

Lesson No. 135 – Spirit and Life, Whose Authority Is It?

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If you asked the typical person in modernity, what is a Christian, what would the answer be? I googled it and saw these two basic answers.

adjective

1. relating to or professing Christianity or its teachings.

"the Christian Church"

noun

1. a person who has received Christian baptism or is a believer in Christianity.

OK. So, if you asked what is Christianity, what would the answer be? I googled it and saw this answer.

noun

the religion based on the person and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, or its beliefs and practices.

o Christian quality or character.

In this google search, I also saw the following from a CNN special.

"Followers of the Christian religion base their beliefs on the life, teachings and death of Jesus Christ. Christians believe in one God that created heaven, earth and the universe. The belief in one God originated with the Jewish religion. Christians believe Jesus is the "Messiah" or savior of the world. They also believe that he is the son of God.

Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem to Mary, a virgin at the time of conception, and Joseph, her husband. Mary was visited by the angel Gabriel and told she would conceive a son, though she was not yet married and a virgin and he would be the Messiah.

Jesus was crucified on a cross. His death made salvation and forgiveness of sins possible for all. On the third day after his crucifixion, Jesus arose from the dead. His resurrection is celebrated on Easter, which is considered Christianity's most important holiday. After Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, God's presence remained on earth in the form of the Holy Spirit to be a comforter to all.

Salvation can only be obtained by believing that Jesus was sent by God to forgive the sins of every human, and to confess those sins to him. Interpretations of the Bible and the practices of each church vary by denomination, but the belief in one God and Jesus as the Messiah is central to all Christians."

Years back, I was traveling to work on a commuter bus when Ronald Reagan was elected president of the US.

There were only five to eight travelers on the bus and they were discussing whether or not Reagan was “the beast”, because his first, middle and last names all contained six letters. Thus, he must be “the beast”, 666, as interpreted by so many in Christianity. I eventually joined the discussion, suggesting that they were looking at this from a wrong perspective. I said the Bible clearly says you must count the number of the beast; whose number was six hundred and sixty-six, not simply 6 plus six, plus six. Eventually one rather loud lady questioned whether or not I believed in the trinity. I said no, and that was my undoing. She then turned her attention to the bus driver and quoted the following scripture.

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

You see, I had committed “the cardinal sin” for a Christian of modernity by denying what appears to be one of the more sacred beliefs of modernity’s Christians; the belief in the trinity. And as such, I obviously wasn’t humbling myself from my wicked ways. I doubt that this woman knew that this scripture spoke only of the Children of Yisrael (COY).

This Brothers and Sisters is the world of Christianity that is so dominant in modernity. Well, for some of us, we believe there are two weeks until the beginning of the year, and four weeks before the Passover. We believe these to be commandments by someone identified by the KJV of the Bible as “the LORD. We too believe ourselves to be Christians.

And yet, there are those with similar beliefs who will approach the new year and the Passover with varying beliefs on what is the proper way to observe the Passover as well as the Biblical Feast of Unleavened Bread. So, we again see the confusion that exists with modernity’s Christians.

In this Lesson (No. 135 – Spirit and Life, Whose Authority Is It?), we are going to discuss what should be a common theme to all Christians. This lesson was inspired by my hearing one of my former favorite pastors read the following scripture.

- Joh 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: **the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**

Now, this scripture is nothing new to many Christians. And yet the fact that this particular pastor repeated it in a sermon that was addressing the throne that the central figure of Christianity, Jesus Christ, will sit upon, caught my attention. Now, for me and many others, our research has taught us that HIS probable Hebrew name is YAHSHUA, which is how HE will be addressed in this lesson.

The pastor's reading of this scripture grabbed my attention because this pastor and his followers do not accept YAHSHUA's following words to HIS disciples as applicable to this pastor's congregational observance of the Passover. As we read these words by YAHSHUA to HIS disciples, we must also put them in the proper Biblical context.

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

All Christians should recognize that in verse 1, YAHSHUA was in serious contemplation mode because HE knew this would be HIS final Passover with HIS disciples. And for further clarity, Christians can easily study the translation of the phrase “super being ended” and learn that it should read “during supper”.

Other gospel scriptures verify what supper verse two is referring to.

- Mat 26:17 Now the first *day* of the *feast of unleavened bread* the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, **Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the Passover?** Mat 26:18 And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, **My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at thy house with my disciples.**
- Mar 14:12 And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the Passover, his disciples said unto him, **Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the Passover?**
- Mar 14:14 And wheresoever he shall go in, say ye to the goodman of the house, The Master saith, Where is the guest chamber, where I shall eat the Passover with my disciples?
- Luk 22:8 And he sent Peter and John, saying, **Go and prepare us the Passover, that we may eat.** Luk 22:9 And they said unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare?
- Luk 22:11 And ye shall say unto the goodman of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guest chamber, where I shall eat the Passover with my disciples?

So, all Christians that accept the Bible as their guidance must acknowledge that the supper YAHSHUA and HIS disciples was eating in John (Yochanan) 13:2 was the Passover supper HE ate with HIS disciples. During that supper, we also read these words by YAHSHUA.

- Joh 13:14 **If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.** Joh 13:15 For **I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.**

We should be clear now that the context of these words about the washing of feet is all about the final Passover HE ate with HIS disciples.

The issue for all Christians clearly is what and who do we believe in. These are words spoken by YAHSHUA directly to HIS disciples, for them to follow HIS example on this precious day, the Passover.

And yet, there are those that observe a form of the Passover that discounts these instructions. And of course, there are Christians who discount the observance of the Passover altogether: instead opting to observe good Friday and Easter.

When CHRIST spoke the words that we read in Yochanan 6:63, what do we as Christians accept or believe that HE was teaching HIS disciples, and other believers with those words. Well, to grasp their meanings we need to also grasp their context. You see, I believe that the failure of all who make the claim to be Christians to walk in unity is intrinsically based on our failure to read the Bible based on the context with which it has been provided. And, Christians must accept that the Bible is the true WORD of ELOHIM.

As we studied our need to prepare for the Passover in our previous lesson, we read Mathew 16:5-12 when YAHSHUA used an occasion regarding the lack of bread to tell the disciples the following:

- Mat 16:4 **A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas.** And he left them, and departed.

The Pharisees and the Sadducees were spoken of by YAHSHUA to be “a wicked and adulterous generation” that always sought “after a sign”. YAHSHUA gave them a sign, the sign of Jonas. WHAT DO Christians know of the sign of Jonas? As a young lad, I always remember my dad, who was a Methodist pastor, teaching how that Jonas was in the belly of a great fish three days and three nights. As such, when these words by YAHSHUA were shown to me, I understood what YAHSHUA was telling the Pharisees and the Sadducees.

These words, “the sign of Jonas”, are spoken of in other scriptures as “in three days”, or “on the third day” etc., which are idioms. Modernity’s Christians should know that the idiom is not the sign. The sign of Jonas is the sign.

A few years back one of my favorite saxophone players, Kirk Whalum, a Christian musician who uses his music as a ministry, said the following:

“People always want to understand God. The clay can never understand the potter. But it’s okay.” Well, the more we read the WORD of ELOHIM, it certainly appears that ELOHIM has provided us a measure of HIS understanding. Notice how YAHSHUA gave the disciples and us, the details of the sign.

- Mat 12:38 Then **certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered**, saying, Master, **we would see a sign from thee**. Mat 12:39 But **he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas**: Mat 12:40 For **as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth**.

This was the sign. The idioms simply relate to the sign. Yet, they are not the sign. And to all Christians, this is the only stated sign that YAHSHUA, whom many call Jesus Christ, gave to prove that HE indeed was the MESSIAH. HE said in verse 39 that this is the only sign to be given to them.

If you follow the advice of my favorite saxophone player, you will not seek the Biblical understanding that ELOHIM has provided you in HIS WORD. Those who have no fear of what they may learn, will learn that this sign establishes a must need for Christians to obtain a basic knowledge of the Passover and the seven days of Unleavened Bread. Without this knowledge, the idiom becomes the reality.

And as a result, Christians cannot understand how that YAHSHUA had to remain in the grave for three days and three nights in order for HIS words to be true. Remember, HIS words are spirit and they are life, i.e., the truth.

After YAHSHUA gave the idiom, the sign of Jonas, HE spoke these words.

- Mat 16:5 And when his disciples were come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. Mat 16:6 Then Jesus said unto them, **Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.**

We will learn in this lesson that any Christian who fails to understand and accept this sign to be the truth represents a rejection of CHRIST by those Christians. Why? Because these are the words of CHRIST HIMSELF.

As HE perceived the disciples' confusion over HIS words, HE reminded them of something.

- Mat 16:9 **Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?** 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.**

YAHSHUA used the memory of HIS taking five loafs of bread and feeding five thousand people to warn the disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees of that day. Ofttimes, as we read these words in modernity, we tend to think that this only applied to those days. The disciples are being warned of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees of that day. Who is it that modernity's Christians should be warned of? Who represents modernity's Pharisees and Sadducees?

Most Christians of modernity have been taught very little about the Passover and the corresponding Feast of Unleavened Bread. As such the concept of being aware of the leaven of our surroundings in modernity has not been as prominently established, as YAHSHUA was establishing it to HIS disciples. I reread these words because they too establish the context that all Christians must be aware of. Let's grow together in ELOHIM's WORD.

Let's read through the context of what I believe to be some of the most important words YAHSHUA spoke to Christians of all ages; **“the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life”**.

- Joh 6:1 After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is *the sea of Tiberias*. Joh 6:2 And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased. Joh 6:3 And **Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples**. Joh 6:4 And **the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh**.

As YAHSHUA went and sat with HIS disciples, the Passover was nigh. For all Christians, it certainly reads as though the Passover was prominent during the days YAHSHUA walked the earth with HIS disciples.

- Joh 6:5 When Jesus then lifted up *his* eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? Joh 6:6 And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. Joh 6:7 Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. Joh 6:8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, Joh 6:9 There is a lad here, **which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?**

There were only five barley loaves and two small fishes to feed a whole lot of people.

- Joh 6:10 And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

Can we imagine the thoughts that were going through the minds of the disciples at this time? What the heck is HE about to do here?

- Joh 6:11 And **Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.** Joh 6:12 **When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.** Joh 6:13 **Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves,** which remained over and above unto them that had eaten. Joh 6:14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world. Joh 6:15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

As I read these words, I wonder if YAHSHUA also had the disciples close their eyes as HE gave thanks, in what obviously was a prayer. Verse 14 states that those present had seen a miracle. Is this the way Christians should see it?

YAHSHUA took five loaves of bread and two fish and fed five thousand, with twelve baskets left. The musician probably doesn't think Christians can understand this. As we consider these words, remember, when YAHSHUA recalled these events to HIS disciples in Mathew 16:9-12, HE only spoke of the bread and not the fish.

Christians should consider this, because it is a clear reference to the spiritual principles of being leavened versus being unleavened (the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread) that YAHSHUA taught to HIS disciples, who later taught it to all who came to CHRIST through their words. We will come back to this a little later.

For now, it is important to recognize that this occasion happened as the Passover was nigh. The saxophone player, as a Christian, should be knowledgeable that immediately following the Passover are the seven days of Unleavened Bread, where all leaven must be put out from believers' homes. The saxophone player, as a Christian, should know how that the Apostle Paul, who is probably the most prominent teacher of the New Covenant, taught the valuable lessons of how Christians should keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread, by purging out the old leaven of malice and wickedness, and keeping the Feast with the unleavened bread of truth and sincerity, in 1 Corinthians 5:7 & 8.

- Joh 6:30 They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?

People are always looking for a sign to believe in. Perhaps this is why the Apostle Paul was instructed to teach Christians the following definition of a very needed spiritual protocol all must develop to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

- Heb 11:1 Now **faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

YAHSHUA's words were all about the future Kingdom of Heaven. If we don't believe in them, we have no faith, because HIS words represent the evidence of things not seen. Notice the words of these Jews (Yehudans).

- Joh 6:31 Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

They were concentrating only on the physical blessings they knew. YAHSHUA was not. HE was teaching of a different form of bread.

- Joh 6:32 Then **Jesus said unto them**, Verily, verily, **I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven**; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. Joh 6:33 **For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.**

YAHSHUA was teaching them that HE was the bread from heaven.

- Joh 6:34 Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. Joh 6:35 And **Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger**; and **he that believeth on me shall never thirst**. Joh 6:36 But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not. Joh 6:37 **All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.**

This is such an important statement because HE said “him that cometh to ME I will in no wise cast out”. This is why we later are told by the Apostle to “make our calling and election sure”. This is why the Apostle taught Christians that CHRIST is their Passover (1 Corinthians 5:7). Now, Christians should see why YAHSHUA only recalled the bread and not the fish to HIS disciples. You see, ELOHIM, whom most call GOD, developed HIS entire plan of salvation based on a metaphor of bread, and the leaven that is used to make that bread. This is central to ELOHIM’s plan of salvation that Christians must grow in their understanding.

These metaphors are presented in ELOHIM’s WORD (the Bible) as the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Can a Christian truly believe he or she has come to CHRIST, with no knowledge of the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread?

- Joh 6:38 For **I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.** Joh 6:39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. Joh 6:40 And **this is the will of him that sent me, that everyone which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.**

This is why we are discussing Spirit and Life, Whose Authority Is It. It is the will of the FATHER that everyone seeing and believing in the SON may have everlasting life, and HE will raise he or she up on the last day. These are powerful words that evoke the faith protocol that Christians must develop. We must believe on HIM and HIS words.

- Joh 6:41 The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. Joh 6:42 And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?

The Yehudans of that day were not much different from those of modernity. They simply did not believe HIS words. They love to murmur and play mental games with spiritual concepts that they do not understand.

- Joh 6:43 Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves. Joh 6:44 **No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.**

This is when YAHSHUA informs us of another protocol that ELOHIM has inserted into HIS plan of salvation. Only those drawn to YAHSHUA by the FATHER are allowed to come unto HIM. These are established protocols that believers must accept as a part of their faith in YAHSHUA.

- Joh 6:45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. Joh 6:46 **Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father.**

Here is another hidden gem of ELOHIM's WORD. The only man born who has seen the FATHER is YAHSHUA.

- Joh 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.** Joh 6:48 **I am that bread of life.**

YAHSHUA is the BREAD of LIFE, and as such, we need the unleavened bread of truth and sincerity in order to ensure we are eating of this BREAD from heaven.

- Joh 6:49 **Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.** Joh 6:50 **This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.** Joh 6:51 **I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.**

YAHSHUA's entire discourse here is about the BREAD that came down from heaven that if we eat of it, we shall live forever.

- Joh 6:52 The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us *his* flesh to eat? Joh 6:53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Joh 6:54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. Joh 6:55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. Joh 6:56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

If Christians eat of the New Covenant Passover, as YAHSHUA HIMSELF commanded and instructed HIS disciples/apostles, they will have eaten of the BREAD that came down from heaven.

- Joh 6:57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. Joh 6:58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live forever. Joh 6:59 These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. Joh 6:60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard *this*, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? Joh 6:61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? Joh 6:62 *What* and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?

All of these words were spoken by YAHSHUA in the season of the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This discourse teaches Christians how important it is that we grow in our knowledge of everything YAHSHUA has taught us about these two appointed times. Just who appointed these times in the first place?

- 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.

They were appointed by the LORD, YAHWEH of ELOHIM. These were HIS words to Moses and the COY. And yet, we are reading YAHSHUA's words which are embedded with important teachings about the BREAD come down from heaven, spoken to HIS disciples and others as the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew nigh.

HE gave HIS flesh and HIS blood for the life of the world on the same Passover, that we shall shortly see, HE HIMSELF had commanded to the COY as YAHWEH. And with all of these words of reassurance and context to HIS true believers, YAHSHUA now teaches what I believe to be HIS most important message.

- Joh 6:63 **It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**

What is YAHSHUA, who is the CHRIST, teaching all of those who profess to believe in HIM? What is HE teaching Christians? HE said “it is the spirit that quickeneth”. What does this mean to a Christian? Or more importantly, what should these words mean to a Christian?

The word quickeneth is translated from the Greek word “zoopoieo”, which means to make alive, or made alive. Let’s read how the Apostle Paul used this word.

- Co 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so **in Christ shall all be made alive.**
- Gal 3:21 *Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could **have given life,** verily righteousness should have been by the law.*

In both of these scriptures, “made alive” and “given life” are the same Greek word “zoopoieo”. So, it is the spirit that makes alive or gives life. CHRIST says, HIS words are spirit, and they are life. So, all Christians must walk in the knowledge and faith that it is all of the words of YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC, that are the spirit that makes alive, or that gives life. And where did HE get HIS words from?

- Joh 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

- Joh 17:6 **I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.** Joh 17:7 **Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.** 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.

In HIS last prayer to the FATHER before HIS death, YAHSHUA proclaimed that HIS words were given to HIM by the FATHER. So, it is the FATHER's words, as given to Christians by CHRIST that are spirit, and have the authority to give life and/or make alive. How powerful are these words of truth?

- Joh 6:64 But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.

The Yehudans of that day did not believe in HIS words. As such, they did not believe in the FATHER's words. And, HE knew who would betray HIM. In modernity, there is an obviousness about the words and beliefs of many professing Christians that represent a betrayal of YAHSHUA because they do not represent HIS or HIS FATHER's words.

- Joh 6:65 And he said, **Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.**

YAHSHUA then made the fact clearer. "No man can come unto CHRIST, except it were given unto him by HIS FATHER". This is the critical protocol of the New Covenant. And as YAHSHUA washed the feet of HIS disciples on HIS last Passover on the earth, HE had already set an example. Christians should clearly understand that as HE commanded HIS disciples to follow HIS example to each other, Christians have been provided the same protocol/instructions/commandment we must develop and maintain.

We read this last week as well.

- Php 2:5 **Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:**

Think about this verse as we approach the coming season of unleavening. If the mind of CHRIST be also in us, HIS words shall also be in us, to speak and share with each other, and with others that are without, as the FATHER gives us utterance.

- Php 2:6 **Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:**

How is this possible the Yehudans thought?

- Joh 1:1 **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God. Joh 1:3 **All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.** Joh 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

Here should be the Christian's knowledge and faith in ELOHIM's WORD. YAHSHUA was the WORD. YAHSHUA, the WORD, was with ELOHIM and was ELOHIM. YAHSHUA, the WORD was in the beginning with ELOHIM. Once a Christian develops their understanding and faith in these words, they also accept and believe that YAHSHUA made all things. The FATHER has made sure that the understanding of these things has been provided to Christians in the part HE has given us.

- Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Heb 1:2 **Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;**

The FATHER has now spoken to Christians by HIS SON, the WORD, whom HE has appointed HEIR of all things, by whom also HE made the worlds. You see, the FATHER made the worlds by YAHSHUA HAMAISHIAC. Now notice the continued example YAHSHUA gave to Christians.

- Php 2:7 But **made himself of no reputation**, and **took upon him the form of a servant**, and **was made in the likeness of men**: Php 2:8 And **being found in fashion as a man**, **he humbled himself**, and **became obedient unto death**, even the death of the cross. Php 2:9 **Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him**, and **given him a name which is above every name**: Php 2:10 **That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

Here is a hidden mystery to too many professed Christians. The FATHER gave CHRIST a name, YAHSHUA. Why is this important to understand? The words we have read thus far show the hierarchy of the family of omnipotent beings who have developed this plan of salvation.

YAHSHUA said HE spoke the words given to HIM by HIS FATHER. Most Christians know that YEHSUA's mother was told by what name HE should be called.

- Luk 1:30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. Luk 1:31 And, behold, **thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS**.

What else does ELOHIM's WORD teach Christians about this name?

- Joh 5:42 But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you. Joh 5:43 **I am come in my Father's name**, and ye receive me not: **if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive**.

- Joh 10:25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: **the works that I do in my Father's name**, they bear witness of me.

The name that CHRIST was given was HIS FATHER's name, YAHSUA. HE did not come in HIS own name. Well, what was HIS name prior to HIM coming to the earth as the WORD, in HIS FATHER's name? Well, let's do what the musician said we couldn't do. Let's first understand ELOHIM, or GOD.

- Gen 1:26 And **God said, Let us make man in our image**, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Here, GOD said "let us make man in our image". Obviously, this is a group of two or more omnipotent beings making man in their image. The Hebrew name translated GOD here and throughout the Old Covenant, is ELOHIM. This is why I write with this name in all of my lessons. Now, a little later we find a very important statement that is the key to our understanding ELOHIM in the past, present and the future.

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

After ELOHIM agreed to make man in their own image, we read that is the LORD ELOHIM that "made the earth and the heavens". We know that this word LORD (all caps) is the Hebrew tetragrammaton YHWH, generally pronounced YAHWEH. I have mentioned in the past that some pronounce this YAHAWAH or YAHAWEH, which to me is fine.

So, now we have YAHWEH of ELOHIM making the earth and the heavens. We of course could include many Biblical references to explain this.

However, it should not be necessary to the Christian walking in faith in the WORD of ELOHIM. The Christian that reads ELOHIM's WORD knows that it was the LORD, YAHWEH ELOHIM, that represented the family of ELOHIM to the COY and the prophets throughout the Old Covenant. To the Prophet Zechariah, HE said the following:

- Zec 12:8 **In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem;** and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David *shall be* as God, as the angel of the LORD before them. Zec 12:9 And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. Zec 12:10 And **I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.**

YAHWEH ELOHIM proclaims HE will be pierced and looked upon. The testimony, the New Covenant, teaches the following:

- Joh 19:31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away. Joh 19:32 Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. Joh 19:33 But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: Joh 19:34 But **one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side,** and forthwith came there out blood and water.

So, we now see that it was YAHWEH of ELOHIM, who made the earth and the heavens, who proclaimed that HE would be pierced.

These events of course testify of the death of YAHSHUA on HIS final Passover, when HE was pierced. We have the FATHER making the world by HIS SON YAHSHUA. We have the WORD, YAHSHUA, who made all things.

As a result, all Christians should absolutely know that it was YAHSHUA, in HIS former name of YAHWEH of ELOHIM, that established and commanded the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread to be HIS appointed times. Here verse 31 establishes that the Passover, the day YAHSHUA was killed, was and is “the preparation day” before the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This is a sad truth about YAHSHUA’s death, that many professed Christians do not know that it occurred on the Passover.

- Joh 19:35 And he that saw *it* bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. Joh 19:36 For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. Joh 19:37 And again another scripture saith, **They shall look on him whom they pierced.**

We just read this in Zechariah. Now, we know that it was YAHWEH ELOHIM, who made the heaven and the earth, who came into the world in the flesh as the WORD named YAHSHUA, who created all things, who was pierced for all to see. What we should be seeing in all that we have read is an understanding of what YAHSHUA was telling us as HE said HIS words were spirit and life. It is ELOHIM’s WORD, given to the COY and others under the Old Covenant by YAHSHUA under HIS own name of YAHWEH, and to the disciples and others by YAHSHUA, under HIS FATHER’s name, that is spirit and life that quickens, or makes alive.

- Php 2:11 And *that* **every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,** to the glory of God the Father.

YAHSHUA was given the FATHER's name so that in confessing YAHSHUA as CHRIST and LORD, it is to the glory of FATHER ELOHIM, YAHSHUA SENIOR. As YAHSHUA prepared to return to the FATHER HE said this.

- Mat 28:18 And **Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**

All power had been given unto HIM in heaven and in earth. Who gave YAHSHUA the CHRIST all power?

- Joh 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. Joh 5:26 **For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;** Joh 5:27 **And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.**
- Joh 10:36 **Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world,** Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? Joh 10:37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.
- Joh 16:15 **All things that the Father hath are mine:** therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.

What should we now have learned as Christians?

1. YAHSHUA the CHRIST existed as a member of the family of ELOHIM before HE gave up HIS glory by coming to the earth in HIS FATHER's name to give mankind an opportunity to inherit eternal life.
2. Prior to HIS coming in the flesh, YAHSHUA was YAHWEH of ELOHIM, that member of the family of ELOHIM that made the heaven and the earth, and dealt personally with every man that has ever had contact with ELOHIM.

3. As such, it was YAHSHUA, as YAHWEH of ELOHIM, that proclaimed that the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were and are HIS appointed times.
4. HIS words spoken to HIS disciples were HIS FATHER's words, which are spirit that give life or make alive.
5. It is the FATHER's words YAHSHUA's disciples have written to all Christians in what is known as the New Covenant, or Testament.

So, more importantly, Christians should now be able to answer the title question. By YAHSHUA's own words, HIS words are HIS FATHER's words. Subsequently, the FATHER has given ALL POWER to the SON. It is the FATHER's authority, passed on to the SON. It seems rather simple, if you follow the protocol.

Remember, YAHWEH gave up HIS glory as HE made HIMSELF of no reputation, taking upon HIMSELF the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men, and being found in the fashion as a man. HE humbled HIMSELF and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. I.e., HE set the tone through HIS example. HE is not asking Christians to die as HE did. However, HE is requiring that Christians trust and believe in HIS words, which were given HIM by the FATHER.

Simply put, can a Christian find authority in HIS words for the observance of modernity's Easter, Sunday or Christmas? Can a Christian deny that HIS example of the feet washing on the New Covenant Passover was spirit and life to HIS disciples? Can a Christian believe that he or she is not required to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread with the unleavened bread of the sincerity and truth?

YAHSHUA, through the power and authority given HIM, gave the FATHER's WORD to HIS disciples, who subsequently wrote them for Christians to study and follow. They were not written for Christians to ignore and/or create an alternate Christianity.

YAHSHUA wrote the following:

- Joh 14:10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Joh 14:11 Believe me that I *am* in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake. Joh 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.** Joh 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. Joh 14:14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do *it*.

As I read these words, verse 12 was particularly impressing on me that this is a prophecy. The issue is when will this prophecy occur.

Here is where Christians must again see the duality in ELOHIM's word. For sure, the disciples, once they became apostles, manifested some of these works. And yet, Christians must also have the faith that they, as future priests of ELOHIM, as co-rulers with YAHSHUA in the Kingdom of Heaven, will perform greater works than those YAHSHUA performed in the flesh.

- 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.

These words should be simple to all Christians. As YAHWEH, HE gave HIS commandments to the COY. As YAHSHUA, HE kept HIS own commandments, while upgrading them to the greater spiritual base HE and the FATHER purposed from the beginning. However, many Christians do not accept that some of YAHSHUA's instructions to HIS disciples were also commandments. To these, HE said the following.

- 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.**

This is where anyone who professes to be a Christian must take a major step backwards and remember some of YAHSHUA's powerful statements.

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

How is this accomplished by Christians? This is the power and essence of Passover and Unleavened Bread. The old must be emptied out before the new can be received to make a new garment and a new wine bottle.

In making it plain that HIS words and HIS sayings were all given to be kept by HIS followers, HE establishes that all of HIS words and sayings are also HIS commandments and must be kept by those who are drawn to HIM by the FATHER. This is the mindset that all Christians must develop in faith, and, endure until the end. In fact, Christians should know that the protocol for this was first given by YAHSHUA as YAHWEH to HIS prophet.

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

- Isa 28:14 Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which *is* in Jerusalem.

YAHSHUA, through HIS Apostle taught Christians to “study to show themselves approved”. To the saxophone player and others, this was given so that we might understand ELOHIM. Here is how YAHSHUA presented HIS WORD to the COY for the purpose of them falling backward to be broken (i.e., ridding themselves of old wine) so that they might be snared and taken. HE then says “hear the word of YAHWEH”. YAHWEH came as YAHSHUA and proclaimed that HIS word is spirit and life. Keep HIS word. Keep HIS sayings. Keep HIS commandments.

And here is the conclusion. Those Christians that come unto CHRIST by the FATHER will always strive to believe in HIM by keeping HIS commandments, which are all of HIS words, which are all of HIS sayings, which are the FATHER’s sayings. HIS final words to HIS disciples tell this story to all who would have faith in the WORD of ELOHIM.

- Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and **teach all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Mat 28:20 **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you**: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

This was the commission given to HIS disciples. The disciples did what they were commanded. They knew that HIS words were in fact spirit and life.

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

After many other disciples could not receive HIS words about eating the BREAD that came down from heaven, which HE proclaimed was HE HIMSELF, HE asks the twelve whether they also were going. Peter responded that HE had the words of eternal life.

The essence of YAHSHUA's words are that if HE did not say it, don't do it. If it isn't written, don't do it. However, if HE said it, do it. And do it as HE said it, for there is a cost. Consider Moses, the COY's intercessor.

- Num 20:7 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Num 20:8 Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, **and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.**

The word of YAHWEH commanded Moses to speak to the rock and it would give forth water. This would be to the praise and glory of ELOHIM.

- Num 20:9 And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him. Num 20:10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? Num 20:11 And **Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.** Num 20:12 **And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.**

YAHWEH was ELOHIM. HIS words to Moses were meant to sanctify YAHWEH in the eyes of the COY. For this mistake and failure to keep YAHWEH's words, Moses, the intercessor of the COY, was not allowed to enter into the land flowing with milk and honey.

As YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC, during the period of cleansing HE initially commanded to the COY, HE provided HIS new words to HIS disciples, declaring HIS words to be spirit that give life unto those drawn to HIM by HIS FATHER.

As we have read, these words of clarity for those that desire eternal life were given during the time of the Passover and Unleavened Bread. Why then are so many Christians accepting alternate beliefs other than YAHSHUA's own words? Obviously, they have failed to accept YAHSHUA's own words about HIS words, that they indeed are spirit that gives life. And in so doing, they have also failed to "convert and become as little children", as HE spoke to HIS disciples in Mathew 18:3.

Christians should know that the land flowing with milk and honey is simply a metaphor for the Kingdom of Heaven. Just as Moses was not allowed into the land flowing with milk and honey, our failure to follow the words of YAHSHUA, exactly as they have been given, can and will disallow our entrance into the Kingdom of heaven.

However, if we as Christians accept that HIS words and HIS sayings, represent HIS commandments, and obey and keep them, we will have converted to HIM. We will have then obtained the ability to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, according to YAHSHUA's own words.

This is what the season of the new year before ELOHIM is all about, converting and becoming little children.

To all Christians, if we each convert, we each accept YAHSHUA as our Passover. If we become as little children after we convert, we joy in becoming each other's servants and follow all of YAHSHUA's words as presented to us by HE and HIS disciples/apostles. If we will all humble ourselves and keep only HIS words and sayings, we will walk as one body, in spirit and in life.

And if we do this, we will please ELOHIM, to whom all authority belongs.
To ELOHIM is the power and the glory. Praise THEM forevermore.

Shalom!!