

## **Lesson No. 129 – The Power To Define**

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The world we know is made up of atheists who do not believe in a higher power, many culturally-based religions such as the eastern religions (including Shintoism, Taoism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, etc.), and the more popular Islam, Judaism and Christianity.

However, this study, Lesson No. 129 – The Power to Define, is intended towards those who have chosen the Bible as their spiritual source for guidance in their spiritual walk. Typically, these are called Christians. Yet, while this study focuses on the fact that believers in the Bible are not immune to both outside as well as inside influences, the power to define is relevant to every man and woman of modernity.

Thus, while this lesson is not intended to sway the minds of participants in atheism, the eastern religions, Islam, Judaism or Christianity, the premises we will discuss exists in the followers of all of these religious practices. There is a reason why followers of all such religions, or any of life's beliefs, partake in them.

We should be able to agree that each of us have had different encounters in life that sought to grab our attention, to direct our walks toward one of these options, or perhaps others. Now, there are various pertinent factors that impact our adherence to these many beliefs. For instance, certain nations are dominated by one or more of these religions. If we are born in these nations, the influences to partake of these beliefs are greater. The ability to choose from other beliefs may be minimized due to unavailability and autocratic governance.

And yet, even in nations where there exists a freedom of religion, the influences are quite overwhelming. Some say that variety is the spice of life.

And as a result, those born or living in these nations are influenced physically, emotionally and spiritually by the many possibilities that impact each day of our lives. Consider that there are major influencing vehicles such as cable tv, the movie industry, family traditions, schools of all levels, friendships, other occasional contacts, etc., etc. And with each influencing outlet, we tend to be drawn to others who are likewise drawn to whatever belief that caught our attention and impacts the way we think and walk.

Now many, if not most in modernity, may see all of these possibilities as simple and safe choices of life that should be respected by all, regardless of the differences. A very good friend once told me that truth is where you find it, whether it be the eastern religions, the Koran, the Bible or some any other source. However, Christians were told the following by one of the apostles of the person the Bible identifies as YESHUA HAMASHIAC, known and referred to by most as Jesus Christ.

- 1Jn 2:15 **Love not the world, neither the things *that are in the world*. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.** 1Jn 2:16 For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 1Jn 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

Now, let's be honest with one another. This is not as simple as it may sound. Anyone adhering to these teachings must first define what constitutes the world that they are not to love. The Apostle Yochanan provides as guidance the lust of the flesh and eyes, and, the pride of life. There is serious duality in these words. The author asserts that this world is passing away and its lusts thereof. Oppositely, he asserts that he that does the will of ELOHIM abides forever. As such, Christians are admonished to seek to do the will of ELOHIM by the Apostle. And this is where the concept of the Power to Define continues to impact everyone who believes that he or she is a Christian.

The Old Covenant or Testament of the Bible presents the origin, history and prophetic future of a nation of people who were called the first born by the omnipotent BEING known as YAHWEH of ELOHIM, or, the LORD. YAHWEH commanded this people, the Children of Yisrael (COY) the following:

- Deu 18:9 **When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.** Deu 18:10 There shall not be found among you *any one* that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, *or* that useth divination, *or* an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Deu 18:11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. Deu 18:12 For all that do these things *are* an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Deu 18:13 Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. Deu 18:14 For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so *to do*.

Unfortunately, the COY did the opposite of what they were commanded, and the Bible and history confirm that the COY were taken from their land. What caused this people to whom YAHWEH said “you only have I known of all the families of the earth” (Amos 3:2) to follow after the other nations? The focus of the New Covenant of the Bible had this to say to HIS followers.

- Mat 7:24 Therefore **whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:**

For Christians, their walk should be defined by the sayings of the same omnipotent BEING that spoke to the COY, whom the Bible proclaims came in the flesh in the name of HIS FATHER, YESHUA.

Just prior to YESHUA's death, HE made another profound statement to HIS new followers.

- Joh 14:21 **He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.** Joh 14:22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Joh 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. Joh 14:24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. Joh 14:25 These things have I spoken unto you, being *yet* present with you. Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Here HE makes it pretty plain, keep my words, if you love me. HIS words are HIS commandments. This should be the Christian walk.

The question becomes, how and by whom has our Christian walk been defined to us? The book which first presented the concept of the power to define to me, that actually created within me a desire to read the Bible for myself, ask the following question. "Are men really following their own minds today, or are they following trends and patterns defined by the others as chic, in the know, in style or out of style?" This question suggests that the power to define impacts all phases our lives.

Look at the politics of the U.S. I have watched some of the impeachment trial and noticed that many, who proclaim to be Christians, appear to be totally brainwashed to accept that any type behavior is now acceptable, as long as a deviant minded person believes in their mind that what is good for them personally must be good for a nation.

I.e., this person has now defined what is right for the nation based on his personable desires for himself. This is now resulting in an aristocracy rather than a democracy.

For Christians, how should our mindsets endure the politics of the world, as well as the politics of spiritual guidance in the world? Shouldn't all Christians recognize that the Bible alone presents guidance for their walks before ELOHIM. An Apostle of YESHUA wrote the following:

- Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.**

It is more than probable that all Christians, even those in politics, believe that they are adhering to this guidance. The Apostle now teaches Christians how to be strong in the MESSIAH he calls the LORD.

- Eph 6:11 **Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.** Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. Eph 6:13 Wherefore **take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day,** and having done all, to stand.

Christians are to put on the “whole armor of ELOHIM” so that they “may be able to withstand in the evil day”

- Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

They are to stand “with truth”. I wonder how that these political Christians have determined that, when the current leader to whom they have given their allegiance cozies up to the leaders of nations who profess a desire to destroy this nation, they have “girded their loins about with truth”.

Now, it is not my intention to dwell on our political landscape in this study. However, it presents a relevant background for tonight's topic. We openly are witnessing people of worldly power to influence our physical walks each day, who also profess a belief in the Bible, being consumed by evil that has been defined to them as if it is some form of righteousness, which will impact the entire world as we know it for some time to come.

This is why the Apostle's words to Christians are so very timely. He is admonishing Christians to define for themselves what is truth.

- Eph 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Eph 6:16 **Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.** Eph 6:17 And **take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:**

These words by the Apostle Paul present to Christians the foundation on which they must have the power to define where their beliefs and faith should be led by – the WORD of ELOHIM, ONLY.

- Eph 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

However, are all Christians taking the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the WORD of ELOHIM?

As we look at those who openly express a belief in the Bible, we often see that their beliefs are not always based on the awareness of the contents of the Bible itself, but their belief is based on the person or group they have allowed to teach them the Bible. This no doubt is also applicable to the followers of each of the religions mentioned earlier. And yet, an underlying consistency of each of these is the ability to choose which of these beliefs one accepts.

Even in certain nations where there is authoritarianism as it applies to religion, there is choice. It is simply a matter of perhaps more graphic and dire consequences.

All Bible believers should be familiar with the following:

- Rom 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Rom 13:13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. Rom 13:14 **But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.**

Let us be honest about what actually exists in the world. Whatever your religious belief, you probably believe you are walking in the true light. For certain, anyone expressing a belief in Christianity believes this. Well later, this same Bible writer expressed a dire warning to Christians.

- 2Co 11:1 Would to God ye could bear with me a little in *my* folly: and indeed bear with me. 2Co 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for **I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.** 2Co 11:3 But **I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.** 2Co 11:4 For **if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.**

I.e., if you bear with these who teach another YESHUA, why not bear with the Apostle. All Christians know, or should know, that “the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty”, and yet the writer is expressing a fear that those to whom he has taught “the simplicity that in CHRIST”, may have had their minds corrupted by the same influence that beguiled Eve.

Is this not a warning to all that profess themselves to be Christians? I.e., there is another gospel teaching another CHRIST that neither he nor any of the other writers of the Bible have taught.

This is also interesting because many Christians believe that Eve was beguiled by eating an apple, or some other form of physical fruit from a fruit tree. And yet the writer speaks only of her being beguiled by the serpent. There are some Christians that believe that both Eve and her husband were simultaneously beguiled together by the serpent. And yet, the writer only speaks of Eve being beguiled by the serpent. There are no doubt other beliefs on this subject amongst Christians. How did these Christians come to all of these different beliefs? Can all of these differences be adhering to what the writer describes as “the simplicity that is in Christ”?

Well as he issues this bold warning, he presents an even bolder underlying foundation to this warning.

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

This Brothers and Sisters should be the fear of all Christians, regardless of the age we are born into. The Apostle Paul warns Christians that there is a spiritual force that has and is presenting itself as an angel of light, reinforced and promulgated by false apostles and deceitful workers transformed as ministers of righteousness. This implies that these ministers present alternative laws and commandments as if they present Christian values to be followed and obeyed.

It is interesting how that this Bible writer, whom we know to be the Apostle Paul, speaks of “the simplicity that is in CHRIST”.



Of all of the religions I mentioned earlier, if a survey of beliefs were taken of all those that claim a belief in the Bible, an objective conclusion could be made that there exist several different religions within the umbrella called by the world, Christianity.

No doubt this is why the Apostle is addressing this matter that Christians should take extremely seriously. In fact, the subject of this simplicity, CHRIST HIMSELF, had already spoken to HIS disciples the following.

- Mat 24:4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. Mat 24:5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

How many Christians have even ever heard these words? I know that before I was drawn to read the Bible in detail for myself, it had never been taught to me. In a recent study we read in Yochanan 10:9 how that YESHUA proclaimed that “HE is the door of the sheep”. And yet, HE is saying to those who are HIS followers, many will seek to deceive you, in HIS name.

- Mat 24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. Mat 24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

Many false prophets will arise and deceive many to quail the love of many. Sounds familiar to what we just read from the Apostle. In fact, isn't this inherently speaking of another Christ being taught?

- Mat 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Mat 24:25 Behold, I have told you before.

He simply restated what CHRIST has already warned the disciples, who would carry the gospel message to the world.

And this deceit will be so profound that it has the potential to “deceive the very elect”. And, just who is the elect? Christians should be clear on the fact that the Bible provides Christians three different presentations on the “elect”. Why should they know this? It is a matter of simplicity. Read the Bible for themselves.

- Isa 42:1 **Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.**

This is the first “elect” mentioned in the Bible. Is this “elect” a nation, a group of believers, or a person, to whom YAHWEH has put HIS spirit upon to bring forth judgement to the nations?

- Isa 42:2 He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. Isa 42:3 A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: **he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.**

Whoever this “elect” is “HE shall bring forth judgement unto truth”.

- Isa 42:4 He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.

This is an interesting statement, “wait for HIS law”. YAHWEH is saying there is more to come in the future as a part of HIS righteousness, when HE has set judgement in the earth.

- Isa 42:5 Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein: Isa 42:6 **I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;**

- Isa 42:7 **To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.**

This person shall be “for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles” (the nations), “to open the blind eyes”, etc. But here is the interesting and perhaps metaphorical nature of this prophecy.

- Isa 42:8 *I am* the LORD: that *is* my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

HE is YAHWEH. That is HIS name. And furthermore, HE, YAHWEH, will not give HIS glory to another. This is one of the most profound metaphors of what ELOHIM’s WORD, the Bible, is teaching its true believers, because YAHWEH is speaking of HIMSELF in the different role HE will play in the future. HE will become a future “ELECT”, the “FIRST FRUIT” (1 Corinthians 15:20 & 23) of the new family of ELOHIM.

Earlier we read how the Apostle urged Christians to “take the helmet of salvation”. Notice how the Prophet further described this “ELECT”.

- Isa 59:16 And **he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor:** therefore **his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.**

Christians should know that the Prophet Isaiah prophesied during the days of the captivity of the House of Yehudah. In those days, there was no man to whom YAHWEH could use as an intercessor to HIS people. Thus, HE had the Prophet speak of HIS ARM bringing salvation and righteousness.

- Isa 59:17 For **he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance** *for* clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke.

This ARM put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation upon HIS head, as well as garments of vengeance. This ARM is the “helmet of salvation” Christians are urged to take on. It is their protection from the forces in the world that seeks to define how they should walk.

- Isa 59:18 According to *their* deeds, accordingly **he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompence to his enemies; to the islands he will repay recompence.** Isa 59:19 So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. **When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.** Isa 59:20 And **the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.** Isa 59:21 **As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and forever.**

This REDEEMER’s covenant shall be with those that turn from transgression. This is YAHWEH’s ELECT, HIMSELF. We read earlier about YESHUA’s words and sayings HE gave to HIS disciples. Notice verse 21 very carefully because it is the true foundation of the New Covenant. YAHWEH’s Spirit will be upon this ARM. YAHWEH has put HIS words in HIS mouth and it shall not depart from HIM, nor out of HIS seed from henceforth and forever. Wow! We know that this process will begin with the descendants of Yacob before it eventually will extend to all of the families of the earth. If Christians are truly seeking for themselves the power to define, these words must be understood. This is the first “elect” of the Bible all Christians should know of.

This brings us to the next elect spoken of in ELOHIM’s WORD.

- Isa 45:1 Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut; Isa 45:2 I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: Isa 45:3 And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call *thee* by thy name, *am* the God of Israel.

Who is this Cyrus, to whom YAHWEH is speaking?

- Ezr 1:1 Now in the first year of **Cyrus king of Persia**, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and *put it* also in writing, saying, Ezr 1:2 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which *is* in Judah. Ezr 1:3 Who *is there* among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which *is* in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he *is* the God,) which *is* in Jerusalem.

This is Cyrus, the King of Persia given a specific commission, “to build YAHWEH an house at Jerusalem” after the House of Yehudah had been taken out of their land by the Babylonians. Now notice YAHWEH’s words to the King of Persia.

- Isa 45:4 **For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name:** I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me. Isa 45:5 *I am* the LORD, and *there is* none else, *there is* no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: Isa 45:6 That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that *there is* none beside me. *I am* the LORD, and *there is* none else.

- Isa 45:7 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these *things*. Isa 45:8 Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it.

While each of these scriptures teach us a vital affirmation of YAHWEH of ELOHIM, it is in verse 4 where Yisrael is also called YAHWEH's elect. And, we are taught something that to my knowledge, none of the other religious beliefs mentioned earlier teach. We have a clear description and declaration of the purpose for the existence of this earth we all live on. It is for the purpose of its CREATOR, YAHWEH. Man has given his power to define the purpose of the universe unto others who refuse to accept "the simplicity that is in CHRIST".

As we read these words, we must acknowledge a consistency which is also an interesting difference between Yisrael and what we will now see is the third "elect". The COY were "called out". We shall now discover how this contrasts to another group who have been "called out" from something far greater than that of the COY.

- 1Pe 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 1Pe 1:2 **Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:** Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

Here, the Apostle Peter, made the possessor of the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven by YAHWEH's ARM, writes to those who are "elect according to the foreknowledge of ELOHIM the FATHER, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience, and sprinkling of the blood of YESHUA CHRIST". Wow, what a mouthful this is. He later refers to these in this manner.

- 1Pe 2:5 **Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.** 1Pe 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 1Pe 2:7 **Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,** 1Pe 2:8 **And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.** 1Pe 2:9 **But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:**

Here, the Apostle is referring to a group of persons who have been called out of darkness into ELOHIM's marvelous light, by FATHER ELOHIM unto YESHUA, now the SON of ELOHIM. These are the New Covenant "elect". Contrast this with the following.

- Hos 11:1 When Israel *was* a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.

The COY, the first "elect" of YAHWEH, were called out of Egypt as a nation. It was a physical calling based on the first two covenants made between YAHWEH and Abraham. The "elect" that the Apostle wrote to are individuals also called out from darkness to spiritual light. It is to these "elect" that YESHUA warned in Mathew 24:24 they could be deceived by false Christs and false prophets. This, is why understanding the power to define is so important.

YESHUA, the primary subject of the entire Bible, said to HIS disciples to beware of false Christs and false prophets who would come in HIS name to deceive the very "elect".

The Apostle of YESHUA wrote to this “elect” that there are false apostles and deceitful workers transforming themselves into the apostles of CHRIST. He then followed this up with the fact that Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. So, elect of CHRIST, you should not be surprised and ambushed by Satan’s so-called “ministers of righteousness”, if, you have taken “the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, the WORD of ELOHIM”. Christians need to be clear on this.

I want us to reread this scripture we read earlier.

- 2Co 11:3 But **I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.**

There are two key words that should engage the curiosity of Christians here. We have discussed “the simplicity that is CHRIST” a little earlier. And yet simplicity is at the heart of what is required of Christians. Why? Because for true Christians, it is a simple matter of faith. The question is, faith in what. This involves Christians defining to themselves who and what they truly believe in. The process required to become a member of this select group of New Covenant “elect” is not simple. However, once one becomes an “elect”, there should be simplicity. And this is to what YESHUA and HIS disciple is warning the elect shall exist in their pathway.

This leads to the other word of interest to Christians here, subtilty. It is a translation of the Greek word “panourgia” meaning cunning craftiness. It was by cunning craftiness that Satan beguiled Eve to disobey YAHWEH of ELOHIM and feed his lies to her husband. Let’s recognize something about Eve that Christians should know.

- Gen 3:1 Now **the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.** And **he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?**



- Gen 3:2 And **the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: Gen 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.** Gen 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: Gen 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

According to the WORD of ELOHIM, the Bible, the serpent asks Eve a simple question. This is how the deceit began. Notice that she had an answer, which in fact was the correct answer.

Christians, do you know how she obtained the correct answer? She was given it by her husband. He initially did his commission, which was to teach his “helpmeet” what YAHWEH had commanded him. But the serpent’s cunning craftiness tasted too good to her ears for her to dismiss the serpent’s words.

The Apostle is warning the “elect” of YESHUA that this is how Satan will corrupt its minds from “the simplicity that is in CHRIST”. It is with cunning words that the “elect” can craftily be crafted into accepting another coming in the name Christ, as if he is CHRIST; i.e., a false Christ.

This Brothers and Sisters is at the core of our subject for this lesson, the power to define. At issue here is how does the “elect” determine what is “the simplicity that is in Christ” versus what is Satan’s subtlety that can corrupt the elect “from the simplicity that is in CHRIST”. Well, we need only look to the words of CHRIST HIMSELF for guidance.

- Mat 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, **Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**

Let’s reason together here.

If you are a Christian, what does or should these words mean to you? Well, for a Christian, shouldn't this mean to live by every word included in the Bible? Why? Because for a Christian, it is only the Bible that presents the words that have proceeded out of the mouth of ELOHIM. None of the other religions mentioned earlier present the depth of the history and future of the earth and its inhabitants as does the Bible. However, there is another very relevant rule that Christians are admonished to live by.

- Rev 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: Rev 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

The essence of these words by the Apostle Yochanan is that this book has been sealed and no one should add to or subtract from it. What the “elect” of CHRIST must discern for themselves is whether or not this warning is applicable to all of the words of the Bible.

In modernity, there have been many changes in the form of interpretations made to the Bible by Christians, and even others who do not confess Christianity. And here is what directly impacts Christians' power to define. We have been told that subtlety, or cunning craftiness, is the vice through which the “elect” of CHRIST might be deceived. I.e., it will be through cunning craftiness of words that the power to define for all Christians will be threatened.

The nation that was the “elect” of YAHWEH, the COY, were often cautioned, and in fact, commanded to not learn and follow the ways of what YAHWEH considered to be “heathens”, a word that refers to the nations of the world.

- Jer 10:2 **Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen,** and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. Jer 10:3 **For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.** Jer 10:4 **They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.**

For many of us, these words given to the Prophet Yeremayah are not subtle because we may have adhered to them. Yet, there are Christians who have never been taught these words, and/or, have not studied these words for themselves.

As such, these do not know the fulness of YAHWEH's concerns to HIS "elect". And as a result, someone or something has defined to many Christians in modernity that it is okay to cut the trees out of the forest, deck them with silver and gold, fasten them with nails and with hammers, as objects of worship. This is subtlety (cunning craftiness) at its highest because the vast majority of Christians participate in this practice each and every year thinking that it is the Christian thing to do. Who has defined this to them? Many of us now know the answer to this.

And yet, there are some encounters that approach Christians in even more subtle ways as popular safe options for physical health, such as yoga. Some may see the inclusion of yoga in this discussion as farfetched. However, have we stopped to dissect what this form of discipline entails. Notice the following definitions, which each of you can look up for yourselves.

"Yoga is a Hindu spiritual and ascetic discipline, a part of which, including breath control, simple meditation, and the adoption of specific bodily postures, is widely practiced for health and relaxation." Now, this doesn't sound so, so farfetched as to scare us away from participation in yoga does it? Well, there is another side that must also be understood.

“The word **yoga** means to join or unite, and yogis view this unison in different ways – the unison of body, mind and **spirit**, uniting all the aspects of yourself, or uniting with a higher power or **spiritual** force. You can believe in a God or gods, or nothing at all.” In its essence, the word yoga means to yoke with. The question is, who is one yoking with. Who defines the spiritual power that one yokes with?

My Brothers and Sisters, this question is at the very essence of this necessity to understand the power to define. Why? It is because everything that we do in life is inherently spiritual.

YESHUA said the following:

- Mat 5:16 **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

Christians are told by YESHUA to let their lights shine so that their good works may be seen that glorify ELOHIM.

- Mat 16:27 For **the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.**

Every man and woman shall be rewarded according to their works when the SON of MAN shall come in HIS glory. What are our works?

Consider the COY for a moment. The Biblical books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy provided the COY with day to day guidance that, if obeyed, would have ensured them of great physical blessings of health and well-being. However, there is another aspect of this that must be acknowledged by all Christians. The spiritual knowledge that has been taught to us in the writings of the New Covenant were not available to the COY under the Old Covenant. And yet we read this in the faith chapter of ELOHIM’s WORD.

- Heb 11:31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace. Heb 11:32 **And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Heb 11:33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Heb 11:34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.**
- Heb 11:39 **And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: Heb 11:40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.**

These all obeyed YAHWEH's laws, commandments and statutes given to the COY under the Old Covenant, in faith, and obtained a good report. And yet, the plan of salvation was not yet complete without the establishment of the New Covenant. In other words, this testifies that the WORD of ELOHIM places responsibility upon those under the New Covenant to ensure that all of their walk reflects their good works, which should reflect every word out of the mouth of ELOHIM they have been given. And here is our key in modernity.

For every Christian, what is every word out of the mouth of ELOHIM? This is where cunning craftiness is attempting to sway the minds of all Christians. Those Christians who have learned certain truths through which they have repented of from participating in so-called Christian days such as Sunday worship, Christmas and Easter, may at times believe they have made the cut and are no longer vulnerable to Satan and his ministers' cunning craftiness. And yet, it is to those who have repented of these days to whom the Apostle issued his warning. How should Christians protect themselves?

YAHWEH made something quite clear regarding the destruction that led to HIS original “elect” people now being scattered throughout the nations in a slave-like condition.

- Jer 12:10 **Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion under foot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness.** Jer 12:11 They have made it desolate, *and being* desolate it mourneth unto me; the whole land is made desolate, because no man layeth *it* to heart.

The Hebrew word translated pastor is “raah”, which means shepherd. All Christians should know the Biblical history of the COY. Both the House of Yisrael (9 tribes) and the House of Yehudah (3 tribes) have been scattered amongst the nations of the earth. Notice the following.

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

It was these pastors/shepherds who are responsible for destroying and scattering the COY. YAHWEH continues.

- Jer 23:3 And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.

There are Christians, who repented of Sunday, Easter and Christmas, who keep the Passover and other appointed times, and yet do not accept verse 3 as truth. We will touch on this in a moment.

YAHWEH now speaks to the future.

- Jer 23:4 **And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD.** Jer 23:5 **Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.**

These shepherds will again oversee the remnant of the COY during the 1,000-year reign of CHRIST and HIS saints. However, as HE told us in Yochanan 10:16, the New Covenant “elect”, the one fold, shall have but one SHEPHERD. Christians should know that this SHEPHERD is that righteous BRANCH and ARM to be raised up unto David, YESHUA.

Knowing this, the message to the Household of Faith, the New Covenant church, is that they must be extremely careful to whom they allow the power to define our spiritual beliefs.

For most Christians, this power rests in the hands of the same people who were given this power by the COY, the pastors. This is why the Household of Faith is admonished to “study to show themselves approved unto ELOHIM” and to convert to YESHUA and become as little children. This is why the “called-out ones” have been instructed to be subject to one another, not necessarily to our pastors.

As I close this study, the fact that major differences exist amongst the many groups who claim to be Christian, confirms that the cunning craftiness of Satan has had a major impact. YESHUA prayed the following words just prior to HIS death.

- Joh 17:8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. Joh 17:9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

- Joh 17:10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. **Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.**

If Christians studied all of the words of the New Covenant, they should discern that the theme of oneness is an overwhelming desire for YESHUA's followers. And yet, within the thoughts of Christians is an acceptance of difference. Where did this acceptance come from? Remember, YESHUA has warned HIS elect of a force that might deceive them. The Apostle has taught us that that force begins with the cunning craftiness of the serpent.

Who prospers from the differences that continually grows amongst Christians who have repented of the more obvious spiritual practices of traditional Christianity? These differences have accomplished the exact opposite of what YESHUA prayed. HE desired a oneness of spirit amongst HIS followers.

In fact, if Christians read through the words and actions of YESHUA disciples given the power to bind the testimony and seal the law in Isaiah 8:16, they will discover how this desired oneness has been showcased for them. And yet, the differences continue and seem to be growing each and every day.

I want to just share a list of thoughts given to me by a variety of persons over the years since I was baptized into YESHUA HAMASHIAC.

1. "Erasmus created all of the characters of the Bible". Someone who believes in the gods of Egypt showed me a document someone generated to suggest this. What they were not told was that Erasmus was a 15<sup>th</sup> century scholar that helped translate the Hebrew Bible into a Greek version.



2. “Egypt was so perfect that it existed for 9,000 years without the need of a jail”. This was given to the person above to teach the omnipotence of the Egyptians by his shepherd. Both represent cunning lies to subvert the truth of ELOHIM.
3. “You can’t believe in everything you read in the Bible.”
4. “You don’t want to be like the little child who died before knowing the Lord, and is now lost”.
5. “We know that Christmas is a pagan day; but, it’s okay to celebrate a birthday to the Lord”. These three statements were spoken by Christian pastors to their flocks.
6. “Enoch still lives and is now God”
7. “The 8<sup>th</sup> day represents the FATHER’s Kingdom”
8. “The Lake of Fire shall burn forever as the bad side of the Kingdom”
9. “Physical circumcision is required for spiritual salvation”. These four statements were spoken by another Christian pastor to his flock.
10. “You can make the Bible say anything that you want it to say”. This was spoken to me by a college friend.
11. “The last days began in 1948 when the Jews returned to the land of Yisrael”
12. “The 8<sup>th</sup> day is the eternal day”
13. “The sacrifices prophesied of the for the COY by the Prophet Ezekiel will not occur because of the blood of CHRIST”
14. The following nations are the descendants of the COY: U.S. (Manasseh), Great Britain (Ephraim), France (Reuben), Belgium (Ashur), Switzerland (Gad), Holland (Zebulun), Sweden (Naphtali), Finland (Issachar), Norway and Iceland (Benyamin), Denmark (Dan), Netherlands (Zebulun), Levy (scattered), and Simeon (scattered). These three statements of beliefs were spoken and taught by Christian pastors to their flocks.
15. “We need to agree to disagree.”
16. “Adam was with Eve when she was deceived, and his actions simply threw the woman under the bus.”

17. “As an additional tip, we should at least learn the original languages of the bible; otherwise, we will just be going in circles on concepts that were not the intention of the original author. Word lookup is not enough.” These three statements were spoken to me by persons I have called either my Brother or my Sister in CHRIST for a long time.

Each of you probably can add to this list. Some of you might have heard and witnessed these words. In truth, these words are but a sample given by a variety of persons, whom believe them to be truth. What is truth is that each of these have defined someone’s belief system towards believing them to be truth. In fact, it may be possible that someone studying this lesson may believe in one or more of these statements.

What do each of these items have in common? Except for the first two, all of those saying these words consider themselves to be Christian.

Well, let me state right up front that these were included because I have heard each of them, and have studied them, and proved each of these to be false statements by the WORD of ELOHIM. However, I want it to be equally understood that it would not phase me in one way or another if any of these statements had in fact been proven to be true. Some of these are so outrageous because they so easy to prove to be false. And yet, I have witnessed what would seem to be otherwise intelligent human beings believe them. Why? Well this is the basis for this study.

Because the answer to why an otherwise intelligent person accepts easily disprovable deceptions suggests that the power to define has been subtly influenced by someone or group. When the following well-known scripture was given, was it given to a group, such as the Church of God, International, or perhaps, the Yisrael of God?

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

These words were written to individuals, of all of the families of the earth, who meet the criteria established by the writer, whom we know to be the Apostle Paul. Now, being truthful, these words were written directly to Timothy. Yet, as we read further, we should also all accept that the context is meant for all of the “elect” of CHRIST.

- 2Ti 2:24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient, 2Ti 2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; 2Ti 2:26 And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Was or is Timothy the only servant of YAHWEH? What about other Christians? Are all Christians servants of YAHWEH? Has each Christian defined for themselves what their spiritual roles are? Or are they allowing others to define what their role or belief in the ELOHIM’s plan of salvation is?

If we look back at statement number 17, this person has been taught, or perhaps is self-taught, that we must learn the original languages of the Bible or otherwise we will just be going in circles on concepts that were not the intention of the original author, and that word lookup is not enough. Does it sound as if this belief disagrees with what the Apostle Paul instructed Timothy to do in order to show himself approved unto ELOHIM? Yes, it does. Christians must have faith in the WORD of ELOHIM.

Now in order to be approved by ELOHIM one must identify what is or are the proper sources of information to study. This of necessity translates into our determining who as well as what we are to listen to and study. The Apostle Paul ask a question to the called-out ones of Galatia that perhaps we all must ask ourselves along our walks in this modernity we exist in.

- Gal 3:1 **O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth,** before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

Isn't this the perfect picture of the attempt by someone to lessen the power of these "called-out" Galatians to define what is truth versus vain tradition? In recent studies we have had our eyes opened by the words of the Prophet Isaiah of the powerful revelation that the disciples of YAHWEH would bound the testimony and seal the law.

Whose testimony and whose law were they to bind and seal? This is the very essence of the question the Apostle Paul is now asking "called-out ones".

- Gal 3:2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Gal 3:3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Gal 3:4 Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if *it be* yet in vain. Gal 3:5 He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, *doeth he it* by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Throughout ELOHIM's WORD, faith is the key element needed for one living in any generation to define truth from darkness. What or who is it that we have faith in? Who were we called out to? Who do we believe in?

- Gal 3:6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Gal 3:7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. Gal 3:8 **And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.** Gal 3:9 **So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.**

It is those of faith of all the families of the earth that shall be blessed with faithful Abraham.

As we have read, this faith must be in every word of ELOHIM.

- 1Co 1:20 Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 1Co 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 1Co 1:22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: 1Co 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 1Co 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.
- 1Co 1:27 But **God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;** 1Co 1:28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 1Co 1:29 **That no flesh should glory in his presence.** 1Co 1:30 **But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:** 1Co 1:31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

Brothers and Sisters, follow CHRIST! Accept HIS words! Walk in HIS words! If all Christians follow these simple suggestions, their power to define is strengthened by CHRIST who has promised them HIS Spirit of Truth.

- 1Jn 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

- 1Jn 4:2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 1Jn 4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

Through faith in the whole armor of ELOHIM, HIS WORD, Christians will take back their power to define, and begin to walk in CHRIST and be subject one to another in Biblical truth, rather than the acceptance and willingness to be different. Be bold! Yet be humble to one another. Be the “elect” of YESHUA HAMASHIAC!!

Shalom!!