flaw of the many groups that claim to be Christians, whether Sabbath or Sunday keepers.

Earlier, the serpent was said to be more subtle than the other beasts of the field. We know this is none other than Satan, pictured as a serpent (a snake). Snakes are sneakier than most other predators. They like to blindside you when you least expect it. But, ELOHIM's WORD informs the Household of Faith that he does not fulfil his commission as chief liar alone.

Notice the following knowledge provided to us in ELOHIM's WORD.

- Luk 10:17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. Luk 10:18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.
- Rev 12:3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. Rev 12:4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

Satan and a third of the angels are one of the other commissions; established by YAHWEH ELOHIM to challenge mankind to see who would endure and be of the Household of Faith. This commission would grow to include members of mankind.

- 2Co 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 2Co 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 2Co 11:15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

This is our challenge even today in modernity; to discern this deceit which may be all around us, even in our own homes.

However, YAHWEH ELOHIM was faithful to also create a fair playing field for the Household of Faith to be able to endure.

- Heb 1:13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? Heb 1:14 **Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?**

This verse teaches us the ultimate commission of these angels; to minister for those who shall be heirs of salvation. We know that there are at least two chief archangels in Gabriel and Michael. We also know that Satan was once one of them. Some teach of a fourth, which however, is not named in the Bible.

So, we have two separate commissions of spirit beings with opposite missions; one to thwart and one to assist. In the last days, the latter group has taken on a more defined and enlarged role.

After Noah and his sons, we see a number of individuals that were given important assignments or commissions by YAHWEH. These include Abraham, Isaac, and JACOB (Yacob), who became the fathers to a nation YAHWEH would call-out to a special mission. Later, there was Moses. These I hesitate to see them as a commission because they didn't operate as such. However, as the COY were given the laws, commandments and statutes of YAHWEH, there was a priesthood established to administer the temple, led by the high priests. As we read earlier, this priesthood became a commission, albeit in a manner not pleasing to ELOHIM. As such, I hesitate to include these as commissioners of salvation.

This leaves us with two other groups that must be considered by the Household of Faith. It is these two groups that have laid the foundation for the heirs of salvation. The only question is whether or not each of these groups can be understood to operate as commissioners of salvation.

The first group was the prophets, primarily were called to direct the COY during Old Covenant times. However, they were called prophets because they constantly were given prophecies of events that were far beyond their time.

- Amo 3:1 Hear this word that the LORD hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying,

- Amo 3:2 **You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.** Amo 3:3 **Can two walk together, except they be agreed?**

We know that the COY was the only nation that YAHWEH ELOHIM knew. Even as HE established this nation, it was on the premise of oneness, two walking together.

- Amo 3:6 **Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?** Amo 3:7 **Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.**

These verses teach something about YAHWEH that few called Christians have been taught. Yet, they present something so profound that all members of the Household of Faith should know beyond a reasonable doubt. It is YAHWEH who does evil in a city. Is this so far-reaching to called-out ones? Let's allow YAHWEH HIMSELF to tell us of HIMSELF. Notice what the Prophet Isaiah was commissioned to teach us.

- Isa 45:7 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these *things*.

Remember, HE created all things, including Satan and the other demons. In the writings of Amos, we see the importance of the commission given to the prophets, to whom YAHWEH revealed HIS secrets. Notice what the Prophet Daniel acknowledges about them in his prayer to YAHWEH ELOHIM.

- Dan 9:3 And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes: Dan 9:4 And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy

to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments; Dan 9:5 We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments: Dan 9:6 **Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.**

As we remember what we have previously known, was after the nine tribes of the House of Yisrael had been led into captivity by the Assyrians and the three tribes of the House of Judah (Yahudah) was taken into captivity by Babylon, because of the conditions as described here by the Prophet Daniel.

Later in the New Covenant we are given these further insights about these prophets as the seventh angel is about to sound.

- Rev 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, **the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.**

We have recently studied the last days and the time called “in that day”, as the prophets taught what would happen on this earth right up to the end of the plan of salvation for the entire world. And then we read the following.

- Rev 11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

Earlier we mentioned the duality of Adam’s commissioner to dress the garden. Notice here how mankind destroy the earth, the garden of mankind. Also notice how the prophets are to be rewarded along with the

saints for diligently carrying out their commissions. We are not given what their specific role will be. Can we call them a commission as a group?

You see, simply being given a commission does not make one a commissioner. These seemed to operate as independent agents who were given similar instructions about the COY and the future events to occur as part of ELOHIM's plan of salvation. However, this is a subjective point and I remain open to further understanding. They did not appear to operate as a commission, yet the more I study, the more I see their consistency. And as such, they might collectively constitute a form of commission.

Later we are told of the prophets and the second group mentioned earlier, the disciples/apostles in the New Covenant. The Apostle Paul could truly be the commissioner of the New Covenant Church, based on his writings.

- Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. Eph 2:14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; Eph 2:15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even the law of commandments contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so making peace*; Eph 2:16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

The Apostle Paul's words are to the Household of Faith and describes the oneness of direction this Church of ELOHIM is commissioned to partake as he teaches of the reconciliation of called-out Yisraelites and Gentiles (the nations).

- Eph 2:17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. Eph 2:18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

- Eph 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

We know through study that these words are describing the New Covenant vineyard, consisting of members of the COY and of the nations of the world.

- Eph 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*; Eph 2:21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: Eph 2:22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

The New Covenant Church of ELOHIM was and is built upon the foundation of both the apostles and the prophets, with YESHUA being its Chief Corner, to walk in a oneness of spirit.

However, as we continue to study and grow in ELOHIM's WORD, we find that the apostles' operation was quite different from that of the prophets. We recall how that the prophets first gave us a hint of the commission of the apostles.

- Isa 8:11 For the LORD spake thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying, Isa 8:12 Say ye not, A confederacy, to all *them* to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid. Isa 8:13 Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and *let him be* your fear, and *let him be* your dread. Isa 8:14 And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Isa 8:15 And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken. Isa 8:16 **Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.**

The Prophet Isaiah provides us with more than a mouthful with these words. He prophesies in verse 15 how would stumble, fall, and be broken, snared and taken. This is important because the longer we tend to be a part of congregations or other religious organizations, the greater the potential for our failure to recognize that this process constantly repeats itself.

And in verse 16 he prophesies what would become the commission to the disciples of YESHUA, who would become the apostles. They were to bind up the testimony and seal the law. As we focus on our lesson tonight, we will see how that this process in verse 15 was emphatically taught to the disciples as a group. What is important to this study is how they did so as a unified counsel, led by the Spirit of Truth. They operated as a commission, receiving their commissions directly from YESHUA HIMSELF. Their commissions were given to them in a manner that would set an example of how they took sweet counsel together to form a bond of oneness, one body.

- Mat 13:10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? Mat 13:11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

This too is one of those important lessons that the Household of Faith should humbly understand in unity. It was not given to the multitudes to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven. Just like YAHWEH only knew one nation, the COY, when HE came in the flesh as YESHUA, HE called-out only twelve disciples to teach them these mysteries.

- Mat 13:12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

- Mat 13:13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. Mat 13:14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: Mat 13:15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and *their* ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and should understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

This was the COY, who because of their love for the world about them, failed in their mission, which is why as a vineyard and an elect, as a nation they were replaced by the called-out ones of the New Covenant. And then YESHUA tells this new commission something of utmost importance.

- Mat 13:16 But blessed *are* your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. Mat 13:17 For verily I say unto you, That **many prophets and righteous *men* have desired to see *those things* which ye see, and have not seen *them*; and to hear *those things* which ye hear, and have not heard *them*.**

This group of men were called-out to such a special commission that included an understanding that the prophets, as a whole, were not given. And yet we read where the prophets knew they would exist in the future. Remember, YAHWEH proclaimed that HE would do nothing without first revealing it to HIS servants the prophets. However, the details of the substance of the commission of these disciples was not given to them.

I realize that we know much about the acts of the apostles, but lets just review a few things about of them in the context of tonight's lesson.

- Act 1:12 Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey. Act 1:13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas *the brother* of James. Act 1:14 **These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication**, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren. Act 1:15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)

This was immediately after they witnessed YESHUA being taken up into heaven. This perhaps was their first act as a new commission. The Apostle Peter took the lead in choosing a replacement for Yudas. We know that very soon, these twelve would be established, as ELOHIM showed their statute before HIM to the COY present in Yerushalaim at the Appointed Time of Weeks. We also know that it was the Apostle Peter who would stand and take the lead at that time. Why?

- Mat 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Mat 4:18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. Mat 4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. Mat 4:20 And they straightway left *their* nets, and followed him.

Peter and his brother Andrew were the first two chosen. And as they were called, the commission for the twelve was established; to become fishers of men.

- Mat 10:1 And when he had called unto *him* his twelve disciples, he gave them power *against* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. Mat 10:2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother; Mat 10:3 Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Mat 10:4 Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

These twelve were selected and given an opportunity that no one before or after them had been given; to walk with YAHWEH face to face for three and a half years. As they walked with him, the hierarchy of this commission began to step forward.

- Mat 14:26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. Mat 14:27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. Mat 14:28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. Mat 14:29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.
- Mat 15:15 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable. Mat 15:16 And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding? Mat 15:17 Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? Mat 15:18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. Mat 15:19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: Mat 15:20 These are *the things* which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

It was Peter who stepped forward with a boldness and curiosity that served to enlighten the entire group. Eventually, he would be selected as somewhat of the chief commissioner. Perhaps YESHUA knew who would take the lead or not, but HE gave them all the opportunity, as HE does us. And once Peter took the opportunity, we need to look upon this as a lesson to all who are of the Household of Faith.

- Mat 16:15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? Mat 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. Mat 16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Mat 16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Mat 16:20 Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

For his boldness, Peter was given the keys to the Kingdom. Yet remember the process. We sometimes have to go backwards before we can be taken.

- Mat 16:21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Mat 16:22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. Mat 16:23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

And that's just what YESHUA was looking for; someone willing to be humbled in the sight of others. HE had to take him back a little so that he could be taken. And then we see an event that further established the hierarchy.

- Mat 17:1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, Mat 17:2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. Mat 17:3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Mat 17:4 Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. Mat 17:5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. Mat 17:6 And when the disciples heard *it*, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.

These three, along with the apostle to be called later, Paul, became the primary leaders of this commission.

- Joh 6:67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Joh 6:68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. Joh 6:69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

Sometimes I wonder about so many I have come to know during my walk. Do they truly believe this, beyond just words? I wonder because so many, even within the Household of Faith, deny bits and pieces of the WORD of ELOHIM. The commissioners, chosen to be the fishermen for the Church of ELOHIM, operated totally differently. Notice something we read all the time. As YESHUA washed HIS disciples' feet, this happened.

- Joh 13:6 Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? Joh 13:7 Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. Joh 13:8 **Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.** Joh 13:9 Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also *my* hands and *my* head.

Do you think YESHUA knew Peter would challenge HIM? Why wouldn't HE. Peter challenged everything. And, someone had to be chosen for possibly the most powerful teaching of the New Covenant to be established.

- Joh 13:10 **Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash *his* feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean,** but not all.

And with these words, YESHUA implemented perhaps the most important protocol of the New Covenant. This suggests to me that Peter's words were no accident. He was being led from above to respond as he did on this most precious of nights. Later, Peter would do his first official act as having the keys to the Kingdom. And as we read this, remember, the promise Peter is expressing to these COY is totally different than what was the promise under the Old Covenant.

- Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do? Act 2:38 **Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.** Act 2:39 **For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call.**

This promise was for spiritual salvation. Later, we know that the Apostle Peter was chosen to go to the Roman Cornelius in an act that opened the doors of this promise to the nations, sometimes called Gentiles. He was chastised for it by his brethren. However, we begin to see how that this commission dealt with their differences and disputes.

- Act 11:1 And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. Act 11:2 And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him, Act 11:3 Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them.

This is so important also because the physical circumcision had become a status symbol in Yisrael. Peter told Cornelius that it was unlawful for one is a Yehudan to deal with an uncircumcised heathen (my paraphrase). Now, Peter held his ground by speaking the truth.

- Act 11:16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. Act 11:17 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as *he did* unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? Act 11:18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

And in the end, the entire counsel of leaders saw the direction YESHUA was leading them. A little later, this circumcision thing, led by Paul, was brought to a conclusion by the commission.

- Act 15:1 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, *and said*, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.

- Act 15:2 When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question. Act 15:3 And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren. Act 15:4 And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and *of* the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them. Act 15:5 But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command *them* to keep the law of Moses. Act 15:6 And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter. Act 15:7 **And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men *and* brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.**

Once again, he who had been given the keys stood up to lead the commissioners.

- Act 15:12 Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them. Act 15:13 And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men *and* brethren, hearken unto me: Act 15:14 Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

Now we see the hierchy taking its place, directing them to a place of unity.

- Act 15:23 And they wrote *letters* by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren *send* greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia:

- Act 15:24 Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, *Ye must* be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no *such* commandment: Act 15:25 It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, Act 15:26 Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Act 15:27 We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell *you* the same things by mouth. Act 15:28 **For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;**

This commission always ensured it was being led by the Holy Spirit. We know that the Apostle Peter would later write of the Apostle Paul's teachings, certifying them into the bond of unity amongst the other commissioners. This is why I can never accept this spirit that has entered into the minds of many amongst the Household of Faith, to agree to disagree. This is a doctrine of the churches of modernity; not the Church of ELOHIM. The apostles are the last Biblical commissioners of salvation. They were told the following by YESHUA:

- Mat 18:20 For **where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.**

These words were HIS key part of the instruction manual for this great commission. However, we cannot read this verse without the proper context.

- Mat 18:18 Verily I say unto you, **Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**

- Mat 18:19 Again I say unto you, That **if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.**

It is not just gathering in HIS name that blesses us with HIS presence, it is our agreeing on what the disciples have already bound that brings HIS presence unto us. The Apostle Paul closes us out tonight.

- Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Eph 4:13 **Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:** Eph 4:14 **That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;** Eph 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ: Eph 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

ELOHIM, the ultimate COMMISSION, through YESHUA, called out this final commissioner to lead HIS church to guide a compact body of believers in love for the sole purpose of growing together in the knowledge of the truth for the salvation of the world.

I was going to conclude here, but I had to include these words about this commission and those who would follow them.

- Joh 17:8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. Joh 17:9 **I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.** Joh 17:10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.
- Joh 17:17 **Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.**
- Joh 17:20 **Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;** Joh 17:21 **That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us:** that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

This was YESHUA's prayer for HIS commissioners of salvation, and all who come to HIM through their teachings.

- Mat 19:27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? Mat 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, **That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.** Mat 19:29 And **every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.**

This is YESHUA's promise to these commissioners of salvation, and **to all who come to HIM through their teachings.** Prayerfully, each of us tonight are humble enough to fit in through their leadership.

Shalom!!