

WHY DID THE MOST HIGH

CHOOSE YISRAEL?

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1. Introduction

To all my Brothers and Sisters in CHRIST, this article was inspired by a young colleague of mine who is an aspiring Sister in the faith. She asked the title question. My simple answer to her was to point out the sojourning nature and weakness of the sons of Yisrael through which YAHWEH would show HIS great power to the so-called powerful nations of the earth. As I promised to provide details by giving her the related scriptures, I had no idea of how vast this subject was.

This study will not only show that the sojourning nature of the Children of Yisrael (COY) was deliberately established by YAHWEH, but also in the end will question some foundational teachings we have all adhered to.

Now before you get bent out of shape on this statement, let me assure you that the foundations of the true church, established by the MESSIAH HIMSELF, cannot be challenged. This includes that HE is YAHWEH ELOHIM of Yisrael. HE established the dietary laws and other physical laws for man, the weekly Sabbath and other Appointed Times known as holy days, and the commandments. HE will rule on the earth.

However, in our zeal to learn we challenge other subjects, that while important, are more prone to our own human error. It is here that we are continually challenged. I pray that what is presented will be examined based on its Biblical merit, and not on its potential disagreement with other men, regardless of title.

2. The Set Up - Abraham

It is widely understood by those called to the wonderful Gospel of the Kingdom that man was initially made with a potential to live forever. However, because of man eating of the forbidden fruit, he fell from grace. Unfortunately, man's sin continued to grow, which is what sin does.

- Gen 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. Gen 6:6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. Gen 6:7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. Gen 6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. Gen 6:9 These *are* the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man *and* perfect in his generations, *and* Noah walked with God. Gen 6:10 And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

The word LORD in the KJV is a translation of the Hebrew tetragrammaton YHWH, pronounced historically YAHWEH. Here we see that YAHWEH is about to destroy man, except for Noah and Noah's family. This resulted in man being allowed to continue through Noah and his 3 sons. As I read the 10th chapter of Genesis, Japheth and Ham appear to be more prosperous than Shem. Out of Japheth is the isles of the Gentiles (Genesis 10:5), or Nations. Out of Ham are the great nations of Egypt, Ethiopia and perhaps more important at that time Nimrod, who built Babel.

In the 11th chapter of Genesis, YAHWEH scattered man throughout the earth. What is interesting is that after this only Shem's offspring is detailed after the scattering.

Yet we know that great civilizations came out of Ham and Japheth, not so much out of Shem. Notice what appears in this 11th chapter.

- Gen 11:27 Now these *are* the generations of Terah: Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran begat Lot. Gen 11:28 And Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his nativity, in Ur of the Chaldees. Gen 11:29 And Abram and Nahor took them wives: the name of Abram's wife *was* Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah. Gen 11:30 But Sarai was barren; she *had* no child. Gen 11:31 And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there.

Note how Abram's father Terah took Abram and Lot to the land of Canaan. Now, we must remember that Canaan is the offspring of Ham. We also remember that Canaan was cursed for looking upon his grandfather Noah's nakedness (Gen 9:25).

Based on what we know, Ham's seed built great kingdoms. It appears that Terah and Abram were sojourners, with no land of their own. I believe this to be a key in understanding the calling of the nation of Yisrael. In essence, we see how we are first brought to know Abram, from whom came Jacob (Yacob). He was a sojourner. Why do I emphasize the sojourning nature of Abram? We see YAHWEH choosing a sojourner to show the world of kingdoms who is the ultimate King.

- Gen 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: Gen 12:2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: Gen 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. Gen 12:4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram *was* seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

In Genesis 11:31 it says Terah took Abram et al to Canaan. However, Chapter 12 informs us that it was YAHWEH orchestrating this move all along. First, they moved to Haran. Next Abram was to move further into Canaan to another country. Remember also that Canaan's curse ultimately is to serve both Japheth and Shem.

Here we begin to see this curse first take place with Shem. As we follow Abram's plight, we note several significant instances.

- Gen 12:6 And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite *was* then in the land. Gen 12:7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

Notice that Abram can do nothing on his own. YAHWEH chose this sojourner to showcase HIS awesome power.

- Gen 12:10 And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine *was* grievous in the land.

I included this verse to show the consistency of YAHWEH, and to show that Shem's offspring has always lived in close proximity with Ham's offspring. Later we know that Yisrael was sent into Egypt. We also know that the MESSIAH HIMSELF eventually was sent into Egypt with HIS parents for safety. We see that this pattern of YAHWEH began with Abram.

- Gen 13:12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched *his* tent toward Sodom. Gen 13:13 But the men of Sodom *were* wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly. Gen 13:14 And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: Gen 13:15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. Gen 13:16 And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, *then* shall thy seed also be numbered.

After his sojourn in Egypt, Abram returned to Canaan where he is now promised this vast parcel of land in Canaan. Again, notice that it is YAHWEH that will give this land to Abram.

- Gen 14:1 And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations;

- Gen 14:2 *That these* made war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela, which is Zoar. Gen 14:3 All these were joined together in the vale of Siddim, which is the salt sea. Gen 14:4 Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled. Gen 14:5 And in the fourteenth year came Chedorlaomer, and the kings that *were* with him, and smote the Rephaims in Ashteroth Karnaim, and the Zuzims in Ham, and the Emims in Shaveh Kiriathaim, Gen 14:6 And the Horites in their mount Seir, unto Elparan, which *is* by the wilderness. Gen 14:7 And they returned, and came to Enmishpat, which *is* Kadesh, and smote all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites, that dwelt in Hazezontamar. Gen 14:8 And there went out the king of Sodom, and the king of Gomorrah, and the king of Admah, and the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (the same *is* Zoar;) and they joined battle with them in the vale of Siddim; Gen 14:9 With Chedorlaomer the king of Elam, and with Tidal king of nations, and Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar; four kings with five. Gen 14:10 And the vale of Siddim *was full of* slimepits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and fell there; and they that remained fled to the mountain. Gen 14:11 And they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their victuals, and went their way. Gen 14:12 And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed. Gen 14:13 And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these *were* confederate with Abram. Gen 14:14 And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained *servants*, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued *them* unto Dan.

- Gen 14:15 And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which *is* on the left hand of Damascus. Gen 14:16 And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people. Gen 14:17 And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that *were* with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which *is* the king's dale. Gen 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he *was* the priest of YAHWEH God. Gen 14:19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed *be* Abram of YAHWEH God, possessor of heaven and earth: Gen 14:20 And blessed be YAHWEH God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all. Gen 14:21 And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself. Gen 14:22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, YAHWEH God, the possessor of heaven and earth, Gen 14:23 That I will not *take* from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that *is* thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich: Gen 14:24 Save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.

Above I chose to include the entire 14th chapter of Genesis because it clearly shows the depth of the number of kingdoms that existed around the territory in which YAHWEH placed Abram and his nephew Lot.

When Lot got caught up into the territorial wars of these kings, Abram was compelled to get involved. Then, once he was successful, notice in verse 21 how the king of Sodom offered Abram goods, and Abram's response in verses 22 and 23.

Through all of this we see the central theme I previously introduced; YAHWEH choosing a sojourner to show that HE alone is his ELOHIM.

- Gen 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I *am* thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward. Gen 15:2 And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house *is* this Eliezer of Damascus? Gen 15:3 And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. Gen 15:4 And, behold, the word of the LORD *came* unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. Gen 15:5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. Gen 15:6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness. Gen 15:7 And he said unto him, I *am* the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it. Gen 15:8 And he said, Lord GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it? Gen 15:9 And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon. Gen 15:10 And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not. Gen 15:11 And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away. Gen 15:12 And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him. Gen 15:13 And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land *that is* not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;

- Gen 15:14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.

Now we come to the chapter that I believe truly sets the tone for this study. It begins with YAHWEH establishing to Abram that HE is Abram's shield, his lone protector. Doesn't this establish the foundation of the question, why Yisrael? Then we see Abram's concerns about being childless with no heir. And in verses 11 to 14 we see something most profound. Abram's seed shall sojourn in a foreign land for four hundred years in affliction.

Why is this prophesy necessary to YAHWEH's plan for mankind? Remember, at this point Abram's seed have committed no sin. They technically don't exist at this point of time of the prophesy. Yet, in establishing Abram's seed to receive the promises made to Abram, it certainly appears YAHWEH designed HIS plan to ensure that Abram's seed, Yisrael, called while in slavery, would learn to rely only on YAHWEH for its sustenance. Likewise, the nations of the world would see Yisrael's plight and become jealous for the blessings of the ELOHIM of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

- Gen 17:1 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I *am* the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. Gen 17:2 And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. Gen 17:3 And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, Gen 17:4 As for me, behold, my covenant *is* with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. Gen 17:5 Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.

- Gen 17:6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. Gen 17:7 And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. Gen 17:8 And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

Now we see YAHWEH refine HIS promise to Abram by changing his name to Abraham; because the promise now not only included land, but establishes Abram as a father of many nations. More importantly, note that Abraham and his seed are promised a land wherein Abraham is or will be a stranger, a sojourner. Abraham eventually was given an heir through his wife Sarah, Isaac. Now notice how YAHWEH ensures that those who HE calls are made to rely only on HIM, by allowing them to be tempted.

- Gen 22:1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, *here I am*. Gen 22:2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. Gen 22:3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

A very key point to remember about this is that Abraham appears to not outwardly question YAHWEH's command to offer his only son, which is why he is called the father of the faithful.

The faithful servants detailed in the 11th chapter of Hebrews establish mighty precedents of faith that I must admit witness to the fact that I have a long, long, long way to go, and may never measure up to the standard they set.

- Gen 22:4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. Gen 22:5 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you. Gen 22:6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid *it* upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. Gen 22:7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here *am* I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering? Gen 22:8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

Notice the faith Abraham continued to express even in the midst of great adversity.

- Gen 22:9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. Gen 22:10 and Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. Gen 22:11 And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here *am* I. Gen 22:12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only *son* from me.

- Gen 22:13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind *him* a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. Gen 22:14 And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said *to* this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen. Gen 22:15 And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, Gen 22:16 And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only *son*: Gen 22:17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which *is* upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; Gen 22:18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Now this testing all occurred in the 22nd chapter of Genesis. But notice what we are told just prior to the testing.

- Gen 21:34 And Abraham sojourned in the Philistines' land many days.

Abraham continued to be a sojourner. He had not yet been given a nation or land. These things were promised to him through his seed. In establishing these promises, the principle of the sojourner was maintained. We will see that his seed would continue this principle, because it refused to obey.

3.The Pattern - Yisrael

- Gen 26:1 And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. Gen 26:2 And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: Gen 26:3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swear unto Abraham thy father; Gen 26:4 And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; Gen 26:5 Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws. Gen 26:6 And Isaac dwelt in Gerar:

Here we find YAHWEH speaking to Abraham's son of the covenant, Isaac, commanding him to sojourn in a country that is not his. The principle continues.

- Gen 28:10 And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. Gen 28:11 And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put *them for* his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. Gen 28:12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. Gen 28:13 And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I *am* the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;

- Gen 28:14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Gen 28:15 And, behold, I *am* with thee, and will keep thee in all *places* whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done *that* which I have spoken to thee of.

Now that I have continued to progress in my minimal knowledge of YAHWEH's WORD, this prophecy becomes even more profound to me. Notice in verse 13 how YAHWEH will give the land to Yacob and his seed. Then in verse 14 notice how his seed would be spread abroad in all directions of the earth. The last part of the 14th verse seems to showcase the duality that is often found in YAHWEH's prophecies. For sure the seed that shall bless all the families of the earth is the coming MESSIAH. This we know. However, could this also show that the COY would bless the families of all the earth in many other ways, first by showcasing the awesome power of YAHWEH, yet also by its servitude to others because of disobedience? These are just thoughts to consider.

- Gen 37:1 And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, *in* the land of Canaan.

We see that the sojourning continues with Yacob. This is just before the prophesy that was made to Abram about his seed living in servitude in a strange land for four hundred years came to fruition. Recall how Abram sojourned in Egypt through a famine. Through a series of events in which Yacob's favorite son Yoseph is sold into slavery by his brothers, the stage is set for the enslavement of all the COY in Egypt.

- Gen 46:1 And Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices unto the God of his father Isaac. Gen 46:2 And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here *am* I. Gen 46:3 And he said, I *am* God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation: Gen 46:4 I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up *again*: and Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes. Gen 46:5 And Jacob rose up from Beersheba: and the sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, and their *wives*, and their wives, in the wagons which Pharaoh had sent to carry him.

It appears that YAHWEH has a habit of sending HIS people into Egypt for safety. Yet, it also appears that HE uses Egypt for HIS purpose to later show HIS people that all the greatness of Egypt pales in comparison to HIS power and the blessings HE offers. The central theme here again is that we find the COY on the move, without a land of its own. Yet through Abraham, Isaac and Yacob (Yisrael), they have been promised their own land. They continue to be a sojourning people, used by YAHWEH to do HIS good will. And their sojourn in Egypt was fine until the following.

- Exo 1:7 And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them. Exo 1:8 Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. Exo 1:9 And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel *are* more and mightier than we: Exo 1:10 Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and *so* get them up out of the land.

- Exo 1:11 Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses. Exo 1:12 But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel. Exo 1:13 And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour: Exo 1:14 And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, *was* with rigour. Exo 1:15 And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one *was* Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah: Exo 1:16 And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see *them* upon the stools; if it *be* a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it *be* a daughter, then she shall live. Exo 1:17 But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.

Here in the book of Exodus, we now find the COY in a grievous predicament. As is often said in studying YAHWEH's WORD, there is much to learn while we are on our way to learn things.

In verses 15 and 16, we note that in order to stunt the growth of the COY, the king of Egypt instructs the midwives to kill all the newborn sons and spare the daughters. This is a point so many these days appear baffled about. The man carries the seed. Destroy the males and you can destroy their culture. Why, because the males carry the Y chromosome through which genealogy can be traced. Unfortunately, in my walk with fellow Brethren, this is not as clearly understood as it should be. This why the king of Babylon slew the sons of the last King of Judah, while allowing his daughters to live.

However, now, YAHWEH has set things up so that through HIS sojourner people so that HIS power can be showcased through one of the most powerful nations on the entire earth, Egypt. To do this HE called out another servant, Moses. This Moses provides us with amazing details which reflect the relationship between YAHWEH and mankind. With Moses, the Plan is taken to a higher level. Notice how Moses was called out.

- Exo 3:1 Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, *even* to Horeb. Exo 3:2 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush *was* not consumed. Exo 3:3 And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. Exo 3:4 And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here *am* I. Exo 3:5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest *is* holy ground. Exo 3:6 Moreover he said, I *am* the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God. Exo 3:7 And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; Exo 3:8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

- Exo 3:9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. Exo 3:10 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

Here we see Moses being called out by YAHWEH to lead the COY out of bondage from Egypt (Mizraim). In calling Moses to this important task, we note that it is here that YAHWEH chooses to showcase HIS power against this great nation, Egypt, which had an established culture of worshipping many gods.

YAHWEH continually hardened the Egyptian Pharaoh's heart so that the captivity of the COY continued until Egypt's entire system of worship was systematically destroyed by 12 powerful acts by YAHWEH. Most believers know that through Moses, YAHWEH systematically, destroys each of Egypt's idol gods. In doing so, HE established fear in the hearts of HIS called-out nation as HE now begins to honor HIS promises to the fathers.

Through an assorted display of unheralded power, YAHWEH convinces Pharaoh to release HIS people; however, only after hardening Pharaoh's heart 11 times. This showcase of power included 1) the swallowing of Pharaoh's wise men's' serpents, 2) turning the Nile into blood, 3) covering the land with frogs, 4) covering the land with lice, 5) covering the land with flies, 6) dead cattle, 7) dust causing boils, 8) pestilence, 9) hail, 10) locusts, 11) darkness, and 12) death of the firstborn.

After these 12 acts of YAHWEH's power Pharaoh released Israel, yet he suffered another powerful act of destruction at the Red Sea.

You would like to believe that this sojourner people would truly realize that through this Deity of all Deities, it truly is blessed beyond blessed at this point. Yet it seemed to never grasp what was being required of it.

- Exo 19:3 And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; Exo 19:4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Exo 19:5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: Exo 19:6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

Are these not powerful words or what? Just think of it. These people, who have never had a home of their own, are now being given the opportunity to truly be special amongst all the people of the earth. It now appears that their sojourn is about to be over. They only, amongst all the people on the earth, were given the opportunity to now develop a direct relationship with YAHWEH, the CREATOR of the universe.

- Exo 19:7 And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him. Exo 19:8 And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD. Exo 19:9 And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD.

- Exo 19:10 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes, Exo 19:11 And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai. Exo 19:12 And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, *that ye go not* up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death: Exo 19:13 There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether *it be* beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount. Exo 19:14 And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes. Exo 19:15 And he said unto the people, Be ready against the third day: come not at *your* wives.

So here we see Moses instructing the people on how they should behave as they prepare to come face to face with their protector, their benefactor, their provider, their Almighty One, YAHWEH HIMSELF.

- Exo 20:1 And God spake all these words, saying, Exo 20:2 I *am* the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Exo 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Exo 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Exo 20:5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me; Exo 20:6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

- Exo 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. Exo 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Exo 20:9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: Exo 20:10 But the seventh day *is* the sabbath of the LORD thy God: *in it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that *is* within thy gates: Exo 20:11 For *in* six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them *is*, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. Exo 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. Exo 20:13 Thou shalt not kill. Exo 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery. Exo 20:15 Thou shalt not steal. Exo 20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. Exo 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that *is* thy neighbour's.

These were the requirements given to the COY at Mount Sinai that if kept would make this sojourning people the greatest nation on the earth. Do these requirements appear to be unkeepable? I have heard some modern-day spiritual leaders and a few others that I have spoken to appear to imply that we are not capable of obeying these commandments. Why not?

Immediately after this Moses was called upon the mountain to be given more detailed instructions by YAHWEH. He was there for 40 days and 40 nights. You can read about this in the 25th through the 31st chapters of Genesis. While he was there, the COY showcased a weakness, a slave mentality that has not left it even until this day of modernity.

- Exo 32:1 And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for *as for* this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

Notice YAHWEH's reaction to these actions.

- Exo 32:7 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: Exo 32:8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These *be* thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. Exo 32:9 And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it *is* a stiffnecked people: Exo 32:10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation. Exo 32:11 And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand? Exo 32:12 Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people. Exo 32:13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit *it* for ever.

- Exo 32:14 And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

If not for the boldness of Moses, the COY would have ceased to exist right there. However, even though Moses' plea spared them, it no doubt put YAHWEH on notice. These people would have to be proved, just like Abram had to be. Yet, they would always be given an opportunity to see what others could not. Note these very special commandments given to them.

- Lev 23:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Lev 23:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning **the feasts of the LORD**, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts. Lev 23:3 Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.
- Lev 23:4 These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. Lev 23:5 In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD'S passover.
- Lev 23:6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread. Lev 23:7 In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. Lev 23:8 But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

- Lev 23:15 And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: Lev 23:16 Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.
- Lev 23:20 And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits for a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs: they shall be holy to the LORD for the priest. Lev 23:21 And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, that it may be an holy convocation unto you: ye shall do no servile work therein: it shall be a statute for ever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.
- Lev 23:24 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation. Lev 23:25 Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.
- Lev 23:26 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Lev 23:27 Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD. Lev 23:28 And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God. Lev 23:29 For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people.

- Lev 23:30 And whatsoever soul *it be* that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people. Lev 23:31 Ye shall do no manner of work: *it shall be* a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. Lev 23:32 It *shall be* unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth *day* of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath. Lev 23:33 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
- 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*.
- Lev 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.** Lev 23:40 And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and **ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.** Lev 23:41 And **ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year.** *It shall be* a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month. Lev 23:42 **Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths:**

- Lev 23:43 **That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths**, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I *am* the LORD your God. Lev 23:44 And Moses declared unto the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD.

Here we find that prior to the COY being sent on a 40-year sojourn in the wilderness; YAHWEH gives the COY a set of instructions, which if maintained and truly understood, would enhance their statute as that of a nation of priests and as a holy nation. These seven appointed times, if understood spiritually, would have established this sojourner nation forever. And, even though they were never clearly understood, these days set apart YAHWEH's reverence for all times. Yet this people certainly never grasp that they were called to be different. At the end of the 40-year sojourn in the wilderness, YAHWEH was clearly angry that the COY clearly never got it.

- Num 32:10 And the LORD'S anger was kindled the same time, and he sware, saying, Num 32:11 Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; because they have not wholly followed me: Num 32:12 Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite, and Joshua the son of Nun: for they have wholly followed the LORD. Num 32:13 **And the LORD'S anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation, that had done evil in the sight of the LORD, was consumed.**

When the COY came out of the wilderness Yoshua established himself as a great warrior for YAHWEH. Through his leadership, the COY finally settled in the land by which they might no longer be sojourners.

They would now have a land of their own. This could easily be called the time of the prophets, whom YAHWEH appointed to go between HIMSELF and the COY. But we have to go back and revisit what the COY was told by Moses before he died and before they entered into the land of milk and honey.

The entire 28th chapter of Deuteronomy is dedicated towards Moses instructing the COY on its options. Let's look at a few of those options.

- Deu 28:1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe *and* to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: Deu 28:2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God. Deu 28:3 Blessed *shalt* thou *be* in the city, and blessed *shalt* thou *be* in the field. Deu 28:4 Blessed *shall be* the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Deu 28:5 Blessed *shall be* thy basket and thy store. Deu 28:6 Blessed *shalt* thou *be* when thou comest in, and blessed *shalt* thou *be* when thou goest out. Deu 28:7 The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.

Notice that YAHWEH shall be their protector against their enemies. What other nation could declare this. These detailed blessings for obedience continue in verses 8 through 13. Notice particularly verse 13.

- Deu 28:13 And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do *them*:

The essence of these words to the COY is that for obedience their sojourning days would be over. Not only that, they would forever be the head and not the tail. Now let's briefly look at what would happen for their disobedience while remembering what the Prophet Amos also wrote of them.

- Amo 3:1 Hear this word that the LORD hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying, Amo 3:2 **You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.**

Throughout ELOHIM's WORD, the COY are the only family, or nation, HE has ever known. No other family or nation has been offered this great opportunity. Thus, the greater punishment.

- Deu 28:15 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: Deu 28:16 Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field. Deu 28:17 Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store. Deu 28:18 Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Deu 28:19 Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

- Deu 28:20 The LORD shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me. Deu 28:21 The LORD shall make the pestilence cleave unto thee, until he have consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it.

One would surely think that these options would easily be reasoned out by the COY to discern the enormity of the possible choices.

- Deu 28:25 The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: **and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.**

Notice that with this option, their protection is forfeited. Not only this, but wait a minute. Verse 25 shows that they would be also be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth. In other words, they would once again become sojourners. And, while they would be sojourners, the following conditions would follow them.

- Deu 28:30 **Thou shalt betroth a wife, and another man shall lie with her:** thou shalt build an house, and thou shalt not dwell therein: thou shalt plant a vineyard, and shalt not gather the grapes thereof.
- Deu 28:32 **Thy sons and thy daughters shall be given unto another people,** and thine eyes shall look, and fail *with longing* for them all the day long: and *there shall be* no might in thine hand.

- Deu 28:33 The fruit of thy land, and all thy labours, shall a nation which thou knowest not eat up; and thou shalt be only oppressed and crushed alway:
- Deu 28:36 **The LORD shall bring thee, and thy king which thou shalt set over thee, unto a nation which neither thou nor thy fathers have known; and there shalt thou serve other gods, wood and stone.** Deu 28:37 And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the LORD shall lead thee.
- Deu 28:41 **Thou shalt beget sons and daughters, but thou shalt not enjoy them; for they shall go into captivity.** Deu 28:42 all thy trees and fruit of thy land shall the locust consume.
- Deu 28:43 **The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low.** Deu 28:44 **He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail.**
- Deu 28:46 And **they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed for ever.** Deu 28:47 **Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;** Deu 28:48 **Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.**

And then finally notice the end result of this disobedience.

- Deu 28:58 **If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD;** Deu 28:63 **And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it.** 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 28:68 **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.**

Here we see that the concept of a sojourning people is never far from these people. Perhaps even more importantly, these final verses in Deuteronomy 28 prophesy of the COY being sent by ships into slavery into other nations. We will discuss Deuteronomy in a little more detail later. But for now, let's look at the COY's first major error in the land flowing with milk and honey.

- Sa 8:1 And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel.

- 1Sa 8:2 Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: *they were* judges in Beersheba. 1Sa 8:3 And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment. 1Sa 8:4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, 1Sa 8:5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: **now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.** 1Sa 8:6 But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. 1Sa 8:7 And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them. 1Sa 8:8 According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee. 1Sa 8:9 Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them. 1Sa 8:10 And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king. 1Sa 8:11 And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint *them* for himself, for his chariots, and *to be* his horsemen; and *some* shall run before his chariots. 1Sa 8:12 And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set *them* to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots.
- 1Sa 8:15 And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.

- 1Sa 8:17 He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants. 1Sa 8:18 And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day. 1Sa 8:19 **Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; 1Sa 8:20 That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.** 1Sa 8:21 And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD. 1Sa 8:22 And the LORD said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city.

The COY rejected YAHWEH as their King and requested their own king so that they could be like the surrounding nations. YAHWEH granted their wish, yet with major stipulations. This new age of the kings came to a major historical crossroad of stupidity when the COY's greatest king turned his back on the commandments of YAHWEH.

- 2Ch 9:22 And **king Solomon passed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.** 2Ch 9:23 And **all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom, that God had put in his heart.** 2Ch 9:24 And **they brought every man his present, vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and raiment, harness, and spices, horses, and mules, a rate year by year.** 2Ch 9:25 And Solomon had four thousand stalls for horses and chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen; whom he bestowed in the chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem. 2Ch 9:26 And **he reigned over all the kings from the river even unto the land of the Philistines, and to the border of Egypt.**

- 2Ch 9:27 And the king made silver in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar trees made he as the sycomore trees that *are* in the low plains in abundance. 2Ch 9:28 And **they brought unto Solomon horses out of Egypt, and out of all lands.**

Here we finally find the sojourning nation in a land given it by YAHWEH. We find YAHWEH fulfilling HIS promise given to them in Deuteronomy for obedience to His commandments. Yet for all of this they turned their backs on their Deliverer, their Provider, their Protector. Note how this plays out, beginning with the richest of all the COY's kings.

- 1Ki 11:1 But **king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites;** 1Ki 11:2 **Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.** 1Ki 11:3 And **he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines:** and **his wives turned away his heart.** 1Ki 11:4 **For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.** 1Ki 11:5 For **Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.** 1Ki 11:6 And **Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.**

- 1Ki 11:9 And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, 1Ki 11:10 And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded. 1Ki 11:11 Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. 1Ki 11:12 Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: *but* I will rend it out of the hand of thy son. 1Ki 11:13 Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; *but* will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen. 1Ki 11:14 And the LORD stirred up an adversary unto Solomon, Hadad the Edomite: he *was* of the king's seed in Edom.

Here we see that after Solomon's reign, YAHWEH promised to split the Nation into two kingdoms, the House of Yisrael and the House of Judah (Yehudah). The House of Yisrael was given nine tribes, while the House of Yehudah was given three tribes. This division remains even until this day. Also, even though both still possessed the land given it, in spirit they were still nothing but sojourner nations. Why? Neither house appeared to ever grasp its calling to be a priest nation.

We need to take a step back to see what caused YAHWEH so much anger with this nation as compared to other sinful nations. Consider this, between the 2 kingdoms there were a total of 39 kings (1 was a queen) after the reign of Solomon.

Here is a fact that might amaze you. It did me.

Only 9 (23%) of the 39 kings (which included 1 queen) were obedient to YAHWEH. That's only 23% obedience! Are you kidding me you should ask? This is incredulous. But these are the cold-hearted facts. Let's look at a few examples of what we are saying here.

- 1Ki 15:30 Because of the sins of Jeroboam which he sinned, and which he made Israel sin, by his provocation wherewith he provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger. 1Ki 15:31 Now the rest of the acts of Nadab, and all that he did, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? 1Ki 15:32 And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days. 1Ki 15:33 In the third year of Asa king of Judah began Baasha the son of Ahijah to reign over all Israel in Tirzah, twenty and four years. 1Ki 15:34 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin.
- 1Ki 16:30 And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that *were* before him. 1Ki 16:31 And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him. 1Ki 16:32 And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. 1Ki 16:33 And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.
- 2Ki 13:1 In the three and twentieth year of Joash the son of Ahaziah king of Judah Jehoahaz the son of Jehu began to reign over Israel in Samaria, *and reigned* seventeen years.

- 2Ki 13:2 And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD, and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom. 2Ki 13:3 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he delivered them into the hand of Hazael king of Syria, and into the hand of Benhadad the son of Hazael, all *their* days.

Above we have three examples of the 30 evil kings of Yisrael and Yehudah. There really is no further discussion or explanation needed here to confirm the futile stupidity of a people promised and shown such greatness as may have never existed before. Over and over this people consistently turned their backs on YAHWEH, who over and over showed mercy unto them.

- Ki 17:5 Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years. 2Ki 17:6 In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor *by* the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. 2Ki 17:7 For *so* it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods, 2Ki 17:8 And walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made. 2Ki 17:9 And the children of Israel did secretly *those* things that *were* not right against the LORD their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.

- 2Ki 17:13 Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets. 2Ki 17:14 Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God. 2Ki 17:15 And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them. 2Ki 17:16 And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. 2Ki 17:17 And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. 2Ki 17:18 Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only.

Now, we see that because of their folly, the House of Yisrael was removed from the land. **To this very day, it has never returned to the land.** It is a sojourner nation existing in slavery type conditions throughout the nations of the earth for disobedience, just as was prophesied in Deuteronomy the 28th chapter. However, we note that at the time of the House of Yisrael's removal, only the tribes of Yehudah, Benjamin and Levi were left in the land. But remember the House of Yehudah was included in the 30 kings that did evil before YAHWEH.

Eventually, Babylon extracted Yehudah out of the land, but allowed some to return. When the MESSIAH came into the land, only the House of Yehudah (the tribes of Yehudah, Benjamin and Levi) was there.

Now fast forward to what the MESSIAH had to say about the temple of HIS day.

- Mat 24:1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to *him* for to shew him the buildings of the temple.
Mat 24:2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

Here YESHUA is prophesying about the destruction of the temple. We know that in 70AD Jerusalem was besieged and the temple destroyed by the Roman General Titus.

It is safe to say that since 70AD, the COY have ceased to live in the land that YAHWEH had promised them. It is also safe to say that they were sent into all the nations of the earth just as YAHWEH had also promised because of their great sin.

This subject is the central theme of much argument. Some believe the Yehudans are in the land. Some believe the United States, England and some other European nations represent the “Lost Tribes of Yisrael”. I will offer but a few thoughts here and move on.

Notice the following about the history of the Edomites, the descendants of Esau, Yacob’s brother who was specified to be red and hairy (obviously looking different than Jacob).

Idumea

“Idumea was a Greek word meaning "pertaining to Edom. This term was given by the Greeks and Romans for the country of Edom on the S borders of Judea inhabited by Idumeans (Edomites) (Mark 3:8; Is 34:5-6; Ezek 35:15; 36:5). After the fall of Jerusalem (587 B.C.) the Edomites began to advance northward (Ezek 36:5). By 312 B.C. the Nabataeans, who established themselves in Edom, drove them from Petra.

The Edomites were gradually forced into the S half of Judea, including the region around Hebron, an area that the Greeks later called Idumea.

Judas Maccabaeus warred against them and a half century later John Hyrcanus completely subdued them, imposed the rite of circumcision, and invoked the old Jewish law of assembly (Deut 23:7-8). Julius Caesar in 47 B.C. appointed an Idumean, Antipater, procurator of Judea, Samaria, and Galilee. Herod, son of Antipater, was crowned king of the Jews in 37 B.C. When Titus besieged Jerusalem in A.D. 70, the Idumeans joined the Jews in rebellion against Rome. Josephus says that 20,000 Idumeans "defended" the Holy City. Once they actually entered the city, they proceeded to rob and kill, but these traitors received the same fate as the few surviving Jews when Rome took over Jerusalem. Idumea, or Edom, ceased to exist.”

After the destruction of Jerusalem, the true Yehudans were scattered and escaped into the Land of Ham (Africa) and other places. Above we see that somewhere during this period Idumea (Edom) disappeared. Yet, a new Yehudan appeared in the land of Yisrael. Who were these people? No doubt, these were the remnants of the Edomites, planted in the land by the conquering Roman gentiles. They could not be true Yehudans.

According to YAHWEH's WORD, wherever the COY reside today, they are in a slavery type existence. They have conformed to a worship the gods of the land they were sent to. According to YAHWEH's WORD, they **cannot** be in the land of Yisrael. YAHWEH's WORD says that HE always reveals HIS plans to HIS prophets. Notice what HIS Prophets wrote about their return to the land.

- 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.

This 11th chapter of the Prophet Isaiah is more than a mouthful. If we are to accept YAHWEH's WORD as true, here is what we learn that the Prophet Isaiah is instructed to say. First, the he prophesied primarily to the House of Yehudah, long after both Kings David and Solomon were dead. As such, the rod out of the stem of Jesse spoken of in verse 1 cannot be either of these two. We are talking about the MESSIAH HIMSELF coming forth here from verse 1 to verse 5. Now look at verses 6 to 8. Here we see wild animals living tamed. In verse 9 it says there shall be no hurt in this "holy mountain".

Just what is a "holy mountain"? We are talking about a kingdom here. But whose kingdom is it? Verse 10 once again identifies a root of Yesse whom we have already identified as the MESSIAH. So, we are talking the MESSIAH's kingdom here.

- 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.**

Isaiah informed us that there will be no hurt in this holy mountain. At the time this holy mountain is established, notice what verse 11 tells us. It is at this time that YAHWEH will gather both Houses, Yisrael and Yehudah, from the nations where they were dispersed (verse 12). We know that HIS kingdom shall last for 1,000 years on the earth.

- Rev 20:4 **And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.**
- Rev 20:6 **Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.**

So, my dear reader, note the significance of this. Today, wherever the COY exist, what are they? Yes, you can say it? They are sojourners in lands not their own, living in slave-like conditions as described in the 28th chapter of Deuteronomy because of their disobedience to their ELOHIM. Most importantly, **Isaiah 11 teaches us that the COY will remain sojourners in these other nations until the MESSIAH returns to establish HIS kingdom on the earth.** Hopefully, the picture on the choosing of Yisrael is becoming clearer. Through its weakness amongst the nations of the earth, ELOHIM will be exalted.

However, as Isaiah chapter 11 also describes, they will be brought back to the land of milk and honey at the appointed time.

4.The Promise – The Homecoming

- 2Sa 5:12 And David perceived that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake.

Note here how David was made king and that his kingdom was exalted by YAHWEH.

- 1Ki 14:7 Go, tell Jeroboam, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Forasmuch as I exalted thee from among the people, and made thee prince over my people Israel,

The same is said for Yeroboam. Yet we see below that YAHWEH declares that HE will be exalted in the earth.

- Psa 46:10 Be still, and know that I *am* God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.
- Psa 89:16 In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted.

Now note the prophecy given to Isaiah about the mountain of YAHWEH.

- Isa 2:2 And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

Along with this, it is clear the greatness of man's kingdoms shall be brought low.

- Isa 2:17 And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

Next, we see how Micah prophesies the same as Isaiah did above.

- Mic 4:1 But in the last days it shall come to pass, *that* the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

Now let's turn ourselves to the main focus of this movement that YAHWEH desired with the COY. Remember that in Leviticus 23:1 YAHWEH commanded the 7th day rest known as the weekly Sabbath. This commemorates the MESSIAH's creation week rest, as well as a future rest in the MESSIAH's Kingdom.

Remember that the COY are sojourners. If you were to composite all the commandments given to them, it would all be summed up by one word, humility. They were humbled for disobedience. Yet note the following:

- Mat 23:12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.
- 1Pe 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

This is the concept that will always allow YAHWEH to showcase His glory to all the kings of the earth.

We have always been admonished to humble ourselves before YAHWEH. We included the detailed scriptures earlier on YAHWEH's appointed times. After the weekly Sabbath in Leviticus 23 is the Passover (verse 5). It sets the tone each year for the plan of YAHWEH. It points directly to the MESSIAH's sacrifice, our gift from the FATHER. Under the New Covenant, we eat unleavened bread and drink wine, while also washing each other's feet. We wash each other's feet in a mindset of serving, true humility; yet while assisting each other in the cleansing protocol of the day. The bread and the wine are to be taken humbly while considering what it means to the true believer. This is how this sojourning people were to exalt YAHWEH, through a mindset of humility.

With a humble spirit, we were then to partake in the next commanded holy day, Unleavened Bread (Lev 23:6-8). Our humble thoughts are now moved to remove the leaven (sin) in our lives.

- Mat 16:11 How is it that ye do not understand that I spake *it* not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? Mat 16:12 Then understood they how that he bade *them* not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

Here the MESSIAH shows how the leavening in bread pictured the doctrine of the Pharisees, which leads to sin. It is the leavening product, the doctrine, not the Pharisees themselves (who represent the bread) that leads to sin.

- 1Co 5:6 Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

- 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: 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.

The Apostle Paul connects the dots, for those who can see it. Those COY and others, who were now spiritual Ysrael, were to acknowledge its true Passover Lamb's offering, and then begin to purge out the leaven that accumulates through each year of our existence.

Next there is the Appointed Time of Weeks, called Pentecost by modern day Christians (verses 10-22). However, the word Pentecost simply means fiftieth. The writer was only saying below, "when the fiftieth day was fully come". The European translators changed the name and we have been running with it ever since. Notice what the Book of Acts shows us.

- Act 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. Act 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. Act 2:3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. Act 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Act 2:5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Act 2:6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. Act 2:7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?

- Act 2:8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Act 2:9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Act 2:10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

Notice how there were only Yehudans out of every nation under heaven dwelling in Yerushalaim for this holy day, the appointed Time of Weeks. This shows that at this time the Yehudans were still sojourners. This gathering is a harvest, picturing the call of YAHWEH, gathering HIS people. This is the first harvest of men, called to the MESSIAH by the FATHER. This harvest continues until this day through believing sojourners all over the earth.

Next, we have Trumpets (verses 24-25), which announces the coming of the King. Wherever the “called out” ones exist, this is our joy to know that the King will return just as the angel said HE would.

- 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.
- 1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

While we are reveling in our joy, YAHWEH next gave us a commanded day of humbleness through the ultimate emptying of our leaven that is within. This is the Atonement (verse 26). We must fast of nothing but what we were given in the beginning, HIS breath of life. We are to not to eat nor drink anything for the entire day. If we study the entire story of this day, we will note the story of the 2 goats.

- Lev 16:5 And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering.

Both goats are for a sin offering for the COY. One who is slain, and one is sent alive into an uninhabited place; representing the death and resurrection of YESHUA. It's as if it is one last reminder of the FATHER's grace to us through the blood of HIS SON, and HIS resurrected body returning to the FATHER, where neither flesh nor blood exists.

And then we come to the ultimate appointed time, Tabernacles (verses 34-43). The COY were commanded to live in, or temporarily sojourn booths for seven days during this celebrated appointed time while having a Sabbath on the first and the eighth day. We will explore this appointed time further in the Conclusion.

These special days establish a protocol for all that was and will be called out of the sinful world controlled by Satan. However, it is through the sojournalistic existence of the COY that YAHWEH will one day magnify HIMSELF.

We saw in Isaiah 11th chapter where the COY shall be returned to the land when the MESSIAH returns. The Prophet Ezekiel spoke about this.

- Eze 37:21 And say unto them, **Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land:** Eze 37:22 And **I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel;** and **one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all:** Eze 37:23 **Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwelling places,** wherein they have sinned, and **will cleanse them: so shall they be my people,** and **I will be their God.** Eze 37:24 And **David my servant shall be king over them;** and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. Eze 37:25 And **they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.** Eze 37:26 Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. Eze 37:27 My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Eze 37:28 And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.

Sometimes I believe those of modern day Yisrael get puffed up when their true identity is learned and they know that they will be returned to the land. But let's fully understand how this will happen.

- Eze 20:33 As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched-out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you: Eze 20:34 And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched-out arm, and with fury poured out. Eze 20:35 And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face. Eze 20:36 Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD. Eze 20:37 And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant: Eze 20:38 And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD.
- Eze 20:40 For in mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things. Eze 20:41 I will accept you with your sweet savour, when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before the heathen. Eze 20:42 And ye shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I shall bring you into the land of Israel, into the country *for* the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to your fathers.

- Eze 20:43 And there shall ye remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and ye shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that ye have committed. Eze 20:44 And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have wrought with you for my name's sake, not according to your wicked ways, nor according to your corrupt doings, O ye house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.

Here in the 20th chapter of Ezekiel we are informed how YAHWEH will gather and return Yisrael to its land. It will come at a cost. Not all will make it. They will pass under the rod of judgement when they are returned to the land by YAHWEH and be purged.

Notice in verse 38 that they were sojourners in the countries in which they existed in up until this time. They were tabernacling in faraway places in foreign booths. If you want to know who the COY are in modernity, simply look for the signs of Deuteronomy 28. They are unmistakable for those with eyes to see.

The COY were to be the prototype. They failed. However, those called-out ones under the New Covenant recognize this great celebration pictured by the Appointed Time of Tabernacles while knowing that the COY will finally be freed from their sojourning in other nations, and that their enduring until the end encompasses the hope of something far greater yet to occur.

5.The Conclusion

Earlier, in the previous chapter, I spoke of the Appointed Time of Tabernacles. When we consider the sojourning nature of the COY, we should also recognize how this appointed time is quite relevant to this understanding. I am aware that many of my Brethren have been taught that the first seven days of this appointed time represent the millennial reign of the MESSIAH. I am also aware that for some the eighth day is a totally separate appointed time representing either the white throne judgement by some, or the FATHER's Kingdom by others (called by some an eternal day). Well, as "called-out ones", we must never forget the basic principles that ELOHIM's WORD teaches us.

- Psa 90:4 For a thousand years in thy sight *are but* as yesterday when it is past, and *as* a watch in the night.
- 2Pe 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

ELOHIM's WORD provides us this principle by both YAHWEH's Prophets (David was a prophet/king) and YESHUA's Apostles. It was meant for the COY to understand that what was given to them would apply to mankind as a whole. It never fully grasped this great honor. Ironically enough, most of modernity's Christians do not believe that what was given to the COY applies to them.

However, for "called-out ones" of today, we are privileged to have both the Old and New Covenants to study and understand. ELOHIM's WORD is all about HIS "called-out ones" learning to fear and obey HIM, and, to endure until the end. The COY were given a variety of pretty interesting commandments to follow when they were to appear before YAHWEH during this, the final of YAHWEH's annual appointed times.

First, in verse 39 of the 23rd chapter of Leviticus, after they had gathered in the fruit of the land they were to keep an appointed time seven days. Second, in verse 40, after taking on the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook on day one, they were to rejoice before YAHWEH 7 days. Third, in verse 42, they were to dwell in booths for 7 days. However, we also know that there is duality to all of the commandments given to them. What did the first seven days represent to the COY? Here is what YAHWEH had to say to this question.

- Lev 23:43 That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

This was a reminder to the COY of their temporary nation, a nation of sojourners, until they would prove themselves obedient to YAHWEH. As we meditate on these verses, let's remember something else we know about the COY.

- Act 7:37 This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear. Act 7:38 This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and *with* our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

Here Stephen is telling those who would later stone him how Moses was in “the church in the wilderness”, the COY.

They were established to be the prototype of what YAHWEH desired of mankind from the beginning, a church; a group of “called-out ones” living in obedience to the commandments of ELOHIM. They were the prototype of the New Covenant church to follow, albeit, it would be founded on better promises. The first seven days of the Appointed Time of Tabernacles were reminders to the COY that they dwelt in booths for seven days.

We now understand that these seven days also prophetically represent the 7 days or 7,000 years that all those called out of this world, from Adam until the day YESHUA returns, will tabernacle in these bodies of flesh and corruption. These seven days are set apart annually for those “called out” to rejoice for their endurance in faith and obedience each year, having been brought out of spiritual Egypt, the world, until the first death. However, these seven days also remind us of the fact that the COY continue to sojourn/tabernacle in faraway lands for their disobedience.

So now, we have read where there is to be this appointed time of Booths, or Tabernacles, or Ingathering, for seven days. Well it surely appears to be a seven-day holy day from these words, right? However, verse 35 revealed the following. Let’s repeat it in full.

- 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*.

Now YAHWEH introduces an eighth day into the mix. Why is this called “the eighth day” in the first place? Well consider this, if it is to be a separate holy day unto itself, why didn’t YAHWEH simply say: “on the twenty-second day of the seventh month you shall have a holy convocation”? HE didn’t. HE said “on the eighth day”. If HE said “on the eighth day”, HE meant “on the eighth day”; but the eighth day of what?

HE repeated the commandment of the first and the eighth day Sabbaths in verse 39. We know that these commandments were given first to the COY. In their temporary condition they were to rejoice before YAHWEH for seven days. For the New Covenant church, each year that we attend this great appointed time, we rejoice in our endurance in these bodies of flesh and blood for another year, remembering those who have previously endured and now sleep, while celebrating with our Brothers, Sisters and their children who have endured the past year. Through our endurance in these tabernacles of flesh, we can now look forward to something far greater.

And what about that hope. Remember, we read about the remnant of the COY being brought back to the land when YESHUA returns. Yet, there is a greater promise to be fulfilled. We read where the eighth day is to be a Sabbath of rest. Well, let’s identify exactly what the eighth day represents. It is called the eighth day of what? It is not the eighth day of the month. It is the eighth day of Tabernacles. Why? Because it represents the day when all that we read in Isaiah 11 will occur. It is the 1,000-year reign of YESHUA and HIS saints. This is why it is called “the Last Great Day. Notice how YESHUA HIMSELF refers to it.

- Joh 7:37 In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

HE calls it the last day, that great day of the feast. What feast is it the last great day of is the question, and the answer should be obvious to the “called-out ones”. It is the last great day of the Appointed Time of Tabernacles. This is why I came to recognize that the teaching that the first seven days represents the millennium reign of the MESSIAH is not Biblically correct. The Appointed Time of Tabernacles is for eight days. The first seven days represent our (“called-out ones”) dwelling in these temporary tabernacles for 7,000 years, or seven days. On the eighth day, all those who endured in faith and obedience shall be changed. In that day, the resurrected saints are no longer flesh and blood, but spirit beings with YESHUA.

This is the Sabbath rest spoken of in the 4th chapter of the Book of Hebrews. There is peace on the earth. Satan is imprisoned throughout this day, 1,000 years. But what about the COY? YESHUA said that in that day “if any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink”.

These words were spoken by the MESSIAH as HE overlooked Yerushalaim on the Last Great Day. HE says that the thirsty man should come unto HIM, in that day. What day? The Last Great Day. This day is a commanded Sabbath (Lev 23:36). We know that a day to YAHWEH is a thousand years. We have read where the COY will be brought back to the land of Yisrael on this day. In fact, scripture is ripe throughout what will occur on this day, often referred to as “in that day”. Notice that for the COY that are living at that time we have the following.

- Isa 27:12 And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the LORD shall beat off from the channel of the river unto the stream of Egypt, and ye shall be gathered one by one, O ye children of Israel.

- Isa 27:13 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem.

So, our rejoicing during the first seven days should also be about the fact that YAHWEH's people will finally find peace on the earth on the eighth day. For until then, they will have none. Remember, all that we read in Isaiah 11th chapter will occur in that day. The Prophet Hosea had this to say about that day.

- Hos 2:18 And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely. Hos 2:19 And I will betroth thee unto me forever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. Hos 2:20 I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD. Hos 2:21 And it shall come to pass in that day, I will hear, saith the LORD, I will hear the heavens, and they shall hear the earth; Hos 2:22 And the earth shall hear the corn, and the wine, and the oil; and they shall hear Jezreel. Hos 2:23 And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to *them which were* not my people, Thou *art* my people; and they shall say, *Thou art* my God.

Interesting enough, in verse 18 he prophesied of a covenant with the beasts of the field. We read where the beasts of the field will be at peace in Isaiah chapter 11.

It shall be a day in which the remnant of the COY shall be recovered and brought back to the land of milk and honey to a Kingdom they had previously rejected. And when this happens, there will be peace on earth for 1,000 years. The earth will finally be at rest because Satan has been bound. YESHUA will be in Yerushalaim with HIS saints. We recognize a very special honor to be given to a very special group of saints.

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

The Gospel of Luke puts it this way.

- Luk 22:28 Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations. Luk 22:29 And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; Luk 22:30 That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

When the COY are brought back to the land on the eighth day, YESHUA, HIS Apostles, and the other saints that endured until the end, from throughout that seven-day period, shall be there in waiting. When the COY are brought back into the land on that day, the 12 Apostles of YESHUA shall rule over them. Remember these events that will occur at the start of this great day.

- 1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 1Th 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

These are the promises and the hope that we rejoice in for seven days. They focus on the reason why we do it.

- 1Jn 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 1Jn 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

We desire to be a part of this eighth day with YESHUA and HIS saints. This is why we are to be comforted. For when we get to the eighth day, there is another type of joy. If we make it to that day in endurance, we shall be with YESHUA, no longer living in physical booths. Let's understand something else that happens on this great day.

- Zec 14:1 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. Zec 14:2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Zec 14:3 Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

- Zec 14:16 And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

I did not include all of this chapter, even though it is relevant. However, verses 4 & 5 inform us that after the resurrection of the saints, they will be brought to the Mount of Olives with YESHUA. These verses inform of other things that will happen during that day.

All of the nations of those who are left after the wrath of the LAMB shall year after year come up to Yerushalaim to bow before YESHUA throughout this last great day. This is why the eighth day is also a part of the Appointed Time of Tabernacles. YESHUA is back, the enduring saints are now spirit beings, yet, the nations that survive the LAMB's wrath, and the COY that will be brought back to the land, will continue tabernacling in the bodies of flesh.

This day is the Sabbath that we all hope for as we strive to endure in our faith and obedience to ELOHIM. The earth is at rest because of Satan's incarceration. This is the rest we read about in the 4th chapter of Hebrews.

Remember, YESHUA said on this day that all that thirst should come unto HIM. It is appropriate that the MESSIAH cried these words out on this Last Great Day of while in Yerushalaim. Note what HE had the Prophet Zechariah to write.

- Zec 8:2 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury.

- Zec 8:3 Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain. Zec 8:4 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. Zec 8:5 And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof.
- Zec 8:7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country; Zec 8:8 And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.
- Zec 8:13 And it shall come to pass, *that* as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, *but* let your hands be strong. Zec 8:14 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; As I thought to punish you, when your fathers provoked me to wrath, saith the LORD of hosts, and I repented not:
- Zec 8:20 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; *It shall yet come to pass*, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities: Zec 8:21 And the inhabitants of one *city* shall go to another, saying, let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also. Zec 8:22 Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD.

- Zec 8:23 Thus **saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.**

What these scriptures strongly suggest is that YAHWEH used a sojourning people as an example to initially show that mankind can only be truly blessed by following the commandments of YAHWEH. This people failed and were punished. However, the message is greater than just this people. In fact, the entire earth lives as sojourners from YAHWEH of Yisrael. Upon HIS return to establish HIS Millennial Kingdom, this will all change. During these 1,000 years of peace on earth, all flesh will be invited to partake. However, after this day we find the following.

- Rev 20:11 And **I saw a great white throne**, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. Rev 20:12 And **I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God**; and **the books were opened**: and **another book was opened, which is the book of life**: and **the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works**. Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. Rev 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. Rev 20:15 And **whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire**.

We see that at the time of the Great White Throne, there is a judgment that has two endings. The books will be reopened. Why do I say this? Throughout ELOHIM's WORD, books refer to the writings of the writers of scripture. Their being opened means that there are no more parables. They will now understand ELOHIM's WORD.

Remember it is YAHWEH's desire that all come to the knowledge of the truth. HE is merciful. It is not for all to know this truth in this age. Yet, that does not mean they will all be lost because they erred during that period. ELOHIM searches the hearts.

- 1Co 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

There will be millions, perhaps billions, who will finally get a chance to get it right, including the COY. Many will get it right and have their names entered into the Book of Life, which is now reopened as well. Many will not. Notice that **only** those not written in this book are thrown in the lake of fire.

Whatever the decision, the sojourning ends there. When this time comes, the sojourning away from the ELOHIM family comes to an official end. After this, the MESSIAH gives up the Kingdom to the FATHER. There is no number to picture the FATHER's Kingdom, because it will have no end.

To date, Yisrael continues to sojourn in lands their forefathers never knew.

To date Yisrael continues to follow the customs of the strangers and are blinded as to their identity and thus of the blessings that can ONLY be provided by YAHWEH ELOHIM of Yisrael. Yet the hope of Yisrael and indeed the rest of the world is ahead. YAHWEH's WORD loudly proclaims that all nations shall enjoy HIS rest.

- Rev 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, **Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;** Rev 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.
- Rev 7:4 And **I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.** Rev 7:5 Of the tribe of Juda *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad *were* sealed twelve thousand. Rev 7:6 Of the tribe of Aser *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nepthalim *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses *were* sealed twelve thousand. Rev 7:7 Of the tribe of Simeon *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar *were* sealed twelve thousand. Rev 7:8 Of the tribe of Zabulon *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin *were* sealed twelve thousand. Rev 7:9 **After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues,** stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

Isn't this worthy of a celebration? We must endeavor at all costs to remain true to our calling.

The COY were called out to be a nation of priests and holy. "Called-out ones" are "spiritual Yisrael". We must be there for one another, holding each other up by the arms, all those who have been blessed with this wonderful knowledge of the Kingdom. We are the salt of the earth, the caretakers of this wonderful WORD. Let us continue to grow with one another, encouraging each other to challenge ourselves until we get it right, with all joy and supplication.

I look forward to the day when the COY learn to humble themselves before their ELOHIM, to have their names entered into the LAMB's Book of Life. Don't you?

I hope this article will inspire "called-out ones" to never rest from seeking truth, until we all become one.

Shalom!

