

AFRAID TO WALK BACKWARDS?

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1. INTRODUCTION

How often have you fallen backwards in your life's journey, beginning with our lives as little children? Probably too many times to count for most of us. That is, unless you were an unusually balanced baby. Yes, that's right. As babies, all we did was fall backwards, while mom or dad would catch us with big smiles on their faces. We would then giggle with the full assurance that we would be caught. Every now and then we would bump our poor little heads, until we figured it out. Humm! "Let's not do that again."

The laws of physics seem to dictate that we consistently must go backwards in order to move forward. Take for an example parallel parking. It often seems that when there is a space with ample room, we should be able to pull right in. However, if there are other cars within a certain distance, backing in is a prerequisite for going forward. Wow! Who made this so complicated?

Often times in life we seem to need to take that crucial step backwards before we can go forward. We even teach this valuable lesson in our schools. We are taught that mistakes are common and expected. Don't worry about them. Accept the challenge. Learn from them.

We then take them in stride. The expectation is that we learn from them so that we don't consistently make the same mistakes over and over. As we minimize the mistakes, we began to make better grades, which in due time should lead to a decent paying occupation in life. This is the reward for the mistakes we made, and corrected as expected.

However, if for whatever reason we don't correct the common mistakes as promised in a timely manner, we delay the reward, and we sometimes suffer the consequences. These consequences vary depending on the nature, severity and timing of the failure to correct our "common mistakes".

Robbing a bank or committing other criminal acts to get ahead are not common mistakes, and once caught in the act, the consequences are much more severe. Getting pregnant during your high school years is not a common mistake, and it has the potential to reap somewhat severe consequences.

However, each of these two mistakes represent taking steps backwards, howbeit unnatural steps backwards. What about not learning other valuable lessons such as how to spend prudently? All too often we live beyond our ability to pay. I.e., we live for today and pay for it tomorrow.

In today's world of modernity, our youth have been termed by some as the "entitlement" generation, with an expectation that others, primarily parents, will consistently be there to cover their losses. Well, if this trend continues, who is it that is taking a step backwards? What about relationships? Whoever gets this right the first time? We take multiple steps backwards; even when it involves marriage.

Now, for those who are members of the Church of ELOHIM (the Household of Faith), this is probably the most important principle that should be mastered. Notice how I did not say "learned", but "mastered". Whether we see it or not, the principle exists for every aspect of the churches of today, even for the so-called "called out ones". The Church of modernity is in crisis mode. The differences that separate us is growing at an alarming pace. I believe this is the result of the failure to recognize the necessity of stepping backwards.

In my opinion, most "believers" (I speak only of those professing to be Christians) are well intentioned in their beliefs. Yet major disagreements exist that separate us in alarming ways.

Most claim more traditional beliefs such as worship on Sundays, Christmas, going to heaven, the trinity, and Easter as their foundation.

There are other differences that separate this group into denominations. However, the foundation unifies them, whether they accept this reality or not.

Then there are the “called out ones”, who have as their foundation the knowledge of the MESSIAH as the ELOHIM of Yisrael, the Sabbath, the Holy Days, the rejection of the trinity, a belief the dietary laws, etc. These would appear to be very powerful and unifying beliefs.

Yet, they are widely separated by other beliefs that include the physical identity of Yisraelites, the dating of the Holy Days and postponement rules, the name of the MESSIAH, understanding the fullness of the MOST HIGH’s Holy Spirit, the calling, the wicked burning continuously in a lake of fire, cooking on the Sabbath, physical circumcision, the woman’s role in the Church, etc., etc., etc.

For each of us, we probably have other issues we could add to this list if we are being honest with ourselves. The question for me is this, is this how it was designed? If so, we are in a good place. However, if not, how do we get to where we need to go?

Once we have established our primary beliefs on Biblical subjects as taught by our spiritual teacher, we also accept the teacher’s views on certain subtopics that impact our beliefs on the primary topics. In a previous article, How Do We Become Unleavened, I spoke passionately on the MESSIAH’s desire that HIS followers become as one. In many cases, the subtopic views impact how we fellowship and with whom we fellowship with. Ultimately, this creates a schism within the Body of CHRIST. Is this the way it was designed?

Yet, as we look at what the MESSIAH HIMSELF had to say, we find ourselves with a dilemma of Biblical fact.

- Joh 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. Joh 17:16 **They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.** Joh 17:17 **Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.** Joh 17:18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. Joh 17:19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the 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. Joh 17:22 **And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:** Joh 17:23 **I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one;** and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Joh 17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. Joh 17:25 **O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.** Joh 17:26 **And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare *it*: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.**

My Brothers and Sisters, this is the blueprint for the design of the Church of the MOST HIGH ELOHIM of Yisrael. We must ask ourselves this question. Are we living up to the expectations of our MESSIAH? If the answer for you is yes, this article does not apply to you. I am amongst those who knows I have much growing to accomplish this desire of YESHUA.

I also am one who knows beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Church is not “at one”.

Anyone expressing this belief is delusional. However, according to the MESSIAH's prayer, HIS desire was for HIS followers to be one with each other. The prophets were in agreement with HIS prayer and desire.

- Amo 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

Brethren, think about this for a second. How can we truly bear the fruit which is from above if we are not walking together? And, how can we walk together if we are not agreed?

Now some would say that those that worship on Sunday, celebrate the MESSIAH's birth on December 25th, HIS death and resurrection on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, etc., are in agreement. The simple question for these individuals is this. While you are in agreement with each other, are you in agreement with the MESSIAH HIMSELF?

Our only true knowledge of the MESSIAH is based on our belief that the Bible is the unquestionable WORD of the MOST HIGH ELOHIM of Yisrael. If these practices are commanded in the Bible, then these are truly walking with the MESSIAH. If not, in due season, these need to be honest about their beliefs and take a step backwards while remembering these words by the MESSIAH.

- Mat 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.
- Joh 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

Well, I have searched the scriptures with an open heart and an open mind and found absolutely no evidence to support the worship of Sunday, Christmas, good Friday and Easter, the trinity, or going to heaven after death.

These doctrines are simply not in the Bible. I challenge those sincere persons who desire to walk in truth to take the challenge, and do what we are instructed to do.

- 2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

When I searched the scriptures, all I saw as commandments began with the ten commandments, in which I noticed the commanded seventh day of the week Sabbath (4th). As I continued, I noticed the “feasts of the Lord” in the 23rd chapter of Leviticus. I prayed and studied about the requirement of the Sabbath and feasts under the “New Covenant” and saw where the MESSIAH (Mark 6:2, Luke 4:16 & 4:31, John 7:37) and the apostles (Acts 12:3, 13:42 & 44, 16:13, 18:4 & 21, 20:6 & 16, 1 Cor 5:7 & 8, 16:8), not only kept the Sabbath and the feasts (appointed times) as commanded, but also expounded on the deeper spiritual meanings of how these inform us of the MOST HIGH’s plan for mankind. And, these all point to the MESSIAH HIMSELF.

This brings me to those who have been called to the wonderful knowledge of the Sabbath and the “feasts of the Lord”. One would think that with this knowledge, these would all “walk together”. Sadly, this is far from true. Amongst these believers are a myriad of other beliefs that divide. If we are to fulfil the MESSIAH’s desire, shouldn’t we “walk together”, if we are truly seeking to walk in truth? I submit that if this is the MESSIAH’s desire, it must also be the FATHER’s desire. Why?

- Joh 10:30 I and *my* Father are one.

This tells us they are of one thought and have developed a plan for us to follow.

So, if it is both the MESSIAH's and the FATHER's desire for THEIR followers to be as one, I submit we have been provided the spiritual tools needed to "walk together". If I am right, what is it that holds us back? Shouldn't this be our desire as well?

How then should those who also desire this begin to "unleaven" ourselves? In practically every walk of life we often need to take what appears to be a step back in order to progress to the next phase. Why should it be any different when it comes to our walk as followers of the MOST HIGH ELOHIM of Yisrael?

Learning is a process of stepping backwards to walk forward. We need to examine this process so that we may each breathe life into the great commission desired by our MESSIAH.

2. Why Are There Divisions?

I was born into the home of a pastor of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) faith, which is also the oldest so-called Black religious organization in the U.S. When converted, for many years I was a part of the Church of God International (CGI), a European led organization I firmly believed to be of the “called out ones”. I eventually began attending the Israel of God (IOG), a Hebrew Yisraelite (descendants of the transatlantic slave trade)-led organization I firmly believed to be of the “called out ones”. Attendance in these three (3) groups provides me with what I believe is a unique perspective on why so-called “called out ones” are so, so separated. Whether one is converted in life to the life as taught by the AME’s, CGI’s or IOG’s, there exist differences that are accompanied by a fear of change.

The Methodists are traditional Christians in that they worship on Sunday, celebrate Christmas, Easter, Halloween (for the most part), believe one goes to heaven or hell upon death, etc., etc., etc. Both the European and Hebrew Yisraelite groups mentioned above have similar beliefs in the Sabbath, the Holy Days and the Kingdom of God on the earth. As suggested in the introduction, the beliefs of the Methodist do not, at this time” qualify them as “called out ones”, based on Biblical definitions. As such, they will not be the focus of this discussion.

However, the fact that it is easily proven that much of the Methodist and other traditional Christian core beliefs cannot be found in scripture begs the answer of why.

The primary beliefs of the European led group and the Hebrew Yisraelite led group are somewhat typical of what I consider to be “called out ones. What makes me so comfortable in making this assessment? It’s quite simple. I read the Book with an open mind to learn rather than just believe what I may have been told.

Because I read, I know that the MOST HIGH commands HIS followers to honor the Sabbath, to keep HIS Holy Days beginning with Passover and ending with the Feast (Appointed Time) of Tabernacles. I know the MESSIAH is the ELOHIM of Yisrael and is coming back to the earth to reign with HIS saints for a thousand years. I know that sin is the transgression of the law. I know this and much more. Yet, I also know that there is so much more to learn.

In my experience amongst the “called out ones”, I have noticed a propensity to read and interpret the MOST HIGH’s WORD, even as we claim to despise the practice and accuse others of doing so. Yet, when admonished to read and accept the WORD as it was written and accept the inherent errors of the translators, we seem uncomfortable and seek many variations of escape. What are we afraid of?

The fact is that amongst those that agree on the beliefs mentioned above, there is much dissension. What makes this unacceptable is that there appears to be a lack of desire to honor the MESSIAH’s prayer of oneness. We have become followers of man without even realizing it. The Apostle Paul addresses this in his first letter to the Corinthians.

- 1Co 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. 1Co 1:11 For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them *which are of the house* of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. 1Co 1:12 **Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.** 1Co 1:13 **Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?**

The Apostle asks crucial questions about these divisions and adorning men rather than CHRIST. The following verses may inspire us to answer both questions with open hearts towards growing in the MOST HIGH's truths.

- Jer 1:4 Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Jer 1:5 **Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee,** *and* I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. Jer 1:6 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I *am* a child. Jer 1:7 But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I *am* a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Jer 1:8 Be not afraid of their faces: for I *am* with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. Jer 1:9 Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. Jer 1:10 See, **I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.**

If one is truly a “called out one”, one has been drawn by the FATHER to the MESSIAH.

- Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

As such, like Jeremiah (Yeremiyah), such a one was also known by the FATHER to such an extent that HE (the FATHER) believed that one had something HE could use to further HIS agenda towards establishing HIS Kingdom on this earth. As Yeremiyah was commissioned to “root out”, “pull down”, “to destroy”, “throw down”, “build”, and “to plant”, so too is the “called out one”.

Notice the central theme here is to bring down and rebuild. Isn't this taking a step backwards in order to move forward?

In my years of fellowship with those whom I consider to be Brothers and Sisters in the faith, I have noticed an existing fear that appears to truly block our spiritual growth and fellowship.

Now I realize that dealing with this question can be a time bomb in the making. Why, because my views will be obvious. Many thoughts here will be based upon observations made by me. However, I believe I am in a fairly decent position to comment on these things based on my background.

I also believe there may be differences amongst these “called out one” groups that may be irreversible until the MESSIAH returns. However, should this be the case? If members of these groups are truly “called out ones” (as they openly claim to follow the MESSIAH), why can they not take on the responsibility to “be one” like the MESSIAH so passionately prayed for? I have heard the following verse quoted many times.

- 1Co 13:9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

This is generally stated when knowledge learned from another source is proven to one who believes that their knowledge and/or their teacher’s knowledge stands above others in the WORD. It’s a way of letting the other teacher down easy by acknowledging that no one has all truth. Yet, it also strangles further discussion and signals that although there is some acknowledgement, there is no true acceptance. You walk your way while I walk my way. The use of is verse simply explains it away.

Sometimes I believe this is a cop out to not try to understand one another. Let’s look at this in its context.

- 1Co 13:8 Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.

- **1Co 13:9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 1Co 13:10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.** 1Co 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 1Co 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. 1Co 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.

The Apostle is clear that the part that we know is based on what we have been given. We have been given only part of the story. This part will vanish (verse 8). Like when we were children and became adults, our childlike ways vanished, or should have. However, when we see the MESSIAH face to face, we will have a full cup (verse 12). So, when taken in context, we see that we have used this phrase out of its intended context. **All that is given to us in the ELOHIM of Yisrael's WORD is meant to be understood by "called-out ones"**. We simply have not been given more at this time.

I notice so often that when something new is offered to those who confess to be knowledgeable, they respond negatively. Let's take the subject matter for instance. When trying to offer a glimpse into this article I was told we should never look back. I understand this statement, when taken in context. Spiritually, we should not walk backwards into the darkness that we came out of. If truly "called out", we know that our past was full of pagan ways and worshipping other gods, albeit without knowledge of those things. With our new knowledge, we must not fall prey to these forces. For we know the following:

- Heb 10:26 For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

- Heb 10:27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

However, are we so knowledgeable that we stand still with what we have received. The MESSIAH says otherwise.

- Mat 25:14 For *the kingdom of heaven is* as a man travelling into a far country, *who* called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. Mat 25:15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

Each servant was given a certain number of talents. All but the servant given one talent gained more talents. To all those servants that gained, note what HE said to each of them.

- Mat 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.
- Mat 25:23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Note what HE said to that servant that gained none.

- Mat 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, *Thou* wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Mat 25:27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and *then* at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Mat 25:28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give *it* unto him which hath ten talents.

- Mat 25:29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

Why didn't the servant grow more talents? Notice his explanation.

- Mat 25:24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: Mat 25:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, *there* thou hast *that is* thine.

Did you note that? He was afraid! He called the Lord a hard man. We all need to ask ourselves the question; what holds me back? The answer just might be a surprising, who is holding me back? The obvious answer should be self. However, this opens the issue, why is self holding us back?

Earlier we noticed the calling of the Prophet Yeremiyah. As part of his calling he also prophesied the following:

- Jer 2:8 The priests said not, Where *is* the LORD? and they that handle the law knew me not: the pastors also transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after *things that* do not profit.

I believe we might all agree that these pastors lead the people in a way of falsehood. So, the MOST HIGH said this.

- Jer 3:15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

When we read Yeremiyah's prophecies about the pastors, those amongst the "called out ones" typically consider that these are the Sunday pastors.

I don't disagree. However, there is always a duality principal in the MOST HIGH's WORD to keep HIS "called out ones" humble. Remember that the one with the one talent was afraid of "the man". How can pastors lead the people astray if they are not allowed to lead them astray?

The Prophet Yeremiyah alone was the only prophet instructed by the MOST HIGH to write about the pastors who led the people astray. See Jer 10:21, 12:10, 22:22 and 23:1-2. These are Yisraelite, not gentile pastors. These pastors knew the instructions of the MOST HIGH, yet, they consistently led the people in a path that leads to destruction.

Yisrael has always followed its leaders. The Biblical evidence says that when a righteous king ruled over Yisrael, the land was at peace and prosperous, because of YAHWEH's blessings. When an evil king ruled, the land was savagely under unrest, because of YAHWEH's curses.

Today, even though the punishment of Yisrael is primarily nationalistic in nature, salvation is individualistic. We are equipped to recognize and walk in a manner to follow the MOST HIGH's WORD, rather than those who rule over us. And today, who is it that rules over us? I suggest that it remains the pastors.

- Jer 12:10 Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion under foot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness.

One of my greatest concerns amongst the "called out ones" is the pastors of today. For the most part, they appear to be quite knowledgeable. Yet, why is it that these all agree on the Sabbath and Holy Day commandments, the dietary laws, the acknowledgement of CHRIST as the ELOHIM of Yisrael; yet disagree on so much else. Let's take a walk through some of the primary differences I have seen amongst these "called out ones".

Earlier I stated that my background included teachings by both European as well as Hebrew Yisraelite groups. For these two groups, the identity of physical Yisreal is probably the most significant belief or understanding that divides.

Who are the gentiles? The King James Version (KJV) states the following:

- Gen 10:1 Now these *are* the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth: and unto them were sons born after the flood. Gen 10:2 The sons of Japheth; Gomer, and Magog, and Madai, and Javan, and Tubal, and Meshech, and Tiras. Gen 10:3 And the sons of Gomer; Ashkenaz, and Riphath, and Togarmah. Gen 10:4 And the sons of Javan; Elishah, and Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. Gen 10:5 **By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations.**

Now, those “called out ones” that study translations know that the word translated “gentiles” here is “goy”, which means nations. So, the offspring or descendants of Noah’s son Yapheth are called nations, translated into the name or title, “gentiles”. The question is simple; can Yapheth’s descendants be identified further? One internet source by Alexander Zephyr reads as follows:

Etymology of the name Japheth has a few meanings; one of them (the most popular), based on Genesis 9:27, translates it as 'may God make Japheth 'wide', 'enlarge' or 'extend' him. This was an indication that his descendants will be more populous than those of Shem and Ham; other sources interpreted the meaning of his name as 'fair', being white skinned in color. Targum of Jonathan renders the translation as 'God shall beautify Japheth.

From the seventy linguistically different nations who settled the earth after God's dispersion of the peoples from the tower of Babel, Japheth's descendants contributed to fourteen progenitors. The territory of their settlement is called 'The Northern Zone'. This is north of Asia Minor Turkey], northern Mediterranean and Europe. Japheth is called 'the father of the Indo-European family of nations.'

Out of the fourteen progenitors of Japheth came these nations: Greeks, Romans, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Slavs, Russians, Bulgarians, Poles, Slovaks, Croatians, Indians, Iranic, Medes, Persians, Afghans, Kurds, Turkey, Germans, Scandinavian, Anglo-Saxons, and others.

Other sources appear to be consistent. Based on this, all signs point to modern-day Europeans being the predominant makeup of the offspring of Yapheth. While this may be cause for considerable debate, let's look at the Biblical considerations. The Apostle Paul is acknowledged to be the apostle to the gentiles. Well, where and to whom did the Apostle travel and teach? According to the WORD of the MOST HIGH there was Rome, Corinth, Ephesus, Thessalonica, Galatia, Philippi, and Colossae. Can there be much doubt that this represents the general area of Europe?

There is no evidence that the Apostle Paul taught amongst those known to be Hamites (known to be primarily the nations of the continent of Africa, which the MOST HIGH's word called the Land of Ham – See Ps 125:23). The MESSIAH had this to say.

- Luk 1:24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

This prophecy is known to be dual in its nature. It first occurred in 70AD when the Romans destroyed Yerushalaim during a period of great desolation. It will occur again. It also implies that the gentiles will also be in charge until the MESSIAH returns. Well, who is in charge? In all walks of life, the Europeans are primarily in charge. Their influence is worldwide like no other, be it financially, spiritually (through the influence of the “Mother” church) and militarily.

Now, subsequent Biblical study has proven that all nations outside of Yisrael are in fact gentile nations. Please obtain my Lesson No. 26 – The Gentiles Exposed for detailed Biblical proof of this new conclusion.

Now, many Europeans, if not most, of those with whom I have fellowshiped with consider themselves to be descendants of Yisrael rather than gentiles. Based on their story, certain European nations and the US have been identified as the descendants of Yisrael. So, I wonder, where did the gentiles go, who practically every historical source says the gentiles are the European nations. According to the Bible, wherever Yisrael is, it cannot be in power. In fact, the only place Yisrael is promised any measure of power is in its own land. And when that happens, the MESSIAH will be there with them.

The following chapter will be included in its entirety so that we understand the totality of the prophecy and its implications.

- Isa 11:1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: Isa 11:2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; Isa 11:3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: Isa 11:4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. Isa 11:5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. Isa 11:6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. Isa 11:7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. Isa 11:8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. Isa 11:9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

- Isa 11:10 And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. Isa 11:11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. Isa 11:12 And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. Isa 11:13 The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim. Isa 11:14 But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them. Isa 11:15 And the LORD shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make *men* go over dryshod. Isa 11:16 And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.

Based on what I see, Yisrael will ONLY return to its land when the MESSIAH returns and recovers them. Also, according to the WORD of the MOST HIGH, the conditions in which they exist in the places of the world they exist are as follows:

- Deu 28:64 And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.

- Deu 28:65 And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind: Deu 28:66 And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life: Deu 28:67 In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see. Deu 28:68 And the LORD shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships, by the way whereof I spake unto thee, Thou shalt see it no more again: and **there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you.**

Did this occur? When did any European nation or nations incur the evidence of these prophecies? There is so much more I could add on this subject, but it shouldn't be necessary, although I will add one other thing. My European Brethren believe that the seed of Yisrael was taken by the daughters of Zedekiah to Europe with the Prophet Yeremiyah, after Zedekiah's sons were killed. As a result, the seed of Yisrael was now European.

First thing, my European "called out ones", why did Babylon slay the king's sons and allow the daughters to live? In science, and indeed in the MOST HIGH's WORD, women have never carried the seed of mankind. Geniality can ONLY be traced through the male genes. Man carries the seed. Second thing, there is no Biblical or historical evidence that Yeremiyah ever went to Europe. Third, every prophet knew that Yisrael would be scattered among the nations for its disobedience to the MOST HIGH. Please see my article, "In That Day, The Return of Yisrael", for a fuller perspective on this. We should be able to agree on this. Yet, we won't even discuss it. Why? To me the obvious answer is fear.

When I came into the knowledge of the ELOHIM of Yisrael, it was not important who the descendants of Yisrael were. What was important was my newfound knowledge of the commandments of the MOST HIGH. This still carries precedence. However, as I have grown in the knowledge of prophecy, reality sat in. According to all that is written, Europeans cannot possibly be the descendants of Yisrael. Whoever Yisrael is today, and indeed since they left their land, they reside in the cellar.

They are at the tail and not the head. They were sent into slavery of vast proportion. In my article “Why Did The MOST HIGH Choose Yisrael?”, I conclude that Yisrael has never had any reason to be proud, based on its cowardly past. All it has is a name; no power. Based on all my studies, I am no doubt a descendant of Yisrael; based on the evidence of study, which I would gladly share with any of my European Brethren who desire truth and not interpretation. Yet, this people turned its back on the most visual evidence of power man has ever seen. How can I be proud of that?

This brings us to another related paradox that divides. I agree that the physical nation of Yisrael was called to be a nation of priests to teach the world how to live in accordance with the MOST HIGH’s laws. However, my Hebrew Yisraelite brethren are convinced that gentiles (Europeans) should not teach the gospel, particularly to physical Yisraelites. Yet, when I have asked for the Biblical evidence of such a command, none has been provided. Recently I was reading and noticed the following:

- 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. Act 15:15 And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, Act 15:16 After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: Act 15:17 That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.

Verses 14 and 17 obviously state that there were and are gentiles being called out for the name of the Lord. What name are we talking about here?

- 2Ch 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

We know that this is talking about Yisrael during the time of their dwelling amongst the nations in captivity. So, the name of Yisrael is also the Lord's name. Just do a word study. This is all over the Book. Now the prophets went on to state the following.

- Isa 43:7 *Even* every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

Now I ask you, my Hebrew Yisraelite brothers; if in the New Covenant it is clear that the MOST HIGH is calling out gentiles to be called by HIS name as evidenced by the words of the apostles, doesn't that mean the MOST HIGH is now calling them Yisrael as well? Wouldn't this make them the priests of the MOST HIGH as well? Well, think about it.

The evidence shows that all called by the MOST HIGH's name under the New Covenant are called Yisrael. They are spiritual Yisraelites. Who can deny that any spiritual Yisraelite can teach, if that is his calling?

Now this brings me to another interesting divide. Because of my gentile brethren's beliefs in terms of identity, they have sided with those who claim Yisraelite heritage, who currently live in the land of Yisrael. Beginning with Hillel, it has been taught that the dates given by the MOST HIGH for HIS Holy Days can be shifted a day so that back to back weekly and High Day Sabbaths will never occur. In the literature of one of the gentile groups it reads as follows:

“Trumpets is the first day of the seventh month and can never fall on first, fourth, and sixth days of the week. This is the sacred calendar arrangement so Atonement can never fall on a Friday or Sunday. Thus, there would never be the possibility of having two consecutive days on which it is forbidden to prepare food and to bury the dead.”

The above quote exists due to what is typically called the “postponement rules”. The following quote divulges the workings of postponements. It may take a few readings to grasp some understanding of it.

"The *dehiyyot* [postponements] are as follows:

- (a) If the Tishri *molad* falls on day 1, 4, or 6, then Tishri 1 is postponed one day. [This postponement is often referred to as ADU, which is an acronym formed from the Hebrew letters *alef* (1 for Sunday), *daled* (4 for Wednesday), & *vov* (6 for Friday)]
- (b) If the Tishri *molad* occurs at or after 18 hours (i.e., noon), then Tishri 1 is postponed one day. If this causes Tishri 1 to fall on day 1, 4, or 6, then Tishri 1 is postponed an additional day to satisfy *dehiyyah* (a).
- (c) If the Tishri *molad* of an ordinary year (i.e., of twelve months) falls on day 3 at or after 9 hours, 204 *halakim*, then Tishri 1 is postponed two days to day 5, thereby satisfying *dehiyyah* (a).
- (d) If the first *molad* following a leap year falls on day 2 at or after 15 hours, 589 *halakim*, then Tishri 1 is postponed one day to day 3.

3.1.2 Reasons for the *Dehiyyot*

Dehiyyah (a) prevents Hoshana Rabba (Tishri 21) from occurring on the Sabbath and prevents Yom Kippur (Tishri 10) from occurring on the day before or after the Sabbath.

Dehiyyah (b) is an artifact of the ancient practice of beginning each month with the sighting of the lunar crescent. It is assumed that if the *molad* (i.e., the mean conjunction) occurs after noon, the lunar crescent cannot be sighted until after 6 P.M., which will then be on the following day.

Dehiyyah (c) prevents an ordinary year from exceeding 355 days. If the Tishri *molad* of an ordinary year occurs on Tuesday at or after 3:11:20 A.M., the next Tishri *molad* will occur at or after noon on Saturday. According to *dehiyyah* (b), Tishri 1 of the next year must be postponed to Sunday, which by *dehiyyah* (a) occasions a further postponement to Monday. This results in an ordinary year of 356 days. Postponing Tishri 1 from Tuesday to Thursday produces a year of 354 days.

Dehiyyah (d) prevents a leap year from falling short of 383 days. If the Tishri *molad* following a leap year is on Monday, at or after 9:32:43 1/3 A.M., the previous Tishri *molad* (thirteen months earlier) occurred on Tuesday at or after noon. Therefore, by *dehiyyot* (b) and (a), Tishri 1 beginning the leap year was postponed to Thursday. To prevent a leap year of 382 days, *dehiyyah* (d) postpones by one day the beginning of the ordinary year." (*Explanatory Supplement to the Astronomical Almanac*, P. Kenneth Seidelmann, editor; document online at: <http://astro.nmsu.edu/~lhuber/leaphist.html>)

Now, if these postponement rules were in force and in use by ancient Yisrael, both under Moses and on through the temple periods, we should expect to find mention of them in the Old Covenant writings. One may search even the whole of Scriptures, but will never find such. Leviticus 23:24 plainly states that it is the first day of the seventh moon of the year that is to be sanctified with a holy assembly.

Nowhere does Scripture state that the MOST HIGH's appointed holy assembly can be shifted to a day different than the seventh new moon day of the year.

In his Gospel account, John (Yochanan) records that YESHUA stood up on the last day of the Feast, the Great Day, and cried out to the crowd (John 7:37). This "last day, that great day" is the eighth day of the Feast of Tabernacles, also in the 7th month (John 7:2) and occurs on the 22nd day of Ethanim/Tishri. The next day (John 8:2), YESHUA came again to the Temple early in the morning. After HIS discourse with the scribes and Pharisees, HE healed a man who was blind from birth. Yochanan recorded that "it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and open his eyes." (John 9:14).

This evidence shows that the 23rd day of Ethanim was a Sabbath that year; an impossibility with the rabbinic calendar, as this would mean that Trumpets would have been on Friday that year and a Friday Trumpets is not possible due to postponement rules.

Now some may contend that this "last day" is the 7th day of Sukkot instead of the 8th day (and therefore the 21st of Ethanim instead of the 22nd). However, consider these facts:

- Leviticus 23:39 Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day shall be a Sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a Sabbath.

Eighth day. Eighth from what? It is the eighth day from the First Day of the Feast; i.e., the eighth day from the 15th, being the 22nd of the month. As is obvious, this is more than just a seven-day feast; an eighth day is commanded by the Creator. Which would be last then? The 7th or the 8th? Obviously, the 8th comes after the 7th and would be the last.

Yochanan further defined this "last day" as "the great of the Feast." The Greek word translated "great" is the same Greek word Yochanan used in John 19:31, where it is translated "high." Yochanan defines the rest days of a Feast as "high" or "great" days. By Yochanan's own use of the term, it CANNOT be a reference to the 7th day of Tabernacles, as it is not a "great" or "high" day. Yochanan indeed spoke of the Eighth Day in John 7:37, which is a high day (a rest day of a Feast).

For those who contend that John 7:37 and 9:14 all occurred on the last & great day, please note that Yochanan spoke of "the last day (the Eighth Day -- Shemini Atzeret) in 7:37, and rightly referred to it "the great of the Feast." The Greek here is specific. John used the definitive ton ("the") to specify a certain day: "THE last...THE great." However, in John 9:14, Yochanan wrote of "a" Sabbath, not "the" Sabbath (the Greek definitive ton is absent): "And it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes."

If Yochanan was yet speaking of the same day, why not refer to it specifically? Why not say, "And it was YET THE Sabbath, THE GREAT DAY, when Jesus made the clay..."? So, my Brothers, as you can see, there is absolutely no Biblical evidence for maintaining the postponement rules. So, why do it?

Interesting enough, this belief by my European Brethren leads to another belief in which both they and my Hebrew Yisraelite Brethren agree on; which I do not. That is, "called out ones" cannot cook on the Sabbath. Apparently, those who have masqueraded as Jews have long taken this view. I am not totally sure of the basis for their reasoning on this. However, I do know that my Hebrew Yisraelite Brethren base their belief on the following:

- Exo 35:3 Ye shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations upon the sabbath day.

On its face, there truly would appear to be a strong indication that based on these words, cooking was not allowed on the Sabbath. However, to make this a doctrine, as has been done, there should be a commandment that states this. There is none. Notice that the verse preceding this prohibition relates to the Sabbath prohibition regarding work.

- Exo 35:2 Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day there shall be to you an holy day, a sabbath of rest to the LORD: whosoever doeth work therein shall be put to death.

Also, if we read the remainder of the chapter, we note instructions for the building of the tabernacle, which included gold, silver and brass. Let's understand the context.

These precious metals must be smelted in order to be reshaped in accordance with the MOST HIGH's instructions. Kindling a fire in this context obviously would constitute work, which was forbidden in verse 2. So, the fire being forbidden on the Sabbath is a smelting fire, not a fire related to cooking.

My question to both groups is why can't we take a step back, breath, pray and allow the MOST HIGH's WORD to interpret itself? What are we afraid of?

Another divide is the Appointed Time of Tabernacles. I agree with my European Brethren that practice getting away and keeping eight days of this appointed time, which ends with the eighth day, the Last Great Day. Many of my physical Yisraelite Brothers only keep the first day and the eighth day of the appointed time. Here is the commandment.

- Lev 23:34 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month *shall be* the feast of tabernacles *for* seven days unto the LORD.

- Lev 23:35 On the first day *shall be* an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work *therein*. Lev 23:36 Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it *is* a solemn assembly; *and* ye shall do no servile work *therein*.

For certain the first and eighth days are holy convocations. Yet, on the first through seventh days an offering made by fire is to be made to YAHWEH.

Now are we to ignore the MOST HIGH's commandment because we no longer perform sacrifices? What does an offering by fire mean? Let's allow history to guide us.

- Neh 8:13 And on the second day were gathered together the chief of the fathers of all the people, the priests, and the Levites, unto Ezra the scribe, even to understand the words of the law. Neh 8:14 And they found written in the law which the LORD had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month:
- Neh 8:16 So the people went forth, and brought *them*, and made themselves booths, every one upon the roof of his house, and in their courts, and in the courts of the house of God, and in the street of the water gate, and in the street of the gate of Ephraim. Neh 8:17 And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths: for since the days of Jeshua the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so. And there was very great gladness. Neh 8:18 Also day by day, from the first day unto the last day, he read in the book of the law of God. And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day was a solemn assembly, according unto the manner.

So, when the Children of Yisrael (COY) rediscovered the law, they read the “book of the law” day by day for eight days. What a joyous eight days this must have been; dwelling amongst your Brothers and Sisters for eight days concentrating solely on the MOST HIGH’s words. Now, my Hebrew Yisraelite Brethren read the following verses every Appointed Time of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost (Weeks) and Tabernacles.

- Deu 14:22 Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year. Deu 14:23 And thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always.
- Deu 14:24 And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it; or if the place be too far from thee, which the LORD thy God shall choose to set his name there, when the LORD thy God hath blessed thee: Deu 14:25 Then shalt thou turn *it* into money, and bind up the money in thine hand, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose: Deu 14:26 And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before the LORD thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household,

These verses are specifically read to justify that strong drink is allowed on these High days. However, because of the emphasis placed on strong drink, the Brothers and Sisters hearing this reading do not consider the context of these COMMANDS. Let’s break them down.

First thing is to tithe of your increase. Second is to eat before YAHWEH in a place where HE places HIS name. Third, we are to EAT the TITHE!

My Brothers and Sisters, this is a tithe to yourselves; sometimes called the third tithe or the Feast tithe. Fourth, if the way to that place is too long, we are to trade in the goods of our increase for money. Why? Fifth, once we GET TO THE PLACE, we are to buy whatever our “soul desireth”, including strong drink. My Hebrew Yisraelite Brothers and Sisters are not taught that this tithe is for the Appointed Times of Unleavened Bread, Weeks and Tabernacles or Booths. My European Brothers and Sisters get this. Why don't my Hebrew Yisraelite Brothers and Sisters get it? It's in the Book!

Let's look at another divide. Actually, I will include two birds with this one stone. In addition to not requiring the women to cover their heads at the appropriate times, some of my European Brothers have apparently began to allow women to speak from the pulpit. My thoughts here include what I believe we can agree on. **There is no evidence of a female priest in the Bible.** It is true that both called-out women and men are striving to become spiritual priests in the MOST HIGH's Kingdom. However, the Nation of Yisrael was “called out” to be a kingdom of priests.

Yet, that protocol did not allow women to serve in the priesthood during the Old Covenant times. Now what about the New Covenant? The Apostle makes it clear.

- Co 14:34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but *they are commanded* to be under obedience, as also saith the law. 1Co 14:35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.
- 1Ti 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; 1Ti 2:10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

- 1Ti 2:11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. 1Ti 2:12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. 1Ti 2:13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve. 1Ti 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. 1Ti 2:15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

I believe these verses speak for themselves. Apparently, there has been some exaggerated interpretation of these scriptures. Now, what about the head covering?

- 1Co 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. 1Co 11:4 Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. 1Co 11:5 But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. 1Co 11:6 For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. 1Co 11:7 For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. 1Co 11:8 For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. 1Co 11:9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. 1Co 11:10 For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels. 1Co 11:11 Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. 1Co 11:12 For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God. 1Co 11:13 Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? 1Co 11:14 Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?

- 1Co 11:15 But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for *her* hair is given her for a covering. 1Co 11:16 But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

I believe these verses likewise speak for themselves regarding prayer and prophesy.

There remains, however, a few subjects that my Hebrew Yisraelite Brothers and Sisters believe in that are perplexing to me. When I hear the teaching expounding on each, I shudder. The first of these is that there is a good side of the Kingdom, and a bad side of the Kingdom, which is characterized by a lake of fire that will never cease to burn. I have written on these in detail in my article “Will They Burn Forever?”.

As such I will offer only a few thoughts here. Similar to the conclusion offered to the postponement rules, one can search every scripture in the Bible that speaks to the Kingdom of ELOHIM and will find NO reference to a bad side of the Kingdom. It’s not a difficult thing to do with today’s electronic Bibles. Three thoughts that are presented are 1) “least in the Kingdom”, 2) worms that will forever be eating on the wicked, and 3) “we shall all be changed”. I discuss each of these in my article. Briefly, if we look at number 3, we note that the belief is based on the Apostle Paul’s 1st letter to the Corinthians.

- 1Co 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

Every time I hear the words “everyone shall be changed” preached, it seems to follow the reading of this scripture. Of course, this is not what the Apostle wrote. However, because of its importance, I will indulge a little bit more here. Let’s put this verse in its true context.

- 1Co 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. 1Co 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 1Co 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

So, first the Apostle is talking about who can inherit the Kingdom. Flesh and blood cannot. Then he says we will not all sleep. Isn't this the same as saying we shall not all die? Well, further research shows that the word here in fact does imply death; but not immediate death. The same word is used in the following text.

- 1Th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

The obvious meaning here refers to those saints who are in the graves at the return of the MESSIAH. So, the Apostle is saying that not all saints will be in the graves at HIS return. However, both those that are in the graves as well as those who are alive at HIS coming "shall be changed".

Now, notice that I keep saying "at HIS coming". Well the next verse, 1Corinthians 15:52, says this change is to occur "at the last trump". I don't want to take anyone for granted. But I always assumed that Hebrew Yisraelites knew that the last trump is only at the first resurrection. Only the saints who are to rule with the MESSIAH for a thousand years will be a part of this resurrection.

So that being said, who is the "we" that the Apostle is talking about? Is it everybody, or is it simply those who died in CHRIST as well as those that live in CHRIST at that future time? You be the judge. The Apostle is clear. Why can't my Hebrew Yisraelite Brothers and Sisters see this?

They should know that the Apostle Paul always identified his audience. His letters were always to a very specific group within the locations he visited.

- 1Co 1:1 Paul, called *to be* an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes *our* brother, 1Co 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: 1Co 1:3 Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ.

So, my dear Brethren, you see that the Apostle is ONLY referring to the saints when he says: "we shall all be changed". NOT EVERYONE!

In my article, I write in depth about the worm issue. Just consider this; in the relevant scriptures, the Bible always says "thou worm dieth not". It never refers to "worms". In fact, there are three scriptures that refers to worms eating.

- Job 24:20 The womb shall forget him; the worm shall feed sweetly on him; he shall be no more remembered; and wickedness shall be broken as a tree.
- Isa 14:11 Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, *and* the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee.
- Isa 51:8 For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation.

Each of these refers to the grave, not the lake of fire. Job 24:20 and Isaiah 14:11 appear obvious. It is interesting how Isaiah 51:8 contrasts the temporary nature of the eating worm with the HIS righteousness that "shall be forever".

There simply is no Biblical evidence of the wicked burning forever. One last point on this. We often like to speak of examples. Well there is an example of the lake of fire provided for those who WILL see it.

- Jud 1:7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Here we note that Sodom and Gomorrha are an example of those who will suffer the vengeance of the eternal (age lasting) fire. You know that the fire that burned them no longer burns. It will again at the appointed time. When it does, it will burn until its mission is accomplished. I find it curious that it appears my Hebrew Yisraelite Brothers and Sisters sometimes make fun of this teaching. Why?

While there may be other differences that divide, I will only discuss one other. I believe this one to be significant to my Hebrew Yisraelite Brothers and Sisters. It actually concerns three subjects; 1) Passover, 2) circumcision, and 3) foot washing.

The prevailing teaching by my Hebrew Yisraelite Brethren is that men cannot partake of the Passover unless they are physically circumcised. At the same time, the teaching does not accept that foot washing at Passover is required. Well now, once again I must inform the reader that I wrote in detail on the circumcision in my article “The Circumcision”. The conclusion was that neither the Apostle Paul, nor the Apostles, erred in their writings on the subject. Paul explained himself in clear detail. The question is why do my Hebrew Yisraelite Brethren not accept his teachings on this subject.

I have heard them say that he and the apostles were wrong on this. However, have they ever considered the consequences, if they are right?

Well, the Bible never once says that he or the other apostles were wrong on this. I have also heard them say that Paul only taught the gentiles on this subject. Let's see.

- Act 21:21 And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise *their* children, neither to walk after the customs.

Here we see that the Apostle taught all the same. He made no distinction. In his writings, he made his stance clear. We must remember that Paul was called by the FATHER to HIS SON to teach the Gospel of the Kingdom. Paul is the primary Apostolic writer of the New Covenant. I won't rewrite my article here. What I want to do is explore briefly what the New Covenant says about a related subject. As I try to keep an open mind to continue to learn in my Biblical studies, a new revelation was opened to me that perhaps many others already knew. The circumcision, Passover, and the foot washing are intricately related.

I have noticed that for those that believe in the circumcision, children are allowed to partake in the Passover. I have noted that some of my European Brothers and Sisters, who don't believe in the circumcision, are beginning to allow children to partake in the Passover. I believe the Hebrew Yisraelites do it because of the circumcision. I don't know why the European Brethren do it. So, let's lay this to rest first. Note the following:

- 1Co 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. 1Co 11:27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink *this* cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 1Co 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of *that* bread, and drink of *that* cup.

I assume we all know that the bread and the wine represent the body and blood of the MESSIAH, the Passover. Here the Apostle informs us that we must not take the bread and the wine unworthily. We must first examine ourselves. Now ask yourselves this. Do you examine yourselves each year before you partake in the Passover? Can a child make the determination whether or not he or she is unworthy? I believe the answer to the latter question is obvious, if we are honest with ourselves.

I will offer a more conclusive Biblical proof on this as I expound on this subject. Let's follow the MESSIAH's words at HIS last Passover in the flesh.

- Joh 13:1 Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end. Joh 13:2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, to betray him; Joh 13:3 Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

So, we see this is at the time of the Passover and Judas was about to play out his role. What we are about to see is the beginning of the New Covenant and the changing of the required protocols that led the Apostle Paul to write on the circumcision as he did.

- Joh 13:4 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. Joh 13:5 After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel wherewith he was girded.

Now we see that the MESSIAH washes the feet of those whom HE loved. I wonder, why is so difficult for my Hebrew Brethren to desire to wash one another's feet, just as the MESSIAH did?

- 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.

As the bold Peter questioned the MESSIAH's actions, he is informed that he would more fully understand later. Could later possibly have occurred after they received the Holy Spirit at Weeks? Just something to consider. Now, something most profound happens.

- 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. 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.

First, the bold Peter says to HIM no! You can't wash my feet! Now notice the MESSIAH's quick response. "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me." What does HE mean, Peter would not have no part with him? In essence, without this act, Peter's partaking in the New Covenant Passover would not be recognized as valid!

Isn't this a message for all the "called out one's" who are to follow? Then bold Peter wants even more. Why not wash his hands and his head as well, since the MESSIAH is in a washing mood? However, the MESSIAH then brings the whole episode into the true focus. Under the Old Covenant, males could not partake of Passover unless they were physically circumcised. There is absolutely no debate on this.

Here HE could have easily gone back to the Old Covenant by saying if you are circumcised, you only need to wash the feet. But He didn't say that.

Also, consider this. Under the Old Covenant, there was no consideration for the female and children towards taking of the Passover. The female and children, married to and/or born to a circumcised male were automatically grafted in. Not so under the New Covenant. Remember, now, a new protocol is being established. Anyone eating the Passover must examine whether or not they are worthy, male or female.

The MESSIAH said the most profound thing in this lesson to HIS disciples. HE said “he that is washed needeth not save to wash *his* feet”. What is HE saying? Who is it that is washed? Is the circumcised person washed? No! He is talking about the baptized “called out ones”. Remember how HE told Peter that what HE is doing Peter would understand later.

As “called out ones” we all must examine ourselves to make our “calling and election sure” (2 Peter 1:10). As I studied the Apostles there appears to be consistency amongst them. The inconsistencies are ours as we who have followed and accepted the teachings of today. However, the requirement to examine ourselves is individual. We cannot make our leaders our scapegoats. With that being said, let’s examine Peter’s actions later.

- Act 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. 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.

At the first New Covenant Weeks, we begin to see how Peter was beginning to understand the MESSIAH's words and actions. The New Covenant requirement is that a "called out one" must first repent and then be baptized.

Now, my Hebrew Yisraelite Brethren teach that one cannot be baptized unless they are physically circumcised. There is no such commandment. However, the Apostle Peter later takes a bold action to show those to follow where the MOST HIGH was expanding HIS plan of salvation.

The 10th chapter of the Book of Acts is devoted to showing how the MOST HIGH not only begins to open HIS plan to others outside of physical Yisraelites, but also changes the protocol, if we can see it. Most "called out ones" know the story of the gentile Cornelius and his calling. After being taught by Peter, this happened to the uncircumcised gentile.

- Act 10:44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. Act 10:45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. Act 10:46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Act 10:47 **Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?** Act 10:48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Peter did what was previously unlawful. He first met with the uncircumcised. Then he baptized uncircumcised persons. If Peter did it, what is the problem today? What are we afraid of? Also, is there any evidence in the New Covenant of a child being baptized? Remember, to be baptized one must first repent. Now back to the Passover.

When the “called out one” has repented and is baptized, that person is spiritually clean before the MOST HIGH for the first time in their lives. So, we should now see that the MESSIAH is highlighting that process. If you are washed (baptized) you are spiritually clean.

Yet, during each year we are faced with the challenges of life that often collects dirt and affects our cleanliness before the MOST HIGH. The MESSIAH instructed the disciples that by washing the feet, they would be “clean every whit”. Did you catch this? By washing the feet, you are made clean “every whit”, just as you were when originally baptized. In the Greek, the word for this phrase (holos – all, throughout, whole) means clean throughout. So, this is not just some act of humility as some of my Hebrew Yisraelite Brethren see it.

Consider the alternative. First, Peter was told that if the MESSIAH did not wash his feet, Peter would not be of HIS. Second, we are told to wash each other’s feet as an act of love. Third, we are told that by washing each other’s feet we would become clean throughout (meaning spiritually clean) once again, just as we were when baptized. If the “called out ones” of today do not follow this practice, do we have a part in the MESSIAH? Are we showing each other the love of the MESSIAH? Fourth, and most importantly, these actions prepare us to partake in the Passover.

The MESSIAH is instructing the disciples of the process under the New Covenant of individual cleansing required to partake in the New Covenant Passover. My Brothers and Sisters, we must step back and recognize that the MESSIAH HIMSELF, the King of Yisrael, is upgrading HIS standards. HE is telling us what HE and HIS FATHER now expect and accept of THEIR “called out ones”, SPIRITUAL ISRAEL.

The Passover is the beginning of the spiritual year and each year provides the “called-out one” an opportunity to be cleansed again.

This is why the Apostle Paul was led to write in 1 Corinthians 11:27 & 28 that we examine ourselves each year to ensure that we are worthy to partake in the bread and the wine. **The process begins with baptism, not circumcision.** It is the MESSIAH, not the Apostles Peter or Paul that upgraded this protocol to baptism and foot washing.

- Joh 13:11 For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.

Next, he states something none of them understood. My understanding on this grew in recent years. We know HE is referring to Judas. They did not.

- Joh 13:12 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Joh 13:13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for *so* I am. Joh 13:14 If I then, *your* Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. Joh 13:15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

Next, HE explains HIS actions to them. This, my Brothers and Sisters is how the New Covenant got started. What my physical Yisraelite Brothers and Sisters do not understand is that in verse 15, HE is not making a suggestion. This is a **COMMANDMENT**, not only to the disciples; but to all that would follow.

- Joh 13:16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. Joh 13:17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

Notice how HE says we should be happy to do these things. It is important that we understand that these things are specific. It is not for the believer to redefine the requirement.

HE told the disciples to follow HIS example and wash each other's feet. This is to be done by those that have been washed (baptized). Consider this. What would have happened if the disciples did not do as HE COMMANDED? Yes, they would have NO part of Him. What about us today who have CHOSEN not to obey HIM!

HE closes this part of the Passover instructions to HIS disciples with this.

- Joh 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. Joh 13:35 By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Now to my Hebrew Yisraelite Brethren. The protocol as established by the MESSIAH for “called out ones” to outwardly show our love for one another begins with baptized “called out ones” washing one another's feet at Passover. If we come into this day in a worthy manner (not with the spirit of Judas) and perform the commanded protocol, then and ONLY then are we cleansed “every whit” and ready to eat the Passover.

As such, children are not to partake in the Passover. Why? Because first they are unprepared to judge their own worthiness. Second, they are not baptized.

One final note on this subject. Recently I heard a sermon which disagreed with both Paul's and the other Apostles' stance on physical circumcision after reading the following scripture.

- 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; Act 15:29 That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

During this sermon, the speaker highlighted and jokingly spoke on the fact that the Apostles said “it seemed good to us”. He questioned their authority to say this. However, the speaker failed to discuss the fact that they also said “and the Holy Ghost”. The same speaker often quotes the following in teaching about the role of spirit beings in the role of the Holy Ghost (Spirit).

- Rev 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified *it* by his angel unto his servant John: Rev 1:2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

Here we read the protocol of how the WORD of the MOST HIGH is presented to man. The FATHER gives it to YESHUA, who gives it to HIS Holy angels (spirits), who give it to man. The Apostles said “it seemed good to us and the Holy Ghost”.

So, consider, where did the Apostles get their teaching on the physical circumcision? Yes, they got it from the Holy Ghost, who got it from YESHUA.

Are these concepts so difficult to see? Are the subjects presented here not worthy of another look? I have stated many times that I believe one is “called-out” if you have come to understand that the MESSIAH is the ELOHIM of the Old Covenant, and knows that the commandments (including the dietary laws) and the Sabbath, and the Holy Days are very much required of believers in the New Covenant.

Yet, for these that fit this belief system, the divide seems as wide as an ocean. Over the years I have often wondered why we share so much, yet seem so far apart. The issues discussed here provide reasons for the divide, but not so much the why. So, the question of why remains.

There probably exist several reasons for these divides, and unfortunately it appears that this will exist until the MESSIAH HIMSELF walks once again on the earth. Yet HIS WORD has constantly admonished that HIS followers should strive to be one. This oneness cannot take place unless a spirit of humility is developed. Humility involves an emptying and a cleansing. This involves spiritual honesty as well. Let’s conclude with a final look at this and try and answer the question of why.

3. Conclusion

I realize I never quite truly answered the question of why are there so many divisions amongst the “called out ones”. There quite possibly may be multiple answers. There certainly are multiple issues that divide. I have only raised some I felt were the more obvious. We offered a suggestion earlier; fear. Yet if true, why the fear?

I believe there also exists an unhealthy ego amongst many “called-out ones”. For example, a Brother who has been amongst “called-out ones” far longer than I once challenged me on whether or not women carried the seed. We came to an impasse and I stated that we would have to agree to disagree, which anyone that knows me knows I hate “agreeing to disagree”. I can find no example of that theory in ELOHIM’s WORD. Our spiritual relationship soured.

Many years later we crossed each other’s path and he asked me why did ELOHIM put Ruth in the genealogy of CHRIST. This quite naturally implied that if Ruth was listed in CHRIST’s genealogy, women would also be reckoned as physical seed carriers. I was stunned he still maintained this view. I said when I meet ELOHIM I would ask, sarcastically. However, I went home, opened my Bible, and noted that he was wrong. Ruth was not in the genealogy of CHRIST. Her husband, Boaz, was. She was only mentioned as being his wife.

The next time I saw him I brought this to his attention. He seemed unfazed. I also ask him, why did the King of Babylon allow Zedekiah’s daughters to live, and yet killed all the sons. Again, he seemed unfazed. I offered other Biblical facts, such as, only the man begets. Again, he seemed unfazed. Why on the face of such documentation does he still resist? It must be ego; don’t you think?

Whatever the whys, we must take a conscience step backwards, breath, create some space for growth, and then walk forward.

There are other issues, such as the name of the MESSIAH. There are those that contend that those that fail to acknowledge the MESSIAH's name as Jesus are basically doomed. There appears to be a lot of condemnation for these amongst some Hebrew Yisraelite groups. To validate their claim, the following scripture is often read.

- Mal 1:11 For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name *shall be* great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense *shall be* offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name *shall be* great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.

Because the European gentiles believe in the name Jesus, this is used as validation of the name and fulfilment of this prophecy. However, the full verse is never discussed. The second part of the verse clearly states “in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering”. Is this incense and a pure offering being offered “in every place” today? Obviously not.

This verse, taken in context with the rest of the chapter, appears to suggest this will be fulfilled during the millennial period. In fact, verse 6 states that the name had already been defiled. That name was Yisrael. Why is this not understood? The words are there. Could it be that we allow ourselves to become so full of our teachers that we don't leave room, or have room left, for knowledge being shared by others? And, what about this “spiritual leader” thing amongst us?

The prophet Yeremiyah was led to write about this.

- Jer 22:22 The wind shall eat up all thy pastors, and thy lovers shall go into captivity: surely then shalt thou be ashamed and confounded for all thy wickedness.

- Jer 23:1 Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD. Jer 23:2 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD.

These are very strong indictments against the spiritual leaders of the COY. The word says “woe unto the pastors”. And yet, the pastors and teachers obviously still play a significant role in the “called out ones” spiritual walk, even until this very day.

- Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

How then do we reconcile this with church hierarchy? Well my Brothers and Sisters, the only way to get there is to take a step backwards. Notice what the apostle Paul stated to the “called out ones” at Corinth.

- 1Co 1:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 1Co 1:28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 1Co 1:29 That no flesh should glory in his presence. 1Co 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: Co 1:31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

No “called-out one” should walk in a vain spirit of pride, for once we do, wise things become foolish. Our ears become uncircumcised. We must constantly refresh ourselves, not by forgetting from where we came; but to allow for the fulness of CHRIST to continue to grow in us.

- Luk 5:36 And he spake also a parable unto them; No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was *taken* out of the new agreeth not with the old. Luk 5:37 And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish. Luk 5:38 But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved. Luk 5:39 No man also having drunk old *wine* straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.

I.e., YESHUA is speaking of a need to empty the old leavens. Isn't this a stepping backwards to eliminate old habits? Now for certain, "called-out ones" may say that the theory of walking backwards is truly a stretch, particularly when one considers the following verses.

- Luk 9:62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.
- Joh 6:66 From that *time* many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

But YAHWEH spoke about this to the Prophet Isaiah before HE came to walk amongst us.

- Isa 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? *them that are* weaned from the milk, *and* drawn from the breasts. Isa 28:10 For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little: Isa 28:11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. Isa 28:12 To whom he said, This *is* the rest *wherewith* ye may cause the weary to rest; and this *is* the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

- Isa 28:13 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

This scripture, once understood, should be a guideline to the “called-out one” on how “the WORD of YAHWEH” is presented to HIS prize creation, man. The MOST HIGH clearly states, if we can see it, that “called-out ones” must “fall backward, and be broken”.

Now, let’s deal with the whys. As I was studying something else one day, this scripture just jumped off the pages of the Bible to me.

- Joh 11:1 Now a certain *man* was sick, *named* Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. Joh 11:2 (It was *that* Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) Joh 11:3 Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick. Joh 11:4 When Jesus heard *that*, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby. Joh 11:5 Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. Joh 11:6 When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.

So, we see that YESHUA showed no haste in traveling to be with HIS friend Lazarus. Later HE said this to HIS disciples.

- Joh 11:11 These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. Joh 11:12 Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Joh 11:13 Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Joh 11:14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

YESHUA knew that Lazarus was dead. HE had to make it plain to the disciples.

- Joh 11:17 Then when Jesus came, he found that he had *lain* in the grave four days already.
- Joh 11:20 Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat *still* in the house. Joh 11:21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.
- Joh 11:37 And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died? Joh 11:38 Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Joh 11:39 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been *dead* four days. Joh 11:40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God? Joh 11:41 Then they took away the stone *from the place* where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up *his* eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. Joh 11:42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said *it*, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. Joh 11:43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. Joh 11:44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

So here we have it. YESHUA prayed that the FATHER would show HIS glory through HIM, and it was done. And this is where the plot thickens. I have read this story many times and heard ministers preach about it.

Yet, what happens next never struck me as it did with this latest reading. Let's look at what the so-called pillars of Yehudan society in that day thought about this great event.

- Joh 11:45 Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him. Joh 11:46 But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done. Joh 11:47 Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. Joh 11:48 **If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.**

Instead of glorifying the FATHER, they thought only of their status. They were afraid of being replaced. Now, let's fully understand something. I am not the first reader to recognize their fright. I'm simply saying that for the first time, this story may have enlightened me as to why the pastors of modernity refuse to hear one another. Notice what happens once the fright takes place amongst the leaders of the church.

- Joh 11:49 And one of them, *named* Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, Joh 11:50 **Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.** Joh 11:51 And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; Joh 11:52 And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad. Joh 11:53 Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.

And so, from that time on, they plotted YESHUA's death. Now, those who understand the prophesies recognize that the death of YESHUA was prophesied.

However, the emphasis I am recognizing is the fear of leadership that obviously develops when vanity and pride enter into the sphere of spiritual leadership, even amongst the “called out ones”.

I have witnessed great teachers fall prey to their own egos, teaching, and/or allowing things to be taught that are not found in the MOST HIGH’s WORD, just to maintain their own status quo. Earlier we quoted the Prophet Yeremiyah about Yisrael’s pastors. He also said this.

- Jer 10:21 For the pastors are become brutish, and have not sought the LORD: therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered.
- Jer 12:10 Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion under foot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness.

Now I want us to be clear here. These were the “spiritual leaders” of the COY. These are prophecies, which we know to be dual in nature. We must not get so caught up, thinking this cannot be referring to those with a little knowledge.

Yes, to know that understanding that YAHWEH (the LORD) of the Old Covenant and YESHUA (Jesus) of the New Covenant are one and the same, is knowledge. To know that, except for the physical circumcision (which many still teach) and the sacrificial laws, the MOST HIGH’s laws and statutes still stand, is knowledge.

To know the basic Biblical prophetic value of the Abomination of Desolation, is knowledge. To understand that the Holy Days given in Leviticus 23rd chapter are applicable today and teach us the MOST HIGH’s plan for mankind, is knowledge.

To understand the Sabbath day, its history, its present and its future, while accepting that it must be honored by true Biblical believers, is knowledge.

One would truly consider that those who mutually understand these things are walking in fellowship one with each other. Yet, both silently and outwardly this is not so. Our humanity has led us to fear one another just as the priests feared YESHUA.

Sadly, they were not so wrong in their assessment. In due time, YESHUA will replace the High Priest. Only, it will not be by the hand of the Romans. We have the example of how the Apostles came together to discuss a most important matter in Acts the 15th chapter. The fact that they declared being led in their conclusion by the Holy Spirit implies they sought spiritual guidance through prayer and possibly fasting, until they reached agreement. This is what the leaders of today must do.

However, to do this they must step backwards, empty, repent, pray, and then walk forward in a renewed spirit led only by the MOST HIGH's Spirit of Truth.

- Mat 9:16 No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse. Mat 9:17 Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.

Many of our spiritual leaders have forgotten how they attained the knowledge. Most at some point believed in Sunday, Easter, Christmas, heaven, and other doctrines that were not Biblical. We all must remember how we got to that point of realizing that what we had been told all of our lives was wrong.

Didn't we have to rid ourselves of the false teaching we had lived with for so long? Didn't we learn that the separation of these doctrines was such that we had to erase the false teachings from our practice as we ultimately discovered the source of the false teachings? What changed?

Did we become so knowledgeable that we no longer need to grow? Where did we get the understanding that we must put our faith in a man, even our spiritual leader? In the beginning of this article we read the following words Apostle Paul wrote to the "called out ones" in Corinth.

- 1Co 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. 1Co 1:11 For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them *which are of the house* of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. 1Co 1:12 Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. 1Co 1:13 Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

Isn't this a message to the "called out ones" of today? Which spiritual leader of this day are any of us baptized into their name? Years ago, I was admonished by an European elder who was also, as I have discovered through study, a physical gentile; a descendant of Yapheth. He admonished me to "always stick to the trunk, which is CHRIST". This was the best advice I have received since coming into the knowledge of CHRIST, the YAHWEH ELOHIM of Yisrael.

Solomon was led to write this.

- Ecc 1:14 I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all *is* vanity and vexation of spirit.

- Ecc 1:15 *That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered.* Ecc 1:16 I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all *they* that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge. Ecc 1:17 And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit. Ecc 1:18 For in much wisdom *is* much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.

Recently, I taught a Bible Study titled “The Greatness and Weakness of Solomon, What Does It Mean?”. I now realize these words describe how empty Solomon had begun to feel with all his wisdom and knowledge. It is verse 18 that is so applicable today. To learn that so many loved ones that don’t know that it was YESHUA that has always dealt with mankind from Adam to Abraham, from Abraham to Moses, from Moses to Yochanan the Baptist, from Yochanan the Baptist to the Apostles, and from the Apostles until now and the Kingdom, is indeed sorrowful. Even worst, to hear Brethren that know the above, yet refuse to grow together into the oneness expressed by YESHUA HIMSELF is even more sorrowful.

Those who are of the “called-out ones” must remember this.

- Rev 22:16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright and morning star. Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. Rev 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

- Rev 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

The Apostles all walked in one accord. They were men with a common goal. I make no assertion of walking in their strength. However, I also know there is strength in numbers. Many of the differences amongst us, such as the physical identity of Yisrael, while I believe an honest study of all the facts can resolve the differences, do not appear to be salvation threatening. However, others, such as “Enoch is under chains of darkness”; and “according to Trinitarian belief, the Holy Spirit is God”; are not Biblical, and to teach so is adding to the Bible. The last Book of the Bible issues a strong rebuke to such teachings. We must not be afraid to question such teachings.

The ultimate guidance of the New Covenant is to repent and be baptized in the name of YESHUA. I wonder, did “called-out ones” forget that repentance at its core root requires a spiritual stepping back and emptying of self.

- 1Co 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

How do we purge out our old leaven? We have to first honestly and humbly look in the mirror of self. If we continue to allow our vain pride to guide our beliefs, this we have not done. YESHUA left us with the tools we consistently need to walk in the knowledge of the Kingdom. It starts at the beginning of each year with the Apostle Paul’s admonishment to each “called-out one”. Does this admonishment not apply to our spiritual leaders as well?

- 1Co 5:8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth.

When we each hear these words, do we not believe these are for us as well? The problem with the MOST HIGH's WORD is its simplicity. Because we at times are so "full of ourselves" we forget to do our necessary clean up. The human body was designed to teach us this. If we consistently eat the wrong foods and don't bother to clean our internal physical bodies, we allow sickness and disease to overtake us. The Apostle's call is for us to remember that we also must periodically cleanse our spiritual bodies of the stuff that consistently seeks to impair our spirits with leaven.

It is only with humble acceptance of the MOST HIGH ELOHIM of Yisrael's entire word that we can constantly purge out the old leaven. If we continue on this theme, we will be led to the path established by YESHUA.

- Joh 17:13 And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. Joh 17:14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Joh 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. Joh 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Joh 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. Joh 17:18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. Joh 17:19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the 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.

The “purge out” is not a onetime thing. As we mature in our humility, it more often becomes a ritual in honesty. However, to help us, YESHUA upgraded HIS commandment to provide us with HIMSELF as the PASSOVER. As we remember this, the most selfless act ever recorded, each year, we are given an opportunity to purge.

Our leaders must remember that this requirement is for every “called-out one”. Through maturity we recognize the need to purge more often. Remember this.

- Mat 17:14 And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a *certain* man, kneeling down to him, and saying, Mat 17:15 Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. Mat 17:16 And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. Mat 17:17 Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. at 17:18 And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. Mat 17:19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? Mat 17:20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Mat 17:21 Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

These words were provided to us by the Apostle Mathew not for idle reading.

This is a needed area of improvement in my spiritual walk, amongst other things. Truth be told, our leaders should engage in this process even more often. They should also reflect on the story of Solomon. Such greatness, and yet such weakness as a result of his greatness. Somehow, Solomon lost the humbleness that caused him to be great.

In John 17:20 YESHUA prayed for future “called-out ones” as well; “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word”. Well, this must start with the leaders. Truth be told, most are followers, and there is inherently nothing wrong with that. However, we cannot, and must not, follow blindly. To close, how do we do this? As is often, the Apostle Paul provides great leadership.

- Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Eph 6:11 **Put on the whole armour of God,** that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. Eph 6:13 **Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.** Eph 6:14 **Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;** Eph 6:15 **And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;** Eph 6:16 **Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.** Eph 6:17 **And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:** Eph 6:18 **Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints**

We must not be afraid to take that step backwards for the purpose of purging out that old leaven. Once we have purged, the MOST HIGH can consistently accomplish this with each of us.

- Isa 28:13 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

This is not a one-time thing. The process must occur often, if we are to accomplish our said goal, the Kingdom of Heaven. If we truly believe in YESHUA, we must be willing to trust that HE is there to catch us and take us forward. HE has said HE has given us a Comforter.

- Jn 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 1Jn 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. 1Jn 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 1Jn 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. 1Jn 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. 1Jn 4:12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. 1Jn 4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. 1Jn 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world. 1Jn 4:15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. 1Jn 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

- 1Jn 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. 1Jn 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. 1Jn 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us. 1Jn 4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? 1Jn 4:21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

Showing love towards one another is the ultimate requirement for each “called-out one”. As human beings, we all are subject to the elements of this world. However, as we humbly begin to acknowledge our lack of knowledge, we will realize the benefits that we each bring to one another.

- Jas 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded. Jas 4:9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness. Jas 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

The Apostles have taught us that this walk towards the Kingdom is all about humility. This was how the Apostle James (Yacob) wrote it. Now notice how the Apostle Peter wrote it.

- 1Pe 5:1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 1Pe 5:2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 1Pe 5:3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

- 1Pe 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. 1Pe 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 1Pe 5:6 **Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:** 1Pe 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 1Pe 5:9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. 1Pe 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you*. 1Pe 5:11 To him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Isn't this a call for each person amongst the "called out ones", from the leaders to the followers to take that vital step backwards to show humility before the MOST HIGH?

And finally, it is only appropriate that I close this study with the words from the MESSIAH HIMSELF.

- Mat 18:1 At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? Mat 18:2 And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, Mat 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, **Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.** Mat 18:4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Mat 18:5 And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

Now we see the MESSIAH's charge that we become as little children, even with all the knowledge we may have obtained. As we grow and maintain our humility as children, we create pathways to the ultimate prize.

- Joh 17:22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: Joh 17:23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Joh 17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. Joh 17:25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. Joh 17:26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare *it*: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

The egos, the fear of replacement, the arrogance that can come with knowledge, amongst other human vices, must be eliminated if we are to become as the little child the MESSIAH spoke of. John 17:23 says “that they may be perfect in one”. I don't know about you but it seems to me that YESHUA is saying that we can only be made perfect as one! I.e., we need one another.

Understanding this need is something we all must constantly fast and pray for. Our leaders need these prayers, whether they ask for it or not. All our Brothers and Sisters need these prayers, whether they ask for it or not. We have an awesome opportunity. If the MESSIAH prayed “that they may be perfect in one”, HE is asserting the great possibilities that exist if we are willing to “walk backwards”, “humble ourselves”, and, be one with the FATHER, the SON and our fellow “called-out ones”.

Consider the opportunities given us if we but can see them. At the beginning of the year HE gives us HIS PASSOVER to “purge out the old leaven that you may” become new lumps.

- Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Rom 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. Rom 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. Rom 5:11 And not only *so*, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

At the end of the year HE gives us HIS Atonement, where we totally fast without water or food. If our spiritual growth is true, we understand that this act is spiritual and not physical. It, is a spiritual retreat to become “at one” with YESHUA. To accomplish this, we must be willing to lose ourselves.

- Mat 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. Mat 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

There are no exceptions to this. Let each of us not be fearful of losing ourselves, so that we can like “little children”, enter into the greatest Kingdom that will ever exist.

Shalom!